

FREE

Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 6°
Max 21°

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 16784- Friday, February 12, 2016

Artist explores life and society in Kuwait

4



NATO sends warships on Aegean mission

11



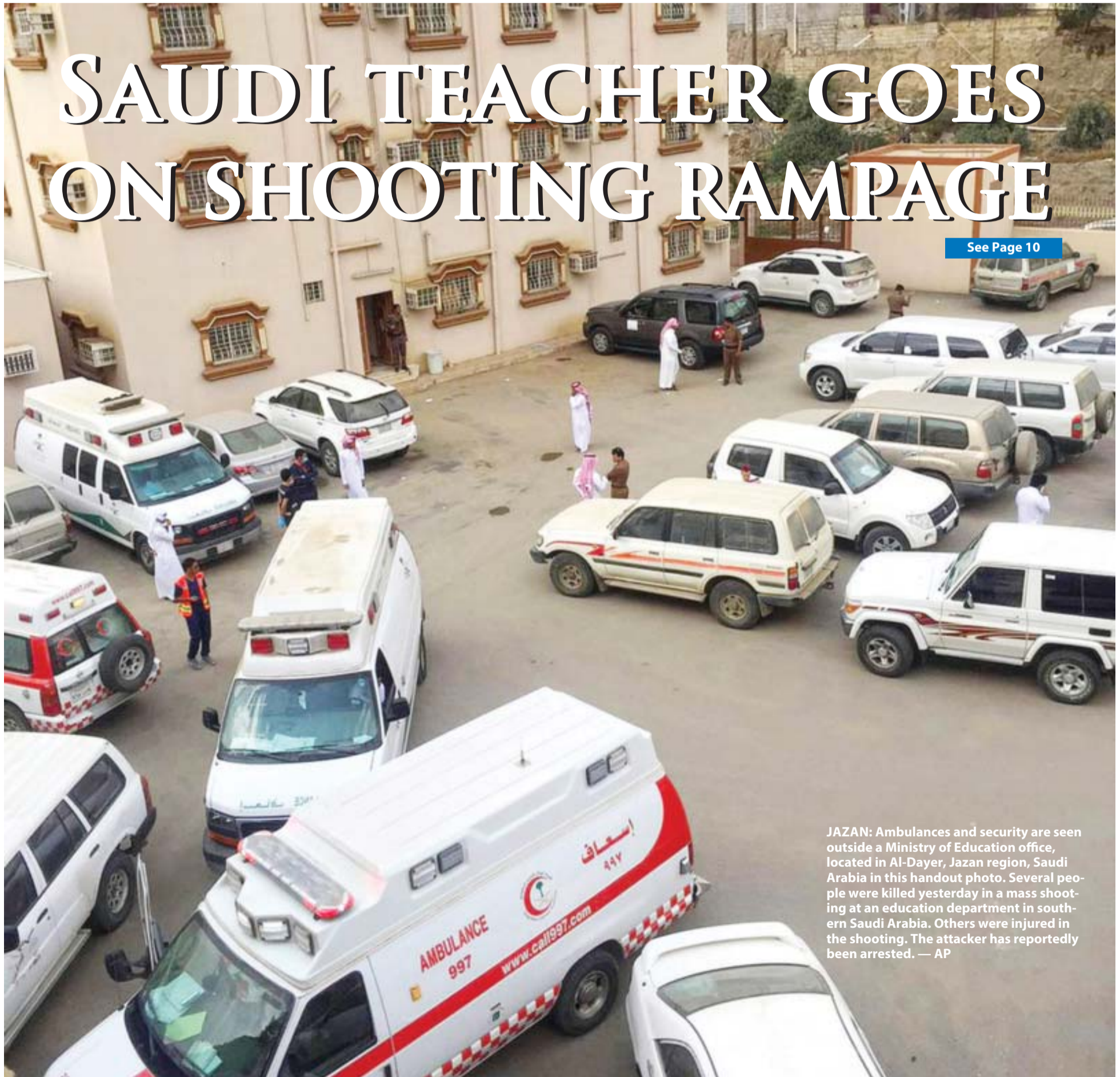
Love injured as Cavs down Kobe, Lakers 120-111

47



SAUDI TEACHER GOES ON SHOOTING RAMPAGE

See Page 10



JAZAN: Ambulances and security are seen outside a Ministry of Education office, located in Al-Dayer, Jazan region, Saudi Arabia in this handout photo. Several people were killed yesterday in a mass shooting at an education department in southern Saudi Arabia. Others were injured in the shooting. The attacker has reportedly been arrested. — AP

Local Spotlight

ZIKA VIRUS A THREAT



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

It seems the world now is in a state of confusion and fear with the rapid spread of a new virus called Zika. The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that the virus is a threat to public health and in the absence of a vaccine for treating patients, this has increased concerns among health departments around the world. The WHO also announced earlier this month that Zika, which has appeared in approximately 26 countries, a global health emergency.

Do we have to worry about this virus in Kuwait, and what should we do? The WHO had sent out warnings of the possibility of Zika virus transmissions to some Arab countries, and the importance of taking necessary precautions. Although the infection does not cause any symptoms or permanent damage, the biggest problem is the fear of infection by pregnant women and the possibility of deformation of the brains of fetuses.

Medical reports have confirmed the possibility of transmission of Zika from a pregnant mother to the fetus through the placenta, which leads to microcephaly. The fear exists during the first four months of pregnancy, and it was announced by the Brazilian ministry of health that a link is seen between pregnant women infected with Zika and microcephaly in babies. This disease causes the size of skulls to shrink, limits brain development and causes abnormalities of the fetus. Babies either die or are born mentally, acoustically or visually disabled. These concerns and warnings must be taken into consideration here at pregnancy and maternity clinics.

Zika is transmitted to humans by the Aedes aegypti mosquito in tropical areas, not a major concern for most Arab states. The danger of this virus lies in the absence of a preventive vaccine, but according to reports, it does not pose any risk to the health of ordinary people or requires special medications. It causes mild fever and pain, and requires bed rest and plenty of fluids. In the case of worsening of symptoms, a person may be hospitalized until the symptoms go away after 7-10 days at most.

The WHO has announced that the countries of the eastern Mediterranean region are safe from the virus with no recorded case of Zika. The eastern Mediterranean region includes Jordan, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Libya, Iran, Syria, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. But recently, Egypt's health minister announced that Zika-carrying mosquitoes have entered Egypt in limited areas in the provinces of Minya and Assiut. So far, the reports say everything is under control.

However, this does not mean that the countries of the region are excluded from this danger. Citizens of some countries such as Iraq and Syria, for example, may be vulnerable to the spread of Zika and must therefore be cautious. It seems that we have no choice but to follow the typical methods of prevention to eliminate this disease.

The only way to avoid infection is to avoid mosquito bites that transmit the disease. WHO works closely with ministries of health to identify any suspected case as soon as possible. Experts fear that the virus is spreading rapidly, though there have been no cases of the virus in Arab countries. This may be because the outbreak coincided with winter, as mosquitoes breed during summer and spring, but the ministries of health in Arab countries recommend exercising caution and taking preventive measures.

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwait police personnel rappel down ropes near the iconic Kuwait Towers in this file photo. — Kuna

Just kiddin', seriously

UNIFY - NOT DIVIDE



By Sahar Moussa

sahar@kuwaittimes.net

Just when you think you have heard or seen it all in Kuwait, there will always be something weird and absurd that will blow your mind. Where shall I start? Let me start talking about an incident that happened to me at the police station. I'm sure that everybody (expats or locals) have had at least one experience at the police station or with the police in general for whatever reason. To my bad luck - I lost my wallet. As if that is not enough, I have my civil ID, driving license, bank cards, transactions information card, press ID card and some money inside the wallet all missing.

This happened on a Thursday, so the normal thing to do is to report the incident to the police. That is what I did. I went around 3pm immediately after I lost the wallet. When I explained my situation to the police officer, he asked me: "Why didn't you come to report before 3pm (during our working hours) - we are closed now." And he asked me to come on Sunday!

I asked the police officer, how shall I drive without my driving license - at least give me an official paper that shows that I have reported the incident (God forbid) if anyone uses it for their own interests. He said there is nothing he could do and insisted that I should come on Sunday. Please correct me if I'm wrong, isn't the police force supposed to be on duty 24/7?

Funny enough, I think this is just a tip for criminals - if you want to steal or commit crime, Thursday is just your day, because 'Kuwait police stations have limited working hours on Thursdays.' Another thing I find insane and inhuman is the morning and afternoon schedule in the hospitals. According to the new rule, Kuwait bars expats from going to public hospitals in morning hours. So my

question is, if a poor expat is extremely sick and needs to go to a public hospital in the morning should he or she wait till the evening? Or rather, do sicknesses have timings or schedules too? This is absolutely ridiculous.

It reminds me of the post-slavery era in the US, when they used to write on buses, restaurants and hospitals, "No Colored People Allowed". I have heard a lot of Kuwaitis defending this law - saying, 'why should we wait for days in order to get an appointment in our own country due to the large number of expat patients? Well my answer is - an oil-rich country like Kuwait should have enough hospitals and qualified personnel for just its 3.5-million population - or even less.

Where are all the petro-dollars? Why is the system flawed? If we are able to answer these questions, we will be able to know why these laws are enacted. If Kuwaitis really want an expat-free hospital, I think it will be wise also to hire 'only Kuwaitis' to work as doctors, nurses, lab technicians, cleaners, mortuary attendants, drivers etc in the same hospital. More so, similar restrictions are in place at the other government agencies such as the traffic department, which handles applications from Kuwaitis only in the morning and expats during the evening.

The last but not the least is - the traffic law. Do you know that Kuwait has adopted a policy to deport expatriates for committing at least three 'grave traffic violations that endanger lives.' According to traffic authorities, this law is necessary to help instill discipline in expat drivers, address the chaotic road situations and ensure full compliance with the driving rules and regulations. I respect the law in all its terms, but only if it's implemented fairly on both locals and expats. But where is the fairness when you deport an expat for violating these laws, and do not take an equally extreme measure against Kuwaiti violators? I think laws are supposed to protect and unite individuals irrespective of their nationalities or gender. When you break the law you should be punished equally. Laws are supposed to unify - not to divide.

Canon



بنك بروتان
BURGAN BANK
driven by you



SHOOT & WIN KUWAIT IN OUR EYES 2016 FROM 5TH JAN. TILL 17TH MAR.

First prize

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-S 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 IS.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai-Kuwait.

Second prize

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF 20mm f/2.8 USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai-Kuwait.

Third prize

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-S 18-135 mm.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait

Fourth prize

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 85 mm f/1.8 USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait- Bahrain- Kuwait

Fifth prize

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6 DO IS USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait

Sixth prize

- Canon Camera PowerShot G15.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait

All photos should be submitted at the Kuwait Times newspaper before 17th of March 2016.

Rules & Conditions:

- The competition is open to individuals of all ages.
 - The submitted photos should be taken by the participant.
 - Every participant is allowed to submit maximum five entries.
 - The photos can be black and white or colour size 40X30 cm.
 - All entries should be provided a hard copy and Soft Copy on a CD (in high resolution) with photo of the participant needs to be included in the CD.
 - The original coupon should be attached to the back of each photo and should include a complete information about the participant.
- The coupons are advertised at Kuwait Times and Al Anba newspapers during the period of competition.
- All submitted photos will become property of Kuwait Times newspaper and can be used for different purposes.
 - The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges.
 - All photos must be original and should not be doctored with any design program, such as Photoshop.

COUPON

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

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2016

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Civil ID: _____

Tel: _____



In Corporation :
smart dots



For a Limited Time Only All Participants Can Get A Special Discount Of 50% For A High Definition Prints, Including Delivery To Their Door Step . Act Now And Use Discount Code (SHOOTWIN) During Checkout. Download Our Free App For Mac and Pc at www.albumii.com. For More Information Contact Albumii At (69302526)



SAKINA AL-KOUT



Beating back the boundaries: Artist explores life and society in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

Art has few boundaries itself but is often controlled or limited by the society in which artists live. Local Kuwaiti artist Sakina Al-Kout, an enthusiast turned professional, believes boundaries are set by people who do not want change or progress. "We must allow creativity to flourish in us, and this can only be done if we are committed to exploring and creating new ideas and accepting challenges. Reject being confined in a box - there is more to explore around us; there is more to discover out there. We have unlimited possibilities, so why allow anyone to control your brilliance in something that you could be good at," she said.

Sakina's work has been displayed in many countries around the world and people particularly adore her work because it reflects not just her passion for art, but represents her own dynamic and energetic character.

"You see the dynamism, you see the happiness, you see the sadness, but most of all, you see me, the real me, in the mixture of bright and dark colors," she noted. Her work is dominated by faces and portraits of people she encounters daily. One of these faces prominently displayed in her home is a realistic drawing of an old Palestinian woman.

"This painting was pretty hard to make," she revealed. "I felt drained, really drained, because when I painted this, I put everything I had in it. I put myself in the character of the person. But after completing it, I felt renewed; there's contentment and joy in my heart," Sakina said.

Sakina graduated with a BA in Geography from Kuwait University, and doesn't have any formal education in fine arts. "My heart tells me to draw. When I visit art galleries and museums in Kuwait and other parts of the world, I can feel the greatness in



me, the artistic side of me. I feel this immense happiness the moment I see works of art. I really admire people using their minds creating and imagining things - then you'll get a masterpiece," she noted.





From geography to art

Sakina got married at a very young age, and was focused on raising her children and completing her studies. "I was in senior high school when I got married, and was still very much into geography at that time. My love for painting started during the 1990s because I loved watching artists and admired their work," she said.

She remembers being mentored by some of the best artists in Kuwait. "Because I love paintings and art, I worked as the public relations manager at the Kuwait Art Association. There I started to believe that I could still study and learn the art of painting. I was mentored at the association by Farida Baqsami, Khaled Al-Shatti and Dr Salman. They helped me, and told me I could be a great artist. I believed I could do so because almost everyone in my family is into arts. My father was a great poet, my brothers are making great music - one is a singer - so maybe we really have that gene in the family," she said.

Sakina initially participated in a workshop. After a few months, she saw herself seriously considering painting. "It started with the very basic techniques. I followed those techniques and found myself craving for more guides related to painting, so I bought more books and learned a lot from them. I read both English and Arabic, so it helped a lot. There are no boundaries or limitations to learning and discovering things in this world. Now I am satisfied

and fully contented with what I do," she mentioned.

Sakina uses acrylic, oil and watercolor on canvas. But she also takes pride in her specialty, known to many as velvet painting. Velvet painting is a type of painting distinguished by the use of velvet (usually black velvet) as the support in place of canvas, paper or similar materials. The velvet provides an especially dark background against which colors stand out brightly. Velvet painting is an ancient technique, and took on new popularity in the United States in the late 20th century.



Shame on you!



Awareness campaign against bullying in Kuwait

By Faten Omar

Bullying can be defined as using force, threatening or aggressively dominating others. This behavior is often repeated and habitual in schools, as well as in other aspects of life. Rationalizations for such behavior sometimes include differences of social class, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, appearance, behavior, body language, personality, reputation, lineage, strength or ability.

Anti-bullying campaigns are popping up everywhere in response to the situation, and Q8 Against Bullying is one of them. Dr Eiman Tamah Al-Shammari, a professor at Kuwait University, started the social media campaign against bullying to highlight this significant social problem that creates lasting damage that may be serious for both the person who is bullied and the person who bullies. "This in turn negatively affects social relationships and the greater society as a whole," she said. The campaign aims to reduce bullying in Kuwait by holding workshops in schools run by Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah.

In Dec 2015, after Shammari initiated the campaign, Dr Huwailah, a psychology professor at Kuwait University, member of the Kuwait Human Rights Society and head of the family center for psychosocial counseling, joined Shammari as a partner in this initiative. Together, they have come up with some innovative methods to shed light on bullying and its impact on children and adults alike.

While this campaign emerged on social media only in 2015, Shammari's interest and body of work against bullying actually go back to 2011, when she wrote a book "Give Me a Chance: I Stutter Sometimes." This was the first Kindle-format book in Arabic. The book was directed at children to teach them to respect differences, never judge a book by its cover and give chances to others. This book is part of a series inspired by a mute autistic boy, and this book is his voice. It is actually the voice of all children who cannot express themselves. The book introduced core values that teach children to refrain from bullying.



We are empowering victims to defend themselves. We are also trying to break the world record by making 10,000 people in Kuwait or outside participate in our campaign by holding a sign saying 'Shame on You'.

Taking this one step forward, Dr Shammari created the slogan "Shame on You" to empower victims of bullying to answer back and defend themselves, and not let bullies destroy their dreams. She is trying to gain a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for having collected photographs of 10,000 people holding a sign saying "Shame on You", thus snowballing this campaign into a powerful anti-bullying crusade.

"We are empowering victims to defend themselves. We are also trying to break the world record by making 10,000 people in Kuwait or outside participate in our campaign by holding a sign saying 'Shame on You'," Shammari told Kuwait Times. She added this campaign could help students who may be at risk of committing suicide. In recent years, a series of bullying-related suicides across the world have drawn attention to the connection between bullying and suicide. Though too many adults still see bullying as "just part of being a kid", it is a serious problem that leads to many negative effects for victims.

Shammari noted that "electronic bullying" is also prevalent on social media. Children are dealing with strangers, and even one nasty comment about their picture, post, name or look can affect them psychologically, and lead them to become

bullies themselves in the future. She fumed that the community allows bullying in the name of freedom of expression in a disrespectful way.

Shammari has taken her core knowledge and skills to reach a wider audience through her Twitter and Instagram accounts. Through her tireless efforts, many singers, celebrities, journalists, actors, children, disabled people and others have shared their stories. Shammari is passionate about her cause and with Dr Huwailah, has created a holistic campaign putting together all forms of media methods online to bring out a strong voice that seeks to identify, label and address bullying. As the description on the account of "Q8 Against Bullying" goes, "Bullying is at an all-time high in Kuwait. We do not speak of it. We do not label it. Instead, we allow people to suffer in silence. Q8AB is here to help."



— Photos by Q8 against bullying



News

in Brief



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and Kuwaiti Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim.

Amir - an 'exemplary' humanitarian figure

GENEVA: His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is amongst a few world leaders who could be described as an exemplary humanitarian figure, said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi yesterday. After his meeting with Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN Headquarters and international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, Grandi said Kuwait reflected its keenness on helping others through its strong bond with the UNHCR. The Gulf state's organization of three donors' conference for the Syrian refugees and participation in organization of the recent fourth event held in London showcased its determination to support world humanitarian efforts, said the official. Al-Ghunaim, on his part, indicated that his meeting with Grandi focused on coordinating efforts between Kuwait and the UNHCR in implementing the resolutions and pledges that came out of London's fourth donors' conference. The meeting also touched on efforts to bolster bilateral ties on all possible levels, said the Kuwaiti diplomat.

Kuwait congratulates Iran on National Day

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of congratulation to the President of Iran Dr Hassan Rouhani on his country's National Day - wishing him everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country. 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 sent similar cables to the Iranian President.

Kuwaiti authorities ban bird imports from India

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources banned yesterday imports of live birds, eggs and one-day-old chicks from India due to the outbreak of the pathogenic H5N1 bird flu. In a statement, the authority stressed the importance of subjecting all incoming consignments to its conditions and restrictions, in line with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) requirements, the veterinary quarantine systems in Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The decision was taken against the backdrop of the OIE's recent reports on the outbreak of H5N1 bird flu in India.

Ambassador lauds launch of Joint Italian-Arab Chamber

ROME: Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah lauded the launch of the new Joint Italian-Arab Chamber (JIAC) - a non-profit association, stressing the importance of its role in boosting economic and commercial ties between Italy and the Arab world, and widening the mutual cooperation between them. This institution poses an important step in keeping up, using and improving the vast opportunities provided by the excellent Arab-Italian relations, and shows keenness of Italian and Arab businesses in boosting joint cooperation, the Kuwaiti diplomat said, following the Chamber's inauguration ceremony, in presence of Arab diplomatic missions. The Chamber's main objective is to encourage and provide necessary support and facilitations for Italian companies working in Arab countries and vice-versa, he indicated after attending the Chamber's first board of directors meeting upon invitation by the Chamber's President Cesare Trevisani.

AL-MAHAFAT, BADGIR, POTTERY ITEMS, CLASSICAL METHODS FOR VENTILATION

KUWAIT: In the hot summer days of old times, people in Kuwait used to depend on "Al-Mahafat" (fans), "Badgir" (wind catchers), and pottery items as classical methods for cooling down and ventilation in their dwellings. "Al-Mahafat", plural for "Al-Mahafa", were traditional fans made out of palm tree leaves. They were used by people in gathering halls, houses, and mosques to cool down and ward off the heat of the summer season.

They came in various types and shapes and according to the place or situation;

specific fans were used by people to cool themselves down. As for "Badgir", the Persian word for wind catchers, they were muddy-structures or rooms erected on top of homes to catch wind which seeps into houses through a ventilation system, providing cool air for the inhabitants. "Badgir" were mainly found at houses of the well off and rich people.

On the other hand, pottery items and porcelain, usually imported from abroad, were also used to store and cool down water during the summer heat. The

porcelain-stored cold water was also poured in the surrounding areas of which people used to sit down for chat. Some similar pottery items had holes drilled into them to allow water to drip to the ground frequently, and with passing wind, a cool breeze is created. With the introduction of electricity in Kuwait, people slowly became less dependent on such methods of cooling, although some individuals, especially from the older generation, still use some of these methods to have a joyful time during summer. — KUNA



MP Abdullah Maayouf addresses the media during the press conference. — KUNA

KUWAIT SPORTS DELEGATION RALLY SUPPORT AGAINST IOC SUSPENSION

KUWAIT: The National Assembly's sports and youth affairs committee has announced that a popular sports delegation will begin a tour to Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries to urge their sports associations to support Kuwaiti efforts to lift suspension of sports activities imposed by International Olympic Committee (IOC). MP Abdullah Maayouf, the committee's head, stressed during a news conference yesterday on the necessity of such efforts exerted on popular, sports and parliamentary levels so as to deliver a message that the Kuwaiti people "are not interested in troubles and difference made by some".

He said Kuwaitis love peace and sports, expressing his hope that the State of Kuwait wouldn't be prevented from participating in international sports events. The delegation includes some former soccer players who have been serving their homeland to raise its status, he said, calling for further popular contributions to backing relevant moves in order to lift the IOC's suspension decision. He said that the delegation will begin its tour to all GCC sports associations, voicing his confidence that these associations will vote in favor of Kuwait.

Drop the suspension

He also called on GCC member states to urge their friendly countries to vote for Kuwait's demand to drop the suspension. He affirmed that all MPs and athletes are keen on lifting the suspension to help Kuwait take part in all sports events, Maayouf said. He expressed his

gratitude to Al-Ghanim for supporting the idea of forming the delegation and harnessing all required capabilities to achieve the national duty. Maayouf referred to the role of His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah in this regard.

He had earlier affirmed, in a press statement, the importance of such visits ahead of the FIFA's General Assembly's meeting to be held on February 26 to discuss the decision of suspension. Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Turajji, the committee's rapporteur, said the popular delegation will complete official and popular efforts aimed to drop the "unfair decision of suspension". He added that about 12 sports clubs of Kuwait sent a letter to FIFA, affirming that the country's laws are compatible with international charters and the government doesn't interfere in sports affairs as IOC has claimed.

Interest of the country

Al-Turajji voiced his hope that efforts of the popular delegation would succeed in achieving its national duty, urging everyone to join such national efforts before holding the meeting of the FIFA's General Assembly and take into consideration the interest of the country and youth. Meanwhile, Saad Al-Houti, a delegation member, lauded the idea of forming the delegation, indicating that sports in Kuwait has contributed to solving many problems per-

taining to global sports affairs. Al-Houti, former captain of Kuwaiti national soccer team, expressed his hope that the delegation would manage to rally support for dropping the decision of suspension, concurrently with celebrations of the National Day and Liberation Day.

Mohammad Karam, a soccer player, called on the government to pay much attention to youth through sports which protects them from violence and negative behaviors. He voiced his gratitude to efforts exerted by the government, National Assembly and sports and youth affairs committee aiming to drop the suspension and help the country resume its sports activities at international events. On October 27, 2015, the Public Authority Sport (PAS) board of directors had rejected the decision by the IOC suspending Kuwait's Olympic activities, over allegations that the "Kuwait's local sports laws run counter to the Olympic Charter".

PAS Deputy Director General Humoud Fulaiteh had said, in an earlier statement, that letters issued by IOC proved the crisis was not due to allegations that local laws contradict the Olympic Charter. He added the IOC letter issued on October 22, 2015, revealed that the IOC suspended sports activities owing to a dispute between the Kuwaiti government and the Olympic movement in Kuwait. The Kuwait government had affirmed during several occasions that local legislations maintain fully independence of the country's sports bodies, describing the suspension as "unfair". — KUNA



Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society Anwar Al-Hasawi poses for a group photo with the delegation from Al-Rahma Charity Association.



KRCS distributes humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

KRCS BOOSTS COOPERATION WITH LOCAL CHARITIES

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society Anwar Al-Hasawi yesterday stressed the importance of boosting cooperation and coordination with local charities to present a role model in the humanitarian and relief work in Kuwait. Al-Hasawi, in remarks to KUNA following a meeting with a delegation from Al-Rahma Charity Association, emphasized on the importance of exchanging expertise and enhancing coordination with local charities to better serve people in need, locally, as well as in all parts of the world.

He briefed the delegation about the KRCS's successful campaigns for relieving

Syrian refugees in neighboring countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan. For his side, Secretary General of Al-Rahma Charity Association Yahya Al-Aqili stressed on importance of uniting efforts among the local charities. He also highly applauded and appreciated relief efforts of the KRCS in alleviating suffering of the Syrian and Yemeni peoples, who undergo tough circumstances in their war-torn nations.

KRCS distributes aid

In another development, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has continued to dis-

tribute relief aid to 350 displaced Syrian families in the eastern Bekaa Valley, as part of the "warm winter 2016" campaign. Head of the society's delegation, Nabil Buftain said that field teams delivered parcels laden with food and detergents for the Syrian families in Al-Kark town in Zahlee area, eastern Lebanon. The aid offered to the Syrian refugees in Lebanon is part of KRCS commitment in alleviating their suffering due to tough circumstances they encounter. He conveyed appreciation of the families to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the political leadership and people of

Kuwait for all the aid they offer to them.

Meanwhile, relief operations coordinator at the Lebanese Red Cross Society Yousef Butrus emphasized importance of such campaigns, applauding the leading role of KRCS in offering humanitarian relief to the refugees. The society is implementing a relief campaign aimed at helping 30,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, the Syrian refugees inhabiting Lebanon exceeded one million. Most of them are settled in the Bekaa Valley, Akkar, Tripoli, Al-Miniyeh, and Al-Dahiye, as they live in camps lacking fundamental elements of healthy living. — Agencies

Crime

report

Bomb near security building

KUWAIT: Explosives experts removed a bomb that was found near the state security building in Shuhada area. Interior Ministry's operations department received a call about a foreign object near the building, so police patrols rushed to the scene and removed the explosive device.

Kuwaiti attacks Egyptian

A citizen beat and injured a worker in a cafe. The victim complained at Median Hawally police station. The Egyptian worker gave police a medical report, and details of the suspect including his phone number. Hawally detectives are working on the case.

Saudi with pistol

A Saudi national was taken to Drugs Control General Department after being arrested. A pistol was found in his possession. Customs officers suspected him after he appeared so confused, and when they searched him, they found the pistol.

12 bottles of liquor

Jahra detectives have arrested a bedoon with 12 bottles of imported liquor. A security source said the detectives learned about the suspect's activity, so they collected information and went to the area where he sells the liquor. A warrant was obtained and his house was raided where the liquor was found.

Driver beat passenger

An Egyptian woman sought police help in Hawally - telling them she was beaten and insulted by a driver. The Egyptian told Nugra police that she had a dispute with a driver over the right of way to go, so he got out of his car, beat her then drove away. She gave them the license plate number.

KUWAIT'S SUPPORT HELPED JAPAN'S RECOVERY EFFORTS



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi (right) is pictured with Japanese Red Cross Society VP Yoshiharu Otsuka. (Right) Tohoku Medical and Pharmaceutical University.



SENDAI: Kuwait's donation of five million barrels of crude oil following a massive earthquake-tsunami disaster is highly appreciated, Japanese Red Cross Society Vice President Yoshiharu Otsuka said. The Kuwaiti donation was the largest contribution to Japan by any country during the critical period since the tragedy that hit the northeastern region five years ago. "I wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to Kuwait for its generous support to the response and recovery efforts of the 2011 disaster," Otsuka said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency.

Soon after the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and ensuing tsunami that left more than 18,000 people dead or missing in the northeastern region, Kuwait offered Japan five million barrels of crude oil through the Japanese Red Cross Society, worth about \$500 million at that time, by the initiative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. "We are honored to be the recipient of the donation from Kuwait, which has been

used to assist the recovery efforts in the affected areas," Otsuka made remarks on the occasion of the establishment of the Kuwait Partnership Fund for Medical Education with a capital of JPY nine billion (\$104 million).

"This newly established study fund, which utilizes Kuwait's donation, is an innovative scheme to develop the human resources necessary for regional medicine and for the recovery of the disaster-affected areas," the official said. The twin disaster has caused the rise in the number of patients and an exodus of medical staff here. In response to a plea by Miyagi Prefecture to address severe shortage of doctors, the government has given the go-ahead for a university in Sendai City to establish new medical department. It is the first medical school to open in Japan since 1979.

Starting from April, the study fund will provide scholarships to 30 medical students per year from Miyagi, who commit to working at designated medical institutions in the

prefecture for 10 years after graduation from the newly established Tohoku Medical and Pharmaceutical University. "The many recipients of this fund, who will study to become doctors, will play a significant role in the future of medicine in Miyagi and the northeastern region," Otsuka said. He also expressed hope that the fund will serve as a testament of the long-lasting goodwill relationship between Kuwait and Japan.

In addition to the medical study fund, Kuwait's crude oil donation has been used for various reconstruction projects in the three prefectures over the past five years, such as infrastructure recovery, employment and agriculture. Miyagi was the first devastated region where Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi made a series of visits after the 2011 catastrophe to show Kuwait's support and solidarity. The reconstruction work in Miyagi is progressing, but nearly 25,000 people are still living in temporary housing. — KUNA

Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Iranians mark revolution anniversary

12



No country for old ladies: Hillary losing with women

14



North expels S Koreans from industrial zone

18



MARIB: Yemeni tribesmen from the Popular Resistance Committees, supporting forces loyal to Yemen's Saudi-backed President, stand next to a vehicle as they prepare to fire towards Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies' positions. — AFP

SAUDI TEACHER GOES ON SHOOTING RAMPAGE

SIX KILLED; TWO WOUNDED; SHOOTER ARRESTED

RIYADH: A teacher in southern Saudi Arabia opened fire on colleagues yesterday, killing at least six people and wounding two, state television reported. The brief reports on the state television channel's website and Twitter account did not elaborate or offer a reason for the shooting at an education department building. It quoted an unnamed police spokesman for the information and said the suspected shooter was in custody.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency did not immediately report the shooting. State TV posted a still photograph that showed ambulances gathered outside the building where the shooting took place in Jazan province. Mass shootings are rare in the kingdom. Saudi Arabia has faced a

series of recent attacks by Islamic State militants. Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition of countries conducting airstrikes and ground operations in neighboring Yemen in support of the deeply impoverished country's internationally recognized government.

It is fighting against Iranian-backed Shiite rebels and supporters of a former president, who control the capital and other parts of the country. Jazan, on the kingdom's southern border with Yemen, has been targeted by missiles and cross-border fire since Saudi Arabia intervened in the conflict. On Tuesday, authorities said they shot down a ballistic missile targeting the city and that a police officer in the surrounding province was killed in a

separate shooting incident. In October, two people were killed and another two were wounded when a gunman opened fire inside a bank in the city of Jazan.

In another development, a new Saudi-led coalition to fight "terrorism" in Islamic countries will gather in the kingdom next month for its first publicly announced meeting, a Saudi source said yesterday. Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also defense minister, announced the new coalition in December. A Western diplomat said at the time that details of how the grouping would work remained unclear and "they don't have the infrastructure" yet to run such a coalition. "This is official now, that they will meet end of March," the Saudi

source said, without giving a date.

The source added that the coalition now has 35 members, up from the 34 announced initially. Member countries named previously by the Saudis range from the tiny African nation of the Comoros to major regional powers like Turkey. Saudi Arabia said the alliance would share intelligence, combat violent ideology and deploy troops if necessary. The kingdom is a member of the US-led coalition that has been bombing the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria for more than 18 months. On Monday, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said his country was ready to deploy special forces to Syria if the coalition decides to begin a ground operation. — Agencies

NATO SENDS WARSHIPS ON AEGEAN MIGRANT MISSION

ERDOGAN THREATENS TO SEND MORE REFUGEES TO EU

BRUSSELS: NATO launched yesterday an unprecedented naval mission in the Aegean Sea to tackle people smugglers taking refugees and migrants from Turkey to Greece, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said. The alliance will deploy at least three warships after alliance members Germany, Greece and Turkey called for help earlier this week to cope with Europe's biggest migrant crisis since World War II.

The move came despite a threat by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to send millions more refugees to Europe amid a row with the European Union (EU) over responsibility for handling the crisis. "This is not about stopping and pushing back (refugee boats)... but about critical surveillance to help counter human trafficking and criminal networks," Stoltenberg said after NATO defense ministers approved the mission.

Surveillance activities

He said NATO is "now directing the standing maritime group to move into the Aegean without delay and start maritime surveillance activities". The group comprises three ships under German command but there will be more as the situation is reviewed. EU efforts to tackle the problem have only exposed deep divisions while a November agreement with Turkey has got bogged down in mutual recrimination over who is to blame.

The NATO chief said the migrant crisis, driven by conflict and turmoil in Syria across the Middle East and North Africa, posed a major security threat to the 28-nation alliance at the same time as it faces new challenges in Europe driven by the Ukraine crisis. It is a major departure for NATO, an alliance formed in the depths of the Cold War and which normally focuses on strictly military matters.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel made the call for help Monday in Turkey as thousands more refugees fled heavy fighting near Aleppo in northern Syria only to be held back on the border. Turkey is home to some 2.5 million refugees and their future is increasingly uncertain with prospects of a return home disappearing as efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Syrian conflict flounder.

Yesterday, Erdogan threatened to send more refugees to Europe, slamming the EU for treating Ankara as though it were an "idiot" and shirking its responsibilities. Asked about Erdogan's statement, Stoltenberg declined direct comment, stressing instead that the Aegean naval mission had been backed by all 28 NATO member states.

He noted too that AWACS surveillance planes and other surveillance resources deployed to bolster Turkey in December as the Syrian crisis deepened would now also be used to step up monitoring along its border with Syria.

EU welcome

German Defence Minister Ursula Von der Leyen said that "several NATO members had pledged ships" for the mission. "There is a clear accord with Turkey that any refugees picked up will be sent back to Turkey," she told reporters.

Sources said the force would eventually comprise five to seven ships, with the key provision that if they do rescue refugees, as they must do under international law, those migrants will be returned to Turkey. Normally, they would claim asylum in the ship's home country.

The European Commission welcomed the plan but reiterated that it aimed to create its own border and coast guard system to fulfil the same function. "This is a decision we welcome. We hope that lives will be saved in the Aegean Sea," commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker's spokesman Margartis Schinas told a news briefing. "We regard this as very much a sort of a forerunner of the European coast guard, going back to proposals made in December," he said.

Turkey—the only Muslim-majority nation in NATO and with one of its largest armies—was the main transit country for the more than one million migrants who reached Europe last year. Having reached Greece, most of them made their way north to Germany and other richer countries in the European Union.

More than 70,000 made the dangerous crossing in January, with over 400 dying, according to the International Organization for Migration (OIM). The fear now is that hundreds of thousands more could follow this year with no prospect of a negotiated solution to the war in Syria which has killed more than 260,000 people and displaced half the population since March 2011. —AFP



BRUSSELS: US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, (fourth left) meets with Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman, (fourth right) on the sidelines of a NATO defense ministers meeting at NATO headquarters. —AP

RUSSIA READY TO DISCUSS SYRIA CEASEFIRE AT TALKS

MUNICH: Russia said yesterday it was ready to discuss a ceasefire in Syria as foreign ministers gathered in Munich in a bid to kick-start peace talks derailed by the regime onslaught on the besieged city of Aleppo. The UN said 51,000 Syrians had fled the bombardment by government forces, backed by Russian bombers and Iranian fighters, that has left the opposition there virtually surrounded.

Russia's deputy foreign minister Gennady Gatilov said Moscow was "ready to discuss the modalities of a ceasefire" and peace talks between the Syrian government and opposition rebels could "possibly start earlier" than the proposed date of February 25.

The first round of talks in Geneva collapsed earlier this month over the attacks on Aleppo, where observers say at least 500 people have been killed since the offensive began on February 1, and 300,000 people are at risk of being placed under siege.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov

will host foreign ministers from the 17-nation Syria contact group in Munich, for a meeting billed as a moment of truth for the floundering peace process. Washington said it wants a ceasefire and humanitarian access to besieged cities but has threatened an unspecified "Plan B" if talks fail, as tension mounts with Moscow over its air campaign.

"There is no question... that Russia's activities in Aleppo and in the region right now are making it much more difficult to be able to come to the table and to be able to have a serious conversation," Kerry said this week. Russia and Iran say the rebels in Aleppo are just as much "terrorists" as IS and there can be no settlement until they have been militarily defeated.

"Those who are outside Syria should help the peace process and not seek to impose conditions on the Syrian people," Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif told Iran's state TV after arriving for the talks. The rebels say they will not return to talks in Geneva unless government sieges and air strikes end. Kerry met yes-

terday with the main opposition representative, Riyadh Hijab, as well as Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir.

'Russia destabilizing the West'

Analysts see little hope of reconciling differences. Syria is a crucial ally and military staging post for Russia and Iran, while a growing number of observers say Moscow has benefited from the chaos created by the war, particularly the refugee crisis in Europe.

"For Russia, the war in Syria is about much more than Assad," Koert Debeuf, a research fellow at the University of Oxford, told the Carnegie Europe think tank. "The goal of Russian President Vladimir Putin is to destabilize and weaken the West. He wants to end the EU's and NATO's attractiveness to countries he considers part of the Russian sphere of influence." Nonetheless, experts also say there is a limit to how much Russian aerial bombardment can achieve, particularly as the rebels—who have the backing of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries—dig in for protracted urban warfare. "The idea of a full re-conquest... seems neither credible nor durable. It will simply turn into a terrorist or guerrilla situation," said Camille Grand, of the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris.

Lack of US commitment

Many have also criticized the United States for not doing more to support the rebels. Even outgoing French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius could not hide his frustration as he announced his resignation on Wednesday, saying: "You don't get the feeling that there is a very strong commitment" by the US in Syria. Washington has been reluctant to involve itself in another war after the quagmires of Afghanistan and Iraq, and ultimately seems more concerned about combating IS than getting involved in the civil war between Syria's regime and rebels. —AFP



ALEPPO: In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrians gather in a street that was hit by shelling, in the predominantly Christian and Armenian neighborhood of Suleimaniyeh. — AP

KURDISTAN IS A PART OF IRAQ: PM ABADI

BERLIN: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi yesterday urged Kurdistan to drop any plans for independence, warning that the autonomous northern region could not do without Iraq. "The Kurdistan region will not develop without Iraq, and Iraq must be united in all its components," he said following talks in Berlin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "Kurdistan is part of Iraq and I hope it will remain so."

Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani declared in early February that the "time has come" for the country's Kurds to hold a referendum on statehood, although the region is, like the rest of Iraq, plagued with major economic problems. Discontent has been mounting in Kurdistan over unpaid salaries and wage cuts in the government sector, with doctors and traffic police holding protests this month.

Underlining the impact of sinking crude prices to Iraq's economy, Abadi said oil revenues have plunged to just 15 percent of their level two years ago, as he urged the international community to help shore up his country's battered economy. "Iraqi oil revenues have fallen to just 15 percent of the revenues we had two years ago. This is a major decline and we therefore have great difficulties," he said.

"No one could have expected (the slump) to happen so quickly," he said, urging the world community to not only help Baghdad in its battle against Islamic State jihadists, but also "support Iraq so that the state can provide essential services to its people." "We need a new orientation in the compass of support for Iraq," added Abadi.

World oil prices have dived by 70 percent since June 2014, due mainly to growing oversupply and weakening global demand. Announcing a credit line worth 500 million Euros (\$560 million), Merkel said what Iraq needs is "an economic recovery (through) infrastructure projects, above all in states that have been liberated from the Islamic State organization." The German funds are aimed at helping Iraq "rebuild their infrastructure, as well as give people hope for the future, so that they can avoid having to leave their country," she said. —AFP

ISRAEL CHARGES FOR STABBING SECURITY GUARD

JERUSALEM: Israel yesterday charged two Arab Israeli schoolgirls with the attempted murder of a security guard last week, saying they expected to die in the attempt and become martyrs for Islam. A police statement quoted the charge sheet as saying that the two girls were both aged 14, from the mixed Arab-Jewish town of Ramle, and had been influenced by a wave of Palestinian violence since October.

"On February 3, 2016, after a stabbing attack in which three terrorists were shot dead at Jerusalem's Damascus Gate and because of the wave of terror, the accused agreed to meet the next day, equipped with kitchen knives, to carry out a nationalist stabbing attack," it said.

"They conspired to become 'martyrs' and die in the war for religion." On February 4, "one of the accused suggested to the other that they go to school first and carry out the stabbing attack in the afternoon," it added. "Nevertheless the other accused persuaded her that they should mount the attack in the morning instead of going to school."

It said the girls took knives from their home kitchens and hid them in their school bags, then set out for Ramle's shopping mall with the intention of killing an Israeli soldier. According to the statement, when they could see only civilians they decided to target a private security guard at the mall entrance. The two then pulled knives and stabbed the guard in an arm and his legs, lightly wounding him before they were overpowered by a second guard and a soldier. They were charged in juvenile court yesterday with attempted murder, conspiracy and possession of knives, the police statement said. The attack underlined the unpredictable nature of the wave of stabbing attacks that have targeted Israelis since October. Many of the attackers have been young people, including teenagers, believed to be acting on their own. More than four months of violence has claimed the lives of 26 Israelis, as well as an American and an Eritrean, according to an AFP count.

Among them was a 19-year-old Israeli policewoman killed in the February 3 Damascus Gate shooting and stabbing attack that authorities say influenced the schoolgirls. —AFP



TEHRAN: Members of Iranian Basij paramilitary force re-enact the January capture of US sailors by the Revolutionary Guard in the Persian Gulf, in a rally commemorating the 37th anniversary of Islamic Revolution. — AP

BANNERS AND SELFIES AS IRANIANS MARK REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

'DEATH TO AMERICA' STILL REMAINS COMMON PLACARDS

TEHRAN: Iranians waved "Death to America" banners and took selfies with a ballistic missile yesterday as they marked 37 years since the Islamic revolution, weeks after Iran finalized a nuclear deal with world powers. In the capital, hundreds of thousands converged on the historic Azadi (Freedom) Square, where President Hassan Rouhani made a speech addressing Iran's political camps.

"True (conservatives), true reformists and true moderates are all revolutionary," he said in remarks broadcast live on state television. "In our time, 'revolutionary' means being in favor of participation, tolerance, and resistance, and having goods capable of competition in world markets."

The anniversary of Iran's 1979 revolution comes two weeks ahead of crucial parliamentary elections, when the moderate Rouhani will hope for a shift in the balance of power in parliament, which is currently dominated by conservatives. "Our vote will be a vote for hope, rationality, law and the protection of the rights of the Iranian nation," he said. "It is a 'No' to those

who do not respect the law and seek confrontation."

Many demonstrators yesterday carried the traditional placards reading "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" while others carried the Iranian flag. Organizers read a statement to the crowd, saying that the US remained "the number one enemy of Iran".

Iran holds an annual revolution celebration, but yesterday's was the first since a landmark deal with world powers—including the United States—was finalized, paving the way for punishing economic sanctions on Tehran to be lifted. The deal has seen a host of foreign investors declare interest in Iran, an unblocking of frozen Iranian assets held abroad and a warming of ties between the Islamic republic and the West.

Missile selfies

Young people at a rally yesterday reconstructed a scene from mid-January that saw US Navy sailors detained by Iranian Revolutionary Guards. State television has repeatedly broadcast pictures of the 10 captive

sailors with their hands on their heads. On Wednesday night, a brief video also showed one soldier in tears.

Touted domestically as proof of Iran's ability to defend its borders, the sailors were released within 24 hours, just days before the nuclear deal was finalized on January 16. Revolutionary Guards were present yesterday, displaying a long-range Imad ballistic missile in central Tehran. Many people were taking selfies with the missile, the ISNA news agency reported. Last October, Iran "successfully" tested the new weapon, which Tehran says has a range of 1700 kilometers.

An Iran-made military drone was also on display, according to an AFP photographer, and local media published images of General Qassem Suleimani, chief of the Guards' Quds Special Forces, marching in the rally. Louis Farakkhan, leader of the American group Nation of Islam, was also set to make a speech as honorary guest after Rouhani. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other leaders had called in recent days for mass participation in anniversary rallies. — AFP

94-YEAR-OLD AUSCHWITZ GUARD GOES ON TRIAL

170,000 COUNTS OF ACCESSORY TO MURDER

DETMOLD: A 94-year-old former SS sergeant went on trial yesterday in western Germany on 170,000 counts of accessory to murder, based on accusations that he served as a guard in the Auschwitz death camp as hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews and others were gassed to death there.

Reinhold Hanning seemed in good condition for his age, walking into the court in the city of Detmold without even the help of a cane and appearing to listen attentively as the indictment against him was read aloud.

No pleas are entered in the German system. Hanning, who ran a local dairy after the war until he retired in 1984, declined to give an opening statement to the court. He showed no reaction as the first witness, Leon Schwarzbaum, a 94-year-old Auschwitz survivor, read moving testimony about his own experiences, then looked directly at Hanning and made an emotional plea.

"Mr Hanning, we are about the same age and we will both soon be before the highest court," Schwarzbaum said, his voice quavering and hands trembling. "Speak here about what you and your comrades did!"

One of four

The trial is one of four expected this year against two other former SS men and one woman alleged to have served in Auschwitz. The 11th-hour prosecutions come after a new precedent was set in 2011, when former Ohio autoworker John Demjanjuk became the first person to be convicted in Germany solely for serving as a death camp guard, with no evidence of involvement in a specific killing.

Prosecutors successfully argued in the Demjanjuk case that simply serving in a death camp, and thus helping it operate, was enough to convict someone of accessory to the murders committed there. Although Demjanjuk always denied serving at the death camp and died before his appeal could be heard, prosecutors last year successfully convicted SS sergeant Oskar Groening, who served in Auschwitz, on 300,000 counts of accessory to murder using the same reasoning.

Hanning admitted to investigators when first questioned that



DETMOLD: Former Auschwitz guard Reinhold Hanning (center) sits between his lawyers as he waits for the start of his trial at court. — AFP

he had served in the Auschwitz I part of the camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, but denied serving at the Auschwitz II-Birkenau section, where most of the 1.1 million victims were killed.

As the trial opened, however, his attorneys filed a motion asking to exclude that statement, saying that Hanning had been "surprised" when authorities showed up at his house and wasn't fully aware he was under investigation. It wasn't clear when the judges would rule on the motion. His attorney, Andreas Scharmer, would not say whether the defense was planning to try and argue that Hanning did not serve in the camp at all if his statement was excluded.

SS Death's Head

Prosecutor Andreas Brendel told The Associated Press after the hearing that there was also other evidence that Hanning was there, including SS company lists. Reading the indictment, Brendel told the court that Hanning served in two different SS Death's

Head companies in Auschwitz as a guard. He said those companies were used to guard prisoners used as slave laborers outside the camp, and also were called to Birkenau to help with the tens of thousands being brought in during the so-called "Hungarian action" in 1944 and unloaded from trains onto a ramp.

On the ramp, Nazis stripped the prisoners of their possessions and sorted them into groups: those who would be immediately taken to the gas chambers and those fit enough to be used as slave labor, and likely worked to death. "The decision over life and death lay with the SS men on the ramp," Brendel said.

Doctors have advised that the trial sessions can run no longer than two hours, in deference to Hanning's age and health. Schwarzbaum, one of about 40 Auschwitz survivors or their relatives who have joined the trial as co-plaintiffs as allowed under German law, had his testimony cut short before he could finish answering questions. He's due to take the stand again when the trial resumes Friday.—AP

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Offers FEBRUARY

BEST PRICES

SAMSUNG
GALAXY Note 4 N910

124 Starting Price
 210,000 Old Price / 85,100 Old Price

16mp Camera
32GB 5.7"

iPhone 6s Plus **5.5"**

16GB Starting From
229 Starting Price / 900 Old Price

64GB
264 Starting Price / 900 Old Price

iPhone 6 Plus

16GB 5.5"

179 Starting Price / 900 Old Price

best بست
AL-YOUSIFI اليوسيفي

Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (The New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahadhel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op) • Airport (Departure Hall)

NEVADA REMAINS ROCKY TERRAIN FOR DEMOCRATS

LAS VEGAS: Now that Iowa and New Hampshire are in the rear-view mirror, the Democratic presidential contest shifts to markedly different terrain in Nevada, where a largely urban and diverse electorate will test the breadth of Bernie Sanders' appeal and the durability of Hillary Clinton's coalition.

In contrast to the overwhelmingly Anglo electorate in the first two voting states, Nevada is 28 percent Latino, 9 percent African-American and 8 percent Asian-American. "We are much more representative of the national population and that makes us more of a harbinger of the final result than anything you've seen so far," said Rep. Dina Titus, a Las Vegas Democrat who backs Clinton.

That's not to say Nevada is soaking up all the attention. Sanders and Clinton are also engaged in diverse and populous South Carolina, whose Democratic faceoff follows Nevada by a week. Together, these states give Hispanic and black voters a potentially strong say in a national contest where Clinton is thought to be favored by minorities but Sanders is working hard to catch up.

Clinton's campaign manager, Robby Mook, cut his teeth organizing her effort in Nevada's 2008 nominating contest, which she won. She installed seasoned operatives in Nevada last spring and made an early campaign stop in Las Vegas to announce her intent to expand President Barack Obama's program granting some immigrant deportation relief. She's won endorsements from many state powerbrokers.

'Hillary still favorite'

"Hillary is still the favorite," said Billy Vassiliadis, a Democratic consultant who is neutral in the race. "But not as big a favorite." That's because Sanders, whose impressive fundraising has put him on equal footing with Clinton, has invested heavily in a state that was hard-hit by the real estate bust. His campaign now boasts more offices than hers.

He is outspending Clinton on the airwaves in Nevada. Though Sanders' first staffer arrived in Nevada in October, his campaign says it now has more than 100 here, bolstered by volunteers who had organized themselves for months, even going as far as to create their own campaign literature and buttons.

Finally, Nevada Democrats can register to vote at the caucus - even if they don't turn 18 until election day. That will also probably help Sanders, who does especially well among younger voters. "I think we have a real shot at it," said Assemblyman Tick Segerblom, a Sanders supporter. "His message is so perfect for Nevada - \$15 minimum wage, the banks basically destroyed Nevada, everyone lost their homes or is under water." Nevada has had among the highest foreclosure rates in the nation since 2008.

After Nevada, the Democratic contest shifts to South Carolina on Feb. 27, then the slate of Super Tuesday states on March 1, where Sanders is hoping a mix of caucus states like Colorado and northeastern ones like Massachusetts will give him an edge. Clinton is counting on the diversity and size of states in that bundle, such as Georgia and Texas, to boost her. The Republican contests are Feb. 20 in South Carolina and Feb. 23 in Nevada.

Transient state

Like Iowa, Nevada votes through a caucus system. But unlike Iowa, Nevada is relatively new to caucuses and voters in this famously transient state often know nothing about those events. That's why a robust field operation is key. The Clinton campaign argues it has a head start. "It's not an accident that we were here on Day 1," said Clinton's state director, Emmy Ruiz. "Nevada is not the kind of state you can participate in the last 30 days and expect to make a difference."

Beatriz Miranda, 61, appreciates Clinton's long history in both the state and public service. "She's focused on everybody," Miranda said as she called Spanish-speaking voters at a Clinton campaign office. "Sanders - I don't know him that well. He doesn't have the same experience as Hillary."

In appearances for Clinton this week, Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois recounted campaigning for Obama in Nevada's hard-fought 2008 contest. He couldn't persuade Latinos to vote against Clinton then, and he believes they will back her now. "She has a broader connection with a broader base of Americans" than Sanders, Gutierrez said.—AP



HOOKSETT: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton mingles with supporters at her New Hampshire presidential primary campaign rally. — AP

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD LADIES: HILLARY LOSING WITH WOMEN

POLITICAL REVOLUTION TRUMPS MADAME PRESIDENT

CONCORD: For young women, political revolution is currently trumping the idea of a Madame President. In New Hampshire, women under the age of 45 overwhelmingly backed Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton, exit polls showed. It's a problem for the former secretary of state as she tries to build the coalition of voters needed to win the Democratic nomination, and she knows it, saying of young voters as she conceded New Hampshire to Sanders that, "even if they are not supporting me now, I support them."

The numbers are staggering, and not just because Clinton - widely expected to be the first woman to win the presidential nomination of a major political party - lost New Hampshire women to a 74-year-old grandfather. Sanders won the votes of 7 out of every 10 women under the age of 45, and nearly 80 percent of women under the age of 30. "I think for young women, they clearly identify as feminists, they say they're feminists, but I think the notion of having a woman president ... it doesn't drive them in the same way, as women who are in the traditional second wave of feminism," said Debbie Walsh, director for the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Inspiring Sanders

Indeed, young women in New Hampshire said they were more inspired by the Vermont senator's ambitious policy proposals, including a government-run health care system for all and free public college tuition. Clinton's more pragmatic ideas and complicated public history are a tough sell. "We always have another chance to have another woman president, but do we have another chance to have someone as genuine as Bernie Sanders is?" asked Nicole McGillicuddy, 26, a server at a Concord restaurant, who believes there

will a female president in her lifetime.

Clinton and Sanders will meet for the next debate of the Democratic race on Thursday in Milwaukee, when Clinton's outreach to younger women is sure to continue. Compared with her 2008 bid, which focused more on experience and her readiness for the White House, Clinton has embraced her gender this time, touting her potential to be the first female president and stressing economic issues popular with women, including equal pay and family leave.

She has promoted endorsements from women's organizations, campaigned with female elected officials and sought to impress younger women with surrogates like pop star Katy Perry and actress Lena Dunham. But the message has not resonated, much to the frustration of the Clinton campaign. Angst over Sanders' appeal erupted recently, when former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said there was "a special place in hell" for women who don't help women and renowned feminist Gloria Steinem said that Sanders' female supporters were doing it to meet boys.

Those comments were roundly criticized, prompting an apology from Steinem. "I can't see voting for someone just because she's a woman. That's a bad message. It does not resonate. It's lame," said Barbara Considine, 58, of western Massachusetts. "It backfires. In fact, it's suggesting we're not supposed to think about what the issues are or anything else."

Notions overblown?

Clinton is expected to fare better in the upcoming early contests than she did in Iowa, where she barely eked out a win in the caucuses, and lost in New Hampshire. A recent national poll from Quinnipiac

University showed Clinton winning women voters 48-38 against Sanders. Stephanie Schriock, the president of Emily's List, which supports Democratic women who back abortion rights as they run for Congress and governors, and who has been campaigning for Clinton in the early states, argued that the idea Clinton was losing women was "overblown."

"We look at the national numbers and she's doing well, including on millennial women. We've seen really good energy across the county from women of all ages," Schriock said. Clinton has struggled to clearly define her message against Sanders' insurgent effort, however - and his intense focus on breaking up big financial institutions and expanding social programs has captured liberal voters, especially young people. There are some similarities to 2008, when polling showed that President Barack Obama did better than Clinton with younger women.

But the generational divide among young women over Clinton's candidacy appears more entrenched than it was at this point in 2008. That year, the youngest female primary voters in New Hampshire - those under age 30 - were slightly more likely to support Obama than Clinton, 45 percent to 37 percent, while this year 79 percent of them voted for Sanders.

Women between 30 and 44 in 2008 were slightly more likely to support Clinton than Obama, while this year most of them supported Sanders. "In 2008, I liked her a lot more back then. I think she was more of a genuine individual. Now she's had eight years to become enmeshed in the machine," said Lucy Fitzpatrick, 60, of Epping, New Hampshire, who is backing Sanders, as are her 20-year-old twin daughters. "I'd love to see a woman in the office one day, but I can't, in good conscience, vote for her." — AP

OREGON REFUGE OCCUPIERS SAY THEY WILL TURN THEMSELVES IN

BURNS: The last four armed occupiers of a national wildlife refuge in eastern Oregon said they would turn themselves in after the FBI and other officers surrounded them in a tense standoff.

The development came as Cliven Bundy - who led a Nevada standoff with federal officers in 2014 and who is also the father of the jailed leader of the Oregon standoff - was arrested in Portland. The four occupiers yelled at officers to back off and prayed with supporters over an open phone line as the standoff played out on the Internet Wednesday night via a phone line being livestreamed by an acquaintance of occupier David Fry.

Fry, 27, of Blanchester, Ohio, sounded increasingly unraveled as he continually yelled, at times hysterically, at what he said was an FBI negotiator. "You're going to hell. Kill me. Get it over with," he said. "We're innocent people camping at a public facility, and you're going to murder us." "The only way we're leaving here is dead or without charges," Fry said, who told the FBI to "get the hell out of Oregon."

Last remnants of group

Fry and the three others are the last remnants of a group led by Ammon Bundy that seized the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on Jan 2 to oppose federal land-use policies. The three others are Jeff Banta, 46, of Elko, Nevada; and married couple Sean Anderson, 48, and Sandy Anderson, 47, of Riggins, Idaho. Fry said Wednesday the group was surrounded by armored vehicles. Cliven Bundy, the father of occupation leader Ammon Bundy, flew into Portland International Airport Wednesday night and was arrested by authorities. He was booked into the lockup just before 11 pm according to Multnomah County Jail records.

The 74-year-old Nevadan was at the center of the standoff with federal officials over use of public lands. The Oregonian reports he now faces a conspiracy charge of interfering with a federal officer related to that standoff at his ranch. The FBI confirmed Cliven Bundy's was taken into federal custody but declined to provide a reason or other details, saying further information would be released by the US Attorney's office in Las Vegas, which did not respond to a phone call early yesterday. Ammon Bundy had been demanding that the Oregon refuge be handed over to locals. A Nevada legislator, Michele Fiore, called the occupiers earlier in the evening to try to get the occupiers to calm down. Fiore said she could help them only if they stayed alive.

"I need you guys alive," said the Republican member of the Nevada Assembly who was in Portland earlier in the day to show support for Ammon Bundy, who remains jailed. Fiore told occupiers Wednesday night she was driving to the refuge to try to help negotiate their exit from the refuge. The occupiers prayed with Fiore and others as the situation dragged on for hours Wednesday night.

Sean Anderson said late Wednesday he spoke with the FBI and that he and the three other holdouts would turn themselves in at a nearby FBI checkpoint. Anderson relayed the news to Fiore. "We're not surrendering, we're turning ourselves in. It's going against everything we believe in," he said.

Greg Bretzing, special agent in charge of the FBI in Oregon, said in a statement the situation had reached a point where it "became necessary to take action" to ensure the safety of all involved. Bretzing said one of the occupiers rode an ATV outside "the barricades established by the militia" at the refuge. When FBI agents tried to approach the driver, Fry said he returned to the camp at a "high rate of speed."

Dialogue exchange

The FBI placed agents at barricades ahead of and behind the occupier's camp, Bretzing said. "It has never been the FBI's desire to engage these armed occupiers in any way other than through dialogue, and to that end, the FBI has negotiated with patience and restraint in an effort to resolve the situation peacefully," he said in a statement.

Authorities had for weeks allowed the occupiers to come and go freely from the remote refuge, leading to criticism from local and state officials that law enforcement wasn't doing enough to end the situation. Ammon Bundy and others were arrested Jan. 26 on a remote road outside the refuge, but the four holdouts remained.

On Wednesday night Sandy Anderson said after the group was surrounded: "They're threatening us. They're getting closer. I pray that there's a revolution if we die here tonight." Her husband, Sean Anderson, said in the livestream: "We will not fire until fired upon. We haven't broken any laws, came here to recognize our constitutional rights." — AP



CLEMSON: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally. — AFP

GOP PRESIDENTIAL FIELD NARROWS AS CAMPAIGN MOVES SOUTHWARD

CHRIS CHRISTIE AND CARLY FIORINA DROP OUT OF RACE

WASHINGTON: Two more Republicans ended their White House runs Wednesday, whittling down the field as the party's remaining candidates and Democrat Hillary Clinton look to blunt the momentum of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders down south.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and former Hewlett-Packard chief executive Carly Fiorina both called time on their presidential bids, one day after finishing sixth and seventh, respectively, in the New Hampshire primary.

Trump and Sanders—two political outsiders with vastly different ideologies, but who have a common campaign credo of speaking what they say is truth to power—served notice in the Granite State on Tuesday with their resounding victories. Sanders almost doubled Clinton's tally and Trump bested second place Ohio Governor John Kasich by almost 20 percentage points. Both results shocked the party establishments, virtually guaranteeing bitter and drawn-out races for the Democratic and Republican nominations. New Hampshire was the second stop in the months-long process to choose the two candidates who will vie to succeed President Barack Obama on Election Day, November 8.

"I leave the race without an ounce of regret," Christie said in a Facebook post, noting that while his message had been heard by many, it was "just not enough and that's ok." Fiorina, the only woman in the Republican field, said she would "continue to travel this country and fight for those Americans who refuse to settle for the way things are and a status quo that no longer works for them."

'Work to do' for Clinton

So where do the other candidates go from here? South Carolina and Nevada, where both parties will stage nominating

contests before month's end. The upcoming votes will be crucial for Clinton, the former secretary of state who admitted in an uneasy concession speech that she had "some work to do, particularly with young people," to revitalize her campaign. Clinton is seen as enjoying strong support among black voters and Sanders, realizing the need to boost his standing with African Americans, met Wednesday with prominent civil rights activist Al Sharpton in New York.

"My concern is that in January of next year, for the first time in American history, a black family will be moving out of the White House," Sharpton said. "I do not want black concerns to be moved out with them." Clinton said she recognized the American electorate's fury with establishment politics. "People have every right to be angry," she said. "But they're also hungry, they're hungry for solutions."

Sanders has signaled he is in the race to win and expects the coming weeks to be even more closely fought. The next battle is in Nevada on February 20, followed by South Carolina. "They're throwing everything at me except the kitchen sink, and I have the feeling that kitchen sink is coming pretty soon," he said in a buoyant victory speech. Beefing up his ability to take the fight to Clinton for the long term, the Sanders camp announced he raised \$5.2 million in the 18 hours following his New Hampshire win. For now, he reigns supreme with young voters: Clinton received just 16 percent of the vote among people under 29, according to New Hampshire exit polls.

'Glaring differences'

If the Democratic race is poised to take a more confrontational turn, then Republicans are set for all out internecine warfare. Trump's visceral assault on American politics brought him his debut

victory after a second-place showing in last week's Iowa caucuses.

It was a must win for Trump, after his embarrassing performance in the Hawkeye State called into question his frontrunner status and brand as a winner. But similar levels of support for Kasich, Senator Ted Cruz, Senator Marco Rubio and former Florida governor Jeb Bush left the field in turmoil. The last remaining candidate, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, finished farther off the pace.

Now the fight moves to South Carolina, a state with a lingering reputation for bare-knuckle campaign tactics. Even before the candidates arrived, the state's airwaves were being flooded with negative attack ads, with each man hoping to emerge as the mainstream answer to Trump. "They've written me off in this campaign, over and over again," Bush told supporters in Bluffton, South Carolina, arguing that his campaign got a new lease on life even though he finished fourth up north.

Cruz, challenging Trump for prominence in the anti-establishment far-right lane, highlighted their "glaring differences" during an appearance in South Carolina. "The only candidate who can beat Donald Trump is me," he said. Speaking to reporters in Washington, Cruz eyed a potential boost from Christie and Fiorina backers. "I hope to earn the support of each of their supporters," he said. "I'm grateful that they ran."

Rubio, who hoped to match or better his third-place Iowa finish, stumbled to fifth after he took a drubbing in the last debate before the vote, where he robotically repeated his talking points. He could only offer supporters a mea culpa. "Our disappointment is not on you. It's on me," he said. "We did not do well on Saturday and so listen to this: That will never happen again." — AFP

INDIAN AVALANCHE SOLDIER DIES 3 DAYS AFTER RESCUE

NEW DELHI: An Indian soldier, rescued nearly a week after being buried in eight meters of snow by a deadly Himalayan avalanche, died in hospital yesterday of his injuries, the army said. Hanumanthappa Koppad was rescued late on Monday after spending six days trapped on the world's highest battlefield after a massive block of ice fell onto his army post.

Troops discovered Koppad, with a faint pulse and suffering from severe injuries, after digging through the snow on the Siachen glacier in the disputed region of Kashmir. His rescue from the disaster, which occurred 5,900 meters high in the Himalayas and killed nine of his colleagues, has gripped India, with schoolchildren, priests and Bollywood stars praying for his recovery.

But doctors warned on Wednesday his condition was worsening, saying he was comatose and his organs were failing to function. "Doctors declared him dead around 11:45am," Indian Army

spokesman Rohan Anand told AFP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had visited Koppad at his hospital bedside in New Delhi, said his death "leaves us sad & devastated". "RIP Lance Naik Hanumanthappa. The soldier in you remains immortal. Proud that martyrs like you served India," Modi tweeted.

An estimated 8,000 soldiers have died on the glacier since 1984, almost all of them from avalanches, landslides, frostbite, altitude sickness or heart failure rather than combat. India and archrival Pakistan are each estimated to deploy around 3,000 troops on the glacier, where winter temperatures plummet to minus 70 degrees Celsius.

The nuclear-armed neighbors fought a fierce battle over Siachen in 1987, though guns on the glacier have largely fallen silent since a peace process began in 2004. The Kashmir region-of which Siachen is a part-is divided between Pakistan and India but is claimed by both in full. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Indian soldiers stand by the main gate of the army hospital where avalanche survivor Hanumanthappa Koppad died yesterday, days after being admitted following a rescue nearly a week after being buried by a deadly Himalayan avalanche. — AFP



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri children walk past an Indian post during a curfew. — AP

DOZENS DETAINED, LIVES COME TO STANDSTILL BY STRIKE IN KASHMIR

SEPARATISTS CALL STRIKE ON LEADER DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SRINAGAR: Indian authorities detained dozens of Kashmiri activists and placed separatist leaders under house arrest yesterday to prevent them from holding anti-India protests to mark the anniversary of a top separatist leader's hanging more than three decades ago. Shops and businesses remained shut and a curfew was in effect in some areas of Srinagar, the main city in Kashmir, after a strike was called by separatists.

Most people stayed indoors while hundreds of armed police and paramilitary soldiers patrolled largely deserted streets blocked by razor wire and barri-

cades. Government forces "came in the morning and ordered us to stay indoors," resident Reyaz Ahmed said. Pro-independence leader Mohammed Maqbool Butt was hanged in a New Delhi jail in 1984 after being convicted of killing an Indian intelligence officer.

A similar strike and government shutdown had closed Srinagar and other Kashmir towns Tuesday as activists protested India's secret execution of another Kashmiri man, Mohammed Afzal Guru, three years ago in the same New Delhi jail for a 2001 attack on India's Parliament that killed 14 people, includ-

ing five gunmen. Most Kashmiris believe he was not given a fair trial. Separatists also demand that the two men's remains, buried within the New Delhi jail compound, be returned to Kashmir for proper burial.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in Kashmir where rebel groups have fought since 1989 for either independence or a merger with neighboring Pakistan. India and Pakistan each administer a portion of Kashmir. Both claim the region in its entirety. More than 68,000 people have been killed in the armed uprising and ensuing Indian military crackdown. — AP

DELHI PLANS NEW LIMITS ON CAR USE

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government plans another round of tough measures to restrict the use of private cars and clean up toxic air in the Indian metropolis, the world's most polluted city. From April 15, for two weeks, cars will only be allowed on the road on alternate days, going by whether their number plates are odd or even, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday.

"We are seriously considering if we can do this for 15 days every month," Kejriwal said. "We can't do this on a permanent basis until we get better public transport." The rule hits most of the 2.6 million cars that ply the traffic-choked roads of Delhi and its surrounding areas. That figure accounts for roughly a third of all the 8.5 million vehicles on the streets, from motorbikes to auto rickshaws.

Kejriwal said his plans had overwhelming public support and were necessary to rein in the rising levels of pollution that regularly cloak the city in smog. Doctors say Delhi's 16 million residents are at risk of suffering irreversible lung damage and some children there already have the lungs of chain smokers.

The new proposal follows a two-week trial at the beginning of January that took more than a million cars off the roads each day. Most drivers followed the rules, with traffic sharply reduced from the usual rush-hour chaos. The impact on pollution, though, was less clear, with data showing that air quality remained at unhealthy levels.

Following criticism over exemptions for women, politicians, judges, police and motorbikes, the government has said it is reviewing who will be exempt this time. A survey showed about four-fifths of respondents supported the plans, with most respondents opposed to waivers for groups such as ministers, Kejriwal said.

"We will request VIPs to voluntarily follow the odd-even rule," he added. "Last time the chief justice and other judges followed it. Some of them even biked to work." In a city known as India's rape capital, women will continue to be allowed to drive when they want if they are alone, he said. The World Health Organization said in 2014 that New Delhi had the most polluted air among nearly 1,600 cities it studied.

A monitoring station at the United States embassy in the capital on Thursday recorded an air quality index of 157, showing that pollutants were three times the level deemed safe. The US embassy recently added black to its colour-coded scale, to indicate AQI readings in excess of 500, a level off the scale used by the US Environmental Protection Agency. — Reuters

BACKPACKERS KIDNAPPED AND RAPED IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Two young foreign backpackers were recovering yesterday from a harrowing ordeal at a remote Australian beach campsite after allegedly being abducted and raped by a travelling companion they met just hours earlier.

Police arrested a 59-year-old man late Wednesday and charged him with attempted murder, kidnapping and sexual intercourse without consent over the incident at Coorong National Park, 180 kilometers southeast of Adelaide, after being alerted by a group of fishermen.

South Australia Police Superintendent James Blandford said the women, described as European and in their 20s, had been driving "with a newly acquainted person" and "effectively found themselves in a situation that has turned out to be scary and physically bad for them".

"One of the victims was able to run away and came across some people fishing in the area," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, which reported that footage taken at the scene showed a blood-splattered vehicle. "They were able to comfort and secure her and make a call to the police."

"Given the nature of the charges, (the alleged victims') situation was obviously very dire and they were somewhat distressed." —AFP

BANGALORE SCHOOLS CLOSE DOWN AFTER 'LEOPARD SIGHTING'

BANGALORE: A reported leopard sighting close to where a big cat injured five people at the weekend forced the closure of 130 schools in the southern Indian city of Bangalore yesterday, the education authority said.

Panic gripped an eastern suburb of the city after a woman claimed to have spotted a leopard six kilometers away from Vibgyor school where one tried to maul several wildlife workers Sunday, before being caged. Residents were advised not to venture into open spaces in the area, which is dotted with boulders and eucalyptus plantations, as a precaution.

"We have advised about 80 private and 50 government schools in the city's eastern areas to remain closed today for the safety of their wards, as one or two more leopards were seen moving around in the vicinity," SM Ramesh, block education officer said.

Forestry officials said they had searched the area for two days without success, after a woman reported seeing a leopard behind a technology park on her way home from work on Wednesday evening. "We have placed one cage with a bait in the area and another near the private school where one leopard was trapped on February 7," deputy range forest officer Jagannath Reddy told reporters. About 60 schools in the eastern areas had already declared a holiday on Wednesday, after rumors spread about a leopard being sighted in the area. Leopards number between 12,000 to 14,000 in India, according to a national survey released last year. They are increasingly venturing into populated areas as their habitats become depleted. A leopard killed a five-year-old boy in the courtyard of his home in central India in 2014. Video footage from Mumbai in 2013 showed a leopard creeping into an apartment block foyer and snatching a small dog. — AFP



BANGALORE: A file picture taken on February 7, 2016 shows an Indian man (L) with a tranquilizer gun watching as a leopard attacks a man identified by Indian media as wildlife conservationist Sanjay Gubbi (R) at a private school on the outskirts of Bangalore. — AFP



TAINAN: A member of rescue teams stands by as heavy excavation machinery continues to dig through the rubble of a collapsed building complex. — AFP

CALLS FOR SAFETY OVERHAUL IN TAIWAN POST QUAKE DISASTER

MORE THAN 60 RESIDENTS REMAIN BURIED

TAIPEI: As rescuers continue the grim task of digging bodies from the rubble of an apartment complex that collapsed in a Taiwan earthquake, anger is growing over the shoddy construction of the building and the island's questionable safety record. The Wei-kuan building was the only high-rise to crumble completely in the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that shook the southern city of Tainan before dawn Saturday, with 61 confirmed dead so far, mostly from the complex.

More than 60 residents remain buried in the ruins and the chances of finding survivors are slim. Prosecutors say there were "flaws" in the building as they question the developer and two associates on charges of professional negligence resulting in death. Distraught relatives of residents told AFP they had complained over cracks in the walls of the building. Pictures from the disaster site show tin cans and foam were used as fillers inside the concrete.

Experts say that cost-cutting shortcuts have long dogged the construction industry in Taiwan. "Because of competition, for a long period of time, the local construction industry has not been well managed," said Chern Jenn-chuan, civil engineering professor at National Taiwan University. The disaster has struck a nerve with the public, increasingly embittered by a string of disasters, from food safety scandals to a water park explosion that left 15 dead.

"So-called competitiveness in Taiwan is all cost-oriented, so this kind of situa-

tion isn't a surprise at all," said a post on Taiwan's popular PTT online forum after the building collapse. "They just collect the money and it's not their responsibility anymore," another user commented. Prosecutors said there were too few steel reinforcing bars in parts of the building, and that the developer may have used a borrowed license for the construction of the property.

Engineers helping at the rescue site added that some walls many have been knocked down on the ground floor, which housed part of a multi-storey electronics store. "Apparently in this case, there were indeed flaws in the construction of the building," a court statement said Wednesday.

'Black-hearted developers'

The Wei-kuan building had 96 apartments and was completed in 1994, before a new building code was brought in following a devastating earthquake that left 2,400 people dead in 1999. Professor Chern said the disaster, which brought down buildings across the island, had led to better safety measures and awareness among developers.

"Many people now understand the grave responsibilities," he told AFP, adding the number of safety breaches had dropped. The revised building code put in stricter requirements to make structures more quake-proof, including increasing the number and resilience of reinforcing bars. But Max Lo, former president of the Taiwan Engineering

and Science Association, says while newer buildings are structurally sound, not enough has been done about the ones built before 1999.

"Each county had identified the most notable at-risk buildings in its area, but they still haven't all been dealt with," he said. "Just because a building doesn't collapse after a quake, that doesn't mean it's okay," he added. "It needs regular check-ups, like a human body. The government needs a complete set of policies to deal with such older, or higher-risk buildings as soon as possible." The island's President-elect Tsai Ing-wen, who will take office in May, said she would prioritize building safety and review the resistance of older buildings to quakes and other disasters.

Meanwhile, the public is calling for maximum punishment for the developers particularly after skepticism over previous safety scandal cases. Last year, food tycoon Wei Ying-chung was acquitted on charges of selling tainted cooking oil, prompting protests over his release.

There was also outrage when only one person was indicted after an explosion at a water park killed 15 and injured hundreds when clouds of multi-colored corn starch sprayed on revelers ignited due to heat from the stage lights. Victims have demanded prosecutors reopen the probe into that accident. "I hope these black-hearted developers all get death sentences," said one PTT forum user in response to the Wei-kuan disaster. "They killed so many people just for the sake of making money." — AP



SEOUL: Anti-North Korean activists burn placards showing North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un as they protest the latest nuclear test and rocket launch by Pyongyang. — AFP

NORTH EXPELS S KOREANS FROM INDUSTRIAL ZONE, SEIZES ASSETS

SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION OF CROSS-BORDER TENSIONS

SEOUL: North Korea yesterday expelled all South Koreans from the jointly-run Kaesong industrial zone and placed it under military control, saying Seoul's earlier decision to shutter the complex had amounted to a "declaration of war". Pyongyang said it was seizing the assets of all the 124 South Korean companies operating factories in Kaesong, which lies 10 kilometers across the border inside North Korea.

In a key move, it also cut two key communication hotlines with Seoul, leaving authorities in the South scrambling to verify the status of up to 250 South Koreans believed to have been in Kaesong when the expulsion order was issued. "We will make the utmost efforts to make sure that all our nationals return home safely," Seoul's Unification Ministry said in a statement. But reporters near the border crossing said very few vehicles had passed back into the South.

During a previous surge in tensions over Kaesong in 2013, South Korea's defense minister had mentioned a contingency plan, "including possible military action" if the safety of citizens in the estate came under direct threat.

The North's aggressive measures marked a significant escalation of cross-border tensions that have been elevated since North Korea carried out a nuclear test last month and a long-range rocket launch on Sunday. Seoul had announced on Wednesday it was

closing down operations at Kaesong, and the North said it would now experience the "disastrous and painful consequences" of that action.

'Last lifeline' gone

By shutting Kaesong, the South had destroyed the "last lifeline" of North-South relations and made a "dangerous declaration of war," the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea (CPRK) said in statement. Relations between the two Koreas have always been volatile, but analysts said the current situation risked turning into a full-blown crisis.

"Now we can say that all strings between the Koreans have been cut and that there are no more buffers," said Ko Yoo-Hwan, a professor of North Korean Studies at Dongguk University in Seoul. "An escalation of tensions is inevitable, and I see further trouble ahead with Kaesong and the issues of seized assets, especially if North Korea militarizes the zone," Ko said. All South Koreans were ordered to leave Kaesong by 5:00pm Pyongyang time (0830 GMT) and told they could take nothing but their personal possessions. The North also said it had ordered a "complete freeze of all assets," including raw materials, products and equipment. The owners of the South Korean companies in Kaesong had sent more than 100 empty trucks into the North yesterday morning in the hope of bringing out as much as they could.

Military presence

Several people who crossed into the South early in the morning said they had noticed an increased military presence in Kaesong, including armed soldiers carrying backpacks and sleeping bags. Despite the ban on removing anything beyond their personal belongings, a few trucks that managed to cross the border around the time of the expulsion order were carrying factory materials. "No one stopped us when we were moving our goods into the truck," said Park Seung-Gul, the manager at a textile company in Kaesong.

Defending its decision to halt operations at Kaesong, Seoul said North Korea had been using the hundreds of millions of dollars in hard-currency that it earned from the complex to fund its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. The move was slammed as "utterly incomprehensible" by the Kaesong company owners who said their businesses were being destroyed by politics.

Born out of the "sunshine" reconciliation policy of the late 1990s, Kaesong opened in 2004 and proved remarkably resilient, riding out repeated crises that ended every other facet of inter-Korean cooperation. Earlier in the day, the United States signaled its own unilateral moves against North Korea, with the US Senate unanimously adopting a bill expanding existing sanctions. — AFP

A LOOK AT JAPAN'S COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP WITH N KOREA

TOKYO: Japan has a troubled and complicated relationship with North Korea. The two countries have no diplomatic ties, but there are tens of thousands of pro-Pyongyang ethnic Koreans who live in Japan and still have relatives in the North.

They will likely be the most affected by Japanese sanctions announced Wednesday, which include expanded travel restrictions between the two countries and a ban on visits by North Korean ships to Japanese ports. The measures were announced to protest North Korea's rocket launch, viewed by many as a disguised missile test.

Japan's pro-north community

The pro-North Korean community is estimated to account for about a fifth of the half-million ethnic Korean residents in Japan. Most of them are descendants of Koreans who came to Japan during its 1910-45 colonization of the Korean Peninsula, including those brought here for slave labor at mines and factories in final years of World War II. The Korean communities here are represented by two main groups, one linked to the North and the other to the South.

Who represents them?

Since Tokyo and Pyongyang don't have diplomatic ties, the pro-North Korea group is represented by General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan, or "Chongryong," which serves as a de-facto embassy. During the postwar period until around the 1990s, some of Japan's left-leaning politicians had much closer ties to Chongryong than today, some of them even closer than to South Korea's military government back then. Chongryong operates banks and dozens of schools across the country, as well as "pachinko" pin-ball parlors, trading companies to real estate firms, earning foreign currency for the communist North. Many of them have gone bankrupt in recent years amid North Korea's troubled economy and weakening support here.

How are they treated?

Koreans were treated as second-class citizens by Japan during its colonial rule, and their descendants born here after World War II, are called "zainichi" - or "Japanese resident" - Koreans. They are still often discriminated against at school, work and daily life. After the war, they were not granted Japanese citizenship. Many have become naturalized Japanese, but about half a million have not, and are officially considered foreigners. Those who obtain South Korean passports can travel to most countries, but those with ties to the North face more difficulties. Travel options on a North Korean passport are limited, so "Chongryong"-linked Koreans who want to travel or study abroad often switch their allegiance to the South to obtain a passport.

Anti-Korean sentiment has escalated in Japan in recent years as Tokyo's relations with both Koreas have deteriorated over territorial, historical and other issues. That has triggered a number of anti-Korea books and hate-speech rallies. Public sentiment toward the pro-Pyongyang group is also harsher because of its link to leader Kim Jong Un's regime and Japanese government's condemnation on the abduction issue.

What's the abduction issue?

Pyongyang in 2002 acknowledged abducting a dozen Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 80s, usually from seaside communities, to train North Korean spies. Only five were sent back to Japan after that, but Tokyo suspects others, possibly dozens more, are still in North Korea. Japan says the abductions are a serious human rights violation and must be resolved along with the nuclear threats. Opening the door just a crack to better relations, Pyongyang in 2014 promised to reinvestigate the fates of a dozen Japanese believed to have been abducted by North Korean agents. In return, Japan eased some sanctions that had shut down virtually all trade and most contacts between the countries. — AP



TOKYO: People shop at a store selling CDs, DVDs and other goods relating to Korean stars in Tokyo's Korean district. — AP

www.kuwaitimes.net

A giant sculpture decorated with oranges and lemons is pictured in Menton on the French Riviera yesterday, ahead of the start of the "Fete du Citron" (Lemon Festival). The theme of this 83rd edition, running from February 13 until March 2, 2016, is called "Cinecitta". — AFP

festive

Clooney, Streep open refugee-focused Berlin film fest

Kanye names album 'The Life of Pablo' - but who's Pablo?

Kanye West has finally explained the title of his long-awaited album on the eve of its release—for the most part. The rap superstar, who unveiled the album at a fashion show at New York's Madison Square Garden yesterday, wrote on Twitter that the album is called "The Life of Pablo." West had repeatedly given different titles for his seventh studio album including "Swish" and "Waves" before announcing that he had settled on "T.L.O.P." without saying what it stood for.

But the immediate question is—who is Pablo? Many social media users immediately speculated that West was talking about Pablo Picasso. The 38-year-old rapper, who styles himself as a Renaissance man with interests in music, art and fashion, last year spoke at Oxford University where he said: "My goal, if I was going to do art-fine art-would have been to become Picasso or greater." West has also compared himself to Michelangelo and said he plans to run for the US presidency in 2020.



This file photo taken on April 12, 2015 shows Kim Kardashian's husband rapper Kanye West performs during his concert in Yerevan, Armenia. — AFP

Other social media users wondered if West was referring to the late Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, Chilean literary great Pablo Neruda or an entirely fictional Pablo. West also revealed a track list for the album which notably does not include "No More Parties in LA," a song he recently released for free that features acclaimed rapper Kendrick Lamar. West, a master of staying in the spotlight, holds a show on Thursday at Madison Square Garden for the latest season of his Yeezy clothing line, during which he is due to present the album.

His wife, reality television star Kim Kardashian, posted Wednesday on Twitter a shiny boot with a tall heel that she said was part of the upcoming Yeezy collection. With 21 Grammys, West is tied with fellow rapper Jay Z as the 10th most accoladed artist of all time. His last album, "Yeezus," came out in 2013 and featured a harder sound inspired by the drill scene in his native Chicago. —AFP



Pipa player Jiaju Shen (left), composer and pianist Li Zong (center) and huqin player Feifei Yang (right) pose for a picture before a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City on February 1, 2016. — AFP

Young musicians offer new take on Chinese instruments

If jazz is about free-flowing expression, do the instruments have to be Western? In a cross-cultural experiment, a group of young Chinese artists musicians based in New York is testing the possibilities of fusion by bringing jazz and other Western forms to performances on traditional instruments. With a concert at Carnegie Hall last week timed for the Chinese New Year, the artists delved into quintessentially Chinese subject matter but through a markedly modern lens.

On "Vermilion Bird," a composition named for the creature of Chinese mythology that represents fire, composer Li Zong offered jazzy progressions building into fierce glissandi. Feifei Yang added a more Chinese touch on the huqin, the two-stringed bowed fiddle, while also complementing the jazz feel by playing pizzicato. The music turned bleaker on "1966," also composed by Zong, a reference to the start of the Cultural Revolution.

With Zong on piano and Jiaju Shen on the pipa, a plucked lute, "1966" opens minimally but advances with a sense of dread. Incorporating a musical allusion to a tune from the era, "1966" crescendos into violent territory as Shen hits the body of the pipa. Zong, a 27-year-old graduate of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, said he was driven to write "1966" after moving to New York and learning about the brutality of the Cultural Revolution, the bloody 10-year campaign by Mao Zedong to transform China from its roots. —AFP

'Fete du Citron' (Lemon Festival)



A worker walks past house sculptures decorated with oranges and lemons in Menton on the French Riviera yesterday, ahead of the start of the "Fete du Citron" (Lemon Festival). The theme of this 83rd edition, running from February 13 until March 2, 2016, is called "Cinecitta". — AFP photos



Sculptures decorated with oranges and lemons are pictured.



Men work on an installation decorated with oranges and lemons.



A worker walks past a sculpture decorated with oranges and lemons.



Men work on an installation decorated with oranges and lemons.



A worker walks past a sculpture decorated with oranges and lemons.



(From left) Members of the Berlinale film festival jury, Italian actress Alba Rohrwacher, British film critic Nick James, German actor Lars Eidinger, US actress and jury president Meryl Streep, British actor Clive Owen, French photographer Brigitte Lacombe and Polish film maker Malgorzata Szumowska pose for photographers on the eve of the opening of the Berlinale film festival in Berlin yesterday. — AFP



Actors George Clooney, Channing Tatum, Josh Brolin, director Ethan Coen, actor Alden Ehrenreich, actress Tilda Swinton and director Joel Coen, from left, pose for the photographers during a photo call for the film 'Hail Caesar' at the 2016 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Germany.

Clooney, Streep open refugee-focused Berlin film fest

Hollywood will be out in force to kick off the Berlin film festival yesterday, with Meryl Streep joining George Clooney and the Coen brothers for the event where Europe's refugee crisis will also play a starring role. The 11-day Berlinale, one of the top three cinema showcases in Europe along with Cannes and Venice, will start with a gala screening of "Hail, Caesar!", Joel and Ethan Coen's tribute to Tinseltown's 1950s golden age.

Clooney, who plays a dimwit actor in what the brothers have called the third in their "Numbskull Trilogy" with the heartthrob, is expected on the red carpet with his wife Amal and co-stars Channing Tatum and Tilda Swinton. "Hail, Caesar!" which opened in the United States last week is screening out of competition at the festival. Streep, who is serving as this year's jury president in judging 18 contenders from around the world, underlined the tough task ahead in picking one film above another.

"It's going to be difficult but it's a necessary lift for one, because it makes all rise," she told journalists at the opening of the festival. British actor Clive Owen, who joins her in jury duty, said every film selected for the competition is "already to be celebrated". But the task of the jury is to "champion somebody who we think will benefit hugely from (the award) and could make a huge difference and further their career and give them the opportunity to make more good important films," he said. Streep's team will hand out the Golden Bear top prize on February 20. Last year it went to Iranian dissident filmmaker Jafar Panahi for "Taxi", which he made in secret.

Back to the roots

As Europe endures the largest refugee influx since World War II, with 1.1 million asylum seekers arriving in Germany last year, the theme of migration will be omnipresent at the festival. Italian documentary director Gianfranco Rosi, who picked up top honors in Venice three years ago, will enter the competition with "Fire at Sea" about Lampedusa, a Mediterranean island on the front line of the crisis. It will join another dozen films in the festival's sprawling sidebar sections looking at the impact of mass displacement.

"Refugees have always played a role at the Berlinale, since 1951," when the event was launched in the Cold War outpost of West Berlin just six years after World War II, festival director Dieter Kosslick told AFP. "Back then many Germans were refugees and the festival was founded to foster understanding in German society and among nations." In addition, hundreds of tickets have been set aside for asylum seekers at the festival, which will also hold fundraising events for refugee charities.

Biopics bonanza, movie marathons

Among the world premieres generating buzz ahead of the start was a new adaptation of the international bestseller "Alone in Berlin", Hans Fallada's 1947 novel based on a true story. The Nazi-era thriller sees Emma Thompson and Brendan Gleeson play a German couple who risk their lives to mount a resistance campaign against Hitler after losing their only son in the war. Big crowds are also expected for "Genius", the feature debut by British theatre director Michael Grandage starring Colin Firth as

literary editor Max Perkins, who published some of the 20th century's greatest American writers.

Jude Law plays Thomas Wolfe, Nicole Kidman his lover and muse Aline Bernstein, with Dominic West portraying Ernest Hemingway and Guy Pearce as F Scott Fitzgerald. Biopics will enjoy top billing, with Germany's first feature production on Jewish teenage diarist Anne Frank, who died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, due to premiere. US actor Don Cheadle will be in town to show his directorial debut, "Miles Ahead", in which he plays the jazz great Miles Davis.

And "Sex and the City" star Cynthia Nixon will unveil her portrayal of iconic American poet Emily Dickinson. Kosslick said another trend was marathon movies, testing the boundaries of storytelling in a world in which viewers had lengthened their attention spans by binge-watching ambitious new television series. "There are feature films that really take their time to tell a complete story," he said.

One extreme outlier is a more than eight-hour Filipino historical opus, "A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery" by Lav Diaz, which will be shown with just one hour-long break. However "Lullaby" isn't even the longest feature that will test the stamina of cinema-goers. "Chamisso's Shadow", based on the life of German 19th century scientific explorer Adelbert von Chamisso, weighing in at more than 12 hours, will be screened in a single sitting, with two intermissions. — AFP



Clothing hangs on rails at Angels costume fitters warehouse in Hendon north of London.

Preparing for the glittering BAFTA awards

The red carpet for the BAFTA Film Awards doesn't roll out until the weekend but behind the scenes preparations are well underway for the annual star-studded event in London. The seating arrangements for the Royal Opera House were set up yesterday, ready for nominees like Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon, who have all confirmed they will attend the ceremony. The trophies, always a crucial ingredient of a top awards show, have already been cast.

"The Big Short," "Bridge of Spies," "Carol," "The Revenant" and "Spotlight" will all compete for the golden mask for Best Film on Sunday. Among the winners already announced - Angels Costumes will collect the Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema Award; and Sidney Poitier will be honored with the BAFTA Fellowship. — AP



A selection of period costume hats are seen at the Angels costume fitters warehouse in Hendon north of London yesterday.



Imperfections found in BAFTA masks are prepared to be melted into bronze.— AFP photos



Sam Smith, Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi (right) attend the Yves Saint Laurent men's fall line and the first part of its women's collection fashion show. —AFP photos



Actress Pamela Anderson with son Dylan Lee (right) and Brandon Lee (left) attend the Yves Saint Laurent men's fall line.



Sylvester Stallone (center) and his daughters Sistine Stallone and Sophia Stallone.

Saint Laurent Palladium show features glam androgynous style

Bow-neck blouses aren't strictly for women anymore. Couture clothing designer Saint Laurent presented the feminine style - in silk, leather and sequins - for both genders at its rock 'n' roll-inspired runway show Wednesday in Los Angeles. The French fashion house turned the historic Hollywood Palladium into a circular catwalk to showcase its fall-winter collection for men and women, a set of sumptuous pieces in velvet, leather and fur with plenty of fringe, sequins and sparkle.



Lady Gaga

The show's A-list front row was just as attention-getting, with such guests as Lady Gaga, Lenny Kravitz, Justin Bieber, Jane Fonda, Sylvester Stallone, Ellen DeGeneres, Lee Daniels, Zac Efron, Demi Moore, Sam Smith and Gary Oldman.

'Strong music scene'

Academy Award nominee in the audience was British musician Sam Smith, who is vying for Best Original Song for "Writing's on the Wall," the theme from the latest James Bond film "Spectre." "I'm quite chilled right now because it's a few weeks away but it's going to be fun," said Smith, who is due to sing at the ceremony on February 28. He said he was trying not to think about the possibility of messing up in front of the worldwide Oscars audience because "everyone will know and my career is over." "I can't wait, I'm going to wear an amazing dress, it's all going to go well," he joked.



Tallulah Belle Willis (left), Scout Willis (center) and Demi Moore (right).

Smith laughed and bantered throughout the pre-show drinks reception with comedian and TV personality Ellen DeGeneres. "I can't see anything... All I know is Sam is to my right and Portia is to my left because it's so dark and there's bright lights everywhere," DeGeneres said. "There's a lot of people here, it's pretty amazing."

Metallic gold boots

Saint Laurent creative director Hedi Slimane entertained his starry audience with a series of flamboyant, stage-ready looks. Slimane described the collection as a return to "signature style pieces and principles" characterized by an androgynous approach to menswear. That meant super-skinny pants, sequined motorcycle jackets, fringe-covered coats and a cape reminiscent of a circus ringleader's. The looks were at once

whimsical and sophisticated, like a slim-fit tuxedo bedazzled with a galaxy of cosmic designs or a velvet blazer embellished with intricate floral beading and embroidery. Another standout was a velvet bomber jacket splashed with hand-beaded lilies.

Most wearable seemed to be the slim-fit, three-piece suits. A tapestry-printed coat flocked with fringe, a gold mink coat or a shiny, python-printed blazer might be harder to pull off. The bow-neck blouses were featured over and over for men, as were metallic gold boots. Other themes of the men's collection were military details, including a jacket covered in gold buttons that could have come from Michael Jackson's closet, and classic elements from 1880s West like fringe, caped coats and fedoras.

The women's designs were even more flamboyant, yet somehow more

wearable. Texture and shine were the main themes, with wide belts and cinched waists a recurring subplot. Dresses were long-sleeved and high-necked with swiny skirts, some so embroidered and embellished they looked like filigreed jewelry.

One show-stopper was a swirl of glimmering sequins with long sleeves trimmed in oversized puffs of pastel marabou. A floaty green confection had a matching marabou neckline.

There were bow blouses here, too, in a range of fabrics, including some that looked like vinyl. Skirts were cut from fur or covered with sequins and paillettes. There were leather culottes and sequined blaz-

ers; jackets in velvet or leather trimmed with beads and fur. Shimmer reigned throughout. "I love Hedi so much and I think he's done a fantastic job here," Lady Gaga said from her front-row seat. "He's just been a huge inspiration to so many artists all over the world for such a long time and I just always love to come see what he's doing." Slimane said the Palladium show featured 93 looks worn by 71 models, several of whom are musicians. While the designer received his friends and celebrity guests backstage, the Palladium floor turned into a festive after-party and concert with a flurry of performers, including front-row guests Beck and Joan Jett. — AP



Courtney Love and Justin Bieber



Models display the outfits at the Saint Laurent fashion show, where the men's fall line and the first part of the women's collection debuted to a celebrity-filled audience at the Hollywood Palladium in Hollywood, California. —AFP



Models display the outfits at the Saint Laurent fashion show, where the men's fall line and the first part of the women's collection debuted to a celebrity-filled audience at the Hollywood Palladium in Hollywood, California. — AFP



Models walk the runway wearing Anton Belinskiy at the VFILES show during Fall 2016 New York Fashion Week at Spring Studios in New York City. — AP photos

NY Fashion Week kicks off with questions about future

New York Fashion Week opened yesterday with its usual frenzy of models, catwalks and bloggers. But above the din looms one all-encompassing, soul-searching question: How does it all stay relevant in the modern age? With social networks thrusting every last trend into the public spotlight and customers used to getting what they want right away, can Fashion Week deliver in today's world? Buyers, journalists, celebrities, and other elite invitees have long been accustomed to collections becoming available for purchase about half a year after their respective shows.



But when Fashion Week kicked off yesterday, designers will be presenting autumn/winter 2016-2017 collections that will go on sale within just months. With Instagram and other social networks on the rise, patience is no longer to be expected from the fashion-conscious masses. Several brands have recently indicated that they will present collections tailored to the current season, which will be available for purchase immediately. Designer Rebecca Minkoff, whose spring-summer 2016 show is on Sunday, is among them.

"Everything you see on the runway will be available between right away and 60 days from now," she explained in a YouTube video. "So there is not going to be image fatigue, you're not going to be sick of the jacket you saw on everyone's Instagram feed and all the websites." Designer Tom Ford has said he will take the same approach as Minkoff in September, but is sitting out the February fashion round. Luxury brand Burberry has also announced that, beginning in September, it will put its collections on sale immediately, fol-

lowing two shows that will feature non-seasonal creations.

The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), which helps set the Fashion Week calendar, has been contemplating a new model to update its current system, which it has called ineffective. In December, it hired a consulting firm to study the matter, with findings due out any week now.

Celebrity spectacle

Fashion Week's traditional format has already begun crumbling under the weight of celebrities who are turning the affair into a spectacle. Among the other celebrities to make an appearance is singer Rihanna, who will present her collection for Puma.

The lack of general access to Fashion Week was already brought to the fore in September, when Givenchy allowed 800 members of the public to watch its show, chosen by random drawing. A total of 147 designers are on Fashion Week's official roster this February, with a total of 97 catwalk shows and 50 presentations. Still more designers will present their creations independently. Tadashi Shoji, Zimmermann, Jason Wu, Cushnie et Ochs and Sophie Theallet are on the program for Friday. A weekend bursting with shows includes Lacoste, Herve Leger, Alexander Wang, Altuzarra, Victoria Beckham, Public School, Diane Von Furstenberg, Prabal Gurung and Opening Ceremony. — AFP



Guac and potato skins in one bite!

By Alison Ladman

For this easy Super Bowl snack, we combined two of our favorite game day indulgences - guacamole and roasted potato skins. We start by creating potato boats, which are dusted with a spicy (you control the heat) seasoning mix, then baked until tender inside and lightly browned outside.

Meanwhile, we make a delicious batch of guacamole and - as soon as the potato boats have cooled a bit - spoon heaping mounds of it into them. Then we eat as many as possible.

Want to dress them up some more? Nothing wrong with sprinkling the tops with grated cheese, cooked bacon, cooked and crumbled sausage, jalapeno pepper slices, chopped onion or whatever else strikes you.

GUACAMOLE POTATO BOATS

Ingredients

Start to finish: 40 minutes
 Servings: 8
 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
 1 teaspoon dried thyme
 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
 1 teaspoon ground cumin
 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cayenne (depending on desired heat)
 Salt and ground black pepper
 2 pounds medium Russet potatoes (about 4)
 2 tablespoons butter, melted
 3 avocados, pitted and peeled
 2 tablespoons chopped pickled jalapenos
 3 scallions, chopped
 1 tablespoon lime juice

Preparation

Heat the oven to 450 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil. In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar, thyme, garlic powder, smoked paprika, cumin, cayenne, 1 teaspoon of salt and 1/2 teaspoon of pepper. Set aside. Slice 1/2-inch-thick slices off both sides of each potato, reserving the middle third of each potato for another use (put them in water and refrigerate to prevent them from darkening). Using a melon baller, scoop out a bit of the flesh from each potato slice to create shallow bowls.

Arrange the potato slices on the prepared pan. Pat dry with paper towels. Brush all over with the melted butter. Sprinkle with the spice mixture. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until the outsides are crisped and browned and the flesh of the potatoes are tender.

While the potatoes bake, prepare the guacamole. In a medium bowl, combine the avocados, jalapenos, scallions, lime juice and vinegar. Mash with a fork or wooden spoon until the guacamole is as chunky or smooth as you prefer. Season with salt and black pepper. Allow the potatoes to cool slightly, then scoop a spoonful of guacamole into the hollow of each potato. Serve immediately.



4 simple hacks for making a leaner and tastier beef roast

By Melissa D'arabian

In the world of beef roasts, marbling is king. The internal automatic basting power of tiny fat pockets melting into the meat is amazing. So what are the options for roasting healthier, leaner cuts of meat? There's the pork tenderloin, which is the leanest choice. But it is so mild in flavor that it sometimes doesn't quite scratch the roast beefy itch. There's beef tenderloin, which also is super lean and a mighty tasty roast. But I can only imagine a world where I could justify spending over \$100 on my family's dinner on a regular basis.

So for our usual Sunday supper, I turn to the top round or bottom round roasts, which are inexpensive and lean. But they do require a little extra care in order to compete with the flavor and texture of fattier cuts closer to the center of the cow. After years of practice, I have a few tips:

- 1) If you can dry age the roast for a couple of days in the refrigerator, the taste will be intensified and mimic higher quality cuts. Just pat the meat dry, sprinkle on some seasoning salt (or salt and pepper) and let it sit, uncovered, in the refrigerator.
- 2) Let the roast sit at room temperature for an hour before cooking.
- 3) Use a three-phase cooking method. First, brown the roast on all sides in a large Dutch oven to create a tasty crust. Second, slow-roast at a low temp (250 F) until the internal temperature is about 10 degrees below your final liking (120 F for a final temp of 130 F, about medium-rare). Remove the roast, and raise the oven temperature to 475 F and finish the roast with a blast of heat for 10 minutes.
- 4) Tent the roast and let it rest for 10 to 20 minutes before slicing thinly. Pour a little juice over those slices and you are in (thrifty, healthy) beefy nirvana.



LEAN ROAST BEEF WITH MARSALA GRAVY



Ingredients

Start to finish: 2 1/2 hours (30 minutes active)
 Servings: 6
 2 1/2- to 3-pound top or bottom round beef roast
 2 teaspoons garlic powder
 2 teaspoons seasoning salt
 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
 1/2 cup beef stock, divided
 1 teaspoon cornstarch

Preparations

Use paper towels to pat the roast dry. In a small bowl, mix the garlic powder, seasoning salt and pepper, then rub the mixture all over the roast. Let sit at room temperature for 1 hour. Heat oven to 250 F. Heat a heavy-bottomed skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high. Rub the oil over the roast, then set into the pan and sear on all sides until a crust is formed, about 15 minutes total. Transfer the roast to a rack fitted in a roasting pan.

Return the pan to the heat and pour in 1/2 cup of water. Simmer, scraping the pan

with a wooden spoon, just until the pan is deglazed and any bits on the bottom are loosened. Pour the liquid into the roasting pan. Add half of the beef stock to the roasting pan. Set the roast in the oven and cook until it reaches 120 F to 125 F at the center, depending on desired finished temperature (which will be 10 degrees higher), about 1 1/2 hours.

Remove the pan from the oven and increase the heat to 475 F. Once the temperature has been reached, place the roast back in the oven and cook until the top is nice and crusty, about 10 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven, transfer the roast to a carving board, cover it loosely with foil and let it rest while you make the gravy.

To make the gravy, place the roasting pan over medium heat on the stovetop. Add the remaining wine and stock, then whisk to release any stuck bits on the pan. In a small glass, mix the cornstarch with 1/4 cup of water, then add to the pan. Simmer, stirring constantly, until slightly thickened. Slice the roast and serve with the gravy. — AP

Movies

The definitive movies of Ryan Reynolds

After years of fan outcry, Ryan Reynolds finally gets the chance to topline a solo *Deadpool* movie this weekend - and if early critical returns are any indication, it was well worth the wait. In honor of the occasion, we decided to take a fond look back at some of the best and brightest moments from Mr Reynolds' film career.



NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER (2002)

There's no denying that Ryan Reynolds is genetically well-qualified to play feckless, handsome charmers - or that, by 2002, the world was ready for a fresh take on the slob-vs.-snobs story that National Lampoon perfected into an art form with *Animal House* - so National Lampoon's *Van Wilder*, starring Reynolds as a legendarily shiftless college student scrambling to preserve his cushy lifestyle after being cut off by his dad, could have been a lot of fun. The problem, as most critics saw it, was that instead of being a schlubby, disadvantaged outsider with an axe to grind against the Man, Reynolds' character was simply lazy, and thus inherently hard to root for. Still, it gave him an early chance to carry a film, and it's become something of a cult comedy classic -

which is just fine with John Patterson of the *LA Weekly*, who called it "An effervescent campus gross-out comedy that's true to the amoral, anarchic spirit of Lampoon founder-editor and screenwriter Doug Kenney."

THE NINES (2007)

Whatever problems *The Nines* might have, lack of ambition isn't one of them. This heady sci-fi fantasy, which marked the feature directorial debut of screenwriter John August, stars Reynolds in a triple role as three men struggling to understand the truth behind unusual occurrences in their lives - lives that occasionally intersect - while in the midst of fraught encounters with mysterious women (all played by Hope Davis, in another triple role). It's the type of trippy metaphysical drama that demands a viewer's complete concentration,



and even then, the answers to the questions it poses are open to interpretation. Still, if you're in the mood for a less-than-straightforward film, you could do far worse. "Confusing? Yes, and intentionally so," wrote Christy Lemire for the *Associated Press*. "But it's never boring."

DEFINITELY, MAYBE (2008)

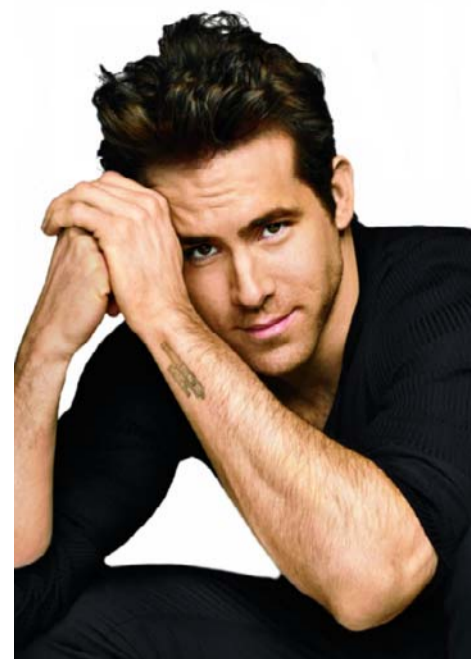
A romantic comedy with a twist, *Definitely, Maybe* finds its protagonist looking back on the love affair that led to marriage and a child - by telling the story to his young daughter, with some names changed and facts adjusted, while in the midst of a divorce. Thanks in part to those narrative curveballs, most critics applauded *Maybe* - and even if it still ultimately traced a rather familiar arc, it was difficult to find too much fault with a resolutely charming production that made smart use of

a likable ensemble cast that included Reynolds, Abigail Breslin, Elizabeth Banks, Isla Fisher, and Rachel Weisz. "As the movie is about a character's growing into his own truth rather than discovering some preordained truth, *Definitely, Maybe* is hard to out-guess," wrote Mick LaSalle for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "For once in a romantic comedy, you won't be able to tell after five minutes who will end up together."

THE PROPOSAL (2009)

It's a special occasion when critics really go nuts for a romantic comedy - or when rom-com fans care enough about critics' opinions to stay away from the cineplex even when a new entry in the genre is supposed to be subpar. For proof, look no further than 2009's *The Proposal*, which endured a heap





THE VOICES (2015)

For most films, making your main protagonist an employee at a bathtub factory would more than fulfill the weirdness quotient. But for 2015's *The Voices*, that's just the beginning of a surreal odyssey into bloody violence and black comedy - oh, and talking pets. Directed by acclaimed graphic novelist Marjane Satrapi by a script from *Paranormal Activity 2* co-writer Michael R. Perry, *The Voices* gives Reynolds free rein to indulge in all manner of strange behavior, but for the most part, critics agreed that the movie stays on the right side of the line between refreshingly different and quirky for quirky's sake, and while its main character's warped descent into a bleak, chaotic psychological abyss definitely isn't for all viewers, those with a taste for the strange might find the end results intoxicating. As Sara Stewart wrote for the *New York Post*, "Ryan Reynolds is chillingly perfect as a nice-guy factory worker struggling with schizophrenia and murderous impulses in this tonally wild indie, which is nearly too horrifying to be funny - but not quite."

MISSISSIPPI GRIND (2015)

A number of his more successful films have found him playing characters that might be described as blandly pretty, so the idea of Ryan Reynolds playing an emotionally stunted drifter with a gambling problem might seem like a bit of a stretch. With his work in *Mississippi Grind*, however, Reynolds offered an excellent reminder that when given the right script, he's more than capable of delivering a finely layered performance - and going toe-to-toe with Ben Mendelsohn in a melancholy road movie about a pair of aging losers who can't quite seem to grow up no matter how many chances they're given. "Mendelsohn plays Gerry as a stringy, sweaty hunk of pure desperation," wrote Mike D'Angelo for the *AV Club*, "while Reynolds, as the ostensibly more stable partner, demonstrates yet again that he's much more than a ridiculously pretty face." (www.rottentomatoes.com)



of critical brickbats on its way to theaters, yet still managed to roll up an impressive \$300 million-plus gross - thanks in no small part to the chemistry between stars Sandra Bullock (as a publishing company's abrasive editor-in-chief) and Reynolds (as the hapless assistant who's browbeaten into marrying her to keep her from being deported). It definitely isn't revolutionary stuff, and you know exactly where the movie's taking the relationship, but that formula is a big part of



tor who wakes up imprisoned in a coffin, and turning its seemingly limited premise into a 95-minute white-knuckle race against time. As Rex Reed argued for the *New York Observer*, "Nothing this underrated actor has done previously measures up to the emotional diversity, focus and self-control required of him in a one-man exercise in underground suspense that Alfred Hitchcock would envy."

SAFE HOUSE (2012)

Reynolds got the chance to go toe-to-toe with Denzel Washington in 2012's *Safe House*, an action thriller from director Daniel Espinosa about a rogue CIA operative (Washington)

whose interrogation is interrupted by a team of mercenaries that attacks and sends him back into the wind with a low-level field agent (Reynolds). It's a premise rich with possibilities for cool set pieces and odd-couple bickering, but *Safe House* never really takes full advantage of those possibilities, settling instead for frenetic editing that can't quite move fast enough to mask the cliched plot developments along the way. Still, when the movie gets going, it does have its pleasures; as Colin Covert wrote for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, "I won't deny that the movie hooked me with sheer brute energy and dragged me along with it most of the way."



the romantic comedy's appeal. "The Proposal is just a good old-fashioned romance, one in which people actually bring out the best in one another rather than the worst," wrote Betsy Sharkey for the *Los Angeles Times*. "How novel is that?"

BURIED (2010)

It takes a special kind of creativity and filmmaking discipline - to say nothing of actorly chutzpah - to pull off a film centered around a single person in a single space, and when Reynolds read the script for 2010's *Buried*, he had to know he was facing an immense challenge. Both he and director Rodrigo Cortes deserve a ton of credit, then, for making the most out of screenwriter Chris Sparling's tightly focused story about a military contrac-



Friday Times

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Travel



Amazing adventures in **LAOS**

With its dense forests, limestone caves and endless waterways, Laos is a dream destination for intrepid travelers seeking an off-the-beaten-track corner of Asia. Whether it's kayaking, cycling, rock climbing, ziplining between tree houses or exploring temple ruins - you can choose your own adventure in the 'land of a million elephants'.





Kayaking the Four Thousand Islands

Many people head to Si Phan Don (Four Thousand Islands) to kick back and relax, but this stretch of the Mekong has too much to see to spend all your time motionless in a hammock. The laid-back archipelago is one of the best spots in the country to kayak. Paddle through gentle waters, and a few more challenging spots, taking in the stunning scenery and stopping off at villages and islands as you meander along the river. Trips range from a few hours to a few days, with the chance to spot the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin.

Climbing limestone karsts

Most of the climbing in Laos is centered on the backpacker hub of Vang Vieng, with over 200 marked and bolted routes for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels. For more off-the-beaten-track climbs, head down to central Laos' Tha Khaek, where Green Climbers Home run a climbing camp at the base of some beautiful karsts, boasting one of the easiest overhangs in the world on which to learn.

Ziplining through primal forest

For a truly unique experience, thrill seekers should head to northern Laos to take on the Gibbon Experience. Flying at high speed through lush forest and valleys on ziplines up to 500m long will fulfil all your adventure fantasies. Part of the fun of the three-day trip is staying in tree houses that are only accessible by zipline. The surrounding forest is home to the black gibbon and the cost of the experience helps to support the conservation of their habitat. Between picking leeches off your shins and sidestepping tiger scat, you'll be whooping with excitement.

Discovering ancient Khmer temple ruins

If you fancy yourself a Lara Croft or Indiana Jones type then Wat Phu, the ancient Khmer temple ruin in Champasak province, is a must see. Explore ornate crumbling temples and palaces, which are stunningly situated along the slopes of the Phu Pasak range. Though on a much smaller scale than Angkor Wat, Wat Phu is a Unesco World Heritage Site that is

delightfully free of crowds. Base yourself in sultry Champasak village nearby, where you can enjoy a spa, fine digs, open-air cinema and a slow riverine pace.

Trekking the '100 waterfalls'

The '100 waterfalls' hike, which involves scrambling up a series of cascading falls in northern Laos, was only discovered in 2008 and is increasingly becoming popular among those visiting the once sleepy village of Nong Khai, where trekking and kayaking have taken off. The great thing about the 100 Waterfalls hike is you're generally immersed to your shins in water, grappling up ropes and splashing through streams, so the often oppressive Laos heat is less of a problem. Eco-conscious outfit Tiger Trail offers one-day trekking trips.

Boating through a 7km limestone cave

One of the highlights of a trip to Laos has got to be a visit to forbidding Tham Kong Lo cave. Hidden deep in the wilderness of central Laos,

this limestone cave is an awe-inspiring 7km long, up to 90m high in places, and is home to bats and bird-eating spiders. Hop in a small boat and navigate the vast river passage in almost complete darkness but for the glow of the boatman's headlamp and your torch. As part of a tour, you also get to alight half-way and explore a dramatically lit stalactite forest.

Touring Vieng Xai's bomb-shelter caves

The vast Vieng Xai Caves system is one of Laos' most important and unusual historic sites, where signs of the country's wartime past still remain. During the Vietnam War, 20,000 people lived here to escape the relentless bombing. They built hospitals, markets and even a theatre in the network of 450 caves. Experience what life was like by taking a tour of the site.

Exploring the country by bicycle

Whether you take a tour or go it alone, cycling is one of the best ways to enjoy Laos' stunning scenery, meet locals and



30

Travel

Friday Times

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016



experience remote and less accessible parts of the country. From taking a gentle path through the rice paddies to mountain-biking up peaks and winding through jungles, there is a two-wheeled adventure to suit everyone. Most tourist destinations have bicycles to rent, but Luang Namtha, Udomxai, Luang Prabang and Vientiane are

among the many top spots for cycling.

Trekking to remote Katang villages

The best treks lead to somewhere unexpected, and the hike to the Katang villages of Dong Phu Vieng National Protected Area won't disappoint. After a day walking through sacred forest, trekkers can stay with Katang

villagers and experience a way of life very different to that of the rest of the country's population. The villagers believe strongly in spirits and visitors are taught how to avoid taboo behaviour that may disturb them.

When to go

November to February is the cool, dry sea-

son and therefore a good time for activities such as trekking and cycling. From March to May, temperatures regularly hit 40°C - good reason to head underground for some caving. The wet season is from June to October and is best for water-based activities such as kayaking and rafting.

(www.lonelyplanet.com)



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Breakfast

Find and circle all of the breakfast items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a popular breakfast drink.

Y O G U R T O M E L E T S E
O S E G A S U A S Y L L E J
F A L O N A R G A E T F E R
C R O I S S A N T S F T O D
S H U M M L O R T O A L W O
L A A I U A A I C L L M A U
E S L S T F U E O S A E F G
G K E M H C F C R R B G F H
A D E K S B O I M E A D L N
B A T I A H R A N H C I E U
L E B O C C L O O S O R S T
H R G T A A N N W J N R N S
A B O G D S E A A N G O E J
M H U E S Y T M P I S P C E

- BACON
- BAGELS
- BISCUITS
- BREAD
- CEREAL
- COFFEE
- CROISSANTS
- DOUGHNUTS
- EGGS
- FRUIT
- GRANOLA
- HAM
- HASH BROWNS
- HONEY
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- JAM
- JELLY
- MARMALADE
- MILK
- MUFFINS
- OATMEAL
- OMELETS
- PANCAKES
- PORRIDGE
- ROLLS
- SAUSAGES
- TEA
- TOAST
- WAFFLES
- YOGURT

Yesterday's Solution

Adverbs

S O O N W H E R E A D V O H B I H A E
R B W I S E L Y S Y L L I N E G N O L
I H E R E M N T A G A I E A S I L Y
O E Y L K C T U G H L W O L S D O
I R I L I Y O N C H I F Y V G I T E R S W
F O L L O C A B N B S H E A D U R A R B I E
O F A R E R D R E S Y L T N E S T E R P M
W E E A A A E R A T N D S R A T V A D O
R E R M R J L V E E F S R E I T O E E S H
A C A P L A T I E T N O I V L D N L S V
R Y M U Y R C A B B S M F E Y A A O E R
D Y T O M O T R O W N I E W S Y M R T A
W A L D N A D O R N W Y O D L L I N I T
H E H I R I L R I S T H B H T H T W O H E
E E E E T H S O R S E T I W T O H E E
N R L K E I K L A H L R M Y L D U O L R
C Y A O L L O P Y O S E N E Q U I T T E D
E V S E A A G W R S A S Y A W L A B S

- ACROSS
- AGAIN
- AHEAD
- ALMOST
- ALREADY
- ALSO
- ALWAYS
- ANYWHERE
- APART
- AWAY
- BACK
- BEFORE
- BEHIND
- BELOW
- BRISKLY
- DOWN
- EARLY
- EASILY
- FAST
- FIRST
- FOREVER
- FORWARD
- GENTLY
- GREATLY
- HENCE
- HIGH
- HOMEWARD
- HOWEVER
- LITTLE
- LONG
- LOUDLY
- MONTHLY
- NEARBY
- NEVER
- NOWHERE
- OFTEN
- ONCE
- PRESENTLY
- QUICKLY
- QUIETLY
- RARELY
- RATHER
- REALLY
- SHORT
- SLOWLY
- SOFTLY
- SOMETIMES
- SOMEWHERE
- SOON
- THEN
- THERE
- TODAY
- TOMORROW
- UPWARD
- WEEKLY
- WISELY
- YESTERDAY

The hidden message is: ADVERBS MODIFY VERBS AND ADJECTIVES AND OTHER ADVERBS

Daily SuDoku

		2	8	6		5		4
	6	1	5	9		3		
	8							
6	2				3	8		
		4	2				6	9
								3
		8		2	5	6	9	
2	3		1	6	7			

medium

Yesterday's Solution

8	3	5	4	7	9	2	6	1
4	7	6	2	1	5	3	9	8
9	1	2	6	8	3	5	7	4
7	4	9	3	5	6	1	8	2
2	6	8	1	9	4	7	3	5
3	5	1	8	2	7	9	4	6
1	2	3	7	6	8	4	5	9
5	8	4	9	3	1	6	2	7
6	9	7	5	4	2	8	1	3

very hard

CROSSWORD 1166

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15			16								17			
18			19	20					21	22				
23			24					25	26					
31	32	33		34				29	30			36	37	38
39						40	41		42					
43				44	45			46			47			
48				49					50					
51			52	53		54			55		56			
			57	58				59	60	61				
62	63	64						65						
66								67				68	69	70
71								72				73		
74				75	76							77		
78				79								80		

ACROSS

1. A master's degree in fine arts.
4. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
12. A light touch or stroke.
15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
16. Hairy perennial Eurasian herb with yellow daisylike flowers reputed to destroy or drive away fleas.
17. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
18. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
20. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
21. Proceeding from or ordered by or subject to a pope or the papacy regarded as the successor of the Apostles.
23. Somewhat hard.
26. Lacking either stimulating or irritating characteristics.
27. A state in New England.
28. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
29. Liquid food especially of meat or fish or vegetable stock often containing pieces of solid food.
31. Made of creme de menthe and brandy.
35. Atmospheric electricity (lasting 10 msec) appearing as globular flashes of red (pink to blood-red) light rising to heights of 60 miles (sometimes seen together with elves).
39. An attendant who carries the golf clubs for a player.
42. Type genus of the Annonaceae.
43. A roll of photographic film holding a series of frames to be projected by a movie projector.
44. English courtier (a favorite of Elizabeth I) who tried to colonize Virginia.
47. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
48. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
49. Production of a certain amount.
50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
51. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
54. Monotypic genus of palms of Australasia.
56. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
57. A severe shortage (especially a shortage of food).
59. Used by southerners for an inhabitant of a northern state in the United States (especially a Union soldier).
62. Mucus-secreting membrane lining all body cavities or passages that communicate with the exterior.
66. Surgical procedure that creates an artificial opening for the elimination of bodily wastes.
71. Long-legged spotted cat of Africa and southwestern Asia having

- nonretractile claws.
73. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
74. Adult female chicken.
75. United States golfer who was first to win all four major golf tournaments (1902-1999).
77. The compass point that is one point south of southeast.
78. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
79. A festival featuring African-American culture.
80. The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murdering his wife.

DOWN

1. Occurring widely (as to many people).
2. The front of the head from the forehead to the chin and ear to ear.
3. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
4. A radioactive transuranic element.
5. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
6. Someone whose employment involves carrying something.
7. English monk and scholar (672-735).
8. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
9. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
10. An associate degree in nursing.
11. United States film actress who appeared in many films with Spencer Tracy (born in 1909).
12. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
13. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
14. With no effort to conceal.
19. A full skirt with a gathered waistband.
22. Perennial rhizomatous herbs of Asia and Australia and Polynesia having ginger-scented rhizomes.
24. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
25. Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.
30. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
32. A city in southeastern South Korea.
33. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
34. Suggestive of the supernatural.
36. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
37. Render capable or able for some task.
38. A heavy silk fabric (often woven with silver or gold threads).
40. Small usually scaleless fishes with comb-like teeth living about rocky shores.
41. Be in contradiction with.
45. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
46. Measure of the US economy adopted in 1991.
52. Traveling by foot.
53. A mask with a filter protects the face and lungs against poisonous gases.
55. Low spreading tropical American shrub with long slender leaves used to make a mildly stimulating drink resembling tea.
58. Hawthorn of southern United States bearing juicy acid scarlet fruit often used in jellies or preserves.
60. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
61. A Uralic language spoken by a Samoyed people of northern Siberia.
63. Irish prelate who deduced from the Bible that Creation occurred in the year 4004 BC (1581-1656).
64. Comb-plate or locomotor organ consisting of a row of strong cilia whose bases are fused.
65. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
67. Empty rhetoric or insincere or exaggerated talk.
68. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
69. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
70. In addition.
72. Of a light yellowish-brown color n 1.
76. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution

P	E	E		P	E	R	I	O	D	I	C		B	S	E
E	R	A		D	R	A	C	A	E	N	A		E	C	M
K	I	G	A	L	I		A	S	S	U	R		D	A	M
A	C	E	R		E	A	R		C	R	Y	B	A	B	Y
N	A	R	D	O		T	U	R	R	E	A	E			
				E	N		S	A	Y			A	B	E	L
O	R	C	A		L	A	D		A	T	T	I	C	A	
C	I	A		T	A	R	P		P	H	A	E	T	O	N
C	A	N	N	I	B	A	L		L	A	X	N	E	S	S
A	T	T	A	C	A	P	A		O	B	I	R	O	E	
M	A	O	I		N	A	I	A	D		D	P		C	T
				L		H	D	L		B	E	A	M		
P	A	C	H	U	C	O		A	S		A	G	A	M	A
A	C	H	E	T	A		R	U	T	A		O	R	A	D
R	H	E	A		D	O	O	D	A	D		D	I	A	Z
R	E	N	D		E	D	W	A	R	D		A	A	R	E



00:15 Suspect Zero
01:55 Chattahoochee
03:30 Crime And Punishment
05:30 Captain Jack
07:10 Seven Years In Tibet
09:25 Puckoon
10:50 Punks
12:25 A Kiss Before Dying
13:55 Everybody's Fine
15:35 Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery
17:05 The Indian Fighter
18:30 Les Miserables (1998)
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Mother's Boys
22:35 Suspect Zero



00:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
01:45 Swamp Brothers
02:15 Swamp Brothers
02:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Roaring With Pride
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
07:36 Swamp Brothers
08:00 Swamp Brothers
08:25 Bad Dog
09:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Bad Dog
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Treehouse Masters
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Roaring With Pride
18:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
19:20 Big Fish Man
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Roaring With Pride
22:05 Treehouse Masters
23:00 Big Fish Man
23:55 Gator Boys



00:10 Eastenders
00:40 Holby City
01:35 Stella
02:25 Ripper Street
03:20 Doctors
03:50 Eastenders
04:20 Starlings
05:10 Stella
06:00 Holby City
06:55 Stella
07:45 Doctors
08:15 Eastenders
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:45 Call The Midwife
10:40 Death In Paradise
11:35 The Musketeers
12:35 The Musketeers
13:30 Holby City
14:30 Doctors
15:00 Eastenders
15:30 New Tricks
16:25 New Tricks
17:25 New Tricks
18:20 Doctors
18:50 Doctors
19:20 Father Brown
20:15 War And Peace
21:00 War And Peace
21:50 Doctor Foster
22:45 Stella
23:35 Stella
00:10 Eastenders
00:40 Holby City
01:35 Stella
02:25 Ripper Street
03:20 Doctors
03:50 Eastenders
04:20 Starlings
05:10 Stella
06:00 Holby City
06:55 Stella
07:45 Doctors
08:15 Eastenders
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:45 Call The Midwife
10:40 Death In Paradise
11:35 The Musketeers

12:35 The Musketeers
13:30 Holby City
14:30 Doctors
15:00 Eastenders
15:30 New Tricks
16:25 New Tricks
17:25 New Tricks
18:20 Doctors
18:50 Doctors
19:20 Father Brown
20:15 War And Peace
21:00 War And Peace
21:50 Doctor Foster
22:45 Stella
23:35 Stella



00:00 What'd You Miss?
01:00 Charlie Rose
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau
03:00 First Up With Angie Lau
04:00 Trending Business
05:00 Trending Business
06:00 Asia Edge
07:00 Bloomberg West
08:00 Charlie Rose
09:00 Countdown
10:00 Countdown
10:30 On The Move
11:00 On The Move
12:00 The Pulse
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
14:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
15:00 Bloomberg Go
16:00 Bloomberg Go
17:00 Bloomberg Go
18:00 Bloomberg Markets
19:00 Bloomberg Markets: European
Close
20:00 Bloomberg Markets
21:00 Bloomberg Markets

22:00 Bloomberg Markets
22:30 Brilliant Ideas
23:00 Bloomberg Markets



00:00 News Update
00:30 Dialogue
01:00 News Update
01:15 China 24
02:00 The Heat
02:30 News Update
03:00 Global Business
04:00 News Update
05:00 News Update
06:30 Dialogue
07:00 News Hour
08:00 Global Business
09:00 News Update
10:30 Sports Scene
11:00 Global Business
12:00 News Update
12:30 Culture Express
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update
14:30 Dialogue
15:00 News Update
15:15 China 24
16:00 News Update
16:15 Global Business
17:00 News Update
17:15 World InSight
18:00 Asia Today
18:30 Culture Express
19:00 News Update
19:30 The Heat
20:00 Africa Live
21:00 Global Business
21:30 Dialogue
22:00 News Update
22:15 China 24
23:00 News Update
23:15 World InSight



01:00 Access: Middle East
01:30 Climate Business
02:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
03:00 Asia Squawk Box
05:00 Asia Street Signs
07:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
08:00 Capital Connection
09:00 Squawk Box Europe
12:00 Europe Street Signs
13:00 Worldwide Exchange
14:00 U.S. Squawk Box
17:00 Squawk On The Street
19:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
20:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
21:00 U.S. Power Lunch
23:00 U.S. Closing Bell



00:00 Campus Nightmares
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
02:00 Born To Kill
03:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover
04:00 Campus Nightmares
05:00 Born To Kill
06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
07:00 The FBI Files
08:00 The FBI Files
09:00 Private Crimes
09:30 Frenemies
10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
12:00 Beyond Scared Straight
13:00 Fatal Vows
14:00 Crime Stories
15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain

16:00 Private Crimes
16:30 Frenemies
17:00 The FBI Files
18:00 Beyond Scared Straight
19:00 Crime Stories
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
22:00 Private Crimes
22:30 Frenemies
23:00 Ms. Homicide



00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 What On Earth?
02:00 Unearthed
02:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
03:40 Storage Hunters
04:05 The Liquidator
04:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Mythbusters
06:50 You Have Been Warned
07:40 You Have Been Warned
08:30 The Island With Bear Grylls
09:20 Sean Conway - Running Britain
10:10 River Monsters
11:00 What On Earth?
11:50 Unearthed
12:40 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
13:30 Fast N' Loud
14:20 Street Outlaws
15:10 Street Outlaws
16:00 Catching Monsters
16:50 Catching Monsters
17:40 Catching Monsters
18:30 Catching Monsters
19:20 Catching Monsters
20:10 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Street Outlaws
22:40 Street Outlaws
23:30 Kidnap And Rescue



00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:30 The Haunted
02:20 Ghost Lab
03:10 Deadly Affairs
04:00 Swamp Murders
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:30 The Haunted
06:20 Fatal Encounters
07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
08:00 Dr. G. Medical Examiner
08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
09:40 Fatal Encounters
10:30 Murder Shift
11:20 Deadly Affairs
12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
13:00 The Will
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 California Investigator
15:05 Dr. G. Medical Examiner
15:55 Fatal Encounters
16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
17:35 Murder Shift
18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 The Will
20:05 Deadly Affairs
20:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
21:45 California Investigator
22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
23:00 Serial Killers
23:50 Deadly Devotion



00:35 Weird Or What?
01:20 How It's Made
01:44 How It's Made
02:08 Mega Builders
02:55 Space Pioneer
03:42 Mythbusters
04:29 Weird Or What?
05:16 Mega Builders
06:03 Space Pioneer
06:50 Prototype This
07:37 How Do They Do It?

08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:23 Weird Or What?
09:08 Mythbusters
09:53 Prototype This
10:38 How It's Made
11:00 How It's Made
11:23 Invent It Rich
12:08 Space Pioneer
12:53 Prototype This
13:38 Weird Or What?
14:23 How It's Made
14:46 How It's Made
15:10 Mythbusters
15:57 Invent It Rich
16:44 Space Pioneer
17:31 Prototype This
18:18 Mythbusters
19:05 Weird Or What?
19:50 Alien Mysteries
20:40 Space Pioneer
21:25 How It's Made
21:50 How It's Made
22:15 Mythbusters
23:00 Alien Mysteries
23:45 Space Pioneer



00:40 Solved
01:30 Before We Ruled The Earth
02:20 Shadow Ops
03:05 Curiosity: Stonehenge
03:50 Solved
04:35 Extreme Engineering
05:20 Deadliest Catch
06:05 Bizarre Foods
06:50 Alps From Above
07:35 Origins
08:00 Deadliest Catch
08:50 Reign Of The Dinosaurs
09:40 Alps From Above
10:30 Bizarre Foods
11:20 Extreme Engineering
12:10 Deadliest Catch
13:00 Dinosaurs Of The Deep
13:50 Bizarre Foods
14:40 Extreme Engineering
15:30 Before We Ruled The Earth
16:20 Alps From Above
17:10 Deadliest Catch
18:00 Curiosity: Stonehenge
18:50 Bizarre Foods
19:40 Before We Ruled The Earth
20:30 Mile Wide Tornado: Oklahoma Disaster
21:20 Skyfighters
22:10 Extreme Engineering
23:00 Mile Wide Tornado: Oklahoma Disaster
23:50 Skyfighters



00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 That's So Raven
07:15 Gravity Falls
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 That's So Raven
09:20 That's So Raven
09:45 Austin & Ally
10:10 Austin & Ally
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
12:55 Fish Hooks
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 I Didn't Do It
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:30 H2O
14:55 Girl Meets World



FURY ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016

- 15:20 Jessie
- 15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 16:10 Violetta
- 17:00 I Love Violetta
- 17:10 Radio Rebel
- 18:40 I Didn't Do It
- 19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:20 I Love Violetta
- 20:30 Lion King 2: Simba's Pride
- 21:50 Violetta Recipes
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 Your Family Or Mine
- 01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 01:30 Web Therapy
- 02:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
- 02:30 Big Time In Hollywood FI
- 03:00 New Girl
- 03:30 Playing House
- 04:00 Men At Work
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 06:00 Til Death
- 06:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Men At Work
- 08:30 Cristela
- 09:00 New Girl
- 09:30 Kevin From Work
- 10:00 Hot In Cleveland
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 Til Death
- 12:30 Men At Work
- 13:00 Cristela
- 13:30 Community
- 14:00 Playing House
- 14:30 Kevin From Work
- 15:00 Hot In Cleveland
- 15:30 Your Family Or Mine
- 16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 16:30 Til Death
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 18:30 Black-ish
- 19:00 Parks And Recreation
- 19:30 The Simpsons
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Your Family Or Mine
- 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 22:00 Louie
- 22:30 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
- 23:00 Big Time In Hollywood FI
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



THE GOOD LIE ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 10:00 Hercules
- 12:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
- 14:00 Last Passenger
- 16:00 Rush Hour
- 18:00 Hercules
- 20:00 Breakdown
- 22:00 Fury

- 05:00 Isa
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 09:00 The Maze Runner
- 11:00 Kon-Tiki
- 13:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 14:45 Make Your Move
- 16:45 Draft Day
- 18:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey
- 21:00 The Good Lie
- 23:00 Unbroken

- 06:00 Live MSNBC The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell
- 07:00 Live MSNBC Hardball W/ Chris Matthews
- 08:00 NBC Nightly News
- 08:20 ABC World News With David Muir
- 08:39 Live ABC Nightline
- 09:06 MSNBC The Rachel Maddow Show
- 10:00 MSNBC The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell
- 11:00 Live ABC World News Now
- 11:30 Live ABC World News Now
- 12:00 Live NBC Early Today
- 12:30 Live ABC America This Morning
- 13:00 Live ABC America This Morning
- 13:30 Live ABC America This Morning
- 14:00 Live ABC America This Morning
- 14:30 MSNBC First Look
- 15:00 Live NBC Today Show
- 18:57 MSNBC Hardball W/ Chris Matthews
- 19:38 MSNBC The Rachel Maddow Show
- 20:19 MSNBC The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell
- 21:00 Live MSNBC Live With Thomas Roberts
- 23:00 Live MSNBC Live With Kate Snow

- 14:30 Inside The PGA Tour
- 15:00 European Tour Weekly
- 15:30 Live PGA European Tour
- 18:30 Formula-E Championship
- Sound Of The Future
- 19:00 WWE Bottom Line
- 20:00 WWE Superstars
- 21:00 WWE Main Event
- 22:00 WWE NXT
- 23:00 Live Super League

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 The Babymakers
- 02:00 Down To Earth
- 04:00 Garfield's Fun Fest
- 06:00 Simon Birch
- 08:00 Encino Man
- 10:00 Garfield's Fun Fest
- 12:00 Down To Earth
- 14:00 Vampire Dog
- 16:00 Encino Man
- 18:00 Tooth Fairy
- 20:00 Without A Paddle
- 22:00 Seven Psychopaths

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 00:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 02:00 Marco Macaco
- 03:30 Tom And Jerry: Santa's Little Helpers
- 04:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 06:00 Hatching
- 08:00 Blackie And Kanuto
- 10:00 The Flintstones & WWE: Stone Age Smackdown
- 11:30 Egon And Donci
- 13:00 Marco Macaco
- 14:30 Cher Ami
- 16:00 Echo Planet
- 18:00 The Flintstones & WWE: Stone Age Smackdown
- 20:00 Delhi Safari
- 22:00 Cher Ami
- 23:30 Echo Planet

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:30 The Fold
- 03:00 A Long Way Down
- 05:00 Two Men In Town
- 07:00 Shadow Witness
- 09:00 Won't Back Down
- 11:00 Two Men In Town
- 13:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
- 15:00 Foreverland
- 17:00 Won't Back Down
- 19:00 Goodbye World
- 21:00 Miss Meadows
- 23:00 Anna

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:15 You're Not You
- 02:00 Step Up Revolution
- 04:00 A Stranger In Paradise
- 05:30 40 Days And Nights
- 07:30 Selma
- 10:00 Knight Rusty
- 11:30 Imogene
- 13:15 Get On Up
- 15:45 Selma
- 18:00 Snowpiercer
- 20:00 Les Miserables
- 22:45 Nightcrawler

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:00 A Civil Action
- 03:00 How I Live Now
- 04:45 Heaven's Door
- 06:30 Vanity Fair
- 09:00 Great Expectations
- 11:15 Heaven's Door
- 13:00 October Sky
- 15:00 Won't Back Down
- 17:00 Great Expectations
- 19:15 Short Term 12
- 21:00 The Double
- 23:00 End Of Watch

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 The Purge: Anarchy
- 03:00 Quartet

OSN FIRST HD

- 00:00 Salem
- 01:00 Blindspot
- 02:00 Wicked City
- 03:00 Scream Queens
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Parenthood
- 07:00 Backstrom
- 08:00 The Player
- 09:00 American Idol
- 10:00 Blindspot
- 11:00 Backstrom
- 12:00 Parenthood
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 American Idol
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 The Player
- 19:00 American Idol
- 21:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 22:00 Dominion
- 23:00 Dominion

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Four Brothers
- 02:00 The Prince
- 04:00 Jaws: The Revenge
- 06:00 Last Passenger
- 08:00 Justice League: Throne Of

- Test Series
- 08:30 ICC Cricket 360
- 09:30 New Zealand v Australia Daily Test Highlights
- 10:00 HBL Pakistan Super League Highlights
- 10:30 HBL Pakistan Super League Highlights
- 11:00 New Zealand v Australia Daily Test Highlights
- 11:30 ICC Cricket 360
- 12:30 HBL Pakistan Super League Highlights
- 13:00 HBL Pakistan Super League Highlights
- 13:30 New Zealand v Australia Daily Test Highlights
- 14:00 ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Highlights
- 15:00 New Zealand v Australia Daily Test Highlights
- 15:30 India v Sri Lanka T20I Highlights
- 16:25 New Zealand v Australia Daily Test Highlights
- 16:50 Live India v Sri Lanka T20I Series
- 20:30 New Zealand v Australia Daily Test Highlights
- 21:00 ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Highlights
- 22:00 ICC Cricket 360
- 23:00 ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Highlights

STAR WORLD HD

- 00:00 American Idol
- 01:00 Lost
- 02:00 Revenge
- 03:00 Revenge
- 04:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
- 05:00 How I Met Your Mother
- 05:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Cops
- 07:30 Cops
- 08:00 American Idol
- 09:00 Lost
- 10:00 Revenge
- 11:00 Revenge
- 12:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
- 13:00 How I Met Your Mother
- 13:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Cops
- 15:30 Cops
- 16:00 Lost
- 17:00 Cougar Town
- 17:30 Cougar Town
- 18:00 The Listener
- 19:00 The Listener
- 20:00 72 Hours
- 21:00 Happy Endings
- 21:30 Cougar Town
- 22:00 Lost
- 23:00 Lost

OSN SPORTS 3 HD

- 01:00 NFL Gameday
- 01:30 Inside Sailing
- 02:00 World Rugby
- 02:30 Premier League Darts
- 06:00 World Pool Masters
- 07:00 Super League
- 09:00 Europro Tour
- 10:00 The Weber Cup
- 11:00 Gillette World Sport
- 11:30 Premier League Darts
- 15:00 NFL Gameday
- 15:30 World Rugby HSBC Sevens
- Highlights
- 16:00 NHL
- 18:00 Super League
- 20:00 The Weber Cup
- 21:00 Europro Tour
- 22:00 PGA European Tour

OSN SPORTS 4 HD

- 01:00 NHL
- 03:00 WWE Vintage
- 04:00 Mass Participation U.K
- 04:30 Triathlon UK
- 05:00 UIM XCATS Power Boat World Series
- 05:30 Adventure Sport
- 06:00 TCR Asia Series
- 06:30 TCR Asia Series
- 07:00 The Global Champions Tour
- 07:30 The Global Champions Tour
- 08:00 ICC Cricket 360
- 09:00 Formula-E Championship
- Highlights
- 10:00 Super Bowl 50
- 14:00 WWE Vintage
- 15:05 Live Hockey India League
- 17:20 Live Pro Kabaddi
- 18:30 Live Pro Kabaddi
- 20:00 NHL
- 22:00 Formula-E Championship
- Sound Of The Future
- 22:30 F1 H2O World Championship
- Highlights
- 23:00 WWE Bottom Line

OSN SPORTS 1 HD

- 02:00 Trans World Sport
- 03:00 Super League
- 05:00 World Rugby HSBC Sevens
- Highlights
- 05:30 Live ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup
- 14:00 Gillette World Sport
- 14:25 Live HBL Pakistan Super League
- 18:00 NFL Gameday
- 18:30 Gillette World Sport
- 18:55 Live HBL Pakistan Super League
- 22:30 Inside The PGA Tour
- 23:00 Live PGA Tour

OSN SPORTS 2 HD

- 01:30 Asian Tour Highlights
- 02:30 World Rugby HSBC Sevens
- Highlights
- 03:00 Live NHL
- 06:00 Trans World Sport
- 07:00 Golfing World
- 08:00 World Rugby
- 08:30 WWE Raw
- 11:00 European Tour Weekly
- 11:30 Live PGA European Tour
- 13:30 Golfing World

OSN SPORTS HD CRICKET

- 00:00 HBL Pakistan Super League
- Highlights
- 00:27 Live New Zealand v Australia

sundance CHANNEL

- 00:25 Sling Blade
- 02:35 Salar
- 03:00 The Red Road
- 04:00 Rake
- 05:00 Liar's Dice
- 06:45 Dust
- 07:00 Peter Gabriel: Scratch My Back
- 08:15 Genesis: Sum Of The Parts
- 09:50 A Month By The Lake
- 11:25 A Delicate Balance
- 13:40 Brother's Keeper
- 15:30 Movie Talk
- 15:55 Peter Gabriel: Scratch My Back
- 17:10 Genesis: Sum Of The Parts
- 18:45 A Delicate Balance
- 21:00 Theatreland
- 21:30 Hollywood's Best Film
- Directors
- 22:00 Rounders
- 23:55 Hollywoodland

ANGOLA FACES HEALTH CRISIS AS OIL CRISIS LEADS TO CUTBACKS

CHOLERA, MALARIA AND YELLOW FEVER RISE IN SLUMS

LUANDA: When a plunge in oil prices prompted Angola's government to slash public spending last year, street trader Antonio Simao Baptista had no idea it would leave his rundown suburb overwhelmed by filth and disease. The budget of Africa's second largest oil exporter has been cut again this year and is 40 percent lower than two years ago.

Public services including rubbish collection and water sanitation, are overlooked by contractors who aren't being paid or can't import equipment due to foreign exchange shortages, contributing to a surge in deadly diseases. "Look at the garbage and also the water we drink is filthy. The water in my home is brown. I was raised in the colonial era and I have never seen this before," said Baptista, 60, swatting away flies and mosquitoes swarming overhead. An outbreak of yellow fever has killed 37 people since December while there has been an increase in reported cases of malaria, cholera and chronic diarrhoea, health officials said on Wednesday.

The yellow fever outbreak began in Luanda's vast Viana suburb of 1.6 million people but has spread to other parts of the country with eight new cases reported in the last 24 hours. In Viana and other poor Luanda suburbs piles of uncollected waste block traffic and some residents have resorted to setting fire to hills of rubbish, sending toxic fumes into overcrowded slums.

The situation has worsened since the rainy season began in December as heavy storms wash discarded waste and contaminated water into supplies used for washing and drinking.

MORGUES AND MOSQUITOES

At Luanda's Cajueiro Hospital this week crowds of people waiting for treatment for cholera, diarrhoea and suspected yellow fever were packed into small rooms with relatives helping nurses overwhelmed by increased patient numbers.

"You see? One more person dead now," said Maria Baptista, 43, pointing at a sobbing woman who was just informed about the death of a family member. Baptista, no relation of Antonio, was queuing outside the hospital with dozens of other people trying to get into the packed clinic. The annual budget for rubbish collection in the capital Luanda was slashed this year to \$10 million from \$30 million, resulting in a sharp deterioration in the sanitation of many poorer suburbs and a rise in related illnesses. "Most of the problems are caused by mosquito bites resulting from tons of waste all over the town," said Vlademiro Russo, a leading environmentalist who advises the Angolan government.

"It's becoming an emergency issue and a crisis in some areas. It is very important we find a solution fast." Angola relies on crude exports for around 95 percent of its foreign exchange earnings and a 70 percent decline in oil prices since mid-2014 has hobbled Africa's third largest economy, sending the kwanza currency plummeting. When the budget for waste removal was cut in August last year, the central government placed the management of sanitation under local municipal offices but funding was limited and many outstanding contracts had not been paid. Central government has held emergency meetings this

week and could deploy security forces to help tackle the crisis.

"We will redefine the ways of combating the disease. The security forces should be supporting the health agencies throughout the country," Ministry of Interior spokesman Simão Milagres said on Wednesday.

ANGER AND INEQUALITIES

The unsanitary conditions many poorer Angolans have to endure is not the reality in other areas of Luanda, which is one of the world's most expensive cities for foreigners and home to generations of billionaire oil magnates and politicians.

Though inequality is a major problem across much of Africa, Angola provides one of the starkest examples. The Gini Coefficient, a World Bank measure of inequality, puts Angola down at 169th out of 175 countries. Last week, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos inaugurated the new "Ambiente Square" in central Luanda, an upmarket expanse of landscaped gardens developed by Portuguese construction firm Centro Cerro and funded by Angola's state-oil company Sonangol.

Many Angolans are unhappy about the government's failure to bridge the inequality gap. "Go to the morgues and you will see them full of dead children from disease. The government is committing a crime," said street trader Baptista, who says he is reconsidering his lifelong support for dos Santos' ruling MPLA. "We provided support to this government but we see everything is derailing. The rich drink nice clean water, while the poor are left to die." — Reuters



LONDON: British Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt (right) arrives at Millbank studios with a man in medical scrubs (left) walking with him in central London yesterday. — AFP

BRITISH GOVT IMPOSES REFORMS FOR DOCTORS

LONDON: The British government said yesterday it would force through pay and working condition reforms for English doctors without the agreement of their trade union in a push to end a dispute that has resulted in strikes. Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt made the announcement shortly after the second in a series of 24-hour strikes, the like of which had not been seen in Britain for 40 years. During the strikes, junior doctors, or doctors-in-training, provided only emergency care. Hunt said the government would have preferred a negotiated solution and accused the doctor's union, the British Medical Association (BMA), of being unwilling to compromise.

"In such a situation, any government must do what is right for both patients and doctors," Hunt said in parliament. He said the decision to impose the changes on doctors was taken on the advice of senior health service officials. The dispute has brought Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative government into conflict with doctors who work in the state-funded National Health Service (NHS), which delivers free care for all and is typically one of the most important issues for voters at elections. The BMA, which has argued that the changes do not provide proper safeguards against doctors working dangerously long hours, responded by saying it would seek new ways to fight the reforms. "Junior doctors cannot and will not accept a contract that is bad for the future of patient care, the profession and the NHS as a whole, and we will consider all options open to us," said Johann Malawana the BMA's junior doctor committee chairman. — Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
 د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/02/2016 TO 17/02/2016)

SHARQIA-1
THE FINEST HOURS 1:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 1:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 3:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 5:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 7:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 10:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 12:30 AM

SHARQIA-2
SHAKET DABOUS 11:45 AM
SHAKET DABOUS 1:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 3:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 5:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 7:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 9:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 11:45 PM

SHARQIA-3
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 11:30 AM
BROOKLYN 1:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 3:45 PM
BROOKLYN 6:00 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 8:15 PM
BROOKLYN 10:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 12:45 AM

MUHALAB-1
THE FINEST HOURS 12:15 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 2:45 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 4:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 6:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 9:15 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 11:45 PM

MUHALAB-2
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 12:45 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 3:00 PM
BROOKLYN 5:15 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 7:30 PM
BROOKLYN 9:45 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-3
SHAKET DABOUS 12:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 2:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 4:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 6:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 8:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 10:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 12:15 AM

FANAR-1
BROOKLYN 11:45 AM
BROOKLYN 2:00 PM
THE BENEFACOR 4:15 PM
BROOKLYN 6:15 PM
THE BENEFACOR 8:30 PM
BROOKLYN 10:30 PM
THE BENEFACOR 12:45 AM

FANAR-2
THE FINEST HOURS 1:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 1:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 3:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 5:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 7:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 10:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 12:30 AM

FANAR-3
FITOOR - Hindi 11:45 AM
THE DORAEMON MOVIE 2:30 PM
THE DORAEMON MOVIE 4:30 PM
FITOOR - Hindi 6:30 PM
FITOOR - Hindi 9:15 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic 12:05 AM

MARINA-1
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 11:30 AM
BROOKLYN 1:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 3:45 PM
BROOKLYN 6:00 PM
BROOKLYN 8:15 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 10:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 12:45 AM

MARINA-2
THE FINEST HOURS 12:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 3:15 PM
VERY BIG SHOT 5:45 PM
VERY BIG SHOT 7:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 9:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 12:15 AM

MARINA-3
SHAKET DABOUS 12:00 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 2:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 2:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 4:00 PM

SHAKET DABOUS 6:00 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 8:00 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 10:00 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 12:30 AM

AVENUES-1
FITOOR - Hindi 11:30 AM
FITOOR - Hindi 2:30 PM
FITOOR - Hindi 5:30 PM
FITOOR - Hindi 8:30 PM
THE REVENANT 11:30 PM

AVENUES-2
BROOKLYN 12:00 PM
BROOKLYN 2:30 PM
BROOKLYN 5:00 PM
BROOKLYN 7:30 PM
BROOKLYN 10:00 PM
BROOKLYN 12:30 AM

AVENUES-3
SHAKET DABOUS 11:30 AM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 1:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 3:45 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 6:00 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 8:15 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 10:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 12:45 AM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 11:45 PM

360° 1
THE FINEST HOURS 12:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 2:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 5:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 7:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 10:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 12:30 AM

360° 2
BROOKLYN 1:30 PM
BROOKLYN 4:00 PM
BROOKLYN 6:30 PM
BROOKLYN 9:00 PM
BROOKLYN 11:30 PM

360° 3
THE DORAEMON MOVIE-3D 1:00 PM
THE DORAEMON MOVIE 3:15 PM
THE DORAEMON MOVIE-3D 5:30 PM
VERY BIG SHOT 7:45 PM
VERY BIG SHOT 10:00 PM
VERY BIG SHOT 12:15 AM

AL-KOUT.1
SHAKET DABOUS 12:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 2:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 4:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 6:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 8:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 10:15 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 12:15 AM

AL-KOUT.2
BROOKLYN 1:00 PM
THE BENEFACOR 1:30 PM
THE BENEFACOR 3:30 PM
BROOKLYN 5:30 PM
JANE GOT A GUN 7:45 PM
THE BENEFACOR 9:45 PM
BROOKLYN 11:45 PM

AL-KOUT.3
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 11:45 AM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 2:00 PM
VERY BIG SHOT 4:15 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 6:15 PM
VERY BIG SHOT 8:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 10:30 PM
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES 12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.4
THE FINEST HOURS 1:00 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 1:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 3:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 5:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 7:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 10:00 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 12:30 AM

BAIRAQ-1
THE FINEST HOURS 12:30 PM
THE DORAEMON MOVIE -3D 3:15 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 5:15 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP 7:15 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 9:15 PM
THE FINEST HOURS 11:45 PM

BAIRAQ-2
SHAKET DABOUS 12:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 2:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 4:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 6:45 PM
SHAKET DABOUS 8:30 PM

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kaleel S/o Mohamed Mohideen, holder of Indian Passport No. G3449357, residing at No. 2 Samayana Sheik Mohamed Moopan Street, Melapalayam, Tirunelveli Dist., Pin-627005, Tamilnadu. Shall henceforth be known as Kaleel Rahman. **(C 5131) 11-2-2016**

I Amir Karim Makandar holder of Indian Passport No. F7734039,

A/P - 173 Aggani Tal-khed Dist. Ratnagiri, hereby changed my name to Amir Karim Nevarekar. **(C 5129) 6-2-2019**

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available in a C-AC flat for decent couple or working ladies at Jabriya, area 10, near Jabriya Indian school from 1st March 2016. Please contact: 99300513. **(C 5130) 7-2-2016**

Prayer timings

Fajr: 05:10
Shorook 06:30
Duhr: 12:02
Asr: 15:11
Maghrib: 17:35
Isha: 18:53



Kuwait Times
Now you can browse www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016

OIL FALLS ON US SUPPLY RECORD, WEAK OUTLOOK

PAGE 38



Assessing Yellen's concerns about economy, markets

PAGE 41



MOSUL: People shop at a market in the northern city of Mosul. Plunging oil prices have pitched Iraq into a severe financial crisis as it struggles to combat the Islamic State group, play host to millions of refugees and rebuild cities and towns ravaged by war. — AP (See Page 39)

VENEZUELA PROPOSES AN OIL PRODUCTION 'FREEZE'

GLOBAL STOCKS TRAMPLED IN STAMPEDE TO SAFETY

DUBAI/LONDON: Some OPEC countries are trying to achieve a consensus among the group and key non-members for an oil production "freeze", sources familiar with the discussions say, in an attempt to tackle the global glut without cutting supply.

Top exporter Saudi Arabia might be warming to the idea, though it was too early to say whether the kingdom would give its blessing because any deal depends mainly on a commitment by Iran to restrict its plan to boost exports, the sources said. The proposal of a production "freeze" at current levels was floated by Venezuelan Oil Minister Eulogio Del Pino during his tour of producing countries this month which included Russia, Iran, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, they said.

"The Venezuelan oil minister wants to organize a meeting before OPEC's June meeting if there is consensus on either a production cut or at least a production 'freeze'," one source familiar with the matter said. "There is an ongoing discussion to meet soon for a freeze deal. That's what's happening now," the source said, adding that at least Russia and Qatar had given their initial agreement if there were a consensus among other producers.

Oil prices began a slide from above \$100 a barrel in mid-2014, but the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has declined to trim output without help from non-members, which so far have refused to participate.

A production freeze could amount to a compromise in that it would limit further increases in the supply glut that sent prices to a 12-year low of \$27.10 a barrel last month, while not requiring countries to cut supply and give up market share.

Venezuela's proposal was also discussed in Riyadh during a meeting with Saudi oil minister Ali Al-Naimi and Del Pino on Sunday, a second source said. While the idea was met with openness by Saudi Arabia, talks are still at an early stage and Riyadh will not commit unless Tehran agrees to restrict supplies, the source said. That appears to be a major stumbling block in the path of any agreement. A source familiar with Iranian thinking, asked whether a production freeze would gain much support in OPEC, replied that it would not.

Iran is reluctant to restrain supply as it wants to recover the market share it lost during sanctions that were imposed in 2012 because of its nuclear program. The sanctions were lifted in January.

TEMPORARY SOLUTION?

With prices sinking further, senior officials from OPEC and Russia have stepped up vague talk of possible joint action to fix the supply glut. Output of shale oil has slowed since OPEC's historic policy shift of November 2014 not to cut supply in the hope that low prices would curb competing production. But OPEC's

own output has surged, led by Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Supply from OPEC is likely to climb further as Iran has moved to restore relations with buyers, ordered a 500,000-barrels-per-day (bpd) rise in output and struck deals with European and Asian customers.

An OPEC source said freezing production might be a temporary compromise accepted by most producers that are already pumping at near capacity, which would support prices, but Iran remained the key to any deal. "Everybody is already producing to their maximum capacity now, except for Iran," the source said.

"If the Iranians are willing to stick to, let's say, the rise of 300,000 bpd they said they have already committed to Europe and if US shale production has slowed, then yes, a production freeze would be a positive sign to the market." "It would help prices to recover," the source added. "But this is a temporary solution and needs the will to make it work."

On Wednesday last week, Iranian news agency Shana quoted Del Pino as saying six producing countries, including Iran and Iraq and non-members Russia and Oman, supported a meeting to agree steps to bolster prices.

Riyadh has said it was willing to cooperate on action to stabilise the market as long as all OPEC members and key non-OPEC producers joined in. Rising production by Iraq and Iran's statements about boosting output were,

sources say, the main obstacles within OPEC to a deal. Another OPEC source said an accord would be hard to reach. "I doubt that there is an easy agreement because it would be so sensitive for some countries," adding that OPEC and non-OPEC would need to agree. An OPEC delegate shared that view and said there was still no concrete plan for a producer meeting. "This would need to be an agreement between all producers, not just OPEC," the delegate said of a production freeze. "If we met without an agenda, we would not solve this problem of the price."

STOCKS PLUNGE

The dollar hit a 16-month low against the yen yesterday to put it on course for its worst week since the Lehman crisis as investors scrambled for relative safety, buying up gold and top-rated bonds and dumping stocks. Investors were spooked by worries over the direction of the global economy and by cautious comments from the head of the US Federal Reserve that were taken to mean further rate hikes are unlikely in the near term.

Wall Street was expected to open almost 2 percent lower. European stocks were down over 3 percent at a 2-1/2 year low led by another 6 percent plunge in banks, and the Swedish crown tumbled as its central bank waded in with a surprise cut to its already deeply negative interest rates.—Reuters

News

In brief

**Oman's Raysut Cement
Q4 net profit falls 21.5%**

DUBAI: Oman's Raysut Cement reported a 21.5 percent drop in fourth-quarter net profit yesterday, according to Reuters calculations. The largest cement firm by market value in the sultanate made 5.14 million rials (\$13.4 million) in the three months ending Dec. 31, compared with 6.55 million rials in the same period of 2014. Gulf Baader Capital Markets forecast Raysut would make a quarterly net profit of 5.78 million rials. Raysut Cement didn't disclose a quarterly breakdown of its earnings so Reuters calculated the figure based on the bank's previous financial statements. Net profit for 2015 was 21.0 million rials, down 23.6 percent on the 27.4 million rials it earned in the previous year, a bourse filing said.

**Dubai's DAMAC Properties
Q4 net profit falls 12%**

DUBAI: Dubai's DAMAC Properties reported a 12 percent fall in fourth-quarter net profit yesterday, according to Reuters calculations. The developer reported a net profit of 844 million dirhams (\$229.8 million) for the three months to Dec. 31, Reuters calculated in the absence of a quarterly breakdown. This was up from 959.3 million dirhams a year earlier. DAMAC's 2015 full-year profit was 4.51 billion dirhams, up from 3.48 billion dirhams in 2014, the company said in a statement.

**CFC posts KD 8.57m
in net profit for 2015**

KUWAIT: Commercial Facilities Company (CFC) announced net profit totaling KD 8.57 million with 0.17 fils per share for the fiscal year 2015, compared to KD 10.8 million and 0.21 fps for the previous year. CFC said in a statement on Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) Thursday its total shares reached KD 168.2 million in end of 2015, compared to KD 169.7 million in the previous year. CFC total assets reached KD 333.2 million and overall liabilities amounted to KD 164.9 million in fiscal year 2015. The company was established in 1977 as the first Kuwaiti closed shareholding company, specialized in providing installment credit facilities to finance consumer and commercial products. CFC main services are financing deals in new, used cars, boats and marine equipment, furniture, electrical appliances, basic construction materials. It also grants personal cash loans and commercial loans.

**Egyptian pound weakens
on black market**

CAIRO: The Egyptian pound slipped further on the black market yesterday, piling more pressure on the central bank to devalue the currency even as the official rate against the dollar remained unchanged at an auction. Egypt, which relies heavily on imports for its food and energy needs, is facing a foreign currency crisis with the pound trading at substantially weaker rates on the black market than the rate set by the central bank. The central bank surprised the market in November when it strengthened the pound by 20 piasters and has held it steady at 7.73 pounds to the dollar since then. At yesterday auction, the bank sold \$38.8 million at a cut-off price of 7.7301 pounds to the dollar, unchanged from the previous auction on Tuesday.



PARIS: The logo of the French oil giant Total SA is seen at the entrance of the company headquarters in the La Defense business district, west of Paris. The French company said yesterday that profit adjusted for changes in the value of inventories and one-time items dropped to \$2.1 billion from \$2.8 billion in the same period a year earlier. —AP

TOTAL SLASHES INVESTMENT AMID OIL PRICE COLLAPSE

PARIS: French oil company Total said yesterday it had cut its investment target this year as it steps up efforts to drastically cut costs to counter a global collapse in oil prices.

Total said it would invest up to two billion dollars less in 2016 than originally planned, as it, like other oil giants, grapples with weak oil prices that have slumped around 70 percent since mid-2014 due to chronic oversupply. It will now invest only \$19 billion compared to its earlier plan for 20-21 billion, and down from the 23 billion it ploughed into investments in 2015, it said in a

statement. From 2017, the figure will then fall to 17-19 billion. US oil prices dipped close to a 12-year low underneath \$27 per barrel on Wednesday. "We have to be good on what we can control, our expenses. So we are going to continue to make efforts to control our expenses," chief executive Patrick Pouyanne told reporters. Total shares fell around 2.3 percent on the main Paris stock exchange, but still outperformed the wider Paris stock market. Total said it would also bolster operating cost reductions, which it planned this year would amount to \$2.4 billion,

up from \$1.5 billion last year. This would principally be in its upstream exploration activities, with the cut again rising to \$3.0 billion in 2017, it added. And its exploration budget, which was already slashed by around a third last year, will face further trimming by more than 20 percent to \$1.5 billion, it said. A hiring freeze will also continue, Pouyanne said without giving a figure. Headline net profit jumped 20 percent to \$5.1 billion in 2015 but Total said its adjusted net profit, excluding the impact of the company's own oil stocks, fell by 18 percent. — Reuters

OIL FALLS ON US SUPPLY RECORD, WEAK OUTLOOK

LONDON: Oil slid yesterday, dented by record US crude inventories at the Cushing delivery point, worries about the demand outlook, and as Goldman Sachs said prices would remain low and volatile until the second half of the year. In a sign that producers are still competing for market share by lowering prices, Iran offered its crude to Asia at a discount to rival OPEC producer Saudi Arabia.

Brent crude futures were down 31 cents at \$30.53 per barrel at 0850 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$26.76 per barrel, down 69 cents and not far off the \$26.19 intraday low hit in January that

was their weakest price since 2003.

"We're grinding lower on bearish fundamentals," Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodity analyst at SEB in Oslo, said. "There's a price fight within OPEC for Asian market share, and there are worries that storage capacity is going to be breached." He added that oil's fall was also part of a general move in global markets away from riskier assets.

Inventories at the Cushing, Oklahoma delivery point for US crude futures rose to an all-time high just shy of 65 million barrels, data from the government's Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday.

Goldman Sachs said the overhang in oil supplies, together with an economic slowdown in China, means prices will remain low until the second half of the year.

"The risks of China growth concerns and oil price downside ... materialized faster than we anticipated," the bank said in a client note. "We expect oil prices will continue to fluctuate between \$20 per barrel (operational stress level) and \$40 per barrel (financial stress level) with significant volatility and no price trend until 2H2016," it added.

Iran has priced its heavy crude oil in the physical market to Asian buyers slightly

cheaper than Saudi Arabia, an unusual move indicating Tehran is willing to offer discounts to regain market share following the lifting of sanctions. Iran traditionally sets monthly prices to customers in Asia its biggest market - in parallel with Saudi Arabian crude prices, yet for March it offered buyers its supplies at a discount of 10 cents per barrel compared to Arab Medium, a Saudi grade of similar quality.

Oil prices have fallen almost 75 percent since mid-2014 as competing producers pump 1-2 million barrels of crude every day in excess of demand, just as China's economy grows at its lowest rate in a generation. —w Reuters

US-IRANIAN BUSINESSMAN'S JAILING SENDS CHILLING MESSAGE TO INVESTORS

BRUSSELS: When Iran and the United States sealed the implementation of a deal to curb Tehran's nuclear program with a prisoner exchange last month, Siamak Namazi was among the detainees some expected to be freed by the Iranian authorities.

The businessman with dual US-Iranian citizenship was on a list of four prisoners to be released published by the official Islamic Republic News Agency and the Tabnak website on the day of the swap, Jan 16. His name was withdrawn with an apology but no explanation.

US Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters the following day he had commitments from Iran that Namazi's case would be resolved. But the 44-year-old Dubai-based executive, distinguished by the World Economic Forum as a "Young Global Leader", is still in Tehran's Evin prison, where former political inmates say torture is frequent during interrogations. Close friends say his conditions have deteriorated.

While Iran announces multi-billion-euro deals with European multinationals, Namazi's case sends a chilling message to expatriates who hope to participate in the economic opening following the lifting of sanctions. Far from being welcomed back for their skills and international connections, they may end up behind bars or worse.

Namazi has not been charged with any offence and Iranian justice authorities declined in response to Reuters requests to give an official explanation for his continued detention.

Asked what it was doing to win his release, the US State Department declined comment on the individual case, citing "privacy concerns". "The US government does everything and will continue to do everything it can on behalf of its citizens detained around the world who request our assistance," said Sam Werberg, press officer for the Office of Iranian Affairs.

Friends say Namazi may have become a pawn in factional struggles among hardliners, pragmatists and reformers, each with economic as well as political interests. Some fear he may be being softened up for a televised "confession" - a speciality of Iran's judicial system.

Conservatives close to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have warned that Iranian-Americans may use business ventures to infiltrate Iran and bring about a soft version of the "regime change" that US hawks have long sought to achieve in Tehran.

"They connect dual citizens like Siamak who are active in business and society as 'agents of infiltration', which is a complete misperception," said Bijan Khajepour, a Vienna-based business consultant who is Namazi's cousin by marriage.

Some Iranian political experts, unwilling to be identified because of the sensitivity of the case, say Namazi may have been arrested because he is seen as part of business circles close to ex-president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a veteran power broker.

Rafsanjani and current President Hassan Rouhani are backing pragmatic and reformist candidates in an effort to wrest control of parliament from conservatives in elections on Feb 26. Hardline clerics in the Guardian Council loyal to Khamenei have barred hundreds of candidates from contesting the poll, questioning their loyalty to the Islamic Republic system.

"LEFT BEHIND"

Five Iranian-American groups wrote to Kerry last week urging him to work for the release of Namazi, who they said had been "left behind". They called him "an American who has worked tirelessly as a bridge-builder of cultures, countries, and faiths". —Reuters



Siamak Namazi



BAGHDAD: Iraqi stock traders watch the sales screen at the Baghdad Stock Exchange, in Baghdad, Iraq. Plunging oil prices have pitched Iraq into a severe financial crisis as it struggles to combat the Islamic State group, play host to millions of refugees and rebuild cities and towns ravaged by war. —AP

IRAQ ECONOMY IN THE THROES OF A TURMOIL

PLUNGING OIL PRICES, CIVIL WAR LEAD TO FINANCIAL CRISIS

BAGHDAD: Plunging oil prices have pitched Iraq into a severe financial crisis as it struggles to combat the Islamic State group, play host to millions of refugees and rebuild cities and towns ravaged by war.

Iraq's economy is almost completely reliant on oil, which accounts for 95 percent of government revenues. With global prices hovering around \$30 a barrel, Iraq has had to draw on foreign exchange reserves to fill a shortfall in the 2016 budget, which anticipated \$45 per barrel.

In past years, when oil prices were closer to \$100 per barrel, Iraq had attracted foreign investment and rebuilt much of its oil infrastructure after decades of war and sanctions.

"We are now exporting greater quantities than ever before," said Oil Ministry spokesman Assim Jihad. "But in return the oil revenues have decreased."

The ministry says Iraq brought in a little over \$2 billion in oil revenues last month, down from \$3.3 billion in January 2015 and more than \$7 billion two years ago, before the IS onslaught. The International Monetary Fund says Iraq is expected to run a deficit of \$11 billion in 2016.

The private sector has also suffered. Taha Abdul-Salam, the executive director of the Baghdad Stock Exchange, says share prices fell by an

average of 27 percent from 2014 to 2015 due to the drop in oil prices. Iraq's Finance Minister Hoshiyar Zebari says it will be "a difficult and harsh year for all of us."

The crisis extends to Iraq's northern Kurdish region. Many of the Kurdish fighters known as the peshmerga - longtime US allies who have been among the most effective forces battling the IS group are not being paid, Masrour Barzani, head of the region's security council, told The Associated Press this week.

Hisham Al-Hashimi, a Baghdad-based security analyst, said he expects a similar scenario elsewhere in Iraq, as the central government struggles to pay soldiers and pro-government militias. He said many of the Shiite militiamen who have played a key role battling the IS group could be "laid off."

"There is not enough money to pay for them," he said. Iraq is also grappling with a major humanitarian crisis. The UN estimates that more than 3 million people have been forced from their homes since the IS group swept across northern and western Iraq in 2014, capturing the country's second largest city, Mosul. The government recently said it needs \$1.6 billion to respond to the crisis.

The cost of the war will mount even if Iraqi forces continue to advance. In the city of Ramadi west of

Baghdad, which was liberated from IS late last year, entire blocks were reduced to rubble and major streets were no longer recognizable. Similar devastation has been seen in other liberated cities and towns, and a costly reconstruction effort will be needed. Even before the IS onslaught and the plunge in oil prices, authorities struggled to maintain aging infrastructure and provide basic services like electricity. Years of corruption, mismanagement and war have taken their toll, and half-finished malls and apartment buildings dot the Iraqi capital.

A series of billboards advertise the 2010 groundbreaking ceremony on a luxury apartment complex complete with swimming pools, a cinema, a mall and a hotel. But the signs are now yellowing with age, as unused construction equipment sits beside a fenced-off crater.

Basil Jameel Antwan, an Iraqi economist, said poor management is ultimately to blame for Iraq's current economic woes. He still describes the economy as "promising," but says it is in need of a major overhaul, with investment in non-oil sectors like agriculture, industry and tourism.

He laments that "we were unable to rehabilitate (the economy) when we had excellent oil revenues and profits." — AP



This file photo taken on May 14, 2001 in Paris shows a 500 euros banknote. The European Central Bank is to decide on whether to keep printing 500-euro banknotes, as authorities increasingly suspected that the notes were being used for illicit purposes. — AFP

ECB TO DECIDE SOON ON FATE OF 500-EURO BANKNOTES

AUTHORITIES SUSPECT NOTES ARE BEING USED FOR ILLICIT PURPOSES

BERLIN: The European Central Bank will take a decision soon on whether to keep printing 500-euro banknotes, with the arguments for doing so becoming “less and less convincing”, a top-ranking official said yesterday. “We’re actively considering the question and will take a decision shortly,” executive board member Benoit Coeure told the French daily *Le Parisien* in an interview, when asked about the future of the euro area’s largest denomination banknote.

Authorities increasingly suspect that the notes are being used for illicit purposes, “an argument we cannot ignore given the importance of fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism,” Coeure said. Large denomination notes enable criminals to transport large sums of money in small volumes. The EU Commission said earlier this month that it planned to consult with the ECB and other parties concerned to decide whether action needed to be taken regarding the 500-euro note.

“From my point of view, the arguments in favour of keeping it are less and less convincing,” Coeure said, but acknowledged that some people, “notably in Germany” were concerned about the disappearance of payments in cash.

The 500-euro bills account for just three percent of the total number of banknotes in circulation, but 28 percent of the total value, according to ECB statistics. Any decision regarding their

possible withdrawal would be taken by the ECB’s governing council, the 25-member board comprising six executive board members and the 19 central bank governors of the member states.

But a number of experts have suggested that doing away with the 500-euro note would not be particularly effective in fighting crime.

“Organised crime isn’t stupid. Most money is laundered without cash via bogus companies,” said Friedrich Schneider, an expert on the shadow economy at the University of Linz in Austria in interviews to a number of German media recently. Another possible beneficial effect would be that it would become more inconvenient to hoard cash, another encouragement to spend and help push up the chronically low level of inflation, commentators argued.

But Coeure rejected such arguments.

“This decision has nothing to do with monetary policy,” he told *Le Parisien*.

Resistance to the plans appears to be particularly high in Germany, where most people still prefer to make payments in cash. And when the euro was created, it was Germany that had been keen to have a 500-euro bill because it was of a similar size denomination as its 1,000-deutschmark banknote. — AFP

ADIDAS OPTIMISTIC FOR YEAR AFTER BEATING 2015 TARGETS

FRANKFURT: Adidas said yesterday that it performed better than expected in 2015 and is confident for this year, even if the US market still appears to be something of an Achilles’ heel for the German maker of sportshoes and equipment.

In a welcome piece of news for the group which has long been struggling to catch up with arch-rival Nike, Adidas said in a statement that it “exceeded its top- and bottom-line financial targets in the past financial year.”

Adidas is bringing in a new chief executive later this year as it tries to keep pace with Nike in the key US market. In 2015, group sales grew by 16 percent to 16.9 billion euros (\$19 billion), driven primarily by double-digit growth in western Europe, China and Latin America as well as the Middle East, Asia and Africa region, Adidas said. And the “stellar” sales performance pushed net profit up by 12 percent to 720 million euros.

Adidas also owns the Reebok brand has long been struggling to keep up in the race in the key US market, but was recently overtaken there by upstart Under Armour.

Nevertheless, chief executive Herbert Hainer, who is to be succeeded by Kasper Rorsted later this year, insisted that Adidas was “in great shape.”

Forecasts upgraded

He insisted Adidas experienced “accelerated momentum in North America and Western Europe during the fourth quarter as well as continued double-digit growth in most emerging markets including Greater China.” “This gives us every confidence that we will again grow the top and bottom line at a double-digit rate” in 2016, Hainer said. As a consequence, the company “has increased its revenue guidance for 2016 and now expects group sales to grow at a double-digit rate,” or at least 10 percent, he added.

At the level of operating profit, too, earnings were now projected to grow “at a double-digit rate as well and, as a result, keep the 2016 operating margin at least stable compared to the 2015 level.” So far, Adidas has been pencilling in only single-digit growth in earnings and sales for 2016. The group’s confidence was welcomed by investors. Adidas shares were the sole gainers on the Frankfurt stock exchange yesterday, adding 0.49 percent, while the overall blue-chip DAX 30 index was showing a loss of 3.23 percent.

The share has performed well since it was announced last month that Danish-born Rorsted, currently chief executive of the consumer chemicals giant Henkel, has been poached to replace Hainer. Piral Dadhania, analyst at RBC Capital Markets estimated that Adidas shares had outperformed Nike and other similar stocks by more than 15 percent in recent months.

Adidas said that it had increased its “brand-building investments” by 20 percent in 2015. In a bid to gain ground in the United States, it has signed up 500 athletes from American football and baseball, including NBA star James Harden and quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Last month, media reports suggested that Adidas, the biggest sponsor of the scandal-hit International Association of Athletics Federations, is to end its multi-million dollar backing of the governing body four years early. The BBC said Adidas’s decision was related directly to the doping scandal engulfing global track and field. — AFP

PEPSICO MEETS 4Q PROFIT FORECASTS

PURCHASE, NY: PepsiCo Inc (PEP) yesterday reported fourth-quarter earnings of \$1.72 billion.

On a per-share basis, the Purchase, New York-based company said it had net income of \$1.17. Earnings, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to \$1.06 per share.

The results met Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of 11 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was also for earnings of \$1.06 per share. The food and beverage company posted revenue of \$18.59 billion in the period, beating Street forecasts. Six analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$18.52 billion.

PepsiCo expects full-year earnings to be \$4.66 per share. PepsiCo shares have decreased slightly more than 2 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor’s 500 index has declined slightly more than 9 percent. The stock has dropped slightly in the last 12 months. —AP



HAVERTHILL: Pepsi bottles are on display at a supermarket in Haverhill, Massachusetts. PepsiCo reports financial results yesterday. —AP



WASHINGTON: Federal Reserve Board Chair Janet Yellen smiles as she arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington to testify before the House Financial Services Committee hearing on monetary policy and the state of the economy. —AP

YELLEN WARNS OF RISING RISKS TO US ECONOMY

ANOTHER RATE HIKE LOOKS UNLIKELY

WASHINGTON: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen warned Wednesday that the US economy faced risks from tightening domestic financial conditions as well as global economic turmoil. Showing more pronounced concern over the economy than when she last spoke publicly, in December, Yellen's comments lessened the possibility of another interest rate increase in its next policy meeting in March.

"Financial conditions in the United States have recently become less supportive of growth, with declines in broad measures of equity prices, higher borrowing rates for riskier borrowers, and a further appreciation of the dollar," she told the House Financial Services Committee.

"These developments, if they prove persistent, could weigh on the outlook for economic activity and the labor market." She also singled out China's confusing policy on its yuan currency as stirring more turbulence in global markets including those for vital commodities, also threatening US growth.

But she made no predictions on rates, and stuck to the official view of the Fed's Federal Open Market Committee that the US economy should continue to grow at a moderate pace this year.

Yellen argued that, despite the warning clouds, recent employment gains and a tentative pickup in wages "should support the growth of real incomes and therefore con-

sumer spending."

That supported the Fed's pursuit of a "gradual" increase in interest rates, she said. Her comments disappointed many in markets expecting a more explicit sign that the Fed would back away from December's forecast of four quarter-point rate hikes this year. Indeed, the Fed chair bluntly dismissed questions of whether there could be a need to actually reduce rates, even into negative territory as the Japanese and European central banks have done.

"I do not expect that the FOMC is going to be soon in this situation where it's necessary to cut rates," she said. "Let's remember that the labor market is continuing to perform well."

China uncertainty

Yellen remained confident that the unemployment rate will continue to fall from the current 4.9 percent and that inflation, held extremely low by transient factors like the oil price crash, would eventually turn up toward the Fed's 2.0 percent target.

Analysts said nevertheless that her comments felt more dovish, less confident than when she announced the Fed's first interest rate hike in more than nine years in December. She told the panel Wednesday that market turmoil abroad was buffeting US economic momentum, and could drag down US growth.

The sharp fall in commodity prices—which she linked in part to "uncertainty" about China's economy and its currency policies—threatened to "trigger financial stresses" in commodity-exporting countries and companies. "Should any of these downside risks materialize, foreign activity and demand for US exports could weaken and financial market conditions could tighten further." Yellen's emphasis on the downside risks to the economy "makes an increase

in the funds rate in March very unlikely," said PNC Bank senior economist Gus Faucher.

"Yellen's testimony left open the door to a March hike, but laid out plenty of reasons for inaction too," said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics. Shepherdson said her ambiguity left room for the FOMC to wait for more economic data on the US and global economies over the next month to choose its path. Markets initially showed disappointment that Yellen did not spell out slower pace for rate rises, but were little-changed by the end of the day.

The dollar traded late Wednesday slightly lower at \$1.1291 per euro, after having strengthened immediately after her statement. On the stock market, the S&P 500 ended virtually unchanged helped by a tech stock rebound while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.6 percent. —AFP

ASSESSING YELLEN'S CONCERNS ABOUT ECONOMY, MARKETS

WASHINGTON: What's likely keeping Janet Yellen up at night? Everything from market volatility to weak overseas growth to a high-priced dollar that's made US exports pricier and imports cheaper, judging from the Fed chair's testimony Wednesday to Congress. It's a rather gloomier picture compared with two months ago, when the Fed raised the short-term interest rate it controls for the first time in nearly a decade. At that time, Fed officials pointed to a healthy pace of hiring, solid consumer spending and improvement in the housing market.

In her semiannual report to Congress, Yellen spent most of her time discussing the risks to the US economy, which also include less-than-optimal inflation and subpar growth in the final three months of 2015.

How likely are those trends to shape the Fed's timetable for rate increases? We asked Ryan Sweet, an economist and Fed watcher with Moody's Analytics:

Q. What's spooked the Fed since the beginning of the year?

A. There are two things: The first is the absence of any improvement in actual inflation (toward the Fed's 2 percent target). The Fed has put increased emphasis on improvements in the inflation data to justify raising rates a second time.

The other is that financial market conditions have tightened and are less supportive for growth, and I think that has created a lot of uncertainty. It's really difficult to gauge whether or not the tightening in financial markets has affected the real economy yet. The Fed needs time to assess whether or not the drop in stock prices is affecting consumer confidence, is affecting businesses' ability to raise capital, hire and invest.

So I think that's why Yellen was a little bit wishy-washy on the path of interest rates. Her baseline forecast is still that they're going to raise them very, very gradually.

Q. What do you mean by financial market conditions tightening? What does that involve? And how might it impact the broader economy?

A. First, the drop in equity prices can hurt our economy through a "negative wealth" effect: Stock prices fall, household wealth declines, people get a little bit nervous, they pull back on consumer spending. The Fed's also worried about the dollar, because of the disinflationary effect it has on the US economy. By their calculations, the appreciation of the dollar makes up almost the entire shortfall between current inflation and their 2 percent target. The Fed's also worried about volatility in the financial markets. Volatility can hurt our economy through confidence. But it also creates uncertainty, which causes businesses to pull back on hiring and investment.

Q. Are there any downsides to Yellen's explicit reference to the stock and bond markets in her testimony?

A. The attention that Yellen gave to the strains in financial market conditions was more than we had anticipated. This risks creating a "Yellen 'put'"—offering reassurance to traders that the Fed stands ready to help markets irrespective of what is going on in the economy. So the Fed needs to be careful in how they phrase how they're looking at financial market conditions.

Q. There's a gap between the market's view that the Fed is unlikely to hike rates this year and the forecasts of many analysts, yourself included, that the Fed could raise rates as many as two or three times in 2016. Does that mean stock prices could plummet if the Fed does raise rates?

A. Going forward, the Fed is really going to have to manage expectations well, because they don't want to surprise markets. Given that futures markets have the next rate hike out in 2017, that could be a little bit of a challenge for them. If they surprise markets, you could get a sharp sell-off in the bond market and in equities as well. —AFP

SWEDEN CUTS KEY INTEREST RATE TO RECORD LOW

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's central bank yesterday cut its key interest rate by 15 basis points to a new all-time low of -0.5 percent, citing the risk of slowing inflation and falling confidence in its monetary policy.

The bank moved its key rate into negative territory in February 2015 in a bid to encourage spending amid three years

of stagnant prices despite strong growth. "The economy continues to strengthen but inflation is expected to be lower during 2016 than previously forecast. The period of low inflation will therefore be longer," the Riksbank said in a statement.

"This increases the risk of weakening confidence in the inflation target and of inflation

not rising towards the target as expected," it said.

While the bank bases its monetary policy on an inflation target of 2.0 percent, it said it expected prices to rise by just 1.3 percent this year, lower than its previous forecast of 1.7 percent. Sweden's other economic indicators remain encouraging however: 3.5 percent growth is forecast for

2016, which is expected to help bring down the jobless rate by 0.6 points to 6.8 percent. The bank set no limit for how low it was willing to take its repo rate, recalling there was "still scope" to reduce it further and the bank was "ready to do more."

The Riksbank's medium-range forecast for the rate for early 2017 was 0.53 percent. The

bank reiterated that it was ready to intervene on the foreign exchange market if the Swedish currency, the krona, appreciates so quickly that it would threaten an upturn in inflation. If it were to do so, that would be the first time it intervened since 2002, when the bank did so with the opposite aim of supporting the currency. —AFP

AUSTRALIA, S AFRICA WIN GAMES IN WBC QUALIFYING

SYDNEY: Australia scored seven runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, the final two on a throwing error, to beat the Philippines 11-1 yesterday in a World Baseball Classic qualifying game shortened by the mercy rule.

The home side had 11 hits and was helped by three errors by the Philippines. Under the tournament mercy rule, the game ends when a team leads by 15 runs after five innings or 10 runs after seven.

Earlier, Seattle Mariners prospect Dylan Unsworth allowed two hits over eight shutout innings and designated hitter Brett Willemburg had two hits and drove in two runs to lead South Africa to a 7-1 win over New Zealand.

The results set up Friday's games between the Philippines and New Zealand and a night game between South Africa and Australia at Blacktown in western Sydney. The winner from the four-team tournament, which ends Sunday, will qualify for next year's 16-team World Baseball Classic. Unsworth, a 23-year-old right-hander who reached Double-A last season, induced 15 ground balls and retired the first 11 New Zealanders he faced. He struck out the side in his final inning.

"When we arrived in Australia, one of the guys we targeted for this game was going to be Dylan," South Africa manager Alan Phillips said of Unsworth. "He is probably our most experienced starter."

South Africa took advantage of some New Zealand fielding miscues in the top of the third inning, scoring two runs on two hits, a wild pitch and two errors.

New Zealand starter Scott Cone was taken out of the game with two outs in the third, having allowed one unearned run on one hit with two walks and two hit batters in 2 2/3 innings. He was replaced by his brother Ben Cone, who gave up two runs on two hits before ending the inning.

South Africa added four runs in the top of the ninth inning to put the game out of reach for the New Zealanders. Other WBC qualifying tournaments will be held from March 17-20 in Mexicali, Mexico (Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico and Nicaragua),

and Panama City, Panama (Colombia, France, Panama and Spain); and from Sept. 22-25 in Brooklyn, New York (Brazil, Britain, Israel and Pakistan).

Australia, Brazil, Mexico and Spain finished last in their respective pools in 2013, forcing them to requalify. Qualifiers will join Canada, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Taiwan, the United States and Venezuela in next year's tournament. It is expected to be held in March 2017 though a host country or countries have not been announced.

The Dominican Republic won the 2013 title, beating Puerto Rico 3-0 in San Francisco. — AP



ITEN: Kenyan athletes stretching after their morning workout at the Kamariny stadium at Iten in the Rift Valley, some 329 kms north of Nairobi. Top Kenyan athlete Francisca Koki, suspended for doping, said she and fellow runner Joyce Zakari were asked to pay nearly \$50,000 in bribes to the national athletics federation chief to help the case. — AFP

KENYAN FEDERATION CEO DISMISSES BRIBERY CLAIM

NAIROBI: Top Kenyan athlete Francisca Koki, suspended for doping, said she and fellow runner Joyce Zakari were asked to pay nearly \$50,000 in bribes to the national athletics federation chief to help the case.

Sprinters Koki and Zakari, suspended for doping violations at the Beijing World Championships, claimed Athletics Kenya chief executive officer Isaac Mwangi asked them for the bribe but they were unable to pay.

"The two of us were asked to give 2.5 million shillings (\$24,000, 21,000 euros) each by the Athletics Kenya's Isaac Mwangi," Koki told AFP. "We could not afford such a big sum of money... for me I have never even seen such an amount. I just started running recently and I have not been able to make much money."

Mwangi has denied the claims. Both Koki and Zakari were each given a four-year ban after being found guilty of using a prohibited substance, Furosemide, in Beijing in August 2015. Koki, a 400m hurdler, said she and Zakari were asked for cash in October, a month before their suspension.

ATHLETICS SOURCE OF PRIDE

"We thought it was unfair for an official to ask for money from us, especially when

we were in such a kind of a desperate situation after we had been kept in suspense for a long time before the four-year suspension was imposed on us," Koki said.

"We are crying for our case to be heard, because we believe many other athletes have been faced with the same dilemma."

She said she had spoken to IAAF officials on the matter. Mwangi said he had spoken to both Koki and Zakari, but dismissed their claims he had asked for a bribe. "It is not true that I asked for money from them," Mwangi insisted to AFP. The success of Kenya at Beijing — topping the medals table for the first time since the championships started in 1983, taking seven golds, six silvers and three bronze medals — was tarnished after Koki and Zakari failed drugs tests.

After the pair tested positive in Beijing, Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto announced plans to criminalise doping.

'SUCH A BIG AMOUNT'

Many in Kenya fear doping is rife among their top class runners, who have been the source of enormous national pride. More than 40 Kenyan athletes have been suspended for doping in the past two years.

Other runners claim they have also

been asked for cash to shorten their ban.

Family of a former top runner who has also been banned said the athlete was asked for "such a big amount", too much for them to pay. In December, three top Athletics Kenya officials including president David Isaiiah Kiplagat, deputy president David Okeyo and former treasurer Joseph Kinyua were suspended by the IAAF ethics Commission for alleged corruption and covering up doping.

The IAAF Ethics Commission has appointed a Kenyan lawyer, Sharad Rao, to carry out investigations on the three officials. The IAAF confirmed last November that ex-AK vice-president Okeyo had been under investigation by Kenyan police over allegations of doping cover-ups. A German broadcaster had alleged that Kenya officials were extorting money from athletes and coaches to cover up failed drug tests, in return for lenient doping bans.

Kenya, which is placed near the bottom of Transparency International's annual corruption index, coming in 145th out of 174, has long been blighted by graft.

In November, a dozen foreign diplomats representing Kenya's biggest donors criticised its failure to tackle the corruption "crisis" and threatened to impose travel bans on wrongdoers. — AFP

COE 'WON'T ACCEPT' NESTLE SPLIT WITH SCANDAL-HIT IAAF

GENEVA: World athletics chief Sebastian Coe on Wednesday angrily hit back at Nestle's move to terminate its sponsorship of the scandal-hit IAAF, insisting he will not accept the decision. Nestle, the world's largest food company, became in 2012 the main sponsor of a programme aimed at promoting athletics for youths worldwide. It was reported to be worth \$1 million a year.

"Angered and dismayed by today's kids' athletics announcement. We will not accept it. It's the kids who will suffer," said International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) president Coe in a brief statement.

Nestle said they were concerned over fears that the corruption and doping scandals surrounding the sport could damage the company's reputation. "I confirm that we have decided to end our partnership with the IAAF Kids Athletics programme with immediate effect," Nestle spokeswoman Lydia Meziani told AFP in an email.

"This decision was taken in light of negative publicity associated with allegations of corruption and doping in sport made against the IAAF," she added.

Meziani said Nestle decided to "terminate (its) existing relationship with the IAAF" because a continued partnership "could negatively impact our reputation and image."

The IAAF is facing crises on multiple fronts, including widespread allegations of corruption and bribery under disgraced former boss Lamine Diack. Before Coe's tough-talking reaction to Nestle's decision, the world body had been keen to stress the benefits of its partnership with Nestle. "The IAAF is in discussion with Nestle concerning the final year of its five-year partnership with IAAF Kids' Athletics," said the IAAF in a statement.

"This has been a successful programme with 15 million kids aged seven to 12 years in 76 countries taking part in fun team activities which promotes a healthy, active lifestyle. "In 2016 IAAF Kids' Athletics plans to reach a further 15 countries, training 360 lecturers, instructing 8,640 physical education teachers, with three million children participating by the end of the activation."

Separately, Coe has faced criticism following Russia's ban from the sport for what a commission of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) described as "state-sponsored" doping. WADA's report claimed that the IAAF governing council must have known about corruption orchestrated by Diack, and about doping in Russia.

Since the scandals broke, Coe has been travelling the globe, notably in Asia, where he has sought to shore up support for IAAF, hoping to ease the concerns of corporate backers weary of being tied to a tainted organisation. — AFP



Sebastian Coe

TAYLOR REPLACES SCOTT IN ONLY SCOTLAND CHANGE

GLASGOW: Saracens centre Duncan Taylor replaced Edinburgh's Matt Scott in the only change to the Scotland team announced yesterday for tomorrow's Six Nations showdown with Wales in Cardiff.

Scott has been ruled out with a thigh muscle injury sustained in training on Wednesday, enabling Taylor to come in for his first start since 2014 following two injury-hit seasons. Scotland are bidding to bounce back from their 15-9 defeat by England at Murrayfield last weekend.

"This group have worked exceptionally hard this week to improve their accuracy under pressure after a frustrating opening game against England," said

head coach Vern Cotter. "We created opportunities that could have been capitalised upon and converted into points. As a team we know we can perform better and believe we're capable of making improvements all over the park.

"We know that Wales in Cardiff will not be easy, but our focus is on improving our attacking and defensive mindset." Taylor, 26, won the last of his 13 Scotland caps during the 2014 tour of the United States, but he has impressed for Saracens in the time since, helping them to glory in the English Premiership last season.

In an otherwise unchanged back division, Stuart Hogg, Sean Maitland and

Tommy Seymour make up the back three, with Finn Russell at fly-half and skipper Greig Laidlaw at scrum-half.

The pack retains its all-Edinburgh front three of Alasdair Dickinson, Ross Ford and Willem Nel, with brothers Jonny and Richie Gray at lock and John Barclay, John Hardie and David Denton in the back row.

The only other change to the match-day 23 sees experienced Glasgow wing Sean Lamont take Taylor's place among the replacements.

Scotland got a hiding on their last trip to the newly renamed Principality Stadium, crashing to a 51-3 defeat in

2014. Wales won 26-23 when the teams last met at Murrayfield last year.

Scotland team (15-1) announced on Thursday to play Wales in Saturday's Six Nations match at Cardiff's Principality Stadium (1650 GMT kick-off): Stuart Hogg; Sean Maitland, Mark Bennett, Duncan Taylor, Tommy Seymour; Finn Russell, Greig Laidlaw (capt); David Denton, John Hardie, John Barclay; Jonny Gray, Richie Gray; WP Nel, Ross Ford, Alasdair Dickinson Replacements: Stuart McInally, Gordon Reid, Zander Fagerson, Tim Swinson, Blair Cowan, Sam Hidalgo-Clyne, Duncan Weir, Sean Lamont. — AFP

FRANCE MAKE 6 CHANGES FOR IRELAND CLASH IN 6 NATIONS

PARIS: France made six changes from the side that pipped Italy 23-21 for the Six Nations match against defending champion Ireland tomorrow.

Four newcomers were in the starting lineup against Italy, and squeezed out a win thanks to flyhalf Jules Plisson's mammoth late kick from 54 meters. Knowing that Ireland will pose a far greater threat in the scrum, France coach Guy Noves changed his props on Thursday - drafting in the less mobile but sturdier Uini Atonio for Rabah Slimani and Jefferson Poirat for Eddy Ben Arous.

"Against Italy we did some things well. But in other areas, we were far away from the international level," Noves said. "We must improve in terms of our defensive play, especially with this Irish armada coming." Yacouba Camara replaced No. 8 Louis Picamoles, and Alexandre Flanquart took the place of Paul Jedrasiak at lock. That meant Damien Chouly, a try scorer against Italy, took the No. 8 jersey and Camara will play flanker. In the backs, Teddy Thomas replaced Hugo Bonneval on the right wing, and Maxime Mermoz stepped in for Gael Fickou at outside center. France will sorely miss the experience of Picamoles against Ireland. He is likely to miss the rest of the Six Nations after tearing his right hamstring shortly after left winger Virimi Vakatawa's early debut try against Italy.

"We will see if our back row can match up to Ireland," Noves said. "Yacouba is playing only his second test. Is he up to the challenge? We'll see." Bonneval got France's other try against Italy, but Noves wants to take another look at Thomas - who grabbed a hat trick on debut against Fiji in November 2014, another try against Australia in the following test, but then drifted off the scene.

"Teddy has a certain talent, I've been watching him for the past few months," Noves said. "He has the chance to make an impression in this young squad. But this doesn't call into question Hugo's talent, not at all." Fickou was absent for personal reasons, and was not on the bench for the match at Stade de France, giving Mermoz another chance to re-ignite his stop-start international career.

A deceptive runner with good hands, Mermoz played in the 2011 Rugby World Cup final loss to New Zealand, but was never an integral part of incoming coach Philippe Saint-Andre's plans following that tournament, and missed last year's World Cup. — AP



LONDON: Australian Wallabies player David Pocock celebrating after winning their semi-final match of the 2015 Rugby World Cup against Argentina at Twickenham Stadium in London. Australian Rugby Union chief Bill Pulver said yesterday, he is open to star backrower David Pocock taking a sabbatical and is not ruling out any option that allows him to retain top players. — AFP



ROTTERDAM: Serbia's Viktor Troicki returns the ball to South Korea's Hyeon Chung during their second round match of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam, Netherlands, yesterday. — AFP

MARIN CILIC BATTLES THROUGH IN ROTTERDAM

ROTTERDAM: Marin Cilic fought through to the Rotterdam World Tennis quarter-finals with a 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (9/7) defeat of Luxembourg veteran Gilles Muller yesterday.

Victory in the two-hour meeting sent the second-seeded Croatian into a last-eight battle with Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber, a winner over Ivan Dodig of Croatia 6-4, 6-2.

Cilic, the 2014 US Open champion, was out-aced by the 40th-ranked Muller, nine to eight in a match without a single break of serve. A pair of French seeds claimed wins, with number three Gilles Simon sending the last Dutchman home with his 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 defeat of Robin Haase, who lost a 4-1 lead in the opening set.

"To be honest Robin deserved to win the first set," Simon said. "I survived with some luck. I was warned because the matches against Robin are always tough." Simon will play for a quarter-final place against German teenager Alexander Zverev, who beat Canadian Vasek Pospisil 7-5, 6-2.

Gael Monfils, the number five, beat

Croatian teen Borna Coric 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, with the Frenchman saving 10 of 13 break points. Cilic was runner-up at the Ahoy stadium two years ago and with the injury pullout of French top seed Richard Gasquet is now considered a top title favourite at the event which was to have also featured Roger Federer, now recovering from last week's minor knee surgery.

The winner of 14 titles, Cilic said his level has been improving after playing and winning a pair of tough matches this week.

"I played better today than the first day," the world number 13 said. "This was a very close match-two tiebreakers and no breaks.

"In the second I was returning better and got into his service game. But I had to stay mentally concentrated. I was also lucky in the tiebreakers."

The Croatian faces Kohlschreiber for the ninth time, having lost five previous meetings to the 32nd-ranked German.

"If you can have a couple of tough matches and get through them, you start to play better," Cilic said. "I've adjusted to

the tight situations. I'm always glad to win matches like this."

In the first round, Spanish sixth seed Roberto Bautista Agut carried momentum from his weekend title in Sofia into his opening match as he defeated Portugal's Joao Sousa 7-6 (7/4), 1-6, 6-3.

Bautista Agut, ranked 17th, already owns two 2016 titles and improved his record to 13-2 since the start of the year. He next plays Czech Jiri Vesely.

Sousa saved a pair of match points before falling on a third. "It was not an easy match," Bautista Agut said. "I had a bad second set, but in the third I really lifted my level again.

"There were a lot of rallies and long points. I'm off to my best start of a season and I hope to keep it up," said the Spaniard.

"I've played well in my last matches and I want to continue like this and get as many wins as possible this week."

Jeremy Chardy beat Evgeny Donskoy 6-7 (9/11), 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) after the Russian was inserted into the draw as a lucky loser following the pullout of Gasquet. — AFP

NHL results/standings

Detroit 3, Ottawa 1; NY Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 0; Vancouver 2, Arizona 1.

Western Conference
Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Chicago	36	17	4	159	130	76
Dallas	34	15	5	176	147	73
St. Louis	30	17	9	136	134	69
Nashville	25	21	8	141	145	58
Colorado	27	25	4	150	155	58
Minnesota	23	20	10	130	132	56
Winnipeg	24	26	3	138	153	51

Pacific Division

Los Angeles	32	17	3	146	121	67
San Jose	28	20	4	151	139	60
Anaheim	26	19	7	119	124	59
Vancouver	22	20	12	129	147	56
Arizona	24	23	6	140	164	54
Calgary	24	25	3	139	153	51
Edmonton	21	29	5	137	167	47

Eastern Conference
Atlantic Division

Florida	32	16	6	155	123	70
Detroit	28	18	8	137	135	64
Tampa Bay	29	20	4	142	130	62
Boston	28	19	6	157	147	62
Montreal	27	24	4	151	146	58
Ottawa	25	24	6	158	173	56
Buffalo	21	27	6	125	150	48
Toronto	19	24	9	125	149	47

Metropolitan Division

Washington	39	9	4	174	118	82
NY Rangers	31	18	5	156	137	67
NY Islanders	28	18	6	149	132	62
Pittsburgh	27	19	7	139	138	61
New Jersey	27	21	7	124	129	61
Carolina	24	21	9	130	144	57
Philadelphia	23	20	9	124	142	55
Columbus	21	28	6	140	173	48

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

WI TO MEET INDIA IN U-19 WORLD CUP FINAL

DHAKA: West Indies recorded a hard-fought three-wicket win over hosts Bangladesh to set up a final against India in the ICC Under-19 World Cup in Dhaka yesterday.

All-rounder Shamar Springer orchestrated the win with an unbeaten 62 off 88 balls and 2-36 as the young Caribbean side reached 230-7 in 48.4 overs after restricting Bangladesh to 226-9 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The final will be held at the same venue on February 14. Skipper Shimron Hetmyer also played a big part in a crucial chase with 60 off 59 balls.

Bangladesh skipper Mehedi Hasan won the toss and opted to bat but the team soon found themselves in trouble, losing the first five wickets for 113 runs. Mehedi made 60 off 74 balls and shared 85 runs with Mohammad Saifuddin (36) for the sixth wicket to give the innings some respectability. Pacer Keemo Paul (3-20) dismissed Mehedi and Saifuddin off successive balls to deny Bangladesh any chance of getting a bigger total. West Indies made a quick start in pursuit of a modest target thanks to Gidron Pope's 38 off 25 balls, but Mehedi brought Bangladesh back into the contest with two wickets.

Hetmyer kept West Indies on track with his second 50 in as many matches before he was removed by Saifuddin. Left-arm spinner Saleh Ahmed claimed 3-37 to give Bangladesh a glimmer of hope but Springer, who benefited from a dropped catch off Saifuddin on 15, kept his cool to complete the win.

India defeated Sri Lanka by 97 runs in the first semi-final.

Brief scores: Bangladesh Under-19s: 226-9 in 50 overs (Mehedi Hasan 60, Mohammad Saifuddin 36; Keemo Paul 3-20). West Indies Under-19s: 230-7 in 48.4 overs (Shamar Springer 62 not out, Shimron Hetmyer 60; Saleh Ahmed 3-37). — AFP

LUNDQVIST STOPS 34 SHOTS, RANGERS BLANK PENGUINS

PITTSBURGH: Henrik Lundqvist stopped 34 shots for his third shutout of the season and 58th of his career, leading the New York Rangers past the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-0 on Wednesday night. Lundqvist, who recorded his 27th win of the season, passed Martin Brodeur for most wins by a goaltender in his first 11 NHL seasons. Kevin Hayes, Dominic Moore and Jesper Fast scored for the Rangers, who won their fourth straight, and fifth in six games. Penguins captain Sidney Crosby, who didn't record a shot in the first two periods, failed to extend a career-high seven-game goal-scoring streak. Pittsburgh's six-game home win streak ended.

RED WINGS 3, SENATORS 1

Danny DeKeyser and Henrik Zetterberg scored early in the first and third periods to help the Detroit Red Wings beat the Ottawa Senators and spoil Dion Phaneuf's debut with his new team. Petr Mrazek stopped 22 shots and his bid for a second straight shutout ended with 2:24 left when Zach Smith scored. Darren Helm restored Detroit's two-goal lead with an empty-net goal about a minute later. Phaneuf was acquired Tuesday in a nine-player trade with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

CANUCKS 2, COYOTES 1

Ryan Miller stopped 34 shots to end a five-game losing streak and extend his dominance over Arizona, lifting Vancouver past the Coyotes. Jake Virtanen scored in the first period and Jannik Hansen had his 16th of the season on a double carom off two Coyotes players in the second. Miller improved to 9-1 against Arizona, including 6-0 in Glendale. Martin Hanzal scored a power-play goal and Louis Domingue stopped 24 shots for the Coyotes. They have lost five straight and nine of 11. — AP



PITTSBURGH: New York Rangers' Kevin Hayes (13) gets a shot past a sprawling Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury (29) for a goal during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh, Wednesday. The Rangers won 3-0. — AP

MONTH BEFORE TOURNAMENT, WT20 PROBLEMS MOUNT

NEW DELHI: Storm clouds were gathering yesterday over cricket's World Twenty20, with organisers still to release tickets or confirm the venues, less than a month before the tournament begins in India.

Hundreds of thousands of supporters are expected to attend the 16-team contest which begins on March 8, the first time India has hosted the world cup for the game's newest and most popular format.

But with question marks over the presence of the West Indies and New Delhi yet to receive clearance to host matches, fans who need to secure flights, hotels and even visas are still unable to firm up travel plans.

The official line from the Indian board is that any glitches will be ironed out and there is no cause for alarm. "Everything will be sorted out very soon," Anurag Thakur, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told AFP.

But Paul Ford, co-founder of New Zealand's Beige Brigade fan club, said it was now simply too late for some fans. "We would have loved to travel to India as New Zealand have a good team this time round," Ford told AFP.

"But the delay in ticket sales and the venue being undecided has really made it hard for the fans to plan their travel."

Tickets for other major sporting events in 2016 such as the Rio Olympics

in August and football's European Championships which take place in France in June went on sale months ago. Thakur told reporters last Friday that tickets would be released at the start of this week, a month before the first matches involving the tournament's minnows.

But that deadline came and went and organisers have set next Monday as their new target, a month before India play New Zealand in the first heavy-weight clash. The delay can be explained in part by the uncertainty over whether New Delhi's Firoz Shah Kotla stadium will receive all the permits needed to stage its four matches-including the first semi-final.—AFP

LEICESTER AND TOTTENHAM FACE HUGE TITLE TESTS

LONDON: Leicester City will be wary of a reality check when the Premier League front-runners visit Arsenal on Sunday before Tottenham Hotspur's burgeoning title ambitions come under scrutiny at Manchester City. A quirk of the fixture list has pitted the top four against each other and although there are still 13 matches to go, this weekend could prove pivotal.

Against all the odds, Leicester have sustained their push for a first-ever English top-flight title, and their magnificent 3-1 win at Manchester City last time out finally convinced bookmakers to install them as favourites. Tottenham's odds for a first English title since 1961 also shortened after they eased into second spot, five

points behind Leicester, with a narrow victory over Watford last weekend. While Arsenal and Manchester City, third and fourth respectively, are familiar with the home stretch of a title chase, once described by former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson as "squeaky bum time", Leicester and Tottenham are entering unfamiliar territory.

Leicester spent most of the past decade outside the Premier League, while Tottenham's target is usually a top-four finish, something they have achieved only twice since 1992. With the pressure mounting, Arsenal, who are also five points behind the leaders, will probe for mental cracks having inflicted one of only

two league defeats this season on Leicester.

That was a 5-2 hammering at the King Power Stadium in September—a result many expected would precipitate a return to the lower regions of the table.

Instead, it sparked a 10-match unbeaten run that was halted by Liverpool in December, since when Leicester have scaled the summit on the back of another seven-game stretch without defeat. Arsenal are chasing a first title since 2005 but have stuttered since the turn of the year and victory at Bournemouth last week was their first in five games.

With a huge Champions League tie looming against Barcelona, beating

Leicester would give Arsene Wenger's side momentum with which to attack the final months of the season. Manchester City, six points adrift of Leicester, plundered 10 goals in Tottenham's last two league visits to the Etihad Stadium with Sergio Aguero scoring six of them. They also won 5-1 at Tottenham in 2014, but have already experienced Tottenham's rapid improvement this season, going down 4-1 at White Hart Lane in September. While it looks likely the title will be contested by the current top four, Manchester United are lurking in fifth place, six behind City, and are still eyeing a Champions League spot. They visit struggling Sunderland tomorrow. — Reuters

FIFA CANDIDATE ALI QUERIES SALMAN'S ROLE IN BAHRAIN PROTESTS

GENEVA: FIFA presidential candidate Prince Ali has questioned the role of election rival Sheikh Salman in not protecting Bahrain players who alleged abuses after pro-democracy protests in 2011.

In the strongest statement yet on human rights ahead of the Feb. 26 election, the Jordanian prince dismissed the sheikh's consistent defense that national security issues are beyond the control of sports leaders.

"How are you then going to earn the respect of the entire world and players across the world, as well as FAs (football associations), if you couldn't even take care of your own?" Prince Ali told reporters yesterday after a news conference



Prince Ali

near the United Nations office in Geneva.

Sheikh Salman has become front-runner in a FIFA campaign he began by strongly denying any part in helping to identify athletes who took part in Arab Spring protests five years ago.

Some Bahrain team players alleged they were tortured by government forces while detained for attending pro-democracy events.

Sheikh Salman was then president of the Bahrain Football

Association, and has often said government issues are not the duty of sports leaders.

"Whatever is related to the political side and government side is not a concern of mine," the sheikh told the Associated Press in an interview in Paris on Tuesday. "We are people of football. They can ask me anything that is related to the game."

Prince Ali rejected that argument Thursday, two weeks ahead of the five-man election. "If a candidate was in a position before and simply says that, 'Those issues are to do with politics and therefore I cannot interfere?' No," the prince told a small group of reporters. "If you are not

going to take care of your own players and if you are not going to stick up for them, that in itself is a problem." In the earlier news conference, the prince replied to a question about human rights in Bahrain by saying the protection of players was a "simple, basic fact of the matter."

Still, Prince Ali acknowledged that a candidate's record on human rights was for the FIFA election committee to decide.

The three-member FIFA election panel approved Sheikh Salman's candidacy in November after weighing an analysis by the governing body's ethics committee.

"I give the benefit of the doubt to everyone," said Prince Ali, whose home nation Jordan also saw pro-democracy protests in 2011 on a lower level than Bahrain. — AP



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (C) scores during the French Cup round of 16 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) vs Lyon (OL) yesterday at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. — AFP

IBRAHIMOVIC SENDS PSG INTO FRENCH CUP QUARTERS

PARIS: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice as holders Paris Saint-Germain eased past Lyon 3-0 to reach the quarter-finals of the French Cup on Wednesday, extending the capital club's winning run to 16 matches. Ibrahimovic bundled in the opening goal just past the hour at the Parc des Princes, and the Swede added a second soon after as PSG began to turn the screw. Adrien Rabiot then netted a third on 75 minutes, with Laurent Blanc's men staying firmly on course to repeat last year's domestic treble. PSG will travel to six-time winners Saint-Etienne in the last eight having already knocked Christophe Galtier's side out of the French League Cup in December.

"We didn't start too well, we were a bit better towards the end of the first half. But we were much better in the second period," Rabiot told France 3. Blanc's side host Chelsea in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie next Tuesday, but first they are at home to Lille on Saturday. "As of Sunday, we'll start preparing for the

game against Chelsea. The game against Lille, with all respect to Lille, is badly timed," said the coach. "The calendar can't get any tighter. If you talk to me about the fixture list, I get heated, so it's better to avoid it."

Blanc handed Edinson Cavani, relegated to several substitute appearances in Ligue 1 since the turn of the year, a start in place of Angel Di Maria, while midfielder Blaise Matuidi made way for Benjamin Stambouli. A quiet first half saw Paris fail to register a single shot on target, with Cavani wasting the home side's best opportunity when he steered wide after Lucas picked out the Uruguayan just inside the area. Maxwell Cornet went close to giving Lyon the lead five minutes before the break, but Salvatore Sirigu flung himself to his left to brilliantly turn behind the teenager's curling effort.

Ibrahimovic drilled narrowly wide early in the second period, but PSG's mounting pressure eventually told on 63 minutes as

Lucas burst down the left-hand side before crossing for Ibrahimovic to chest home. The Swede struck again just four minutes later when Serge Aurier slid in a low cross from the right for Ibrahimovic, who was marginally offside, to poke beyond Anthony Lopes.

Alexandre Lacazette blazed over as Bruno Genesio's men sought to reduce the deficit, and the visitors were understandably aggrieved when Rabiot, clearly behind the last defender, converted Maxwell's left-wing cross to seal a fourth win in as many attempts over Lyon this season.

Earlier, Nantes came from behind in extra time to claim a thrilling 4-3 victory at Bordeaux, with US international Alejandro Bedoya netting a 118th-minute winner.

Saint-Etienne also needed extra time to see off Ligue 1's bottom side Troyes as France Under-21 forward Neal Maupay struck the decisive blow in the 107th minute, while Lorient thumped fourth-tier Sarre-Union 4-0. — AFP

LEWANDOWSKI BRACE FIRES BAYERN INTO CUP SEMIS

BERLIN: Robert Lewandowski netted twice to seal Bayern Munich's 3-0 win at ten-man minnows VfL Bochum on Wednesday to reach the German Cup semi-finals. Bayern have drawn Werder Bremen at home, while Hertha Berlin will host Borussia Dortmund, in the semi-finals to be played on April 19-20.

This is the seventh straight year Bayern have reached the last four having lifted the trophy a record 17 times. Pep Guardiola-coached Bayern had few problems at second-division Bochum and should have won by more after Thomas Mueller had a first-half penalty saved.

"Before we scored the first goal, it wasn't easy. Bochum played well and it's always dangerous in the cup," said Lewandowski. The Poland hot-shot gave Bayern the lead on 39 minutes with a fierce shot from the right. Bochum were

reduced to ten men when defender Jan Simunek was sent off for bringing down Arjen Robben on the edge of the area on 43 minutes.

"I think that was a dive (from Robben) and it wasn't a red card," Bochum coach Gertjan Verbeek told Sky. "You can't win with 10 men against Bayern Munich, but we worked unbelievably hard."

But Robben was adamant he was brought down. "He was the last man, it was a clear foul. Those are the rules and, besides, the game was decided after that," said Netherlands captain Robben.

When the resulting spot-kick was eventually taken, Mueller's weak penalty attempt just before the break was saved by Bochum goalkeeper Manuel Riemann.

But Bayern made sure of their place in the semis when Thiago Alcantara converted Mueller's superb cross on 61 minutes.

Lewandowski then added their third just before the final whistle to claim his 29th goal in all competitions. Earlier, Hertha ended their 35-year wait to reach the semi-finals as Japan midfielder Genki Haraguchi sealed a 3-2 win at second-division side Heidenheim.

The hosts took an early lead when defender Arne Feick was left unmarked from a free-kick to head home on 10 minutes. But Hertha's Vedad Ibisevic netted twice to put Berlin 2-1 up after 21 minutes as heavy snow fell in southern Germany.

Haraguchi scored the third when he beat two defenders on a mazy dribble before beating the goalkeeper on 58 minutes. There was a nervous final few minutes as Heidenheim pulled a goal back when Marc Schnatterer netted a late penalty.

Hertha are now just one game away

from a home cup final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 21.

The last time Hertha were in the last four was in 1985, almost a decade before winger Mitchell Weiser, who set up both of Ibisevic's goals, was born.

"We got off to a bad start, but we ended up dominating. Now we want to reach the final," said right-back Weiser. On Tuesday, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang claimed his 30th goal of the season as Dortmund won 3-1 at VfB Stuttgart.

Gabon striker Aubameyang and Germany winger Marco Reus, who have provided 45 of Dortmund's goals in all competitions this season, netted before Henrik Mkhitaryan claimed their late third.

Veteran Claudio Pizarro helped seal Bremen's 3-1 win at ten-man Bayer Leverkusen by creating and scoring a goal in their shock victory. — AFP



VALENCIA: Barcelona's Ivan Rakitic duels for the ball with Valencia's Ruben Vezo during a semifinal, second leg, Copa del Rey soccer match between Valencia and Barcelona, at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, Spain, Wednesday. — AP

BARCA SET UNBEATEN RECORD TO SEE OFF NEVILLE'S VALENCIA

MADRID: Barcelona broke the club record with its 29th consecutive unbeaten game when its second-stringers salvaged a 1-1 draw against Valencia in the Copa del Rey semifinals on Wednesday.

Barcelona reached its third straight Copa final 8-1 on aggregate after it won the first leg 7-0 at the Camp Nou last week. Striker Alvaro Negredo gave Valencia the lead in a breakaway before halftime, but Cameroon-born youngster Wilfried Kaptoun, a member of Barcelona's B team, equalized in the 84th, two minutes into his senior debut.

Barcelona eclipsed the record it shared with Pep Guardiola's 2011 squad, despite playing without nearly all of its regular starters at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, including Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, and Neymar. Coach Luis Enrique used youngsters, with Ivan Rakitic the only experienced starter. "Honestly, the record wasn't our main

goal," Rakitic said. "We are happy, but the most important thing is to win titles at the end of the season. We would all exchange the record for titles."

The draw should increase pressure on Valencia coach Gary Neville, the former England defender who has been struggling in his first head-coaching job. He also used second-stringers in his squad, resting some of the starters for the Spanish league game against Espanyol on Saturday.

Barcelona will likely play the final against Sevilla, which holds a four-goal lead over Celta going into Thursday's second leg in Vigo. It will be Barcelona's sixth Copa del Rey final in the last eight seasons. "We are thrilled to make it to another final," Enrique said. "Our fans are getting spoiled, just look at the number of Copa finals that we've played in the last few years. It tells a lot about this club's capacity to reinvent itself, it tells a lot

about the type of players that we have."

Enrique's team hasn't lost since a 2-1 defeat at Sevilla in the seventh round of the Spanish league in October. It was trying to win its 11th in a row on Wednesday.

Guardiola's streak ended with a 3-1 loss at Real Betis in the Copa del Rey quarterfinals. His team won 23 games and drew five, scoring 85 goals and conceding 14. Enrique's squad has won 23 games and drawn six, scoring 87 and conceding 15.

The Barcelona team coached by Rinus Michels and including Johan Cruyff in the 1973-74 season, won 27 straight games. Negredo opened the scoring after entering the area free from markers. He found the net after his initial shot was partially blocked by Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen. The late equalizer by the 19-year-old Kaptoun came with a close-range shot after a low cross by Juan Camara. — AP

EX-TOP COP WINS THAI FA PRESIDENCY

BANGKOK: A colourful ex-police chief backed by Leicester City's billionaire owners was elected yesterday as president of the embattled Football Association of Thailand, in a vote prompted by the suspension of the scandal-mired former boss.

Somyot Poompanmoung, a straight-talking officer known in the kingdom for leading a crackdown on police corruption and declaring his assets at more than \$11.5 million when he became the country's top cop, scooped up 62 of the available 72 votes from football clubs and officials. He was the frontrunner in a rowdy and often acrimonious campaign that brought to light massive public discontent with the game's administrators in the football-mad country.

"We will keep our promises and our work will be transparent," Somyot told reporters after the landslide vote, adding that a FIFA representative congratulated him on "joining the football family."

Somyot, 61, was supported by a number of big Thai football clubs as well as his friend Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, the billionaire owner of table-topping English Premier League outfit Leicester. He succeeds Worawi Makudi, a former FIFA insider and Thai football's Teflon man who for years fended off endless scandals with lawsuits and bravado.

Worawi, a FIFA executive committee member for 18 years until last May, could not run in Thursday's election after being suspended by the game's governing body over an alleged breach of its ethical code. He denies any wrongdoing. Instead, Worawi is widely believed to have backed former Thai national team coach Charnvit Pholchivin, who on the big day received just four votes.



Former Thai national police chief Somyot Poompanmoung.

Squabble

Other candidates included Nataphol Teepsuwan, chairman of Bangkok FC, also an ex-policeman and a Football Association of Thailand (FAT) administrator. "After today's election, I want everyone to work together and hope the conflicts will disappear so Thai football can move forward," Nataphol told reporters ahead of the vote. Observers say the squabble within Thai football mirrors the junta-run country's recent political quarrels, where elections have simply been ignored or annulled by powerful elites.

Worawi's rivals pilloried his tenure, while the candidates questioned each other's eligibility to run the game. There were also attempts to suspend the election, the last one rejected by a court late on Wednesday. The jocular Somyot, who enjoys a kickaround and recently told AFP "he always wins", has vowed to clean up the sport, allocate funds fairly and raise refereeing standards. He wants to establish a national level academy system and says his links with Leicester City will help boost the quality of Thai coaches and backroom staff. Somyot, who was appointed after a 2014 coup, is tipped to pursue a career in politics once elections have been restored to the military-run country. Sport is a lever to power in the spin-dryer politics of Thailand. The owner of one of Thailand's best clubs, Buriram FC—who also backed Somyot—is a powerful former politician. — AFP

CAVALIERS BEAT LAKERS 120-111

CLEVELAND: Kobe Bryant's final game in Cleveland was reduced to a sideshow when Cavaliers forward Kevin Love re-injured his surgically repaired left shoulder in the first half of a 120-111 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night. Kyrie Irving scored a season-high 35 points and LeBron James 29 for the Cavs, who head into the All-Star break with one of their "Big 3" injured. Love quickly left the floor late in the second quarter after he got hurt while working in the post against Bryant. He did not return in the second half, and the Cavs did not provide any specifics about his injury. Bryant finished with 17 points in his last performance in Cleveland. Lou Williams scored 28 to lead the Lakers, who have dropped 13 of 15.

WARRIORS 112, SUNS 104

Stephen Curry nearly had a triple-double before sitting out the fourth quarter, and Golden State stormed into the All-Star break on an 11-game winning streak with a victory over free-falling Phoenix. Curry had 26 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the defending NBA champions. At 484, the Warriors have the best record through 52 games in NBA history, one win better than the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls and 1966-67 Philadelphia 76ers. Those Bulls finished the season with a league-record 72 wins. Klay Thompson added 24 points for Golden State. Archie Goodwin scored 20 and Markieff Morris 19 for the Suns, who have lost nine straight and 24 of 26. Rookie guard Devin Booker added 15 points and a career-best 10 assists.

TRAIL BLAZERS 116, ROCKETS 103

Damian Lillard sparked a second-quarter outburst for Portland and finished with 31 points and nine assists in a win over Houston. Maurice Harkless set season highs with 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who moved past Houston into a tie with Utah for seventh place in the Western Conference standings. They enter the All-Star break having won three in a row and eight of nine. James Harden had 34 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds for the Rockets, who have dropped three straight and six of eight to fall out of playoff position. Dwight Howard dominated the paint with 28 points and 13 rebounds.

SPURS 98, MAGIC 96

Kawhi Leonard scored 29 points and drilled a jumper from the tip of the key with 0.9 on the clock to lift San Antonio to a win over Orlando. LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and Patty Mills added 17 points and seven assists for the Spurs, who won their fourth straight game. Evan Fournier, whose 3-pointer tied the game with 13.3 seconds left, led Orlando with 28 points. Nikola Vucevic had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Victor Oladipo scored 14 and Elfrid Payton had 13 points and seven assists. Payton missed an open layup at the buzzer that could have tied it.

KINGS 114, 76ERS 110

DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and Darren Collison scored 21 of his 25 points after halftime to lead Sacramento to a comeback victory. Rajon Rondo added 14 points, eight rebounds and 15 assists for the Kings, who snapped a four-game losing streak overall and six-game skid on the road while winning for just the second time in their last 10. It also allowed Sacramento to enter the break on a positive note following a tumultuous week that included rumors of the impending dismissal of coach George Karl. Rookie Jahlil Okafor tied his career high with 26 points to go with 10 rebounds, and Robert Covington scored a career-high 29 points for the 76ers, who played without top big man Nerlens Noel.

CELTICS 139, CLIPPERS 134, OT

Isaiah Thomas had 36 points and 11 assists, including a fade-away jumper that sent the game to an extra period, to help Boston overtake Los Angeles in overtime. Jared Sullinger added 21 points and 11 rebounds. Jae Crowder finished with 19 points, and Avery Bradley added 18 points as the Celtics won their eighth straight at home. Boston played the second half without big man Kelly Olynyk. He left late in the first half with a bruised right shoulder. The Clippers led by five late in regulation, but went without a field goal for more than three minutes. Chris Paul led the Clippers with 35 points and 13 assists. J.J. Redick added 27 points and DeAndre Jordan finished with 21 points and 16 rebounds.

HAWKS 113, BULLS 90

Jeff Teague had 17 points and eight assists, Al Horford scored 16 and Atlanta routed struggling Chicago. Dennis Schroder had 18 points and hit three of his team's 13 3-pointers. Paul Millsap scored 15, and the Southeast Division leaders headed into the All-Star break on a winning note after back-to-back losses to last-place Orlando. The Hawks led by five at halftime and broke it open in the third quarter, sending the sloppy Bulls to their fourth straight loss and 13th in 18 games. Pau Gasol had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago after being selected Tuesday to his sixth All-Star team as a replacement for injured Bulls teammate Jimmy Butler.

TIMBERWOLVES 117, RAPTORS 112

Karl-Anthony Towns had 35 points and 11 rebounds, and Minnesota came back from 18 points down to stun Toronto. Canadian star Andrew Wiggins scored 13 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, including a jumper with under 2 minutes to go that gave Minnesota a 112-109 lead. Ricky Rubio had 19 points, eight assists and eight rebounds to outplay All-Star Kyle Lowry, and the Wolves used a huge advantage at the free-throw line to close out a team that had won 14 of its last 15 games. DeMar DeRozan scored 35 points for the Raptors, who head home to host All-Star weekend beginning today.

PELICANS 100, JAZZ 96

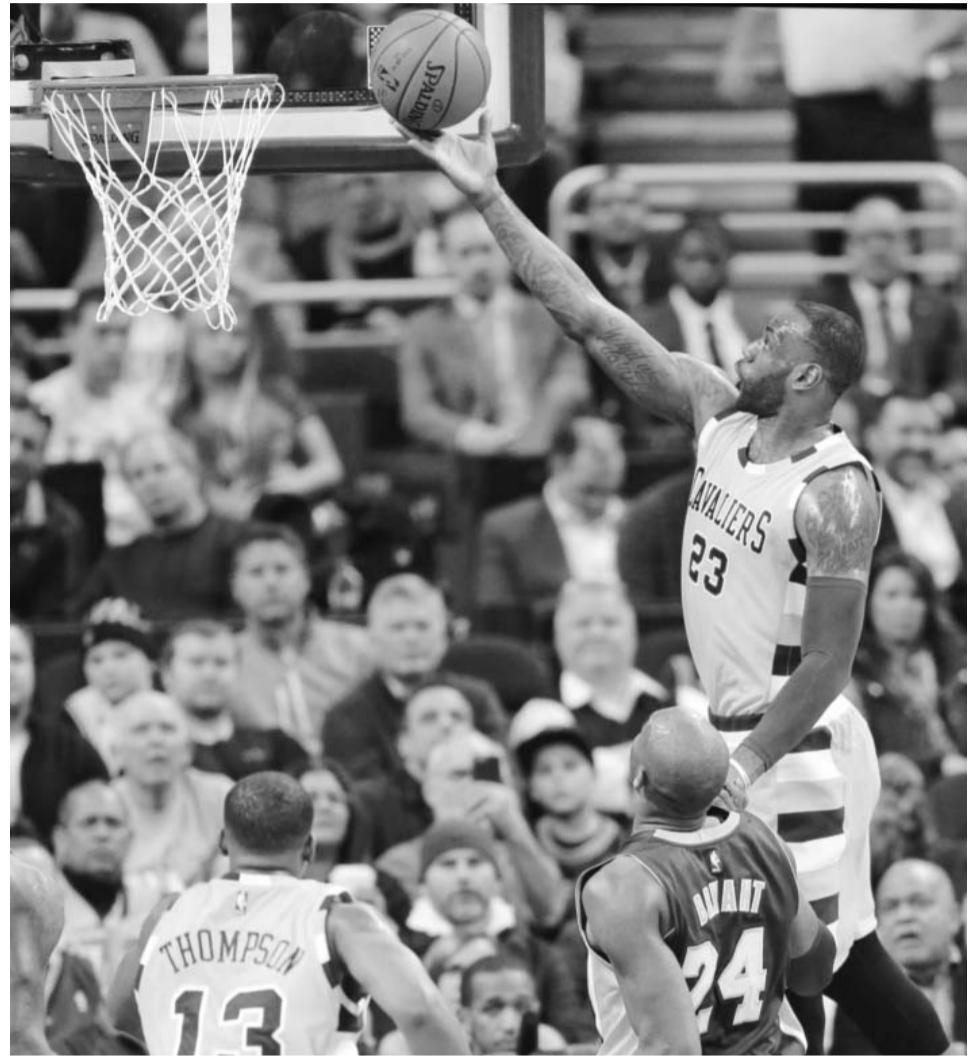
Anthony Davis capped a 19-point night with a running left-handed hook and 3-pointer in the final minute, and New Orleans beat Utah to snap the Jazz's seven-game winning streak. Jrue Holiday scored 21 points for the Pelicans, who won their second straight. Davis scored all but three of his points in the second half. His running hook from about 5 feet out gave New Orleans a 94-92 lead with 59 seconds remaining. His 3 made it 97-93 with 35 seconds left. Derrick Favors scored 29 and Gordon Hayward, 21 for Utah, but each missed a free throw in the final minute. Rodney Hood added 15 for Utah, but the Jazz turned the ball over 17 times and missed 14 of 21 shots from 3-point range.

GRIZZLIES 109, NETS 90

Mike Conley scored 20 points, Jeff Green had 12 of his 18 in the third quarter, and Memphis beat Brooklyn in its first game since losing Marc Gasol to a broken right foot. The Grizzlies unleashed a strong perimeter attack in the absence of their franchise center, making seven 3-pointers in a 39-point third quarter that blew open the game. Zach Randolph finished with 15 points for the Grizzlies, who were coming off consecutive losses, both in overtime. Brook Lopez led Brooklyn with 20 points.

NUGGETS 103, PISTONS 92

Will Barton scored 15 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, and Denver held off depleted



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (24) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, in Cleveland. — AP

Detroit, which was without three starters. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope has been out with a core muscle strain, and the team announced before the game that Reggie Jackson and Ersan Ilyasova had been ill and would be sidelined as well. Denver led by eight early in the fourth, but the Pistons closed to 83-82 after consecutive 3-pointers by Anthony Tolliver. Randy Foye made a 3 to halt that run, and Denver was able to hold onto its lead the rest of the way. Andre Drummond had 15 points and 17 rebounds for Detroit but shot 7 of 22 from the field.

HORNETS 117, PACERS 95

Kemba Walker scored 25 points and Jeremy Lamb had 16 as suddenly surging Charlotte rolled to a victory over Indiana. Six players scored in double figures for the Hornets (27-26), who won their third straight - and their first at Indiana since November 2008. Paul George led the Pacers with 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Charlotte started the second quarter on a 17-4 run to take a 42-29 lead. And with Indiana's defense struggling to stay in front of the Hornets' deft drivers and potent 3 point shooters, the Pacers never had a chance. — AP

NBA results/standings

Cleveland 120, LA Lakers 111; Portland 116, Houston 103; Boston 139, LA Clippers 134 (OT); Brooklyn 90, Memphis 109; Detroit 92, Denver 103; Phoenix 104, Golden State 112; Chicago 90, Atlanta 113; Minnesota 117, Toronto 112; New Orleans 100, Utah 96; Indiana 95, Charlotte 117; Orlando 96, San Antonio 98; Philadelphia 110, Sacramento 114.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	35	17	.673	—	Oklahoma City	39	14	.736	—
Boston	32	23	.582	4.5	Portland	27	27	.500	12.5
New York	23	32	.418	13.5	Utah	26	26	.500	12.5
Brooklyn	14	40	.259	22	Denver	22	32	.407	17.5
Philadelphia	8	45	.151	27.5	Minnesota	17	37	.315	22.5
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	38	14	.731	—	Golden State	48	4	.923	—
Indiana	28	25	.528	10.5	LA Clippers	35	18	.660	13.5
Chicago	27	25	.519	11	Sacramento	22	31	.415	26.5
Detroit	27	27	.500	12	Phoenix	14	40	.259	35
Milwaukee	21	32	.396	17.5	LA Lakers	11	44	.200	38.5
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	31	24	.564	—	San Antonio	45	8	.849	—
Miami	29	24	.547	1	Memphis	31	22	.585	14
Charlotte	27	26	.509	3	Dallas	29	26	.527	17
Washington	23	27	.460	5.5	Houston	27	28	.491	19
Orlando	23	29	.442	6.5	New Orleans	20	32	.385	24.5

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Friday Times
Sports
www.kuwaittimes.net



NETANYA: Riders take part in a race as part of the inauguration of the MX Wingate Motocross track near the Israeli city of Netanya yesterday. — AFP



Barca set unbeaten record to see off Neville's Valencia