

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

JAMADA ALTHANI 3, 1437 AH

No: 16811

Kuwait keen on Arab consensus on key issues: Jarallah



Glimmer of hope as Syria war enters 6th year



Lethal Liverpool sink Manchester United 2-0



150 Fils

OVER 1,000 EXPATS HELD IN HAWALLY CRACKDOWN

ARRESTED ILLEGAL RESIDENTS FACE DEPORTATION



Min 17°
Max 28°



KUWAIT: Illegal residents and those wanted for various law violations are rounded up in Hawally on Thursday night.

‘CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS’ IF TRUMP WINS: DUBAI OFFICIAL

DUBAI: A top security official in Dubai warned yesterday of a “clash of civilizations” if US Republican candidate Donald Trump becomes president, the latest sign of disquiet across the Middle East over the businessman’s comments about Muslims.

Trump refused to back away from his recent statement that “Islam hates the West” during a Republican debate Thursday night in Miami, which came after he called in December for a ban on Muslims entering the United States. Trump said he wouldn’t stoop to being “politically correct” by avoiding such statements.

Lt. Gen Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, the deputy chairman of police and general security in Dubai, took to Twitter to respond. Referencing political scientist Samuel P. Huntington’s theory that future wars would be fought between cultures, Tamim warned that a Trump win could see him face Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi.

“If Trump beats Hillary (Clinton), that means that the scenario of the clash of

civilizations created by Samuel will come to light at the hands of the candidate and al-Baghdadi,” Tamim wrote. Trump has for years looked to do business in the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf and the emirate of Dubai. Trump has lent his



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. — AP

name to two high-profile Dubai golf course projects and an ongoing real estate development, and sought for years to expand his hotel chain into the region.

Since his comments in December, a Mideast company, the Dubai-based Landmark Group, said it would pull all

Trump home decor products at its 180 Lifestyle stores in the region as it “values and respects the sentiments of its customers.”

In Lebanon, Abdelsalam Shalash, a resident of the capital, Beirut, said Trump is trying to win by playing on people’s fears. “He is using propaganda to convince people that our enemy is either the Muslims or the Mexicans, and it’s rallying up a lot of people because people are afraid,” Shalash said. “And fear is one of the easiest concepts to make use of.”

Newspaper columns and editorials in the region roundly have criticized his comments. An editorial published by the Lebanese English-language Daily Star newspaper, said the thought that “a man whose knowledge of geography, history and theology is nonexistent may reach the Oval Office is terrifying and deeply concerning.” “A Trump White House would be detrimental to the American people, but as commander-in-chief of the world’s most powerful country, his reach will affect hundreds of millions more,” the newspaper said. — AP

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: In a massive crackdown on residency violators, wanted outlaws and criminals, security officials raided many areas of Hawally on Thursday night and arrested more than 1,000 expatriates. According to security sources, 2,437 expatriates were detained briefly for verification of their credentials and 1,068 of them were referred to detention centers pending formalities of deportation. The sources added that 2,369 people were released after checking their documents.

The security campaign was led by the Ministry of Interior Assistant Undersecretary or General Security Major General Abdul Fattah Al-Ali and Hawally Security Director Major General Shehab Al-Shemmari.

The sources explained that detainees to be deported included 68 for violating residency laws, 39 wanted in various criminal cases, 413 for not having civil IDs, 311 marginal laborers, 39 for vice crimes, 18 for possessing drugs, 14 for drinking alcohol, six for robberies, five for illegal entry into Kuwait and 130 for violation of labor laws. In addition, the officials detained 10 vehicles. The officers barricaded all major and minor roads leading to streets in Hawally before commencing the operation.





KUWAIT: Daoud Suleiman Marafia, General Manager of Imtedad (center) with Ooredoo's Fatima Dashti (right) and Yousuf Al-Shallal.



Prof Mohammad Yunus

OOREDOO SPONSORS PROF MUHAMMAD YUNUS SEMINAR

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, sponsored Professor Muhammad Yunus's seminar, entitled 'Redesigning Economics to Redesign the World'. The 2006 Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus is a former economics professor at the University of Chittagong, one of Bangladesh's main universities and founder of Bangladesh-based microcredit institution Grameen Bank. The seminar was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir at The Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday, and was attended by a number of

Ooredoo Kuwait's senior managers.

Professor Yunus was invited by Imtedad, an exhibition-organizing company, to speak about his own experience in the charity field and present a case study on the foundation of Grameen bank. Grameen aims at providing the required support to needy people so they can start their own small businesses as a source of income.

During the seminar, Professor Yunus showcased most of his accomplishments in this field and the causes which concerned him until he became an internationally recognized

figure. While speaking at the seminar he emphasized on the fact that the joy he gained during the past years working in the charity field is more satisfying than any financial gain.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Director said: "We are honored to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and pleasure to sponsor Professor Muhammad Yunus's seminar. We highly believe in the positive impact such seminars would have on refining youths minds and broaden their horizon to reinforce the importance of charity

work and its high impact it has on their societies"

On another note, Daoud Suleiman Marafia, General Manager of Imtedad company expressed his gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for his patronage to Professor Muhammad Yunus's seminar, as well the other sponsors including Ooredoo Kuwait, stressing on the key role the company is playing in supporting youth of Kuwait and adopting numerous important initiatives as a part of its social responsibility program.

NBK REWARDS EIGHT VISA CARDHOLDERS TRIPS TO THEIR FAVORITE DESTINATION

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) concluded its "Win a Trip to your Favorite Destination" campaign dedicated to its Visa Cardholders.

Duaa Abdulaziz Dehrib, Asia Kamel Farraj, Mohammed Abdullah Al Saffar, Osama Abdalla Derzaby Abdalla, Nadiyah Muhanna Al Hajri, Mona Abdulhameed Shehab, Saed Mahmoud Awadh and Noor Adnan Abdulkarim each won a customized trip to their favorite destination including airfare, accommodation and transportation from and to the hotel. All NBK Visa Credit, Debit and Prepaid Cardholders had the chance to participate in this campaign and earn unlimited chances in the draws.

NBK's leadership in the cards market in Kuwait has been established by consistently delivering superior value to our customers. The more NBK Visa Cardholders use their cards during the promotion period the more chances they get to win one of the valuable prizes.

NBK Cards are accepted worldwide and are the safest, most convenient and rewarding way to pay. For more information log onto nbk.com or contact NBK Call Center on 1801801, or follow NBK on Twitter @NBKPage, and on Instagram @NBKPage.

OOREDOO OFFERS EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN PAAET FAIR

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has recently participated in a job fair organized by The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). The job fair was held from March 7th to March 9th 2016 at the authority's premises and was attended by representatives of Ooredoo's Human Resources and Corporate Communication departments.

Commenting on Ooredoo's participation, Saleh Al-Houti, Chief Human Resource Officer at Ooredoo said: "It was a pleasure supporting a job fair organized by The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, a platform which provides a unique opportunity for Kuwaiti youth to expand their horizon, give them a clearer outlook of what the telecommunications industry is all about and encourage them to consider it as a way forward. We will continue to seek such opportunities which help our young fresh graduates looking

for jobs and trying to find their future careers"

Driven by its social responsibility, Ooredoo is keen to take part in such occasions as it is always willing to support youth and help them reach their potential and shape their career paths. Ooredoo was the only telecom service provider that participated in the fair.

Ooredoo Kuwait's Human Resources representatives were present at the Ooredoo's booth to brief students about the benefits of working for Ooredoo and the different career growth opportunities provided by the company, as well as internship opportunities.

This is not the first time that Ooredoo has taken part in a job fair; it has successfully participated in several job fairs in the past. The company's aim is to open new horizons for the ambitious youth by giving them an opportunity to apply their educational knowledge to the professional world.

Ooredoo is known for its dynamic and fresh corporate culture where new ideas are nurtured and everyone is given a fair chance to grow and maximize their potential. Ooredoo employees are always given opportunities to develop their skills and enhance their knowledge through extensive training programs along with new challenges to develop their interests.



Saleh Al-Houti, Chief Human Resource Officer at Ooredoo

ARAB GROUP CONDEMNS ISRAEL AGGRESSION AGAINST PALESTINIANS

GENEVA: The Arab Group strongly condemned the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinians, at the UN Human Rights Council 31st Session yesterday. This remark was made during the Arab Group's annual report that was delivered by Kuwait's permanent dele-



Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim

gate to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim and in an interactive discussion with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husein.

He pointed out that Israel has committed many violations of human rights that go against all international and human laws. Some of these violations are: settlement expansion,

collective punishment, imposition of restrictions, extensive use of violence against the innocent, continuation of constructing a barrier along the entire West Bank and discriminatory policies. On the Syrian front, the Group shared the concerns of the UN commissioner on the critical situation in Syria. "It is important to find a political solution that preserves the sovereignty, safety and unity of Syria," he said.

The humanitarian crisis that displaced millions of Syrian needs a dire attention, lauding the efforts exerted by refugee-host countries in supporting the afflicted. On Libya and Yemen, the Group voiced its support to achieving permanent peace and backing the establishment of a unified national government.

The Group also lauded the UN High Commissioner's efforts in the fields of economy, culture and society and emphasized the importance of working together with the UN to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 31st regular session of the Human Rights Council has taken place on February 29 until March 24. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Hamad Al-Marzouq moderates the 6th session at the Kuwait Investment Forum.

BANKS CAN SUBSCRIBE IN KD 3-5 BILLION IN GOVERNMENT BONDS OVER 3 YEARS: MARZOUQ

KUWAIT: Chairman, Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq stated that over three years, local banks are able to subscribe in KD 3 to 5 billion in government bonds that are likely meant to bridge the budget deficit.

"Downgrading the credit rating for any country takes a toll on the cost of borrowing from external sources. Kuwait's credit rating is exposed to be reconsidered or even downgraded due to the drop in oil prices. Certainly this would have an adverse impact on the

cost of borrowing of financial institutions" Marzouq added in a press statement on the sideline of the Kuwait Investment Forum.

However, he affirmed that local banks enjoy several characteristics, most of which is asset quality and strong capitals, noting that the local banks offered financing for global banks amounted to \$13 billion. This cushions banks from higher borrowing costs.

He added that banks enjoy high levels of liquidity, indicating they posted an increase in the private sector, gov-

ernment and foreign deposits.

Marzouq revealed that the Banking Association offered its vision through a study to the Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, and the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel illustrating local banks' efficiency and ability to contribute in bridging the budget deficit. He said that the government deposits at banking sectors surged from \$5.2 billion to \$5.6 billion in 2015. "The government will not withdraw from its deposits to bridge the budget deficit" he opined.

KUWAIT KEEN ON HAVING ARAB CONSENSUS OVER ISSUES: JARALLAH

CAIRO: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said Thursday his country was keen on realizing consensus among Arab countries, as well as pushing forward common Arab action. Speaking after the conclusion of the Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting, Jarallah voiced relief for the Arab consensus over the selection of Ahmad Abul Ghait, Egypt's former foreign minister, as the next Arab League Secretary General.

Kuwait, he said, has been keen on having a united position over the endorsement of Abul Ghait. "The broth-

ers in Qatar have expressed reservation, they have the right to do so and we understand it. But the final outcome was a consensus on the appointment of a new secretary general of the Arab League."

Meanwhile, Abul Ghait expressed gratitude for his selection and said he realized the magnitude of the responsibilities he would assume. In a statement, Abul Ghait said he would do his best to defend the Arab rights and push for-

ward the common Arab action. Born in June 1942, Abul Ghait will become the 8th Secretary General of the Arab League. He joined the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in 1965 and became his country's permanent representative to the UN in 1999. Abul Ghait was appointed as Egypt's Foreign Minister in 2004-11. — KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah

COMMITTEE DEPLORES IRAN'S INTERFERENCE IN ARAB AFFAIRS

CAIRO: The four-party Arab ministerial committee tasked with following up the crisis with Iran has sharply denounced Iran's continuing interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries. The committee voiced the denunciation in a press statement issued at the conclusion of its meeting held on the sidelines of the 145th session of the Council of the Arab League at the ministerial level.

It called on Iran to stop its interference and to give up its support to terrorist and subversive acts in Arab countries, according to the statement. It rather urged Iranian officials to give up their aggressive and provocative statements against Arab countries, which violate international law, UN Charter, Arab countries' sovereignty and good-neighborliness principles. — KUNA



MARTYR ASRAR ALQABANDI BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Requires qualified teachers for the upcoming session (2016/2017) for the following subjects

Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, English, Science, Computer, Fine Arts, Physical Education, Music, Islamic Education, Social Studies, Arabic, and Social Workers

Minimum Requirements:

- University certificate.
- A minimum of 3 years experience in the field of education.

Please send your C.V by Fax or E-mail
Fax No.: 22533159 / E-mail: maqbs@outlook.com

Approved: 753



KFSD OPENS AIRPORT'S FIRE STATION AFTER UPGRADING

KUWAIT: The fire station at the Kuwait International Airport was re-opened on Thursday after an overall maintenance and upgrading. The upgrading of the airport's fire station included adding 11 fire engines and other equipment, to cope with the standards of international aviation safety, Deputy Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) for Fighting Sector Major General Jamal Al-Bulaihees said during the ceremony. He added that the successes achieved by the KFSD were based on values of cooperation and collective work.

Meanwhile, the Amiri Diwan has recently offered the KFSD a decommissioned Airbus for training purposes on fighting fires and other accidents on deck, Bulaihees said highly appreciating the Diwan's limitless support to the state institutions. The KFSD senior official thanked the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA), the Interior Ministry, and Kuwait Airways for their cooperation and assistance. — KUNA



FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FORCE HAWALLY MAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE

KUWAIT: A middle-aged man committed suicide in Hawally due to financial problems, according to police. The 52-year old Lebanese recently jumped off the balcony of his fifth floor apartment in Hawalli, said security sources, noting that financial problems and unemployment for a long time drove the man to put an end to his own life despite being responsible for a family in Kuwait. Case papers indicate that detectives rushed to the scene where the man's body was lying in the building's yard, while his wife was hysterically crying in shock in the balcony. The sources added that initial investigations showed that the man's residency visa had been expired for a while, he was unemployed and had some family and financial problems. The sources also noted that the man and his wife, a pharmacist, had moved into the building in January 2015, and that he was very keen on paying the rent before other tenants did until he lost his job.

Man shoots friend

A citizen was recently shot to his left thigh when he argued with a friend. The two were inside a car driving along Wafra highway when a quarrel ended with the shooting, said security sources. The shooter escaped the scene after the shooting while the injured man was rushed by passersby to Adan hospital for treatment, they added. On examining the vehicle where the shooting took place, police could smell alcohol inside, the sources added. A case was filed and search is on for the shooter.

Pedestrian killed

A non-Kuwaiti was recently killed when he

was run over by a speeding vehicle while crossing a road in Sulaibiya, said security sources. A case was filed for investigations.

Student stabbed

An eleven grade 11 male student in an Arabic private school was recently expelled and banned from enrolling in all schools in Kuwait when he stabbed a classmate on the thigh in class, said security sources. Both students had an argument earlier outside school which developed in class, the sources added. The injured student had to be rushed to hospital with the knife stuck to his thigh so that the doctors could remove it without causing any more damage, the sources explained.

Army man assaulted

A citizen recently assaulted and insulted an army soldier on guard at the army's shooting field in Al-Abraq desert. The incident happened when the soldier prevented a shepherd working for the alleged offender from having his camels herd graze in the field, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the guard spotted three shepherds leading their camels into the field and when he stopped them, they called the owner who arrived and assaulted and insulted the guard. A case was filed.

Liquor possession

An Asian delivery man was recently arrested in Mahboula with possession of 162 home-brewed liquor bottles, said security sources. Case papers indicate that police patrol officers had stopped the restaurant delivery driver at a checkpoint. His vehicle was searched when police noticed that he was nervous, and the bottles were subsequently

found. He was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Drug possession

A citizen and his girlfriend were recently arrested with possession of ice (methamphetamine) in Mahboula, said security sources, noting that the couple were searched after police noticed that they were nervous when they stopped at a checkpoint.

No charges

Policemen at a local police station recently refused to file a case against the directors of Kuwait Ports Authority, or hold them responsible for the disappearance of special equipment belonging to a local logistics company.

Impersonator caught

An Iraqi man was recently arrested for forging civil and military IDs, which he used along with others in order to impersonate police detectives, stop pedestrians and rob them.

Domestic violence

A Moroccan woman recently filed a case against her husband accusing him of beat-

ing her. The woman provided a medical report with her injuries.

Beggars arrested for blackmail

Police have arrested a number of female beggars on blackmail charges, saying that they pressed sexual harassment charges against drivers who refused to help them - then asked for money to drop the charges. A security source said that detectives had grown suspicious after several cases were filed, in which women pressed sexual harassment charges against drivers but later dropped those charges after reaching a financial settlement with the alleged offenders. Thorough investigations revealed that the complainants used to practice begging and specifically target drivers of fancy vehicles. When the drivers refuse to help them, they would write down the license plate number, head to the police station and press sexual harassment charges against the car-owner. When the driver is summoned for questioning, the complainant would offer to drop the charges for a compensation. Based on these findings, detectives have arrested at least three beggars on suspicions of carrying out those schemes. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

PREMATURE TO KNOW MOTIVES BEHIND CITIZENS' KILLING IN LEBANON: AMBASSADOR

BEIRUT: Kuwait's embassy in Beirut stated Thursday that investigations into the killing of two Kuwaiti nationals in Lebanon are underway and it is premature to identify the culprits and the motives behind the heinous crime.

In a statement to KUNA, Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdulal Al-Qena'e said that the Lebanese authorities have informed the embassy earlier yesterday that the two

nationals who were reported as missing by their relatives have been found dead with gunshots on their body in their residency in Al-Kahaleh neighborhood, eastern Beirut. The ambassador extended condolences to the relatives of the two victims. He reiterated the foreign ministry's warning to nationals not to travel to Lebanon currently due to the difficult political and security conditions there. — KUNA

Canon



بنك بروتيان
BURGAN BANK
driven by you



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

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2016

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Civil ID: _____

Tel: _____



In Corporation :
smart dots



الانباء
مكتبة الأنباء



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)



KRCS SPARES NO EFFORT TO HELP SYRIAN REFUGEES

KUWAIT: Since the eruption of the Syrian crisis in March 2011, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has spared no effort offering aid to those forced to abandon their homeland and flee the war to neighboring countries. Over the past five years, the society has been providing relief aid to meet the needs of the refugees and alleviate their sufferings.

In addition, the assistance to the refugees has been extended to include education opportunities for children. Refugees' sufferings have been aggravated in host states, like Jordan and Lebanon, which are facing hard economic conditions and cannot even grant job opportunities for their people, let alone offer dignified living conditions for the guests.

School bags

The KRCS has offered up to 25,000 school bags to Syrian pupils in Jordan, besides opening a dentistry clinic, KRCS Media Officer Khalid Al-Zaid said. The society has also paid education fees for 16,000 university students in the Hashemite Kingdom.

In addition, the society presented five infant incubators to the Jordanian Red Crescent Hospital in Amman, and paid \$500,000 so that Syrian patients, especially children, can receive free medical care, he added. The society has also paid for the restoration of two old schools where more than 1,400 Syrian students are educated, besides circumcising 3,000 children in Al-Zaatari refugee camp.

According to Zaid, in 2014, up to 306,000 tons of food stuff, clothes and medical supplies were sent to the refugees in cooperation with the Jordanian Red Crescent. He said that more than 21,000 Syrian families benefited from a bread project the KRCS launched in the Kingdom.

Medical supplies

In 2015, 290,000 tons of food stuff and medical supplies were distributed on the refugees in Jordan, together with supporting the Jordanian Red Crescent Hospital with JD 500,000. Spring clothes were offered to 400 refugee families.

Very recently, the KRCS paid for implanting a cochlea for an eight-year old Syrian girl, Asayel, enabling her to hear the voices of her parents and her four brothers and sisters for the first time since her birth. Kuwait's Ambassador in Amman Hamad Al-Duaij visited Asayel in hospital after she was operated on. Following the operation, the KRCS helped Asayel receive three-month training on hearing and utterance at a specialized center.

According to Zaid, the KRCS is working on lists of similar cases to be treated in the future. In the same context, the society has drawn up a plan to provide treatment to cancer patients in cooperation with King Hussein Cancer Center in the Jordanian capital, he said. Zaid stressed that the KRCS humanitarian efforts came in response to directives by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



International

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

Cleric Sadr urges Iraq PM to press on with new cabinet

8

UN blasts rape for wages, child killings in S Sudan

9

Republicans swap barbs for substance in Florida debate

14



ALEPPO: Syrian Rescue workers and residents try to pull a man out from under the rubble of a building following a reported air strike on the rebel-held neighborhood of Salhin in the northern city of Aleppo yesterday. — AFP

GLIMMER OF HOPE AS SYRIA WAR ENTERS 6TH YEAR

WAR LEAVES 270,000 DEAD, CREATES MILLIONS OF REFUGEES

BEIRUT: Syria's war enters its sixth year next week with a glimmer of hope that a landmark ceasefire and a push for peace could help resolve a conflict that has sent hundreds of thousands fleeing to Europe. Analysts say the past 12 months have been transformative—with Russia's military intervention and pressure from the migrant crisis pushing world powers into renewed peace efforts. Inspired by the Arab Spring uprisings of six years ago, protests erupted against President Bashar Al-Assad's regime on March 15, 2011. A brutal crackdown sparked the civil war, which has since left more than 270,000 people dead and forced millions to flee towns and cities devastated by bombing and clashes.

Sporadic peace efforts over the next five years failed as fighting raged, with the emergence of the jihadist Islamic State group adding a terrifying new dimension to the conflict.

The last year has seen the war brought

home to Europeans as never before, as hundreds of thousands of desperate Syrians arrived on Europe's shores in the continent's worst refugee crisis since World War II. Experts say the wave of refugees put the Syria crisis front and centre for the West, prompting a surge of diplomatic action.

"Europe's fear about the refugee influx is one of the main factors that led to a reassessment of policies on Syria, making short-term stability a top priority at the expense of other political and geostrategic objectives," said Karim Bitar, an analyst at the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Relations.

The biggest international effort yet to resolve the conflict was launched late last year, with diplomats from world powers agreeing a plan for a ceasefire, the creation of a transitional authority and UN-monitored elections.

UN peace envoy Staffan de Mistura said

yesterday that both parliamentary and presidential elections should be held in Syria 18 months after a fresh round of talks begins on March 14.

A partial truce—which does not include fighting against IS and other extremist groups—took effect on February 27. Russia's intervention in Syria last September marked another major shift, experts said. "The Russian intervention was undoubtedly a turning point in the Syrian war," said Bitar. "It allowed a regime that was otherwise losing ground (to rebels) to consolidate its control over 'useful Syria'," or the most populous territories, he said. The bombing campaign has bolstered Assad, helping him to firm up his grip on power despite years of opposition demands that he step down.

Against all expectations, the partial ceasefire has been holding, and Syria's regime and fragmented opposition will hold new peace talks starting next week in Geneva. But divi-

sions cut deep and despite the changes on the ground few are holding out much hope for the talks.

The key sticking point—Assad's fate—is far from being resolved, experts say. Moscow is showing no sign of backing away from its longstanding support for a key ally. "Russia's intervention dotted the i's in their policy that 'we cannot let Bashar al-Assad fall'," said Yezid Sayigh, an analyst at the Carnegie Middle East Centre in Beirut. Washington, which has long supported Syria's opposition, is also unlikely to compromise. "The US wants at the very least a pledge that Assad will leave in the beginning, during, or at the end of a transitional period, which the Russians still don't accept," Sayigh said.

"This core issue is like trying to square a circle," Bitar said. If the negotiations collapse—as previous peace talks did in Geneva last month—Sayigh said the ceasefire is likely to soon follow. — AFP

SAUDIS WALK OUT OF ARAB LEAGUE MEETING AFTER IRAQI MINISTER'S COMMENT

CAIRO: The Saudi delegation at the Arab League stormed out of a meeting after Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari defended the Shiite Hashd Shaabi militia grouping, an Iraqi foreign ministry source told Reuters yesterday.

Tensions between Muslim powers have been on the rise as sectarian wars rage in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, and the Arab League has become a forum for predominantly Sunni countries, led by Saudi Arabia, to air grievances with regional Shi'ite power Iran.

"The Saudi delegation withdrew from the meeting hall after the speech of Foreign Minister Al-Jaafari who rejected speaking against Hashd Shaabi and other resistance groups," the source said, declining to be named. "In his speech he said that Hashd Shaabi and Hezbollah have preserved the dignity of the Arabs and those who call them terrorists are the terrorists," he said.

A Saudi foreign ministry spokesman could not be reached for comment. In January, Iraq summoned the Saudi ambassador after he suggested Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias were exacerbating sectarian tensions in Iraq. Morocco said last month that it would not host the 2016 Arab League meeting as scheduled, saying it wanted to avoid giving a false impression of unity in the Arab world.

Secretary of State John Kerry was heading to Saudi Arabia and France this week for discussion with top Saudi and European officials about conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Libya. The State Department said Kerry left late Thursday for the Saudi city of Hafar Al-Batin on its northeastern border with Iraq and Kuwait, where 20 countries just concluded a 3-week-long counterterrorism military exercise. From there, Kerry will travel to Paris for talks tomorrow with the new French foreign minister as well as his counterparts from Britain, Germany and Italy along with the EU foreign policy chief. In addition to the Syria, Yemen and Libya conflicts, Kerry is also expected to discuss the migrant crisis facing Europe. —Agencies

AS HARD TIMES HIT, EGYPTIANS AT LAST FIND FAULT WITH SISI

CAIRO: "Your excellency: you are not working," television presenter Azza Al-Henawy said, looking into the camera but addressing the Egyptian president. "Not one single issue has been solved since you took over."

After years of hearing little but enthusiastic applause for Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and vilification of his enemies, the tens of millions of Egyptians who watch the country's pugnacious talk shows are suddenly being presented with the president's faults. The former military chief who overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood to take power in 2013 is facing the first sustained public criticism of his rule.

State television, known for being fiercely loyal, launched an internal investigation on Wednesday into Henawy for her remarks. But her comments were hardly isolated.

After years of publicly lionizing Sisi as the savior of the nation, many of the country's most influential figures have emerged to blame the president for an economy in crisis, an Islamist insurgency raging in the Sinai peninsula and the brutality of an unreformed police force. "Your state imprisons people for their thoughts and their novels," one of Egypt's most prominent newspaper editors, Ibrahim Eissa, wrote addressing the president on his paper's front page last month, after authorities jailed a young novelist for including a sex scene in a book.

"What happened exactly to make our nation turn around with you to the era of searching consciences, putting minds on trial and imprisoning writers and authors?"

Eissa is no longstanding critic: he initially hailed Sisi's rise as "a day of joy, a day of victory, a day of dignity, a day of pride, the day Egypt and its people were victorious". As recently as three months ago he described Sisi as "the president with the most amount of popular backing in the world". Since then, it was not the media that had changed but the government's record, Eissa told Reuters at his office on Cairo's outskirts: "We aren't more critical; there are now more mistakes." Sisi's rise nearly three years ago ended a divisive experiment with rule by the Brotherhood and two years of unrest that followed the fall of long-serving autocrat Hosni Mubarak. A broad cross section of the public sincerely admired the stern general in dark sunglasses, who promised to restore stability to a country in chaos. Sweet shops could not sell cakes with his face on them fast enough. — Reuters



MAKKAH: Muslim pilgrims circumambulate the Kaaba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque, during the minor pilgrimage, known as Umrah, in the holy city of Makkah on Thursday. — AP

CLERIC SADR URGES IRAQ PM TO PRESS ON WITH NEW CABINET

RALLY IN BAGHDAD TO MOUNT PRESSURE ON ABADI

BAGHDAD: Powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr urged Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi yesterday to press on with plans to form an independent cabinet of technocrats to fight graft despite "political pressure" to desist. Earlier Abadi asked political blocs in parliament and "influential social figures" to nominate technocrats as candidates for ministerial positions in the new cabinet, state television reported.

"I want the prime minister to continue his reform plan with no fear of political pressure," Sadr said in a pre-recorded speech aired during a demonstration held in Baghdad by his supporters to demand political reforms. It was not immediately clear whether Sadr had recorded his speech before or after the state television announcement on Abadi's call.

Last month Abadi, now a year and a half into his four-year term, said he wanted to replace his ministers with technocrats to challenge the system of patronage that encourages graft by distributing posts along political, ethnic and sectarian lines. Sadr and his supporters have held regular demonstrations demanding reforms to tackle corruption, which is eating into Baghdad's resources even as it struggles with falling revenues due to a slump in global oil prices and high spending caused by the costs of war against Islamic State militants.

Sadr, heir to a Shiite clerical dynasty persecuted under dictator Saddam Hussein, said on Feb 12 that Abadi had 45 days to deliver on his pledge of a technocrat cabinet or face

a no-confidence vote in parliament.

Supporters rally

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of people rallied yesterday in Baghdad, heeding a call from Al-Sadr to put pressure on Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi to proceed with his plan to form a cabinet of independent, professional ministers.

As the demonstrators were gathering in central Baghdad's Tahrir (Liberation) Square, state TV said Abadi had asked political blocs in parliament and "influential social figures" to nominate technocrats as ministerial candidates. Several demonstrators were disappointed with the announcement, saying Abadi was caving in to the politicians by asking them to put forward their proposed names. "I don't think Abadi can do the reforms he promised," said Ammar Salman, a 37-year-old taxi driver, carrying the red, white and black Iraqi flag. "The political blocs won't let him." Corruption is eating away at Baghdad's resources even as it struggles with falling revenue due to rock-bottom oil prices and high spending due to the costs of the war on Islamic State.

A year and a half into his four-year term, Abadi said last month that he wanted to replace his ministers with technocrats to challenge the system of patronage that encourages graft by distributing posts along political, ethnic and sectarian lines. "Your credit is about to finish," said a banner carried by demonstrators in Tahrir Square, apparently addressing the nation's

politicians in general without naming anyone.

The banner was put on a frame in the form of gallows with ropes tied as hanging nooses dangling underneath. The number of those who rallied at Sadr's call this week was far less than last Friday when an estimated 200,000 people gathered outside the Green Zone, a heavily fortified district that houses government ministries and embassies.

It is the third consecutive Friday that Sadr's followers have rallied in Baghdad to demand the replacement of Abadi's ministers by technocrats not affiliated with political parties. The cleric on Wednesday said Abadi "should be given a chance to proceed with his reforms", cautioning the prime minister at the same time against yielding to pressure and appointing ministers vetted by the political parties.

"If we feel that the reforms are real and not just media noise, there will be more measures in support" of Abadi, Sadr said. Four weeks ago Sadr, heir to a Shiite clerical dynasty persecuted under Saddam Hussein, gave Abadi 45 days to deliver on his pledged change or face a no-confidence vote in parliament.

The demonstration he addressed on the previous yesterday was held at an entrance to the Green Zone, raising concern of violence with security forces. Sadr said he changed the location to Tahrir Square as a goodwill gesture to Abadi. A bridge over the Tigris river separates the square from the Green Zone. —Reuters

ISRAEL RAIDS PALESTINIAN TV STATION

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: Israeli forces have raided the West Bank offices of Palestine Today television and arrested its manager over allegations of inciting violence, Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency said yesterday.

The overnight operation targeting the station's Ramallah offices was the latest attempt to silence Palestinian broadcasters Israel believes are fuelling a five-month wave of violence.

The Shin Bet charged that the channel "broadcasts on behalf of the Islamic Jihad" militant group and said it had closed it in a joint operation with the army. "The channel served the Islamic Jihad as a central means to incite the West Bank population, calling for terror attacks against Israel and its citizens. Incitement was broadcast on the television station as well as the Internet," it said in a statement.

Israeli forces arrested Palestine Today manager, Farooq Aliat, 34, of Bir Zeit, north of Ramallah, "an Islamic Jihad operative who had been imprisoned in Israel for his activities," it added.

Camerman Mohammed Amr and technician Shabib Shabib were also arrested, the Palestinian Journalists Union said. An army spokeswoman said technical equipment and transmitters were confiscated from the Ramallah



RAMALLAH: A Palestinian woman inspects the damage at the Palestine Today television offices after it had been raided by Israeli forces overnight yesterday, in the West Bank city of Ramallah. — AFP

offices, which were ordered shut.

The channel, which has offices in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, continued to broadcast to the West Bank via its Lebanese transmitters, it said. Islamic Jihad denounced the "Israeli aggression against the nationalist media of the resistance," calling the raid "another episode in the long saga of oppression by the occupation."

A wave of violence has killed 188 Palestinians, 28 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese since October 1, according to an AFP count. Most of the Palestinians were killed while carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, which have taken place more or less daily over the past five months. Others were shot dead by Israeli forces during clashes or demonstrations. Many analysts say

Palestinian frustration with Israeli occupation and settlement building in the West Bank, the complete lack of progress in peace efforts and their own fractured leadership have fed the unrest.

Israel blames incitement by Palestinian leaders and media as a main cause of the violence. In November, Israel shut down two radio stations in the flash-point West Bank city of Hebron-Al-Hurria and Al-Khalil-accusing them of fanning the violence. On Thursday, Israel's security cabinet discussed ways to tackle the unrest, including "closing Palestinian broadcasters inciting terror," the prime minister's office said.

A day earlier Israeli forces had arrested Al-Quds radio correspondent Sami al-Saei, 36, at his house in the northern West Bank city of Tulkarm, according to a Palestinian NGO.

Other measures being advanced by the government following a new spate of attacks since Tuesday include completing the security wall around Jerusalem, revoking Israeli work permits for relatives of Palestinian attackers and expediting demolitions of perpetrators' homes. Israel has increased its efforts against Palestinian laborers without permits, arresting more than 400 workers and dozens of Israeli employers over the past two days, police said. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Syrian Muhammad Faris, Syria's first cosmonaut and a former general of the Syrian Air Force, back-dropped by a painting of him depicting him with a space suit, smiles as he talks while holding his Soviet-era and international medals, in Istanbul on March 7, 2016. — AP

SYRIAN COSMONAUT: EUROPE MUST HELP OUST ASSAD

BURSA, Turkey: Mohammed Faris made history and achieved national hero status in 1987 when he became Syria's first man in space as part of a Soviet-led mission.

Now, as refugee in Turkey, the 64-year-old cosmonaut and retired general is critical of Russia's intervention in Syria, and wants European nations to help remove Syrian President Bashar Assad from office to bring about an end to the refugee crisis. Faris fled the civil war Syria in 2012 for Turkey to join the Syrian opposition, becoming one of his country's highest-ranking defectors. As well as advising the Syrian opposition, he now gives talks at universities and schools on his experiences in space.

"I tell Europe if you don't want refugees, then you should help us get rid of this regime," he told The Associated Press in an interview during a visit to a science and technology center in the northwestern Turkish city of Bursa. He also met with the AP in his office in Istanbul's Aksaray district, which is also known as "Little Syria" because of the high number of refugees living there.

Faris said he feels admiration for the Russian people, but is critical of Moscow's campaign in Syria.

"I am very sorry about the Russian interference, which has stood on the side of dictator Bashar Assad, and has begun to kill the Syrian people with their planes," he said. — AP

UN BLASTS RAPE FOR WAGES, CHILD KILLINGS IN S SUDAN

ONE OF THE MOST 'HORRENDOUS' RIGHTS SITUATIONS

GENEVA: South Sudan has encouraged fighters to rape women in place of wages, while children have been burnt alive, the UN said yesterday, calling it one of the world's most "horrendous" human rights situations. Grotesque rights violations could amount to war crimes, said a report on the world's youngest country from the United Nations human rights office.

The UN findings coincided with an Amnesty International report saying government forces deliberately suffocated to death more than 60 men and boys by stuffing them into a baking hot shipping container.

After gaining independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan erupted into civil war in December 2013, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings that have split the poverty-stricken, landlocked country along ethnic lines.

The UN said it had evidence that fighters from pro-government militia which fight alongside the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are compensated under an agreement of "do what you can and take what you can." "Most of the youth therefore also raided cattle, stole personal property, raped and abducted women and girls as a form of payment," the report said.

It also found that civilians suspected of supporting the opposition, including children, had been burnt alive and hanged from trees and cut to pieces.

"This is one of the most horrendous human rights situations in the world," UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini

said in a statement. Both the government and rebel sides have been accused of perpetrating ethnic massacres, recruiting and killing children and carrying out widespread rape, torture and forced displacement of populations to purge their opponents from areas.

Screaming in distress

Amnesty, referring to an October incident in the central town of Leer, said it interviewed 23 eyewitnesses who saw men and boys forced into a container with their hands tied or saw the bodies later dragged away and dumped. The London-based rights group blamed the atrocity, which happened in a Catholic church compound in the northern battleground state of Unity, on government soldiers.

"Witnesses described hearing the detainees crying and screaming in distress and banging on the walls of the shipping container," the report said. The incident was first reported last month by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), a regional ceasefire body pushing peace efforts.

The JMEC report said that those found alive were then killed, and that the only survivor was an eight-year old boy.

War crimes

The UN report found that most civilian casualties in South Sudan appeared not to be the result of combat operations, but of "deliberate attacks on civilians". Condemning the government's "scorched earth policy", the UN said

satellite images showed that towns and villages had been systematically destroyed.

Over a period of only five months last year, from April to September, the UN recorded more than 1,300 reported rapes in Unity, just one of South Sudan's 10 states.

One woman told investigators she was stripped naked and raped by five government soldiers in front of her children on the roadside and then raped by more men in the bushes, only to return to find her children missing. Another was tied to a tree after her husband was killed and forced to watch her 15-year-old daughter being raped by 10 soldiers, the report said.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the UN has received 702 reports of children affected by sexual violence, including gang-rape victims as young as nine.

The scale of sexual violence in South Sudan was "particularly shocking", the UN said.

"Given the breadth and depth of the allegations, their gravity, consistency and recurrence and the similarities in their modus operandi ... there are reasonable grounds to believe the violations may amount to war crimes," the rights office said.

It urged the rapid creation of a "hybrid court", as called for in an August 2015 peace agreement, to try perpetrators of grave violations. If that fails, it called on the UN Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. — AFP

BRITISH PRESS SLAMS OBAMA FOR COMMENTS ABOUT CAMERON

LONDON: The British press yesterday accused President Barack Obama of launching an unprecedented verbal attack on British Prime Minister David Cameron in a magazine interview. In a lengthy interview with *The Atlantic*, Obama faults Cameron and other European allies for shortcomings in dealing with Libya after the 2011 ouster of longtime dictator Col Muammar Gaddafi. The *Times* newspaper said Obama's criticism was "extraordinary" and said Obama was blaming Cameron for the "Libya mess." The Independent front page headline says "Obama

savages Cameron over Libya." In the magazine interview, Obama said Cameron had been "distracted" by other issues after Gaddafi's fall.

Britain and other European nations had joined the US in military action there to prevent a massacre of civilians. Obama told the magazine he had expected European nations to take a more active role in helping Libya during its reconstruction.

"When I go back and I ask myself what went wrong there's room for criticism, because I had more faith in the Europeans, given Libya's prox-

imity, being invested in the follow-up," he said.

Obama also criticized former French President Nicolas Sarkozy for taking too much credit for France's military role. Libya has since descended into chaos and emerged as a potential safe haven for Islamic State extremists.

US officials have tried to squelch the controversy by telling British media that the United States places a high priority on Britain's support. "Prime Minister Cameron has been as close a partner as the president has had, and we deeply value the UK's contributions on our shared

national security and foreign policy objectives which reflect our special and essential relationship," spokesman Edward Price told ITV News.

The two countries have long been close allies with a so-called "special relationship" exemplified by the close cooperation between Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt during World War II. Ties between Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher were also exceptionally close near the end of the Cold War, and President George W Bush relied on Tony Blair to back the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. — AP

NORWEGIAN TEENS PLAY REFUGEES FOR A DAY

TRANDUM CAMP, Norway: In a dark snowy forest, two military vehicles thunder by, the wailing sirens waking those who have just dozed off. Exhausted, the group must quickly pack up camp and resume their night march. This is not a scene playing in the Balkans but in Norway, one of the richest countries in the world, where a group of teenagers are spending 24 hours on the road, living as refugees.

In a country where teens often walk around with luxury handbags and the latest iPhones, the aim is to raise awareness and give youngsters a bit of insight into the lives of millions of people much less privileged than themselves.

For many, the experience is part of their "civil confirmation"—a secular version of the Christian coming-of-age ceremony which is a rite of passage for 15-year-olds in northern Europe. "I hate my life," groans a young girl in the group, some of whom are still asleep on their feet. The 'UN camp' where they thought they had found refuge for the night has just been 'attacked'.

In the darkness, with temperatures hovering around zero, they must press on, ignoring their hunger and diving into snowbanks to hide at the first glare of headlights. Their journey began around 12 hours earlier at a decommissioned military camp near Oslo airport, just a stone's throw from a real detention centre for illegal aliens awaiting deportation.

'It's exhausting'

Their watches and cell phones confiscated, the teens have been grouped into 'families' of 20 who have had to flee unrest in a fictitious Sudan, crossing imaginary borders to reach Norway to seek asylum. En route, they come up against the red-tape nightmare of a Kafkaesque and corrupt bureaucracy, the bullying of sinister border guards who bark orders at them in poor English, and walk miles on ever-hungry stomachs...

"Netflix in the bath," fantasizes one 'refugee' aloud. "Netflix AND a kebab in the bath," says another.

For dinner that night, they had only a few rice balls. Most of them devoured their meal, though some were put off by label with an apparent expiry date of 1998. "The power of a label," sighs the 'head' of the 'UN camp', Jonas Statsengen, one of the adult volunteers running the session. As the hours pass, the teens' good-natured laughter gradually fades and swearing takes over. —AFP



TRANDUM: Norwegian teens take part in a roleplay as refugees during the event "Camp Refugee" by the organization "Refugee Norway" at an old military camp in Trandum. In a country where teens often walk around with luxury handbags and the latest iPhones, the aim of the game is to raise awareness and give youngsters a bit of insight into the lives of millions of people much less privileged than themselves. —AFP



Children play with a ball at the Greek-Macedonian border near the Greek village of Idomeni where thousands of refugees and migrants are trapped by the Balkan border blockade yesterday. — AFP

EUROPE MOVES CLOSER TO IMPOSING LIBYA SANCTIONS

FRANCE WANTS A DEAL, WORRIED ABOUT ISLAMIC STATE

BRUSSELS: European Union foreign ministers are considering sanctions on three Libyans they see as blocking efforts by the United Nations to form a government of national unity and may go ahead even if a government is agreed, diplomats said. Strongly backed by France, the travel bans and asset freezes will be discussed by ministers on Monday at a lunch in Brussels. UN special envoy for Libya Martin Kobler will also attend, although he is not arguing in favour or against sanctions, diplomats told Reuters.

The three under the threat of sanctions are Nouri Abusahmain, the head of Libya's General National Congress in Tripoli, one of two rival parliaments, Khalifa Al-Ghwell, who heads one of Libya's two rival governments, and Aguila Saleh, the president of Libya's internationally recognized parliament in Tobruk.

French and Italian officials have been saying for more than a year that the political void in Libya is allowing Islamic militants to gain ground, spreading out from Tunisia. Efforts to establish a UN-backed unity government in the oil-producing nation have been stalled by resistance from hardliners, or what EU officials call

"spoilers" of the political process. "We expect a decision next week on imposing sanctions on these three," said one EU diplomat, who stressed that EU foreign ministers are not expected to decide on Monday but that a decision could come later in the week. The United Nations is seeking to unite factions and militias that have competed for power since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 and Western powers say the UN process is the only hope of bringing stability and stemming Islamic militancy.

Western powers, including the United States, Britain, France and Germany, are pushing the Libyans to accept a unity government on the basis of a document signed by several members of the internationally recognized parliament in the city of Tobruk. While the procedure is anything but routine as it would replace a full vote in the parliament in Tobruk, Western diplomats say it is the only way forward, as they fear the full parliament may not vote in favour.

A decision by Libyan factions on the legitimacy of the signed document is expected this weekend. Libyan sources close to the Tripoli authorities say that even if there is a deal, European foreign ministers may still go ahead with sanc-

tions in a bid to support the new government and make it clear that those who blocked it are no longer part of the country's political future.

If this plan goes ahead "it could strengthen separatist positions in the Tobruk Parliament and in the East of the country," Claudia Gazzini, senior analyst for Libya at Crisis Group, said. Were no deal sealed this weekend, the full Tobruk parliament will likely have to vote on a new unity government, making it less likely that the European Union imposes sanctions on the three politicians, as it may need them for a deal, Libyan sources say.

Facing a refugee crisis on its borders, the European Union is eager to see the UN-mediated agreement that sets out a political transition for Libya. EU foreign ministers in January promised 100 million euros (\$108 million) of immediate support for Libya once a government is formed, possibly also increasing that support if security conditions improve and allow the return of international workers. With a government in place, the EU is also considering helping Libya strengthen its borders and disarm militias, according to a draft plan seen by Reuters. — Reuters

INDIAN FINANCIAL INVESTIGATORS SUMMON DEBT-LADEN TYCOON

NEW DELHI: India's financial crimes agency yesterday summoned indebted entrepreneur Vijay Mallya in connection with a money-laundering probe, after he left the country owing more than \$1 billion in unpaid loans to banks. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued a summons for the liquor baron, who is thought to be in Britain, to appear before investigators in Mumbai on March 18, the Press Trust of India reported.

The founder of the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines is sought in connection with an alleged case of loan fraud involving state-run IDBI Bank in Mumbai, PTI said. "The summons have been issued to Mallya under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in connection with the IDBI case," the news agency quoted officials as saying. With its summons, the agency has also thrown down the gauntlet for Mallya, who denies that he absconded after his surprise departure from India more than a week ago. A group of banks led by State Bank of India is trying to recover some 90 billion rupees (\$1.34 billion) in unpaid loans from the tycoon. The flamboyant businessman, who is also a member of the Indian parliament, earlier tweeted that he would comply with the law and criticized the media for what he called a "witch hunt".

"I am an international businessman. I travel to and from India frequently. I did not flee from India and neither am I a absconder. Rubbish," Mallya posted on Twitter. "Once a



MUMBAI: In this file photo, Indian businessman Vijay Mallya arrives for the Indian Derby 2015 at the Mahalaxmi race Course. — AP

media witch hunt starts it escalates into a raging fire where truth and facts are burnt to ashes." His departure is an embarrassment for the government, which had to admit in court this week that he had left the country even as it sought permission to impound his passport. Opposition politicians have demanded to know why the 60-year-old was not arrested before he left the country on March 2.

'King of Good Times'

The Central Bureau of Investigation, India's leading investigative agency, in October registered a case against Kingfisher Airlines over a suspect loan the carrier received from IDBI Bank. It alleged the airline's directors "colluded" with officials from IDBI bank who sanctioned a nine-billion rupee loan in violation of banking norms,

resulting in a "huge loss" to the bank.

The ED on Monday tweeted that it had initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of the CBI's report. Mallya, who has not been charged with any crime, stepped down last month as chairman of United Spirits, the Indian arm of Britain's Diageo, following allegations of financial lapses.

An Indian tribunal blocked his \$75 million severance payout at the request of the banks that are owed money from Kingfisher, but Diageo said this week it had already paid \$40 million of the payout. The attorney general, representing the banks in court, on Wednesday called for Mallya to appear in the Supreme Court and disclose his assets.

Mallya was known as the "King of Good Times" before the 2012 collapse of his Kingfisher Airlines, which left thousands of workers unemployed and millions of dollars in unpaid bills. As his liquor business flourished during the early 2000s he diversified into other areas and in 2005 launched Kingfisher Airlines, named after his company's best-known beer.

But he was unable to stop Kingfisher from hemorrhaging cash, and following a pilots' strike over unpaid wages the airline was grounded in 2012 having never made a profit. The row comes as India's state-run banks face growing pressure to step up recovery of a mountain of bad loans. — AFP

SIX KILLED IN SRI LANKA GANG VIOLENCE: POLICE

COLOMBO: Six people were killed in two incidents of apparently gang-related violence in Sri Lanka yesterday, police said, despite a tough crackdown ordered last week. Five were found burned to death in a van on a remote stretch of road outside Colombo, their bodies too charred to be easily identified.

"This looks like some kind of revenge attack," a senior police official told AFP. "An investigation is under way to identify the victims."

We suspect this has something to do with gang rivalry." In a separate incident, gunmen burst into a home in the island's south and opened fire, killing a woman and wounding her husband, police said.

No arrests have yet been made over the deaths, which come days after President Maithripala Sirisena drafted in the military to help tackle a surge in gang-related shootings.

Security forces have been asked to conduct joint operations with the police to dismantle crime networks responsible for drug smuggling and extortion rackets.

Police have also re-introduced road blocks, a common sight during the decades-long Tamil separatist war that ended in May 2009. — AFP

KYI AIDE CONFIRMED AS PRESIDENT NOMINEE, ARMY PICKS HARDLINER

STEP CLOSER TO FIRST CIVILIAN LEADER IN GENERATIONS

NAYPYIDAW: A trusted aide of Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi was a step closer to becoming the country's first civilian leader in generations after sailing through a parliamentary vote yesterday, while the still-powerful military put forward a hardline retired general as its vice president nominee.

Htin Kyaw, a respected writer who helps run Suu Kyi's charitable foundation, was seen as the top choice to act as a proxy for the democracy veteran who is barred from the office by a junta-scripted charter. One further vote of approval is needed in the combined houses dominated by Suu Kyi loyalists before Htin Kyaw can officially be anointed leader of the nation that has been run by the military for decades.

His parliamentary confirmation comes as the military put forward their own candidate, Yangon chief minister Myint Swe, a retired army general seen as an ally of former strongman Than Shwe. The decision is likely to prove controversial in a country still burdened by the legacy of nearly 50 years of rule by the military, which retains significant influence including a quarter of the parliament's seats.

Suu Kyi is beloved by many in Myanmar and the uncontested figurehead of the country's long democracy struggle, but months of negotiations have failed to convince the military to change a charter clause that blocks her from top office.

She has nevertheless vowed to rule "above" the next president as she strives to meet the soaring expectations of millions of voters who handed her National League for Democracy party a thundering election win in November.

'Deserving' choice

The combined houses are expected to vote between three candidates next week, with a new president set to replace outgoing President Thein Sein at the end of March. With the NLD dominating both houses, Htin Kyaw is likely clinch the top post with a comfortable lead. The NLD's other candidate



NAYPYIDAW: Members of parliament belonging to Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party arrive at the parliament building in the capital city. — AFP

is from the upper house, ethnic Chin MP Henry Van Thio. Both he and Myint Swe would then become vice presidents. Even the state-backed Global New Light of Myanmar, which normally shies away from coverage of Suu Kyi and her party, yesterday said Htin Kyaw "is favoured to ascend to the presidency absent any irregularities in the process". Though he did not run in November's polls, Htin Kyaw is a close and trusted confidante.

He sometimes drove for the democracy activist during her brief moments of freedom from house arrest, and was at her side when she was finally freed in 2010. Htin Kyaw commands significant respect in Myanmar, partly because his father was a legendary writer and early member of the NLD. He is married to sitting NLD MP Su Su Lwin, whose late father was the party's respected spokesman.

Party spectrum

"We are going to see our first ever civilian president. He is endowed with presidential qualifications and has worked alongside Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for democracy. He is a deserving one," Tin Thit, a lower house NLD lawmaker told AFP. Daw means auntie and is a term of respect.

Suu Kyi was first to cast her ballot in the lower house vote that saw Htin Kyaw win support from across the party spectrum.

Barred from top political office because she married and had children with a foreigner, she has not outlined what her future role will be. Some have suggested she could mimic India's Sonia Gandhi, who wielded huge influence over her Congress party's administration despite having no official government role. — AFP

BRITISH LESBIAN LOSES HONG KONG LEGAL BID

HONG KONG: A British lesbian yesterday lost a legal challenge against Hong Kong authorities to grant her a visa to live and work there with her partner, in a setback for LGBT equality in the territory. QT, as she is referred to in court, entered into a civil partnership in Britain in 2011 and moved to Hong Kong the same year, after her partner was offered a job in the city.

But she was denied a dependent visa and has instead stayed in Hong Kong on a visitor visa, which does not allow her to work. The socially conservative southern Chinese city does not recognize gay marriage and only decriminalized homosexuality in 1991.

"The applicant has failed in her grounds in support of this judicial review, I therefore dismiss the application," High Court judge Thomas Au said in a written judgment. "To effectively accept a same-sex-marriage-like relationship to be equivalent to a married status in Hong Kong is not permissible under the laws of Hong Kong as they now stand," Au said.

Immigration law in the former British colony does not explicitly mention gay couples, but states that only the "spouse" of a person permitted to work in the territory may apply for a dependent visa. "This decision while disappointing is not altogether unexpected," QT's lawyer Michael Vidler told reporters after the judgment was handed down.

"QT is a strong and very determined young woman. We will overcome this setback and as she said, we'll continue the fight," Vidler said, adding that QT will be challenging the judgment and that an appeal will be filed within 28 days. If the challenge fails in the Court of Appeal, she will still be able to continue to the Court of Final Appeal.

'Hugely disappointing'

Activists and members of the LGBT community expressed disappointment at the High Court decision. "This judgment is very disappointing, it allows the government to continue to perpetuate the separation of loving couples," activist group Pink Alliance vice chair Billy Leung told AFP. "The judgment continues to (keep) foreign same-sex talent away from Hong Kong and if we do not change such policy...then it diminishes our attractiveness in attracting overseas talent," Leung added. "They portray themselves as a destination for international corporations and issues like this are going to be a problem for them," a senior expatriate business executive told AFP on the condition of anonymity.

The executive, who works at an American corporation in the city and married a Chinese man in the US last year, applied for a dependent visa in Hong Kong six months ago. "It's hugely disappointing," he said of the court's decision. At a court hearing in May of last year, the government's counsel Stewart Wong said that "marriage can only be heterosexual." Allowing same-sex couples to reside in Hong Kong through dependent visas would "open a door too wide", Wong said. — AFP



HONG KONG: This file photo taken on November 10, 2012 shows participants taking part in a Gay Pride procession.—AFP



TOKYO: Japanese Emperor Akihito (right) with Empress Michiko (left) deliver an address in front of an altar for the victims of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami at the national memorial service. —AFP

TEARS, PRAYERS AS JAPAN MARKS 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF TSUNAMI

MOST STRICKEN AREAS REMAIN UNINHABITABLE

TOKYO: Japan paused yesterday to mark five years since an offshore earthquake spawned a monster tsunami that left about 18,500 people dead or missing along its northeastern coast and sparked the worst nuclear disaster in a quarter century.

Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other participants at a national ceremony in Tokyo bowed their heads along with residents across the affected region at 2:46 pm (0546 GMT) — the exact moment on March 11, 2011 the magnitude 9.0 quake struck under the Pacific Ocean.

The massive earthquake unleashed a giant wall of water that swallowed schools and entire neighborhoods, with unforgettable images of panicked residents fleeing to higher ground and vehicles and ships bobbing in the swirling waters of flooded towns.

The waves also swamped power supplies at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, causing reactor meltdowns that released radiation in the most dangerous nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986. In the northern city of Sendai in Miyagi prefecture—the region that suffered the most deaths—survivors and bereaved relatives gathered at a Buddhist statue built for the repose of victims' souls in front of a huge breakwater at Arahama beach where massive waves crashed ashore five years ago.

Some joined hands in prayer, while a woman threw a bouquet of flowers into the sea. Police and firefighters were seen combing beaches along the Pacific coast in continuing efforts to find evidence of victims, including bones, as many families say they still cannot abandon hope of seeing their loved ones again.

In remarks at the solemn event in Tokyo inside the National Theatre, 82-year-old Akihito spoke of those who were forced to evacuate after the disaster because of nuclear contamination. "I feel

pain in my heart when I think of people who still could not return home," he said. The crisis forced tens of thousands of residents near the stricken plant to flee their homes, farms and fishing boats. Some areas remain uninhabitable, though in others residents have been cleared to return. As night fell in Sendai, residents gathered at a park where thousands of candles were arranged on the ground to form the Japanese-language phrase "toward the future light".

'Cold shutdown'

The situation remains fragile in Fukushima prefecture, where the nuclear plant suffered explosions that spread radioactive material into the surrounding

countryside and ocean. Authorities have since brought the reactors to a state of "cold shutdown" and dispatched work crews to cleanse affected houses, sweep streets and shave topsoil in "decontamination" efforts.

Tokyo Electric Power, the operator of the shuttered plant, admits it has only made small steps in what is likely to be a four-decade battle to decommission the crippled reactors. Japan's entire stable of reactors was shuttered in the disaster's aftermath but Abe and utility companies have been pushing to get as many as possible back in operation—despite public opposition and legal hurdles—saying they are essential to power the world's third-largest economy.—AFP

BEIJING DEFENDS ITSELF ON HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM

BEIJING: Beijing defended itself yesterday against criticism at the United Nations of its human rights record, saying it was pursuing "a path with Chinese characteristics" on the issue. The United States and 11 other countries took China to task at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, demanding it immediately release all detained activists and lawyers.

"We are concerned about China's deteriorating human rights record, notably the arrests and ongoing detention of rights activists, civil society leaders and lawyers," Keith Harper, the US ambassador to the body, said Thursday. Under President Xi Jinping, China's ruling Communist Party has tightened controls over civil society, detaining or interrogating more than 200 human rights lawyers and activists in what analysts have called one of the biggest crackdowns on dis-

sent in years. China defended itself yesterday, with foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei saying that "no country is perfect" and accusing Washington of "seriously interfering with China's domestic affairs and judicial sovereignty". Beijing protected the rights of its citizens "by combining principles of the universality of human rights with China's realities", Hong said. "We have found a path with Chinese characteristics and made remarkable achievements."

Harper's remarks echoed recent comments from UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, who also called for detained lawyers to be released. China is currently in the spotlight over the disappearances of five Hong Kong booksellers who reappeared on the mainland, and the use of televised confessions from suspects, among a host of other issues.—AFP

'TRUDEAUMANIA' INVADES THE WHITE HOUSE

POPULAR CANADIAN PM VISITS OBAMA AND CO

WASHINGTON: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau brought "Trudeaumania" to America on Thursday and the verdict was a resounding thumbs-up. "Breath of fresh air," "impressive" and "very impressive" was how some of the guests at a splashy White House state dinner in Canada's honor described the country's new leader. Trudeau is the boyish-looking, 44-year-old son of a former Canadian prime minister.

"He's cool," said actor Michael J Fox, who was born in Edmonton. Fox declared himself a fan of Trudeau's father, Pierre Trudeau, whom he described as the "coolest world leader going. He seems to be pretty cool, too," Fox said of the younger Trudeau.

"When I lived in Canada, Pierre Trudeau was my prime minister for 14 years and he's my hero," said actor Mike Myers, who sported a head of snow white hair for his first White House state dinner, the first for Canada in nearly 20 years. "Now I'm thrilled to have his son as my prime minister. I think it's going to be a great time for Canada and a great time for Canadian-US relations."

New season in politics

More than 170 guests sporting tuxedos and designer gowns filed in for dinner in the East Room, which was transformed by the addition of cascading arrangements of blooming orchids, hydrangeas and amaranth in shades of green and white intended to evoke the coming of spring - much like Trudeau's election in October has ushered in a new season in Canadian politics.

"I'm extremely proud of Canada," said actress Sandra Oh, formerly of "Grey's Anatomy," who was born in Ottawa, the Canadian capital. "Obviously, he carries the legacy of one of our greatest prime ministers so I'm extremely excited to meet him." Sen Patrick Leahy, D-Vt, said he

was not the least bit surprised by the hubbub over Trudeau; the senator lives about an hour away from the border. "He's a breath of fresh air," said Leahy.

The guest list featured a hefty dose of Canadian star power from actors Fox, Myers, Oh and Ryan Reynolds, along with "Saturday Night Live" creator Lorne Michaels. Professional sports were represented by the US hockey and basketball commissioners, along with retired NBA player Grant Hill and his wife, Tamia, a Canadian singer. Leahy and a few other Democratic senators were joined by Republicans Susan Collins of Maine and Orrin Hatch of Utah.

Like at previous state dinners, political donors made the guest list, too. Adam Silver, commissioner of the National Basketball Association, contributed \$3,500 to Obama's 2012 re-election campaign and \$2,700 more recently to Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential run.

Longtime Obama supporter Irwin Jacobs, founder of the Qualcomm tech firm, also attended. Jacobs gave more than \$2 million to a "super" political action committee supporting the president's re-election. The La Jolla, Calif., billionaire also gave nearly \$23,000 to Obama's campaign and to the Democratic Party.

Tribute to daughters

First lady Michelle Obama turned again to one of her favorite designers, Jason Wu, who dressed her in a strapless midnight blue floral jacquard gown with asymmetrical draping. Taiwan-born Wu was raised in Canada. Trudeau's wife wore a bright purple dress with coral flower trim by Canadian designer Lucian Matis, who immigrated from Romania.

Daughters Malia and Sasha attended their first state dinner. Malia, 17, sat with Oh and Sasha, 14, sat with Reynolds and his wife, actress



WASHINGTON: (From left) Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau, US first lady Michelle Obama, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and US President Barack Obama pose for a photo before a state dinner at the White House. — AFP

Blake Lively. Mrs Obama sat with Fox. The menu was also designed with spring in mind: halibut casserole with spring vegetables; salad with apricots roasted in ginger, cardamom and White House honey; and herb-crusted Colorado lamb drizzled with a Canadian whiskey sauce.

The dessert cake was made with toasted Texas pecans and New England maple syrup, and was accompanied by a separate hand-crafted sugar sculpture inspired by the Rocky Mountains and bearing an assortment of petite pastries with American and Canadian influences. Toasting Trudeau, Obama said, "Here in America, you may well be the most popular Canadian named Justin" - a reference to

Canadian-born pop star Justin Bieber.

Trudeau reciprocated by paying tribute to Malia and Sasha, saying he admired them and advising them that their remarkable childhood will give them "extraordinary strength and wisdom" for the rest of their lives. Sara Bareilles, a favorite of Mrs Obama and known for her hit, "Love Song," was headlining the after-dinner entertainment.

Trudeau took office in November and carries one of the most famous names in Canadian political history. His late father was prime minister for the better part of 16 years, between 1968 and 1984, and remains the rare Canadian politician who is recognized in America. — AP

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

Spring Offers

SAMSUNG
GALAXY Note Edge
N915

139 السعر
Price
282.000 السعر 142.900 السعر

32GB 5.6" 2.7mm 16mp

iPhone 6 4G

159 السعر
Price
16GB 4.7"

iPhone 6 4G

189 السعر
Price
128GB 4.7"

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

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

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

UTAH KEEPS DEATH PENALTY DESPITE ABOLISHMENT PUSH

SALT LAKE CITY: A surprising push to abolish the death penalty in deep-red Utah ran out of steam, as the Republican lawmaker shepherding the measure said he didn't have enough votes to pass it before a midnight deadline.

The proposal won enough support in the GOP-dominated Legislature to be one debate and vote away from final passage, a surprising turnaround from lawmakers' vote a year ago to revive the use of firing squads in executions if lethal drugs are unavailable. "I think that people ruled us out at every step and we kept progressing," said state Sen Steve

Urquhart, the Republican pushing to end capital punishment. Unable to secure enough votes, Urquhart abandoned the push Thursday night after briefly shopping the idea of a moratorium instead. The lawmaker told The Associated Press that he came very close to securing a majority of votes from the 75 members of the House of Representatives. But he said too many undecided legislators would have needed hours of convincing.

Victim of the clock

"I can't say that the bill is totally a victim of the clock, but you know, if we had another week or so, it would be interesting to see what would have happened," he said. Even if it had passed, the measure faced an uncertain future with Republican Gov Gary Herbert, who supports capital punishment in extreme cases but wouldn't say if he would veto the measure.

Herbert told the AP on Thursday evening that he was concerned about the decades of delays that death row inmates spend appealing their sentences and higher costs of capital cases. "I'm pro-death penalty, but with the parameters that it's done on very rare occasions for the most heinous of crimes," he said. "And that's how Utah has utilized it over the last 40 years. We've only had seven executions in 40 years. This is not Texas." The governor said he was a bit surprised how much support the repeal measure had received. Shortly before Urquhart said he was ending the push, the older brother of the last man executed in the state interrupted legislators by shouting at them from the House gallery.

Randy Gardner of Salt Lake City, who opposes capital punishment, unfurled a banner with autopsy images of his younger brother while yelling "Nobody has the right to do that to somebody. I don't care who he is and what he did."

Ronnie Lee Gardner was executed in 2010 by firing squad. He killed a bartender and later shot a lawyer to death and wounded a bailiff during a 1985 courthouse escape attempt. Legislative security removed the banner from Randy Gardner and took him outside in handcuffs. He told reporters he was upset that it appeared lawmakers would not vote on the repeal. "They're not listening to us," he said.

Nineteen other states and the District of Columbia have abolished capital punishment, and lawmakers, including Republicans, in more than half a dozen other states have suggested their states should do the same. The Utah repeal measure was originally believed to meet quick roadblocks in Utah, but Urquhart framed the issue in terms that appealed to lawmakers' libertarian leanings. He argued that the death penalty is costly and gives imperfect governments a godlike power over life and death.

Shortchanged

Death penalty supporters argued Urquhart's repeal would leave prosecutors shortchanged at the bargaining table, where they would otherwise negotiate a plea deal of a life sentence without parole in lieu of execution. Other critics said that for especially heinous crimes, execution is a just punishment.

The debate comes amid a renewed national discussion about capital punishment. A shortage of lethal-injection drugs in the US in recent years has led several states to pass or consider laws to bring back other execution methods, such as electrocution. Last year, Utah lawmakers voted to reinstate firing squads as a backup method to ensure the state had a way to kill death row inmates if it couldn't get lethal-injection drugs. Utah lawmakers stopped offering inmates the choice of firing squad in 2004, saying the method attracted intense media interest and took away attention from victims. Last year's resurrection of the firing squad made it an option for all death row inmates, if drug cannot be obtained 30 days before their execution. Utah is the only state in four decades to carry out such a death sentence, with three executions by firing squad since the US Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976.— AP



MIAMI: Republican presidential candidate, Sen Marco Rubio (left) speaks as Republican presidential candidates, businessman Donald Trump and Republican presidential candidate, Sen Ted Cruz, listen, during the Republican presidential debate sponsored by CNN, Salem Media Group and the Washington Times at the University of Miami.— AP

REPUBLICANS SWAP BARBS FOR SUBSTANCE IN FLORIDA DEBATE

RUBIO ON LAST STRINGS, TRUMP REMAINS INVINCIBLE

MIAMI: Republican White House hopefuls ditched the insults and heated rhetoric that have come to define the 2016 race on Thursday, talking policy and substance on the debate stage in a stunning show of civility. Donald Trump and his challengers for the party's nomination have traded weeks of often below-the-belt barbs, and the anticipation for the debate in Miami had felt more like the run up to a heavyweight championship bout.

Four men took to the stage in Miami: Trump, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, Ohio Governor John Kasich and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, who needs to pull off an upset win when his home state votes next Tuesday if he is to salvage his struggling campaign. Not a voice was raised in anger as the candidates sparred in measured tones, without interrupting, on immigration and visas, trade tariffs, Cuba policy, climate change and what to do to reduce the terror threat.

"We're all in this together. We're going to come up with solutions. We're going to find the answers to things," said Trump at one point, as he tackled immigration and security challenges. "And so far I cannot believe how civil it's been up here," marvelled the billionaire frontrunner, who has been working hard to appear more presidential looking ahead to a possible general election showdown with Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton. Floridians vote on March 15 along with residents of Ohio and Illinois. All three big states are winner-take-all in the Republican delegate race, the first such contests in the 2016 cycle.

Rubio on the ropes

Many in the party see next Tuesday's votes as the last best chance to derail the billionaire real estate mogul's insur-

gent candidacy. Trump is by all accounts the man to beat. He emerged strengthened by victories Tuesday in Michigan, Mississippi and Hawaii, and has now won 15 of 24 races. And he has boldly predicted he will win Rubio's Florida and Kasich's Ohio, which would in all likelihood put the final nail in the coffin for their campaigns.

Trump leads Rubio in Florida by a dramatic 43 to 20 percent among likely Republican primary voters, according to a Fox News poll released Wednesday, while Kasich leads in his own state with 34 percent support.

Trump caused a global firestorm in December when he called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States, and on the eve of the debate he unleashed a stunning new provocation, telling CNN: "I think Islam hates us." Despite the debate's civility, Trump doubled down on the sentiment Thursday. "I will stick with exactly what I said."

Rubio leaned in for criticism. "I know that a lot of people find appeal in the things Donald says. The problem is presidents can't just say anything they want," he said. Rubio denied Trump's suggestion he was afraid of speaking tough truths for fear of causing offense. "I'm not interested in being politically correct. I'm interested in being correct," he shot back.

Rubio was championed by party luminaries as the best mainstream hope of derailing Trump, but he has performed dreadfully in several recent primary contests, including those on Tuesday. With his campaign on the verge of fizzling, Rubio has stressed it is crucial to gang up on the frontrunner and has called on all Republicans to get behind him as the only candidate with a chance to beat him in Florida. Rubio was far more polished and serious on stage Thursday than in recent weeks

and debates, when his strategy appeared to be to deliver Trump a dose of his own belligerent medicine.

'Bad dudes'

He had ripped into Trump's looks, belittled his small hands, even suggested Trump had wet his pants. But the strategy backfired: after votes were counted in Michigan, Mississippi, Idaho and Hawaii on Tuesday, Rubio walked away with zero delegates. Instead, Rubio offered coherent policy platforms, including on Social Security, saying changes would have to be made including raising the retirement age or risk a US "debt crisis."

Cruz, who has emerged as the most viable anti-Trump candidate, is aiming to spoil any Rubio resurgence, campaigning heavily in Florida in the run up to the primary. Cruz did clash with Trump several times, notably over his incendiary call for the US military to target the families of terror suspects and trade tariffs.

"We've never targeted innocent civilians and we're not going to start now," Cruz said. The real estate mogul has said he would threaten countries like China and Mexico with import tariffs as high as 45 percent if they did not play by international trade rules, but Cruz said that would only hurt the pocket-books of hard-working Americans. "We've got to get beyond the rhetoric of 'China bad' and actually get to how do you solve the problem."

Trump also addressed the issue of violence at his rallies, following the arrest of a man who punched a protester in the face in a chaotic scene at one of his campaign events. "I certainly do not condone that at all," Trump said. But he added: "We have some protesters who are bad dudes, they have done bad things." — AFP

BUSINESS

Kuwait Times

China's labor law under fire

16

China slowing economy won't stop anti-pollution efforts

Railway strike draws closer for New Jersey commuters

20

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016



India's booming cities built from 'blood bricks'

17



LAGOS: People wait for fuel at a filling station in Lagos, on March 9, 2016. Unions shut down operations at Nigeria's state oil firm on March 9, 2016 in protest at restructuring plans, a spokesman said, in a move that could worsen fuel supplies in Africa's largest producer. "Operations at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) have been grounded nationwide," said Babatunde Oke, of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association (PENGASSAN). — AFP

IEA: OIL PRICE ROUT MAY FINALLY BE OVER 'REMARKABLE RECOVERY' OVER RECENT WEEKS

PARIS: The oil price may have finally bottomed out after an unprecedented drop over the past 18 months, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said yesterday, noting oil's "remarkable recovery" over recent weeks.

Recent sharp gains in the oil price, taking it to around \$40 per barrel now from \$28.50 in mid-January, do not necessarily mean that the worst is over, the IEA said in its monthly oil market report. "Even so, there are signs that prices might have bottomed out," it said.

Oil had seen a dramatic fall since trading above \$110 in mid-2014 to lows seen in January of this year, before staging a modest recovery to current levels. Oil prices rebounded yesterday following the report, with US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for delivery in April adding 71 cents on the day to trade at \$38.55 and Brent North Sea crude for May delivery rising 66 cents to \$40.71.

CMC Markets analyst Jasper Lawler credited the IEA's outlook with sparking the oil price rise by calling for "a possible bottom". The report

was "bullish", added DNB Bank. "Undoubtedly, one of the reasons for the price strength is the monthly report on global supply/demand published by the IEA this morning," commented oil brokers PVM. But there is a long way to go before supply and demand find a real balance, probably in 2017, the IEA said in its report.

"For prices there may be light at the end of what has been a long, dark tunnel, but we cannot be precisely sure when in 2017 the oil market will achieve the much-desired balance," it said. Among factors supporting higher prices are talks among producers launched by Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Qatar and Russia to freeze production which the IEA said amount to "a first stab at co-ordinated action that is intended to stabilise prices" with the presumed aim of pushing oil up to \$50 a barrel.

The outcome of negotiations is, however, uncertain and a big supply overhang in the oil market means it would have little impact in the months ahead. "Later this month some oil producers are expected to meet to discuss a possi-

ble output freeze. We cannot know what this might be and in any event it is rather unlikely that an agreement will affect the supply/demand balance substantially in the first half of 2016," the report said.

'Market forces working their magic'

Among other factors keeping a lid on oil supply, Iran's return to the market following the lifting of Western sanctions in January has been "less dramatic than the Iranians said it would be", the IEA said. "Provisionally, it appears that Iran's return will be gradual," said the 29-nation agency that provides analysis on global energy markets. Iran's oil minister Bijan Zangeneh said earlier this month that Iran was pumping 400,000 barrels per day more than a year earlier, which is short of the 500,000-barrel increase Iran announced in January. The IEA said supply disruptions in Iraq, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates, steady demand for oil and recent weakness of the dollar were other reasons favouring expectations of a price upturn.

Also, there are signs that high-cost producers, including of US shale oil, are lowering output as they can't cover their costs because of oil price weakness. Consequently, the IEA has lowered its output target for the US, Brazil and Colombia. "There are clear signs that market forces-ahead of any production restraint initiative - are working their magic and higher cost producers are cutting output," it said.

Global demand for oil is expected to grow by 1.2 million barrels per day (mb/d) this year, unchanged from the IEA's previous estimate. But the agency said that risks are on the downside, with demand in the US expected to be flat and in China below that seen in recent years.

Most oil demand growth this year will come from India, smaller Asian countries and the Middle East, the IEA said. While many market analysts agreed with the IEA's oil price assessment, Goldman Sachs this week gave a dissenting view. "We maintain our near-term view of a trendless oil market with substantial volatility" between \$40 and \$20 per barrel, Goldman said. — AFP

FILIPINO BUSINESSMAN DENIES LINKS TO MONEY LAUNDERING

MANILA: A Filipino businessman, one of six people under investigation for the alleged laundering of \$81 million dollars thought to have been stolen from the US account of Bangladesh's central bank, yesterday asked authorities to unfreeze his bank accounts, denying involvement in the scheme.

William SGo, petitioned the Court of Appeals to reconsider a March 1 freeze order issued at the request of the Anti-Money Laundering Council. He said one account under his name and another under the name of his company, Centurytex Trading, at a branch of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. were bogus and his signature had been forged.

The petition submitted yesterday said Go did not open the accounts. It called for an investigation into the situation. In a signed affidavit to the National Bureau of Investigations, Go said a branch manager at the Rizal Commercial Bank told him the two invalid accounts had been set up to handle a large U.S. dollar remittance allegedly coming from Bangladesh that was converted into Philippine pesos with the approval of the bank's head office.

Bogus claims

Go's lawyer, Ramon Esguerra, told reporters that his client was not questioning the freeze on the accounts Go says are

bogus, but is challenging its application to his other, legitimate accounts. Esguerra's office released to reporters copies of Go's court petition and affidavit to the NBI. Rizal Commercial Bank's CEO, Lorenzo Tan, has denied knowledge of the scheme.

"I condemn as malicious and actionable insinuations that the top management of the bank knew of and tolerated alleged money laundering activities in one branch," Tan said in a statement earlier this week. "I will fully cooperate with all ongoing inquiries and believe that I and consequently the bank's management will be fully vindicated." The Bangladesh central bank says it is working to recover some \$100 million it

says was taken from an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Authorities have given few details about how the money disappeared. But Bangladesh's finance minister, AMA Muhith, said the government was considering suing the US bank over the money's apparent transfer to accounts in the Philippines.

In a statement Wednesday, the New York Fed said it had not detected any hacking attempts, said there was no evidence any Fed systems were compromised. The New York Fed said it has been working with the central bank of Bangladesh since the incident occurred "and will continue to provide assistance as appropriate." — AP



HUBEI PROVINCE: This picture taken on March 4, 2016 shows Chinese laborers working at a steel market in Yichang. One of China's largest steelmakers plans to shed up to 50,000 jobs, its chairman said, as the country struggles to reduce overcapacity while growth in the world's second-largest economy slows. — AFP

CHINA'S LABOR LAW UNDER FIRE AS RESTRUCTURING THREATENS JOBS

BUSINESSES SAY LABOR PROTECTIONS STIFLE JOB CREATION

BEIJING: China's labor protections are coming under fire from high places as economic restructuring pits officials concerned about social stability against a lobby arguing inflexible policies are stifling job creation and suppressing wages.

Company executives, especially at foreign or private firms, have long been critical of labor contract legislation and minimum wage laws that make it difficult for owners of an ailing business to turn it around or find willing buyers. Now policymakers anxious to modernize China's slowing economy and slash overcapacity in heavy industry are making similar noises.

The export powerhouse province of Guangdong, a trillion-dollar economy that often leads the way on market reforms, said on Tuesday it would scrap scheduled rises to the local minimum wage in 2016, and keep it at 2015 levels - slightly over 1,500 Yuan (\$230) per month - through 2018.

On the same day, the official Xinhua

media service highlighted comments by finance minister Lou Jiwei, who criticized China's Labor Contract Law in a speech during the annual meeting of parliament. The law dates to 2008, when China had a reputation for sweatshops staffed by underpaid workers, an embarrassment for a ruling party that monopolized power in the name of socialism.

Hampering transformation

The law fixed a 40-hour work week for most employees, regulated maternity leave, and required businesses to be able to prove their case for sacking employees for incompetence or criminality or face heavy penalties. Chinese wages have since shot up at double-digit rates, and some think the labor protections are hampering an economic transformation that will benefit workers in the long run.

"For enterprises and employees, the extent of protection afforded by the Labor

Contract Law is unbalanced," Lou said, adding it encouraged companies to move jobs from China to other countries. "Who eventually bears the costs? The working class who the law was intended to protect," Lou said. Labor activists say the protections are still needed, and businesses often break labor law with impunity, especially if they have local government connections.

The Xinhua article was circulated in both Chinese and English with supportive comments from regulators, exciting speculation that changes to the law could be afoot. The timing could suit Beijing, which aims to reduce overcapacity in several industries, laying off an estimated 6 million workers at state-owned firms in the process. It wants to do so without a spike in unemployment or crimping domestic consumption, but strong labor protections make companies unwilling to create new jobs or pay much for the jobs they do create. — Reuters

BRITISH EX-BANKERS GET 2 YEARS IN LIBOR SCANDAL

NEW YORK: While criticizing "mass incarceration" in America and a failure to punish financiers after the financial crisis, a judge Thursday sentenced two British ex-bankers to prison for their roles in manipulating the primary benchmark for global short-term interest rates.

US District Judge Jed Rakoff in Manhattan sentenced Anthony Allen to two years in prison and Anthony Conti to a year and a day. The former Dutch bank Rabobank employees were convicted in November of conspiracy and other charges for their roles in manipulating the London interbank offered rate, known as LIBOR. LIBOR is used by banks to borrow from each other and affects trillions of dollars in contracts around the world, including mortgages, bonds and consumer loans.

While announcing the sentences, Rakoff criticized the US government's failure to prosecute individuals from large financial institutions in connection with the 2008 financial crisis. Rakoff said he was "mystified" that prosecutors only went after institutions since punishing individuals has a deterrent effect on others in a profession where stepping over boundaries can be tempting if there is seemingly no penalty for doing so.

Breaking a tradition

He said the United States, breaking a tradition of going after individuals when widespread financial crimes occur, had decided after the most recent financial crisis that it was best "extracting money from corporate parents, usually at the cost to their innocent shareholders." The judge also decried what he called "mass incarceration" in America that falls particularly harshly on black communities.

He noted there are more than 2 million people in US prisons and about 40 percent of the population is black men, who are disproportionately incarcerated. He said it is "mass incarceration to which this country suffers to its total shame." Rakoff said the crimes of Allen and Conti, both of whom are white, called for prison sentences, but nothing near the decades in prison that the charges could bring.

Both were convicted last year by a jury that spent weeks hearing evidence compiled in a Justice Department probe of what was described as a global fraud scheme. The investigation into the manipulation of a composite of the interest rate used by London banks when they borrow money from one another also resulted in the conviction in London of Tom Hayes, a former bank executive in the United Kingdom. He is serving an 11-year sentence, though Rakoff noted that he is unlikely to serve more than 5 1/2 years.

Conti, of Essex, England, was a senior banker who handled US dollars while Allen, of Hertfordshire, England, was the global head of cash at the Dutch bank Rabobank when prosecutors said the scheme was carried out from 2005 to 2011. Before the sentencing was announced, Allen told the judge he wished he had rejected the requests by others to influence the interest rate. He said he wished his "radar was more tuned in" and now feared for his two young daughters who are "no longer happy-go-lucky bubbly girls." Conti asked the judge for compassion, saying he worried about the effect on his family. — AP



NEW DELHI: A general view of the skyline of the Indian capital. — AFP

INDIA'S BOOMING CITIES BUILT FROM 'BLOOD BRICKS' OF POOR LABORERS

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM IS MASSIVE

PONNERI: When police raided the brick kiln in southern India where Siriya Banchor had been conned into a life of bonded labor - along with hundreds of other poor, illiterate migrants - the 48-year-old seemed more bewildered than relieved.

Fumbling in the darkness of a windowless mud-and-brick room she had shared with her family for more than two months, Banchor stuffed her things into a sack, took her child's hand and emerged into the bright glare of the afternoon sun.

"I have two sets of clothes, two utensils and a little rice. We came with nothing, hoping to earn enough to pay back our loan," she said, stepping over piles of half-baked bricks to join other rescued workers waiting to board trucks that would take them to temporary lodgings. "We are going back with nothing but at least the suffering will end," Banchor said as she stood amid the crowds at the kiln on the outskirts of Chennai.

In all, 564 brick kiln workers, including Banchor, were rescued last week by police and local authorities acting on a tip-off from an employee at the kiln. It was one of the largest such operations in India - shedding light on the huge number of laborers trafficked into servicing the country's booming construction industry, activists say.

"The scale and magnitude of the problem is massive," said Chandan Kumar, founder of "Blood Bricks" - a campaign launched two years ago to expose abuses in the construction sector. "There are gross violations happening in many of these kilns, but the government does not have the resources or the capacity to inspect these places and check on the conditions under which workers are living, much of which amounts to modern day slavery."

Bonded labor

India is home to almost half the world's 36 million slaves, according to the 2015 Global Slavery Index, produced by the Australia-based Walk Free Foundation. Many Indians are duped into offering themselves for work in farms, brothels, small shops and restaurants as security against a loan they have taken or a debt

inherited from a relative.

This kind of exploitation is especially common in the construction sector, particularly in the unregulated areas of brick-making and stone quarrying, experts say. Yet construction is one of the most important sectors in the Indian economy, providing around 35 million jobs and contributing eight percent of the country's GDP.

With India's towns and cities projected to swell by an additional 404 million people by 2050, demand for infrastructure and services will continue to be voracious. The government admits current levels of infrastructure are inadequate. In the urban housing sector alone, there is a shortage of 18.8 million "dwelling units", it says.

"There is definitely a link between the building you see coming up in the city and the pile of bricks lying outside the construction site which come from brick kilns employing bonded labor," said PM Nair, a leading expert on human trafficking and modern day slavery. "When a contract is awarded, it includes labor cost but not even one percent is put aside for their welfare," said Nair, who is chair professor and research coordinator on human trafficking at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai.

Trafficked and duped

There are no official figures on the number of people employed to cut, shape and bake clay-fired bricks mostly by hand in India's tens of thousands of brick kilns. According to a 2015 paper by the Centre for Science and Environment at least 10 million people work in kilns, many located on the edge of towns and cities making them easily accessible for urban builders.

In Ponneri, about 50 km from the coastal city Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state, rescued workers at the Sri Lakshmi Ganapathi Brick Industries brick kiln described how they were brought here two months ago by agents. The workers, all from the eastern Indian state of Odisha, said traffickers visited their villages, offering loans of 20,000 rupees (\$300) in exchange for six months labor. The trafficker then sold the debt to another

"agent" who brought them in batches by train to Chennai.

"The agents who come to our villages spot the families in distress. They know when there has been an unforeseen expenditure and then offer the loans," said one worker, a young, bare-chested man who followed his uncle to the kiln. "They come to us when we have hit rock bottom and have no choice but to agree to their terms."

Uncertain future

The laborers, along with their children, said they worked 10 hours daily, slept in tiny rooms with their families, and had no access to clean water or toilets. They were told they would be expected to work from January to June, before the monsoons usually strike, disrupting work.

Each family, some of them with elderly or pregnant women, was expected to produce at least 2,000 bricks daily. If they did not, less money would be deducted from their loan. They said they received no official documentation of the loan and did not know how much of the debt they had cleared. "Each family has a debt of up to 20,000 rupees (\$300). And they are being paid only 400 rupees (\$6) per family every week, without being allowed to go home unless they paid the entire amount," said M Narayanan, revenue department official leading the raid.

A doctor working for the brick kiln owners, who was arrested along with five others, including site supervisors, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation he provided a steady supply of painkillers to ensure workers kept working. A disregard for labor laws, impunity for agents and brick kiln owners and few alternatives for workers who are rescued made it difficult to break the cycle of exploitation, campaigners said.

"In most cases, the rescued laborers say they had no means to get the next meal and therefore no choice but to go with the agent," said Mathew Joji, a spokesman for International Justice Mission, a US-based human rights group. "Unless that ground reality changes, things will not improve for them even after rescue." — Reuters

CHINA SLOWING ECONOMY WON'T STOP ANTI-POLLUTION EFFORTS

BEIJING: China will not return to its era of pursuing economic growth at the expense of the environment despite its slowing economy, the country's environment minister said yesterday. Chen Jining said China would continue to restructure its economy away from heavily polluting companies to create more room for "good companies" to develop and focus on technological innovation, for example.

Chen pointed, however, to the need to rein in local governments, some of whom are still leery of enforcing environmental laws in favor of boosting economic growth in their areas. "We need to hold the local governments accountable," said Chen. "Only if we hold them accountable for environmental responsibilities will the enterprises be more law-abiding." Last year, China's economic growth slowed to a 25-year low of 6.9 percent. This year, authorities have set a growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent. For decades, China pursued economic growth with little care of the damage to the country's environment. In recent years, the Chinese government has changed tack as it tries to move away from an economy dependent on heavy industry to a more sustainable one based on domestic consumption and services.

Wealthy citizens

At the same time, China's increasingly wealthy citizens have become more concerned with the consequences of environmental pollution. "What is development? We used to equate it with GDP and production," said Chen. "We have come to believe that nature is valuable and priceless. We have abandoned the former idea of contrasting development with environmental protection but rather believe the two elements can be unified and balanced." Today, China is aiming to transform its economic development model and pursue "economic quality, but also environmental quality," Chen told a news conference during an annual meeting of the country's legislature. "Only when those polluters bow out of the market will it be possible to set aside some development space for good companies to focus on innovation and improving product quality, and to avoid the phenomenon of 'bad money driving out good' in our development," said Chen.

China's slowing growth, attempts to refocus its economy on services and long-term efforts to get rid of overcapacity in industries including coal and steel are helping to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases. But local governments' perennial push for economic growth in their cities and provinces, and state companies' tendency to spend large, can lead to projects that are at odds with central policymakers' push to clean up the area, according to environmentalists.

China is the world's largest coal user, but its coal consumption has fallen for the past two years, and it has become the world's leading investor in renewable energy. Yet China approved more than 200 new coal-fired power plants last year, with a capacity three times as much as that in each of the previous two years, according to a Greenpeace analysis published last week. It attributed the jump to a change in March last year to allow local governments to give permits, rather than central government agencies.

'Coal bubble'

"The coal bubble is an example of how their attempts to prop up GDP can lead to economically and environmentally perverse outcomes," said Lauri Myllyvirta, senior global campaigner at Greenpeace. The building of these new plants doesn't mean an overall increasing in coal-burning because China is continuing to close down older plants, Greenpeace said. But it does mean "massive economic waste, and a missed opportunity to channel the investment spending into renewable energy, enabling even faster growth."

Shanxi, a province of coal mines, last year approved about three times as much new coal power plant capacity as the total approved for the province in the three preceding years, according to Greenpeace's report. Shanxi has suffered along with the coal industry, under pressure from the central government to get rid of overcapacity and become more efficient. In 2010, the province's GDP growth was 13.9 percent. In 2014 it was 4.9 percent, and just 2.8 percent for the first three quarters for 2015. Chen said yesterday that a new team under his ministry that has begun moving from province to province this year will hold local governments accountable for environmental protection and addressing "the harm of local protectionism." Last week, the environment ministry announced it was setting up three separate agencies to deal with air, soil and water pollution, rather than trying to manage all three together. — AP

TOP REPUBLICAN UNVEILS \$ 98BN IN CUTS TO SOCIAL PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON: A senior House Republican on Thursday reprised a proposal to cut child tax credits for immigrants working in the US illegally. Powerful Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, also wants tougher rules to reclaim overpayments of health insurance tax subsidies under the new health care law as part of package to cut spending by \$98 billion over 10 years.

The move is part of an effort designed to help GOP leaders make progress in passing the House's annual budget blueprint. The spending cuts are designed to move in tandem with the GOP budget plan to ease tea party opposition to the broader measure. A band of conservatives opposes the nonbinding budget plan since it endorses last year's bipartisan budget and debt deal, which increased spending for annual agency budgets.

GOP leaders such as Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, have

floated the idea of \$30 billion in spending cuts over the next two years as a way to build support for his broader budget plan. Those cuts would grow far larger over a decade. Brady is the first chairman to publicly step forward. The Ways and Means panel has extensive jurisdiction over taxes and health care and Republicans on the panel have fashioned a variety of ready-made proposals for cutting spending.

"The American people want Congress to fight fraud and cut wasteful spending - and that's what these bills do," Brady said in a statement. Later Thursday, the Energy and Commerce panel announced a vote next week on a less ambitious package that would cut the federal government's contribution to the State Children's Health Insurance Program, eliminate a fund that provides grants for disease prevention, and cut off a loophole that allows winners of big lottery prizes to stay on Medicaid. It would save \$25 billion over 10 years.

Fiercely protective

Other committees may be more reluctant. The Agriculture panel, for instance, is fiercely protective of farm subsidies. And Senate Democrats would be sure to block the cuts if a vote were scheduled in that chamber. Some moderate Republicans might be reluctant to go along as well.

The cuts affecting immigrants would deny a refundable child tax credit to immigrant workers who don't have a Social Security number but use an IRS identification number to file their taxes. Opponents say the cut means their children, many of whom are U.S. citizens since they were born here, won't benefit from the tax credit. It would save almost \$5 billion over two years.

The plan to take back subsidies under so-called "Obamacare" would save more money, almost \$9 billion over two years. It would apply, for instance, to people whose income or employment situations

improve and make them no longer eligible for the size of the credit they have claimed.

Brady would also eliminate the Social Services Block Grant, which provides flexible grants to states for services to the poor such as foster care, protective services for children, and day care. Brady's staff called it "no-strings-attached slush fund for states."

Democrats oppose the cuts and have made sure in the past that they have gone nowhere as part of bipartisan budget packages. Rep Sander Levin, said in a statement that Brady's proposal portends "another attack on families struggling to join the middle class. Rather than attack poverty, it appears Republicans continue to attack the poor." The annual congressional budget resolution is a nonbinding blueprint that sets goals for follow-up legislation. While it sets broad parameters, it doesn't actually increase spending or impose cuts by itself. — AP

BARCLAYS AFRICA SCALING BACK NOT LINKED TO ECONOMIC WOES: CEO 'REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT HAS CHANGED GLOBALLY'

JOHANNESBURG: Barclays's plan to scale back its Africa operations is linked to global regulatory challenges, not unfavorable economic conditions on the continent, the bank's Africa chief executive has told AFP. "We did not make this decision because of the economic cycle," Maria Ramos said in an interview in Johannesburg late Thursday.

"The regulatory environment has changed globally and it's more difficult for large banks to hold on to subsidiaries like ours," she said. The British lender early this month announced that it will sell down its 62.3 percent interest in Barclays Africa to just 20 percent over the next two to three years, fuelling speculation over the decision.

"We are at the beginning of that process but since the announcement a week ago, there has been a lot of interest," said Ramos. The lender said it would now focus on its two core markets, Britain and the US. Barclays Africa Group Limited (BAGL) has insisted however that it remained committed to the continent, where it has a presence in 12 countries, with assets valued at \$3 billion.

South Africa, the continent's most advanced economy, is Barclays Africa's major market. The bank re-entered South Africa in 2005, after it acquired a 55.5 percent in one of the country's four largest banks, ABSA. The acquisition marked its return to the market it left in 1986, at the height of apartheid. The purchase was at the time the largest acquisition of a local bank by a foreign bank.

'We are not going'

Ramos was upbeat about the state of the South African economy, which represents the majority of revenues for Barclays Africa. "South Africa is still a significant economy of this continent, it's a large economy of this continent," she said, shrugging off suggestions that the



JOHANNESBURG: Chief Executive Officer of banking giant Barclays Africa, Maria Ramos, gives an interview, on March 10, 2016 at Barclays Africa headquarter. — AFP

country's slow economic growth might have contributed to the bank's exit. "I remain exceedingly positive over the medium to long term. This economy has gone through many many things." "We see enormous potential on the African continent. We have a very strong franchise with very good results."

South Africa, which is lauded for its sound banking system, is experiencing poor growth. The economy is expected to grow less than one percent in 2016, mainly due to lower commodity prices, after 1.3 percent growth last year. Ramos said the African subsidiary, which has as independent board of directors, would remain in South Africa, where the company is listed on the Johannesburg

Stock Exchange.

"Barclays has a long history in Africa, nearly a 100 years. We are not going," she said. "We still see enormous potential in Africa and we have a strong franchise with good results." But this month the giant lender revealed annual losses after tax of £394 million (\$549 million, 505 million Euros).

Ramos stated that the return on equity of the African subsidiary was halved due to the burden on the parent bank. The bank also said it was looking into "suspected money laundering related to foreign exchange transactions in South African operation Absa Bank Limited". In January, Barclays also announced plans to exit Russia. — AFP

CHINA FIRMS PUSH FOR MULTI BILLION DOLLAR IRAN DEALS

BEIJING/DUBAI: Two Chinese firms are pushing for multi-billion dollar deals with Iran to build a high-speed railway and modernize its shipping fleet following the lifting of most sanctions against Tehran, sources with knowledge of the negotiations said.

State-run China National Transportation Equipment & Engineering Co Ltd (CTC) is close to finalizing an agreement on the \$3 billion rail project to connect Tehran with the northeastern holy city of Mashhad, a Chinese source told Reuters.

Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Co, which is also controlled by Beijing, has likewise been in discussions on building container ships and oil tankers for Iran, according to two sources who declined to be identified because the talks are still continuing.

China, Iran's largest trading partner and long-time ally, has agreed to boost bilateral trade by more than 10 times to \$600 billion in the next decade. With Iran no longer subject to international sanctions since January following its nuclear deal with world powers, Beijing sees the country as part of its policy to increase trade and open new markets for its firms as the domestic Chinese economy slows.

For the 930-km (580 mile) rail project, China's Export and Import Bank (EXIM) is expected to fund 85 percent of the cost, with CTC providing engineering, procurement and construction services, said the source. China EXIM Bank is Beijing's designated policy lender for large trade deals and overseas investments by Chinese firms. Neither the bank nor CTC responded immediately to requests for comment. Iran's Tasnim News Agency last month reported a lower cost of \$2 billion for the project, which it said would take 42 months to build.

Tehran visits

A spokesman at China Shipbuilding Industry Corp, parent of Dalian Shipbuilding, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. However, one of the sources estimated Iran would need \$8-12 billion to modernize its fleet of container, cargo and oil tanker ships by around 2022.

Top Dalian shipyard executives have visited Tehran three times since January, meeting their counterparts at the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) - Iran's top container and cargo carrier - and the country's oil shipping operator National Iranian Tanker Co (NITC), the sources said. IRISL and NITC were not immediately available for comment.

"We've had lots of contact with NITC," said a Chinese shipbuilding executive, declining to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the media. "Advanced ship models and solid technical support make Dalian Shipping a strong suitor for Iran." Previously Chinese shipyards, including Dalian, had built large oil tankers for NITC in an order worth \$1.2 billion between 2012 and 2013, Reuters has reported. State financing and lower costs would make China a dominant player in the Iranian shipping industry versus Asian rivals South Korea and Singapore, said Reza Mostafavi Tabatabaei, president of London-based ENEXD, a firm involved in oil and gas equipment business between the Middle East and China. — Reuters

ETIHAD AIRWAYS SUPPORTS GREAT INDIAN TRAVEL BAZAAR

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is supporting one of India's leading inbound tourism events next month as exclusive airline partner of the Great Indian Travel Bazaar. The airline will fly leading tour operators and travel buyers from around the world and also participate in the annual travel event taking place in the state's capital city of Jaipur between April 17 and 19.

The three-day showcase is organized by the Indian Ministry of Tourism, Department of Tourism at the Government of Rajasthan, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Support for the Great Indian Travel Bazaar is a key part of Etihad Airways' commitment to promote India as a leading tourism destination worldwide.

Around 300 international travel industry buyers will converge on the 'Pink City' for three days of business meetings and product updates from around 250 Indian tourism entities keen to promote their latest wares. Etihad Airways will be flying visitors from destinations in North and South America, Europe and the Middle East.

Partnering with Jet Airways in the trade exhibition, Etihad Airways will promote the ease of travelling to India through the UAE carrier's Abu Dhabi hub with their



combined network of over 250 flights each week across 15 Indian cities. Together, the two carriers have the largest share of the international air travel market to and from India carrying one in every five travelers. "We are delighted to bring some of our most valued travel partners from around the world to India to attend the Great Indian Travel Bazaar and experience a diverse nation under one roof in Jaipur, together with wonderful Rajasthani hospitality," said Shane O'Hare, Etihad Airways Senior Vice President Marketing.

"Etihad Airways is committed to further developing India's tourism economy and investing in jobs. The Indian and Rajasthan governments have set an example by attracting key players from the international travel trade community for three days of intensive business discussions in a region that has successfully promoted tourism to the world for many years, and benefited from considerable spin-offs for the local economy."

Through B2B meetings, the Great Indian Travel Bazaar is expected to gener-

ate significant leads and opportunities for buyers and sellers looking to develop new business for this year and beyond. The event will feature exhibitors covering a broad spectrum of travel segments, including heritage, adventure, wildlife, healthcare, leisure, eco-rural, pilgrimage, and the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition sector (MICE). Now in its eighth edition, the bazaar attracts regional tourist boards from across India, as well as hotel chains and destination management companies.



IATA Membership Ceremony



FLYDUBAI BECOMES LATEST IATA MEMBER FROM MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai announced receiving its membership certificate from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), becoming the latest airline to join from the Middle East and North Africa.

flydubai successfully completed its IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) last year. The

audit, which is a pre-requisite for an IATA membership, examined all the operational departments across the airline to ensure that the carrier's internal processes promote safety, integrity and effectiveness in its management systems.

Commenting on the announcement, Ghaith Al Ghaith, flydubai's Chief Executive Officer, said:

"Six years into its operations, flydubai continues to set benchmarks and the IATA membership marks another milestone in our success story. The membership qualification requires discipline and commitment to ensure that the business is running to the highest levels of safety and efficiency. We are very proud of this achievement which is a reflection of the integrity and hard work of the highly skilled workforce at flydubai."

Since its launch in 2009, flydubai has been challenging the conventions of air travel in the region and has been committed to creating free flows of trade and tourism between the UAE and previously underserved markets. The IATA membership will further strengthen the airline's position as a regional player and provide an opportunity to help set the industry's priorities on key initiatives and drive industry change.

"We are delighted to welcome flydubai to IATA. Having a Middle-East-based new model airline as a full member broadens our airline representation and allows us to serve the industry more effectively. We look forward to representing flydubai and our other member airlines as



Chief executive Officer of flydubai, Ghaith Al Ghaith

we work to tackle the many broad and complex issues facing aviation globally," said Hussein Dabbas IATA's Regional Vice President, Africa and the Middle East.

"IATA is dedicated to improving the safety of aviation through driving IOSA-registration. As such we are pleased to welcome flydubai into the fold of the IOSA-registered airlines" he concluded. flydubai operates a single type fleet of 50 Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft with an average age of 3.4 years. The carrier has built a network of 89 destinations served by more than 1,700 flights a week operating out of Dubai International Airport (DXB) and Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC).



flydubai aircraft on tarmac DWC

GM BUYS SOFTWARE COMPANY FOR AUTONOMOUS CAR DEVELOPMENT

DETROIT: With hopes of speeding development of self-driving cars, General Motors has acquired a small software company that's been testing vehicles on the streets of San Francisco. The Detroit automaker says it purchased Cruise Automation, a 40-person firm that was founded just three years ago.

The move, coupled with GM's in-house research, should help the company in its race with Google and others to have autonomous cars start transporting people on public roadways. GM wouldn't give a timetable for rolling out the technology, but President Dan Ammann said it would happen as soon as the company can demonstrate that the cars are ready.

"It's our view that driverless technology will be demonstrably safer than the human driver," Ammann said in a telephone interview. Cruise Technology, along with Google, is among the few companies with permits from the state of California to test the cars, said Kyle Vogt, the company founder and CEO. The company is working to tackle the biggest obstacles to autonomous cars - seeing the lane lines in bad weather and integrating data from cameras and other sensors so the cars make the right decisions on the road, Vogt said. "I agree that's a challenge," he said. "Looking at lane markers isn't going to get you there."

Cruise reported one crash to the state Department of Motor Vehicles in which an autonomous car rear-ended a city of San Francisco parking enforcement vehicle. Vogt said the car's backup human driver had taken control of the vehicle when it crashed. GM wouldn't disclose the purchase price of deal, which was announced Friday. It said all Cruise Technology employees will join GM and work as a separate unit, and there are plans to hire more people. It's GM's third high-profile venture this year in new mobility. The company has invested \$500 million in the ride-sharing company Lyft and it has started a car-sharing service in Ann Arbor, Michigan that it plans to expand to other metro areas. —AP



BANGKOK: A worker rests in a hammock at a construction site in Bangkok yesterday. — AFP



HOBOKEN: A commuter runs to catch a train at the Hoboken terminal. — AP

RAILWAY STRIKE DRAWS CLOSER FOR NEW JERSEY COMMUTERS

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WOULD BE AFFECTED

NEWARK: Negotiations between rail worker unions and New Jersey Transit concluded without a deal Thursday, as a strike deadline neared that would affect tens of thousands of commuters whose cost of traveling to New York City each day has already soared in recent years.

The parties met for several hours Thursday at a Hilton hotel in downtown Newark, two days after representatives for both sides expressed optimism at the tenor of the negotiations. Each spent Wednesday reviewing details of proposals made the day before.

By mid-afternoon Thursday, NJ Transit's special counsel said he was still optimistic that a deal could be struck before the 12:01 am Sunday deadline but that key issues such as wages and health care remained in play. The two sides planned to resume their face-to-face the following morning.

More than 4,000 NJ Transit rail workers have authorized a strike for early tomorrow. The two sides have yet to agree on wage increases, health care costs and the length of a contract.

Unions have been working without a contract for nearly five years.

The approximately 105,000 people who commute into New York via NJ Transit, the nation's third-largest commuter railroad, have endured fare increases in the last six years that have raised prices more than 30 percent. In early 2010, for example, a commuter from Princeton to New York paid \$366 for a monthly pass that now costs \$499. The round-trip off-peak discount, \$22.50 six years ago, was eliminated and a roundtrip ticket now costs \$35.

Service disruptions

For Tom Wright, president of the urban planning think tank Regional Plan Association and also a Princeton commuter, said the fare hikes become less palatable when they're combined with service disruptions. "People understand that every year, costs inch up a little, and they probably have gone up faster than they should have lately," he said. "But as you feel that service is getting worse at the same time, you're paying more,

that's when you say, 'I can't stand this anymore.'" If there's any consolation for rail riders, it may be that motorists are even worse off. Toll increases on the New Jersey Turnpike and at bridge and tunnel crossings into New York operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey have raised the cost of driving by more than 80 percent since mid-2011. For cash payers, a roundtrip commute from Turnpike Exit 11, about 25 miles from New York, during peak periods went from \$284 per month to \$518 by last December, fueled largely by the Port Authority's raising of the tunnel toll from \$8 to \$15 over five years.

If there is a rail strike, those kinds of numbers could become relevant quickly for thousands of rail commuters: NJ Transit warned last week that only about 4 in 10 will be able to get into New York on the extra buses the agency said it would press into service as a contingency plan. Gary Dellaverson, NJ Transit special counsel, said Thursday both sides hoped to settle the dispute before talks spilled into the next few days. —AP

FORD ESTABLISHES SUBSIDIARY TO INVEST IN NEW MOBILITY

DETROIT: Ford Motor Co said yesterday that it is establishing a Silicon Valley-based subsidiary to build and invest in new mobility options like car-sharing and ride-hailing services. Ford Smart Mobility LLC will be chaired by former Steelcase CEO Jim Hackett, who has been a member of Ford's board since 2013. Hackett resigned his board seat yesterday to lead the new company. Ford Smart Mobility plans to name a CEO in the near future.

The company will operate in Palo Alto, California, and Ford's hometown of Dearborn, Michigan. Ford CEO Mark Fields said the company will be "separate but connected" to its parent. Fields said Ford won't initially include the company in its financial reporting, but may do so once it's more firmly established.

"We wanted to make sure give it the free-

dom and the flexibility to move almost like tech companies do," Fields told The Associated Press. Ford Smart Mobility will build, design and invest in services like car-sharing or ride-hailing. Ford has already conducted more than 30 global experiments over the last 14 months, including GoDrive, a car sharing program with guaranteed parking in London, and Bridj, a van service in Kansas City that users can summon with a smartphone.

The research and design of autonomous vehicles and vehicle connectivity will remain with the parent company, Fields said. Fields said Hackett, who spent 30 years at office furniture maker Steelcase, helped transform the industry, in part by predicting the end of traditional cubicles. "Jim is a fantastic strategic thinker and has a very good network in Silicon Valley," Fields said. —AP



LOS ANGELES: This Thursday, Nov 29, 2012, file photo, shows the company's logo at the LA Auto Show. — AP

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

Kuwait Times Weekender

www.kuwaittimes.net

A picture taken in Paris shows a painting by US artist Andy Warhol depicting a Barbie doll during the exhibition 'Barbie, life of an icon' at the Museum of Decorative Arts, in Paris. — AFP

Barbie, no warts and all, comes to Paris

SEE PAGES 28,29



Adam Lambert - "The Original High" Tour stops at The Ryman Auditorium on March 10, 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

Monica Bellucci on 'Ville-Marie,' Kusturica's latest and defying ageism

The timing may be coincidental, but it feels apt that I interviewed Monica Bellucci on International Women's Day, March 8. One of the most restlessly globe-trotting stars in world cinema, the Italian model-turned-actor refuses to let her filmography be dictated either by national borders or imagined age brackets: Now in her fifties and defying the industry's oft-decried shutout of women over 40, she has recently worked with Iranian auteur Bahman Ghobadi on "Rhino Season," lent otherworldly luster to fellow Italian Alice Rohrwacher's rural fable "The Wonders" and struck sparks with Daniel Craig in last year's 007 outing "Spectre." She'll be hitting TV screens, too, with a role in Neil Jordan's French-set crime series "Riviera," which starts rolling in June.

Fresh from shooting a lead role in "On the Milky Road," the long-awaited-and Cannes-tipped-new feature from two-time Palme d'Or winner Emir Kusturica, Bellucci arrived at the Miami Film Festival to present Quebecois helmer Guy Edoin's "Ville-Marie." A lively, self-reflexive melodrama, the pic gives Bellucci one of her rangiest roles to date, as a temperamental screen siren fighting to regain a connection with her adult son. "Ville-Marie" gives you a lot to play, and to play with. "Sophie is really three roles in one: an actress, the woman she plays,



Monica Bellucci

and also just a woman and mother. She's an actress who covers her weaknesses with her work, using her persona as an actress to protect herself in some way. And although she's a mother, she's not the mother she would love to be. She has to drop her mask, to have the courage to be just herself. For the first time, she gets in touch with her soul. I'm a mother myself, but I have two girls and they're not teenagers yet, but I can identify with that struggle: If they'd come to me with this role 15 years ago, it would have been completely different for me."

Why so? Is it only a matter of motherhood, or of the understanding that comes with age? "It's about a kind of physical aging, a physical decadence: When someone is suffering you have to see this in the body and the face. I say all the time that actors use their bodies like objects of war. To see a woman who doesn't care anymore about her beauty, giving that control away because at that moment, she needs to get in touch with death, and with reality. She doesn't have to be afraid. And you don't get in touch with death thinking about your makeup." Many actresses have said they get fewer opportunities after 40, yet it seems you're playing the most varied roles of your career now. Do you think we're seeing less ageism in the film industry? "It can't be a general subject: it's different for different people. But then you see all those

incredible actresses that I respect so much in Europe and also in America: Isabelle Huppert, Charlotte Rampling, Julianne Moore, Cate Blanchett, Meryl Streep. Of course, we're not talking about exactly the same age, but those women still have the chance to play very strong parts, very sexy parts, parts where their femininity is so well-described.

Female characters

"We had a moment in the '40s and '50s, where female characters were very strong in film, where these incredible roles were written for women like Joan Crawford, like Bette Davis. But then there was a space of time where I don't know why-it wasn't like that. It became difficult for women to find certain roles after a certain age. We saw it in Italy too: Sophia Loren, Gina Lollobrigida, Silvana Mangano. They weren't being used, and it was that way all over. But I think we can talk about a new era, with another way to look at actresses."

What makes you say yes to a project? "I like to be surprised. I'm not someone that wants to control everything. I like to work with people that bring their talents to the project. So I like it when the makeup artist has a chance to do their work, when the dresser does their work, when the director does their work. They all come with stories and ideas to think about. I like to work with people who are completely different from each other: in their style, in their culture, in their background. Because through their talents, I can show the different sides I have, and they come up with ideas that I wouldn't think of myself. I've been a hooker for Bertrand Blier and Mary Magdalene for Mel Gibson, you know? "So when I'm that interested in the project and the people, I don't think about how many minutes I'll be on the screen. In Rebecca Miller's film ("The Private Lives of Pippa Lee"), I was in it for a very short time, but the role was so strong and beautiful. It's about how much I have to give to the character." Many are intrigued by "On the Milky Road," the film you've just wrapped with Emir Kusturica. What can you tell us about it?

Bond girl

"We just finished shooting like a week ago, after four years of shooting. It's a love story between two adults, with Emir playing the male part. And it's set during the war of the Balkans, but it's a love and a war that could have been in every war, and every love. It's interesting in that it's about two people who have nothing to lose anymore. They've seen everything. But still, when they meet, even though they're not young anymore, something magic is going to happen. It's going to be a moment between love, death and resurrection. Everything is very poetic and very violent. It's been a long time in the making for Emir so the feelings there run deep."

In the publicity you did for "Spectre" last year, you were very insistent that you were playing a "Bond woman," not a Bond girl. When it comes to roles, what separates a woman from a girl? "Ha, the age!" Just the age? "Well, when you are a girl, you live as a girl. You see life as a girl, which is an amazing moment. But I think it's important to know that the life of a woman is a different phase, a completely different moment. It's so important to respect that."

Does recognizing that different phase change your approach to acting? "I think the person creates the artist. And I think when you get lost within your person, your artistry get lost too. It's like in 'Birdman.' Because the artist inside you is attached to your soul. And when you're not attached to yourself anymore, the soul goes away. You can't let that happen." — Reuters

Halle Berry in talks to play CIA chief in 'Kingsman 2'

Halle Berry is in talks to join Fox's spy comedy "Kingsman 2," portraying the director of the CIA. Matthew Vaughn is returning to direct from a script he co-wrote with Jane Goldman with Taron Egerton again starring. The 2014 original, "Kingsman: The Secret Service," was based on the comic book "The Secret Service," created by Dave Gibbons and Mark Millar, and follows the training of a potential secret agent to take on a global threat from Samuel L Jackson's Richmond Valentine.

Vaughn also produced the original, which grossed a surprisingly healthy \$415 million worldwide. Colin Firth, Mark Strong and Michael Caine also starred.

Several recent reports have indicated that Julianne Moore has been in talks to play the villain in the sequel. It's unclear whether Firth or Strong will return for "Kingsman 2." Fox has dated "Kingsman 2" for release on June 16, 2017. Berry reprised her role as the mutant Storm in "X-Men: Days of Future Past" in 2014 and played an astronaut in CBS series "Extant," which was canceled after two seasons last fall. She also stars in Relativity's upcoming action-thriller "Kidnap" as a mother who tries to find her abducted son. Berry is repped by CAA and Management 360. The news was first reported by Deadline Hollywood. — Reuters



Latest 'Rocky' film debuts at top of disc sales charts

The latest "Rocky" movie topped the national home video sales charts its first week stores, bumping last week's top seller, Walt Disney Studios' "The Good Dinosaur," to the No 2 spot, also on both charts. "Creed," a spinoff of MGM's "Rocky franchise" in which Sly Stallone reprises his role as the title character (now a trainer, his fighting days long behind him), earned nearly \$110 million in US theaters and easily outsold the animated Disney movie, which in its second week of release sold about 66% as many copies as the Warner Bros boxing movie.

Another new release, Sony Pictures' "The Night Before," a Seth Rogen comedy that grossed just over \$43 million at the domestic box office, debuted at No 3 on both the VideoScan overall disc and Blu-ray Disc sales charts for the week ended March 6. MGM's "Spectre," the latest James Bond movie (distributed on home video by 20th Century Fox), slipped to No 4 from No 2 its fourth week on the charts, while the No. 5 spot, again on both charts, went to Universal Pictures' "Spotlight," the docudrama about the sex scandal in the Boston Catholic Archdiocese that just picked up a best picture Oscar. "Spotlight" had debuted the previous week at No 4 on the overall disc sales chart and No. 3 on the Blu-ray Disc-only chart.

According to VideoScan data "Creed" generated 44% of its total unit sales from Blu-ray, compared to 40% for "The Night Before." On Home Media magazine's weekly rental chart, "The Night Before" debuted at No 1 (Sony is one of three major studios that does not hold back new releases from top rental outlet Redbox for a month). That pushed Warner's "The Intern" and 20th Century Fox's "The Martian" down a notch, to No 2 and No 3, respectively. Rounding out the top five on the rental chart for the week ended March 6 were "The Good Dinosaur" at No 4 (up from No 6) and, at No 5, Lionsgate's "Room," a captivating drama about a kidnapped boy and his mother who spend years trapped in a tiny room and their struggle to readjust to the real world after they are rescued. — Reuters

Please forgive me? Egypt customs deface Adams' guitar

A run-in with customs at Cairo airport has left Grammy Award winning rock musician Bryan Adams annoyed, after a border agent scrawled a number on the Canadian's prize guitar in paint marker. Adams, who was in Cairo for a concert at the Giza Pyramids on March 8, posted a picture of the vintage Martin acoustic guitar on his Instagram account. A number and an illegible word in Arabic had been scrawled in green ink on the guitar's mahogany side.



2,033 likes
bryanadams Airport customs graffiti on my 1957 Martin D-18 from Egypt. Back to the luthier... #bryanadamsgetup

A screen grab taken on March 11, 2016 shows a page of the official Instagram account of Grammy Award winning rock musician Bryan Adams on which he published a picture that he took in the Egyptian capital Cairo of his vintage Martin acoustic guitar. —AFP



Bryan Adams

Till I Die," "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You," and "Please Forgive Me", said his problems with customs had begun on his arrival at Cairo airport. "We almost didn't get the equip-

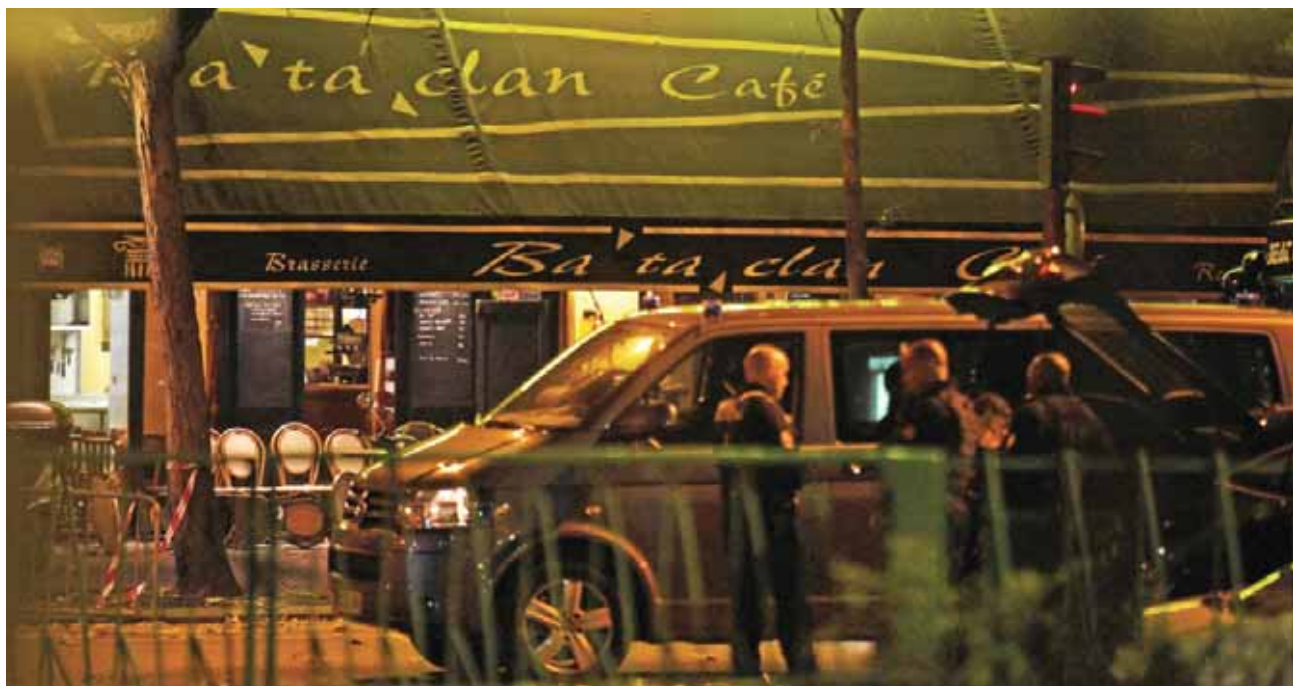
ment into the country, and when we did it was all marked like this," he told AFP in a Facebook message on Friday. "There were absolutely no apologies." A customs official at the airport told AFP that instruments are marked with serial numbers, although usually with stickers. Regarding the ink, he suggested: "Maybe it wasn't us?", although the script was Arabic. Egyptian wits took to Twitter to mock the incident. "Doesn't Adams know that we glued together Tutankhamun with super glue?"

It's normal that we write something on a 60 year old guitar," one wrote, referring to a botched repair of the priceless Tutankhamun funerary mask in Cairo's museum. The Oscar-nominated musician said he would still return to Egypt to perform. "I have no grudges," he told AFP. "Rest assured, apart from this incident, I love Egypt and look forward to returning again one day." "But without the green paint markers please." It is not the first time that someone has scrawled numbers on one of Adams' guitars. In 2015, he complained on Twitter that Air Canada had taken a marker to his guitar, scrawling a serial number in black ink. —AFP

'Batman v Superman' production designer on revamping the Batmobile

'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice' production designer Patrick Tatopoulos takes us behind the scenes of creating a new Batmobile in an exclusive clip from "DC All Access." Tatopoulos explains his process for redesigning Batman's iconic ride. "In the aesthetic of the film I thought that everything should be hanging or look like bats, but subliminally," Tatopoulos said. "The car, when the cockpit opens, it looks like bat wings. Everything should have a slight undertone of the subliminal idea of a bat."

Ramping up to the film's release date later this month, "Batman v Superman" marketing has been inescapable. Following the Oscars, stars Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck and Jessie Eisenberg played their roles as Superman, Batman and Lex Luthor in a skit for "Jimmy Kimmel Live" in which Kimmel outs their alter egos. The dark superhero film is expected to have a monstrous opening. Despite a lengthy run time of two hours and 31 minutes, the Zack Snyder-directed film is projected to pull in around \$140 million in its debut. The production, which cost \$250 million, is estimated to bring in \$200 million overseas, topping \$300 million in global grosses. "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" premieres March 25. —Reuters



This file photo shows the Bataclan cafe near the Bataclan concert hall in central Paris. —AFP

Singer in Paris attacks suggests inside job

The frontman of the band whose concert turned into a terrorist bloodbath in Paris has suggested the attack was an inside job, saying he was suspicious of the club's security guards.

The historic Bataclan angrily rejected the "senseless" claim and said that Jesse Hughes' allegations were because he was traumatized. Hughes, the singer and guitarist of Eagles of Death Metal, said he immediately felt uneasy when setting up for the November 13 show as a guard in charge of the backstage area at the Bataclan club did not make eye contact.

"I didn't like him at all. And so I immediately went to the promoter and said, 'Who's that guy? I want to put another dude on,'" Hughes said in an interview broadcast late Wednesday with Fox Business. "He goes, 'Well, some of the other guards aren't here yet.' And eventually I found out that six or so wouldn't show up at all," Hughes said. "Out of respect for the police still investigating, I won't make a definite statement, but I'll say it seems rather obvious that they had a reason not to show up."

As the California rockers were playing, assailants opened fire and threw grenades to kill 90 people, the deadliest in a series of



This file photo shows Jesse Hughes of the band Eagles of Death Metal performing during a concert in Bogota. —AFP

coordinated attacks around Paris claimed by the Islamic State group that left a total of 130 dead and 350 injured, many seriously. Hughes said that one of the assailants allowed three fans to leave the venue, in what he saw as further proof that the culprits had previous knowledge of the Bataclan, a famed Paris venue for mid-sized rock shows. "The senseless

statements of Mr Jesse Hughes are the result of the enormous trauma," the Bataclan said in a statement.

"All witness accounts from the day show the professionalism and courage of the security personnel," it said, adding "their intervention likely saved hundreds of people." "A judicial process is under way," it said. "We would like justice to complete its work calmly." Hughes previously made similar allegations in an interview with Vanity Fair magazine, saying he wished he had "followed my instinct" as the soundman had spotted two people inside the club before the show whose attire and behavior were at striking odds with the typical rock audience.

Hughes, in contrast to many rockers, was known even before the attacks for his right-leaning views and support for the right to own guns in the United States. In the interview with Fox Business, Hughes said he was not necessarily advocating gun ownership but wished that fans had ways to defend themselves. "I don't want to shoot anybody—I would hate to do that," he said, breaking down with emotion. "But I, more than that, do not want to let the bad guys take any of my people, and I don't want to go out like a punk." —AFP

Bassist becomes second head of storied Newport Jazz

Christian McBride, one of the most prominent contemporary double bassists, was named yesterday as only the second director of the celebrated Newport Jazz Festival. The festival in the tony Rhode Island coastal town, one of the biggest dates on the jazz calendar, was created in 1954 and has been organized ever since by George Wein. Now 90 years old, Wein has become a legend in the jazz world for bringing top talent to Newport and figuring out how to keep the event afloat financially, including by actively seeking out corporate sponsorships.

The festival announced that Wein would retire with the upcoming festival, which takes place from July 29 to 31,

with the 43-year-old McBride taking charge next year. "When I first met and heard a teenage Christian McBride in 1989, I knew that he was someone special. Little did I know that nearly 30 years later, he would become the special someone to continue my legacy," Wein said in a statement. McBride said he was "deeply humbled" by the appointment, calling Newport "the most storied and legendary jazz festival in history."

The Newport Jazz Festival has been the site of some of the most famous recordings in jazz history from greats including John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. However, a number of other major jazz festivals have since emerged



Bassist Christian McBride performs at the Newport Jazz Festival in Newport, Rhode Island, on July 31, 2015. —AFP

around the world, most notably in Montreal, New Orleans and Montreux, Switzerland. The Philadelphia-born McBride is considered a master of jazz bass and has frequently recorded with leading artists, including Paul McCartney and Sting in crossovers to pop. —AFP



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows John Goodman, from left, Mary Elizabeth Winstead and John Gallagher Jr in a scene from "10 Cloverfield Lane." — AP photos



Dan Trachtenberg, from left, John Goodman, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Gallagher Jr and JJ Abrams attend the premiere of "10 Cloverfield Lane" at AMC Loews Lincoln.

Beware - your nails may not survive '10 Cloverfield'

I'd like to apologize to those who were sitting next to me for my aggressive popcorn munching during "10 Cloverfield Lane," the new JJ Abrams-produced nail-biter starring a creepier John Goodman than you've ever seen (and that's saying something.) You see, the popcorn was a surrogate for my nails, which I would have bitten off completely had I not had this precious snack at, um, hand. If you're like me, which is to say easily creeped out by unbearable tension and constant fear, not to mention intense claustrophobia, then I strongly suggest you either bring your own snacks, an old sweatshirt or a good friend's arm to chew on.

A couple things to get out of the way: First, this film, directed by Dan Trachtenberg, is not a sequel to the 2008 Abrams-produced "Cloverfield," though it does share a similar vibe, not to mention part of a title - which hints at a franchise (Abrams has mentioned a "bigger plan.") And a disclaimer: We won't reveal the end here in any way, but we WILL have to say what we THINK of the ending. If even that feels

like a spoiler to you, then feel free to stop reading a few paragraphs early. Now to the plot. We meet Michelle (Mary Elizabeth Winstead, elevating what could be a stock feisty-girl role with intelligence and occasional humor) as she's packing to leave a boyfriend after an unexplained conflict (a famous actor's voice is heard on voicemail). She jumps in her car and heads off. As night falls into inky blackness, we hear references on the radio to an unexplained power surge.

Amiable neighbor

Then there's a car crash, shocking in its intensity - and the opening credits haven't even finished yet. Michelle awakes in some sort of underground cellar. Worse, she's chained to a wall. With ingenuity, she manages to reach her cellphone. But there's no service. And then she meets Howard. Naturally, Michelle thinks Howard (Goodman, in all his imposing girth) is up to something bad. There's that whole chained-to-the-wall thing, plus that huge lock

on the heavy metal door of her cell. But, he explains, he's not a threat - he's a savior. Something terrible has happened up there, outside. It might be chemical, might be nuclear, might be something else. But she's the lucky one. She's been saved.

Soon, a third character is introduced: An amiable neighbor, Emmett (John Gallagher Jr), who insists he hurt his arm not trying to escape from Howard but trying to get IN; he supports Howard's story of a catastrophic attack. And the three settle in for a taut, well-choreographed chamber play down in the bunker. This is the bulk of the movie, and the best of it: The fraught dance between these three characters, with their shifting allegiances and a power dynamic that never seems clear. Which one of them is lying? Or is everyone telling the truth? Who's the enemy, and are they outside or underground?

Break the tension

Smartly, Trachtenberg and the screenwriters (Josh Campbell, Matt Stuecken, and Damien

Chazelle of "Whiplash") find a way to break the tension - ever so briefly - with a bit of humor (watch for a random Santa Claus reference) and a bit of music, too. You'll probably laugh, as I did, when you realize the soundtrack is playing "I Think We're Alone Now." For a minute we forget the dangers that (might) lurk, both outside and in. But the dance will eventually have to end.

Trachtenberg scares the wits out of us a few times, and then he launches into a climax that will have many talking - though I found it somewhat disappointing and frustratingly baffling. But you might love it. Just remember to bring something to chew on.

"10 Cloverfield Lane," a Paramount Pictures release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for thematic material including frightening sequences of threat with some violence, and brief language." Running time: 103 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. —AP

Steven Spielberg to deliver Harvard commencement speech

Steven Spielberg will deliver the Harvard University commencement speech for this year's graduating class. Spielberg is giving the 365th commencement speech in the historic college's history on May 26. "Steven Spielberg is a genre-defying filmmaker whose unparalleled creativity has fueled countless imaginations," said Harvard President Drew Faust.

"An extraordinary storyteller, he has given voice to the silenced and brought history to life. Through his art, Mr Spielberg has challenged us to dream and to see the world anew, and I am very much looking forward to welcoming him back to Harvard and to honoring him during our 365th commencement exercises."

Aside from being a three-time Academy Award winner, Spielberg has devoted a lot of time and energy to philanthropy. He established the Righteous Persons Foundation using all his profits



Steven Spielberg

from the film "Schindler's List," and founded the Shoah Visual History Foundation-now USC Shoah Foundation: The Institute for Visual History and Education, which has recorded more than 53,000 interviews with Holocaust survivors and witnesses.

"Through both his art and his activism, Steven Spielberg has

shared with millions his deeply humanistic view of the world," Paul L Choi, president of the Harvard Alumni Association, said. "Harvard alumni, students and faculty will be excited at this opportunity to hear from the person behind the works that have entertained and inspired them for decades." — Reuters

A24 boards Larson's action-thriller 'Free Fire'

A24 has acquired US rights to Ben Wheatley's action-thriller "Free Fire," which will star Sharlto Copley, Armie Hammer, Brie Larson, Cillian Murphy and Jack Reynor. Larson won the best actress Oscar on Feb 28 for "Room," which was released by A24. Martin Scorsese is exec producing "Free Fire," which also stars Sam Riley and Noah Taylor. Wheatley is directing from a script he co-wrote with Amy Jump. Andrew Starke is producing. Additional executive producers include Sikelia's Emma Tillinger-Koskoff, Reno Antoniadis, Film4's David Kosse and Sam Lavender, along with Ben Roberts and Lizzie Francke from the British Film Institute.

Related Golden Globe Winner Brie Larson on 'Room's' Transformative Experience "Free Fire" centers around an arms deal that goes spectacularly and

explosively wrong. Larson will portray a woman who has brokered a meeting in a deserted warehouse between two Irishmen and a gang selling them a stash of guns. But when shots are fired during the handover, complete pandemonium ensues. Troubled distributor Alchemy bought the US rights to "Free Fire" during the American Film Market in November but that deal is no longer in place.

Wheatley previously directed the thrillers "High-Rise," "Sightseers" and "Kill List." WME Global negotiated the deal on behalf of the filmmakers. Protagonist Pictures is handling international sales. In addition to Larson's Oscar, A24's films won two other Oscars at the 2016 Academy Awards: best documentary for Asif Kapadia's "Amy" and best visual effects for Alex Garland's "Ex Machina." — Reuters



Refugee brothers' maverick label turns fashion on its head

They arrived in Europe as child refugees fleeing civil war and are now running one of France's coolest fashion labels. But the young Georgian brothers behind the hip brand Vetements, whose new collection hits the Paris catwalk Thursday, have still bigger plans to revolutionize the way the fashion business works. Designer Demna Gvasalia, 34, newly installed at the head of Balenciaga, is such a hyped talent that the rapper-turned-designer Kanye West last week threatened to poach him. "I'm going to steal Demna from Balenciaga," he tweeted.

But days before Gvasalia unveiled his first collection for the venerable label so loved by Jackie Kennedy, his younger brother Guram, 30, who runs Vetements' business side, said their maverick way of working could be a model for the rest. With the industry increasingly torn by a row over whether collections should go on sale as soon as they hit the catwalks, Guram Gvasalia told AFP that fashion needs to go still further and rethink itself to embrace rarity and luxury.

Vetements produces only two collections a year, he said, while the big houses produce six to eight which means clothes are only in the shops for a matter of weeks before the price is slashed in the sales. "The industry is overproducing. If something goes on sale, it means it was overproduced. In order to make people want something, you need to make scarcity. The real definition of luxury is something that is scarce," he added. "Every single piece in our

collection is going to be a limited item... We don't restock and we don't reproduce-if it's sold out, it's sold out." Vetements-which simply means "clothes" in French-began as a collective of seven anonymous designers who also worked elsewhere until Demna Gvasalia stepped out of the shadows.

Designers 'spat out'

It made its name with oversized streetwear, cleverly juxtaposing cheap materials and luxury looks, with Gvasalia claiming his principle inspiration was riding the Metro through one of the roughest stretches of the French capital. Yet his brother said the pressure to turn out so many collections was also impacting on creativity. "Designers are human beings. Creative people need time... The big groups, they don't care about this. They take a designer... (and) the corporate machine eats them up and spits them out. And then, there's a new one. Of course I care for my brother, he's a very creative person but it's a lot a pressure, and I don't want to force him to do four collections for us, on top of his collections for Balenciaga," Guram Gvasalia added.

Instead he said he wanted to see only two shows a year, with Paris fashion weeks moved from March to January and to September to June. "I want to have the solution that is not only just good for me, I want to have the solution that is good for every single brand that shows," he said. As a part of this radical

change, Vetements are already combining men and women's wear in their latest show. "Today there are no genders anymore," claimed Gvasalia, who grew up with his brother in Germany after fleeing their homeland as civil war raged in the early 1990s.

"Today you can choose what you want to be. The clothes have the gender, not the people who wear them." France and Italy's fashion federations are doggedly resisting American attempts to reorganize the catwalk calendar so the public can buy clothes as soon as they hit the catwalks. Instead of the autumn-winter shows taking place in the spring as happens now, New York wants them to be staged "in season" at the beginning of each autumn, with spring-summer collections following suit.

But Gvasalia said the row over the switch to a "see now, buy now" system is only part of the problem. "With Demna, we've been through war, we've been through so many things in life, we saw really bad things. And once you've seen bad things, the fashion industry is (about) having fun. You start to appreciate life differently," he said. Life as a refugee and their mixed background has taught them to think in a different way. "We are a mix of eight nationalities and three religions: we have a grandmother who is Jewish, a grandfather who is Muslim, and a father who is Christian. When someone asks me where my home is I cannot really say," Gvasalia said. — AFP



A model presents a creation for Vetements during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection on March 3, 2016 in Paris. —AFP

NEW LOOK SPRING/ SUMMER 2016

Fashion for women for the New Look Spring/Summer 2016 season is heavily influenced by hothouse florals, graphic and sporty silhouettes and a sophisticated twist on 90s trends at fast fashion obtainability. Street-ready jackets, pale wash denims, pleated skirts, lace accents and boudoir-inspired dresses and camisoles are expressed in neutral colour palettes, highlighted with sizzling pops of colour that emulate the warm weather season.

Castaway ushers in the season with rumpled denims, washed linen, macramé and embroidery. Woven stripes, dip dyes and slub jersey contribute to the overall vintage look and feel. Shells, straw, embroidery and woven fabrics crown the carefree pieces made for warm weather lounging. Shades of khaki, grey, black and white usher in the Geo Sport trend. Easy wear pieces take on athletic undertones in relaxed silhouettes. Sporting detail is reflected in bomber jackets, sleek tops, knit pencil skirts and wide leg cropped trousers.

As the temperatures rise, so too does the Hothouse trend, focused on tropical palms and retro greenhouse prints. Corn yellow and bold khaki form the key colour palette amongst accents of cream, turquoise and electric blue. Wide and cropped trousers are

paired with off-the-shoulder and Bardot tops. Drawstrings, cut out denim and block graphics add other elements of adornment to complete the look.

Embellished looks are also key focal points of Native Soul, featuring western and folk emphasis in a colour palette of tobacco, cream, smoky black and cherry red. Woven fabric and linen blends appear throughout, especially when accented with pom-pom trims and fringe. Dresses are a key highlight in patchwork chevron prints with smock detailing or yoke embroidery. Patchwork lace tops and distressed denim further compliment the wardrobe.

Denim characteristic

Ruffles, raw edges and boudoir flourishes are articulated in the slip dresses, playsuits and ice wash denim characteristic of 90s Romance. Soft and feminine neutrals anchor the trend with shades of mink and black accented with stripes on cords. Silhouettes are minimal, with cold shoulder dresses fea-



turing heavily, adding to the overall deconstructed luxe look.

Accessories and footwear go classically feminine for Spring/Summer 2016 in fresh spring colours, accented with espadrille styling, fringe or tassels. Ghillie sandals continue to be a key look. Whilst traditional bag shapes are updated with tribal styled embroidery and embellished canvas bags. Jewellery is draped and dapple with shells, beading and feathers. Neons complete subdued wooden bangles whilst chokers form a key piece of 90s nostalgia.

Swimwear receives a new season twist with a colour and shape update. High neck styles are the key look for the summer months, in ladylike prints and scalloped edges. Plunging fronts, multi-straps, fringe and slashed cut-outs are perfect for pool parties and seaside holidays. Cover-ups in relaxed silhouettes come in crochet fabrics for playsuits and kaftans that easily go from the beach to the city. Overall, the looks

embody the New Look womenswear Spring/Summer 2016 collection, furthering the brand's reputation for affordable and trendy fashion.

The New Look Menswear Spring/Summer collection recalls feelings of nostalgia in old-school college motifs, retro prints, washed and worn fabrics, and 90s-inspired sportswear. The suede that was so popular in Autumn/Winter 2015 reappears in lighter, brighter tones for the warmer months. Along the same colour palette, camel, tonal greys, and relaxed blues are key shades for the season. Muted pastels provide interesting highlights to compliment the base tones.

Navy and khaki

Wardrobe staples like t-shirts, denim and button downs are re-imagined in weathered prints and washed-out jersey. Bomber jackets are must have statement pieces in navy and khaki. Japanese workwear styling meets East London detailing, with laid-back layered looks in a modern artisanal twist. The trend builds on the hipster theme, with more emphasis on textures and a smart/casual aesthetic. Military details on pocketed shirts or khaki trousers add another element of utilitarianism. Indigo, khaki, Bordeaux and maritime navy form the core colour trend.

Further summer styling transcends into open weave knitwear and rumpled jerseys. Men's accessories for Spring/Summer continue to accentuate these looks with easy wear plimsolls and sockless loafers. The overall impact builds on New Look's reputation for trend-led, affordable fashions for the urban man. The collection is available now in stores throughout the Middle Eastern region. The Spring Summer Collection is available at all New Look stores throughout Kuwait at The Avenues, Al-Bairaq Mall, Al-Salam Mall and Promenade Mall.

Downton withdrawal?

Check out these destinations

What will "Downton Abbey" fan do now that the series is over? Consider a trip to soothe your sorrows. There are castles and dozens of film locations in Britain, and Gilded Age mansions here. There are maps and apps, and even a costume exhibit touring museums around the US. Here are some details.

Highclere Castle

Highclere Castle, where most of "Downton" was filmed, is about 45 miles from London and open to the public 60 to 70 days a year in spring and summer. Advance tickets to tour the mansion are nearly sold out for 2016, though some walk-up tickets are available. A number of private tour operators, like Collette, offer trips that guarantee access to Highclere.

Elsewhere across the pond

A free online map detailing 71 "Downton" locations, nearly half in London, was put together by the United Kingdom branch of Wayfair, the home goods retailer. Sites include West Wycombe Park, featured as Lady Rosamund's London home at 35 Belgrave Square; the London Charterhouse, used in three scenes; and the Great Conservatory at Syon Park in Brentford, where Lady Mary and Lord Gillingham had tea. Fangirl Samantha Scott, who works at



Visitors walk past a lamppost sculpture, right, near an entrance to The Breakers mansion, in Newport, RI.

Stride Travel, a review site for tours and trips, put together a guide to 10 "Downton" locations, including Bampton church, featured in the wedding of Carson and Mrs Hughes, and

Horsted Keynes Railway Station, where many scenes were shot, including Lady Mary's farewell to her husband as he went off to war. Britmovietours.com offers a variety of "Downton"-themed tours, including one focusing on locations in London.

And let's not forget Inveraray Castle in Scotland, the setting for the fictional Duneagle Castle, home to the Grantham cousins and the lovely, headstrong Lady Rose. The castle is a bit more discreet than other sites in advertising its connection to the series, but its website offers some details. Other destinations with no connection to the show are also offering themselves to "Downton" fans in mourning. In Scotland, Dundas Castle's "Downton Experience" starts at \$3,500 a day. Here's the pitch: "Whether you want to live like a lord, cook like Mrs Patmore or just learn how things were done in times gone by, the Downton Experience gives Castle guests firsthand experience of life in a grand house."

The gilded age

Consider a trip to Newport, Rhode Island, to see the Breakers, the Elms and other Gilded Age mansions. These massive, ornate homes, filled with art and antiques and set on lavishly landscaped grounds, were built and owned by nouveau riche Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their new money was despised by British aristocracy, but the backstory of Lord Grantham showed how those US dollars were often used to prop up the crumbling world of England's landed gentry: He took his bride, Cora, from one of those rich American families because he needed her fortune to secure his estate. Cora's American mother, played by the imitable Shirley MacLaine in a few early episodes, lived in Rhode Island.

Other famous Gilded Age mansions include the Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina, and The Mount, in western Massachusetts.

Dressing Downton exhibition

Do you love drop-waist dresses, elbow-length gloves and festive hats? Get your cos-

tume fix at an exhibition called "Dressing Downton," now at the Richard H Driehaus Museum in Chicago. The exhibition, subtitled, "Changing Fashion for Changing Times," is billed as a "costume chronicle" with period clothing and jewelry worn by servants as well as lords and ladies.

Over the next two years, the exhibition will move to Cincinnati's Taft Museum of Art; The History Museum in South Bend, Indiana; Anaheim, California's Muzeo Museum and



This undated image provided by the Driehaus Museum in Chicago shows two costumes from "Downton Abbey" that are part of an exhibition, "Dressing Downton: Changing Fashion for Changing Times," on view at the Driehaus.

Cultural Center; Nashville, Tennessee's Cheekwood Botanical Gardens & Museum of Art; and finally St Augustine, Florida's Lightner Museum.

Drown your sorrows or head out to sea

You could drown your sorrows with a few stiff cocktails during a night on the town, as Lady Mary did with her beaux in London. If you prefer sipping Earl Grey or Darjeeling tea from a floral-patterned china teacup with a platter of scones and finger sandwiches, head to a hotel or tea shop. If all else fails, take your cue from Violet, the Dowager Countess. After learning she'd been removed from the board of the local hospital, she escaped her troubles with a cruise to France.

"As the Dowager Countess has taught us, there is nothing like a quick European getaway to regain one's composure," said Julie McCool, promoting Viking Ocean Cruises, whose ads have become a familiar part of watching "Downton."

"Cruisers live in comfortable luxury, are cheerfully waited on day and night by a staff who lives on the lower decks, of course, and encounter beautiful examples of the imperial past as they travel. Why, it's almost like being back at the Abbey!" —AP



The Biltmore House, a 1890s French Renaissance-style, 250-room chateau in the Blue Ridge Mountains, is shown in Asheville, NC. — AP photos



Models present creations by Agnes B during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection on March 8, 2016 in Paris.



Agnes b, the French style mogul who hates fashion



French fashion designer Agnes Trouble acknowledges the audience following the Agnes B during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection on March 8, 2016 in Paris. — AFP photos



A man working on a creation of French fashion brand "Agnes b".



French fashion designer Agne Trouble acknowledges the audience following the Agnes B during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection on March 8, 2016 in Paris. — AFP photos

"I don't like fashion," said the French designer Agnes b. For someone who has spent four decades at the top of the fashion tree, it is a curious confession to make. "I like clothes," she added quickly as she put the final touches to her autumn winter collection before her Paris fashion week show Tuesday. The creator who dressed pop icon David Bowie and cult film director David Lynch is a living contradiction. She hates advertising, yet she married an advertising guru; she loves clothes but never goes to fashion shows. "I never go to any of them, not to Kenzo, nor Sonia Rykiel, nor Isabel Marant. I don't want to know. Instead I like to look to the streets," she told AFP.

"I love clothes you can keep and still wear after 10 or 20 years." Forty years after she opened her first shop in a workaday side street in central Paris, the 74-year-old designer claimed that her philosophy has not altered.

Dyed clothes in bath

Some things have changed though. "I dyed my first collection in my bath," she remembered, "and some of them weren't even dry when the

shop opened." Now Agnes Trouble—her real name, the "b" came from her first husband Christian Bourgois—is the head of a fashion empire with a turnover of 300 million euros (\$328 million) and hundreds of shops across the globe including 141 in Japan alone. Yet she made her name with deceptively simple pop-button cardigans and striped T-shirts that were an almost instant hit in Paris, New York and Tokyo. "I always wanted to create well thought out clothes, made for modern life, which you could rely on," she said as she smoked a cigarette in her attic office overlooking the Canal Saint-Martin.

With exhibitions and a book about to mark her singular career, she is celebrating her 40 years in the business by indulging her twin passions—clothes and art. The longtime art collector and gallerist, who has dedicated part of her

fortune to bringing on young artists and filmmakers, has commissioned a line of T-shirts from artist friends. The designer was close to some of the biggest art world stars of the last three decades including New York painter Jean-Michel Basquiat—"we were as thick as thieves"—

and Keith Haring. Art seems to have been a release from the relentless demands of running a fashion house and her pet hate, advertising.

'I hate advertising'

Even though she had a daughter with the late advertising guru Philippe Michel, she boasted of never advertising her brand, which has always traded on its urbane, sober look. "I hate advertising. It's pure manipulation," she said, claiming to have been hugely marked by the revolutionary spirit of France's May 1968 street protests. Despite coming from a right-wing family from Versailles outside Paris where the "Sun King" Louis XIV built his gigantic palace, she has "always voted for the left" having been politicized by France's long, bloody and failed war to stop Algerian independence in her youth.

She married the publisher Christian Bourgois at only 17, had twins at 19 and was separated at 20. One of the twins, Etienne Bourgois, now runs the business side of the brand. "We were on protest marches all the time," she recalled. A devout Catholic and environmentalist, she is hugely worried by the rise of France's far-right

National Front, tax evasion and the plight of refugees trying to reach Europe. She recently joined calls demanding that the French government stop demolishing the migrant camp outside the northern port of Calais.

"I am different," she said, "I am a straight talker." Nor has having 2,000 employees convinced her that France's 35-hour week is economically unsustainable. She also proudly points to the fact that nearly half of her clothes are made in France, a rarity in the globalized rag trade. With other fashion houses in a flap over whether to change to a "see now buy now" system which would allow customers to buy straight from the catwalk, she plays it cool.

"We do not make clothes that go out of fashion in two months, so we don't have that problem," she said. You would think as a mother of five, grandmother of 16 and great grandmother of two children, she might be thinking of putting up her feet. But she does not seem obsessed with finding a successor. "I am going to organize it little by little," she said, but "I live from day to day, and I love my work." So don't hold your breath. — AFP



People look at Barbie dolls during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon" at the Museum of Decorative Arts. — AFP photos



A woman looks at Barbie dolls during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon".

Barbie, no warts and all, comes to Paris

For decades, Barbie has encouraged girls to reach for the stars, showing them through her endless reinventions that anything is possible. Now the girl who beat Neil Armstrong to the Moon has brought a lifetime of fine outfits and accessories to Paris to show them off to the world at the city's Musee des Arts Decoratifs. Though in many ways Barbie has lived a charmed life, she has also been dogged by controversy—notably because girls could never hope to grow into her impossibly slender body shape.

'Mirror of her time'

Magazine covers from the 1960s down the decades are juxtaposed with the Barbie of the day, showing how closely she has been in step with each passing fad. "Barbie was a mirror of her time," said the exhibit's curator, Anne Monier, adding that the show offers a "cultural timeline" through the countless iterations of the iconic American miss.

It is not Barbie's first trip to France—in 1984 she toured the country aboard a TGV (high-speed train), wearing fashions by leading Paris fashion houses including Yves Saint Laurent. That tour was the brainchild of jewelry designer BillyBoy, a muse of pop artist Andy Warhol who boasted the largest collection of Barbie dolls in the world — 20,000 of them. The Paris exhibit, which opened yester-



A Barbie doll during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon".



A Barbie doll holding an electoral poster reading "Barbie for president".



A Barbie doll representing Joan of Arc.



A limited edition of a Karl Lagerfeld's Barbie doll.



A Barbie doll practicing yoga.

day, contains no fewer than 700 Barbie dolls, the all-time best-selling product of US toy-maker Mattel, dating back to 1959. While it seems she cannot hold down a job for long, Barbie has built up an impressive CV, dabbling variously as a flight attendant, surgeon and police officer. On one outing as an astronaut, Barbie stepped on the Moon even before Neil Armstrong—at least in the Universe according to Mattel. The leggy blonde has even run for president no fewer than four times, maintaining her sunny disposition despite never reaching the Oval Office.

And while smashing gender stereotypes in the world of work, Barbie's ultra-feminine persona is never in doubt when it is time for play, whether for a day at the beach, an afternoon at the gym or an evening out in a designer gown.

Combining girl power with sex object

But beneath the veneer of glamorous go-getter lurks an ambiguous figure combining girl power with sex object, and one with a body shape that is literally unattainable: to-scale models have proven that her legs and feet would be unable to hold her up.



Barbie dolls representing Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (right) and Catherine Middleton Duchess of Cambridge.



Barbie dolls attending a fashion show.

The Barbie doll—which hit one-billion sales in 1997 and is today bought at the rate of one every three seconds worldwide—has long come under attack as promoting an idealized notion of beauty, a stereotype of the woman as sex object and one engaged in mindless consumerism. And although black Barbies have existed since 1968 and many other ethnic variations have been added since, the iconic Barbie remains a willowy, blue-eyed blonde—as the one depicted in a Warhol painting that enjoys pride of place at the Paris show.

'Easier to attack an object'

But Monier says critics are unfair to pick on a defenseless doll. "It's easier to attack an object than to attack society," said Monier, who heads the museum's toy section. "Fashion magazines are more to blame than Barbie" for anorexia, she added. And Mattel designer Robert Best, in Paris for the launch of the exhibition, told AFP: "When you have this kind of recognition the world over you're going to have very strong opinions for and against and create conversations that we at Mattel can't control. People are going to form opinions and write articles and dissertations."

Barbie's special place in the fashion industry—many designers say she inspired their career choice—has helped keep her relevant amid declining sales. Vintage Barbies and other special editions are prized by collectors who are thought to number around 100,000. But this year Mattel has addressed the body issue head-on, rolling out three new silhouettes: "tall", "petite" and "curvy".

"Now can we stop talking about my body?" was the headline on a Time magazine cover highlighting the new lines. The choices also include no fewer than 27 skin tones, 22 eye colors and 24 types of hair. Mattel, the world's



People look at Barbie dolls during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon".



Barbie dolls during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon".



Barbie dolls during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon".

largest toymaker whose brands also include the Fisher-Price line, suffered eight consecutive quarters of declining sales before recovering in the fourth quarter of 2015 with a net profit of \$215.2 million (196.2 million euros), a jump of 44 percent.



Barbie dolls attending a fashion show.

However its net profit for the year, at \$369.4 million, was down 26 percent. "In the past perhaps Barbie was idealized (but) that is no longer the case," Best said, adding that Mattel wanted to promote a "wider, more inclusive idea of what is seen as beauty." Today Mattel's view is that "girls of every different shape and size and color and hair texture are beautiful," he said. "Barbie will now reflect that more than ever." The show runs until September 18. — AFP



Barbie dolls representing Batman, Wonder Woman and Superman.



People look at Barbie dolls during the exhibition "Barbie, life of an icon".



CALIFORNIA: In this May 13, 2015, file photo, Google's self-driving Lexus drives along street during a demonstration at Google campus in Mountain View, Calif. — AP photos

VIDEO SHOWS GOOGLE SELF-DRIVING CAR HIT BUS

LOS ANGELES: Newly released video shows the moment a Google self-driving car learned the hard way not to tussle with a public bus. The collision happened on Valentine's Day, when a Google vehicle struck the side of a public bus in the Silicon Valley city of Mountain View. Footage recorded by cameras on the bus shows a Lexus SUV, which Google has outfitted with sensors and cameras that let it drive itself, edging into the path of the bus that was rolling by at about 15 mph.

It was the first time in several years of testing on public roads that a Google self-driving car prototype caused a crash. Google has blamed other drivers for past collisions during testing, but, in a first, accepted at least partial responsibility for this crash. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority released the video and post-crash photos this week to The Associated Press under a public records request. Though it was a low-speed collision, the impact crumpled the Lexus' front left side, flattened the tire and tore off the radar Google installed to help the SUV perceive its surroundings.

The Lexus had to be towed. Neither the Google employee in the driver's seat - who must be there under California law to take the wheel in an emergency - nor the 16 people on the bus were injured. The transit agency has concluded based on the footage that the bus driver was not responsible,

spokeswoman Stacey Hendler Ross said. An independent claims adjuster has not yet determined liability, she said. Here are a few other things to know about the crash and Google's self-driving cars:

Is this the first crash for a Google car?

No. The Feb 14 crash is the first in which Google has acknowledged its car made a mistake that led to a collision. Google has reported that between September 2014 and November, its prototypes drove themselves about 400,000 miles on city streets near its Silicon Valley headquarters without causing a collision. Its fleet has likely driven an additional 100,000 miles since then, though the company won't be specific. According to Google's accounting, its cars have been hit nearly a dozen times on the streets in or around its Mountain View headquarters since road testing began in spring 2014.

How did the crash happen?

The Lexus intended to turn right off a major boulevard but stopped after detecting sandbags around a storm drain near the intersection, according to an accident report Google filed with the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Photos show two small, black sandbags on either side of a drain at the curb. The right lane was wide enough to let some cars turn and others go straight, but to avoid driving over the sandbags, the Lexus

needed to slide to its left within the lane. The bus and several other cars that drove straight were to the left of the Lexus, in the same lane.

When the light turned green, several cars ahead of the bus passed the SUV. Google has said that both the car's software and the person in the driver's seat thought the bus would let the Lexus into the flow of traffic. The Google employee did not try to intervene before the crash. "This is a classic example of the negotiation that's a normal part of driving - we're all trying to predict each other's movements. In this case, we clearly bear some responsibility, because if our car hadn't moved there wouldn't have been a collision," Google wrote of the incident.

What does the video show?

The footage shows angles from eight onboard cameras. In one clip, passengers gazing out on a sunny afternoon are jolted to attention by a scraping, crunching sound and the impact, which causes several hand straps to sway. In another clip, the Lexus RX450 can be seen bouncing off the side of the bus. Photos show a long scratch mark traversing the side of the bus. The car's radar unit ended up wedged in the crack where two side passenger doors of the bus join, cracking a glass panel.

A camera trained on the driver shows him open his mouth in surprise, then gesture as if to say, "Why did you just hit my bus?" Damage to the bus was between \$2,000 and \$3,000, the transit agency said Wednesday. Google would not disclose the cost to fix its car.

Surprising move

Google has said that safety is its guiding principle in developing the cars, and that once mature, the technology promises to reduce collisions and deaths dramatically. The software that controls the cars is programmed to follow all traffic laws and to drive conservatively, the company said. The law-abiding algorithms that rule the SUV's onboard computer make its decision to try and slip in front of the bus surprising.

Footage shows there was not much more than a full car length between the bus and the GMC Yukon in front of it. Google said it has tweaked its software to "more deeply understand that buses and other large vehicles are less likely to yield to us than other types of vehicles." — AP



CALIFORNIA: This Feb 14, 2016, photo provided by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority shows damage to a self-driving Lexus SUV, operated by Google, that collided with a public bus in Mountain View, Calif.

WHAT'S IN THE (CABLE) BOX? POSSIBLY THE FUTURE OF TELEVISION

NEW YORK: It's hard to get excited about a cable box. It's basically a boring oblong you put on a shelf near your TV and never think of again unless your cable service goes out. But it's at the center of a battle pitting technology companies and the government against the TV industry. The Federal Communications Commission wants to let you buy your own cable box in hopes of saving you money and getting you new features. The cable industry worries about losing the power to frame how you get your video - and with it, billions of dollars in revenue. Some in Hollywood also worry about losing advertising dollars. Here's what you need to know about this dispute:

What's a set-top box?

Early on, cable boxes were little more than descramblers intended to block channels you hadn't paid for. Although they still serve that purpose, they've evolved into mini-entertainment centers that can record and play back programs, handle video on demand and even tempt you with non-TV distractions. Comcast, for example, recently added video games. Most TV subscribers today lease boxes from their TV service provider. A study released last year by Sens. Edward Markey and Richard Blumenthal, Democrats on a Senate subcommittee that oversees technology and communications, found that the average household spends about \$231 a year on box rental fees. Although some boxes can integrate Netflix, most people need a separate device to watch online video.

What does the government want to do?

The FCC wants to give you more options for buying boxes and using different TV-watching software, much the way you can currently buy your own phone or modem. The tech companies and regulators arrayed behind this effort claim you'll see lower prices, more choices and technological advances as a result. The new rules would force TV suppliers - companies like Comcast, DirecTV and Verizon Fios - to make available video and channel information to outside companies like Google, Apple and TiVo. They'd have to provide this data in a format set by an "open standards body," which the FCC says could include consumer-technology makers, cable companies, content companies, apps developers and consumer-interest groups.

Have there been efforts to "unlock the box" before?

Yes, but they didn't work. About 12 years ago, cable operators rolled out CableCards - high-tech cards you could stick in TVs or boxes sold by others, like TiVo, to negate the need for a cable box. But cable companies initially had to install them for customers and had no incentive to make sure they were easy to get and activate, says John Bergmayer, an attorney at the public-interest group Public Knowledge, which supports the government's cable-box initiative. A cable-industry vision from 2008, dubbed tru2way, also failed. The cable industry designed software for TVs that let them deliver cable without a box. But the technology didn't appeal to consumer-electronics companies and fizzled out, Bergmayer says.

Benefits for viewers

With a device like an Apple TV, you could, theoretically, get all your video in one place: live cable channels, Netflix, HBO's app, YouTube. And the device would keep working even if you switched, say, from cable to satellite TV. You could also see better search capabilities. New gadgets might let you do a single search for both TV channels and online services, which could help you find niche online video that cable companies don't carry. TiVo already offers such a feature, but you still need a CableCard or a box from a cable company that has partnered with TiVo. — AP



PHILADELPHIA: This Wednesday, May 30, 2007, file photo shows a cable box on top of a television in Philadelphia. — AP

ENTERPRISES IN KUWAIT NEED TO BUILD NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURES TO SUPPORT 'INTERNET OF THINGS'

KUWAIT: While the Internet of Things (IoT) has been a popular buzz phrase for the last 18 months in Kuwait, the scale of devices to which it applies has been fairly limited. However, Manish Bhardwaj, Senior Marketing Manager, Middle East and Turkey at Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, says that developments in network technology that will support the IoT as it comes of age, along with emerging use cases that will propel the mass deployment of IoT devices across the enterprise and in many vertical markets, are finally driving broader scale IoT deployments.

IoT devices can drive significant improvement in business processes by delivering a level of knowledge about workflows that has never been available before. For example, by equipping IoT devices with location technology, a hospital can reduce the time required to transport critical equipment where it is needed most, saving costs but more importantly, lives. IoT devices will also enable machine-to-machine (M2M) processes, offloading labor-intensive procedures so companies can redirect their human resources to more crucial tasks.

Working on Wi-Fi

IoT devices typically connect to Wi-Fi networks directly or utilize Bluetooth tethering to a Wi-Fi device such as a tablet or smartphone for transport. With the pervasiveness of enterprise Wi-Fi networks, Wi-Fi will be the primary transport option. Bluetooth, or Bluetooth Low Energy (Bluetooth LE) specifically, will be utilized as the edge connectivity when power requirements are constrained.



KUWAIT: Manish Bhardwaj, Senior Marketing Manager.

As Bluetooth-based IoT devices are more widely deployed, Bluetooth LE technology will be integrated into some Wi-Fi access points to provide enhanced connectivity and management options. While several other wireless technologies have been considered for IoT devices, most manufacturers recognize the importance of limiting the breadth of connectivity options to allow for a richer experience and to promote interoperability. The growth in IoT devices will introduce some significant challenges for businesses that embrace the technology. For example, while some IoT devices connect to application servers within the enterprise, the bulk of these devices today leverage cloud-based application servers and analytics systems that reside outside the enterprise, introducing security concerns. Enterprises will need to secure these devices to prevent them from becoming entry points for hackers to break into the enterprise.

Also, because of the varying lifecycles of IoT devices—such as a refrigerator having a much longer lifecycle than a smartphone, as one example—ongoing support of firmware updates will vary dramatically, leading to a diverse set of capabilities across the IoT ecosystem.

Some devices will receive firmware updates often and others will lack firmware updates or retain connectivity technology that will become antiquated due to their long product lifecycles. Enterprises will need to ensure that their networks support and provide security for legacy IoT devices that use yesterday's generation of wireless technology and that do not maintain security updates in the firmware over time.

IoT Infrastructure

As enterprises in Kuwait begin building a network infrastructure to support the Internet of Things, they must address the following challenges:

1- Device density on networks will soar. Previously, the number of devices on a network was tied directly to the number of people on the network. With the Internet of Things, devices will be associated with machines and processes as well as people. Enterprises must design their networks to support exploding device densities beyond what #GenMobile drove in the past year, upgrading their Wi-Fi networks to 802.11ac and ensuring that their edge access switches are properly engineered to support the increased device density.

2- IoT devices will introduce new potential security vulnerabilities. Enterprises will increasingly need to design their networks with firewalls that isolate the devices to prevent them from becoming a jumping-off point for hackers into the enterprise. With the number and variety of operating systems the devices will utilize, businesses will find it difficult to patch all the new security vulnerabilities the devices could introduce. Enterprises should consider segregating select IoT devices onto parallel networks, creating additional layers of security to protect sensitive data and applications.

3- Some IoT devices will be sensitive to real-time operations or will require significant bandwidth for operation. To support this class of devices, enterprises need to make sure their infrastructure has the intelligence to automatically identify IoT devices and applications on the network and, subsequently, prioritize or police traffic based on administrator-configured policies.



WASHINGTON: File photo shows an iPhone in Washington. — AP

US GOVERNMENT CALLS APPLE RHETORIC 'FALSE' IN IPHONE CASE

'APPLE DELIBERATELY RAISED TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS'

WASHINGTON: The US Justice Department yesterday said Apple Inc.'s rhetoric was "false" in a high-profile fight over the government's bid to unlock an encrypted iPhone belonging to one of the San Bernardino shooters. Last month, the Federal Bureau of Investigation obtained a court order requiring Apple to write new software and take other measures to disable passcode protection and allow access to shooter Rizwan Farook's iPhone.

Apple has not complied. It said the government request would create a "back door" to phones that could be abused by criminals and governments, and that Congress has not given the Justice Department authority to make such a demand. The filing was the Justice Department's last chance to make its case ahead of a hearing set for March 22 in a Riverside, California federal court. The clash has intensified a long-running debate over how much law enforcement and intelligence officials should be able to monitor digital communications.

In its brief, prosecutors noted that Apple has attacked the FBI investigation as "shoddy" and portrayed itself as "the primary guardian of Americans' privacy." Apple's rhetoric "is not only false, but also corrosive of the very institutions that are best able to safeguard our liberty and our rights: the courts, the Fourth Amendment, longstanding precedent and venerable laws, and the democratically elected branches of government," prosecutors added.

'Like an indictment'

The government said Apple "deliberately raised technological barriers"

to prevent execution of a warrant. Apple has said the government's request would open the company to pressure from repressive regimes to provide similar assistance. But the Justice Department yesterday questioned whether Apple is actually resisting such requests. "For example, according to Apple's own data, China demanded information from Apple regarding over 4,000 iPhones in the first half of 2015, and Apple produced data 74 percent of the time," prosecutors wrote. Apple General Counsel Bruce Sewell yesterday said the brief reads "like an indictment" and called the claims about providing data to China a "smear" based on thinly sourced news reports.

Sewell said it was insulting to suggest Apple deliberately set out to protect phones from warranted searches, saying its measures are intended to keep everyone safe from multiple threats. Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook has said he is willing to take the case to the Supreme Court. The FBI says Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, were inspired by Islamist militants when they shot and killed 14 people on Dec 2 at a holiday party. The couple later died in a shootout with police and the FBI said it wants to read the data on Farook's work phone to investigate any links with militant groups.

'Non-encryption barrier'

Tech industry leaders including Google, Facebook and Microsoft and more than two dozen other companies filed legal briefs last week supporting Apple. The Justice Department received support from

law enforcement groups and six relatives of San Bernardino victims. The Justice Department has repeatedly attempted to frame the Apple case as one that is not about undermining encryption and that the court order narrowly targets a "non-encryption barrier" on one iPhone. Asking for decryption services "would not be novel, either," prosecutors argued yesterday. They cited an 1807 case holding that a clerk working for Aaron Burr, then a former US vice president, could be forced to decode a letter penned by Burr if doing so did not lead to self-incrimination.

Prosecutors criticized claims by Apple that developing the new software code would be burdensome for the company. They noted Apple "grosses hundreds of billions of dollars a year" and would only need ask a handful of its 100,000 employees to work on the project for "perhaps as little as two weeks." The potential burden on Apple is a crucial test set out in a prior case, known as Mountain Bell, which held that a local phone company could be ordered to program the equipment in its facilities in order to trace calls in progress.

That case should be binding precedent in the San Bernardino matter, prosecutors said. But an Apple lawyer yesterday said the Mountain Bell case was far less demanding of that company than the present case would be of Apple. Earlier this week the government sought to overturn a ruling protecting Apple from unlocking an iPhone in a New York drug case which raises similar issues. A Brooklyn judge yesterday gave Apple two weeks to respond to the government's bid. — Reuters

amc

01:35 The Patriot
04:15 The Faculty
06:00 Beauty Shop
07:45 The Beast Of Hollow Mountain
09:05 The Secret Of Santa Vittoria
11:20 Impromptu
13:05 Groundhog Day
14:50 Mirromask
16:30 True Heart
18:00 Saved!
19:30 Robinson Crusoe
21:00 Night Manager
22:00 Breaking Bad
23:00 Doubt

BBC FIRST

00:05 Doctors
00:35 Father Brown
01:20 War And Peace
02:05 War And Peace
02:55 Stella
03:45 Doctors
04:15 Father Brown
05:00 Doctors
08:30 Eastenders
10:30 Death In Paradise
13:15 Casualty
14:10 Doctors
15:10 The Musketeers
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:00 Moone Boy
19:25 Father Brown
20:15 Dickensian
21:00 Dickensian
21:50 War And Peace
22:40 Unforgotten
23:30 Doctors

Disney Channel

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 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
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 Jessie
10:10 I Love Violetta
10:25 Geek Charming
12:00 Violetta Recipes
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Jessie
12:45 Jessie
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Descendants Wicked World
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
16:35 Gravity Falls
17:00 Alex And Co
17:25 Mako Mermaids
17:50 I Love Violetta
18:00 Starstruck
19:30 Mako Mermaids
19:55 Girl Meets World
20:20 Girl Meets World
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie



I, ROBOT ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

Disney Junior

21:35 H2O
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

00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
00:20 Calimero
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopdidoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calimero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopdidoo
02:30 Art Attack
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopdidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Loopdidoo
08:40 Miles From Tomorrow
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Goldie & Bear
09:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:35 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Goldie & Bear
12:00 Miles From Tomorrow
12:25 Lion King 2: Simba's Pride
14:00 Sofia The First
14:25 Goldie & Bear
14:50 Doc McStuffins
15:15 Zou
15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:55 Loopdidoo
16:10 Miles From Tomorrow
16:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:00 Sofia The First
17:25 Jungle Cubs
17:50 Aladdin
18:15 Gummi Bears

Disney XD

18:40 Goldie & Bear
19:05 Miles From Tomorrow
19:30 Sofia The First
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:20 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
20:35 Miles From Tomorrow
21:00 Goldie & Bear
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Aladdin
22:50 Gummi Bears
23:20 Lilo And Stitch
23:50 Zou

00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am
KSA
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K. C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Annedroids
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Kirby Buckets
09:35 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
10:00 Supa Strikas
10:25 Supa Strikas
10:50 Supa Strikas
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Supa Strikas
12:10 Supa Strikas
12:35 Supa Strikas
13:00 Teen Beach Movie
14:30 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Guardians Of The Galaxy
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Wander Over Yonder
16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:30 Kirby Buckets
16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
17:25 K. C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 Mighty Med
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K. C. Undercover
21:20 Supa Strikas
21:45 Lab Rats

00:00 House Of DVF
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Hollywood Cycle
02:20 E! News
03:15 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians
04:10 E! Entertainment Special
05:05 E! Entertainment Special
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
10:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:10 Fashion Police
12:05 E! News
13:05 Botched
14:05 Botched
15:00 Botched Presents: Perfect
16:00 WAGs
17:00 WAGs
18:00 E! News
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 Dash Dolls
21:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
22:00 E! News
23:00 House Of DVF

food network

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Follow Donal... To Europe
01:30 Follow Donal... To Europe
02:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Iron Chef America
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
11:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
12:00 Barefoot Contessa
12:30 Barefoot Contessa
13:00 Chopped
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Siba's Table
18:30 Siba's Table
19:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Save My Bakery

itv hd CHOICE

00:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
01:30 Eggheads
02:30 Emmerdale
05:00 Coronation Street
07:10 Shetland
08:05 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
09:20 Seven Days With...
10:15 Grantchester
11:05 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
12:00 Murdoch Mysteries
12:50 Murdoch Mysteries
13:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
14:35 Shetland
15:30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
16:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:40 Murdoch Mysteries
18:35 Raised By Wolves
19:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
19:30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
20:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
21:40 Grantchester
22:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
23:25 Coronation Street
23:50 Coronation Street

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30 Suburgatory
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 Community
02:00 Curb Your Enthusiasm
02:30 The League
03:00 Fresh Off The Boat
04:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Modern Family
06:00 Mad Love
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
08:30 Breaking In

09:00 Fresh Off The Boat
09:30 Parks And Recreation
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Mad Love
12:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
13:00 Breaking In
13:30 Community
14:30 Parks And Recreation
15:30 Suburgatory
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
16:30 Mad Love
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 The Muppets
18:30 Dr. Ken
19:00 Last Man Standing
19:30 Life In Pieces
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Suburgatory
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:00 The League
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD MORE

00:00 The Newsroom
00:00 The Newsroom
01:00 The Sopranos
01:00 The Sopranos
02:00 Game Of Thrones
02:00 Game Of Thrones
03:00 The Bastard Executioner
03:00 The Bastard Executioner
04:00 The Wire
04:00 The Wire
05:00 61
05:00 61*
07:15 Top Ten Monks
07:15 Top Ten Monks
08:00 The Mind Of The Married Man
08:00 The Mind Of The Married Man
08:30 The Comeback
08:30 The Comeback
09:00 Veep
09:00 Veep
09:30 Getting On
09:30 Getting On
10:00 From The Earth To The Moon
10:00 From The Earth To The Moon
11:00 American Splendor
11:00 American Splendor
13:00 In Vogue: The Editor's Eye
13:00 In Vogue: The Editor's Eye

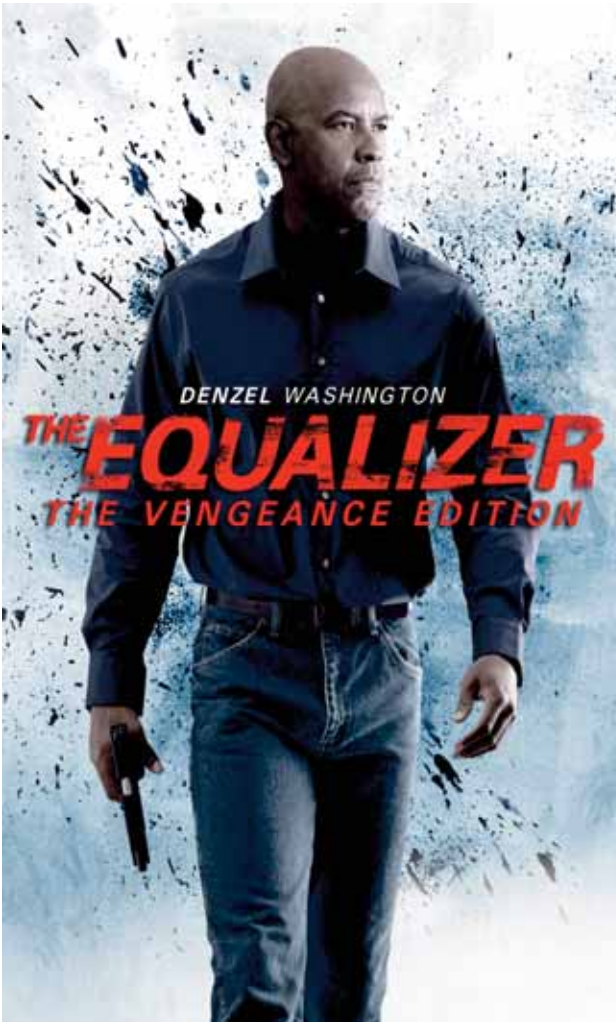
14:00 The Mind Of The Married Man
14:00 The Mind Of The Married Man
14:30 The Comeback
14:30 The Comeback
15:00 Veep
15:00 Veep
15:30 Getting On
15:30 Getting On
16:00 From The Earth To The Moon
16:00 From The Earth To The Moon
17:00 American Splendor
17:00 American Splendor
19:00 The Newsroom
19:00 The Newsroom
20:00 The Sopranos
20:00 The Sopranos
21:00 Luck
21:00 Luck
22:00 Animals

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 Supernatural
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong
03:00 Sleepy Hollow
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
07:00 Covert Affairs
08:00 Blood & Oil
09:00 American Idol
11:00 Covert Affairs
12:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 American Idol
16:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Blood & Oil
19:00 Grey's Anatomy
20:00 Stitches
21:00 Criminal Minds
22:00 The Blacklist
23:00 Mad Dogs

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 Waist Deep
02:00 Jessabelle
04:00 Snitch
06:00 Toxin
08:00 The Prince
09:45 King Arthur
12:00 Dying Of The Light
14:00 Special ID
16:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
18:00 The Prince
20:00 Dying Of The Light
22:00 I, Robot



THE EQUALIZER ON OSN MOVIES HD

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

00:00 Jessabelle-18
02:00 Snitch-PG15
04:00 Toxin-PG15
06:00 The Prince-PG15
07:45 King Arthur-PG15
10:00 Dying Of The Light-PG15
12:00 Special ID-PG15
14:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
16:00 The Prince-PG15
18:00 Dying Of The Light-PG15
20:00 I, Robot-PG15
22:00 Battleship-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

00:00 Textuality
02:00 Man Of The House
04:00 Dunston Checks In
05:45 Renaissance Man
08:00 Blues Brothers 2000
10:15 Dunston Checks In
12:00 Man Of The House
14:00 The Devil Wears Prada
16:00 Blues Brothers 2000
18:15 The Other Woman
20:15 Let's Be Cops
22:15 American Reunion

OSN MOVIES HD
DRAMA

01:15 Late Bloomers-PG15
03:00 What Maisie Knew-PG15
05:00 Shanghai Calling-PG15
07:00 The Truth About Emanuel-
09:00 Barefoot-PG15
11:00 Shanghai Calling-PG15
13:00 The French Minister-PG15
15:00 Jack Strong-PG15
17:15 Barefoot-PG15
19:00 A Long Way Down-PG15
21:00 Go For Sisters-PG15
23:15 The Motel Life-18

OSN MOVIES HD
FAMILY

01:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean:
Curse Of The Black Pearl
03:30 Freaky Friday
05:15 White Fang
07:15 Honey, I Shrunk The Kids
09:00 102 Dalmatians
11:00 Postman Pat: The Movie
13:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
15:00 Enchanted
17:00 Brave
19:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2:
Dead Man's Chest
21:30 My Girl
23:15 Enchanted

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

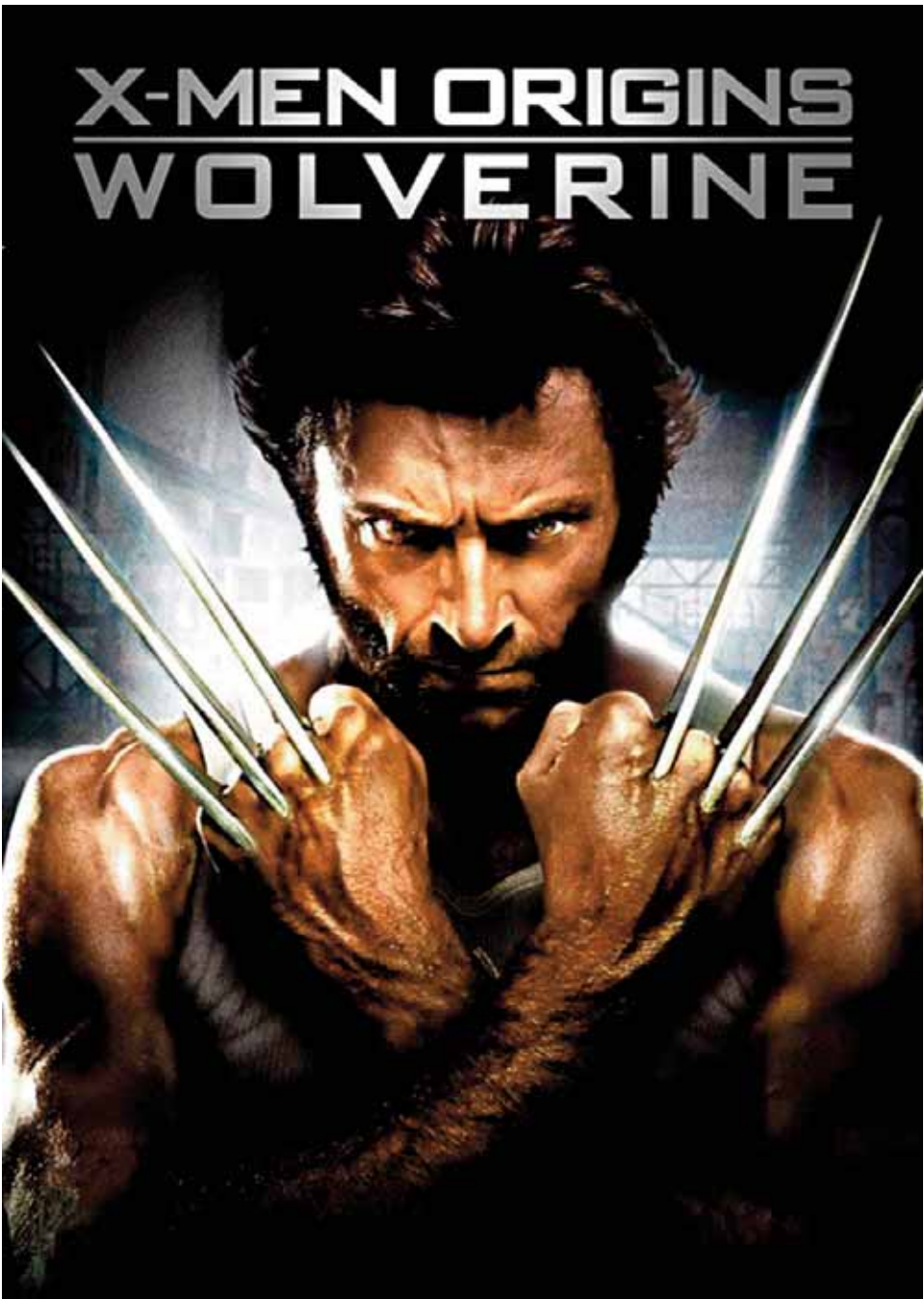
01:00 Upside Down
03:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost
05:30 October Sky
07:30 Ed Wood
10:00 Upside Down
12:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost
14:00 A Passage To India
16:45 Ed Wood
19:00 Rosewater
21:00 Jersey Boys
23:30 Heaven's Gate

OSN MOVIES HD

01:15 Magic Magic-18
03:00 Draft Day-PG15
05:00 Oggy & The Cockroaches: The
Movie-PG
07:00 The Single Moms Club-PG15
09:00 The Maze Runner-PG15
11:00 Seventh Son-PG15
12:45 Tomorrowland-PG15
15:00 Imogene-PG15
16:45 Step Up All In-PG15
18:45 The Second Best Exotic
Marigold Hotel-PG15
21:00 Words And Pictures-PG15
23:00 Men, Women & Children-18

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

01:15 Moomins And The Comet
Chase
03:00 The Heart Of The Oak



X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

04:30 Hatching
06:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of
The Midas Box
08:00 Egon And Donci
09:45 Delhi Safari
11:30 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met
My Ghoulfriend
13:00 The Heart Of The Oak
14:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
16:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of
The Lost Gold
18:00 Delhi Safari
20:00 Marco Macaco
22:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
23:30 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of
The Lost Gold

OSN MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

00:00 The Equalizer-18
02:15 The Signal-PG15
04:00 Shadow Witness-PG15
05:30 Divergent-PG15
08:00 The Expendables 3-PG15
10:15 One Chance-PG15
12:00 Barely Lethal-PG15
14:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
16:00 The Expendables 3-PG15
18:00 Project Almanac-PG15
20:00 Transformers: Age Of
Extinction-PG15
23:00 The Good Lie-PG15



00:45 My Trip From Hell
01:35 My 600lb Life: Where Are They
Now?
02:25 My Naked Secret
02:50 My Naked Secret
03:15 Married By Mum And Dad

04:05 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big
Day
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Designer Darlings
07:15 Outrageous Kid Parties
07:40 Outrageous Kid Parties
08:05 Bakery Boss
08:55 Food Hospital
09:45 Little People, Big World:
Wedding Farm
10:35 Married By Mum And Dad
11:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8
13:30 Kate Plus 8
14:20 Belief
15:10 Cake Boss
17:15 Little People, Big World:
Wedding Farm
18:05 Oprah's Master Class
18:55 Cake Boss
19:20 Little And Looking For Love
20:10 Love, Lust Or Run
21:00 Iyanla: Fix My Life
21:50 Oprah's Master Class
22:40 Long Island Medium
23:05 The Day I Almost Died



00:50 River Monsters
01:45 Man-Eating Super Snake
02:40 Big Fish Man
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Echo And The Elephants Of
Amboseli
04:50 Echo And The Elephants Of
Amboseli
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Big Fish Man
07:36 Monkey Life
08:00 Monkey Life
08:25 Treehouse Masters
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Treehouse Masters

12:00 Treehouse Masters
12:55 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
13:50 Africa's Trees Of Life
14:45 Charles & Jessica: A Chimp
Tale
15:40 Animal Cops South Africa
16:35 Echo And The Elephants Of
Amboseli
17:05 Echo And The Elephants Of
Amboseli
17:30 Into The Pride
18:25 Wildest Africa
19:20 Rugged Justice
20:15 Wild Capture School
20:45 Wild Capture School
21:10 Treetop Cat Rescue
21:40 Treetop Cat Rescue
22:05 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
23:00 Rugged Justice
23:55 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster



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 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
04:00 Special
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 On The Case With Paula
Zahn
08:00 Fatal Encounters
08:50 Disappeared
09:40 Disappeared
10:30 On The Case With Paula

Zahn
11:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn
12:10 The Will
13:00 The Will
13:50 California Investigator
14:15 California Investigator
14:40 Dr G: Medical Examiner
15:30 On The Case With Paula
Zahn
16:20 On The Case With Paula
Zahn
17:10 Disappeared
18:00 Disappeared
18:50 California Investigator
19:15 California Investigator
19:40 I Almost Got Away With It
20:30 I Almost Got Away With It
21:20 I Almost Got Away With It
22:10 I Almost Got Away With It
23:00 True CSI
23:50 Surviving Evil



00:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 The Last Goodbye
02:30 The Last Goodbye
03:00 Deadly Wives
04:00 The First 48
05:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
06:00 The Haunting Of...
07:00 The FBI Files
08:00 I Killed My BFF
09:00 I Killed My BFF
10:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
11:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
13:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
14:00 When Life Means Life
15:00 When Life Means Life
16:00 The FBI Files
17:00 Crime Stories
18:00 Crime Stories
19:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
20:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
21:00 Monster In My Family
22:00 Monster In My Family
23:00 The Last Goodbye
23:30 The Last Goodbye



00:20 World's Strangest
01:10 Fast N' Loud Clip Shows
02:00 Street Outlaws
02:50 Extreme Car Hoarders
03:40 How Do They Do It?
04:05 How Do They Do It?
04:30 How Do They Do It?
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Fast N' Loud
06:50 Fast N' Loud
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Fast N' Loud
09:20 Fast N' Loud
10:10 Gold Rush
11:00 Diamond River Hunters
11:50 Pacific Warriors
12:40 The Liquidator
13:05 The Liquidator
13:30 The Liquidator
13:55 The Liquidator
14:20 The Liquidator
14:45 Garage Gold
15:10 Garage Gold
15:35 Garage Gold
16:00 Garage Gold
16:25 Garage Gold
16:50 Edge Of Alaska
17:40 Alaska: The Last Frontier
(Season 5 Specials)
18:30 You Have Been Warned
19:20 The Weapon Hunter
20:10 Big Giant Swords
21:00 Edge Of Alaska
21:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
(Season 5 Specials)
22:40 Railroad Alaska
23:30 Deadly Dilemmas
23:55 Deadly Dilemmas



00:45 Caribbean Life
01:10 Hawaii Life
01:35 World's Most Extreme Homes

02:00 House Hunters
02:30 House Hunters
02:55 Rehab Addict
03:20 Rehab Addict
03:45 Rehab Addict
04:10 Fixer Upper
05:05 Caribbean Life
05:30 Hawaii Life
05:55 Extreme Homes
06:45 Million Dollar Rooms
07:35 Rehab Addict
08:00 Extreme Homes
08:50 Restoration SOS Charleston
09:15 Hawaii Life
09:40 Healthy Gourmet
10:05 Healthy Gourmet
10:30 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
11:00 Beachfront Bargain Hunt
11:25 Caribbean Life
11:50 Hawaii Life
12:15 Rehab Addict
12:40 Rehab Addict
13:10 Curb Appeal
13:35 Curb Appeal
14:00 Junk Gypsies
14:25 Junk Gypsies
14:50 Cousins On Call
15:15 Kitchen Cousins
15:45 Giada's Weekend Getaways
16:10 Giada's Weekend Getaways
16:35 Rachel Hunter's Tour Of

Beauty
17:00 Rachel Hunter's Tour Of
Beauty
17:25 America's Most Desperate
Kitchens
17:50 America's Most Desperate
Kitchens
18:15 Giada In Italy
18:40 Giada In Italy
19:05 Flip Or Flop
19:30 Flip Or Flop
20:00 Extreme Homes
20:55 House Hunters
21:20 House Hunters
21:45 Hawaii Life
22:10 Restoration SOS Charleston
22:35 Rehab Addict
23:00 Million Dollar Rooms
23:55 Million Dollar Rooms



00:00 European Wakeboard &
Wakeskate Championship
00:30 American Misfits
01:00 Punk Payback With Bas
Rutten
01:30 Strangers In Danger
02:00 European Wakeboard &
Wakeskate Championship
02:30 2008 Surfer Poll & Video
Awards
03:30 Flip Feast Tour
04:00 Pol - Part Of Life
04:30 Camp Woodward Beijing
05:00 Screen Heroes
05:30 Best Of Absinthe: Resonance
06:30 Icons Of Aloha
07:00 Changing The Game
08:00 Teahupoo Uncut
09:00 Pol - Part Of Life
09:30 Camp Woodward Beijing
10:00 The 808
10:30 Surfing For Peace
11:00 Punk Payback With Bas
Rutten
11:30 2008 Surfer Poll & Video
Awards
12:30 Flip Feast Tour
13:00 Punk Payback With Bas
Rutten
13:30 Concrete Pow Wow
14:00 Pol - Part Of Life
14:30 Camp Woodward Beijing
15:00 Slam!
15:30 Santa Cruz Euro Skate
16:00 Compassing
16:30 American Misfits
17:00 Riding The Long White Cloud
18:00 Pol - Part Of Life
18:30 Camp Woodward Beijing
19:00 Punk Payback With Bas
Rutten
19:30 Titan Kids
20:00 Radical - The Controversial
Saga Of Dada F.
21:30 Best Of Absinthe: Resonance
22:30 The South
23:00 King Of Wake 2014
23:30 King Of Wake 2014



The fifth round of Kuwait University's (KU) English language debate was held recently under the patronage of KU Rector Dr Hussein Al-Ansari, featuring participation of seven teams representing different KU colleges. —KUNA



ESF GRABS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The English School Fahaheel (ESF) is not a stranger to winning at ISACK Inter school championships. ESF recently won the U13 and U15 Open age Swimming Championship. Volleyball students and their coach Mr Reggie recently celebrated winning the U13 ISACK Volleyball Championship against TES The English School Salmiya. Congratulations from all at ESF for a game well played.



First Lieutenant Talal Al-Houtari from the Interior Ministry's Security Media Department gave a lecture at the Khalid bin Al-Waleed Elementary School in Mubarak Al-Kabeer on the dangers of violent behavior on society.



Photo Shows Roy K Poulse, the president of the Idukki district committee of the Indian National Congress and Dean Kuriakose, Kerala State president of the Youth Congress with the Overseas Indian Cultural Congress (OICC), Kuwait president Varghese Puthukulangara and other office-bearers yesterday. The two leaders arrived in Kuwait to attend a convention organized by the OICC, Kuwait for the members from the Idukki district of Kerala. The convention was held at the United Indian School, Abbasiya yesterday.



BOLIVIA: An Aymara woman herds her grazing llamas at a farm in the municipality of Turco, Oruro Department, Bolivia. — AFP

BOLIVIA TOUTS LLAMA AS HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE TO BEEF

'IS GUSTU THE WORLD'S BEST NEW RESTAURANT?'

TURCO, Bolivia: Danish chef Kamilla Seidler is carefully preparing steak tartare at Gustu, an upscale restaurant in the Bolivian capital La Paz. But instead of the usual beef, she is making it with llama meat, a traditional favorite in Bolivia that is gaining new status as producers hail it as a healthier alternative. "Before it was considered the poor people's meat, but now it's the most expensive in the country," the 32-year-old chef told AFP. The caper-dotted tartare she is making costs 75 bolivianos (about \$11) at Gustu, which opened three years ago to much fanfare and an article in Food & Wine magazine entitled "Is Gustu the World's Best New Restaurant?"

Thousands of kilometers away, llama herder German Churqui is thrilled at this new appetite for his product. "Llama meat is good so we are hopeful the price will keep going up. Llama meat can be a good competitor" to other red meats, said the 45-year-old father of four, who keeps a herd of 150 llamas high in the Andes mountains, in the western district of Turco.

The llama, a long-necked pack animal known for its wool, has also long been a food source for indigenous people in Bolivia, a poor, landlocked country better known for its rugged high mountains than its haute cuisine. "Our ancestors consumed llama meat and traded it for

wheat, barley, corn and coca," said Demetrio Luna of the Bolivian rural development ministry, which has launched a campaign to promote llama meat. Several years ago, llama meat began popping up on high-end restaurant menus in the region, for example as a carpaccio served with quinoa and parmesan. It has gotten a new boost from the World Health Organization's publication of a report last October finding that processed meat causes cancer and red meat "probably" does too. Llama is a red meat, but Bolivia insists it is healthier than beef. "Llama meat contains a high level of low-fat protein and generates low levels of cholesterol," the ministry of rural development said in a 2013 report.

'Healthier than beef'

Most of the 5,200 people who live in Turco depend on llamas to survive. Churqui says one llama brings in around \$150. He sells between 20 and 40 of them a year, his sole source of income. "That's what allows us to live," he said. Llamas are found across the Andes region, in Ecuador, Chile, Peru and Argentina, but Bolivia is responsible for 60 percent of llama meat production, with 2.8 million animals. In the western city of Oruro, Maria had just bought 16 kilos (35 pounds) of llama meat for around \$50 at the "Las Americas" market. "I'm going to make roast llama. It's nutritional and healthier than beef," said the housewife.

But Bolivia is still a long way from being able to export llama meat, according to Jose Luis Rios, an agricultural technician in Oruro who said the entire production chain needs to be modernized to meet international standards, "from herd management, to feed, to animal health and genetic improvements." — AFP



BOLIVIA: A worker slaughters llamas at the municipal slaughterhouse of Turco, Oruro Department, Bolivia.

TINY VILLAGE BECOMES INDONESIAN ANTI-SMOKING CHAMPION

BONE-BONE, Indonesia: Nestled amid mountains in remote central Indonesia, Bone-Bone looks like any other rural hamlet in the archipelago, with a modest collection of houses, shops and mosques and people quietly going about their daily lives. But it is an unlikely champion in the fight against smoking in one of the world's most tobacco-addicted countries, after it became the first village in Indonesia to impose a total ban on smoking. "Thank you for not smoking, say no to cigarettes" reads a sign at the entrance to the settlement to Sulawesi, one of the archipelago's main islands, while another says "Please enjoy the scenery and fresh air in our village".

The move has inspired other villages around the country to follow suit and take the law into their own hands as the central government shows little sign of launching a determined, nationwide fight against tobacco. Such bans are just a small step in a country where 30 percent of the adult population are smokers, and more than 200,000 die every year due to tobacco-related illnesses, according to public health experts in Indonesia.

More than two thirds of adult males use tobacco, the highest rate in the world, according to the World Health Organisation's Global Adult Tobacco Survey, although far fewer women smoke. In recent decades, many countries in the developed world have launched campaigns to cut tobacco use, ramped up prices, restricted cigarette advertising and banned smoking in public places, leading to sharp falls in smoking rates. While Indonesia is not alone among developing countries in lagging behind in efforts to tackle tobacco use, even by regional standards it fares poorly.

Tobacco adverts remain highly visible around Indonesia, on billboards and posters, it is the only country in Southeast Asia that still allows cigarette advertising on television, and the only one in the Asia-Pacific region not to have ratified a key UN treaty on tobacco control. The domestic tobacco industry remains hugely lucrative and powerful, and it is common to see children smoking a sweet-tasting clove cigarette—an extremely popular Indonesian specialty, which dominates the local market.

'I can save money'

But in Bone-Bone, it is a different story. Smoking has almost entirely disappeared among the population of around 800 inhabitants since the ban came into force a decade ago. Rather than worries about villagers contracting cancer, economic concerns were what prompted then village head, Muhammad Idris, to implement the ban through a local bylaw. He said that many poor families in the area could not afford to send their children to school because their fathers were spending too much on smoking, and the youngsters themselves got addicted to the costly habit at a young age.

While cigarettes are cheap by international standards in Indonesia—with a packet of a local brand costing around the equivalent of a dollar—a heavy habit can strongly impact the finances of poor families with meagre incomes. "I went to college with 13 other students from this village, only six graduated, the rest dropped out because they spent their tuition money on cigarettes," Idris told AFP. The ban was implemented in stages. In 2000, local authorities prohibited the sale of cigarettes in Bone-Bone, smoking in public places was forbidden from 2003, and then a full ban on both smoking and selling tobacco products for residents and visitors came into force in 2006. Punishments for those caught breaking the rules include community service, such as cleaning up mosques in the staunchly Muslim village and their neighborhood, while some have even been forced to issue a public apology to the entire village through a loud-speaker. — AFP



BONE-BONE, Indonesia : This photo shows Muhammad Idris, who implemented a smoking ban through a local bylaw, holding a certificate for his efforts at his house in Bone-Bone village, Enrekang, South Sulawesi. — AFP



DAKAR : A picture taken on March 8, 2016 shows Senegalese President Macky Sall (left) delivering a speech in Dakar, during the opening of the "Next Einstein Forum" (NEF). —AFP

AFRICAN SCIENTISTS SAY MORE NEEDED TO KEEP BRIGHTEST AT HOME 'AFRICA WAS CAUGHT UNPREPARED'

DAKAR: Is Africa ready to take on the war against malaria, HIV, Ebola and the like? Not yet, said some of the continent's brightest scientific minds at a landmark gathering this week in Senegal. Researchers at the cutting edge of international vaccine and public health research told AFP at the first gathering of the ambitious "Next Einstein Forum" for Africa that their academic success stories remained exceptional though the landscape is changing. "If I'd remained in Cameroon I'd never have got where I am, so at a relatively early stage I identified what I really wanted to do and I had to leave the country," said Wilfred Ndifon, whose mathematical approach to designing vaccines has brought him international acclaim.

Ndifon's skill with numbers and deter-

mination to eradicate disease that afflicted those around him as a child, led him to a scholarship abroad and a PhD from Princeton after he realized he could reach more people through science than as a medical doctor. His work on a general principle for inoculation is now being used to develop a comprehensive malaria vaccine, but he says young Africans who want to take a similar path would still likely require time abroad to develop their skillset.

"The kind of education I got... a lot of it was informal, with a lot of like-minded people doing curiosity-driven research," he said. Attracting the brightest minds and giving them the space to think would require a sea change in African universities, he added. Higher education participation in sub-Saharan Africa remains the lowest in

the world, meaning the pipeline of scientists and technology professionals remains tiny in terms of the region's needs.

Although private universities are booming, government investment remains well under one percent of GDP across sub-Saharan Africa, compared with rates of around 1.0-3.5 percent in Western Europe and the United States. Researchers said countries experiencing stronger comparative economic growth such as Rwanda, Nigeria and Ethiopia had a duty to start investing in this area. Commitments to science would help countries become "capable of solving their own problems," said Mohlopheni Jackson Marakalala, just back from four years of research at Harvard's School of Public Health. —AFP

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR WORLD'S OLDEST MAN

JERUSALEM: A 112-year-old Israeli Holocaust survivor who lived through both world wars is now the world's oldest living man, Guinness World Records said yesterday. Yisrael Kristal was born in what is now Poland on September 15, 1903, three months before the Wright brothers took the first aeroplane flight. He lived in the country through the First World War and until the Nazi occupation in World War II, when he was eventually sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Guinness confirmed yesterday he was now considered the world's oldest living man. "Mr Kristal's achievement is remarkable—he can teach us all an important lesson about the value of life and how to stretch the limits of human longevity," Marco Frigatti, Head of Records for Guinness, said.

Reacting to the news, Kristal said in a statement, "I don't know the secret for long life. I believe that everything is determined from above and we shall never know the reasons why. There have been smarter, stronger and better looking men than me who are no longer alive." The oldest living woman, at 116 years old, is Susannah Mushatt Jones, of the United States, who was born on July 6, 1899. Kristal worked in the family confectionary factory but was sent under Nazi occupation to the infamous Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. His wife died but he survived, weighing just 37 kilos (81 pounds) at the end of the war, daughter Shula Kuperstoch told AFP in January. — AFP



HAIFA: This file photo shows Yisrael Kristal sitting in his home in the Israeli city of Haifa. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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



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

Mitsubishi Pajero, dark blue,
2006 model, owner driven
1,00,000 kms, 5x CD changer,
new tyres, new battery, regis-
tration upto Dec 2016. Please
call 99218172. **(C 5143)**

Expatriate leaving Kuwait,
household appliances and
furniture for sale, please call
99218172. **(C 5143)**
10-3-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gregory Joao Gomes, (old name) holder of Indian Passport No. Z211 1063, son of late Joao Gomes from Borim - Goa, hereby change my name to Anselmo Gregorio Gomes, (new name) as per my birth certificate.
(C 5145)

I, Ligorio Dsouza, holder of
Indian Passport No.

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:43
Shorook	06:02
Duhr:	11:58
Asr:	15:22
Maghrib:	17:54
Isha:	19:11

FOR RENT

**New flat
in Jabriya**

3 bedrooms, 3
baths, kitchen

Contact:
97414191

N1868736, Agosso Loliem
Canacona Goa, south Goa
403728, hereby change my
name to Ligorio De Sousa,
H.N. 355, Agas Loliem
Canacona Goa. (C 5144)

I, Betty Juliet D Souza, holder of Indian Passport No. 9397340, H.N. 64 Comba Margao Salcete, Goa, India, hereby change my name **Betty Juliet Pires. (C 5144)**
12-3-2016

I, Abdullah Walid Khalid
holder of Pakistani Passport
No. AC 6774661 22 Zubair
Street Islamiya Park Pouch
Road Lahore, hereby
changed my name to Saad
Walid Khalid. **(C 5142)**
10-3-2016

**THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY
FOR CIVIL INFORMATION**
Automated enquiry
about the Civil ID card is
1889988

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/03/2016 TO 16/03/2016)

SHARQIA-1		LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:15 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	1:45 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	11:45 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:15 PM	ZOOTOPIA	1:45 PM
ZOOTOPIA	1:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:15 AM	ZOOTOPIA	4:00 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	4:00 PM			ZOOTOPIA	6:15 PM
ZOOTOPIA	6:45 PM	MARINA-3		THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	8:30 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	9:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	11:30 AM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	10:30 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	11:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:00 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	12:30 AM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	1:00 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	4:30 PM		
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:00 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	9:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:00 PM
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:05 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM
SHARQIA-2				THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:00 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:30 PM			THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:30 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	2:30 PM	AVENUES-1		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:00 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	4:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA	11:45 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:30 AM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA	2:15 PM		
LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA	4:45 PM		
LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA	7:15 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
		ZOOTOPIA	9:45 PM	TRIPLE 9	11:45 AM
SHARQIA-3		THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	12:15 AM	TRIPLE 9	2:15 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:00 PM			TRIPLE 9	4:45 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM	AVENUES-2		TRIPLE 9	7:15 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	11:45 AM	TRIPLE 9	9:30 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM	TRIPLE 9	11:45 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:15 PM		
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:30 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:45 PM		
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:15 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
MUHALAB-1		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:45 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	11:30 AM
ZOOTOPIA	11:30 AM			ZOOTOPIA	1:30 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	1:45 PM	AVENUES-3		ZOOTOPIA	3:45 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	4:15 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	12:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA	6:00 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	6:45 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	2:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:15 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	9:15 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	5:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:15 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	11:45 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	7:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:15 AM
		THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	9:30 PM		
		THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	11:45 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
MUHALAB-2				ZOOTOPIA	11:30 AM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:45 PM	AVENUES-4		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	1:45 PM
ZOOTOPIA	3:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	11:30 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	4:15 PM
ZOOTOPIA	5:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	6:45 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	7:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	3:45 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	9:15 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	9:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	11:45 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	12:05 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:15 PM		
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:30 PM	BAIRAQ-3	
MUHALAB-3		LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:45 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:00 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:00 PM	AVENUES-5		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	2:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:00 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	4:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	7:30 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:00 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	9:45 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:00 PM	Special Show “TRIPLE 9”	5:00 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	12:05 AM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:30 PM		
LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:05 AM	Special Show “LONDON HAS FALLEN”	7:30 PM	PLAZA	
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	4:00 PM
FANAR-1		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:30 AM	PUTHIYA NIYAMAM-Malayalam	6:00 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	11:30 AM			THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	6:00 PM
ZOOTOPIA	1:45 PM	360° 1		LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:45 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	4:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:45 PM
ZOOTOPIA	6:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM		
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	8:15 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:00 PM	LAILA	
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	10:15 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	3:45 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	12:15 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:15 PM
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:30 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	8:15 PM
				LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:45 PM
FANAR-2					
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:00 PM		
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM		
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:00 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	5:00 PM		
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:30 PM		
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:00 PM	360°- 2			
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:30 AM	ZOOTOPIA	1:15 PM		
		ZOOTOPIA	1:30 PM	AJIAL1	
FANAR-3		ZOOTOPIA	3:45 PM	PUTHIYA NIYAMAM-Malayalam	4:00 PM
TRIPLE 9	11:45 AM	ZOOTOPIA	6:15 PM	PUTHIYA NIYAMAM-Malayalam	6:30 PM
TRIPLE 9	2:00 PM	ZOOTOPIA	8:45 PM	PUTHIYA NIYAMAM-Malayalam	9:00 PM
TRIPLE 9	5:00 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	11:15 PM		
TRIPLE 9	7:15 PM			AJIAL2	
TRIPLE 9	9:30 PM	360°- 3		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	4:30 PM
TRIPLE 9	12:05 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:15 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	7:00 PM
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	2:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	9:30 PM
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	4:45 PM		
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	7:00 PM		
MARINA-1		LONDON HAS FALLEN	9:15 PM	AJIAL3	
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	11:45 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	11:30 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	3:30 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	1:45 PM			LONDON HAS FALLEN	5:30 PM
ZOOTOPIA	1:45 PM	AL-KOUT.1		JAI GANGAJAL - Hindi	7:30 PM
ZOOTOPIA	4:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:45 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	10:30 PM
ZOOTOPIA	6:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	2:45 PM		
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	8:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	4:45 PM	AJIAL4	
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	10:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:45 PM	JAI GANGAJAL - Hindi	3:45 PM
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	12:45 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:45 PM	JAI GANGAJAL - Hindi	6:45 PM
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:45 PM	JAI GANGAJAL - Hindi	9:45 PM
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:45 AM	KADHALUM KADANDHU POGUM -Tamil	3:45 PM
MARINA-2				KADHALUM KADANDHU POGUM -Tamil	6:45 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:15 PM	AL-KOUT.2		KADHALUM KADANDHU POGUM -Tamil	9:45 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	2:15 PM	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR	11:30 AM		
LONDON HAS FALLEN	4:15 PM				
LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:15 PM				

**DIAL 161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

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

Arrival Flights on Saturday 12/3/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05
KLM	413	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:50
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:30
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:35
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40
JZR	175	Dubai	14:45
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50
KNE	462	Madinah	14:55
KNE	472	Jeddah	15:05
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:30
OMA	645	Muscat	15:30
KAC	562	Amman	15:40
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45
JAD	301	Amman	15:55
JZR	535	Cairo	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
FDB	051	Dubai	16:30
JZR	357	Mashhad	16:30
JZR	257	Beirut	16:30
KNE	474	Jeddah	16:35
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40
RJA	640	Amman	16:55
KAC	542	Cairo	16:55
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KNE	470	Jeddah	17:45
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:45
JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50
MSR	614	Cairo	17:50
KAC	118	New York	17:55
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55
SVA	500	Jeddah	18:00
UAE	875	Dubai	18:00

KAC	502	Beirut	18:00
FDB	063	Dubai	18:05
JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45
QTR	1080	Doha	18:55
IRA	669	Mashhad	18:55
KAC	742	Dammam	19:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
IRM	1188	Mashhad	19:15
KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	19:35
KAC	618	Doha	19:35
CLX	856	Luxembourg	19:35
KAC	104	London	19:40
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05
KNE	480	Taif	20:10
JZR	189	Dubai	20:15
FDB	061	Dubai	20:20
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	20:30
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55
JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55
QTR	1088	Doha	21:00
MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
KAC	676	Dubai	21:45
QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KLM	415	Amsterdam	22:05
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25
KAC	564	Amman	22:25
FDB	059	Dubai	22:30
JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
THY	764	Istanbul	23:50
JZR	125	Bahrain	23:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55
MSC	403	Asyut	23:55

Departure Flights on Saturday 12/3/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
JZR	528	Asyut	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
MSC	502	Alexandria	00:55
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
RJA	643	Amman	07:05
THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
JZR	240	Amman	07:15
JZR	778	Jeddah	07:55
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:30
QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
BAW	156	London	08:45
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	101	London/New York	09:55
KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	561	Amman	10:00
JZR	174	Dubai	10:10
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
KAC	501	Beirut	10:30
JZR	356	Mashhad	10:30

FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00
OMA	642	Muscat	11:05
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	11:25
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:00
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
NIA	152	Cairo	12:55
IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:05
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
FBA	832	Al Najaf	14:40
KNE	481	Taif	14:50
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:55
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
JZR	188	Dubai	15:40
KAC	617	Doha	15:45
KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
KNE	463	Madinah	16:00
KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:30
JAD	302	Amman	16:40
KAC	563	Amman	16:45
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KNE	475	Jeddah	17:25
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
RJA	641	Amman	17:55
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KNE	471	Jeddah	18:45
MSR	615	Cairo	18:50
JZR	238	Amman	18:50
JZR	554	Alexandria	19:10
FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:30
IRA	666	Esfahan	19:55
GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	20:30
KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
KAC	353	BLR	20:40
KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
KAC	543	Cairo	20:55
CLX	856	Hong Kong	21:05
MSR	607	Luxor	21:05
JZR	124	Bahrain	21:05
KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
KAC	331	Trivandrum	21:10
ABY	122	Sharjah	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
DLH	634	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
KAC	381	Delhi	22:00
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
ME	A403	Beirut	22:20
ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	23:00
QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
FDB	060	Dubai	23:35

Word Search Puzzles

Animals 3

Find and circle all of the animals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional animal.

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

ALBATROSS EGRET LIZARD PUFFIN
ALPACA ERMINE LOON PYTHON
ANACONDA FALCON MARMOSET SHARK
ARMADILLO FERRET MARTEN SKUNK
ASP FINCH MOLE SNAKE
BADGER GERBIL MONGOOSE SQUIRREL
CARIBOU GIBBON MULE SWALLOW
CHAMELEON GROUSE MUSKOX VULTURE
CONDOR GULL OCELOT WARTHOG
COUGAR HARE OSTRICH WILDEBEEST
COW HYENA PANDA WOLF
CROCODILE IGUANA PHEASANT
DINGO LEMUR POSSUM

Yesterday's Solution

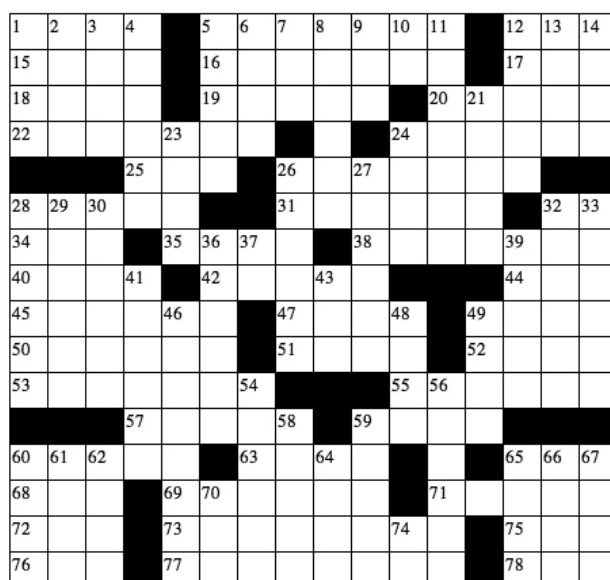
Animals 2

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

ANTELOPE ELEPHANT JAGUAR ORCA SHREW
BAT EMU KANGAROO PANTHER STORK
BEAVER FLAMINGO KOALA PARAKEET TURTLE
BOBCAT FROG LAMPREY PARTRIDGE WALLABY
BUFFALO GAZELLE LEMMING PENGUIN WALLRUS
CHEETAH GIRAFFE LYNX PORPOISE WEASEL
CHICKEN GOOSE MARLIN PUMA RABBIT WHALE
COYOTE GORILLA MOCKINGBIRD RABBIT YAK
CRANE HEDGEHOG MONKEY RATTLESNAKE ZEBRA
DEER HORSE MOUSE RHINOCEROS
DOLPHIN HUMMINGBIRD OCTOPUS ROBIN
DUCK IMPALA ORANGUTAN SHEEP

The hidden animal is: GRIZZLY BEAR

CROSSWORD 1193



ACROSS

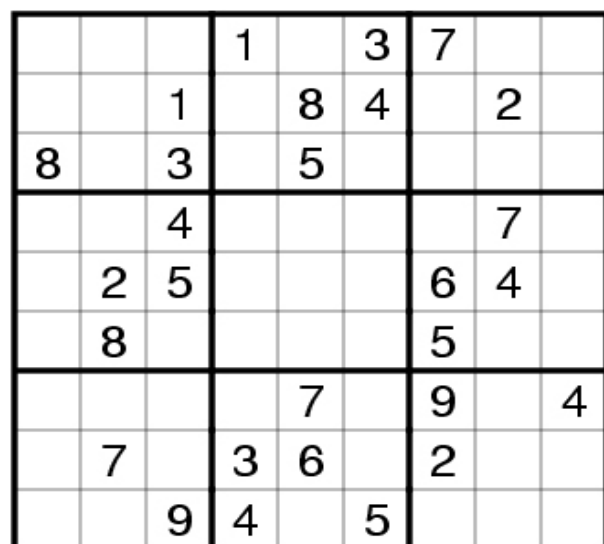
1. A group of countries in special alliance.
5. A loss of will power.
12. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
15. A genus of Mustelidae.
16. The father of your father or mother.
17. The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
18. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
19. Relating to or associated with or comprising a convolution of the brain.
20. A major European river carrying more traffic than any other river in the world.
22. Rheumatic or myalgic pains in the arms or legs.
25. The United Nations agency concerned with the international organization of food and agriculture.
28. Glazed yeast-raised doughnut-shaped roll with hard crust.
31. The upper house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
34. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
35. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
38. Being connected or associated.
40. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
42. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
44. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
45. Obsolete terms for legal insanity.
47. Made agreeably cold (especially by ice).
50. Any organic compound formed by adding alcohol molecules to aldehyde molecules.
51. A quantity of no importance.
52. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
53. Of or relating to the state of marriage.
55. The Creator.
57. The capital of Morocco.

60. Most important element.
63. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
68. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
69. Gracefully slender.
71. Small genus of South American trees yielding latex.
72. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
73. The state capital of South Australia.
75. A unit of pressure.
76. The basic unit of money in Albania.
77. A great raja.
78. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.

DOWN

1. A signal transmitted along a narrow path.
2. A characteristic state or mode of living.
3. Using speech rather than writing.
4. A bottle with a stopper.
5. (informal British usage) Aggravation or aggression.
6. Genus of prickly shrubs and small trees of the Caribbean region.
7. An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
8. (usually followed by 'to') Not having the necessary means or skill or know-how.
9. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
10. A state in midwestern United States.
11. Of or pertaining to the adrenal glands or their secretions.
12. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
13. Soft creamy white cheese.
14. That which is responsible for one's thoughts and feelings.
21. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
23. Offering fun and gaiety.
24. Mentally healthy.
26. A bin that holds rubbish until it is collected.
27. Capable of wounding.
29. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.
30. A person who gains weight.
32. A flared ruffle attached to the waistline of a dress or jacket or blouse.
33. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
36. United States space station.
37. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
39. The kind and number and arrangement of teeth (collectively) in a person or animal.
41. Witty language used to convey insults or scorn.
43. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
46. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Cataflam).
48. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
49. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
54. East Indian tart yellow berrylike fruit.
56. Evergreen trees or shrubs of mountains of Australia and Tasmania.
58. A unit of magnetic flux density equal to one weber per square meter.
59. A genus of bee.
61. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
62. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
64. Old World wild swine having a narrow body and prominent tusks from which most domestic swine come.
65. Rounded like an egg.
66. The 2nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
67. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
70. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
74. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Daily SuDoku



hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium

Yesterday's Solution





CATALONIA: Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel drives at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo on the outskirts of Barcelona during the fourth day of the second week of tests for the Formula One Grand Prix season. — AFP

VETTEL AND ROSBERG AIM TO END HAMILTON'S RUN

LONDON: Formula One is assured of novelty this season, with fresh faces and a record 21 races including the first in Azerbaijan, even if Lewis Hamilton becomes a four-times world champion with Mercedes. The betting odds suggest 2016 will once again be the Briton's year, with William Hill laying 4/7 on him taking his third title in a row. Team mate Nico Rosberg is 3/1 and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel 4/1.

Nobody else comes close in the bookmakers' estimation. Vettel's Finnish team mate Kimi Raikkonen, the 2007 champion who turns 37 in October and could be racing his farewell season, is only 40/1. However, there are grounds to suggest things may pan out differently once the racing starts at Melbourne's Albert Park next week.

Rosberg, runner-up for the past two seasons but winner of the last three races of 2015 from pole position, has a point to prove and could be on the cusp of something remarkable if he can pick up where he left off in Abu Dhabi last November.

Vettel, who won four titles in a row with Red Bull before Hamilton dethroned him in 2014, will want to deny the Briton the satisfaction of equaling his tally and becoming only the fifth quadruple champion. Both Germans have pounded out the laps in pre-season testing in Barcelona, with Mercedes the most reliable car and Ferrari setting the more eye-catching times. While there are plenty in the paddock who suspect Mercedes could be even more dominant, and maybe embarrassingly quick in Australia, nobody knows for sure just where they stand in relation to each other.

Super job

"We have tried to close the gap," Vettel, who won his four titles with Red Bull, told

the formula1.com website. "It was pretty big in recent years. "We did a super job last season that brought us closer and now the new car gives us the chance to close the gap even more. How much? We will have to wait at least a couple of weeks," added the 28-year-old. Mercedes have triumphed in 32 of the last 38 grands prix, and only two drivers from outside the 'Silver Arrows' have finished on top of the podium since 2013. Vettel is one of them.

The German won three grands prix for Ferrari last year, the target the team had set after a barren 2014, and is now aiming

to compete for the title all the way down to the final race.

"They have been very quick for sure," said Rosberg of Ferrari's pace. "We know more or less where we are compared to Ferrari, which is why I say for sure it is close. But we are not sure if we are ahead or behind." The best of the rest is likely to be a battle between Williams, third for the past two years, and Red Bull while former champions McLaren try to haul themselves back up the pecking order after slumping to ninth in 2015.

Renault are back as a full constructor,

taking over struggling Lotus, while Marussia have become Manor and the Haas team are set to make their debut as the first US-owned outfit for 30 years. Azerbaijan debuts with a race in Baku in June, and Germany returns after a year's absence, but the fate of the Italian Grand Prix at Monza after 2016 remains up in the air pending negotiations. Three rookies are set to make their race debuts-Britain's Jolyon Palmer at Renault, Pascal Wehrlein at Manor and the German's team mate Rio Haryanto who will become the first Indonesian to start a grand prix. —Reuters

YOUNG JAPANESE DUO LEAD THE WAY FOR THE EMERGING POWER

BIRMINGHAM: If Japan's startling rise as a major force in badminton is the sport's current feel good story, then the reason behind one its chief protagonists opting to bow at courtside after matches is just as welcome. "The match is not just about me. It's about the court, the officials and the opponent, so I have to give my thanks to everyone for making it possible," Nozomi Okuhara told Reuters at the All-England Championships. Okuhara, 20, and compatriot Kento Momota, 21, caused a stir in December when the pair won the women's and men's singles titles at the year-ending Superseries Finals in Dubai, raising interest in Olympic year as the nation bids for its first gold.

At the helm are these two bright and gifted athletes. Okuhara entered 20 events last year and showed her unique stamina to lift the prestigious Superseries

title without dropping a game, including impressive wins over Carolina Marin and Saina Nehwal. Okuhara, from Omachi City, says her 5ft-1in (1.55m) stature poses few problems. Instead, she uses her physicality "to force errors from my opponent, but it's all about my speed". Meanwhile, Momota's game is all about flair and creativity. "I just go out there to have fun on court," he says.

The pair have etched similar paths since both won 1012 world junior titles. At the All-England Championships this week, they even played on adjacent courts to each other. "I couldn't concentrate, I am always excited for him," Okuhara admitted. "We definitely feed off each other." While the young tyros admit that their Superseries Finals wins boosted badminton's profile in Japan, both realized that they must now be regarded as

elite players who have gone from being hunters to the hunted. "There are lots of people who want to beat me now, they know my style," Momota admitted. "For people who are lower ranked than me, I am trying to focus on beating them rather than relaxing."

It is a philosophy instigated by Korea's Park Joo-bong, the Japanese national coach and Olympic gold medalist from 1992. As Okuhara admits: "When he came in, we became more aware of ourselves and the impression he wanted was for us to be world level. It's why we are here today." A far cry, then, from when Okuhara, who turns 21 on Sunday, was being taught by her father, a badminton coach in Nagano. "I don't remember when I wanted to go professional," she smiles. "I just remember hating to lose. That was the turning point." — Reuters

TRIBUTES FLOW AT EMOTIONAL CROWE FUNERAL

AUCKLAND: Cricketing greats honored Martin Crowe at an emotional funeral for New Zealand's greatest batsman yesterday, with his cousin, Hollywood star Russell Crowe, acting as a pallbearer. About 1,000 mourners packed Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral to remember Crowe, who died on March 4 aged 53 after a long battle with cancer. The batsman's brother Jeff, himself a former Black Caps captain, said the family had been touched by the outpouring of grief from across the cricketing world.

He was in Bangladesh on umpiring duties when Martin died and said there were heartfelt tributes from many involved in the game, including "a new Indian cricket generation".

"It had never really dawned on me... what a huge splash he made, what a true

inspiration he was," Crowe senior told the service. "Wasim Akram reminded me just the other day that Martin was the greatest batsman he ever bowled to-no higher praise than that," he added. Former team-mates shared memories of a player who averaged 45.36 despite being plagued by injury in his 77-Test career, hitting 17 centuries-still a New Zealand record. Ex-Black Caps wicketkeeper Ian Smith read out a message from Australian great Allan Border, Crowe's fierce rival who became a close friend. "Cricket has lost one of its iconic players. He will be fondly remembered, greatly missed but never forgotten, a true champion," Border said.

'My champion, my hero'

Smith said Crowe's cricketing brain was

unsurpassed, describing him as years ahead of his time in devising a shortened form of the game that paved the way for Twenty20. He also shared lighter memories, such as Crowe imitating opponents' techniques during rain delays in the dressing room and forcing team-mates to repeatedly watch films featuring his Oscar-winning cousin. "(Martin) was in 'Gladiator' as an extra, he was a senator-well he was never going to be a footsoldier was he?" Smith quipped, referring to the Russell Crowe blockbuster. The actor's presence at the service had been in doubt due to prior commitments, but he made the trip to New Zealand with his children. He did not address the service but after Crowe's death tweeted: "My champion, my hero, my friend. I will love you forever."

He helped carry a casket bearing a giant inlaid silver fern to a hearse outside the cathedral as students from Crowe's former school Auckland Grammar performed a haka. Jeff said cousins Martin and Russell had shared a friendly rivalry as they both embarked upon stellar careers in their chosen fields. "I do remember a wager they had on who would be the most famous," he said. "Russ, today only, I think Martin might be in front." Smith said he saw Crowe in recent months "as things were shutting down" due to the cancer that was first diagnosed in October 2012 and then returned in September 2014. "I won't remember him that way," he said. "I'll always see a great man at the crease. White helmet, silver fern on... playing the most perfect straight drive back past the bowler for four." — AFP

TENNIS TO SURVIVE SHARAPOVA STORM, GENERATION CHANGE

PARIS: Rocked by Maria Sharapova's failed drugs test confession and the sun threatening to set on a golden generation, tennis faces huge challenges to maintain its impressive global profile. But despite Sharapova, the world's highest earning sportswoman, confronting a potentially career-ending ban, industry insiders insist that the sport can ride out the storm.

"The Maria Sharapova doping story, whilst not ideal for the sport, is certainly not damaging enough to really affect tennis in the same way as we saw perhaps with cycling or sprinting," Jon Stainer, managing director of sports sponsorship experts Repucom said. "In both those cases, doping was being carried out by a number of athletes for a sustained period." Sharapova has amassed a personal fortune of \$200 million and, according to the 2015 Forbes rich-list, the 28-year-old Russian earned almost \$30 million last year, the bulk of which came from off-court endorsements.

The five-time major champion earned more than great rival Serena Williams, the undisputed world number one and 21-time Grand Slam title winner, who banked almost \$25 million. As an indication of their significance to the sport, the two women also have huge social media profiles which dwarf their top 10 rivals. Williams has six million Twitter followers; world number seven Sharapova boasts more than two million. But the five players between them in the rankings-Australian Open winner Angelique Kerber, Agnieszka Radwanska, Garbine Muguruza, Simona Halep and Carla Suarez Navarro-have under 600,000 between them.

The ruling WTA would be forgiven for hoping that the charismatic, photogenic but unpredictable talents of Caroline Wozniacki and Eugenie Bouchard can soon make a Grand Slam breakthrough. Sharapova, for her part, has not ruled out a return although her fate is in the hands of others. "I am determined to play tennis again and I hope I will have the chance to do so. I wish I didn't have to go through this, but I do-and I will," she said. Although Sharapova has seen her money-spinning relationships with Nike and Porsche suspended, her racquet manufacturer Head has stayed loyal. Even on the sidelines she remains a formidable business prospect.

'Beauty sells'

"Beauty sells," she once famously said and business experts tend to agree. "Sharapova is the most marketable female athlete in the world, ranking above the likes of Serena Williams and (Alpine skier) Lindsey Vonn," added Stainer. "According to our Celebrity DBI Index, of the 76 percent of people that know of her globally, 74 percent say they like her and 75 percent say they find her aspirational." Brands are currently waiting to see what further fall-out there might be but are seemingly cautious not to cut ties too quickly as those that do may allow other rivals to easily take their place." Meanwhile, there is a question mark over the staying power of Williams, who will be 35 in September and remains frustratingly one major title short of equalling Steffi Graf's Open era record of 22.—AFP



LOS ANGELES: Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving (right) blocks a shot by Los Angeles Lakers' Marcelo Huertas during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday, March 10, 2016. —AP

CAVS CRUISE AND SPURS EXTEND UNBEATEN STREAK; BULLS GORED

LOS ANGELES: LeBron James scored 24 points while sharing a court with Kobe Bryant for the final time, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 120-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night. Bryant had 26 points on 11-of-16 shooting in an entertaining farewell duel between two of the greatest players in NBA history. Bryant, who will retire after the season, ignored his constantly sore right shoulder to make sure he didn't miss his 22nd meeting with James on an NBA court, albeit never in the playoffs. After starting the night with a pregame chat and hug with the crowd on its collective feet just to watch pregame warmups, Bryant and James both had vintage individual moments in the final edition of this friendly rivalry. Kyrie Irving scored 26 points and Channing Frye had 21 for the Cavaliers, who have won on the first two stops of their four-game West Coast road trip.

SPURS 109, BULLS 101

Kawhi Leonard had 29 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 26 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio won its 31st straight at home to open the season, upending short-handed Chicago. Tony Parker added 20 points and had 12 assists for San Antonio, which has won 40 straight at home going back to last season. The Spurs have their best start after 65 games at 55-10. Derrick Rose and Pau Gasol had 21 points each for the Bulls. E'Twaun Moore had 20 points, going 4 for 5 on 3-pointers. Chicago was without Jimmy Butler, Joakim Noah and Cameron Bairstow, who were not with the team because of injuries.

RAPTORS 104, HAWKS 96

DeMar DeRozan had 30 points and five rebounds to help Toronto beat Atlanta. Toronto turned the ball over

nine times before the game was 13 minutes old, but did a much better job of holding onto it the rest of the way in winning its second straight and 14th of 15 at home. Kyle Lowry had 19 points and seven assists for the Raptors, and Luis Scola had 10 points and 12 rebounds. Al Horford led Atlanta with 20 points.

NUGGETS 116, SUNS 98

Emmanuel Mudiay scored a career-high 30 points in a matchup of rookie guards and Denver beat Phoenix for its third straight victory. Nikola Jokic added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Will Barton had 17 points and eight rebounds. Phoenix rookie Devin Booker had a career-high 35 points in the loss. Booker scored 25 points in the second half when the Suns made a run to briefly lead.— AP

CANADIENS BEAT SABRES

SUBBAN TAKEN OFF ICE ON STRETCHER

MONTREAL: Montreal defenseman PK Subban was taken off the ice on a stretcher after being hit on the side of the head by a teammate, overshadowing the Canadiens' 3-2 victory over the Buffalo Sabres 3-2 on Thursday night. The Canadiens said Subban was taken to a hospital for further testing and that he had normal movement in his extremities. Subban was injured late in the third period when teammate Alexei Emelin ran into him, knocking him on the side of the head with his back side while retrieving the puck in Montreal's corner. Subban was nearly motionless on the ice for about 10 minutes while doctors and trainers tended to him. Alex Galchenyuk scored twice for the Canadiens, Torrey Mitchell added a goal, and Mike Condon made 36 saves for his 17th victory of the season, best among rookie goaltenders. Nicolas Deslauriers and Brian Gionta scored for Buffalo, and Robin Lehner stopped 31 shots.

PANTHERS 6, SENATORS 2

Jaromir Jagr scored twice and Vincent Trocheck had a goal and three assists to lead Florida. Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and an

assist, and Aaron Ekblad and Jussi Jokinen also scored for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo stopped 26 shots. Erik Karlsson and Zack Smith scored for Ottawa, which has lost five of six. Craig Anderson made 25 saves in his first start after missing four games with a knee injury. The Panthers stretched their lead to 5-2 on Jagr's second goal as his shot from the slot got past Anderson at 4:26 of the third for his team-leading 23rd goal and 51st point of the season. The 44-year-old Jagr became the fifth player in NHL history to have at least 50 points in 20 NHL seasons - joining Ron Francis, Gordie Howe, Ray Bourque and Mark Messier.

OILERS 2, WILD 1

Rookie sensation Connor McDavid scored the go-ahead goal with 7:29 left, leading Edmonton to the win. With Wild defenseman Jared Spurgeon trying to slow his rush, the 19-year-old McDavid reached out and snapped the puck underneath goalie Darcy Kuemper's arm to give the Oilers the lead. McDavid has four goals in the last six games. Lauri Korpikoski scored in the first period and Cam Talbot made 29 saves for the

Oilers, who won for the fifth time in their last seven games and stuck the Wild with a costly loss in their competition with the Colorado Avalanche for the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference. Zach Parise's second goal in his last 19 games forged a tie in the second period for the Wild, who trail the Avalanche by two points in the standings.

RED WINGS 3, JETS 2

Justin Abdelkader scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period to help Detroit snap a three-game losing streak. Dylan Larkin and Jonathan Ericsson also scored and Petr Mrazek stopped 23 shots for the Red Wings. Marko Dano and Tyler Myers scored for Winnipeg and Michael Hutchinson finished with 32 saves. On the go-ahead score, Tomas Tatar intercepted Myers' pass behind the net and passed to Abdelkader in the slot, who shot the puck top shelf for his 17th of the season with 4:36 remaining.

HURRICANES 3, BRUINS 2, OT

Phillip Di Giuseppe scored on a rebound 1:30 into overtime and Carolina beat Boston. Di

Giuseppe had a wide-open net when Boston goalie Tuukka Rask couldn't corral the rebound on Jeff Skinner's breakaway. The officials reviewed the play for a few minutes before ruling there was no interference when Skinner made contact with Rask outside the crease. It was the fourth OT game in a row for the Bruins, who still pulled ahead of Tampa Bay for sole possession of the Atlantic Division lead with the single point. Elias Lindholm and Nathan Gerbe also scored for Carolina and Cam Ward stopped 30 shots. Riley Nash had two assists for Carolina. Loui Eriksson and David Pastrnak scored for Boston, which still hasn't lost in regulation since Feb. 28.

DEVILS 3, SHARKS 0

Keith Kinkaid made 30 saves for his second career shutout and Travis Zajac scored twice to lead New Jersey. Devante Smith-Pelly and Zajac scored on successive shots for New Jersey that came more than 18 minutes apart as the Devils opened a three-game California swing by winning for the third time in 11 games. Zajac also added an empty-net goal to help New Jersey match last season's win total of 32 to move within five points of Pittsburgh for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Martin Jones made 13 saves but the Sharks were shut out for the fifth time this season. San Jose lost for just the second time in seven games and remained four points behind first-place Los Angeles and three in back of Anaheim in the Pacific Division. — AP



KHALID AL-GHUNAIM

9 BALL TOURNAMENT



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The late Khalid Al-Ghunaim 9 Ball Tournament will be concluded today with the participation of more than 160 players. Six Arab players made it to round 16 in the professional category. They are Bader Al-Awadhi, Mohammad Al-Khashawi, and Abdallah Yousuf from Kuwait, Salah Al-Reemawi and Jalal Al-Sareesi from Jordan, six Filipino players - Tommy, Richard, Alvez, Johan, and Roglo, in addition to USA's Boenang, who is predicted to win the title. In the junior category Abdallah Al-Sheeha and Mohammad Al-Muhanna made it to the Juniors finals after defeating Abdallah Al-Enezi and Yousuf Al-Hasawi.

POWERBOAT RUN KICKS OFF

KUWAIT: Kuwait will today witness (9am) the kick off of Powerboat Run from Marina to Al Kout in Fahaheel. Participants from Kuwait and outside Kuwait will participate in this run. The event is organized in Kuwait for the second subsequent year, which is classified as something special for Kuwait among Middle East countries.

The higher organizing committee of the event has set out a work plan to ensure the best for the reputation of Kuwait. It had several meetings with the concerned agencies and ministries. The head of the higher organizing committee Tarek Al Kazemi welcomed the participants. He said that - Kuwait hosting this event for the second year is a confirmation that it has a prestigious position in organizing such event.

Al Kazemi evaluated the trust of participants - confirming that it is a real motive for more achievement. He also praised the efforts of working committees. Al Kazemi stated that the number of participants has increased greatly this year - urging Kuwaiti fans to come and enjoy the event. "There are many surprises for all. The aim of this event is to shed light on Kuwait and the region in general," he said, as expressed his hope to see a fruitful cooperation among all in order to build a new generation.

The technical committee of the Powerboat Run includes; Mishaal Al Farag, Khalad Ayada, Ismael, Mohammad Ayada, Mohammad Turkey, Mohammad Al Rozaygan, Abdullah Dashti, Abdulrahman Dosari, Ahmad Nasser, Abdullah Al Ousi and Khaled Al Ali. Al Kazemi thanked the sponsors, Public Authority of Youth, Zain, Al Kout Mall, Drag 965, Ministry of Interior, Coast Guards and Marine Forces, Security forces, National Aviation, Scientific Club, media, Ministry of Information and Kuwait TV for their cooperation.



BATTING MAVERICKS SET TO OUTRAGE PURISTS

NEW DELHI: When the curtain rises for the World Twenty20 Super 10 stage on Tuesday, a handful of batting mavericks will take centre stage to amuse the fans, bemuse the bowlers and offend the purists—one outrageous stroke at a time. Aesthetics has never been the strongest point of 20-over cricket, where end justifies means far more than in any other format of the game. The brevity of the contest means a dot ball is a luxury any batting side can ill-afford. Besides piling pressure on the batsman, it is also a moral victory for the bowler.

The need for improvisation has naturally never been felt more and some batsmen responded by coming up with shots that makes a complete mockery of field placements. Sri Lankan opener Tillakaratne Dilshan tore up the batting manual at the 2009 World Twenty20 when he stepped

forward to a length delivery, went down on one knee and scooped the ball over his own and the wicketkeeper's head. As his team begin their title defense against a qualifier on March 17, the 39-year-old father of "Dilscoop" seems ready with another version of the ramp shot which he unfurled in last week's Asia Cup contest against Pakistan.

As paceman Mohammad Amir charged in, Dilshan changed his grip and ramped the ball over short third man for a boundary in a remarkable display of audacious ingenuity. Across the Palk Strait, Mahendra Singh Dhoni has done his bit to redefine limited overs batting with his "Helicopter Shot". Batting coaches worldwide tell their students to put survival first and respectfully dig out yorkers, but the Indian captain sniffed a scoring opportunity from the most challenging of deliveries. The result is

a shot that involves a wild 360 degree swing of the bat, sending the ball over the midwicket boundary with his firm bottom-hand grip and sheer power.

Breathtaking shots

The shot has dried up of late but Dhoni insisted it was more due to the fact that bowlers are not feeding him those toe-crushers anymore. "If they bowl me bouncers, the only way I can play the helicopter shot is if I stand on a stool," Dhoni, who led India to inaugural World Twenty20 glory in 2007 and the 50-over World Cup four years later, quipped last month. When on song, South African talisman AB de Villiers poses a bigger headache to rival captains with his versatile batting, which was in full display in his record-setting 31-ball century against West Indies in a Johannesburg one-day last year. — Reuters



LAHORE: Pakistan head cricket coach Waqar Younis speaks during a press conference in Lahore yesterday. — AFP

INDIA FAVORED TO KEEP ASIA ON TOP

MUMBAI: The World Twenty20 has provided a stage for Asian sides to flourish in its short history and host India's scintillating form leading up to the tournament will only fuel local hopes that the trend will continue. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have won three out of the five stagings of the biennial tournament, while the 2010 final was the only one that did not feature a team from South Asia. Former players and pundits have been united in endorsing India, who won the 50-over World Cup at home in 2011, as favorites to add a second World Twenty20 title to their cabinet and given the side's run of form, it is hardly surprising. Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men have won 10 of the 11 Twenty20 contests they have played this year, including a 3-0 win in Australia, and have looked supremely balanced with their often-soft bowling attack also showing plenty of bite. The only worry for India's fanatical cricket following will be that the team have peaked too early and they will be desperately hoping that the law of averages catches up with them after the final at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on April 3.

While India have enjoyed a relatively trouble-free build up to the tournament, it has been far from smooth sailing for fellow Asian contenders Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Pakistan,

the 2009 champions, arguably have the most potent pace attack with left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Amir seamlessly integrating into the side after a five-year spot-fixing ban.

But Shahid Afridi's men have had troubles with their top-order, prompting the selectors to twice tinker with the squad and a row over security leading to a venue change for the highly charged India match will not have helped matters.

Defending champions Sri Lanka have failed to adequately replace retired batting stalwarts Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene after their 2014 World Twenty20 triumph and were forced to install Angelo Mathews as their new captain this week. The island nation have lost recent series against New Zealand, India and a woeful Asia Cup display led to the sacking of the entire selection panel. The team and their supporters will keep their fingers crossed on the fitness of pace spearhead Lasith Malinga, who relinquished the captaincy due to the slow recovery of his injured knee but insists he can still play a part.

Australia's T20 conundrum

Australia will look to end their lack of success in the format and add the T20 title to their 50-over World Cup triumph on home soil

last year, banking on their explosive batting line-up to make up for the lack of a potent spinner. They have not left anything to chance though, replacing Aaron Finch with test and one-day international skipper Steve Smith to lead the side, who have had a number of players plying their trade in the Indian Premier League (IPL) over the years. Another side hoping the experience of playing in the IPL will come in handy for their players will be South Africa, who once again will be determined to shed their 'chokers' tag at another global championship. AB de Villiers, believed by most to be the most destructive batsman in world cricket, has often entertained crowds in India during the IPL with his 360 degree batting and South Africa will hope the 32-year-old can end their wait for a World Cup title.

Fearless England

Jos Buttler, Alex Hales and Eoin Morgan will believe they can be match de Villiers' pyrotechnics for England but the 2010 champions' bowling attack appears short of experience. They also have a powerful striker in Ben Stokes and the dependable Joe Root with the willow but it is to be seen if the batting can gloss over their bowling shortcomings. — Reuters

PAKISTAN ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN T20

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan yesterday announced it would send its national cricket team to India for the World Twenty20 following security assurances from New Delhi, ending months of uncertainty. The interior minister "Chaudhry Nisar (Ali Khan) has given permission to Pakistan's team to play in India," Najam Sethi, a senior Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official, told reporters after a meeting with the minister. The Pakistan team had been due to fly out on Wednesday but the government put their departure on hold, citing the threat posed by Hindu extremists who disrupted a meeting between the heads of the two cricket boards held in India last year.

On Thursday, Interior Minister Khan ruled out sending the team until special assurances were met from India. Sethi said the government had now given its go-ahead. "We received communication from the ICC (International Cricket Council) and BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India). We received a letter from the Chief Minister of Bengal and the police chief," he said. "An hour ago our High Commissioner Abdul Basit met the Indian Secretary and the assurances were given."

Diplomatic tensions have meant that the two teams have not played any bilateral series for more than three years, and their rivalry is restricted to multi-national tournaments such as the World T20. They have not played a full series since 2007, although Pakistan did tour India late in 2012 for a short limited over series that failed to revive the ties fully. PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan said the team would leave tonight. "The matter has been solved and after solid assurances from India the team will leave tonight," Khan told media in Lahore. "We don't want to give details of the flights as it could compromise the security."

"We told all the players that if anyone wants to pull out on security grounds then we can take special permission for him to be replaced but all the players are unanimously willing to go and give their best," he said. Pakistan will forego their first warm-up match against a local West Bengal team today but will take on Sri Lanka in the second practice match in Kolkata on Monday. Their first match of the tournament will be held at Eden Gardens on March 16 against a qualifier team, followed by a clash against arch-rival India at the same venue three days later. They will then take on New Zealand (March 22) and Australia (March 25) in their remaining Group B matches—both in Mohali. The top two teams from each of the two pools will qualify for the semi-finals. — AFP



MUMBAI: England's Ben Stokes(R) and teammate Chris Jordan stretch while warming up prior to a training session at The Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday. England play their first match of the World T20 cricket tournament against the West Indies on March 16 in Mumbai. — AFP

Scottish Premiership table

GLASGOW: Scottish Premiership table ahead of this weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Celtic	28	19	6	3	70	22	63
Aberdeen	29	19	5	5	49	31	62
Hearts	28	15	8	5	50	26	53
Ross County	29	12	3	14	44	46	39
St. Johnstone	29	11	6	12	44	46	39
Dundee	28	8	12	8	40	42	36
Motherwell	29	10	5	14	34	44	35
Partick	28	9	7	12	28	35	34
Inverness	28	8	9	11	34	40	33
Hamilton	29	7	9	13	32	49	30
Kilmarnock	29	7	7	15	29	51	28
Dundee United	28	5	5	18	29	51	20

NB: Champions go into Champions League second qualifying round; second and third qualify for Europa League; Bottom side goes down while second-bottom goes into relegation/promotion play-offs.

League splits after 33 games with top six playing for title and bottom six to avoid relegation in final five matches.

GORDON TARGETS STRONG FINISH FOR CELTIC

GLASGOW: Celtic goalkeeper Craig Gordon says the Hoops are focused on finishing the season strongly after suffering a recent dip in form. The Glasgow giants have won just two of their past five Scottish Premiership games and successive draws against Hamilton and Dundee has seen their lead over Aberdeen at the top of the table cut to just one point, albeit they have played a game less than the Dons. However, the Hoops were in scintillating form against Morton as they clinched a place in the last four of the Scottish Cup to set up a mouth-watering tie with Old Firm rivals Rangers and Gordon revealed it was a call for unity from manager Ronny Deila, players and backroom staff before the match that had inspired their dominant display.

The Scottish champions are away to Glasgow rivals Partick Thistle today and the Scotland stopper says Celtic are aiming for a long winning run in their quest to claim a coveted domestic double. "This is the business end of the season and we need to go and put a run together," Gordon said. "We talked about that before the game, making sure we had a good start in the game, getting everybody together and pushing on towards the end of the season. This is the time to turn it on, to start a string of results, and it started on Sunday.

"We drew a line under a poor performance mid-week - which everyone was aware of - and said this is it, it's time to go on, it's time to put a run of games together. "We have to forget about the Dundee game and put on decent shows. We know if we do that we will get the fans behind us and we will go and have a big push for the rest of the season. "We talked about it during the week and we reminded ourselves about it before the match to make sure we were up for it and ready to push on. We are now in a semi-final and top of the league, so let's go on and finish strongly and see what we can get at the end of the season."

Elsewhere today, Aberdeen will aim to keep up the pressure on champions Celtic when they host Kilmarnock at Pittodrie. The Dons cut the gap at the top of the table to one point as they came from behind to defeat Partick Thistle in midweek. Kilmarnock, in comparison, sit second bottom of the Premiership - just eight points above Dundee United - and are still looking for their first win under new manager Lee Clark. Third-placed Hearts travel to Dens Park to take on a Dundee side still smarting following their 4-0 defeat to Championship leaders Rangers while Inverness Caledonian Thistle host Hamilton.—AFP



Manchester City's manager Manuel Pellegrini

PELLEGRINI DEMANDS MAN CITY MAKE STRONG FINISH

NORWICH: Only the most faithful of Manchester City supporters would bet on Manuel Pellegrini ending his reign as manager with another Premier League title, but today's trip to Norwich at least offers the chance to strengthen their hold on a top-four spot. Pellegrini's side have been consistently successful against the teams towards the foot of the table this season and maintained that record by beating Aston Villa 4-0 last Saturday, ending a run of three successive league defeats in the process.

City are 10 points behind leaders Leicester with 10 games to play; and their belief they can still overturn that deficit lies in the fact they have made late runs to win the title in two of the last four seasons. Under Roberto Mancini in 2012, City were eight points behind Manchester United with six games left, yet finished top. And two seasons ago, Pellegrini's team were nine points behind Liverpool with five games to play - albeit with two matches in hand - and ended up two points clear at the end of the campaign.

"I think it is important not to think about how many games we need to win," said Pellegrini, who will be replaced by Bayern Munich boss Pep Guardiola at the end of the season. "It's just important to try and win the next game. From now until the end of the season, we must be focused on each game and try to win. "For every team, whether they have experience of a title run-in or not, there is a lot of pressure in the last part of the season. "Maybe if you are not used to being involved, then the pressure is a little bit more. But normally the last five games are very difficult for all the teams because it doesn't matter if you play well or badly, you just have to win the games-so nerves are important at that moment."

Adamant

What counts against City this time is their inability to beat the better teams in the division. Of the 50 points Pellegrini's side have gained this season, only nine have come from the 13 matches they have played against sides currently in the top half. They have tended to beat the teams at the bottom, though, which is why a trip to Norwich offers them reason for optimism. Alex Neil's side will kick off in the relegation places having taken just one point from their last nine games. The Canaries, promoted via the play-offs last season, last tasted victory on January 2 when Southampton were beaten 1-0. That game was followed by City's 3-0 win at Carrow Road in the FA Cup and Neil soon saw his players throw away a 3-1 lead to lose 5-4 at home to Liverpool and allow West Ham to come back from two goals down.

The Scot was adamant however that if Norwich did go down it would not be through a lack of effort. "I don't think anybody could say about my players that they are not trying or that they are giving up," he said.—AFP

CHELSEA URGED TO BOUNCE BACK - AFTER THE EURO EXIT

LIVERPOOL: Chelsea defender Gary Cahill has challenged his team-mates to make amends for their frustrating Champions League exit by booking a place in the FA Cup semi-finals. After bowing out of Europe's elite club competition with a 4-2 aggregate defeat against Paris Saint Germain on Wednesday, the FA Cup is Chelsea's last remaining opportunity to win silverware this season. Guus Hiddink's side travel to Everton in the quarter-finals today hoping to seal a last four berth and remain on course to win the trophy their Dutch coach also lifted during his previous spell as Chelsea's interim boss in 2009.

The reigning Premier League champions are in a "transitional period" according to Hiddink, who warned Chelsea must "consider their short-term future" as they come to terms with the prospect of missing out on Champions League qualification for next season. Even victory in the FA Cup final wouldn't be enough to completely erase the bitter taste of disappointment from a season that began with Jose Mourinho in charge and many pundits predicting another league title. But it would at least lift spirits a little and England international Cahill is keen to ensure Chelsea are fully focused when they arrive at Goodison Park. "We need to refocus as we have one big chance to do something this season and the first hurdle is at the weekend," Cahill's fellow defender Branislav Ivanovic summed up the disappointment felt by the players after the French champions won 2-1 at Stamford Bridge to seal their European exit.

"I will really miss playing in the Champions League a lot," he said. "All of the players dream to play in the Champions League-we live for the competition and the games. "It's going to be very disappointing to not be in it next season. "There are great teams and you have to concentrate all of the season to be in the top four. It's very difficult to be at that level all season. "But this team has the character to grow and finish in the top four next season. We can fight for the title. We can come back stronger for the Champions League."

Diego Costa is a doubt for the Everton game as he had to be taken off against PSG when injury ended an inspirational performance that saw him score Chelsea's goal. Eden Hazard is also a doubt and his lacklustre display was booed by a number of Chelsea fans, who have become accustomed to seeing the Belgian fail to replicate last season's stellar displays.—AFP

BAYERN MUST STOP LEAKING POINTS, SAYS MUELLER

German Bundesliga table

BERLIN: German Bundesliga table ahead of this weekend's games (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Bayern Munich	25	20	3	2	59	13	63
Borussia Dortmund	25	18	4	3	59	25	58
Hertha Berlin	25	12	6	7	33	26	42
Schalke 04	25	12	5	8	37	32	41
Mainz 05	25	12	4	9	34	30	40
Moenchengladbach	25	12	3	10	50	42	39
Wolfsburg	25	10	7	8	38	32	37
Bayer Leverkusen	25	10	6	9	36	33	36
Ingolstadt 04	25	8	8	9	19	26	32
Hamburg	25	8	7	10	30	34	31
VfB Stuttgart	25	9	4	12	40	49	31
Cologne	25	7	9	9	26	33	30
Werder Bremen	25	7	6	12	35	48	27
Augsburg	25	6	8	11	30	38	26
Darmstadt	25	6	8	11	25	38	26
Eintracht Frankfurt	25	5	9	11	28	40	24
Hoffenheim	25	4	9	12	26	42	21
Hanover 96	25	5	2	18	22	46	17

NB: Top three qualify automatically for Champions League group stage; Fourth goes into Champions League play-offs; Fifth and sixth qualify for Europa League; Bottom two go down with third-bottom going into a two-leg relegation play-off with third place in Bundesliga 2.

BERLIN: Bayern Munich are winless in their last two games and forward Thomas Mueller says they can ill afford to concede any more Bundesliga points in hosting resurgent Werder Bremen today. Bayern's lead has been trimmed to five points by a shock home defeat to Mainz and a goalless draw at second-placed Borussia Dortmund. With nine games left, Pep Guardiola-coached Bayern want to become the first club to win four consecutive Bundesliga titles. "We know the championships has not yet been decided," said Mueller. "We don't want to see the five-point lead reduced any further and I am convinced we'll do it, but there are still a few tasks ahead of us." While Bayern are feeling the pressure, Bremen are on the rise up the table to 13th after back-to-back wins against Bayer Leverkusen and Hanover.

Bayern's Robert Lewandowski (23) and Mueller (17) have formed a phenomenal partnership this season with 40 league goals between them. Bremen's 37-year-old Claudio Pizarro has scored 11 goals and five in his last three games. The Peru international is just one short of the club record of 101

league goals and it would be fitting to do it at the Allianz Arena having played for Bayern in two separate stints. Bayern's World Cup-winner Mario Goetze has yet to play a minute in 2016 having returned from a groin injury more than a month ago.

Tricky trip

Dortmund have a tricky away trip to Mainz to negotiate on Sunday when head coach Thomas Tuchel returns to his former club. Fifth-placed Mainz improved Dortmund's title chances by beating Bayern 2-1 nearly a fortnight ago and Martin Schmidt's side has also beaten Schalke 04 and Bayer Leverkusen in recent weeks. Dortmund striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang resumes his battle with Lewandowski to be the league's top scorer with the Gabon striker on 22 goals, one behind Bayern's Poland hot-shot.

Having booked their place in the Champions League's quarter-finals, Wolfsburg are at second-from-bottom Hoffenheim with both Germany internationals Julian Draxler and Andre Schuerrle in great form. Draxler set up

Schuerrle for the winning goal in their 1-0 victory over Gent on Tuesday, but faces a race against time to be fit after picking up a dead leg. Bottom side Hannover host Cologne today with both teams threatened with relegation. Hanover, who have leaked eight goals in their last two matches, have lost ten of their last 11 games.

They are nine points from safety, but have Japanese play-maker Hiroshi Kiyotake back from injury. Cologne have more reason for optimism in 12th and six points from the relegation places. The weekend's program starts with a bang on Friday when third-placed Hertha Berlin host Schalke, their nearest rivals in the table, who are just one point adrift. Schalke are four games unbeaten, with two wins and two draws, which is their longest unbeaten run since Andre Breitenreiter took charge at the start of the season. But Hertha have not lost any of their last seven fixtures at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, and have conceded just two goals in the process, which is their longest unbeaten streak at home in the Bundesliga.—AFP

BENZEMA CLOSSES ON FRANCE RETURN; RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

PARIS: France and Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema's hopes of playing at Euro 2016 were given a huge boost yesterday after his lawyer confirmed legal restrictions placed on him over his alleged involvement in a sextape blackmail case had been lifted. Under the restrictions, Benzema was not allowed to come into contact with his international teammate Mathieu Valbuena, who was the target of the blackmail attempt.

But an appeals court in Versailles outside Paris upheld an investigating magistrate's decision to lift the restrictions, leaving the way clear for Benzema to be involved in the same national squad as Valbuena. It remains to be seen, however, if both players will be selected for the tournament that France is hosting in June and July. "Good sense has won the day," one of Benzema's lawyers, Sylvain Cormier, told reporters. "But from now on it is not up to us," he added of Benzema's potential involvement at the European Championship. France coach Didier Deschamps suspended 28-year-old Benzema from the national team after he was placed under formal investigation over the affair in November.

Despite yesterday's ruling, Benzema remains under investigation. "This is a first step, but we are working hard to show that Karim Benzema is innocent," Cormier said. The French Football Federation (FFF) said the decision to lift the legal restrictions were "a first step", but added that it would wait to see how the investigation unfolded before deciding whether to recall Benzema. Benzema remains France's top striker, with 27 goals in 81 appearances, despite the emergence of the younger Antoine Griezmann and Anthony Martial. Benzema is said to have approached Lyon playmaker Valbuena about the tape at a national team training camp in October.

Lyon midfielder Valbuena has said the sex images were on a mobile telephone that was stolen from him. According to investigators, Benzema was approached by a childhood friend from Lyon, Karim Zenati, who asked him to persuade Valbuena to pay money to have the tape destroyed. Instead, Valbuena went to the police. Three men were arrested and held in custody over the demands to Valbuena, but they were subsequently released. Benzema has denied any wrongdoing but could face a five-year jail term if found guilty.

His coach at Real Madrid, France's three-time world player of the year Zinedine Zidane, has said he wants the affair cleared up "as soon as possible".—AFP

RESTED BARCELONA SEEK TO KEEP RECORD RUN ROLLING

MADRID: A well-rested Barcelona look to take another step closer to the Spanish title when struggling Getafe visit the Camp Nou today looking like cannon fodder for the rampant European champions. Barca haven't lost in a Spanish record 36 games to open up an eight-point lead over Atletico Madrid in the title race with just 10 games remaining. Moreover, Luis Enrique's men have combined that run with a gruelling schedule and will start today having enjoyed their first free midweek since December.

Barca will therefore be close to full strength with Neymar returning after he made the most of his suspension for last weekend's 4-0 win at Eibar to return home to Brazil to celebrate his sister's birthday. Javier Mascherano is banned so Jeremy Mathieu or Thomas Vermaelen should be handed a rare start in central defense, while Luis Enrique could make a few more changes with the second leg of his side's Champions League last-16 tie with Arsenal in mind despite holding a 2-0 lead from the first leg.

"We are aware that we could do another treble," Barca midfielder Sergi Roberto told the club's website. "We are in the final of the Cup, there are 10 games to go in the league and, although the Champions League is very difficult, we will try to win it again. "We hope the season finishes in the best way possible." Getafe have taken just one point from their last eight games to slip to within a point of the relegation zone. However, on-loan Celtic striker Stefan Scepovic insists they won't just head to the Catalan capital to make up the numbers. "We are not going there just to be on the pitch. We know the type of game we have to play to fight at the Camp Nou," he said.

Tight security

Atletico will attempt to keep themselves in the hunt when Deportivo la Coruna visit the Vicente Calderon later today. Security will be tight in the Spanish capital as violent clashes between both sets of supporters led to the death of a Deportivo fan before this fixture last season. On the field, Atletico are arguably in their best form of the season as they have followed up beating Real Madrid by scoring three goals in consecutive Liga games in wins over Real Sociedad and Valencia for the first time in over a year.

Diego Godin should return to the heart of the Atletico defense, while Yannick Carrasco may be handed a start after coming off the bench to net against Gary Neville's Valencia last weekend. However, Fernando Torres looks set to miss out with a knee injury picked up in that game. Real Madrid eased into the Champions quarter-finals with a 4-0 aggre-

gate win over Roma in midweek. However, despite being 12 points adrift of Barcelona, coach Zinedine Zidane insisted they remain focused on at least usurping Atletico for second place in La Liga, starting with a trip to Las Palmas on Sunday.

"We have a professional group and we have to think about the game tomorrow," said the Frenchman. "We are in a difficult position, but the players know that first we have to try to get second. The objective now is Las Palmas." Sevilla have the chance to cut the gap on Villarreal to five points in the fight for fourth place should they register a 16th straight home win in all competitions when the teams meet at the Sanchez Pizjuan on Sunday. And despite being rooted in mid-table, local pride is still on the line for Valencia when they visit Levante in the Valencian derby with the hosts looking to claw themselves off the foot of the table.—AFP

Spanish La Liga table

MADRID: Spanish La Liga table before this weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Barcelona	28	23	3	2	78	22	72
Atletico Madrid	28	20	4	4	42	12	64
Real Madrid	28	18	6	4	81	27	60
Villarreal	28	15	8	5	33	19	53
Sevilla	28	12	9	7	39	29	45
Athletic Bilbao	28	13	5	10	44	36	44
Celta Vigo	28	12	6	10	40	51	42
Eibar	28	10	6	12	40	40	36
Real Sociedad	28	9	8	11	37	39	35
Valencia	28	8	10	10	33	33	34
Real Betis	28	8	10	10	26	36	34
Malaga	28	8	9	11	27	28	33
Deportivo	28	6	15	7	37	39	33
Espanyol	28	9	4	15	28	54	31
Las Palmas	28	8	6	14	30	40	30
Getafe	28	7	6	15	27	45	27
Rayo Vallecano	28	6	8	14	38	60	26
Granada	28	7	5	16	29	53	26
Sporting Gijon	28	6	6	16	30	50	24
Levante	28	5	6	17	26	52	21

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)
ENGLAND FA CUP		
Everton v Chelsea	20:30	
beIN SPORTS 1 HD		
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Norwich City v Man City	15:45	
beIN SPORTS 2 HD		
Sunderland v Everton	18:00	
beIN SPORTS		
Bournemouth v Swansea	18:00	
beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN		
Man United v Crystal Palace	18:00	
beIN SPORTS		
West Ham United v Watford	18:00	
beIN SPORTS		
Stoke City v Southampton	18:00	
beIN SPORTS 2 HD		
Arsenal v West Brom	20:30	
beIN SPORTS		
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Barcelona v Getafe	18:00	
beIN SPORTS 3 HD		
Celta v Real Sociedad	20:15	
beIN SPORTS 3 HD		
Atletico v Deportivo	22:30	
beIN SPORTS 3 HD		
Tomorrow		
Rayo Vallecano v SD Eibar	0:05	
beIN SPORTS 7 HD		
ITALIAN LEAGUE		
Empoli v UC Sampdoria	20:00	
beIN SPORTS 4 HD		
Inter v Bologna	22:45	
beIN SPORTS 4 HD		
GERMAN LEAGUE		
Monchengladbach v Eintracht	17:30	
beIN SPORTS 4 HD		
Hannover 96 v FC Koln	17:30	
beIN SPORTS 8 HD		
Hoffenheim v Wolfsburg	17:30	
beIN SPORTS 5 HD		
Ingolstadt 04 v Stuttgart	17:30	
beIN SPORTS 10 HD		
Darmstadt v Augsburg	17:30	
beIN SPORTS 1 HD		
Bayern v Werder Bremen	20:30	
beIN SPORTS 5 HD		
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Lorient v Olympique	19:00	
beIN SPORTS 6 HD		
Guingamp v Saint Etienne	22:00	
beIN SPORTS 7 HD		
GFC Ajaccio v Caen	22:00	
beIN SPORTS 9 HD		
Montpellier v Nice	22:00	
beIN SPORTS 6 HD		
Bastia v Lille OSC	22:00	
beIN SPORTS 8 HD		
Toulouse v Girondins	22:00	
beIN SPORTS		



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Mamadou Sakho jumps for the ball with United's Anthony Martial (right) during the Europa League round of 16 (first leg) soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield Stadium on Thursday March 10, 2016. — AP

LETHAL LIVERPOOL SINK UNITED

DORTMUND TROUNCE TOTTENHAM; HOLDERS SEVILLA HELD

LONDON: Liverpool handed their fiercest rivals a painful lesson on Thursday with a dominant 2-0 win over Manchester United in the first leg of a Europa League last-16 clash. As the two sides took their bitter domestic rivalry on to the European stage for the first time, a penalty from Daniel Sturridge and a second-half effort from Roberto Firmino gave Liverpool a commanding advantage to take into next week's return leg. Juergen Klopp's team are well placed to progress along with the German coach's former club Borussia Dortmund who underlined their status as favourites with a masterclass show against Tottenham Hotspur.

Dortmund's Marco Reus scored twice in the second half, after Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had given them a 30th-minute lead, in a classy 3-0 victory over a Spurs side who rested a number of players with one eye on their Premier League title challenge. Shakhtar Donetsk will also take a good lead into the second leg with Anderlecht after a 3-1 home victory, as will Villarreal who beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 thanks to a double strike from Cedric Bakambu.

Sevilla's Steven N'Zonzi was sent off with three minutes to go as the holders, bidding for a third straight trophy, drew 0-0 at Basel while Athletic Bilbao beat Spanish rivals Valencia 1-0 with a 20th-minute goal from Raul Garcia. Liverpool's rivalry with United stretches back over 122 years but the 195th meeting between the pair was the first in Europe. The encounter, played at a simmering Anfield, was fast and furious. It was Liverpool who were in control and they would have won more emphatically if it were not for a string of brilliant saves from United keeper David De Gea.

Klopp's side, bidding to avoid a club record fifth successive defeat to United, went ahead in the 20th minute when Nathaniel Clyne was tugged back by Memphis Depay and Sturridge finished from the penalty spot. De Gea kept the visitors in the tie with stops to deny Sturridge, Adam Lallana and Philippe Coutinho on two occasions but he was powerless to prevent Firmino converting from close range with 17 minutes remaining. "We were really good from the first second, everything was there but we could have scored more," a beaming Klopp told BT Sport.

Aubameyang goal

The match in Dortmund promised to be an exciting fixture featuring the second-place sides in the Bundesliga and the Premier League. Some of the gloss was taken off the clash, however, when Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino chose to make seven changes to the side that had played today. The game also promised to pit two of Europe's leading marksmen against each other, a spectacle that was denied for the majority of the tie as Spurs left leading scorer Harry Kane on the bench until late in the second half. That left Dortmund's Aubameyang as the leading attraction and the Gabon striker, who has scored 22 times in the Bundesliga this season, lived up to his billing.

He had a goal disallowed for offside before breaking the deadlock by heading a Marcel Schmelzer cross accurately past keeper

Hugo Lloris and into the bottom corner. It was largely one-way traffic but Spurs stayed resolute at the back until Reus scored twice in nine minutes after the break. His first came from a corner when he lashed the ball into the net on the volley at the far post while the second was a sidefooted finish from close range after a perfectly-weighted pass from Gonzalo Castro. "There was a lot of speed in the game in the first half and in the second we were able to move up higher and dominate completely," said Dortmund boss Thomas Tuchel. In the Ukraine, goals from Brazilian Taison and Oleksandr Kucher gave Shakhtar a 2-0 lead before Anderlecht hit back through Frank Acheampong. Striker Eduardo then headed home from a corner in the 79th minute to make it 3-1. Fenerbahce's tie against Braga looked destined to end goalless until Mehmet Topal curled in a superb effort from the edge of the area with eight minutes remaining to secure a 1-0 win. Sparta Prague took the lead against Lazio through Martin Frydek but the Italians replied through Marco Parolo to grab a 1-1 draw in Poland. — Reuters

NEWCASTLE FIRE MCCLAREN

LONDON: Steve McClaren has been sacked as manager of English Premier League strugglers Newcastle United with "immediate effect", the north-east club announced yesterday. Newcastle are second-bottom in the table and facing relegation despite spending some £29 million (\$41 million, 37 million euros) on new players during the January transfer window in a bid to avoid the drop. Former England manager McClaren's position at St James' Park had been the subject of intense speculation for several days following Newcastle's 3-1 loss at home to Bournemouth on Saturday.

The club apologized to McClaren for the ensuing uncertainty over his position after the Bournemouth reverse but they said now was the time to end his nine months in charge, with Newcastle having won just six of their 28 league games so far this season and only Aston Villa below them in the table. "After the defeat to Bournemouth on Saturday the club has spent some time considering its position and has today concluded that Steve McClaren's employment with the club will end with immediate effect," Newcastle's statement said.

"We acknowledge that reaching this decision has taken a number of days and that this has caused uncertainty for everyone involved, in particular for Steve and the players, for which we apologize." Former Liverpool and Real Madrid boss Rafael Benitez has been touted as a possible successor to McClaren, but Newcastle's statement said: "A further announcement on a successor to Steve will be made in due course." —AFP



KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION

HELLO ARTISTS...

Welcome to the Student's Art Competition. I hope you are ready to paint a beautiful painting and win wonderful prizes. The theme for your painting must be related to planting and greening, basically anything pertaining to our environment. We are looking for a great painting. So, please pick up your color pencils, paint brushes, crayons or whatever you prefer and start drawing and painting.

Good luck to you, our young artists.

- Competition is open to ages from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) and (15 - 17) & Special needs.
- The competition is open for all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- The competition will start on January 28th and will continue till March 19th 2016.
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in the

- competition will receive an appreciation plaque.
- Any school or individual interested to participate in this competition is welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheets.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be allowed.
- You can use any kind of color pencils, paint brushes or crayons.

March 10th Till April 14th, 2016

Organized By

Kuwait Times

Sponsored By

JW MARRIOTT
KUWAIT CITY



المشقة العربية للمعدات المكتبية
ARABIAN BUSINESS MACHINES CO. LLC



الباتل
AL-BATEL

Participation Form

If you are interested to participate fill the form and send it to Kuwait Times.

From:

We would like to confirm our participation in the above mentioned activity with the total number of participating student's so the corresponding number of drawing sheets can be delivered to our school.

School:

Tel: Fax:

Address:

Total number of interested student's are

6 - 8 years ☐ 9 - 11 years ☐ 12 - 14 years ☐ 15 - 17 years ☐ Special need ☐

Name: Signature:

For more information contact Kuwait Times Tel: 24835616/7 Fax 24835620/1 or send an email to: ads@kuwaittimes.net