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PRESIDENT-ELECT IN WHITE HOUSE

A SYMBOLIC START TO TRANSITION OF POWER

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump joined President Barack Obama for their first meeting at the White House yesterday, a symbolic start to the transition of power to the nation's 45th president. They discussed a range of domestic and foreign policy topics at the White House during their first meeting since Trump's stunning election victory.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Obama said he will do everything he can to help the Republican succeed when he takes office on Jan 20 and urged that the country unite to face its challenges. Trump, elected on Tuesday, said he looked forward to more meetings with Obama and said several matters were discussed, including difficulties. Obama was harshly critical of Trump throughout the campaign, blasting him as unfit to serve as a commander in chief.

Trump spent years challenging the legitimacy of Obama's presidency, falsely suggesting Obama may have been born outside the United States. If Trump makes good on his campaign promises, he'll wipe away much of what Obama has done during his eight years in office. The Republican president-elect, who will govern with Congress fully under GOP control, has vowed to repeal Obama's signature health care law and dismantle the landmark nuclear accord with Iran.

First lady Michelle Obama was meeting privately in the White House residence with Trump's wife, Melania, while Vice President Joe Biden prepared to see Vice President-elect Mike Pence later yesterday. Trump traveled to Washington from New York on his private jet, breaking with protocol by not bringing journalists in his motorcade or on his plane to document his historic visit to the White House.

Journalists blocked

Trump has refused to let journalists travel with him to cover his first meeting with President Barack Obama. The move broke from protocol intended to ensure that the public has a watchful eye on the nation's leader. Trump flew from New York to Washington on his private jet without the so-called "pool" of reporters, photographers and television cameras that travel with presidents and presidents-elect. Trump's meeting with Obama was due to be reported by the pool of White House journalists who cover the president.

News organizations had tried for weeks to coordinate a pool of journalists who could travel with Trump immediately after Election Day if he won the election. But his campaign did not cooperate and his senior advisers refused Wednesday to discuss any such arrangements. Trump was harshly critical of the media during his campaign and for a time banned news organizations whose coverage he disliked from his events.

Also on Trump's schedule were meetings with House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky to discuss the GOP legislative agenda. Ryan, who holds the most powerful post in Congress, was a sometime critic of Trump, was slow to endorse him and did not campaign with the nominee. Pence intended to join both meetings. As scores of journalists waited to be admitted to the Oval Office to see Obama and Trump together, they saw White House chief of staff Denis McDonough walking along the South Lawn driveway with Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law. A handful of Trump aides trailed them. Republicans were emboldened by Trump's stunning victory over Hillary Clinton, giving the GOP control of the White House and both chambers of Congress. "He just earned a



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama shakes hands with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday. — AP

mandate," Ryan said. In Washington, Trump's scant transition team sprang into action, culling through personnel lists for top jobs and working through handover plans for government agencies. A person familiar with the transition operations said

the personnel process was still in its early stages, but Trump's team was putting a premium on quickly filling key national security posts. The person was not authorized to discuss details by name and spoke on condition of anonymity. — AP

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PHOTO OF THE DAY



Strawberries are an increasingly popular crop grown in Kuwait. The growing season can begin as early as late fall/early winter and several farms in Abdally and Wafra grow strawberries. — Photo by Nouri Al-Ostath/KUNA

Local Spotlight

RESPECTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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The UAE is one of the best countries in the world for people with disabilities, where they receive the respect and attention they need and deserve. I was in the UAE last week and while I was at the bus station, I was amazed to find a clean and well appointed waiting area for disabled people.

It's also well known in the UAE that police never go easy on careless drivers who think it's okay to occupy disabled parking spots, and the fine is huge. So people hesitate to commit such mistakes. Good for them!

If I were a disabled person, I would not choose to work or live in Kuwait. There are many reasons for this, and it's mostly related to the culture and public behavior, which doesn't seem to respect those who suffer from disabilities. It's normal to see fully abled people park in spots reserved for the disabled. There are also limited facilities to accommodate disabled adults or children, few sidewalks or wheelchair ramps at restaurants, hotels, shopping malls, etc.

Public services are also not disabled-friendly. For example, bus stations are not equipped for disabled. Why? Because no one bothers to assume that a handicapped person may need to wait for a bus, aside from riding it. Bus stations in Kuwait are not even properly equipped for healthy people, so surely they are not fit for disabled people.

We also lack a culture of driving. You see people driving fancy cars or government cars and they think they own the road and can park anywhere and do whatever they want. This is not right. How would you feel if a police car blocked a disabled parking space? You and I have to feel upset and angry. We have to say a big 'No'.

An increasing number of public areas and hotels now have access and facilities with specially adapted rooms and facilities for people with disabilities in the UAE. Not only have they issued laws, but they made sure to activate and follow them up in order to provide high-quality medical care and social services, boost public awareness, contribute to integrating people with disabilities into the society and reaffirm their participation in social development.

In 2006, the UAE federal government passed the UAE Disability Act (federal law no. 29/2006) to protect the rights of people with disabilities. This law stipulates that UAE nationals with disabilities have the same rights to work and occupy public positions. The UAE ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on March 19, 2010. In March 2014, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, in his capacity as the Ruler of Dubai, issued law no. 2 of 2014 "to protect the rights of people with disabilities in the emirate of Dubai". This law confirms the attention given to people with disabilities and their leading role in the process of human development.

It's sad that many other Arab countries don't recognize disabled people. This is also related to ignorance and a lack of education at home. The fact is that respect is given according to people's wealth, power and influence, and not according to their human rights. Laws regarding the disabled exist in many countries, but it's only ink on paper because there is no one to follow up or punish violators.

We need to raise awareness among children, teenagers and the police to convey a message that it is time to reconsider disabled people's needs and rights.

IN MY VIEW

THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF INTOLERANCE



By Nejdou Al-Yagout

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This week alone, two disturbing stories made headlines here in my country. The first one was regarding a woman who "caught" a man praying to a statue by the sea. She was so distressed, she chased him down the beach and reported him to authorities. At the call center, the woman who responded said that she cannot interfere with someone's right to practice his religion. A noble answer, but now the woman is calling to have her prosecuted.

I have compassion for both the worshipper, whose sacred prayer was interrupted and this woman, who was so terrified of another person finding his way to the Divine that she lost herself. In short, she was taught fear and this is what led her to react in such a shockingly violent manner. I want to hold her and whisper: Where is your love? Who blinded you to the ways of the heart? I want her to sit in silence with this man and embrace his stillness and honor his journey. I want her to imagine what it would feel like if she were in a non-Muslim country and she decided to pray publicly, but someone chased her down the beach and threw her praying mat in the sea.

Nothing and I repeat, nothing can justify terrorizing a soul for worshipping in a different way. When will we stop this madness? We wonder why the world is terrified of us yet are oblivious to our intolerance. Are we also oblivious to how we impose ourselves on our community and go on the defensive when we are minorities in a country? Are we oblivious to the irony of making sure mosques are built in our neighborhoods when we migrate to non-Muslim countries, but not allowing others to worship here? I know I speak of intolerance often, but I will keep reiterating it, because writing helps me release the pain I feel within me. Writing mends my heart that breaks each time I hear stories such as this one. Call me an idealist, but I have hope in love.

Antiquated beliefs

The second story that broke my heart was a man getting raped for having a relationship with a woman. When her relative found out about this relationship, he beat her up and then locked her in the house. Shortly after, he lured the man to meet him under the pretext of an appointment and

raped him (after kidnapping him and beating him up, to boot). I am crying inside as I type this. This is an absolute tragedy. A man lives his life and gets punished by a fellow human. For what? For having a relationship with his female relative. What gave him the right to intervene? Isn't this a form of madness? And where, we may be asking, did he learn to be responsible for the actions of a woman in his family?

Unfortunately, he learned this by living in a patriarchal society based on antiquated beliefs that stipulate that a man has to guard the honor of any woman he knows. Because, to him, honor is tied to the physical. It has nothing to do with spirituality. I want to hold him and whisper: What if you were born a woman? Did you ever put yourself in a woman's abaya? Do you know what love is? This is a consensual relationship between two adults. And someone who is not involved decided to traumatize another individual for something that has absolutely nothing to do with him.

Hope for Kuwait

My hope for Kuwait will never falter, because regardless of what I read in the news, there are countless humanitarian souls here whose hearts are open to all. What upsets me at times, though, is our passivity and silence. And because of this, the tolerant souls are slowly becoming a minority. We all have an active role to play in transforming our country. All that we need to do is spread love infectiously around our community and remind ourselves and others that hate crimes and violence are not welcome here.

We are lucky that our crime rates are relatively low, but as other societies have taught us, when we are too complacent, the crime rates slowly increase until we will forget we were ever one of the safest countries in the world. Too often, we look toward the past. And, yes we have a glorious heritage and our ancestors were a shining example of tolerance. But, those days are over and the world is changing. All we have is now. We can only bring forth a society that inspires others when we focus on the present and let others know - peacefully - that intolerance has tragic consequences.

We need to awaken. This is imperative. We need to become aware of all the pain we are inflicting on others in the name of tribalism, patriarchy and intolerance. I beg you. I beg myself. I beg us all to awaken. I know we can do this. Together. As one.

Nejdou Al Yagout - Photo by Djinane Alsuwayeh



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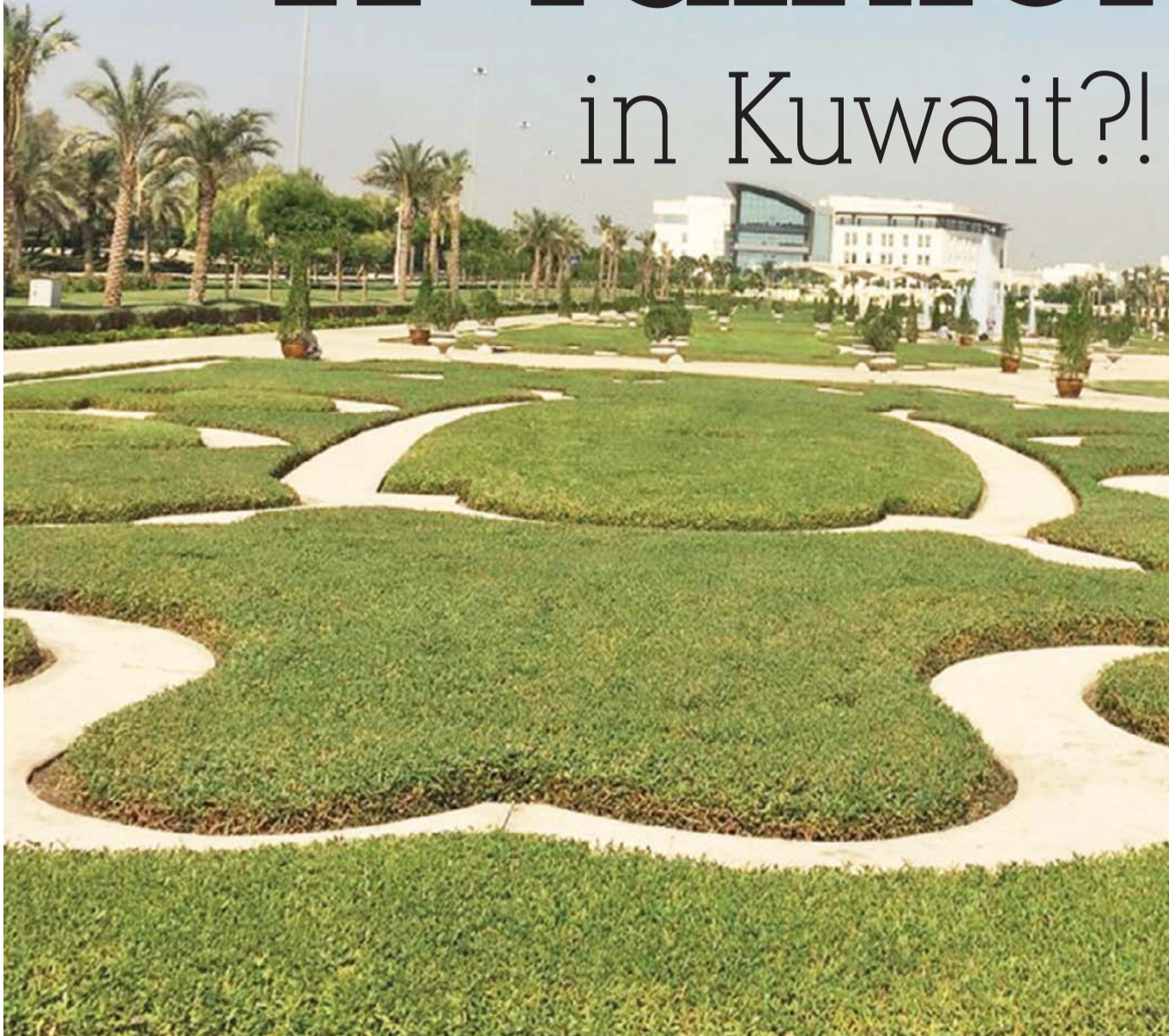
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A rainforest in Kuwait?!



By Ben Garcia

The Bayan Botanical Garden is not exactly a rainforest, but you could be easily forgiven for mistaking it for such with its wide variety of exotic plants. A plant sanctuary located inside Bayan Palace, it is open to the public every Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm and offers the perfect escape from Kuwait's urban jungle.





To enter, you must present your civil ID and take a visitor's badge, which you should wear in a visible place during your tour of the garden. After passing through the lobby, you enter into a broad open space with water installations and lovely patches of green. Photos with your phone camera are permitted.

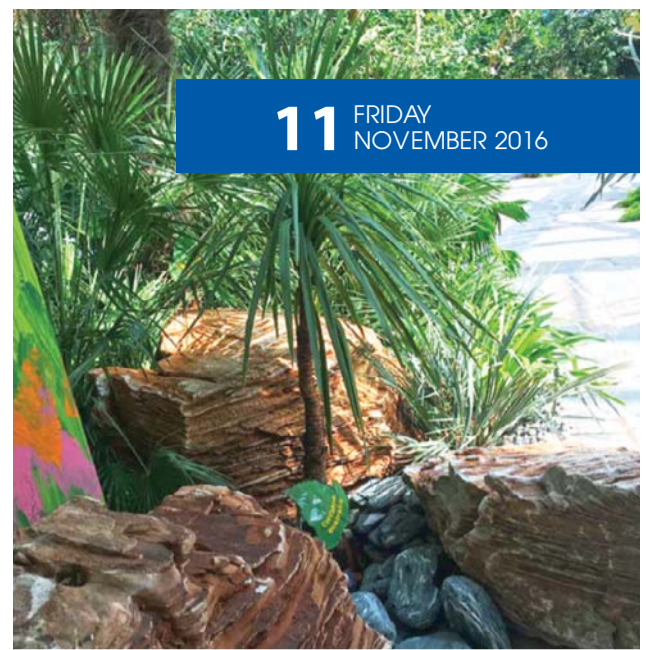
The moment you enter the glasshouse, you'll immediately feel the refreshing and colorful environment surrounding you. On the left are plants native to the tropical environment, while to the right of the greenhouse are plants native to hotter areas.

In the tropical section, various types of tropical plants and flowers are artistically displayed, from palm to banana trees to ferns and wild orchids to flowering trees. The sound of water fountains provides soothing background music. In the water plants section, lilies and native plants that need lots of water to thrive are displayed.

The entire display can be covered within 30 minutes, but if you are the type of person who talks to plants, even four hours will not be enough for you! The plants are well-maintained and the gardeners are more than happy to take pictures of you inside the garden.

Officially opened in Feb 24, 2015, the special botanical glasshouse, complete with various climatic zones, was inaugurated by HH the Amir. Various ministers and high-ranking government officials also attended the opening.

The garden is located at Bayan Palace and occupies an area of 15,793 sq m. Almost 3,500 sq m of space is devoted to the cultivation of various exotic plants in the glasshouse. Despite temperatures hitting peaks of 53 degrees Celsius outside, the indoor climate is carefully controlled.



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AUK is institutionally accredited by the Private Universities Council in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).

LEARN
THINK
BECOME





The 88.8 FM team met with members of the media and agencies to celebrate the launching of the new 88.8 FM radio station at 360 Mall.

—Photos by Joseph Shagra

FM 88.8 gets new voice, new home

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: One of the most popular local radio stations, 88.8 FM has found a new home and a new voice and has launched again onto the airwaves. Now based in 360 Mall, 88.8FM will broadcast in both Arabic and English.

"Blue Agency has taken over this radio station through a bid of the government for an amount of KD 5.6 million over the period of five years, which makes it the most expensive radio station in the world," Talal Al-Yaqout, CEO of the 88.8 FM told the Kuwait Times.

"The challenge was to broadcast from a prestigious mall. We discussed it with Mohammed Al-Marzouq from Tamdeen Co. (owner of the mall), who offered to host the radio station at the 360 Mall," he added.

Over 12 shows will be broadcast. "For the foreign community and the youngsters of Kuwait we brought some programs from the United States. We have the daily shows including the morning, noon, sports, games, and special shows. Rick Dees American top 40, which is a four hours show broadcasted every Sunday from 8 pm - 12 am. It has

a variety of top 40 songs along with interviews with singers and producers," explained Al-Yaqout.

More shows. "On Thursday we have an English mix show from 9am to 11am. Then Farah DJ Bonita will be doing an English radio show with Arabic theme for a couple of days during the week with lots of great music and programs. Then we also have the World Top 20 show, and many others," he pointed out.

"The station is vibrant and very energetic with its programs. We only hope that it's going to satisfy the ears of our listeners and we are available for people who would like to share their expertise with us when it comes to serving the community with social media or projects or encouraging young generations, we are always here to help and assist," concluded Al-Yaqout.



Talal Al-Yaqout, CEO 88.8 FM.



Jasim Al-Obu presenting one of the shows at the Arabic and English radio station.



Kuwait's favorite female referee

Football is a unisex sport

By Ben Garcia

Fatma Al-Tattan, a trainer and founder of a women's gym, is no ordinary woman. Known by a legion of young football players in Kuwait simply as Fatma, she is also a professional referee. Since the age of three, she has been playing football on the streets of Kuwait with her siblings, or sometimes with friends in the backyard of her house. Her passion, usually a preserve of men, has been her regular job for six years now. "Football is something in my inner being - football makes me happy and complete," said Fatma.

Fatma recounted to Kuwait Times how she became a referee. "Six years ago, the ministry of youth and sports affairs advertised for female coaches and referees. I wasted no time and jumped at the chance, and applied to be a referee," she said. "It wasn't easy, because I had to take a few courses and exams. I know football by heart, so there's no way that I could've ignored it," she said.

She obtained three certificates before she was

allowed on the field. "I have three certificates from the ministry of youth. It was easy for me, but challenging for others. I enjoyed the courses and completed them all. I then got the nod from the ministry," Fatma said. Today, she is well-known to many young Kuwaiti players. She even hears her name from strangers, who follow her car, and is greeted in public by people and young boys she once refereed. "I'm like a celebrity for them. Sometimes, their big brothers come to me, greet me and tell me: So you're the famous Fatma, the referee!" she said.

Prior to accepting the refereeing job, Fatma worked as a marketing executive in a private company. "I knew I would be happier here. I know my heart is in this job. This has been my hobby, but now it's my job. It's like I am playing every day, but I am being paid to do it," she noted.

The job is seasonal, but she gets a regular salary. Most of her refereeing duties take place during winter and Ramadan. She oversees matches of kids aged 8 to 14. Fatma said young boys are more manageable if they are handled by a female refer-

ee. "They are more respectful when they are overseen by women. At the ministry, we only have five certified women referees. They know I am very strict, so they behave well until the game is over," Fatma told Kuwait Times.

Fatma said the attitude of people in Kuwait has changed with regards to female footballers and referees. "The government's attitude has changed actually. They wouldn't have accepted me as a referee if there was no change in attitude. Some people are not ready yet, but eventually it will happen. They are now ready to change, and hopefully will accept women footballers and referees without any prejudice," she said.

Fatma also founded a private gym called 'U Can' with a friend in Salmiya. The gym is equipped with all kinds of equipment and amenities, but no men are allowed. "The place is a haven for women, so we do not accept men in our gym. Women need privacy, and this place is really very private. What we provide is private training. We schedule women for hour-long workouts plus food management sessions. We also have many local female celebrities' here, and the good thing is that our clientele is rapidly growing. In fact, within just a year of existence, expansion is now underway," she concluded.



Her passion,
usually a preserve
of men, has been
her regular job for
six years now



AL-FORDAH: KUWAIT'S OLDEST SEAPORT

By Sarah Al-Mukhaizeem

KUWAIT: Situated west of Seif Palace, Al-Fordah port was considered one of the main seaports responsible for exporting and importing goods and other materials. The port also had an adjacent market also called Al-Fordah, "the old markets of Kuwait", a book authored by Mohammad Abdulhadi Jamal said.

In the early hours of the morning, ships once unloaded goods which were to be sold at the market. Most goods

consisted of consumer products, home appliances, and poultry. The seaport also acted as an export point for Kuwaiti products.

Wind-powered wooden ships and boats continued to dock at the seaport until the era of the Amir Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah in which commercial steamboats began to appear on horizon.

After the signing of the protection treaty between Great Britain and Kuwait in 1899, steamboats coming from Bombay to the Gulf region began to dock in Kuwait—specifically in Al-Fordah seaport—

once every two weeks. This transformed the seaport into an integral location for business and commerce in Kuwait.

From World War II onwards, Al-Fordah seaport was expanded on numerous occasions to accommodate the increase in Kuwait's commercial and business activities. With the rapid development of infrastructure in Kuwait, Al-Fordah seaport and its market began to lose prominence; however, the memories of the place still lives in the minds and hearts of the older generation of Kuwaitis. — KUNA



SLOGANS DOMINATE CAMPAIGNS

KUWAIT: As Kuwait prepares for parliamentary elections due on November 26th, campaign slogans aim to woo voters in all constituencies with lofty promises that seem to intrigue and entice the electorate. "Together we build a nation" one sign reads; "A new era and fulfillment for the nation" reads another. "The security of Kuwait comes first," one candidate pledges while another argues that "Kuwait only has its voters."

With 50 seats in Parliament up for grabs, many candidates have enlisted the aid of advertising companies to further their campaigns, with the conviction that a slogan can a long way in swaying voters' minds. Moreover, many Kuwaiti academics see that a campaign slogan is a useful tool that can be employed to ensure a candidate's success, adding that most slogans are selected on a random basis due to failure on a candidates' part to understand the needs of voters.

Speaking to KUNA, media professor at Kuwait University (KU) Dr. Fawaz Al-Ajmi noted that campaign slogans are vital in the sense that they often reflect a candidate's line of thought, adding that candidates should select appropriate

slogans that illustrate their goals and thoughts.

On these slogans, he said that they could vary from one constituency to the other, as voters in each district have different needs and expectations. "These slogans need to change to keep up with the times," he added.

Meanwhile, psychologist Dr. Othman Al-Khoder said that a candidate's slogan largely depends on knowledge. "Slogans found to be appealing in the West may not be met with the same zeal in Kuwaiti society," he pointed out. Al-Khoder also noted that social media has been of great help to candidates to reach out to voters. "These slogans, when used right, can have an unduly influence on the electorate," he added.

KU political science professor Dr. Hanan Al-Hajeri said that campaign slogans have greater significance in Western societies than in this part of the world. "There have been a select few cases in Kuwait where a slogan helped propel a candidate to victory," she noted. "Campaign slogans have been used all across the globe for years, and they often reflect the status quo," Al-Hajeri said. "Not much effort is put into these slogans," she added. —KUNA

Crime

Report

MEN DRESS AS WOMEN TO ENTER WEDDING HALL

KUWAIT: Three young men were sent to Juveniles prosecution for entering a women's hall during a wedding disguised in women's clothes. One of the men said he wanted to see to his girlfriend, while another said he wanted to see women dancing. The three, all Kuwaitis were caught by workers before entering the hall, then handed to police.

Marine collision

Coast Guard detectives questioned two citizens who were injured during a collision between a VIP yacht and an unknown boat which escaped from the scene. Investigations are underway.

Haris robbed

An Indian who works as a haris (a building custodian) told Mahboula police he was attacked by two men who beat and robbed him of KD 1500 in rents, as well as KD 150 that was in his wallet.

African man dies in fire

An African was killed during a fire in a Mahboula area. Manqaf, Fahaheel and technical rescue centers responded to a call about the fire, and found out an expat suffered smoke inhalation, and was transferred to hospital where he died.

Drone drug smuggling

A citizen confessed to smuggling drugs into central prison using a drone, while his brother picks up the drugs to sell them to inmates. Both were charged with trading in drugs.

Man wants father arrested

A man in his twenties has filed a police complaint against his father after the father disciplined his son. The young man went to hospital and got a medical report and insisted on lodging a case against his father, seeking his arrest for physical abuse.

Women harassers

Jahra police arrested four young men who harassed women in a mall. The four were approaching women with indecent words, prompting some people to call police.

Not a terrorist

A citizen aged 23 called police and told them he is not a terrorist. The man asked the emergency number 112 to send a patrol, then a patrolman called telling them about the same citizen stopping him, and had to take him to the police station. When asked why he made the calls he said a friend of him accused him of being a terrorist and he wanted to clear his name.

License plates stolen

A citizen told Reqqa police the license plates of his car were stolen, when he was in a neighboring country in a visit of a relative. —Translated from Arabic newspapers



Apartment housing has become a norm for many citizens as well as expatriates living in Kuwait.

— Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

HOUSING ISSUE TOPS AGENDA OF CANDIDATES

KUWAIT: The housing problem in Kuwait is always given top priority by candidates contesting the electoral race due to its economic and social significance on the Kuwaiti society.

A number of candidates running for the upcoming parliamentary election due on November 26th emphasized that the housing problem should be solved as soon as possible by setting out fresh blueprints aiming at meeting growing housing demands and creating new cities.

They opined that offering part of state-owned land to applicants would undoubtedly contribute to easing out the housing problem which actually bugs many Kuwaiti families owing to uncontrollably surging flat rentals.

In this context, official Speaker for the Public Authority for Housing Welfare Ibrahim Al-Nashi said that the intensive distribution of lands over the last three years had contributed to cutting the waiting list of land applicants in the country.

He mentioned that the current number of housing applications has reached 105,000, saying that more efforts and work are needed. He stated that in fiscal year 2015/2016, some 12,177 units have been distributed, adding that 11,338 more would be distributed during the coming year.

Severe shortage

Abbas Al-Shawwa, an expert on housing problems said that distributing some 12,000 units yearly is not enough to cover the increasing number of applications accumulated over the past years. Al-Shawaf urged the government and parliament to work on distributing 20,000 units to solve the problem.

He asserted that the housing problem in Kuwait still tops citizens' priorities and the upcoming parliament should find ways to end this problem.

The state, in fact, attaches much attention to the housing issue through close cooperation and coordination between the two executive and legislative authorities. This attention was reflected by His Highness the Amir's intervention by giving orders and directives through making available more lands for housing applicants, pointing to his full support to this issue. —KUNA

KUWAIT OIL PRICE DOWN 25¢

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 25 cents to \$40.20 per barrel Wednesday after it was at \$40.45 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday.

At the global level, the price of oil went up yesterday after shares and the US dollar sustained losses due to the results of the US Presidential election which saw Donald Trump winning. The price of the Brent Crude went up by 32 cents hitting \$46.36 per barrel. The American crude also went up by 29 cents to \$45.27 pb. —KUNA

INDIAN EXPATS CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY RUPEE WITHDRAWAL MOVE

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The India government's shock decision to withdraw large denomination banknotes Rs 500 and Rs1,000 from circulation with immediate effect has caught many Indian expatriates unawares in Kuwait as money changers refused to accept the currency.

"I approached three exchange companies to change some Rs 20,000 I had with me following the announcement. But all of them refused to exchange the currency," said Suman Gupta, an executive working with a jewelry shop in Kuwait.

The expatriates in Kuwait reacted with caution to the India government's move on Tuesday to withdraw the two largest denomination notes from circulation. While many hoped that the decision could help the government fight black money and tax evasion in a country that is plagued by large-scale corruption and illegal money trading, a large section of the expatriates feared that the decision could create havoc for ordinary people.

Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain told Friday Times yesterday that the embassy has requested the Reserve Bank of India for guidelines in relation to NRIs following the government decision. "It is a unique situation and we need to get further guidelines on the matter from the RBI," Jain said.

"In fact we want to help the customers. But at the moment, we are helpless because we are not sure if we will be able to trade the banknotes as there is no clarity on the issue from the India government," said an official from a money exchange company yesterday on condition of anonymity.

"More than 800,000 Indian expatriates are here in Kuwait alone. Most of them will have some Indian rupees



An Indian woman farmer counts her money prior to depositing at a Government Vikas Grameena Bank in Medak district, some 60 kilometers from Hyderabad yesterday. NRIs (non resident Indians) as well as Indians at home have been directly affected by the Indian government's shock decision to withdraw the two largest denomination notes from circulation. —AFP

with them as they keep the currency for their immediate requirements when they travel out of the country. Will it be possible for them to travel back to India and exchange the small sum before December 30?" asked a manager at a local exchange company.

Indian citizens are legally entitled to carry cash up to Rs 25,000 when they travel in and out of the country to meet their immediate requirements. But the government's move has left expats high and dry as they find it impossible to exchange the banknotes before they become illegal.

"The government has completely forgotten about the large number of Indians living overseas when it introduced the new rule," said

Venkiteswaran, a bank employee. According to him, the government could have thought of some mechanism so that expats could trade the currency for the new legal tender if it is within the cap of Rs 25,000.

According to the new decision, a person can exchange the demonetized banknotes Rs 500 and Rs 1000 only up to a maximum of Rs 4,000 provided he/she applies for exchange the notes along with ID proof. But a person can deposit any amount of money in his/her ordinary account (NRO) which will be taxable unlike an NRE account.

"In this process, your money loses its non-resident status and becomes taxable," said another expat Augustine Joseph commented.



KUWAIT SIGNS VISA EXEMPTION AGREEMENT WITH POLAND

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah signed yesterday with Polish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Joanna Wronecka, a reciprocal visa exemption agreement for diplomatic passport holders.

This came on the sideline of Al-Jarallah's visit to the Polish capital Warsaw for political consultations on

bilateral relations, Kuwait Embassy in Poland said in statement.

The Kuwaiti delegation included Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Waleed Al-Khubaizi, Deputy Director of the Minister Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, Kuwait Ambassador to Poland Abdullah Al-Askar, and Foreign Ministry officials. —KUNA

DATES, PALM TREES FACE MAJOR CHALLENGES: KISR

KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) affirmed yesterday that the dates and palm sector in Kuwait is facing several challenges that require development of new methods to protect this sector.

Director of Science and Technology Development, Environment and Life Sciences Research Centre in KISR Dr. Sameer Al-Zenki said in a press statement that the Institute will take part in organizing the first forum of the challenges facing the date palm sector and new methods to combat the palm moths in Kuwait, scheduled to be held next Sunday for three days.

Al-Zenki said that the forum which will be held in collaboration with the Palm Tree Friends Society and The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) will discuss the impact of these challenges on the economy and food security, as well as developing new methods to protect the palm trees.

Chairman of the Palm Tree Friends Society in Kuwait and Chairman of the organizing committee of the forum, Dr. Adel Dashti said that the forum will tackle five axes in protecting and preserving the dates palm trees. —KUNA

Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Syria Kurd women fighters out for revenge against IS



A year after Paris attacks, how has France changed?



China official named the head of Interpol



MOSUL: A displaced Iraqi woman holds her cat Lulu as she waits for transport in the Iraqi Kurdish checkpoint village of Shaqouli, about 35 kilometres east of Mosul yesterday after she fled her home with her children in the eastern Intisar neighborhood of the embattled city to take refuge at a camp in Arbil. — AFP

TRACES OF IS 'MASS GRAVE' ROT IN IRAQI TOWN

HAMMAM AL-ALIL: On the banks of the Tigris river, men sit and watch, smiling with relief as Iraqi policemen, soldiers and local youths bathe in muddy spring water in a town that was recaptured from Islamic State just a few days ago. Across town, there is a grimmer scene: two stinking corpses, their feet tied together, rot in the sun in a large dirt quadrant walled by four man-made earth berms. One body is intact. The other has parts missing. A severed head lies next to them, its skull mostly visible. What appear to be several other corpses protrude from the dirt and detritus.

A policeman cautions not to approach or touch the bodies, in case they are booby-trapped. Narrow, shallow trenches up to 20 yards long have been dug in some parts of the quadrant. Residents of the town, Hammam Al-Alil, say this is the site of a mass grave which Iraqi forces reported to have uncovered on Monday after driving out Islamic State militants. Iraq has launched an investigation into what would be further evidence of the ultra-hardline group's brutality against people living in areas under its control

since it established its self-styled "caliphate" across much of northern Iraq and Syria more than two years ago.

An operation involving the Iraqi army, Kurdish forces, Shiite and tribal militias and backed by US-led air strikes has driven the jihadists out of many areas surrounding Mosul, with the aim of recapturing its last major city stronghold in Iraq. As Islamic State has retreated, it has lashed out, with local residents such as those of Hammam Al-Alil paying the price. "Some were beheaded, and some were shot," said 35-year-old Odeh, whose brother was taken away by Islamic State fighters in the town near the start of the Mosul operation last month. "They rounded up people from the town, and from other areas, and killed them there, where the grave is. It was revenge, they took it out on anyone over the age of 15," he said.

Islamic State held the agricultural college, 200 yards from the site, as a base and a place to torture or kill people, residents said. Many estimated that up to 200 people were killed in the weeks before Islamic State withdrew from the town. Reuters could not access the col-

lege because Iraqi police said it had not been cleared and might still be rigged with explosives. Aid organizations and local officials have cited reports that Islamic State executed dozens of people in Hammam Al-Alil and barracks nearby on suspicion of planning rebellions in and around Mosul to aid the advancing troops. The Iraqi military said its forces at the complex discovered the decapitated corpses of at least 100 civilians.

Bodies dumped in Tigris

The militants transported 1,600 abducted civilians from the town of Hammam Al-Alil to Tal Afar last week, possibly for use as human shields against air strikes, and told some they may be taken to Syria. They also took 150 families from Hammam Al-Alil to Mosul. Most of those executed in Hammam Al-Alil were former members of the Iraqi police and army, taken from villages the group was forced to abandon, a local official said. Residents confirmed most of those taken were police or their family members, including the brother of Mohammed Hassan, himself a former policeman. "My brother Ahmed was killed - I

heard he was among those executed. They (Islamic State) pulled him out of my car, because he had been in the police. He might be in the grave," said Hassan, who was sitting by the river. "He might also be in there," he said, pointing at the water. "They killed people here, too. They would execute them on the bank and throw them into the river." Local Islamic State leaders used the lush tree-lined spa area of Hammam Al-Alil, a thermal water resort, for themselves and would not let anyone else in, Hassan said, watching as mud-caked youths took photos in the water. Many men were freshly shaved. Under Islamic State, men had to wear beards. Many buildings in the town have been damaged or destroyed in the fighting. The mangled, charred wreckage of cars and trucks litter the streets. White flags remain hoisted above some homes, an apparent effort by residents not to be targeted as security forces advanced. In the distance, smoke billows from the burning oil fields of Qayyara, which Islamic State fighters abandoned and set fire to in August, after a US-backed advance before the Mosul operation began in earnest. "Things are better now. —Reuters

BATTLE FOR MOSUL NEARS ANCIENT NIMRUD: ARMY

BAGHDAD: The battle for Iraq's second city Mosul neared the remains of ancient Nimrud yesterday, the military said, raising fears for the famed heritage site already ravaged by jihadist bombs and sledgehammers. Troops and allied militia were advancing on two villages held by the Islamic State group near the ancient site some 30 kilometers south of Mosul, the Joint Operations Command said.

"Units of the 9th Armoured Division and the Hashed Al-Ashaeri (tribal militia) are beginning to advance to liberate the villages of Abbas Rajab and Al-Nomaniyah, toward Nimrud," it said. Nimrud was the one of the great centers of the ancient Middle East. Founded in the 13th Century BC, it became the capital of the Assyrian empire, whose rulers built vast palaces and monuments that have drawn archaeologists from around the world for more than 150 years.

Many of its monumental stone sculptures and reliefs were taken away for display in museums around the world but some of the more massive structures remained in place when the jihadists swept through in mid-2014. In April last year, IS posted video on the internet of its fighters sledgehammering monuments before planting explosives around the site and blowing it up. It was part of a campaign of destruction by the jihadists against heritage sites under their control that also took in ancient Nineveh on the outskirts of Mosul, Hatra in the desert to the south and Palmyra in neighboring Syria, IS says the ancient monuments are idols that violate the teachings of its extreme form of Sunni Islam.

But that has not stopped the group from trafficking artefacts it purports to revile on the black market to fund its operations. It is unclear what still remains of Nimrud's ancient ruins as Iraqi forces move closer. But it is just one of a number of treasured heritage sites that are threatened with further damage by the offensive that the government launched on October 17 to retake Mosul, the jihadists' last major stronghold in Iraq. The area where ancient Hatra is located may see fighting between IS and pro-government militias who aim to retake the town of Tal Afar, which commands Mosul's western approaches. Ancient Nineveh is also in the path of advancing troops. — AFP



BASHIQA: A Peshmerga fighter peers out in a gap of a curtain as they move into a new house in Bashiqa on Wednesday. Iraqi Kurdish forces have seized the town of Bashiqa near Mosul from the Islamic State group, an official said, as US-backed militia forces advanced on the jihadists' Syrian stronghold Raqa. — AFP

'CRASHING WAVES' OF JIHADISTS FRAY SOLDIERS' NERVES IN MOSUL BATTLE

TUNNEL NETWORK HELPS JIHADISTS LAUNCH SURPRISE ATTACKS

BAGHDAD: A week after his tank division punched through Islamic State defenses on the southeast edge of Mosul, an Iraqi army colonel says the fight to drive the militants out of their urban stronghold is turning into a nightmare. Against a well-drilled, mobile and brutally effective enemy, exploiting the cover of built-up neighborhoods and the city's civilian population, his tanks were useless, he said, and his men untrained for the urban warfare they face.

His Ninth Armoured Division and elite counter terrorism units fighting nearby seized six of some 60 neighborhoods last week, the first gains inside Mosul since the Oct. 17 start of a campaign to crush Islamic State in its Iraqi fortress. Even that small foothold is proving hard to maintain, however, with waves of counter attacks by jihadist units including snipers and suicide bombers who use a network of tunnels stretching for miles (km) under the city.

They appear able to strike at will, often at night, denying the troops rest and rattling frayed nerves. "We're an armored brigade, and fighting without being able to use tanks and with soldiers unused to urban warfare is putting troops in a tough situation," the officer told Reuters. He asked not to be named because he was not authorized to talk to the media. A year ago, when his forces took part in an operation to drive Islamic State from the much smaller city of Ramadi west of Baghdad, they were tasked with holding territory outside while the counter terrorism forces entered the city.

Mosul, whose capture is a crucial step towards dismantling the caliphate Islamic State declared two years ago across large areas of Iraq and Syria, is too big for specialist forces alone. "In Mosul, we have to advance inside residential

areas, comb streets, clear houses from terrorists and deal with civilians. I'm afraid this job is too tough for us to handle". He said it was impossible to differentiate between civilians and fighters who melt in amongst them.

Islamic State has forced its dress code on the population during the two years it has controlled the city. Men are required to have long beards, something the militants are still policing. "Our soldiers can't recognize them until it's too late, when the attacker either detonates his explosive vest or throws a grenade," the colonel said, adding that he lost two T-72 tanks and an armoured vehicle in a single day's fighting on Tuesday. "It's becoming a nightmare and it's nerve-racking for the soldiers," he said.

Toughest urban war

Even for the Counter Terrorism Service, or special forces, trained more specifically for the challenges in Mosul, the last week of fighting has been unprecedented. "We are carrying out the toughest urban warfare that any force in the world could undertake", CTS spokesman Sabah al-Numani said on Sunday.

One CTS officer, in Baghdad on leave, told Reuters the biggest threat came from snipers. "You don't know where or when a sniper will strike," he said. That, combined with thousands of people trying to escape the fighting, was a constant source of stress. As he spoke, a voice on his radio crackled - one of his men on the frontline. "Sir, there are so many civilians, they have these suitcases with them as well. How do I know what's in them? And they're coming towards me..." Islamic State leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, who declared a cross-border caliphate in Syria and Iraq from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque two years

ago, told his fighters last week there could be no retreat in a "total war" with their enemies.

Hisham Al-Hashemi, who advises the Iraqi government on Islamic State issues and has visited the frontlines, said all the indications from Mosul so far showed that Baghdadi's comments were no idle threat. "Now Daesh (Islamic State) is really fighting," he said. Hashemi said the jihadists had dug a 70 km network of tunnels just on the eastern side of the Tigris River, which runs through the centre of Mosul, since they took over in 2014. Using the tunnels they were able to surprise troops inside the city, striking between 2 am and dawn when their defenses are at their lowest. "They are not ready for these surprises - it's the tunnels which have caused our greatest losses," he said.

'Crashing waves'

Hashemi said government forces were only in full control of two of the districts they entered last week. The army says it has captured five other districts, but fighting continues in all of them and Hashemi said in some neighborhoods the army had been driven back three or four times - often at night - before reclaiming territory the next day. With its tanks unable to navigate narrow city streets, the Iraqi army has called on US Apache helicopters to target car bombers. The Pentagon said on Monday they would continue to be used "in what we expect will be tough fighting to come". One of the most devastating tactics the militants employed, which helped them tie down a far greater force than their own, was to send consecutive waves of small units - about 50 strong - against the troops so they could never let down their guard. — Reuters

SYRIA KURD WOMEN FIGHTERS OUT FOR REVENGE AGAINST IS JIHADISTS

MAZRAAT KHALED: Headed for the front line near Syria's Raqa, 23-year-old Kurdish fighter Kaziwar has just one thought on her mind: To make her jihadist foes pay for their treatment of women. "Our taking part in the Women's Protection Units (YPJ) is revenge for the women who were kidnapped in Sinjar (in Iraq) and sold (as sex slaves) in markets," said the brown-haired woman riding a four-wheel-drive. The YPJ has been fighting alongside male comrades in an offensive launched last Saturday to recapture the city of Raqa which the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group has made its de facto capital.

Kaziwar, who was clad in trainers and a tracksuit over military fatigues because of the cold, took up arms five years ago and has since fought in several battles against Sunni Muslim extremists. She lost her "sister-in-arms" in one such confrontation and has since kept Baharen Jia's picture attached to the vehicle's rear-view mirror wherever she goes. Hundreds of Kurdish women are taking part in a showdown with the jihadists imposing a reign of terror over territories they seized in Syria and neighboring Iraq, where IS has since 2014 enslaved women of the minority Yazidi community. According to UN experts, around 3,200 Yazidis are still being held by IS, the majority of them in Syria.

The young woman who goes by the nom-de-guerre of Kaziwar drove into Mazraat Khaled, a village one kilometre (less than a mile) from the front line between IS and the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters. On the top floor of a building perched on a hill and overlooking a river, she reported to a local commander, Rojda Felat, 38, in the village of Mazraat Khaled, around 30 kilometers from Raqa. As the two women went over battle plans, shells crashed down nearby and warplanes of the US-led coalition struck jihadist positions from where the firing originated, sending up black plumes of smoke. — AFP

EUROPE GETS A 'WAKE-UP CALL', BUT CAN IT STEP UP?

AS RUSSIA LOOMS, NATO INSISTS TRUMP MUST STAND BY ALLIES

BRUSSELS: For Europe, already reeling from Britain's decision to leave its 28-member club, Donald Trump's election introduces a host of new uncertainties it is ill-equipped to tackle. Preoccupied by a growing anti-establishment mood across the continent, the European Union's leaders gave little thought to the idea a man dubbed "the pioneer of a new authoritarian and chauvinist international movement" by Germany's deputy chancellor could take power in the United States.

The day before, one of the EU's leaders had confided a contingency plan of "crossing ourselves and praying". The day after, as they pledged to work with Trump, a senior EU diplomat summed up their dilemma. "Since we have refused to really think through this scenario, we have a list of questions that need to be answered, but almost everything is a big unknown," the envoy told Reuters.

For some, Europe must now step up and take more responsibility, both for its own security and the wider world, if the entrepreneur makes good on campaign talk of limiting US defense commitments and other engagements abroad. Trade relations, climate change, Russia and tackling Islamic State are all areas where Europe may have to forge its own path if a Trump-led Washington pulls back from the global stage. "This is another wake-up call," said Manfred Weber, a German ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel who leads conservatives in the European Parliament. "It is now

up to Europe. We must be more self-confident and assume more responsibility. "We do not know what to expect from the USA."

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders told Reuters a Trump White House "may help some people in Europe understand that we need to reinforce defence cooperation among Europeans". But EU leaders know that eurosceptic radicals, inspired by Trump and Britain's vote to leave the bloc in June, could exploit any attempt to tighten cooperation to condemn them to the same ignominious electoral fate as Hillary Clinton. East Europeans fret President Vladimir Putin may use Trump's vow to improve ties with sanctions-hit Moscow to extend Russian influence, as in Ukraine. The Norwegian head of NATO felt obliged to spell out that Trump could not renege on security guarantees.

'Putting on a brave face'

"Europe cannot blink after Brexit, after the election of Donald Trump," French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said of the political earthquake in Washington, which, 27 years to the day since the fall of the Berlin Wall, continues to provide the lion's share of military muscle to defending the continent. "Europe must stand together more, be more active and go more on the offensive," Ayrault said. "Even just to protect itself." Privately, senior officials question its ability to do that. "Europe will need to do more to take care of its own - but

are we capable?" a senior European diplomat asked. The EU has been riven with tensions over economic policy, the Syrian refugee crisis and Britain's exit, and remains very divided. Another senior EU diplomat told Reuters: "This changes the business model of the EU. But we have no idea how."

He dismissed suggestions a US withdrawal from some engagements could offer benefits by obliging Europeans to invest more in their cooperation and spend more on their own defense: "That's not a silver lining. That's putting on a brave face." EU foreign ministers called a special meeting over dinner on Sunday to discuss what Trump's America will mean for Europe. Giles Merritt of pro-EU Brussels think-tank Friends of Europe said leaders had no time to lose to "head off trouble" and could revive their own Union by helping defend global stability. They "must ... fashion a common European response ... before President Trump sets foot in the Oval Office", he said.

Change the whole system?

It was a result few in Europe had wanted, barring Hungary's authoritarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. European leaders- and Obama Administration envoys-were reduced to highlighting the lowest common denominators of shared history and ideals in giving assurances of continued cooperation. After a US campaign marked by accusations of racism and sexism, Merkel, preparing for her own election battle next year, said she would work with Trump on the basis of shared values that included "respecting ... people's dignity regardless of their origin, the colour of their skin, religion (or) gender".

Donald Tusk, the former Polish premier who chairs EU summits, responded to what he called "new challenges" and "uncertainty over the future of our Transatlantic relations" by stressing centuries of blood ties across the ocean. French President Francois Hollande stressed a need for even stronger Transatlantic cooperation to tackle climate change, Islamist security threats and the global economy. Washington's ambassador to NATO could offer no detail on the incoming administration's policy but reassured European peers in Brussels that NATO had always been a "bipartisan venture".

Anthony Gardner, outgoing President Barack Obama's envoy to the EU, said change was possible in areas including sanctions on Russia, support for Ukraine, nuclear proliferation, trade, NATO and the Middle East, but added: "Let's wait to see who appoints as his key advisers." He did not see Washington abandoning a key partner for the past 50 years, but his reassurance did not quell a sense of near panic among some senior officials in Brussels. One said grimly: "This is bad. Brexit was a stupid and damaging mistake but the people running it are not complete lunatics. Now we have a populist in power who can change the whole system as we know it.— Reuters



RAMALLAH: Palestinians wave their national flag and Fatah party flags as they take part in a rally marking the 12th anniversary of the death of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday. — AFP

TRUMP'S WIN MAY PUT PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD FURTHER OUT OF REACH

JERUSALEM: Donald Trump's shock election as president will likely result in a US tilt towards Israel that puts a Palestinian state even further out of reach, his own campaign team and analysts say. While so much about Trump's thinking on the Middle East remains unknown, he and his advisers have spoken of overturning decades of precedent by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and relocating the US embassy from Tel Aviv. Trump said in March that "there's nobody more pro-Israel than I am," adding that he would oppose any attempt to force Israel into an agreement it opposes.

The president-elect's adviser on Israel, David Friedman said last month that he does not believe Trump sees Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank as illegal, as nearly all the rest of the international community does. Asked whether he believed in the two-state solution, the basis of more than two decades of peace negotiations, Friedman said Trump was "tremendously sceptical". "A Trump administration will never pressure Israel into a two-state solution or any other solution that is against the wishes of the Israeli people," Friedman told a Trump rally in Jerusalem in October.

The Israeli right has welcomed such statements and seized on Trump's victory to promote its cause-including, for some, a call to bury the two-state solution once and for all. Hardline lawmakers, including some from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, said Trump's win represented a "historic opportunity" to abandon ideas of Palestinian statehood and move towards annexing the West Bank. Education Minister Naftali Bennett, who heads the religious nationalist Jewish Home party and is seen as having ambitions to be prime minister, said "the era of a Palestinian state is over." Netanyahu, whose government is considered the most right-wing in Israeli history, has so far been more cautious. Analysts say that may be because he is wary of Trump's notorious unpredictability. As an example, they cite a statement by Trump earlier in the campaign in which, to the alarm of Israelis, he described himself as neutral in the Middle East conflict.

While Netanyahu and Hillary Clinton may have ideological differences, he at least knows where she stands and what to expect, they say. Netanyahu congratulated Trump and pledged to work with him, and the two men spoke by telephone on Wednesday. "The two leaders, who have known each other for many years, had a warm and heartfelt conversation," a statement from Netanyahu's office said. "They also discussed regional issues. President-elect Trump invited Prime Minister Netanyahu to a meeting in the United States at the first opportunity."

While Trump's unpredictability is a concern for Israelis, Netanyahu may be relieved to have a Republican in the White House after facing mounting criticism from President Barack Obama over Israeli settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territories. Israel is concerned Obama may seek a UN Security Council resolution on the issue before he leaves office on January 20. "There are many signs that the Trump administration could be very accommodating when it comes to getting along with the current Israeli government," said Shmuel Rosner, a senior fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute. — AFP

MALAYSIA RIGHTIST FIREBRAND WARNS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian rightist figure has vowed that his supporters will confront a planned large-scale protest against corruption-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak this month, warning ominously that "anything can happen, including violence." Jamal Yunus and his "Red Shirts" group are widely dismissed as ruling-party thugs-for-hire who seek to suppress any moves against Najib over a huge graft scandal.

But Jamal's confrontational tactics and racially charged rhetoric have stirred growing unease in a country where open political violence is rare. Mobs of Red Shirts have assaulted reform advocates staging a week-long roadshow through Malaysia to highlight the corruption scandal. The anti-graft campaign culminates with a planned November 19 rally in Kuala Lumpur to demand Najib quit and be charged-which Jamal, 46, is vowing to confront with his Red Shirt army.

"Anything can happen. I am not saying we will use violence. Anything can happen, including violence," he said in an interview. Malaysia's often-acrimonious politics have been seized for more than a year by Najib's alleged involvement in looting billions of dol-

lars from state-owned fund 1MDB. Najib and 1MDB deny wrongdoing, but US Justice Department filings in July laid out detailed evidence implicating the prime minister, his stepson and associates. Authorities in several countries are investigating.

Red vs Yellow

After Najib quashed domestic probes, leading civil-society alliance Bersih brought tens of thousands of its yellow-shirted supporters out for massive but peaceful demonstrations in August 2015. It vows the same on November 19 despite authorities declaring the rally-and any Red Shirt counter-demonstration-illegal. "What's worse is that Bersih 5 (the November 19 rally) has a political agenda to topple democracy in Malaysia via street protests, which happened in Middle Eastern countries like Egypt and Libya," Jamal said.

"We do not want this to happen in Malaysia, which is a peaceful country." Despite wearing the crimson colors of Najib's United Malays National Organization (UMNO), Jamal denies being bankrolled by the party, saying funding comes from his own various businesses. — AFP

SRI LANKA LIFTS BAN ON FOREIGNERS BUYING PROPERTY

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka announced yesterday it would lift a ban on foreigners owning property as the cash-strapped country sought to attract foreign capital to rebuild its war-ravaged economy. Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake told parliament of the potential to attract much-needed foreign investment in the construction sector, which is experiencing a boom following the end of the island's ethnic war in 2009. "To further incentivise such investment, we will remove

freehold right restrictions from the ground floor," the minister said, referring to a 2014 ban on foreigners purchasing real estate.

In a bid to encourage more foreign exchange inflows, the minister said the government will also allow individuals to bring up to \$45,000 into the country without declaring the source, up from a previous limit of \$15,000. Unveiling the annual budget for the 2017 calendar year, the minister slapped a new carbon tax on cars and

sharply raised traffic fines in an effort to shore up revenues.

The government is targeting a budget deficit of 4.6 percent of GDP next year, down from 5.4 percent of GDP this year, with foreign borrowings of \$3.1 billion and \$1.2 billion in domestic loans helping to bridge the gap, Karunanayake said. The government will also focus on encouraging investment in the island's war-ravaged north and east, offering huge tax concessions for startups in

the region, which is struggling to rebuild seven years after the decades-long Tamil separatist war ended. "I wish to lay emphasis on the fact that the government is committed to eliminate existing socio-economic gap between North and East with the rest of the country by 2020," Karunanayake said. Cash-strapped Sri Lanka secured a \$1.5 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund in June after suffering a balance of payments crisis earlier this year. — AFP

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موزع معتمد



PARIS: Police officers work at Paris Prefecture control room, in Paris, yesterday. Sunday marks the first anniversary of the Nov 13, Paris attacks. —AP

ONE YEAR AFTER PARIS ATTACKS, HOW HAS FRANCE CHANGED?

SECURITY: TOO MUCH OR NOT ENOUGH?

PARIS: Outside the Carillon bar, where flowers piled up over bloodstains almost one year ago, the pavement tables are packed again with regulars from the hipster Parisian neighborhood. Drinks, cigarettes and laughter outside the red-fronted cafe suggest a recovery from the November 13 attacks, which saw it sprayed with automatic gunfire. Opposite sits the Petit Cambodge restaurant, another business thriving again after being targeted by the Islamic State (IS) extremists who killed 130 people during their rampage across the French capital.

But beneath the outward signs of normality and defiance, some Carillon patrons betray the anxieties felt keenly across a deeply changed country. Helene Lebecque, a 40-year-old who works in a nearby boutique, said on the surface that nothing has changed. "The bar's full, it's party time. You'd never know," she said. But she also confided that the bloodshed is never far from her thoughts. "There isn't a night when I go to the Carillon that I don't think about it." She is far from alone. Many Parisians still confess to being troubled by the intrusion of unwelcome memories while enjoying themselves in bars or restaurants.

The sheer regularity of recent jihadist atrocities in France—at the magazine Charlie Hebdo in January 2015, last November in Paris, this July in Nice—has compounded the sense of trauma. In between, a host of IS-linked killings, from the murder of a priest in his church to the fatal knifing of a police officer and his partner at home, have deepened the sense of a country under siege. The fact that most of the Paris gunmen were young French or Belgian men only

added to people's sense of betrayal.

Some remain wary of public transport. The likelihood of another terror strike has become macabre dinner-time conversation. Police sirens and suspect packages are an almost daily irritant. "We are at war," President Francois Hollande declared in his first words to a special joint session of parliament four days after the Paris attacks in martial tones that would come to define the year. The sight of troops in combat gear patrolling tourist sites or in front of public buildings are a visible reminder of this new reality. News at the end of the summer holidays that schools would require children to simulate fleeing a terror attack did nothing to reassure parents about the ongoing threat.

Tackle extremists

In the face of these fears, the French state has got tougher-upping its military commitment against IS in Syria and Iraq and rolling out drastic measures at home to tackle extremists. Hollande declared a state of emergency after the attacks which remains in place, giving police the power to raid homes at night, detain people more easily and operate without judicial oversight. Mosques deemed to be spreading hate have been closed, while more than 4,000 raids have been carried out under the state of emergency, many at night targeting suspected radicals. Only one in eight has led to an arrest, however, and a parliamentary commission that assessed the state of emergency judged it to be "useful but limited."

A coalition of international human rights groups was more damning, concluding in June after a fact-finding mission that "profound damage to individ-

ual freedoms" was being done. It has also led to a "worsening of the existing stigmatization of part of the population," referring to France's five million Muslims who feel targeted by the measures. Judges have also seen their powers enhanced, with new legislation allowing them to sentence extremists convicted of terrorist offences to up to 30 years in prison, compared with 10 years previously. The number of active terror cases before the courts has tripled to 350 so far this year, compared with 126 last year and just 26 in 2013. In prison, convicts considered to be dangerous Islamist radicals are now held in isolation to prevent them converting fellow prisoners. Sociologist Michel Wieviorka detects a new fracture developing in French society ahead of presidential elections next year. On one side is "the call for more security and more exceptional measures," he says. On the other, "those who argue for the rule of law and individual freedoms," he said.

This can be seen across the political divide, with Hollande's Socialist government saying that the state's security arsenal is complete. But the centre-right favorites to win next year's vote, Alain Juppe or Nicolas Sarkozy, want even greater powers for security forces, more police and increased prison places. Sarkozy has gone as far as proposing preventative detention for anyone suspected by security forces of being a radical, even if they have not committed a crime. "French society is in a situation unprecedented since World War II," concludes sociologist Gerome Truc, who has written a book on the Paris attacks. "It's neither war, nor peace. We'll need time to move on and to measure the consequences," he said. — AFP

GREENS TORN ON WHETHER TO 'BACK OR FIGHT' MERKEL

BERLIN: A year before elections, Germany's Greens are torn by an identity crisis, split on whether joining forces with Angela Merkel's conservatives would be a great idea or a betrayal of their ideals. Politicians in both parties have flirted with what was long an unthinkable scenario—that the chancellor's business-friendly CDU could one day form a coalition with the left-leaning environmentalists to rule Europe's top economy.

Veteran Greens leader Winfried Kretschmann, 68, caused a stir this month when he said Merkel, who is yet to formally declare her candidacy for next September's polls, should run for a fourth term. "I don't know anyone who could do a better job than her," gushed Kretschmann, the popular state premier of industrial powerhouse state Baden-Wuerttemberg, who has previously said he prayed for Merkel. The party elder's praise for Merkel sparked disquiet and embarrassment in Green ranks that is likely to flare again when their "realo" (realist) and "fundi" (fundamentalist) wings seek common ground at a party congress starting Friday.

One of the Greens' co-leaders, Simone Peter, curtly shot back that "we want to end Merkel's 'grand coalition' and we certainly won't be making any hasty determinations on who should be chancellor". Joining the CDU is still a controversial notion but "no longer a bogeyman for the Greens", said Lothar Probst of Bremen University, adding that Greens voters, with above-average incomes and academic qualifications, have arrived "in the middle of society". A Spiegel magazine columnist mocked the once-radical party, saying that its ecologically mindful baby-boomers may "soon have all the progressive aura of lambskin slippers".

Sunflowers, peace signs

Many Greens lean toward seeking a so-called "red-red-green" coalition with two other leftist parties as a chance to return them to power after over a decade on the opposition benches, with voter support now at around 12 percent. Others argue it's best to shut up about possible future power games and focus on core policies such as ending coal power, boosting sustainable farming and scrapping a planned transatlantic trade deal. Nonetheless, the fact that a power pact with Merkel's CDU is now thinkable speaks volumes about how both parties, and German society, have changed since the Greens first entered mainstream politics in the 1980s. When "Die Gruenen", pioneers among Europe's ecologist parties, were first voted into West Germany's parliament, their long-haired MPs stunned the sombre chamber by flashing peace signs and handing out sunflowers. Born out of the 1960s and 70s pacifist and anti-nuclear protest movements, some of the youthful activist-politicians enjoyed provoking their suit-wearing elders by putting their sneaker-clad feet on the tables. The Greens underwent a radical evolution when they served in government from 1998-2005 as junior partners to the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) under chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. Ironically it was under the Greens' foreign minister Joschka Fischer, once a street protest militant, that Germany broke with its post-World War II taboo and sent troops abroad, to Kosovo and then Afghanistan.

'Stop leftist front'

Many of the Greens' once-radical ideas have become mainstream in Germany, from promoting gay rights to ending military conscription to opposing GM crops and fracking. Merkel five years ago adopted the Greens' signature policy when, after Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster, she decided to shutter Germany's atomic power plants. Her open-door policy for refugees was cheered more by Greens voters than her own often skeptical CDU rank-and-file. After the 2013 election, Merkel's victorious conservatives and the Greens held exploratory talks for a coalition, before Merkel instead opted for a grand coalition with the SPD. At the time the environment minister Peter Altmaier, now Merkel's chief of staff, said the chances of working with the Greens had risen "from theoretical to conceivable". — AFP

ISOLATIONIST TRUMP STOKES NATO DEFENSE FEARS

BRUSSELS: Donald Trump's "America first" approach has Europe worried he may cut US commitments to NATO just as it mounts its biggest military build-up since the end of the Cold War to counter a more assertive Russia. Trump caused uproar during the campaign when he suggested Washington would think twice about coming to the aid of an endangered NATO ally if it had not paid its dues.

The fear is that Trump embodies an isolationist tradition—"avoid entangling alliances"—which will add to uncertainties as Europe faces challenges new and old from the east, the Middle East and North Africa. "A Trump administration will increase US isolationist tendencies, which is a further blow to (its global) leadership role," said Fabian Zuleeg, chief executive at the European Policy Centre in Brussels. The United States set up NATO to protect post-war Europe from the Soviet Union and its "all for one, one for all" collective defense guarantee has stood the test of time.

But for many years Washington, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of combined NATO defense spending, has demanded that its 27 allies do more to share the burden. Trump's harking on this issue during the campaign caused such fears in the Baltic

states and former Soviet-ruled eastern European NATO members that US Vice President Joe Biden was sent on a reassurance mission. "Don't listen to that other fellow—he knows not of what he speaks. America will never fail to defend our allies," Biden told them. Now that "other fellow" is set to be the 45th President of the United States of America.

NATO in shock

The shock in Europe Wednesday was palpable. In an unusual series of public statements shortly after Trump's victory was confirmed, NATO head Jens Stoltenberg stressed the continued importance of US global leadership. "Our alliance has brought together America's closest friends in times of peace and of conflict for almost 70 years. A strong NATO is good for the United States and good for Europe," he said. Poland's President Andrzej Duda urged Trump to stick by commitments to boost NATO's presence on its eastern flank to ensure allies would not be left in the lurch if Russia attempted another Ukraine-style adventure.

"We sincerely hope that your leadership will open new opportunities for our cooperation based on mutual commitment," Duda said. The Polish deploy-

ment is led by a US battalion and so is especially emblematic. European Council head Donald Tusk, a former Polish premier, weighed in with a plea that the European Union—of whose 28 members 22 also belong to NATO—and the United States work together in defense of shared values. "I do not believe that any country today can be great in isolation," he added, alluding to Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again."

EU defense opportunity?

For some analysts, the fear factor may be overdone—foreign policy was not a major issue in the election, Trump's focus is domestic and it is much too early to say what he will actually do as president. Ian Lesser, senior director with the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Brussels, said the new president "is not so much an isolationist as a rigorous unilateralist ... who may demand a great deal from the allies." "For him, foreign policy starts with homeland security and works out from there," Lesser said. A key test will be Russia and whether Trump keeps campaign promises to improve ties strained to breaking point by the Ukraine crisis. — AFP

'NOT MY PRESIDENT:' TRUMP DENOUNCED

THOUSANDS TAKE TO THE STREETS IN PROTESTS

LOS ANGELES: A day after Donald Trump's election to the presidency, campaign divisions appeared to widen as many thousands of demonstrators—some with signs declaring "NOT MY PRESIDENT"—flooded streets across the country to protest his surprise triumph. From New England to heartland cities like Kansas City and along the West Coast, demonstrators bore flags and effigies of the president-elect, disrupting traffic and declaring that they refused to accept Trump's victory.

Flames lit up the night sky in California cities Wednesday as thousands of protesters burned a giant papier-mache Trump head in Los Angeles and started fires in Oakland intersections. Los Angeles demonstrators also beat a Trump piOata and sprayed the Los Angeles Times building and news vans with anti-Trump profanity. One protester outside LA City Hall read a sign that simply said "this is very bad." Vishal Singh, 23, said he was disappointed with voters who supported a man he sees as anti-immigrant and anti-LGBT.

"I expected better of my electorate," he told the Los Angeles Times. "I thought this country was different." Late in the evening several hundred people blocked one of the city's busiest freeways, US 101 between downtown and Hollywood. More than a dozen people were arrested as officers in full riot gear walked the protesters off the freeway. In Orange County, about 10 people were arrested after three police cars were damaged during rallies in Santa Ana. To the north in Oakland, several thousand people clogged intersections and freeway on-ramps.

Nearby in Berkeley, more than 1,000 students walked out of high school classes Wednesday, brandishing anti-Trump



DETROIT: Protesters Donald Trump's presidential election march around Campus Martius Park on Wednesday in Detroit. A day after Trump's election to the presidency, campaign divisions appeared to widen as many thousands of demonstrators flooded streets across the country to protest his surprise triumph. —AP

signs and Mexican flags. The students tweeted #NotMyPresident and vowed to unify. In Chicago, where thousands had recently poured into the streets to celebrate the Chicago Cubs' first World Series victory in over a century, several thousand people marched through the Loop. They gathered outside Trump Tower, chanting "Not my president!" Chicago resident Michael Burke said he believes the president-elect will "divide the country and stir up hatred."

He added there was a constitutional duty not to accept that outcome. Police said that an estimated 1,800 to 2,000 people participated in the Chicago protests. Police reported five arrests, including two for obstructing traffic, but said there were no major incidents. A

similar protest in Manhattan drew about 1,000 people. Outside Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in midtown, police installed barricades to keep the demonstrators at bay. Hundreds of protesters gathered near Philadelphia's City Hall despite chilly, wet weather.

Participants—who included both supporters of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and independent Vermont Sen Bernie Sanders, who lost to Clinton in the primary—expressed anger at both Republicans and Democrats over the election's outcome. In Boston, thousands of anti-Trump protesters streamed through downtown, chanting "Trump's a racist" and carrying signs that said "Impeach Trump" and "Abolish Electoral College." — AP

TRUMP FARED WELL WITH WOMEN VOTERS DESPITE ASSAULT CLAIMS

LOS ANGELES: Despite sex assault allegations hounding him, fat-shaming a former beauty queen and his controversial abortion stand, a large number of women voters helped put Donald Trump in the White House. Though his rival, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, clinched 54 percent of the female vote, Trump was backed by 42 percent of women voters, which contributed to his stunning victory, according to CNN exit polls. Some 53 percent of white women voters supported the Republican candidate, CNN said, the majority of them (62 percent) non-college educated.

The results upended predictions that sexist and degrading comments Trump made against women would sway female voters—who accounted for about 52 percent of the electorate Tuesday—in favor of a candidate that could have broken the glass ceiling. Experts said the outcome is not surprising, and reflects an election in which issues about the economy, jobs and immigration were much higher on all voters' priority list than gender issues.

"At the heart of it is what was driving all voters," said Diane Heith, professor and chair of the Department of Government and Politics at St. John's University in New York. Heith said although the leaked Access Hollywood tape in which Trump boasted about groping women, and his disparaging comments about a former Miss Universe had made many women cringe, it was not enough to turn them against the candidate. "There was no sisterhood created," Heith said. "The issue of how he treated women did not overshadow the attitudes these individuals already had—being disaffected and how they had been treated by the establishment elite of which Hillary was absolutely part of."

Tough to cope

Still, the real estate magnate's shock win has left many women struggling to cope with the election of a president whose misogynistic behavior was disregarded at the polls. "More than half of white women voted for the man who bragged about committing sexual assault on tape, who said he would appoint Supreme Court justices who would overturn Roe v. Wade ... who has spent 30-plus years in the public eye reducing women to their sexual attributes," wrote LV Anderson in an article in the online current affairs magazine Slate. "White women sold out their fellow women, their country, and themselves last night," added the author. "Most white women don't want to be part of an intersectional feminist sisterhood. Most white women just want to be one of the guys. And we will all suffer for it." — AFP

INDIAN FARMER COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER RUPEE NOTE BAN

NEW DELHI: A farmer in southern India committed suicide fearing she would be left penniless after the government's shock decision to withdraw high denomination notes from circulation, police said yesterday. Kandukuri Vinoda, 55, had a large amount of cash at her home in 1,000 and 500 rupee (\$15, \$7.50) notes and panicked that her savings had become worthless when she heard Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise announcement on Tuesday. "The family told us

she panicked after hearing about the note ban and hanged herself at her home," local police officer Raj, who only uses one name said.

Vinoda from Mahabubabad district, east of Hyderabad city, had sold some land last month and was paid around 5.5 million rupees (\$82,500) for it in cash. She used some of the money to pay for her husband's medical bills and planned to use the rest to buy a new plot of land, local media reported. Many Indians living in rural areas keep

large amounts of cash at home because of a lack of banks in remote areas and to avoid paying taxes. The withdrawal of the notes is part of Modi's campaign against corruption and "black money", and the government has tried to reassure worried citizens that only tax dodgers will suffer under the move.

Police in northern Uttar Pradesh state said they were investigating reports that people were burning off sacks of notes to avoid declaring them

and being landed with heavy penalties. "We have sent the samples for forensic tests and asked bank authorities to authenticate these are currency notes," police chief of Bareilly district Joginder Singh said. Earlier this year, the government ran a four-month tax amnesty, which saw Indians declare nearly \$10 billion in hidden wealth. But the scheme ended last month and anyone now depositing large amounts of cash could face a bill of up to 200 percent in back taxes. —AFP



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin, foreground center, greets participants during an international conference dedicated to the 175th anniversary of the Russian state-owned Sberbank in Moscow yesterday. The head of Sberbank German Gref is third left. —AP

RUSSIA SAYS IT WAS IN TOUCH WITH TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN

COMMENTS MAY REVIVE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT TRUMP'S RUSSIA LINKS

MOSCOW: The Russian government was in touch with members of President-elect Donald Trump's political team during the US election campaign and knows most of his entourage, one of Russia's most senior diplomats told the Interfax news agency yesterday. Accused by defeated Democratic contender Hillary Clinton of being a puppet of President Vladimir Putin after praising the Russian leader, Trump has dismissed suggestions he had anything to do with the Russian government during the campaign.

But in comments that could prove politically awkward for the president-elect, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said there had indeed been some communications.

"There were contacts," Interfax cited Ryabkov as saying. "We are doing this and have been doing this during the election campaign." Such contacts would continue, he added, saying the Russian government knew and had been in touch with many of Trump's closest allies. He did not name names.

"Obviously, we know most of the people from his (Trump's) entourage. Those people have always been in the limelight in the United States and have occupied high-ranking positions," he said. "I cannot say that all of them, but quite a few have been staying in touch with Russian representatives." Moscow was just beginning to consider how to go about setting up more formal channels to communicate with the future Trump administration, said Ryabkov. A spokeswoman for Trump did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

FBI INQUIRY

The Federal Bureau of Investigation opened a preliminary inquiry in recent months into allegations that Trump or his associates might have had questionable dealings with Russian people or businesses, but found no evidence to warrant opening a full investigation, according to sources familiar with the matter. The agency has not publicly discussed the probe. The US

government has blamed Russia for cyberattacks on Democratic Party organizations.

Trump, who has spoken of his desire to improve tattered US-Russia ties, has said he might meet Putin before his inauguration, but Putin's spokesman has said there are currently no plans for such a meeting.

Interfax reported on Wednesday that Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, would be in New York this week for a chess tournament, a few blocks from Trump Tower, where the president-elect has his office. But it cited Peskov as saying he did not plan to pass any message to Trump from Putin.

The Russian parliament erupted in applause on Wednesday when it heard that Trump had been elected and Putin told foreign ambassadors he was ready to fully restore ties with Washington. Ryabkov was more circumspect though, saying the Russian Foreign Ministry felt no euphoria about the Republican's win despite wanting to normalize relations with Washington. —Reuters

TRUMP'S BROKEN PROMISES ANGER A SCOTTISH VILLAGE

BALMEDIE: In a Scottish village on the shores of the North Sea, US president-elect Donald Trump is nothing but a nuisance neighbor for many local residents. The golf resort he owns in Balmedie has congratulated the tycoon on his stunning election win, but members of the community said he broke promises on creating jobs and rode roughshod over concerns about construction.

Locals also complain about the six-foot wall the billionaire developer had built around Trump International Golf Links, drawing an analogy with the barrier he is planning for the Mexican border. "This local area here was promised 1,400 jobs, a five-star hotel, two golf courses, an equestrian centre and God knows what else and we've got nothing," said Michael Foote, whose property overlooks the course. His advice for the American people? "Good luck."

The resort actually employs around 95 people and made an annual loss of £1 million (1.1 million euros, \$1.2 million) in 2014 and 2015, according to company records. As he worked in his toolshed, fellow resident Finlay Munro pointed to Trump's wall on the border of his own property and grumbled about the businessman. "He's not a very nice neighbor. We've had a lot of issues with him over the past 10 years," Munro said following Trump's election triumph on Tuesday. The announcement that Trump, whose mother was Scottish, intended to build a luxury golf course in was initially greeted with great fanfare in 2006.

He was appointed a Global Scot, a business ambassador scheme for executives with Scottish links, and the regional government overruled objections from residents about the impact on the environment. The Scottish government has since withdrawn the post following Trump's remarks about banning Muslims from entering the US and he was stripped of his honorary degree by the nearby Robert Gordon University. "Mr Trump's recent remarks have shown that he is no longer fit to be a business ambassador for Scotland," a government spokesman said in December. Trump International Golf Links, one of the tycoon's two golf courses in Scotland, gained the support of the Scottish government after promising thousands of jobs and a £1.0-billion investment. But relations quickly turned sour when Trump began intervening in local politics and the scale of the project turned out smaller than originally planned. Trump lodged an objection in 2013 to a wind farm off the coast of his development, and went to the Scottish parliament to warn it would destroy Scottish tourism. However, he was unable to provide any evidence to bemused lawmakers other than: "I am the evidence," and he later lost the legal action against the wind farm.

'Scotland a microcosm'

Anthony Baxter, a filmmaker from Montrose, a town near the golf course, has documented Trump's activities in Scotland for the last decade. His first film "You've Been Trumped", was followed by the sequel "You've Been Trumped Too" to coincide with the US election. "Scotland is a microcosm of what is about to be unleashed on the world through Donald Trump's presidency," he said. "He says of course that he's going to build a great wall between Mexico and the United States and we know here in Scotland he has form on walls. "He built walls around the homes of the local residents so that they couldn't be seen by people playing on his golf course," he said. —AFP

HOW DID SO MANY GET IT SO WRONG?

NEW YORK: Two days ago, pollsters and statisticians gave Hillary Clinton odds of between 75 and 99 percent of winning the US presidential election. How did so many get it so wrong? In hindsight, the polling consensus went astray in two major ways. The media, including Reuters, pumped out two kinds of poll stories. Some were national surveys designed to estimate the entire country's popular vote, but not the outcome in individual states, where the contest is actually decided. These polls actually got the big picture right: Clinton won more overall votes than President-elect Donald Trump - but not by as much as the polling averages predicted, and not where she needed to.

News organizations also produced a blizzard of stories meant to calculate the probability of victory for the two candidates. These calculations were predicated on polls of individual states. In hindsight, though, the stories seem to have overstated Clinton's chances for a win by failing to see that a shift in voting patterns in some states could show up in other, similar states. In part, this is because polling analysts got the central metaphor wrong. US presidents are chosen not by the national popular vote, but in the individual Electoral College contests in the 50 states and Washington DC.

In calculating probable outcomes, election predictors generally treated those 51 contests as completely separate events - as unrelated to one another as a series of 51 coin tosses. But that's not how elections work in the United States. Voting trends that appear in one state - such as a larger-than-expected Republican shift among rural voters - tend to show up in other states with similar demographic make-ups. And that's what happened Tuesday: The election models calculated the probabilities of a Clinton win that turned out to be high, because they viewed each state too much in isolation. The Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project pro-

jected Clinton to win the popular vote 45 percent to 42 percent, and gave her a 90 percent probability of winning the 270 electoral votes needed to secure the election. In the end, Clinton won the popular vote by 47.7 percent to 47.5 percent, by the latest count, and Trump

Common miscalculations

The problem, said Cliff Young, president of Ipsos Public Affairs US, the polling partner of Reuters, came down to the models the pollsters used to predict who would vote - the so-called likely voters. The models almost univer-

Eight years later, turnout was 64 percent when Democratic nominee Barack Obama won his first presidential election against Republican Arizona Sen. John McCain.

This year, "whites with lower levels of education came out in greater relative numbers than younger, more-educated and minority voters," Young said. "A point here or a point there can really change an election." Ultimately, missing that shift in the state polls tripped up the predictions. It also highlights how the otherwise empirical process of polling rests on a subjective foundation. Each pollster must make a decision about turnout. Their decisions are informed by historical voting patterns. But the actual turnout in each state is unknowable before election day.

Among the questions pollsters grappled with this year: Will the electorate look like the won that gave Obama his 2008 victory - or George W. Bush in his 2000 victory? Would black turnout fall after the historically high turnout enjoyed by Obama, the nation's first black president, and by how much? "Key for me is turnout in explaining this year's polling miss," Young said. The Reuters/Ipsos model anticipated turnout for white men, for example, at around 67 percent, which appears to have been too low, and for black women at 61 percent, which was probably too high. Demographic breakdowns aren't available yet. Drew Linzer, a pollster and creator of the Daily Kos Elections forecasting model, which forecasts the Electoral College result by aggregating large numbers of state polls, said prediction models like his try to estimate the possibility of an unexpected turnout shift. But ultimately, he said, the effectiveness of the models came down to the accuracy of the underlying state polls' likely-voter models. Linzer's model predicted a large win for Clinton in the Electoral College, 323 to 215. And because those polls missed the mark, it created an illusion of a near-certain Clinton win. —Reuters



GENEVA: This photo taken yesterday in Geneva shows the front pages of Swiss newspapers reporting on the victory of Donald Trump in the US presidential election.—AFP

could win the Electoral College by as many as 303 votes to Clinton's 233 when the tally is final. The state races were not akin to a string of coin tosses but more like 51 rolls of a set of weighted dice. In many states, it turned out, the side of the dice representing white voters in suburban and rural counties carried a heavier weight, and the side representing urbanites a lighter one.

sally miscalculated how turnout was distributed among different demographic groups, Young said. And turnout was lower than expected, a result that generally favors Republican candidates. In 2000, when Republican George W Bush beat Democrat Al Gore, for example, the turnout was about 60 percent, according to the US Census Bureau.

CHINA A HOME TO MORE THAN 9 MILLION 'LEFT-BEHIND' CHILDREN

BEIJING: More than nine million children have been "left behind" in China's countryside by parents who have moved to its towns and cities to find work, Beijing said yesterday. The plight of such children, who are usually looked after by grandparents but sometimes have no guardians at all, is one of the most emotive consequences of China's decades-long economic boom.

Hundreds of millions of migrants have moved from rural areas to take jobs in urban centers, where their children would have limited access to schooling and healthcare under China's household registration system, forcing them to be left with relatives. They sometimes see their mother and father only once a year. A government census showed there were a total of 9.02 million "left behind" children in the country, the civil affairs ministry said in a statement on its website.

Nearly 90 percent - 8.05 million-lived with their grandparents, 3 percent were cared for by other relatives, and four percent were entirely alone almost 400,000 children. Stories of those unable to fend for themselves periodically rock the nation. In 2015, four siblings aged between five and 14 who had been left unattended by their parents for months apparently committed suicide by drinking pesticide in the remote southwestern province of Guizhou. "The flow of migrant workers driven by urbanization has affected the family unit and many parents lack a real awareness of their responsibilities," Tong Lihua, director of a Beijing-based legal aid organization for teenagers, told the official Xinhua news agency. The new 9.02 million official figure was in marked contrast to a previous statistic of 61 million children given by an All-China Women's Federation survey in 2013. — AFP

CHINA'S OFFICIAL NAMED THE HEAD OF INTERPOL, DRAWING CRITICISM

BEIJING: A top Chinese police official was elected president of Interpol yesterday, setting off alarm bells among rights advocates over abuses and a lack of transparency within China's legal system, as well as the potential misuse of the police organization to attack Beijing's political opponents. Vice Public Security Minister Meng Hongwei was named as the first Chinese to hold the post at the organization's general assembly on the Indonesian island of Bali, Interpol announced in a press release.

The Lyon, France-based International Criminal Police Organization has 190 member nations and has the power to issue "red notices." It's the closest instrument to an international arrest warrant in use today. Interpol circulates those notices to member countries listing people who are wanted for extradition. While Interpol's charter officially bars it from undertaking "any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character," critics say some governments, primarily Russia and Iran, have abused the system to harass and detain opponents of their regimes. Interpol says it has a special vetting process to prevent that from happening.

Quoted in the Interpol release, Meng said he takes over at a time when the world is facing some of the most serious

global public security challenges since World War II. "Interpol, guided by the best set of principles and mechanisms to date, has made a significant contribution to promoting international police cooperation," Meng was quoted as saying. "Interpol should continue to adhere to these principles and strategies, while further innovating our work mechanisms in order to adapt to the changing security situation we see today." Interpol's president is a largely symbolic but still influential figure who heads its executive committee responsible for providing guidance and direction and implementing decisions made by its general assembly. Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock is the organization's chief full-time official and heads the executive committee. Meng, who takes over from Mireille Ballestrazzi of France for a four-year term, will assume his new duties immediately. His election comes as Chinese President Xi Jinping is seeking to give new momentum to his 4-year-old campaign against corruption, including a push to seek the return of former officials and other suspects who had fled abroad.

China filed a list of 100 of its most-wanted suspects with Interpol in April 2014, about one third of whom have since been repatriated to face justice at home. The anti-corruption drive is led by

the Communist Party's internal watchdog body, the highly secretive Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, rather than the police, prompting questions about its transparency and fairness. More than 1 million officials have been handed punishments ranging from lengthy prison terms to administrative demerits or demotions. While authorities deny their targets are selected for political purposes, several of the highest-profile suspects have been associated with Xi's predecessor Hu Jintao and other rivals.

China's police and judicial systems have been routinely criticized for abuses, including confessions under torture, arbitrary travel bans and the disappearance and detention without charges of political dissidents and their family members. That has prompted reluctance among many Western nations to sign extradition treaties with China or return suspects wanted for non-violent crimes. China also stands accused of abducting independent book sellers who published tomes on sensitive political topics from Hong Kong and Thailand. US officials have meanwhile complained that China has asked for the return of corruption suspects while providing little or no information about the allegations against them. — AP

TUG OF WAR OVER CHINA'S FOUNDING FATHER MR SUN

ZHONGSHAN: China's ruling party is marking the 150th birthday this week of the man who ended millennia of imperial rule by trumpeting republican revolutionary Sun Yat-sen as a proto-Communist and a symbol of unification with Taiwan. Commemorative stamps have been issued in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China to honor the Western-educated doctor who railed against the Qing dynasty and whose 1911 revolution toppled the empire.

The Republic of China he founded still controls Taiwan, where its leaders fled after Mao Zedong's forces won the country's civil war in 1949 and set up the People's Republic. Chinese President Xi Jinping highlighted their shared heritage earlier this month when the leader of Taiwan's Kuomintang (KMT) nationalist party-founded by Sun-visited. "Mr Sun was a great patriot, and his loudest slogan of all was to call to rejuvenate China," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Xi as saying. But the Kuomintang was ousted from power in Taipei at the ballot box earlier this year by the Democratic Progressive Party, on a wave of popular scepticism over ties with the mainland.

And Sun is remembered very differently from Beijing's version by some scholars and overseas Chinese, who say that the cosmopolitan, Christian, republican physician would hardly be a supporter of the Communist Party today. Sun was "once a student leader who plotted against the then millennia old dynastic regime", Hong Kong University medical school dean Gabriel Leung said in a speech, comparing his activism to student-led protests against Beijing in the city. In Hong Kong's liberal Apple Daily newspaper, analyst Zhang Zanyong said that like the anti-Beijing activists, Sun relied on foreign support-raising funds for his revolution from Chinese living in the West-and "picking quarrels" to undermine the existing regime. Mainland authorities frequently level the allegation at rights activists as a criminal charge.

Duelling memories

Born in southern China 150 years ago on Saturday, Sun was educated in Hawaii and Hong Kong, then a British colony, where he was inspired by republican ideals to organize for the overthrow of the Qing empire. But his tenure as the republic's first president lasted less than three months and the country quickly descended into chaos and conflict between rival warlords. He died in 1925. For decades Sun has been revered in Taiwan as the "father of the nation", devoted to the revival of China and the development of democracy.

On the mainland, though, he is designated a pioneer of revolution and the Maoist regime, according to Taiwanese academic Ren Songlin, accusing the Communist Party of using him as a "puppet". "When it needs to, it just shakes the rattle a bit, when it doesn't need him, it tosses him away," Ren told an anniversary event in the US. At the memorial hall in Sun Yat-sen's birthplace of Zhongshan-city renamed in his honor-guides shepherd dozens of young students in army fatigues through the exhibits, while elderly couples and families peer into rooms holding his former desk and bathtub. Cai Yuanxing, a retired civil servant from Beijing, said he had purchased commemorative stamps and coins, adding that people "worshipped" Sun because he "made Chinese people open their eyes".

Other visitors praised him for liberating China but said his work was not done. "If not for him we would still be wearing queues," factory manager Thomas Zheng said, referring to the pigtailed Manchu Qing obliged Han Chinese to grow. "His only regret was he couldn't make China united," he added, echoing the official line. Sun's vision was not for Western-style democracy but a system that "suited China's national circumstances", he said. "In fact, Chinese people believe that Taiwan's democracy is just a joke. ... If you mechanically copy Western democracy, China will return to the beginning of the republican era-in a word, chaos."

Fading glory

On the island itself, the state's glorification of Sun is being increasingly rejected by a younger generation who have grown up with a sense of Taiwanese identity. In 2014 a radical independence group pulled down a statue to him in the southern city of Tainan. "To Taiwan's pro-independence people he is a non-native historical figure who represents unification ideology," Huang Ko-wu, research fellow at the Academia Sinica's Institute of Modern History in Taipei said. — AFP



SHANGHAI: A man sorts Chinese newspapers featuring Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential elections on their front pages in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

TRUMP IS A 'MIXED' BLESSING FOR CHINA

BEIJING: Donald Trump is a mixed blessing for Chinese leaders. Trump's threats to tear up trade deals and hike tariffs on Chinese goods look ominous. If carried out, they could chill thriving commercial ties at a time when Beijing is struggling to shore up economic growth. At the same time, Trump's suggestion he might reduce Washington's global strategic presence to focus on domestic issues would be a gift to Chinese leaders. They could expand their political and military profile in East Asia with less risk of conflict.

The incoming Trump administration faces the task of maintaining influence in the face of rising Chinese strategic ambitions while accommodating Asian countries that are being drawn into Beijing's economic orbit. That calls for more nimble diplomacy that transcends the security-focused "pivot to Asia" and caters to countries' desire for a balanced relationship between Washington and Beijing, analysts say. It will require greater economic and diplomatic engagement, drawing on America's soft power assets in culture, media and education.

China is "without doubt trying to subvert American alliances and relationships," including in Europe, Australia and South Korea, said Michael Montesano, a research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. That's been abetted by "depressingly unimaginative" US diplomacy in Asia that is focused too narrowly on military alliances and is now hobbled by Washington's failure to advance the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, Montesano said. Over US objections, Beijing has moved to cement its claim to most of the South China Sea, including by building artificial islands and military airstrips atop coral reefs.

Trump better for China

On strategic issues, Chinese

researchers have "come around to the view that Donald Trump is better for China," said Paul Haenle, director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center at Tsinghua University in Beijing. "There is a sense among many that Donald Trump will draw inward," said Haenle. "This is music to their ears, because this means that the United States might not put pressure on China in the region." Beijing has been visited in recent weeks by leaders from the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam, highlighting its economic appeal and lack of interest in their internal affairs, especially corruption and human rights - issues the US is seen as harping on.

Still, it would be "premature to write off the United States," said Carlyle Thayer, an expert on Southeast Asia and emeritus professor at Australia's University of New South Wales. "The US has important equities in the region through investment and trade," said Thayer. "And the US has a national interest in preventing China from becoming a hegemonic power over the region." As for the Philippines' unpredictable new president, Rodrigo Duterte, the new administration would be best advised to "ride out the Duterte storm and let domestic politics in the Philippines take its course," said Thayer.

Anxiety about jobs

Meanwhile, concerns about China's intentions will propel governments such as Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam toward closer ties with the US, Australia, Japan and India, said Greg Poling of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. How will Donald Trump deal with China on politically volatile commercial issues? Despite his threats of a trade war, no one is sure - probably not even Trump himself. But businesspeople and economists say Washington is bound to be tougher on trade, market access and currency after

the election laid bare Americans' anxiety about jobs and stagnant wages. Uncertainty about where Trump wants to take the world's biggest economy has caused turmoil in global financial markets. The answer - and especially how that affects ties with No 2 China - could have been even bigger repercussions.

Trump is unlikely to carry out his most extreme threats to tear up trade deals or slap 45 percent tariffs on Chinese goods, say economists. But they say high-visibility gestures such as declaring Beijing manipulates its exchange rate to boost exports - a step that can trigger penalties - look more likely. "It has been clear for some time that whoever wins the White House is going to be tougher on China by necessity," said Randal Phillips, vice chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China. "And I think, frankly, the Chinese government has known that for several years."

Phillips and others warn that Chinese leaders will need to be sensitive to American public sentiment to avoid disrupting their access to US consumers. At the top of the US wish list is more access to China's growing market, where finance, telecoms and a wide swath of other industries are mostly off-limits. Foreign governments assumed China would open up as it grew richer. But business groups complain Beijing is trying instead to squeeze foreign rivals out of technology and other promising industries in violation of its free-trade commitments.

The United States, along with Germany and other trading partners, are increasingly frustrated that their companies are blocked from buying Chinese assets in most industries while China Inc. is on a global acquisition spree. "It's just not acceptable anymore," said Phillips. That could help Washington recruit allies to pressure Beijing, said Haenle of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center. — AP

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Lifestyle

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Brad Pitt arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of 'Allied' at the Regency Village Theatre in Los Angeles.— AP

Brad Pitt cleared over plane behavior



Director Robert Zemeckis, from left, and actors Marion Cotillard and Brad Pitt arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of 'Allied' at the Regency Village Theatre. — AP photos



In this file photo, actor Brad Pitt and actress Angelina Jolie arrive for the 64th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Brad Pitt cleared over plane behavior

Brad Pitt has been cleared after an investigation into whether he behaved abusively toward one of his children, US media has reported. The claims centered on an alleged incident with his 15 year old son Maddox in September on a flight from France. Pitt's wife Angelina Jolie had said that Pitt intentionally hit his son, without justification, on the plane, the celebrity

website TMZ reported. Social workers interviewed the couple, their children and witnesses who were on the plane, TMZ said.

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services concluded Wednesday that Pitt, 52, did not behave abusively, USA Today and CNN reported, quoting a source that had seen the agency's report. Jolie, 41, filed for divorce in September,

citing irreconcilable differences. She is seeking sole custody of their six children. Pitt is seeking joint legal and physical custody. The A-listers-given the celebrity moniker "Brangelina"-wed in France two years ago, but had been a couple since 2004. — AFP

The show goes on: Bataclan bosses put tragedy behind them

The directors of the Bataclan concert hall thought long and hard about ever opening its doors again after jihadist gunmen massacred 90 people there during last year's Paris attacks. With the British star Sting set to reopen the refurbished venue Saturday, co-director Jules Frutos told AFP that they had had their doubts and "for some time it was difficult." But then, after a few weeks it was clear. We had to go on after such horror and not leave a mausoleum, a tomb," said Frutos. "One night of tragedy" should not be allowed to wipe out decades of great musical memories, he insisted.

"We owed it to ourselves to rebuild everything. It was obvious that it had to be rebuilt identically," added Frutos, who has managed the venue with his business partner Olivier Poubelle since 2004. "It's important we didn't change it as a venue, its past—that's why people loved it. One night of tragedy mustn't overshadow decades of parties and music," he said.

Everything replaced

The venue was ravaged by three suicide blasts as well as the bullets unleashed by the attackers, firing systematically into the crowd as an ordinary Friday night descended into carnage. The interior of the former 19th-century music hall has now been gutted during eight months of refurbishment works. Everything from the seats to the floorboards were replaced with identical fittings to purge the horror of that fateful night, which saw a total of 130 people killed across Paris as the jihadists targeted bars,



This file photo shows Jules Frutos, co-manager of Paris's music hall Le Bataclan, during a press conference. — AFP

restaurants and the national stadium.

Frutos and Poubelle were part of a consortium that bought the theatre only a month before the attack. Once the decision was made to reopen the theatre, Frutos said they were determined it stay true to its history as the French capital's top indie-rock venue. "Reopening the Bataclan with a ceremony and then some music didn't cut the mustard for me," said Frutos, who was determined to put on a show before the November 13 anniversary. Getting a high profile artist such as Sting—who first played there in 1979 with The Police—fitted perfectly with the Bataclan's unique identity, said Frutos. "When he came to Paris (in September) he was interviewed by a journalist and said he wanted to come and sing at the Bataclan. I called him and things moved very quickly," said Frutos.

Sting 'really keen'

"He's really keen—that's an essential ingredient," added Frutos. "His coming here is the cherry on the cake that we needed, it gives it meaning. More so than a concert with several acts... that's something I never considered. "That's not the Bataclan, it's not about that. It's a concert hall that's had several lives, where the program has never been based on such clichés." While some survivors and families of victims have been keen to have their say on how the building should reopen, convincing French musicians to take to the stage has been harder. Only one fifth of acts so far booked for the Bataclan are home-grown. But Frutos said he understands their reluctance. "I think it's more difficult for them. We're in Paris, this happened in a Parisian concert hall, I can understand all that," said Frutos.

"I also understand what (folk singer) Francis Cabrel said ('Singing at the Bataclan is more than I could manage'). I understand, but others will come. "An artist such as (young French singer-songwriter) Vianney was meant to play several gigs at the Cigale and he cancelled one to come to the Bataclan. For Damien Saez it was obvious (to come and play), and he prepared specifically for this. "For the international artists it's not exactly the same thing—there's the (emotional) distance," he said. — AFP



File photo shows Lady Gaga gives her autographs to fans upon her arrival at Narita international airport in Narita, east of Tokyo. — AP

Lady Gaga-Cooper's 'A Star Is Born' gets 2018 release date

Warner Bros has set Sept 28, 2018, as the release date for "A Star Is Born," with Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper starring. Cooper will also helm the film, which will mark his directing debut. He will produce through his 22 Green banner along with Jon Peters, Bill Gerber, and Basil Iwanyk. The project, based on William Wellman's 1937 film starring Janet Gaynor and Fredric March, centers on a fading movie star who helps an aspiring actress while his own career spirals downward. James Mason and Judy Garland starred in a 1954 version and Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson toplined in the 1976 version.

Cooper came on as director following his work with Clint Eastwood on "American Sniper." Eastwood attempt to get the film made for years with Cooper for the role of the fading movie star but eventually left the project, but not before suggesting to Cooper that he try directing the film since the actor was actively seeking his first directing job. Gaga has already made a name for herself as one of the world's biggest pop stars, but has been focusing more in recent years on her acting career. She is coming off an acclaimed performance in "American Horror Story: Hotel," which earned her a Golden Globe for best actress in a miniseries.

Gaga came on to the project in June. It's the first title to land on the Sept 28, 2018, release date. Warner's New Line also announced Wednesday that it's dated Dwayne Johnson's actioner "Rampage," based on the Midway video game, for April, 20, 2018. The studio unveiled the project in 2015 with "San Andreas" producer Beau Flynn re-teaming with Johnson. Ryan Engle is writing the script for "Rampage," with plot details under wraps. The project is in pre-production. In the video game, players were tasked with stopping a havoc-wreaking giant gorilla, a lizard and a wolf.

Additionally, Warner Bros. announced that it's releasing MGM's "Everything, Everything" on Aug 18, 2017. The teen romance stars Amandla Stenberg, Nick Robinson and Ana de la Reguera with Stella Meghie is directing from J Mills Goodloe's script, adapted from Nicola Yoon's young adult novel of the same name. Stenberg will portray a teen with severe combined immunodeficiency, also known as "bubble baby disease," which causes her to be allergic to practically everything. — Reuters

Right at home

Baby cribs with contemporary style

Once upon a time, baby's room had a style all its own. But today's parents want the nursery to blend with other rooms, reflecting a modern aesthetic. Furniture designers and retailers have responded with lots of interesting options. Jonathan Adler recently launched a collection of nursery furnishings for Fisher-Price. The New York-based designer's line includes a chic sleep-and-play rocker with a high-contrast, black and white graphic textile, and walnut and steel legs with a midcentury modern vibe. A convertible crib features Adler's signature honeycomb motif, and Ming-inspired feet capped in polished nickel.

"I wanted to incorporate some of my favorite motifs and materials, to elevate the Fisher-Price design aesthetic," Adler says. "The collection has a whisper of Italian Modernism and a twinkle of design panache." Walmart's Baby Mod Olivia crib, offered in an on-trend white and amber combo, is also a convertible model, which can be reconfigured into a daybed and toddler bed as your child grows.

Convertibles are a trend, according to Jill Fehrenbacher, founder of the design site Inhabitat and its offspring, Inhabitors. "We're seeing a growing interest in multifunctional furniture," she says, "and this is especially true of new parents who are anxious about buying a storeful of baby gear. The idea that a crib could convert to a changing table or toddler bed is one with inherent appeal because it extends the value of what's typically a large purchase."

Fehrenbacher herself is a fan of the Oeuf, created by New Yorkers Michael Ryan and Sophie Derenge. "Awesome functionality, safety and clean modern looks," she says. "I bought this crib for my son and we're still using it now as a toddler bed for my 4-year-



This undated photo provided by Nursery Works shows their Gradient Crib. ©AP photos

old. It's moved through two different homes, from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific, and has weathered it all beautifully."

Other affordable cribs can be found at Ikea, where the trim, contemporary Sniglar, Sundvik, Gulliver and Hensvik models sell for around \$100. For just under \$200, the Stuva includes under-crib storage drawers in several colors. Babyletto's Hudson crib has midcentury lines, sustainable New Zealand pinewood construction and a range of colors - several neutrals, as well as two-toned versions. The company's new Bingo crib incorporates handy storage cubbies and comes in a right-this-minute white/ash/cool mint color scheme.

P'kolino's Belle crib has a lattice-patterned headboard that contrasts nicely with a deep

gray, shell pink or pale blue base. The Geo version puts a gender-neutral geometric layer on backgrounds of coral, gray or navy. P'kolino's website offers customizing, too; you can design your own headboard from an array of images, colors and fonts.

If budget's not an issue, consider Ubabub's futuristic Pod crib. Curved plywood forms the front and back of the crib, while clear acrylic, laser-cut with tiny stars, makes up the side panels. Choose a kiwi, honeysuckle, tangerine or aqua translucent end panel for Spot on Square's Alto crib.

Nurseryworks is always pushing the proverbial envelope on baby furnishings. One of their signature pieces, the solid acrylic Vetro crib, seems to float in space, letting other nursery elements provide color and pattern. Another crib - the Gradient, designed by Matthew Grayson and Eric Lin - has undulating 3-D forms that create an asymmetrical silhouette. "The goal, and challenge to ourselves, is to create something that doesn't conform to

the standard perception of what a crib is supposed to look like," says Lin. Grayson's Highlight crib can be turned into an adult-size desk once baby's done with it; the mattress support becomes a shelf and the waterfall slats stow power cords.

A burnished, 24-karat-gold square base holds the Lydian's solid black walnut frame; the drama of mixed materials turns a simple crib into a modernist, sculptural piece of art. And finally, for the high-tech parent, Swiss designer Yves Behar has introduced the charmingly named SNOO.

Produced in collaboration with its inventor, pediatrician Dr Harvey Karp, the SNOO sleeper's smart-technology mattress responds to a baby's fussiness with soothing motion and white noise.

Parents can also control things remotely. A swaddling outfit secures baby inside the bed, which features sturdy white mesh sides in a walnut frame, with white hairpin-style steel legs. — AP



This undated photo shows their Sparrow crib in walnut.



This undated photo shows their Sparrow crib in its toddler conversion, in walnut.



This undated photo provided by Fisher-Price shows their Jonathan Adler Crafted By Fisher-Price designed sleep rocker.

Roadrunner: Ostrich's dash for freedom on Japan highway

A plucky ostrich was living life in the fast lane in Japan earlier this week after making a bold dash for freedom along a stretch of motorway, local media reported. The 1.80-metre (6-foot) 'Roadrunner' brought traffic to a halt at Takasaki, north of Tokyo, after breaking out of its cage atop a speeding truck, according to Japan's public broadcaster NHK. It took nine police and highway patrol officers over an hour to capture the intrepid creature, which was being transported to a zoo in northerly Ibaraki prefecture, following a frantic one-kilometer (half-mile) chase.

Police said no injuries were reported during the incident on Monday in which the bird-one of 15 being moved by a specialist breeder-exe-

cuted its daring breakout. Highway patrol officer Takahashi Fujimoto told NHK: "Two police officers had captured the ostrich by the time I arrived. They tied rope to its neck and body and moved it to a safe location. "The ostrich was really calm," added Fujimoto. "I couldn't believe that an ostrich was on the highway so I was shocked when I actually saw it."

Several passing drivers uploaded photos and video clips to social media showing the ostrich brazenly strolling along the hard shoulder. It is not the first time unruly ostriches have run riot on a Japanese motorway, although in 2007 it ended less happily when one of two birds which escaped its cage was killed after being hit by a car. — AFP

In Cuba, chess is a game for the masses



Aficionados play chess in a street of Havana. — AFP photos

Ana is four years old, is learning her numbers and still doesn't know how to read. But she is already immersed in chess lessons in her native Cuba, where the Castro regime has turned chess from an elite pursuit into a game for the masses. After coming to power in the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Fidel Castro and his band of rebels sought to transform the impoverished island not only with radical social programs and mass education, but also with chess. Castro and fellow revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara were both avid players. They were immortalized in post-revolution snapshots pondering their next moves on the chess board, bearded chins in hands and wearing their trademark combat fatigues.

In a Cold War world where American chess great Bobby Fischer and Soviet champion Boris Spassky played out the battle between East and West with queens and pawns, Cuba's communist government actively promoted the game. It introduced chess as a required subject in schools, launched chess clubs, sponsored tournaments and created the Latin American Superior Institute of Chess (ISLA) to train new generations of grandmasters, free of charge. Despite what some are calling the Cold War echoes of this month's World Championship between Russia's Sergei Karjakin and Norway's Magnus Carlsen, it's a different world today.

The Iron Curtain is a receding memory. Cuba has restored ties with the United States. Castro is 90 and retired. But his passion for chess endures on the island. "Every afternoon



Aficionados play chess in a street of Havana.

after daycare, my daughter asks me if she has dance lessons or chess. That makes me proud," says Ana Paula's mother, Monica Barroso, a 30-year-old sociologist, as she collects her daughter at ISLA after lessons. "Don't forget to practice moving your knights," Ana's teacher tells them on their way out.

Street chess

In Havana, chess is played in schools, clubs and on the street, at the foot of the Cuban capital's crumbling colonial buildings. Boards and timers are a luxury in a country where the average salary is about \$29 a month. But that has not dampened Cubans' love of the game. Every evening in central Havana, men in short-sleeve shirts or overalls gather to play speed chess on faded cloth boards. Children gather around the small groups, following the action. "No drinking allowed, no ruckus and no betting," says 61-year-old Rolando Ramos, a former math professor and painter who plays up to five hours a day, five days a week.



Aficionados play chess in a street of Havana.



Aficionados play chess in a street of Havana.



Cuban children learn to play chess at the Latin American Superior Institute of Chess (ISLA).

State-subsidized, black-and-white pamphlets for aficionados sell here for less than 1 US cent, with information on chess history, players and tactics. Chess even stars on state-controlled television in Cuba, which broadcasts lessons and programs on the history of the game. The director of ISLA, Danilo Buela, is one TV teacher.

He beams when he talks about Cuba's chess successes. "Cuba has trained 43 grandmasters. There are other countries that have more, but they don't have a population of just 11 million inhabitants," he said.

Nine of those grandmasters have been

women. The country's current chess star is Leinier Dominguez, who is ranked number 17 in the world—the only Latin American in the top 100 of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) rankings. Dominguez, 33, is the best Cuban player to come along since the legendary Jose Raul Capablanca, who was world champion from 1921 to 1927. He remembers being discovered at school by talent scouts. "That has always been an advantage in Cuba with respect to other countries: the program to bring chess to the masses," he told AFP. "You realize that people in the street know a lot about chess." — AFP



Cuban children learn to play chess at the Latin American Superior Institute of Chess (ISLA).

Chess: An ancient game which goes back to India

The ancestor of the game of chess is believed to date back to India in the sixth century. However, in the ancient Orient, from China to Egypt, several similar games representing a combat between pawns on a kind of draught board also existed. Legend has it India exported the ancient form of chess to Persia, giving King Chosroes Anushirvan a game that was invented just for him: the game of "four kings", or "chaturanga". As Arabs conquered Persia, they discovered then fell in love with the game. The first technical books on chess were written in Arabic, and the caliph of Baghdad hosted the best players.

Chess then spread as Arabs established their influence in newly conquered territory. In the West, the game reached North Africa and the Mediterranean. It took hold in the new province of Al-Andalus, now current-day Andalusia, southern Spain.

Universities the Moors established there taught Islamic culture, which included chess. The game of strategy reached the Christian West in the late 10th century—and even earlier in China and Japan. Trade also brought it to Scandinavian and Russian peoples by the end of the 11th century.

Over the centuries the game has been profoundly modified, each society develop-

ing rules with their own codes. Even though they had the same origins, the early Indian, Chinese and Japanese games had nothing in common with Western chess. From 1200 Western books on chess began to appear, including, towards 1315, "The moralized game of chess" by Italian Dominican Jacques de Cessoles. Towards the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance, the "new" game of chess emerged, the queen and the bishop adopting their current positions, with the queen becoming the most powerful piece and the game becoming quicker.

Since the 17th century the game of chess has not gone through any major modifications, apart from the addition of the chess clock and, in 1850, the modification of the style of the chess pieces. It is called the "Staunton" style, after the English champion Nigel Staunton.

In the undisputed style for chess tournaments, the pieces are made of ebony, boxwood or ivory, weighted down with lead and the underneath covered with felt. It was only with the creation of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) and its 1929 congress in Venice that the first official international regulations governing the game of chess were created. — AFP

Norwegian grandmaster adds sex appeal to chess



This file photo shows Ukrainian-born Russian chess grandmaster Sergey Karjakin (left) and Norwegian grandmaster Magnus Carlsen pose after the Norway Chess tournament in Stavanger. —AFP photos

Norwegian world chess champion Magnus Carlsen is hoping to prove that "smart is the new sexy", as he prepares to defend his title against Russia's Sergei Karjakin. Interest in chess in the Nordic country has skyrocketed since the photogenic 25-year-old international grandmaster took the game's global throne in 2013. International chess master Atle Gronn described enthusiasm among Norwegians for the game as "completely crazy".

"Chess is associated with intelligence, or a narrower activity. Thanks to Magnus Carlsen, it has gained a popular image as well," Gronn told AFP. "He has a style that appeals very broadly, which also girls and women in the population find interesting," he added. Carlsen faces Karjakin in New York from November 11-30, in a 600,000-euro (\$660,000) match some are hyping as a clash between East and West that echoes the Cold War.

Cold War parallels

The showdown has drawn parallels with the 1972 world championship match between American grandmaster Bobby Fischer and Soviet star Boris Spassky as it comes during another surge in tensions: this time over Ukraine and Syria. Carlsen has his homeland right behind him as the world championship will be broadcast primetime on Norwegian national television, while numerous books have been published on him and on the game. A Norwegian documentary about Carlsen will also be released in New York movie theatres on November 18, as the competition heats up. But he wasn't always so popular: Carlsen has told of how he was bullied by other students in the ninth grade at school. "I am in one sense an outcast because I am very different from the rest of the class," he said at the time. "It is difficult to be cool when I play chess."

Child prodigy

Introduced to chess by his father, Carlsen showed off his photographic memory as a toddler. At the age of two, the self-taught prodigy knew by heart all the car brands and later memorized the long list of all Norway's municipalities, with their flags and administrative centers. He played in his first tournament at the age of eight and burst onto the chess scene in 2004, at the age of 13, when "The Mozart of Chess" was born, according to the Washington Post at the time. That was the year Carlsen first defeated former world champion Anatoli Karpov, and pushed legendary chess champion Garry Kasparov to a draw in March. He became a grandmaster the following month.

Kasparov described Carlsen as a Harry Potter-type "super talent" long before the Norwegian superstar became the first

Westerner to hold the world title since America's Fischer in 1975. Carlsen quickly became a ruffled-looking regular of the chess circuit, his shirt untucked and at times yawning and stretching during games, while reading Donald Duck to relax between playing sessions. He also won the Chess Oscars, awarded by Russian chess magazine 64 to the world's best player, for four consecutive years from 2009 to 2012. A fashion model in his spare time, Carlsen made it to the Time magazine list of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2013.

Bigger than football

In 2013, Carlsen's long-held dream came true when he dethroned his Indian rival Viswanathan Anand as world champion. During the chess world championship that year, there were more internet searches about the game than for football, according to the Norwegian chess federation, while Norwegian media reported that Oslo



This file photo shows Norwegian world chess champion Magnus Carlsen posing with his favorite chess piece (a bishop) in Paris.

shops had sold out of chessboards. Since Carlsen took the throne in 2013, the federation reported a 36 percent jump in the number of members.

Kristoffer Gressli, head of marketing and communications at the federation, called it the "Magnus effect". "The entire Norwegian population in three years has gone from being chess novices to knowing all the chess rules," Gressli told AFP. When Carlsen defended the title against Anand in a reprise game in 2014, some 2.76 million people in Norway—population five million—tuned in to watch on public broadcaster NRK, giving it higher ratings than cycling's Tour de France. The federation now aims to offer a free introduction to chess to all schools in the country. But shaping a future generation of talent is one thing and giving birth to a new superstar is a more complex move. "I don't think that Norway will have a new Magnus Carlsen," Geir Nesheim, the general secretary of the federation, told AFP. "He is so special." — AFP



CHEWY MOLASSES COOKIES

By Katie Workman

Holidays equal platters and tins of festive-looking cookies. Cookies with colored icing, cookies with sprinkles, cookies with fillings, cookies with layers. An artistic cookie display is a thing of beauty, that I'll not argue, but I'll reach past the whole lot if I see a flat, modest, quiet molasses cookie. This is my cookie, not much to look at compared to its flashy holiday brethren, but pliant and spice-scented and, to my mind, kind of perfect.

Because the butter is melted in this recipe, you can just as easily mix them up with a spoon or a rubber spatula as

an electric mixer. And also go for dark brown sugar, which contains more molasses! Don't overbake these cookies (unless you want crispy molasses cookies - then go right ahead and add another couple of minutes).

They will keep for three or four days in an airtight container. And they are good contenders for shipping; separate layers with wax or parchment paper, place additional crumbled paper in the bottom and top of the container to fill it, and make sure the container is well-padded before putting it in a box and sending it off to a lucky recipient.



Ingredients

Makes 24 cookies
Start to finish: 2-1/2 hours, including 2 hours refrigeration time)
2 cups all-purpose flour
1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
1/4 cup granulated sugar, plus another 1/2 cup for rolling
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup molasses
1 large egg

Preparation

In a medium-size bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, ginger, baking soda, cloves and salt. In another large bowl, combine the butter, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, brown sugar and molasses. Beat in the egg. Beat in the dry ingredients; the dough should be fairly stiff. Refrigerate the dough for about 2 hours. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Scoop the dough up by heaping tablespoons and roll them into balls. Roll the balls in the remaining 1/2 cup granulated sugar and place them 2 inches apart on a baking sheet (about 12 cookies per baking sheet). Using the bottom of a glass, flatten the cookies to about 1/4-inch thick, 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Bake for 7 or 8 minutes just until set. Remove the cookies from the baking sheet and cool on a wire rack. Repeat with the rest of the dough. — AP

Not feeding a crowd this Thanksgiving? Roast a turkey breast

By Sara Moulton

Let's say that this year's Thanksgiving feast is going to be a more intimate affair than the usual cast of thousands, yet you still want turkey. It can be done. Instead of cooking up a whole bird, why not go with a turkey breast? "Because," you reasonably reply, "white meat turkey tends to turn out dry as cardboard." And indeed, that's certainly a possibility, especially if you overcook it, which is easy to do. Happily, I've figured out just how to have your turkey breast and eat it, too.

Working on a cookbook several years ago, I came across an old Italian recipe for roast chicken. It required you to stuff a mixture of cheese and vegetables under the chicken's skin before roasting. Intrigued, I gave it a whirl and was absolutely flabbergasted by the results. Not only was the flavor a knockout, but the meat - including the white meat - was the moistest I'd ever eaten.

It occurred to me that this scheme might work just as well with turkey as with chicken. Having finally put this theory to the test, I can say that it translated beautifully. The secret, I think, is that the stuffing underneath the skin insulates the meat. My stuffing combines sauteed onion, garlic and shredded zucchini with Parmesan and ricotta cheeses, all bound together with fresh breadcrumbs. But feel free to experiment, as I'm sure that any moist stuffing would do the trick.

Of course, it's still important to avoid overcooking the bird. But you also need to make sure you cook the meat to a safe temperature. This is a balancing act. Cooking the bird to 165 F is the best bet for safety, but that doesn't mean you need to leave the bird in the oven until it reaches that temperature. Meat continues cooking even after you pull it from the oven. So if you leave it in until it hits 165 F, you'll actually cook it to about 170 F.

My solution is to pull it out of the oven at 160 F. As the meat

rests on the counter (20 minutes is ideal), it reaches 165 F. Resting also allows the juices in the turkey to redistribute so that when you slice the bird the juices don't all come streaming out, leaving you with dry turkey meat. And by the way, to get an accurate reading when you take the bird's temperature, be sure to insert the thermometer deep into the meat, not just into the stuffing, and not next to the bone.

When you finally carve the breast, make sure that every slice has a little bit of stuffing and skin at the top. Also, while this turkey is wonderfully delicious as is, this is Thanksgiving, after all, and folks expect gravy with their turkey. You can whip up some pan gravy while the breast is resting.



ITALIAN-STYLE ROAST TURKEY BREAST

Ingredients

Start to finish: 3-1/2 hours (1-1/2 hours active)
 Servings: 8
 2 medium zucchini (about 1 pound)
 Salt
 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra
 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
 1 tablespoon minced garlic
 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
 3 ounces finely grated Parmesan cheese
 2 cups fresh breadcrumbs
 1/2 cup whole-milk ricotta cheese
 Ground black pepper
 5- to 7-pound bone-in turkey breast

Preparation

Heat the oven to 325 F. Set a rack in the lower third of the oven. Using a food processor or box grater, coarsely grate the zucchini. In a colander, toss the grated zucchini with 1/2 teaspoon of salt, then let it drain over the sink for 20 minutes. A handful at a time, squeeze out the zucchini to remove excess liquid. Set aside.

In a large skillet over medium, heat the oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the garlic and thyme and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add the zucchini and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Remove the skillet from the heat and stir in the Parmesan, breadcrumbs and ricotta. Season with salt and pepper.

Use paper towels to pat dry the turkey skin, then rub with a bit of oil and season with salt and pepper. Using your fingers, a chopstick or a grapefruit knife (my favorite), gently separate the skin from the meat on the breast, being careful not to tear it and leaving it attached at the edges. Stuff the zucchini mixture evenly under the loosened skin of the turkey (this is a messy project; just do your best), then place the turkey on a rack set in a roasting pan. Cover the breast loosely with foil.

Roast the turkey breast for 1 hour. Remove the foil and roast for an additional 1 to 1 1/2 hours, or until the turkey reaches 160 F. If the turkey starts to brown too much, cover it again with foil. Transfer the turkey breast to a platter and let it rest at least 20 minutes before carving. — AP



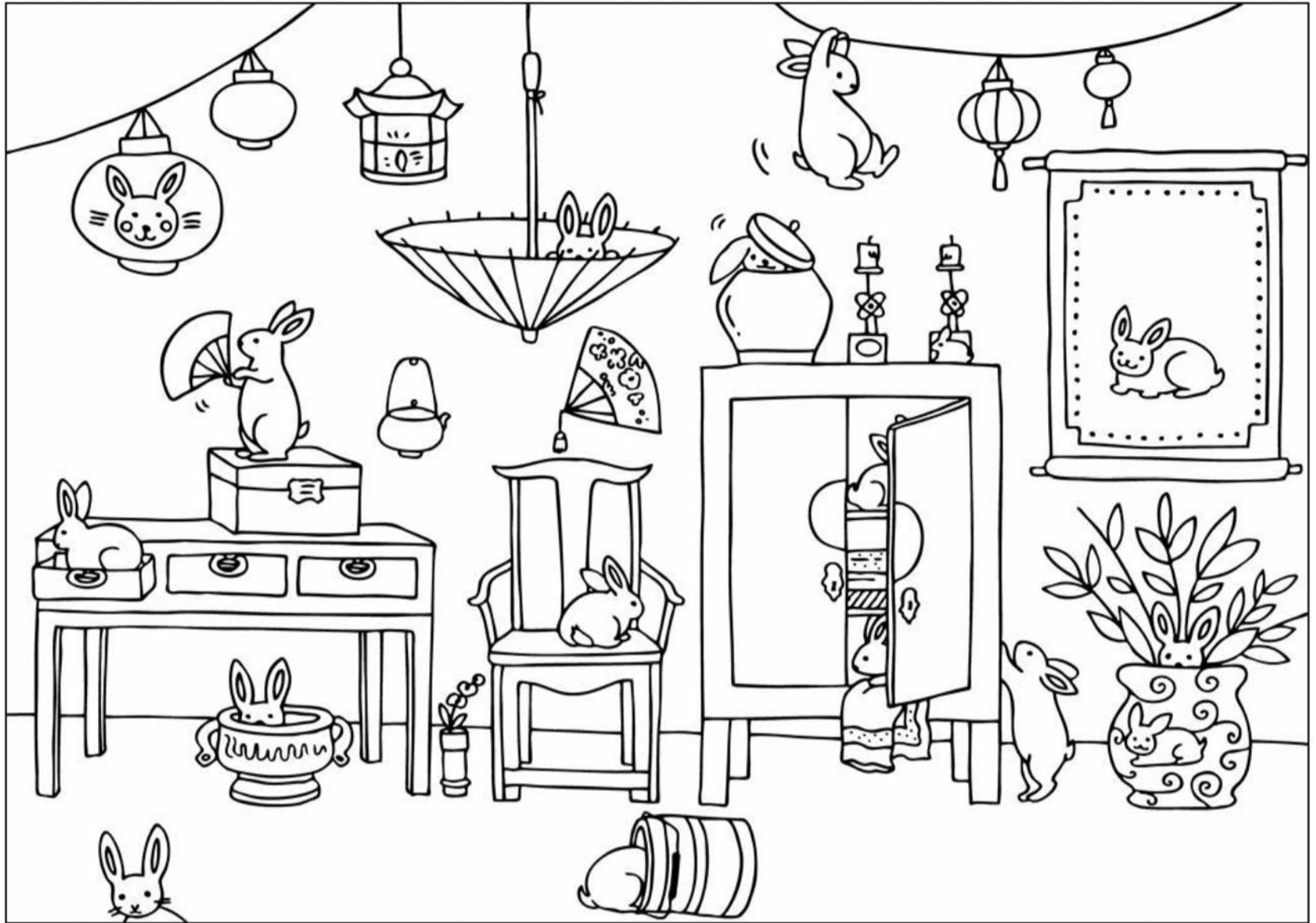
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Friday Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Kids

Count the Rabbits



Sudoku 6x6 Puzzles - Sheet 8

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the numbers 1 through 6. Don't guess - use logic!

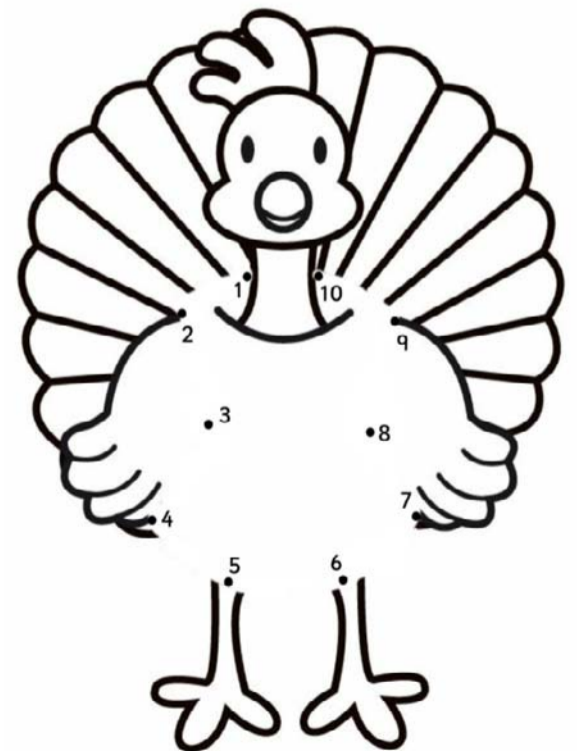
2		6	4		3
1					6
5					2
3		2	5		4

		2	6		
	4			3	
1					4
2					1
	6			2	
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2					4
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4					5
1					2



Turkey Dot to Dot

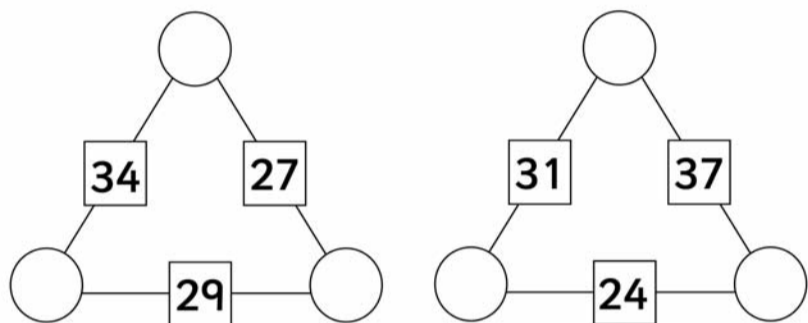
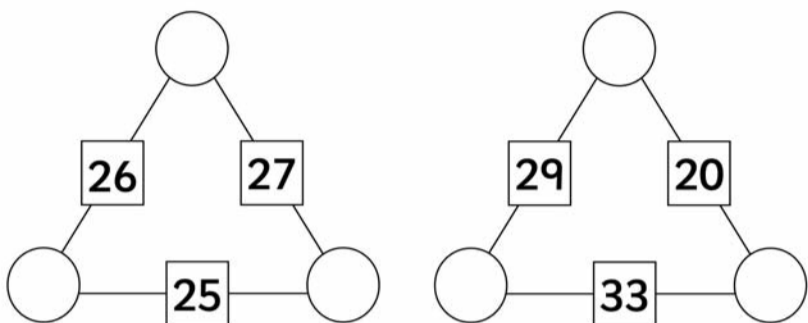




Arithmagons

The number in each square is equal to the sum of the numbers in the circles on either side.

Fill in the missing numbers.



Autumn Alphabet Challenge

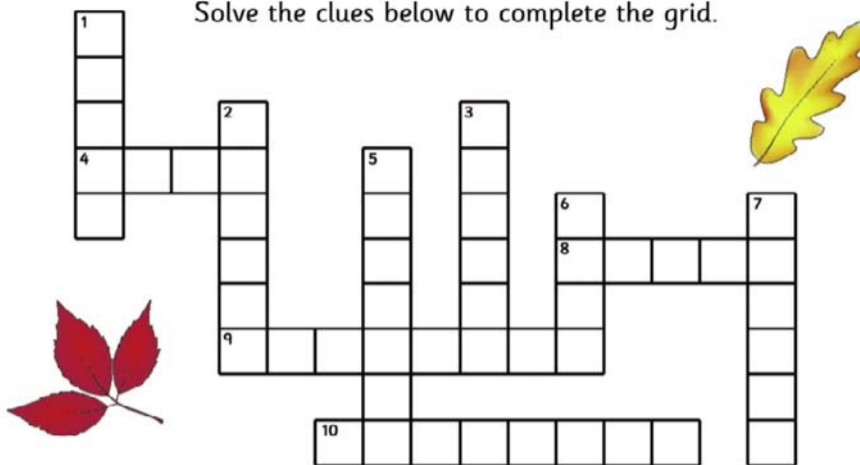
Can you come up with an Autumn themed word for each letter of the alphabet?



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

Autumn Crossword

Solve the clues below to complete the grid.



Across

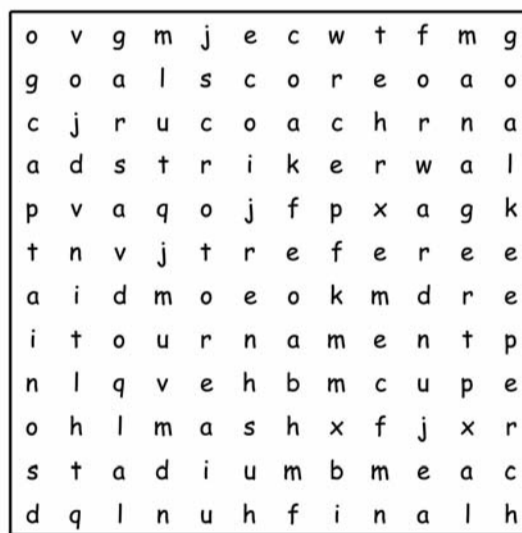
- 4. Use one of these to tidy up fallen leaves.
- 8. Orchard fruit.
- 9. Furry animal with a bushy tail.
- 10. Spiky animal who can roll into a prickly ball.

Down

- 1. The seeds of oak trees.
- 2. They fall from the trees in autumn.
- 3. They fall from horse chestnut trees and are fun for games.
- 5. You might light one of these to burn leaves and twigs.
- 6. Another name for autumn.
- 7. One of the colours you might see autumn leaves change to.



Soccer Word Search



- | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| goal | score | striker |
| tournament | final | cup |
| goalkeeper | forward | coach |
| manager | team | stadium |
| referee | captain | |



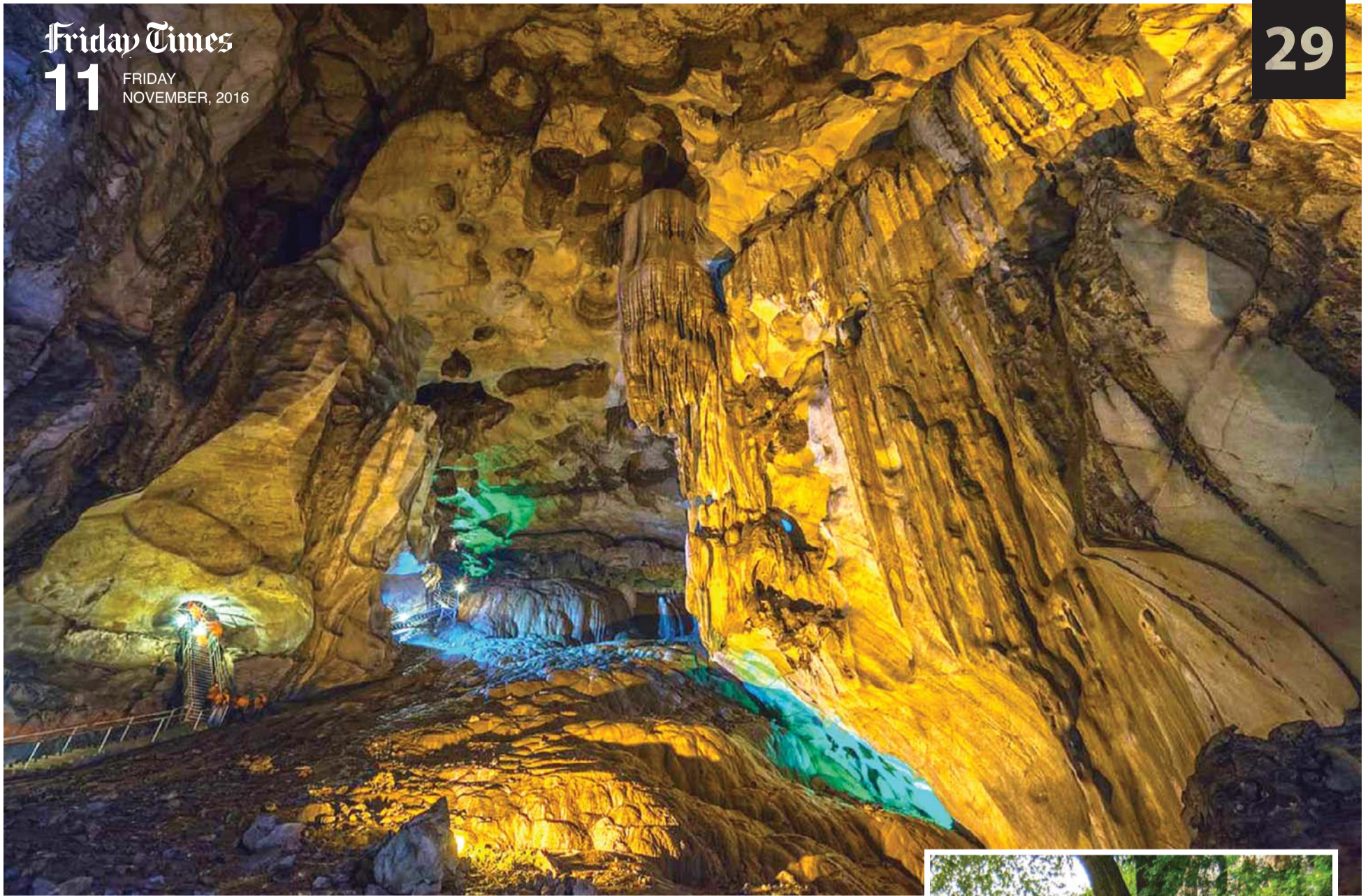


Friday Times
Travel

Adventures In Perak:

Outdoor thrills and spills in
the heart of **Malaysia**





Perak's cliffs, caves and ancient forests are more than a feast for the eyes. These majestic landscapes demand that you jump in - feet first - to swim, hike, raft, and get marvelously sweaty. For adventures in this Malaysian state, all you need is time and tough hiking boots.

Shaped like a crescent moon, Perak sweeps across the north-western corner of Peninsular Malaysia. Limestone cliffs are the state's most unmistakable landmarks, but Perak is a tapestry of mangrove swamps, jungles and beaches, too - terrain so varied that exhilaration (and exhaustion) are practically guaranteed. Here are four adventures to get your pulse racing...

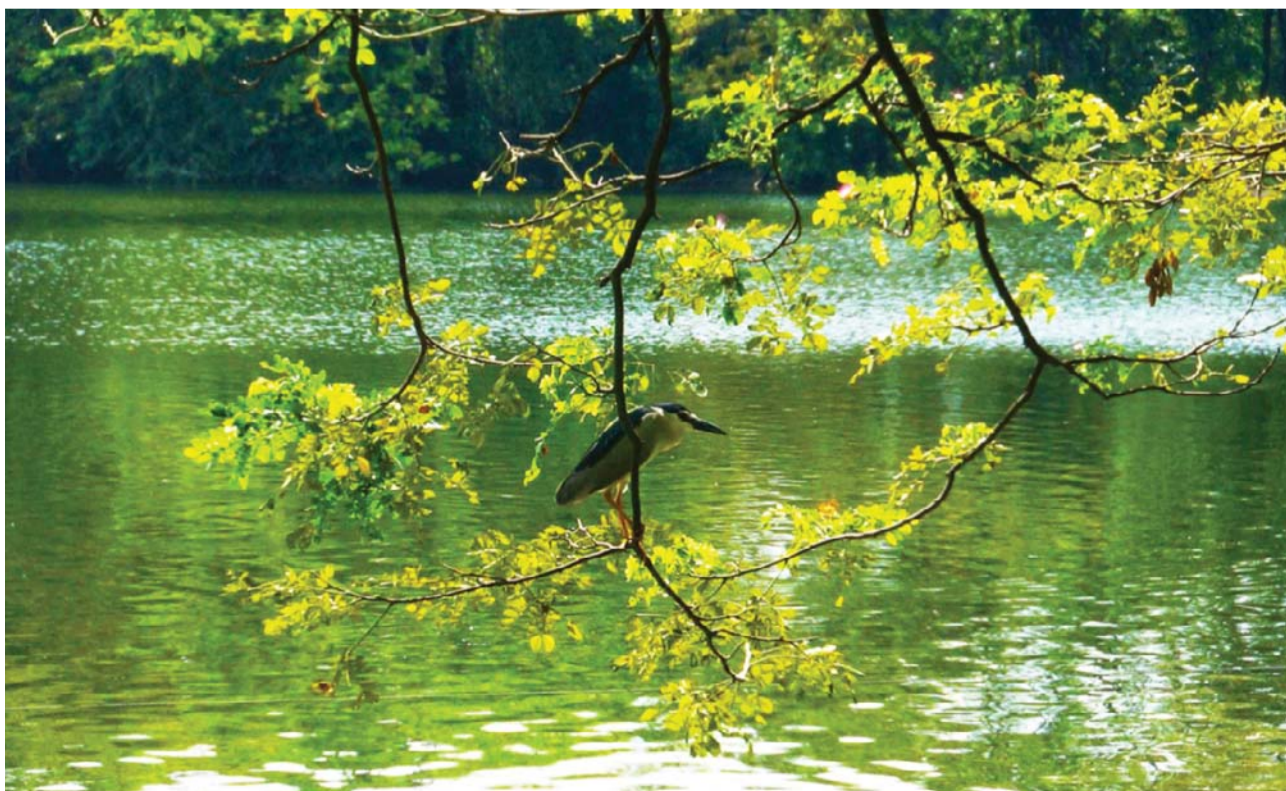
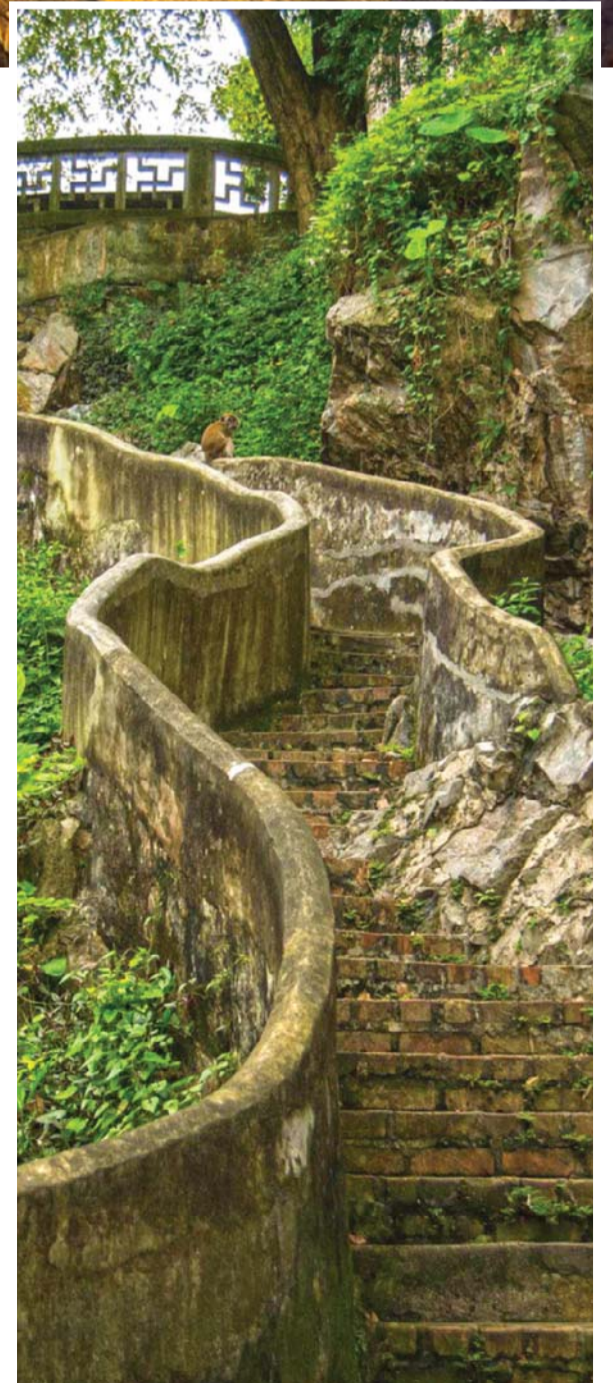
Get off the grid in Royal Belum State Park

The only sound is a rhythmic swish, swish, as our boat glides across Lake Temenggor. We're heading deep into Royal Belum State Park (royalbelum.my), a 117,500-hectare wilderness made even more impassable by its water levels. This jungly swathe of

northern Perak, right against the Malaysia-Thailand border, was flooded in 1972 when Temenggor Dam was built. And in this remote nature park, the chances of getting phone signal are roughly the same as spotting the elusive sun bear.

The boat thumps noisily against the wooden gangplank at Belum Eco Resort (belumecoresort.com.my), my island home for the next few nights. While resort staff busy themselves securing the boat, my fellow travelers are already wriggling out of their T-shirts and dive-bombing into the lake. As we bob around in the water, the jungle chorus of whistling blue-rumped parrots and chattering crickets surrounds us.

At daybreak, we gather in walking boots and liberal coatings of mosquito repellent. Boat transportation and a hiking guide are essential in this dense, swampy wilderness. Ours is leading us into the 130-million-year-old rainforest, one of the world's most ancient. It's home to tapir, seldom-seen tigers, and rafflesia, one of the largest flowers on the planet. Along slippery trails we spot





tiny orchids that cower amid tree roots, while grasshoppers whirl past our heads like toy helicopters. Hornbills swoop between branches, their orange beaks easy to spot in the gloom.

Make it happen: Royal Belum is a 170km drive north of Ipoh, Perak's main city (or 150km east of Penang). Daily buses from Ipoh reach gateway town Gerik from where you can get a taxi towards the park. Stays at Belum Eco Resort include boat transfer from Pulau Banting jetty, a 42km drive east of Gerik.

Board a Jeep safari to Kinta Nature Park

'No other place in the world can claim to have 10 species of hornbills in one location,' declares Jek Yap with pride. For Jek, a fanatical local birdwatcher, Perak's wildlife is hard to beat. And in contrast to remote Royal Belum, some reserves lie in easy reach of Perak's cities, like Kinta Nature Park. Around 20km south of state capital Ipoh, this former tin-mining land is a tangle of low-hanging trees and teeming fish ponds. The park is home to around 130 species of bird, and it's the region's largest gathering place for herons and egrets.

'Birds usually show up at dusk and dawn,' counsels Jek. Despite Jek's advice, dawn has long broken by the time I trundle into the park by 4WD. But hitting the 'snooze' button on my alarm hasn't caused me to miss out: wildlife is abundant here, and much of it is barely troubled by the sounds of the car engine.

I can see grey herons alighting on fence posts, and plump little herons looking improbably weightless as they perch on fine tree



branches. Huge monitor lizards dawdle on pathways. I'm poised to photograph a blue-tailed bee eater, but its flash of jade feathers is faster than my camera's click. Still, it's a good excuse to lay down my camera and admire the flourishing reserve, distraction-free.

Make it happen: Book knowledgeable Ipoh-based guide Mr Raja for a guided 4WD excursion into Kinta Nature Park for RM400 per head (minimum two people). It's also possible to cycle parts of the park.



Experience Gopeng's caves and river rapids

The ceiling of Gua Tempurung yawns above my head. As I hike deeper into the cave, one of the largest in Peninsular Malaysia, every footstep sends echoes bouncing off the walls. Long spindles of limestone reach up from the slippery ground, and stalactites drip from above. Squinting, I can make out other walkers further along the dimly lit trails. They seem microscopic in size, dwarfed by vast folds of limestone.

Hikers with flashing headlamps aren't the only ones to venture into the 4.5km-long cave. In the 1950s, Gua Tempurung was a communist hideout, and soon after served as a Japanese-run prison. But these are mere blips on its geological timeline: the cave is estimated to be up to 400 million years old. Exploring this dank grotto on foot allows plenty of time to take stock of Gua Tempurung's scale: at its tallest point, it towers 72m high. There are also more claustrophobic challenges to be had, such as wading through chilly chest-height water between cave chambers.

There are waterbound adventures above ground, too. The thrashing Kampar River has turned the town of Gopeng, 7km from the cave, into a miniature watersports hub. Just east of Gopeng's dusty colonial buildings, Nomad Adventure Earth Camp (nomadadventure.com) leads excursions along 22 river rapids. And after a humid hike through the cave, there's no more invigorating way to cool off.

Make it happen: Guided forays into Gua Tempurung range from 40 minutes to four hours long; book well ahead for spelunking. Stay in or near Gopeng for easy access to the river. Nomad Adventure Earth Camp can arrange rafting and waterfall abseiling.

Ascend to Ipoh's sacred grottoes

Spelunkers weren't the first to enjoy the tranquility of Perak's caves. In the late 19th and early 20th century, hermit monks sought refuge in Perak's cliffs, meditating atop limestone crags and living in caves. From these spartan beginnings, a few ballooned into large temple complexes.

A notable trio are in easy reach of Ipoh. Gua Kok Look Tong, with ornamental gardens and Buddha statues in its central cave, is the most peaceful, while Sam Poh Tong is much visited for its lucky tortoise pond. But the most interesting ramble is up to Perak Tong, a frescoed cave temple 6km north of Ipoh.

The highest point of this cave complex, reached by steep stone stairs and seemingly endless spiral pathways, overlooks a muddled vista of wild greenery and urban sprawl. I stare into the distance at Ipoh's uniform lines of houses, framed by surrounding trees. Tower blocks strain for attention against the silhouette of Perak's cliffs, while forested hills roll into the distance. My calves are stinging from the climb, but somehow the view makes me want to plunge straight into my next adventure.

Make it happen: on request, buses from Ipoh to Kuala Kangsar will stop near Gunung Lang, a 3km walk from Perak Tong. Better yet, rent a car from Ipoh (there's plenty of parking within reach of the temple pathway). —(www.lonelyplanet.com)



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Changes need to be made in your professional life and they may have to do with proper balance. Consider sending short memos to higher-ups in your department. Be calm and consistently courteous. You may have to learn some conversational techniques when it comes to difficult people. Do not take someone's words too personally; that person may be testing your staying power. He or she could also just want attention, negative or positive. Smile; if you disagree, find the positive in what is said. There is a greater appreciation for things of value and the idea of value itself. This could be a period of great material gain; it is certainly a time when material things have a great deal of importance. Financial responsibility is the lesson to be learned now.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There is enough time this week to make some real headway at work when it comes to some special project of your making. Creative and inventive, you have many talents to use as you prepare to make your presentation. There is optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional level. You make a promise to yourself that next year there will be more investments. Investments can start small and grow beyond your wildest dreams; be on the lookout for opportunities of this sort. Check out all hard-to-believe deals! Some things are not so good. Think and talk about organizing a cleanup crew for your nearby community park this weekend. A cleaned up, good-looking park is good for the safety of family and children.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Situations are almost made to order and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. There are plenty of opportunities to move into any direction you want to go regarding your future professional life. You take your work more seriously than usual and you put a lot of energy into getting things scheduled and organized. It is possible that there is an opportunity for some time off during the holiday season and you may prefer to use your time by leaving work early to shop instead of taking off a couple of days. This is a time when you can expect a little boost, some extra support or recognition from those around you. You may notice positive outcomes fall into place and you see that the lines of communication are opening up nicely.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

If you are having trouble with your budget, you will be smart to limit your shopping to the necessities for a time. This means home shopping as well as store or window-shopping. Make a resolution for no infomercials! You attend to matters of health, finances and a more satisfying job which may come within the company for which you now work. This afternoon, everything may be pouring in at once and it is all good news. Your career direction gets some encouragement and life's problems should find easy solutions. Discovering new values that represent some sort of break with the tried and true comes naturally now. A change in financial status is possible. You help to decorate your home this evening with cornucopias and foliage, etc.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You can barely wait for the noon break when you will be able to visit a local florist or garden dealer and purchase winter vegetables as well as items that are festive to place around the office and apartment or house. Work issues are sticky but not totally clogged up and by the afternoon, you may even discover that an unsolved problem gains your interest. Others watch and learn by following your lead. This afternoon you may want to check out an investment plan. Make sure the firm or company is a reputable one before giving up your hard-earned money. Travel plans or entertaining travelers play a big role for you this evening. Visitors to your city may pay you to show them around your town, whether they are there for personal or business reasons.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Things seem to fall in place this day; progress is easy. Your career direction gets some encouragement and life's problems find easy solutions. Your intuition is strong and can guide you accurately in making forecasts or decisions. Co-worker friends may ask you to guess the forecast of their life and loves. You enjoy figuring things out and you like being the first to make a discovery. You have a heightened interest in health and diet and an urge to get things organized into a rational system. There is much mental busywork now. Careful, you may have to have a talk with the family about eating outside the home. Eating out more than five times a week could cut back on vacation or funds for gifts and entertainment. Teach budgeting.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Some people may appreciate your insight but it may take some time before you realize you cannot please everyone all the time; do not press your point. Work is productive and this afternoon you and your friends enjoy each other's company. It is easy for you to love and be compassionate and to value what life offers. You have a sense of unity and brotherhood that will stay with you, always. This may be a period of greater social involvement; especially with neighbors and brothers or sisters. Learning and teaching seems to satisfy an important need for you. You teach not only through your words, but by example. You could teach family members to save money by checking out movies from the library instead of a store.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

On the professional level, you magically make things happen. If you are in sales, there are new contacts to make. If you are in art, design or some other creative field, there are new color schemes, new ideas, etc. If you are in a creative writing program, you will find an opening of opportunities in which you will be able to excel. You have a natural sense of what the public wants at this time and your path to success is open and clear. This afternoon you may find yourself busy with friends. All of this should go rather smoothly. Your common sense will come into play and others will find your suggestions very workable. Stop and smell the roses, hug the kids and enjoy your special day. Happy birthday!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You would make a good teacher of others in matters of organization, practical competence and the like. You understand that what you teach, you learn. You may toy with the idea of learning and then teaching how to read horoscopes or some other type of metaphysical interest. You enjoy learning about a variety of things, but in the workplace it may be difficult to find much of a variety. In some ways, this is good because a steady job helps you to remain constant in your goals; focused. You know better than anyone does, especially when it comes to creativity, genuine creativity is not about finishing first; it is about finishing uniquely and creating an interest for others to enjoy. You might decide to reach out and touch someone tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may prefer to be a bit more direct today. You want to get things accomplished and interruptions may not be on your list of acceptable behavior from others. Be careful in your response; let them know upfront your plans for the day so they will understand you are involved in some project. You are able to cut through to the real matter at hand. Unique approaches to study or research or any kind of inquiry, are forthcoming. This afternoon you can relax; saying and writing things with meaning and connecting with those that had to be quiet. Neighbors or brothers and sisters will likely bring all kinds of good experiences your way. Making plans for the upcoming holiday takes priority this evening. Love and hugs prevail this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your job may be to write, proofread, edit or use your eyes in some other similar way. The gang at the office may have invested in a lamp or some other form of convenience to help ease your vision. People care and may take this day as an opportunity to show you how much they care. This afternoon you look forward to checking out a new computer. You can now pay your bills through certain software on the computer and you will find yourself really saving on postage and checks. You can join a pen pal club and you could teach using your computer if you choose to do so. You have so much fun; you may even forget there are others around you that would really like your attention. This is a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward and achieve.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are perceptive, always darting straight to the heart of things and never shy about working with the most sensitive and vulnerable areas of the human psyche. Financial matters, however, are another matter, but you will succeed in creating a balance. You effectively think about what it takes to earn a dollar before you spend a dollar: hard work, time and effort. Your protection from income loss is to be cautious. A part time job may create opportunities for you to be in another person's home, or a social event may give you reason to have people in your home. Someone wants your advice and you may find yourself teaching young people or friends some technique of yours; how to paint a room or sell a car, or some other important skill.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976

BBC FIRST

Animal Planet HD
 00:50 River Monsters
 01:45 Bondi Vet
 02:40 Wildest Europe
 03:35 Tanked
 04:25 My Wild Affair: The Rhino Who Joined My Family
 05:15 Gator Boys
 06:02 River Monsters
 06:49 Wildest Europe
 07:36 Call Of The Wildman
 08:00 Call Of The Wildman
 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
 09:15 Wildest Europe
 10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
 11:05 Tanked
 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
 12:55 Bondi Vet
 13:50 Wildest Europe
 14:45 Gator Boys
 15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
 16:35 Tanked
 17:30 My Wild Affair: The Rhino Who Joined My Family
 18:25 River Monsters
 19:20 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
 20:15 Tanked
 21:10 Gorilla Doctors
 22:05 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
 23:00 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
 23:55 Gator Boys



00:10 Hank Zipzer
 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
 01:00 Violetta
 01:45 The Hive
 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 02:40 Hank Zipzer
 03:05 Binny And The Ghost
 03:30 Violetta
 04:15 The Hive
 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 05:10 Hank Zipzer
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 06:00 Violetta
 06:45 The Hive
 06:50 Mouk
 07:00 Jessie
 07:25 Jessie
 07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
 08:20 Disney Cookabout
 08:45 Bunk'd
 09:10 Austin & Ally
 09:35 Shake It Up
 10:00 A.N.T. Farm
 10:50 That's So Raven
 11:40 Good Luck Charlie
 12:30 Jessie
 12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
 13:00 The 7D
 13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

13:40 Hank Zipzer
 14:05 Star Darlings
 14:10 Austin & Ally
 15:00 Dog With A Blog
 15:25 Jessie
 15:50 Rolling To The Ronks
 16:15 Hank Zipzer
 16:40 Bunk'd
 17:05 Star Darlings
 17:10 Elena Of Avalor
 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 18:00 Backstage
 18:25 Sky High
 20:05 Best Friends Whenever
 20:30 Elena Of Avalor



00:00 Doc McStuffins
 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
 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
 03:00 Calimero
 03:15 Zou
 03:30 Loopdidoo
 03:45 Art Attack
 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
 04:20 Calimero
 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 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
 08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 09:00 The Lion Guard
 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
 09:40 Goldie & Bear
 10:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 10:10 Doc McStuffins
 10:30 PJ Masks
 10:40 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
 11:00 Sofia The First
 11:30 The Great Never Sea Conquest
 12:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 13:00 The Hive
 13:10 Minnie's Bow-Toons
 13:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
 14:15 Henry Hugglemonster
 14:30 Doc McStuffins
 15:00 Sofia The First
 15:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
 16:30 Doc McStuffins
 17:00 The Lion Guard
 17:30 PJ Masks
 18:00 Sofia The First
 18:30 Goldie & Bear
 19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
 19:30 The Great Never Sea Conquest
 20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
 21:00 PJ Masks
 21:30 The Lion Guard
 22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 22:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West



06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
 06:25 K.C. Undercover
 06:50 The 7D
 07:00 Phineas And Ferb
 07:15 Atomic Puppet
 07:40 Danger Mouse
 07:50 Counterfeit Cat
 08:05 Future Worm
 08:10 Gravity Falls
 08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
 09:00 Supa Strikas
 09:25 Supa Strikas
 09:50 Danger Mouse
 10:20 Annedroids
 10:45 Annedroids
 11:10 Counterfeit Cat
 11:35 K.C. Undercover
 12:00 K.C. Undercover
 12:30 Gravity Falls
 12:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
 13:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
 13:45 Phineas And Ferb
 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
 14:15 Supa Strikas
 14:40 Supa Strikas
 15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
 15:30 Danger Mouse
 15:55 Kirby Buckets
 16:25 K.C. Undercover
 16:50 Annedroids
 17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 17:40 K.C. Undercover
 18:05 Future Worm
 18:10 Gravity Falls
 18:35 Counterfeit Cat
 19:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
 19:25 Supa Strikas
 19:55 K.C. Undercover
 20:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 20:45 Mighty Med
 21:10 Pickle And Peanut
 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister

13:00 Man Fire Food
 13:30 Man Fire Food
 14:00 Chopped
 15:00 The Kitchen
 16:00 Anna Olson: Bake
 16:30 Anna Olson: Bake
 17:00 Chopped
 18:00 Iron Chef America
 19:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
 20:00 BBQ Crawl
 20:30 BBQ Crawl
 21:00 Bite This With Nadia G



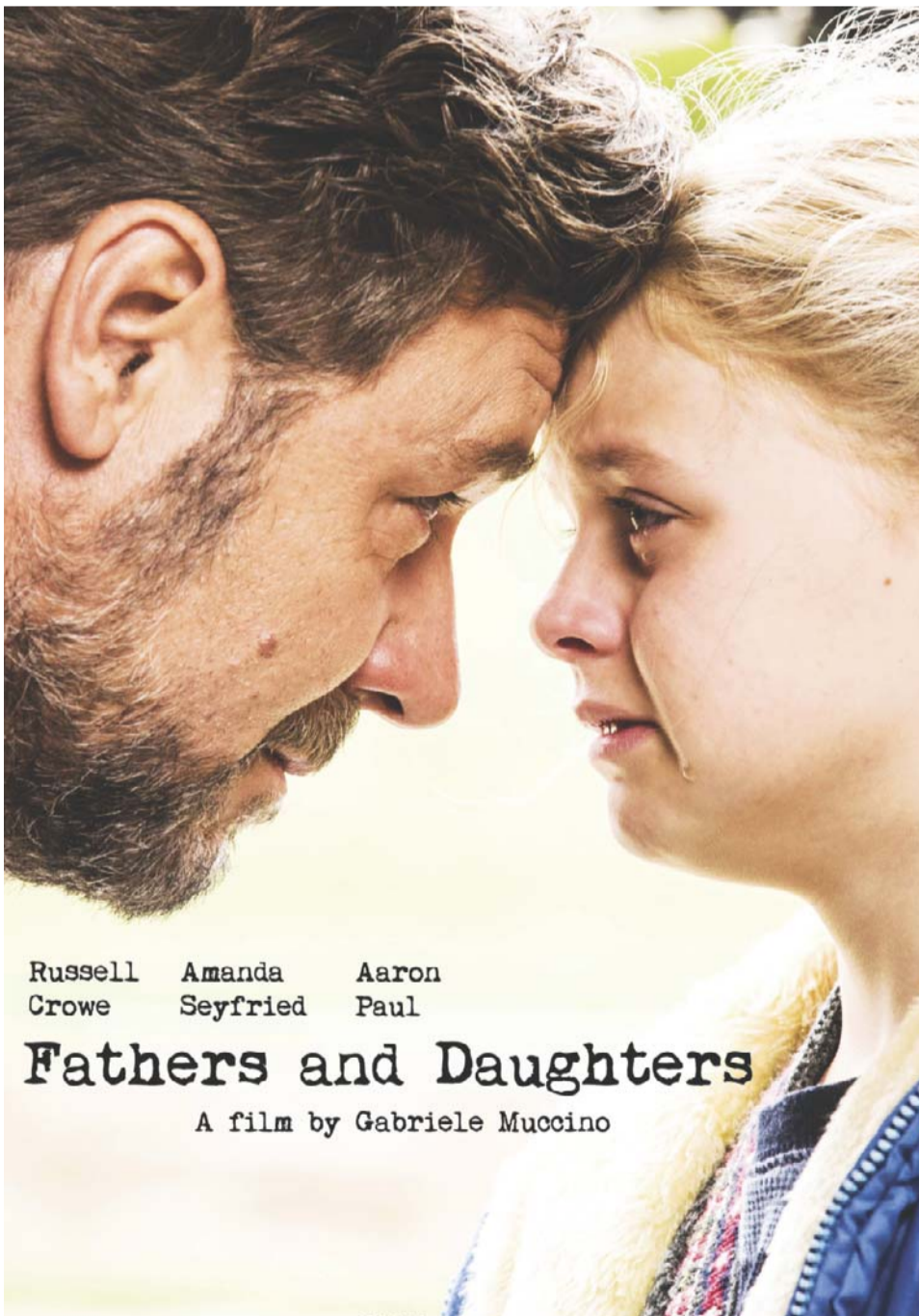
00:10 Mega Food
 01:00 Bangkok Airport
 01:50 Street Food Around The World
 02:15 Eat Street
 02:40 Hotel India
 03:30 Fusion Forager
 04:20 Eat Street
 05:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 06:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 06:25 Route Awakening
 06:50 Bangkok Airport
 07:40 Street Food Around The World
 08:05 Eat Street
 08:30 Hotel India
 09:20 Fusion Forager
 10:10 Eat Street
 11:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 12:15 Route Awakening
 12:40 Bangkok Airport
 13:35 The Food Files
 14:00 Eat Street
 14:30 Hotel India
 15:25 Hook It, Cook It
 15:50 Hook It, Cook It
 16:20 Eat Street
 16:45 Eat Street
 17:15 Eat Street
 17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 18:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 18:35 Route Awakening
 19:05 Eat Street
 19:30 Hook It, Cook It
 20:00 Hook It, Cook It
 20:25 Eat Street
 21:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
 22:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia



00:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
 01:00 Killer Kids
 02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
 03:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
 04:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
 05:00 Killer Kids
 06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
 07:00 The First 48
 08:00 Beyond Scared Straight
 09:00 Homicide Hunter
 10:00 The First 48
 11:00 It Takes A Killer
 11:30 Private Crimes
 12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
 13:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
 14:00 Beyond Scared Straight
 15:00 Homicide Hunter
 16:00 It Takes A Killer
 16:30 Private Crimes
 17:00 The First 48
 18:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
 19:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
 20:00 Beyond Scared Straight
 21:00 It Takes A Killer
 21:30 Private Crimes
 22:00 Homicide Hunter
 23:00 Monster In My Family



00:30 Redesign My Brain
 01:20 Secret Space Escapes
 02:10 Man v The Universe
 03:00 Untamed & Uncut
 03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
 04:40 How It's Made
 05:05 How It's Made
 05:30 Dirty Jobs
 06:20 Mythbusters
 07:00 Kids vs Film
 07:25 Doki
 07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
 08:40 How It's Made
 09:05 How It's Made
 09:30 Redesign My Brain
 10:20 Mythbusters
 11:10 Dirty Jobs
 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
 12:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
 13:40 How It's Made
 14:05 How It's Made
 14:30 Dirty Jobs
 15:20 Mythbusters
 16:10 Kids vs Film
 16:35 Doki
 17:00 Superhuman Showdown
 17:50 Now That's Funny
 18:40 Redesign My Brain
 19:30 How It's Made
 19:55 How It's Made
 20:20 Mythbusters
 21:10 Superhuman Showdown
 22:00 Now That's Funny
 22:50 Untamed & Uncut



Russell Crowe Amanda Seyfried Aaron Paul

Fathers and Daughters

A film by Gabriele Muccino

FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS ON OSN MOVIES HD



00:05 Catching Kelce
 00:55 Botched By Nature
 01:50 E! News
 02:50 Hollywood Cycle
 03:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 06:55 E! News
 07:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 08:10 E! News
 09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 12:00 E! News
 12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 15:00 E! News
 15:15 Catching Kelce
 19:00 E! News
 20:00 WAGs Miami
 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 23:00 E! News
 23:15 WAGs Miami



Food Network HD
 00:00 Private Chef
 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 02:00 Man Fire Food
 02:30 Man Fire Food
 03:00 Chopped
 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
 05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
 05:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
 06:00 Chopped
 07:00 Barefoot Contessa
 07:30 Barefoot Contessa
 08:00 The Kitchen
 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
 09:30 Anna Olson: Bake
 10:00 Chopped
 11:00 Guy's Big Bite
 11:30 Guy's Big Bite
 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



00:20 Man V. Lion
 01:10 Planet Carnivore
 02:00 Swamp Lions
 02:50 Deadly Instincts
 03:45 Snakes In The City
 04:40 My Life Is A Zoo
 05:35 Swamp Lions
 06:30 Deadly Instincts
 07:25 Snakes In The City
 08:20 My Life Is A Zoo
 09:15 Animal ER
 10:10 Wild Congo
 11:05 America's National Parks
 12:00 Shark Men
 12:55 Natural Born Monsters
 13:50 Deadly Game
 14:45 Swamp Men
 15:40 My Life Is A Zoo
 16:35 Animal ER
 17:30 Viper Queens
 18:25 America's National Parks
 19:20 Swamp Men
 20:10 My Life Is A Zoo
 21:00 Animal ER
 21:50 Viper Queens
 22:40 America's National Parks
 23:30 Shark Men



00:10 Explorer
 01:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
 02:00 Locked Up Abroad
 02:55 Air Crash Investigation
 03:50 Explorer
 04:45 Science Of Stupid
 05:10 Science Of Stupid
 05:40 Car SOS
 06:35 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
 07:30 Nazi Megastructures
 08:25 WWII's Greatest Raids

- 09:20 Science Of Stupid
- 09:45 Science Of Stupid
- 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
- 11:10 To Catch A Smuggler
- 12:05 Kung Fu Motion
- 13:00 WWII's Greatest Raids
- 14:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 15:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 17:00 To Catch A Smuggler
- 18:00 Taboo Compilations
- 19:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:50 To Catch A Smuggler
- 21:40 Taboo Compilations



- 00:14 Louie
- 00:21 Louie
- 00:28 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 00:51 Olive The Ostrich
- 00:56 Olive The Ostrich
- 01:01 Max & Ruby
- 01:23 Wanda And The Alien
- 01:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 01:45 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 01:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:42 Zack & Quack
- 02:53 Zack & Quack
- 03:03 Team Umizoomi
- 03:26 Louie
- 03:32 Louie
- 03:38 Olive The Ostrich
- 03:43 Olive The Ostrich
- 03:47 Paw Patrol
- 04:01 Paw Patrol
- 04:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 04:36 Dora The Explorer
- 04:59 Max & Ruby
- 05:06 Bubble Guppies
- 05:29 Little Charmers
- 05:42 Shimmer And Shine
- 06:04 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 06:27 Zack & Quack
- 06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 07:00 Paw Patrol
- 07:13 Paw Patrol
- 07:37 Dora The Explorer
- 08:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 08:11 Zack & Quack
- 08:22 Dora And Friends
- 08:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 09:10 Paw Patrol
- 09:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 09:58 Dora The Explorer
- 10:21 Paw Patrol
- 10:45 Little Charmers
- 10:57 Bubble Guppies
- 11:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 11:40 Zack & Quack
- 11:52 Team Umizoomi
- 12:15 Louie
- 12:22 Louie
- 12:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 12:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 12:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 13:03 Max & Ruby
- 13:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 13:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 13:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 14:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:45 Zack & Quack
- 14:55 Zack & Quack
- 15:05 Team Umizoomi
- 15:28 Louie
- 15:35 Louie
- 15:40 Olive The Ostrich
- 15:44 Olive The Ostrich
- 15:49 Paw Patrol
- 16:01 Paw Patrol
- 16:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 16:35 Dora The Explorer
- 16:59 Max & Ruby
- 17:07 Bubble Guppies
- 17:29 Little Charmers
- 17:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 18:05 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 18:27 Zack & Quack
- 18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:00 Paw Patrol
- 19:13 Paw Patrol
- 19:36 Dora The Explorer
- 20:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 20:11 Zack & Quack
- 20:22 Dora And Friends
- 20:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 21:10 Paw Patrol



angus, thongs and perfect snogging

ANGUS THONGS AND PERFECT SNOGGING ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 04:15 Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!
- 06:00 Divergent
- 08:30 Unstoppable
- 10:30 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise
- 12:30 Last Knights
- 14:30 Divergent
- 17:00 Unstoppable
- 19:00 Four Brothers
- 21:00 Into The Storm
- 22:45 Dragonwolf
- 01:00 Girl House
- 03:00 The Borderlands

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:15 Earth To Echo
- 03:15 Black Beauty
- 05:15 The Education Of Little Tree
- 07:15 Paranorman
- 09:00 Ghost Squad
- 11:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
- 13:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
- 15:00 Cinderella
- 17:00 Dolphin Tale 2
- 19:00 Muppets Most Wanted
- 21:00 Marvel's Iron Man & Captain America: Heroes United
- 22:30 Cinderella

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:30 Fathers And Daughters
- 03:30 The 5th Wave
- 05:30 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis
- 07:00 Make Your Move
- 09:00 The 5th Wave
- 11:00 Pixels
- 12:45 The Grand Seduction
- 14:45 Insurgent
- 16:45 Everest
- 19:00 San Andreas
- 21:00 Creed
- 23:15 Hitman: Agent 47

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Dance Flick
- 01:45 How Do You Know
- 04:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 06:00 Ghostbusters II
- 08:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 10:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 11:45 How Do You Know
- 14:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 16:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 18:00 Accidental Love
- 20:00 Thank You For Smoking
- 22:00 The Hooligan Factory

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:00 The Hand That Rocks The Cradle
- 02:00 Mobius
- 04:00 Legends Of The Fall
- 06:30 Two Men In Town
- 08:30 Romeo & Juliet
- 10:30 I'll Follow You Down
- 12:30 Legends Of The Fall
- 15:00 Breathe In
- 17:00 Romeo & Juliet
- 19:00 Tracks
- 21:00 Almost Famous

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Bolts And Blip
- 02:45 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 04:30 Egon And Donci
- 06:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 07:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 09:30 Pixies
- 11:15 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 12:45 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 14:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 16:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- 17:45 Pixies
- 19:30 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya
- 21:45 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 23:15 Virus Attack The First Antivirus

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:15 Odd Thomas
- 03:00 Kajaki
- 05:00 Reach Me
- 07:00 Stranded
- 09:00 Trust Me
- 11:00 Odd Thomas
- 13:00 The Silent Mountain
- 15:00 First Response
- 17:00 Trust Me
- 19:00 Frontera
- 21:00 Dark Places
- 23:00 Danny Collins

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:40 Space's Deepest Secrets
- 02:20 Ecopolis
- 03:10 Futurescape With James Woods
- 04:00 Creating Synthetic Life
- 04:48 Nextworld
- 05:36 Mega Engineering
- 06:24 Powering The Future
- 07:12 Futurecar
- 08:00 Nextworld
- 08:50 Mythbusters
- 09:40 Powering The Future
- 10:30 How Do They Do It?
- 10:55 Food Factory
- 11:20 Ecopolis
- 12:10 Nextworld
- 13:00 Mythbusters
- 13:50 How Do They Do It?
- 14:15 Food Factory
- 14:40 Powering The Future
- 15:30 Ecopolis
- 16:20 Nextworld
- 17:10 Jupiter: Close Encounter
- 18:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 18:25 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 18:50 Nextworld
- 19:40 Mythbusters
- 20:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 21:20 How Do They Do It?
- 21:45 Food Factory
- 22:10 Science Of The Movies
- 23:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 23:50 Mythbusters

TLC HD

- 00:20 Oprah's Master Class
- 01:10 90 Days To Wed
- 02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 02:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 02:50 Love At First Swipe
- 03:15 Cake Boss
- 03:35 Oprah's Master Class
- 04:20 Little People, Big World
- 04:45 Little People, Big World
- 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 06:00 Little People, Big World
- 08:30 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 09:20 7 Little Johnstons
- 09:45 7 Little Johnstons
- 10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 11:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 11:50 Love At First Swipe
- 13:55 Iyana: Fix My Life
- 14:45 Oprah's Master Class
- 15:35 Cake Boss
- 16:00 Cake Boss
- 16:25 Cake Boss

- 04:05 Counting Cars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Time Team
- 06:00 Time Team
- 06:50 Time Team
- 07:40 Hoard Hunters
- 08:30 American Restoration
- 08:55 Alone
- 09:45 Swamp People
- 10:35 Ice Road Truckers
- 11:25 American Restoration
- 12:15 Counting Cars
- 12:40 Counting Cars
- 13:05 American Pickers
- 13:55 Lost Worlds
- 14:45 Battle 360
- 15:35 Hoard Hunters
- 16:25 Counting Cars
- 16:50 Time Team
- 17:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 18:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 18:30 Alone
- 19:20 Ice Road Truckers
- 20:10 Mountain Men
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 21:50 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour



- 00:00 Private Chef
- 00:30 Private Chef
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man Fire Food
- 02:30 Man Fire Food
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 05:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 07:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 08:00 The Kitchen
- 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 09:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:00 Chopped
- 11:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 11:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:00 Man Fire Food
- 13:30 Man Fire Food
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 The Kitchen
- 16:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 16:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Iron Chef America
- 19:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 20:00 Storage Wars
- 20:30 BBQ Crawl
- 21:00 Bite This With Nadia G
- 21:30 Bite This With Nadia G
- 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 Cutthroat Kitchen



- 00:20 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 01:10 Lost In Transmission
- 02:00 Storage Wars
- 02:25 Storage Wars Miami
- 02:50 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 03:15 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 03:40 Counting Cars



JESSE STONE: LOST IN PARADISE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

WORD SEARCH

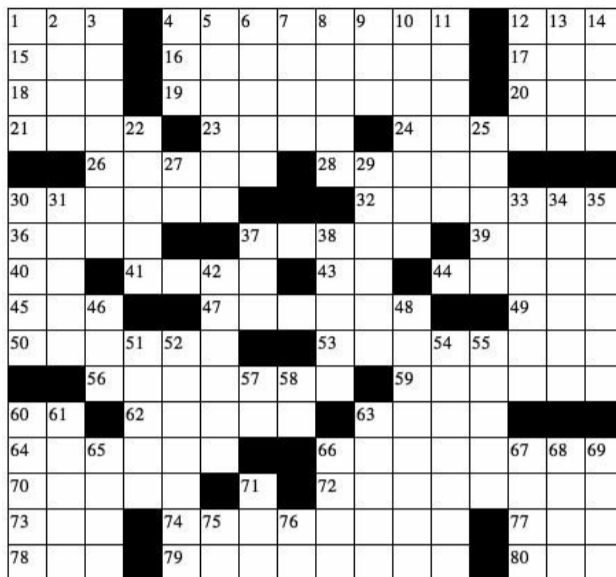
Movie Actresses 1

Find and circle all of the Movie Actresses that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Jodie Foster won an Oscar.

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

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ADAMS, Amy | CUTHBERT, Elisha | LANE, Diane |
| ALBA, Jessica | DAVIS, Hope | LANGE, Jessica |
| ALLEN, Joan | DENCH, Judi | MCDORMAND, Frances |
| BARRYMORE, Drew | DIAZ, Cameron | MIRREN, Helen |
| BENING, Annette | FANNING, Dakota | MOORE, Demi |
| BERRY, Halle | FOSTER, Jodie | PALTROW, Gwyneth |
| BIEL, Jessica | GUGINO, Carla | PAQUIN, Anna |
| BI ANCHETTI, Cate | HATHAWAY, Anne | RICCI, Christina |
| BLETHYN, Brenda | HUNTER, Holly | SWANK, Hilary |
| BLUNT, Emily | HUSTON, Anjelica | THERON, Charlize |
| CLOSE, Glenn | JOLIE, Angelina | THOMPSON, Emma |
| CONNELLY, Jennifer | KEENER, Catherine | WATSON, Emily |
| CUSACK, Joan | | |

CROSSWORD 1427



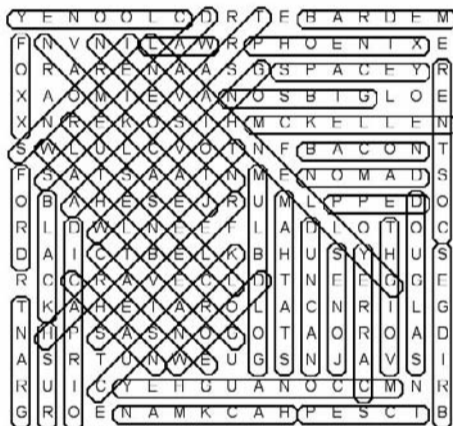
ACROSS

- (computer science) The smallest discrete component of an image or picture on a CRT screen (usually a colored dot).
- Type genus of the Podicipedidae.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- Something or someone that causes anxiety.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- An alliance made up of states that had been Soviet Socialist Republics in the Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in Dec 1991.
- A member of western Finnish people formerly living in the Baltic province where Saint Petersburg was built.
- 100 pyas equal 1 kyat.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- A pointed instrument used to prod into motion.
- A handsaw for cutting with the grain of the wood.
- A republic on the west coast of Africa.
- A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
- Predacious long-bodied large-eyed insect of warm regions.
- Type genus of the Coerebidae.
- Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- Type genus of the Cracidae.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- Two items of the same kind.
- A bivalent and trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A relation that provides the foundation for something.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Any of several plants of the genus Camassia.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- The basic unit of money in Finland.
- Adroitness and cleverness in reply.
- Something that interests you because it is important or affects you.
- Filled with the emotional impact of overwhelming surprise or shock.
- Informal terms for a mother.
- The German state.
- Submerged freshwater perennials.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- Having an acrid smell.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- Relating to or having agraphia.
- Mature female of mammals of which the male is called 'buck'.
- Having leadership guidance.
- A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- (Roman mythology) Goddess of abundance and fertility.

- Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.
- Baked dish of layers of lasagna pasta with sauce and cheese and meat or vegetables.
- The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
- (Irish) God of love and beauty.
- (Phoenician and Philistine) God of agriculture and the earth.
- The content of cognition.
- A game played with playing cards.
- Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- The title of the ancient Egyptian kings.
- Mentally or physically infirm with age.
- A system of one or more computers and associated software with common storage.
- Common Indian weaverbird.
- A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
- Held back.
- Type genus of the Percidae.
- A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).
- Bring an accusation against.
- Jordan's port.
- Artificial and inferior.
- The agent to whom property involved in a bailment is delivered.
- European herb resembling vetch.
- A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
- Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
- Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- British filmmaker (born in Hungary) (1893-1956).
- A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
- North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- Done or occurring in a brief period of time.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.
- Place in a line or arrange so as to be parallel.
- Peruvian shrub with small pink to lavender tubular flowers.
- Toward the mouth or oral region.
- An informal term for a father.
- (Roman mythology) A princess of Tyre who was the founder and queen of Carthage.
- On, to, or at the top.
- Opinion or judgment.
- To make a mistake or be incorrect.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- An associate degree in nursing.

Yesterday's Solution

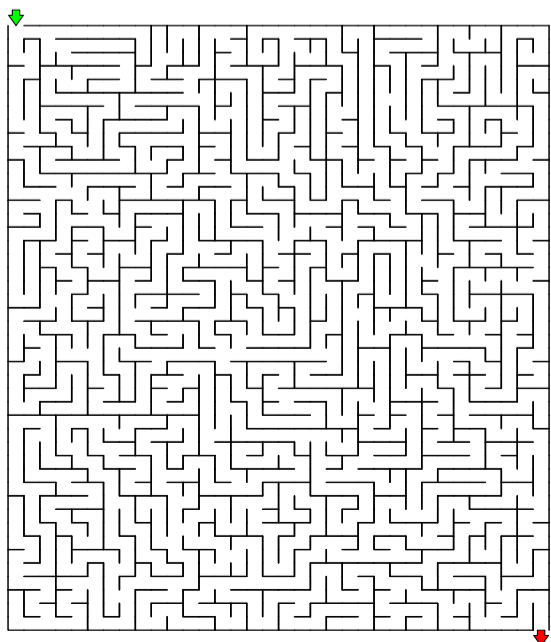
Movie Actors 1



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| BACON, Kevin | DUNCAN, Michael Clarke | MCKELLEN, Ian |
| BARDEM, Javier | FORD, Harrison | NEESON, Liam |
| BLACK, Jack | FOX, Jamie | PECCI, Joe |
| BRIDGES, Jeff | GIBSON, Mel | PHOENIX, Joaquin |
| CAINE, Michael | GOIDLUM, Jeff | REEVES, Keanu |
| CARREY, Jim | GRANT, Hugh | RUSH, Geoffrey |
| CHAN, Jackie | GYLLENHAAL, Jake | RUSSELL, Kurt |
| CLOONEY, George | HACKMAN, Gene | SPACEY, Kevin |
| COSTNER, Kevin | HARTNETT, Josh | STATHAM, Jason |
| CUSACK, John | IRONS, Jeremy | TRAVOLTA, John |
| DAMON, Matt | JACKMAN, Hugh | VOIGHT, Jon |
| DANIELS, Jeff | JONES, James Earl | WAHLBERG, Mark |
| DEPP, Johnny | LAW, Jude | WEAVING, Hugo |
| DICAPRIO, Leonardo | MCCONAUGHEY, Matthew | WOOD, Elijah |
| DOUGLAS, Michael | | |

The hidden movie title is: REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

CHALLENGING MAZE



DOWN

- Either of two large muscles of the chest.

Daily SuDoku

	2	3		8		5
	1		3	2		
			4	7		
9		6		5	1	8
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Yesterday's Solution

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

Noora's HEALTH HACKS



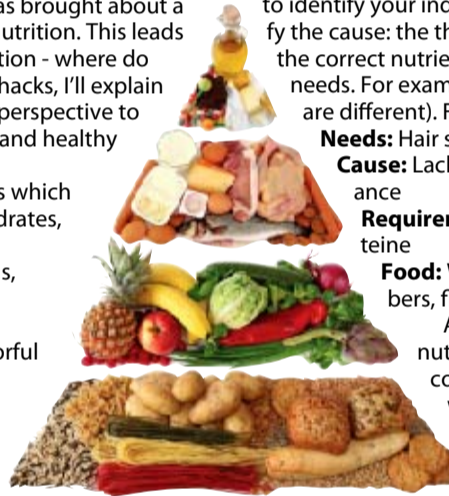
In this series of articles, I'm going to be discussing how we can incorporate healthy living into our everyday life, and give you my Health Hacks that I use myself or have been using to help people lead healthier lives.

The complete lifestyle package A multi-hued bow of healthy choices!

By Noora S AlAskar

Hello everyone! The past decade has brought about a vortex of information regarding nutrition. This leads people to ask a most crucial question - where do you start? Before I begin with my health hacks, I'll explain to you a few things very briefly from my perspective to help you understand how healthy living and healthy eating can properly work for you :)

Well first you have the Macronutrients which are your basic essentials: water, carbohydrates, fats, and protein. Then you have your Micronutrients, the vitamins and minerals, these are what I like to call, the isuper-heroes! of good nutrition. Within these micronutrients comes a vast array of colorful nutrients that are essential to the proper functioning of our body, a treasure box. Open that box; pick a jewel, each jewel (nutrient) has a purpose that benefits our body.



Your body's needs are as unique to you as your fingerprint; no two people have the same requirements. The first step is to identify your individual needs; the second step is to identify the cause: the third step is to make sure you are getting the correct nutrients in the exact amounts to meet your needs. For example (this is case specific, everyone's needs are different). For example let's talk hair!

Needs: Hair strengthening and radiant skin

Cause: Lack of protein, stress, and hormone imbalance

Requirements: Silica, biotin, B6, ACE, omega 7, cysteine

Food: Whole grains, salmon, lean beef, cucumbers, flaxseed, wheat germ

As I often tell my lovely clients, excellent nutrition is not all about diets and calorie counts; it is a complete lifestyle package, wrapped up in a multi-hued bow of healthy choices! It is your own individual power tool, for whatever needs you have. Until next time!

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE GULF REGION





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

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



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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/11/2016 TO 16/11/2016)

SHARQIA-1
 SABER GOOGLE 11:30 AM
 SABER GOOGLE 2:00 PM
 NO FRI+SAT
 TROLLS 2:30 PM
 TROLLS 4:30 PM
 SABER GOOGLE 6:30 PM
 SABER GOOGLE 9:00 PM
 SABER GOOGLE 11:30 PM

SHARQIA-2
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MUHALAB-1
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 SAHASAM SWASAGA SAGIPO -Telugu 5:00 PM
 SABER GOOGLE 8:00 PM
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MARINA-1
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MARINA-2
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AVENUES-1
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 AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 9:15 PM
 JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK 12:30 AM

AVENUES-2
 DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX 12:30 PM
 TROLLS - 3D 4DX 3:00 PM
 TROLLS - 3D 4DX 5:15 PM
 TROLLS - 3D 4DX 7:30 PM
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 DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX 12:15 AM

AVENUES-3
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AVENUES-4
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 SABER GOOGLE 9:00 PM
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AVENUES-5
 SABER GOOGLE 12:15 PM
 AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 2:45 PM
 DOCTOR STRANGE 6:00 PM
 Special Show "TROLLS" 6:00 PM
 AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 8:30 PM
 AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 11:30 PM

360°- 1
 DOCTOR STRANGE 12:00 PM
 DOCTOR STRANGE 2:45 PM
 DOCTOR STRANGE 5:15 PM
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360°- 2
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 KILL KANE 3:15 PM
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AL-KOUT.2
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 SHUT IN 2:15 PM
 TROLLS 4:15 PM

FOR RENT

Furnished Building Furnished Apartment

Please call
97247888

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 04:46
Shorook 06:07
Duhr: 11:32
Asr: 14:35
Maghrib: 16:56
Isha: 18:15



Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016

INDIA BANKS REOPEN TO LONG QUEUES AFTER RUPEE PULLOUT

Page 41



KAMCO reports KD 5.6 million revenue for 9 months of 2016

Page 38



BEIJING: A man reads a newspaper with the headline of "US President-elect Donald Trump delivers a mighty shock to America" at a news stand in Beijing yesterday. — AP

TRUMP KEEPS WORLD ECONOMY GUESSING SHOCK VICTORY INTENSIFIES GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES: ANALYSTS

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's promise to put America first helped propel him to the US presidency. But he also unleashed uncertainty on the global economy by skewering trading partners and offering few specifics that might calm allies or businesses.

Financial markets reacted quickly and negatively to the unknowns of a Trump stewardship of the world's largest economy. By Wednesday afternoon, though, stocks had rebounded, especially those involving drug companies, defense contractors and firms that rebuild infrastructure, which could benefit from a Trump administration.

Many analysts asked: Will - or can - Trump shed his aggressive rhetoric? "We simply can't know what type of president Trump will be," said Paul Ashworth, chief US economist for Capital Economics.

Trump had campaigned by vowing to rip up trade deals he deems unfavorable. He promised penalties for US companies that offshore factory jobs. He would label China a currency manipulator. He would repeal President Barack Obama's health care law.

Credibility

He staked his credibility on erecting a wall along the Mexican border and limiting immigration ideas that connected with a mainly white working class that's felt abandoned by

political leaders. The president-elect has promised to spur growth with a roughly \$6 billion tax cut over the next decade. It's a policy that could help the US economy but also cause its national debt to jump, according to economists. Trump would also use tax credits to fund infrastructure projects, saying he could deliver \$1 trillion in investment over 10 years.

"Mr. Trump has proposed tax cuts and deregulation," said Brian Wesbury, chief economist at First Trust Portfolios. "That's not a bad start. We have never seen a tax cut we don't appreciate."

Analysts at Credit Suisse noted that Trump "will learn quickly the power of his new pulpit" as the markets respond to his pronouncements. "This morning's rally in infrastructure-related investments has demonstrated that the market will react to any specifics it hears," analysts at the Swiss bank concluded.

Yet Trump has provided so few fleshed-out policy details that he fostered the impression of a White House that would be run largely on his instincts. For some investors and analysts, that approach has left a sense of unease about the possible direction of the US economy under his watch.

Among other things, Trump has floated the idea of neglecting the national debt to negotiate for better terms. He argued that he can boost growth by cutting taxes for the wealthy,

slashing regulations and reducing the country's dependence on imports.

National debt

The flip side, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, is that Trump's plans would raise the national debt by \$5.3 trillion over 10 years. This would be on top of the \$9 trillion that the national debt is already projected to rise by the Congressional Budget Office. The increase in debt risks making it more expensive for the United States to borrow.

Trump has insisted that the US economy can grow nearly 4 percent a year - roughly double its current pace. The Federal Reserve has estimated that growth will average below 2 percent. (During his campaign, Trump attacked the US central bank as a pawn of Obama.)

Even his tax plans have raised questions about whether single parents might face a higher tax burden while the wealthy enjoy sizable savings. The top 1 percent of earners would receive, on average, a tax cut of \$214,690 in 2017, according to the Tax Policy Center. Those in the top 0.1 percent would enjoy a tax cut of more than \$1 million.

"Taking Trump's campaign rhetoric at face value, there is reason to believe that the policies he supports could push the US into a recession and could create wider contagion," said Megan Greene, chief economist at Manulife Asset

Management. The one certainty is that Trump "will face fewer obstacles in pushing through his agenda" because of the Republican majorities in both the House and Senate, Greene said.

Uncertainty itself carries risks to the global economy and has been one factor in slowing growth since the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession. It can make businesses and government postpone spending on new plants, infrastructure and jobs.

Key trading partners appear nervous, though their anxieties might appear to be vindication for Trump voters who oppose globalization. Ulrich Grillo, head of the Federation of German Industries, said that "Donald Trump would be well-advised not to seal off the US economy from the world. Otherwise, the lack of clarity about the future course will lead to significant negative effects for the world economy."

The United States is a major market for German companies like BMW and Daimler. By one estimate, 1.5 million jobs depend on exports to the United States, the country's biggest trading partner. US import barriers could especially hurt economies such as China and South Korea as they grapple with slowing growth. World trade in merchandise will grow this year by only 1.7 percent, the slowest pace since the financial crisis of 2008-9, according to the World Trade Organization. — AP



HYDERABAD: Indian farmer couple fill unpolished rice into a bag on a highway side road in Thoopran Mandal in Medak District, some 60 kilometers from Hyderabad yesterday. —AFP

KAMCO REPORTS KD 5.6 MILLION REVENUE FOR 9 MONTHS OF 2016

THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2016

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company yesterday reported its financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2016. The Company recorded a net profit of KD 890 thousand, with earnings-per-share (EPS) of 3.74 fils for the first nine months of 2016, compared to a loss of KD (736) thousand with EPS of (3.09) fils during the same period in 2015. Revenue stood at KD 5.6 million against KD 3.5 million during the same period in 2015. Fee Income reached KD 4.9 million, an increase of 36 percent from KD 3.6 million achieved in nine months of 2015.

Operationally, KAMCO's assets under management stood at approximately KD 3.4 billion with new money raised in funds and client portfolios. KAMCO Real Estate Yield Fund, KAMCO's flagship product in the real estate space, increased its AUM by 34 percent, distributing 3 percent during nine months.

Commenting on the results, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, CEO of KAMCO, said, "So far, 2016 had been a year of uncertainties with Brexit, US elections and demanding investment environment in the region. Despite these challenges, we at KAMCO were able to grow operationally with our commitment to provide our clients with prudent and inno-



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

novative products and services, emerging as one of the preferred Asset Management and Investment Banking providers locally and in the region."

KAMCO Investment Company is a premier investment company, based in Kuwait with an office in the UAE and presence throughout the GCC region, regulated by the Capital Markets

Authority with one of the largest private sector AUMs in the region.

Established in 1998 and listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in 2003, KAMCO is a subsidiary of United Gulf Bank (UGB). It has become a leading regional company within its sector offering innovative products and services to its clients, holding over \$11.2 billion of client AUM and has successfully completed 85 investment banking transactions worth over \$12 billion as of 31 December 2015.

With almost two decades of experience in conducting business in Kuwait's dynamic investment industry, KAMCO has successfully established a robust reputation for solidity, characterized by its prudent, conservative investment philosophy and spirit of transparency, which has consistently commanded the goodwill of a wide patron-base.

The company will further aggressively build upon its core competencies to offer MENA-wide investment management consultancy and services, backed by its proven track record in stringent risk mitigation, investment product innovation, and a cautious investment approach towards local, regional and international capital markets.

EGYPT ISSUES \$4 BN PRIVATE BOND PLACEMENT, MULLS EUROBOND DELAY

CAIRO: Egypt said yesterday it had issued \$4 billion in international bonds in a private placement aimed at plugging the budget deficit and boosting foreign reserves but may postpone a planned Eurobond issue. Egypt has been negotiating billions of dollars in aid from various lenders to help revive its economy, battered by political and economic upheaval since the 2011 uprising.

It expects this week to clinch final approval for a \$12 billion three-year loan from the International Monetary Fund to support an ambitious program of economic reforms.

The Finance Ministry said in a statement the \$4 billion placement included a \$1.360 billion bond with 4.62 percent interest maturing in Dec. 2017, a \$1.320 billion bond with 6.75 percent interest maturing in Nov. 2024, and \$1.320 billion bond with 7 percent interest maturing in Nov. 2028.

"This issue comes in the framework of the ministry's commitment to diversify the financing sources for the budget deficit," the statement said. In a move to boost the country's foreign reserves, the central bank also said it had reached an agreement with a consortium of international banks to use the bonds as the basis for a \$2 billion repurchase agreement.

"The central bank initiated a repurchase transaction with a consortium of international banks for a total amount of funding of \$2 billion with a maturity of one year," it said in a separate statement.

"This transaction complements a series of measures taken recently in order to unleash the vast potential of the Egyptian economy and instill confidence by normalizing local market conditions and bolstering economic activity." Egypt's foreign reserves have plummeted from about \$36 billion on the eve of the 2011 revolt to about \$19 billion in October as it has struggled to lure back tourists and foreign investors put off by years of turbulence.

With its deficit widening, reserves dwindling and a currency black market booming, Egypt has embarked on a series of economic reforms to restore investor confidence that last week saw it take the dramatic step of floating the pound currency.

Finance Minister Amr El Garhy said earlier this week that Egypt planned to start a roadshow for a \$2-\$2.5 billion Eurobond issue in late November. But after the private placement, Garhy appeared on Dubai-based Al Arabiya Television to say that the issue could now be postponed.

"We had plans to start (the roadshow) in the last week of this month, but some changes and volatility happened in the markets," he said. "We are watching closely in order to be sure if we can start in the last week of November or if we will have to-and this is possible-delay."

Egypt's inflation eases

Meanwhile, Egypt's urban consumer price inflation eased for the second consecutive month in October but core inflation jumped, the official statistics agency and the central bank said. October's decline was the second since inflation figures hit a near eight-year high of 15.5 percent in August. Prices have been rising in Egypt as the country embarks on economic reforms and seeks to secure a \$12 billion IMF loan program. —Agencies

MUBADALA MAY INVEST IN RUSSIAN VEGOIL, RICE FIRMS

MOSCOW: Abu Dhabi state investment vehicle Mubadala Development Co may invest in a vegetable oil producer and a rice producer in Russia, a Russian state-backed fund said, in a rare Gulf investment into the country's commodities sector. Russia's agriculture and food production sector has been growing due to Moscow's decision to ban most Western food imports in 2014 in retaliation for sanctions over Ukraine, which are keeping many Western

investors away from Russian assets.

"Russian agriculture ... is attractive to foreign investors due to the high growth rate in the domestic market and exports," Kirill Dmitriev, the chief executive of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), said in a statement on Thursday.

The RDIF, Mubadala and other investors will consider a co-investment of about 10 billion roubles (\$158 million) into EFKO Group, a major

vegetable oil and fat products maker in Russia.

The consortium may also invest up to 9 billion roubles in AFG National, a Russian rice producer which is also developing fruit and vegetables projects.

"Asia and the Gulf region are the only potential investors, we still have, while Western investors hold back from investments for obvious reasons," Andrey Sizov, the head of SovEcon agriculture consultancy, said. "All of

them usually work with the RDIF because it is a local partner approved by the government," he added.

RDIF and Mubadala have been investing in Russian infrastructure, mining and other sectors since 2013. By investing in agriculture and food projects in Russia, companies from the Gulf region are following Asian investors that have already announced plans to invest in milk and dairy production in Russia. —Reuters

BASHED ON TRADE, BEIJING MAY BENEFIT FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP

BEIJING: The world's second-largest economy is US president-elect Donald Trump's designated bogeyman, threatening it on the campaign trail with tariffs for stealing American jobs, but analysts say US protectionism could create opportunities for Beijing.

For months Trump has railed against China's trade practices, saying it artificially lowers its currency to boost its exporters at the cost of American manufacturing jobs, and threatening to levy a 45 percent tariff on all Chinese-made goods. He also denounced the Obama administration's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement with Asia-Pacific economies-excluding China-that accounts for nearly 40 percent of the global economy.

Before the election two of Trump's advisors wrote in *Foreign Policy* magazine that he would "never again sacrifice the US economy on the altar of foreign policy by entering into bad trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement, allowing China into the World Trade Organization, and passing the proposed TPP".

The TPP has yet to be ratified by the US and "is now dead", said Mark Williams of Capital Economics. The demise of that deal, intended to bolster US influence in the region, hands Beijing an opportunity to forge an Asia-focused trade agreement of its own that "excludes the US", he added.

Moreover, "if the US is less engaged in Asia, Beijing will have an opportunity to shape regional political and economic integration on its own terms".

US retreat

China has already embarked on negotiations to create the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a free trade area encompassing the southeast Asian grouping ASEAN, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Something of a mirror image to TPP, it includes six of the Washington-led grouping's 12 members-but not the US. It would encompass more than three billion people and Australian foreign minister Julie Bishop told media Thursday that if TPP does fail, "then the vacuum that would be created is most likely to be filled by RCEP".

Any retreat from trade and engagement by the US could also send its business partners into the arms of Beijing, which regularly offers countries soft loans to encourage deals and has urged its companies to expand overseas and compete directly with foreign firms.

President Xi Jinping's signature One Belt One Road initiative has already made inroads for Chinese construction and industrial firms in central Asia, aided by generous loans from state-owned banks.

TRUMP'S VICTORY CHALLENGES FED POLICY, INDEPENDENCE

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's surprise victory in the US presidential race raises new questions over Federal Reserve policy in the short run and the central bank's vital operational independence over the longer term. How his proposed, dramatic policy shifts impact the economy could influence Fed plans to resume raising interest rates after a year's hiatus, which was widely expected to begin in December.

Meanwhile, Trump's sharp attacks on the Fed and especially Chair Janet Yellen during the campaign, some worry, could lead to greater political interference in monetary policy. "We are in a big, fat, ugly bubble. And we have a Fed that's doing political things, this Janet Yellen of the Fed," Trump charged during the campaign.

"The day (President Barack) Obama goes out ... to the golf course for the rest of his life to play golf, when they raise interest rates, you are going to see some very bad things happen," he said. In fact, the Fed has been hinting at raising rates for months and prior to the election most expectations were that it would do so in its December policy meeting.

But that was when Democrat Hillary Clinton, who espoused continuity in economic policy, was expected to win Tuesday. With the Trump victory, some analysts say a rate increase could again be off the table. "As of right now, the chance of a December hike probably is no more than one in three," said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics. —AFP



TOKYO: Ruling coalition lawmakers stand to approve the passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade deal in the lowerhouse of the parliament in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

MEXICO BRACES FOR POWERFUL WINDS OF 'HURRICANE TRUMP'

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's central bank chief warned back in September that a Donald Trump victory in the US election would hit his country like a powerful storm. After Hurricane Trump made landfall, the peso fell to an all-time low Wednesday and the Mexican stock market plunged on fears Trump would make good on his promises to upend economic ties.

But, clearly striving to project a sense of stability, the government said Wednesday it did not need to take any immediate economic actions, and President Enrique Pena Nieto extended a hand to the Republican billionaire. Pena Nieto said he had congratulated Trump for his victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton during a "cordial, friendly and respectful" phone conversation.

"I agreed with the president-elect to meet, preferably during the transition period, to define with clarity the direction that the relationship between both countries should take," he said from his official residence. "We both agreed that we must work for a relationship of trust, of a shared future, because our countries are very important to each other," he said. "I am optimistic. It's clear that a new phase in relations opens with the arrival of a new government, but I also think that there is a great opportunity" for the development of both countries, said Pena Nieto, who once said Trump's rhetoric recalled the rise of Adolph Hitler.

The stakes are high for Mexico.

Trump has vowed to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, to force the Mexican government to pay for a giant border wall and to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement

(NAFTA). Pena Nieto angered many in his country for meeting with Trump, who has described Mexican migrants as rapists, at his official residence in Mexico City on August 31.

The president later conceded that the invitation had been too hasty but insisted he was right to open dialogue with a potential future US president.

While Pena Nieto privately told Trump at that meeting that Mexico would not pay for the wall, it was not discussed again on Wednesday, a Mexican official said.

Foreign Minister Claudia Ruiz Massieu, however, reiterated to the Televisa network that "paying for a wall is not part of our vision."

'A nightmare'

Mexicans were thunderstruck by Trump's victory. "I feel very sad. It's a nightmare, with a lot of uncertainty about what's going to happen," said Erick Sauri, a 35-year-old architect who watched the election in dismay at an American barbecue restaurant in Mexico City.

The Mexican currency weakened to 20.20 pesos to the dollar, a 7.18 percent drop from the previous day, according to private bank Citibanamex, while stocks closed 2.23 percent lower.

But Finance Minister Jose Antonio Meade said there was no need for "premature actions" as Mexico has inflation under control, holds international reserves total \$175.1 billion and enjoys macroeconomic stability. "Mexico has lived through challenges of volatility in the past that we faced with unity, seizing on our economic strength and taking correct and prudent policy deci-

sions, and this won't be an exception," Meade said.

Central bank chief Agustin Carstens, who in September had compared Trump to a maximum Category Five hurricane, said bank governors would meet next week for a monetary policy meeting.

The 'most to lose'

The likelihood of Trump pursuing his Mexico policies is unclear, according to ratings agency Fitch.

"But the advent of a Trump administration increases economic uncertainty in Mexico given its very close economic ties to the US," Fitch said in a note. Jonathan Heath, a prominent Mexico City-based economist, said the peso would continue to fall in the near term. "We are in shock and in a way the markets are reflecting that," Heath told AFP.

But he said the main threat is the structural changes that could befall Mexico if Trump tries to scrap NAFTA. Two-way trade in goods totaled \$531 billion in 2015, and 80 percent of Mexico's exports goes to the United States.

"Mexico is the country that stands most to lose at a global level," Heath said. The money Mexican immigrants send home from the United States provides another important economic lifeline: such remittances totaled \$17.7 billion in the first eight months of the year.

"In the very short term, we could see an increase in remittances," Heath said, "as many families take advantage of the exchange rate in the face of the uncertainty that they may no longer be able to do so." —AFP

TAXES? TRADE? HOW TRUMP COULD AFFECT KEY AREAS OF ECONOMY

FOCUS ON JOBS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump won the presidency by pledging to restore a vanished and golden economic era, when growth roared, factory jobs flourished and America sat unchallenged atop the global economy.

Yet he never offered much of a roadmap. Which is why it's far from clear how Trump will affect the economy, even though his agenda enjoys the advantage of Republican control of both the House and Senate. Trump has pledged to revitalize the mainly white working class that elevated him - a tough task given an aging US workforce, dwindling options for people with little education and years of stagnant pay. Trump has said he'd slash taxes, strong-arm US trading partners, end commitments to environmental rules and make it easier to drill for oil.

He'd lift federal regulations, void President Barack Obama's health care law and curb immigration. And, of course, build a wall on the Southern border - and force Mexico to pay for it. Those steps, Trump says, would turbocharge the economy. Yet many economists warn that his plans could spike the national debt, ignite trade wars and perhaps cause a recession.

It's impossible to tell how his presidency will affect the economy and financial system just because so much is unknown, said Michael Arone of State Street Global Advisors:

"What policies will he pursue? How he moves from election to governing is unknowable." Here's how Trump's presidency might affect sectors of the US economy and financial system:

ECONOMY AND FEDERAL RESERVE

The president-elect has said he can get the economy to grow nearly 4 percent a year; it's now running at half that pace. He would ignite that growth, he's said, by cutting taxes by roughly \$6 trillion over 10 years, expanding oil and natural gas production and slashing most federal regulations.

Yet few analysts think the economy can expand much faster. An aging population means the workforce is adding fewer people, a recipe for tepid growth. And productivity - output per hour worked and vital to economic health - is chronically sluggish.

Those trends help explain why the Federal Reserve says the economy's long-term annual growth is a slow 1.8 percent. That's a rationale for keeping interest rates near historic lows, especially with inflation tame. Trump has called Fed Chair Janet Yellen essentially a puppet of Obama. Yellen has inflated a stock bubble, Trump argues, by keeping rates too low for too long.

Yellen's term as chair will end in early 2018, and Trump won't likely re-nominate her for a second term. Still, analysts don't expect Yellen to resign before her term ends, in part because of the disruption it might cause in financial markets.

The Fed has been considered all but sure to raise rates at its next meeting in mid-December, reflecting a strengthened US economy. After Trump's victory, investors still peg the likelihood of a December rate hike at 81 percent, according to the CME Group.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Trump has vowed to fix roads, bridges and airports - a sticking point in recent years as Congress and Obama failed to compromise on

ways to pay for repairs to aging infrastructure. As president, he said, he'd rely on tax credits to incentivize development. His advisers have asserted that \$140 billion in tax credits could generate \$1 trillion more in infrastructure investments over 10 years.

The approach might speed construction, though tax credits would likely favor profit-generating projects. It's uncertain whether tax credits would lead to upgraded decaying sewer systems in impoverished cities with a shrinking tax base. Overall, the funding would provide what economists see as an urgent priority. Public spending on transportation and water infrastructure has sunk below its 2003 levels, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Beth Ann Bovino, US chief economist at Standard & Poor's, has estimated that each dollar spent on infrastructure returns \$1.30 to the economy.

TAXES

Trump's election could mean a big tax cut for affluent Americans, particularly the richest 1 percent, and a much smaller tax cut for many others. Analysts say those tax cuts would likely boost growth in the short run. But if all his changes were enacted, they would balloon the budget deficit and potentially lift interest rates and shrink the overall economy, economists say.

Nearly half the benefits from Trump's proposed tax cuts would flow to the top 1 percent, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. They'd receive an average tax cut of \$215,000, lifting their after-tax income by 13.5 percent, the policy center found. The top 0.1 percent would get a tax cut exceeding \$1 million. Trump has proposed reducing the top bracket's tax rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent. He'd end taxes on estates and repeal some taxes on investment income. The corporate income tax rate would sink to 15 percent from 35 percent.

On average, middle-income households would receive a tax cut of \$1,010, lifting their after-tax income 1.8 percent, the Tax Policy Center says. But some middle- and lower-income households would face tax increases. That's because his plan eliminates the personal exemption, which lets households reduce taxable income for each household member. Trump would replace that with higher standard deductions. But for many single parents and families with three or more children, the standard deduction wouldn't offset the loss of personal exemptions.

TRADE

Trump says the economy's sluggish growth is due to trade deals negotiated by incompetent leaders who betrayed workers, choosing instead to favor rich donors. Mexico, China and Japan, he argues, operate by rules that have hurt the United States. He says agreements to open markets, like the North American Free Trade Agreement, led firms to ship factory jobs abroad - a trend he would stop by renegotiating these deals and penalizing US companies that move manufacturing operations offshore.

Trump says the result of these trade deals is a \$500 billion trade gap that he'd close by raising tariffs if necessary to restore factory jobs. Yet foreign governments could view the threat of higher tariffs as the start of a trade war. And



WASHINGTON: The US Federal Reserve building in Washington, DC. Donald Trump's surprise victory in the US presidential race raises new questions over Federal Reserve policy in the short run and the central bank's vital operational independence over the longer term. — AFP

even if US manufacturing did expand, automation means factories need fewer workers.

HEALTH CARE

Within the health care industry, Trump is viewed with trepidation. Insurers, pharmaceutical firms and hospitals would stand to lose if a repeal of Obama's health care law, as Trump has vowed, increases the number of uninsured Americans. Even if, as critics like Trump say, the Obama's health care law is rife with complexity and complications for health care companies, it does offer the long-term prospect of more paying customers.

Insurance and hospital industry groups reminded Trump on Wednesday of his pledge to replace Obama's law with a system that provides affordable high-quality coverage for Americans. One of Trump's main proposals - allowing insurers to sell policies across state lines - draws mixed reviews within the industry. Smaller insurers tend not to like it, a reflection of the fact that health insurance is still a regional business. Trump is a wild card for the pharmaceutical industry. At one point, he supported authorizing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices. He also favors letting consumers buy lower-cost medications from overseas.

FINANCIAL REFORM

The fate of key piece of legislation passed after the financial crisis - the Dodd-Frank regulatory reform law - is now in question. House

Republicans want to repeal all or parts of Dodd-Frank. The twist is that Wall Street, generally, has little interest in repealing Dodd-Frank. Banks have spent billions restructuring themselves to comply with the requirements of Dodd-Frank and generally believe the banking system is stronger with the law. But the fate of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which was created by Dodd-Frank, now comes into question. Congress has wanted to restructure the bureau to make it a commission, not led by a single director, and to make it subject to the congressional appropriations process. That's now likelier.

TECHNOLOGY

Trump's election could have a sweeping effect on the technology industry, from foreign-worker visas to international trade agreements. Mark Moerdler, an analyst at Bernstein Research, foresees potential benefits for the industry, he wrote in a research note:

"A pro-corporate administration should be positive for the software industry: streamlining red tape, lowering corporate taxes, returning overseas cash and further spurring startups." Still, Trump's anti-globalization stance could hurt such companies as Microsoft, Oracle and VMW that do big business overseas. And if Trump manages to restrict immigration and restrict H-1B visas, it could make it harder and costlier for tech companies to hire foreign IT workers. — AP

HOW DID MODI PULL OFF BOLD RUPEE SHAKE-UP?

MUMBAI: Months of planning by a select few sworn to secrecy and then cash-laden trucks on the streets. But this was no bank robbery—rather an audacious plan to issue new notes across India.

There are 1.25 billion people in India but only a handful were aware that on Tuesday night Prime Minister Narendra Modi would announce the shock withdrawal of 500 and 1,000 rupee notes (\$7.50, \$15) from circulation. The assault on “black money”, which stunned the country and saw large queues form outside ATMs and banks, was carefully planned over six months by a coterie of Modi advisors.

The prime minister had become convinced in the spring that he needed a headline-stealing move to underline his determination to check rampant tax evasion and settled on scrapping the two highest denomination bills. Only Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the Reserve Bank of India governor and a few close officials were in the know until the very last minute, according to India newspaper reports.

“If secrecy had failed people would have invested most of their cash in Hawala rackets, gold or real estate before the announcement, worsening the black money issue,” Paras Savla of Mumbai-based investment management firm KPB & Associates told AFP.

The move is part of Modi’s crackdown on so-called black money financial transactions in which cash is used to avoid tax. After closing for a day banks started reissuing new 500 notes and a new denomination of 2,000 rupees yesterday.

The Times of India reported that many of Modi’s ministers were only briefed on the plan at a cabinet meeting in New Delhi just before he addressed the nation.

They were then not allowed to leave until he had finished his speech to prevent any unwanted leak, the paper said. Meanwhile, over 1,000 kilometres away at a meeting in India’s commercial capital of Mumbai the RBI was briefing bank heads about the plan.

‘Ramped up’ production

They had been called to the RBI in the morning to receive a locked currency chest which they were told contained notes of the new 2,000 rupee denomination.

They were under strict instructions not to open the chest or speak about it until later that night, according to the Mint newspaper. It was when they opened it, as Modi was speaking, that they learnt about the new 500 note, the paper added. A spokeswoman for the RBI confirmed to AFP that the chests were standard procedure for the issuing of new notes.

RBI chief Urjit Patel has said production of the new notes had been “ramped up” to meet requirements but Pradip Shah, who helped set up India’s HDFC bank, said it would be a “nightmare” getting money to some rural areas. “A lot of people are going to be inconvenienced,” he told AFP.

With the glare of the world on the US election, Modi chose to deliver his bombshell announcement in a rare address to the nation barely three hours before the order to close banks and ATMs came into force. Once the queues had trudged away from the millions of ATMs around the country with now precious 100 rupee bills, the task began of refilling the machines with the new currency. — AFP



MUMBAI: An Indian displays a new Rupees 2,000 currency note outside a bank in Mumbai yesterday. — AP



AHMADABAD: A reflection in a mirror shows Indians standing in a queue to deposit and exchange discontinued currency notes outside a post office in Ahmadabad yesterday. — AP

INDIA BANKS REOPEN TO LONG QUEUES AFTER RUPEE PULLOUT

ATMS START WORKING 2 DAYS AFTER SHOCK MOVE

NEW DELHI: Long queues formed outside banks in India yesterday as they reopened for the first time since the government’s shock decision to withdraw the two largest denomination notes from circulation. Some banks in the capital New Delhi had received the new 2,000 rupee (\$30) bill and a number of ATMs were working again, two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 500 and 1,000 rupee notes would no longer be legal tender in a blitz against tax evasion and corruption.

Modi’s Tuesday evening bombshell prompted a late night rush on cash machines as customers withdrew smaller notes from ATMs before they closed at midnight in preparation for the turnaround, but millions were left stranded without cash. “I have only come here to check if I can change my old notes for a new currency even if I don’t have an account with the bank,” R PSingh, a newspaper vendor, told AFP outside a bank in New Delhi.

“The real worry is how we will get essential daily supplies in the next few days as most people are short of those smaller denomination or new currency notes,” he added.

The government said customers would be able to exchange their old bills for new notes or deposit them in their accounts from yesterday. They would face major scrutiny by tax authorities if they could not account for a sudden swell in their balance. However, it was unclear how many banks across the country—particularly in rural areas—had received the new 2,000 note. Newly designed 500 and 1,000 rupee bills will be rolled out at a later date.

At a Yes Bank branch in New Delhi a queue of around 20 people formed ear-

ly, many waiting from before the lender opened. “It is certainly a huge rush very early in the morning and for obvious reasons. Everyone wants to make deposits and withdraw smaller currency notes to get by,” a bank worker told AFP.

Local media reports showed much longer queues in smaller cities, with some people complaining that banks and post offices, where old notes can also be exchanged, hadn’t opened on time.

“We don’t know what they are doing, why they haven’t yet opened the bank? We have already been waiting for over two hours just to exchange our currency notes,” a customer outside a bank in Modinagar in the northern state of Uttar

Pradesh told ABP news channel.

The shock announcement has also affected tourists. “I had to return from the camel fair in Pushkar, Rajasthan, because I didn’t have enough smaller currency notes and it is difficult to use credit cards there,” Argentine traveller Contantz told AFP.

The government has said that only tax dodgers will lose out from the move, the latest in a series of anti-corruption measures introduced by Modi. Analysts largely welcomed the decision, saying that while consumer spending will likely dip in the short term as the new notes slowly make their way into circulation, in the long run the move will boost GDP. — AFP

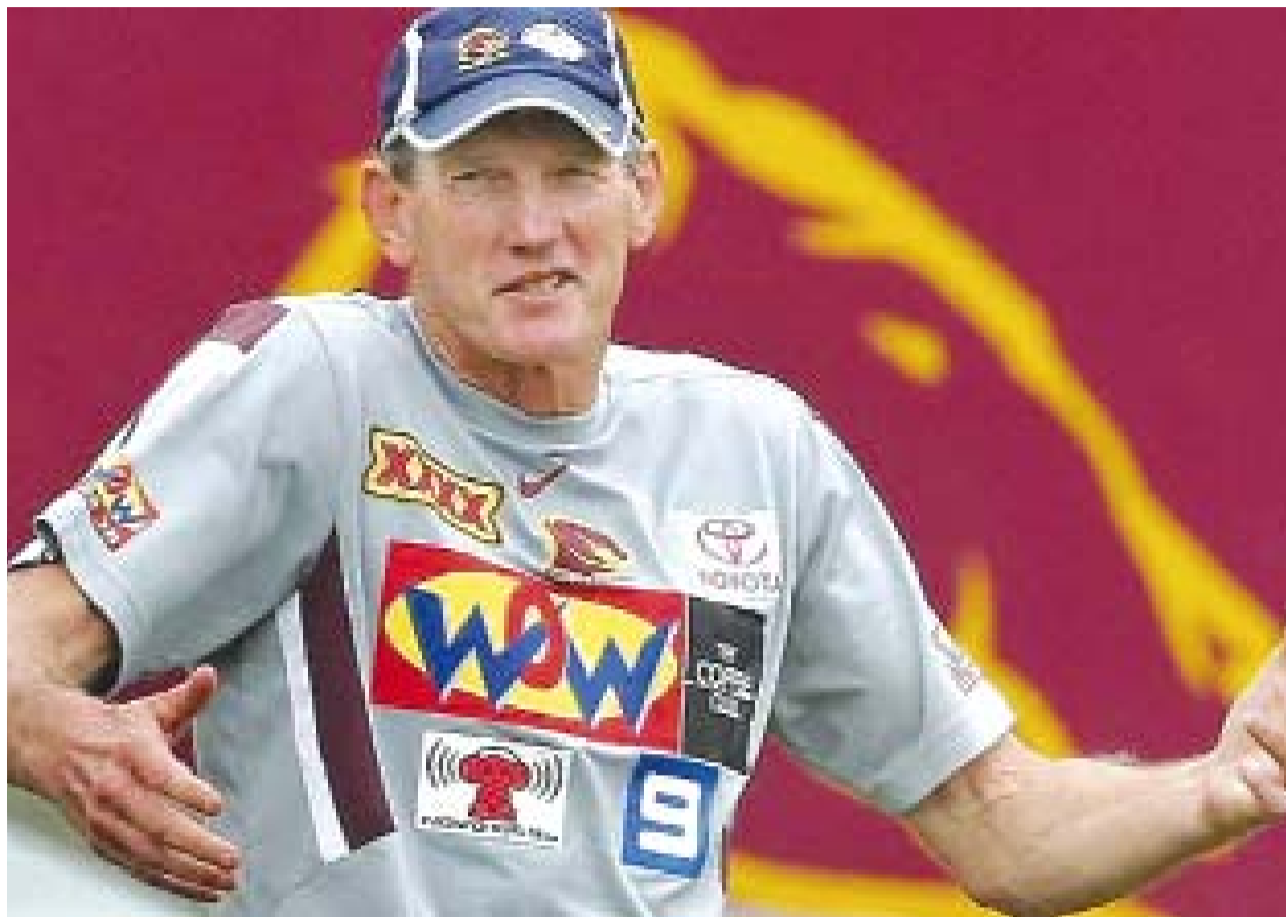
WORLD FOOD PRICES EDGE HIGHER IN OCTOBER: FAO

ROME: World food prices edged up in October to continue an upward trend since January, the United Nations food agency said yesterday, adding that prospects for global cereal output had improved. Barring a slight dip in July, the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) food price index has steadily increased from a seven-year low hit in the first month of this year.

The index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 172.6 points in October, 0.7 percent above the month before and 9.1 percent above October last year. Sustained demand for cheese and butter in the European Union pushed up dairy prices 3.9 percent on the

month, while sugar rose on reports of production shortfalls in Brazil and India. Conversely, sluggish import demand globally for palm oil pushed oil and fats prices down, and weaker appetite for European meat from importers in China weighed on meat prices.

FAO senior economist Abdolreza Abbassian said high production prospects for basic foods such as cereals meant any future price rises would probably be muted. But he added that currency volatility and uncertainty unleashed by the US presidential election this week hampered predictions about changes in dollar terms. “It’s not an election in just any country, it’s the very country whose currency is the common denominator for all international trade,” Abbassian said. — Reuters



Coach Wayne Bennett

BENNETT DEMANDS IMPROVEMENT FOR A MUST WIN AUSTRALIA CLASH

LEEDS: England's hopes of beating Australia on Sunday in the Four Nations rests on producing a far better performance than they did in beating minnows Scotland last weekend says coach Wayne Bennett. Nothing short of a win over the world champions—a team England have not beaten since 1995—will suffice if the tournament hosts are to progress to the final at Anfield. Even a victory might not do it if New Zealand run wild over Scotland today and vastly improve their points difference to make England's task that much harder.

The Kangaroos enter the match on a run of 10 successive victories over England but Bennett—who was overlooked for a third spell in the Australian hotseat in favor of Kangaroos icon Mal Meninga almost a year ago—has a history of upsetting his home country. He was New Zealand's assistant coach when they triumphed in the 2008 World Cup final and will be hoping to turn the tables once more.

Bennett—who drew stinging criticism for the manner in which he addressed the poor display in the 38-12 win over

Scotland—said the players needed to rediscover their form from the opening 17-16 defeat to the Kiwis.

"We need to get back to the way we played against New Zealand. There needs to be lots of improvement from us this week. It's a big ask against the best team in the world," said the 66-year-old. "We'll know before we get to the game what we've got to do. What we do know is that we've got to beat Australia and that's the number one issue. If we don't beat them then it's all over. "I know how much ability there is in this squad and I want everyone to play to their ability. That's the best chance we've got. "Tomorrow night after the Scotland game I would have changed everybody, after this week I'd say there might not be that many changes."

Hooker Josh Hodgson—whose marquee match-up with Cameron Smith could prove pivotal—is confident his side are ready. "It's been a long time since we've beaten them but this is a different team to those that have been and gone," Hodgson said. "If we are at

our best we can get the job done." Kangaroo forward Boyd Cordner—who has never played England in England before—admits the battle up front could prove decisive.

"Sam Burgess (the England captain) is one of the best players in the game so any team with him in it is a pretty class side," Cordner said.

"They have got threats all over the park, outside backs that can finish but stopping their big men will go a long way." Today Scotland could do hosts England a favour by halting the Kiwi charge. A New Zealand victory by under 30 points would leave England with the simple equation of just having to win two days later, but head coach Steve McCormack insists his side are only thinking about their own task ahead. "I'm not bothered about them, I'm not bothered one single bit, I'm just bothered about what we do," said McCormack.

"It's about making sure these lot are galvanized this week. The mood is really good. I'm not interested in any other results, apart from ours."— AFP

DALY TO MAKE FIRST STARTS FOR ENGLAND

BAGSHOT: Elliot Daly will make his first start for England, after five appearances off the bench, as he was named at outside centre for tomorrow's clash with South Africa at Twickenham. The Wasps man received the nod ahead of regular 13 Jonathan Joseph, who has been battling a groin injury but is named among the replacements. Flanker Tom Wood, dismissed by coach Eddie Jones a year ago as "distinctly average" and flying winger Jonny May, who suffered a serious knee injury in December, make their first appearances since the World Cup as Jones was forced into a raft of changes due to injuries.

Joe Launchbury and Courtney Lawes will lock the scrum in the absence of Mario Itoje and George Kruis while Marland Yarde is back on the left wing. An uncapped trio of prop Kyle Sinckler, number eight Nathan Hughes and centre Ben Te'o were named among the replacements. "With a few influential players not available for selection this is a great opportunity for some of the new faces to put both feet forward," Jones said.

"I'm also pleased to see a number of returning players get their chance on Saturday, most notably Jonny May after his long injury rehabilitation and Joe Marler, whose attitude and application to training these last two weeks has been first-class." Daly is the most eye-catching selection, not least because Joseph has performed so well as first choice in every one of Jones' nine games - and nine wins. "Elliot has been there or thereabouts for the past five or six tests, he gives us a left-foot option out wide, is a strong runner and a great defender," Jones said.

Daly has happy memories of Twickenham having twice helped Whitgift School take the Schools Under-18 Cup there - once alongside Yarde, who scored a hat-trick in the 2010 final. Daly was in Stuart Lancaster's training squad for the 2015 World Cup but did not make the final cut, a decision he described at the time as "devastating." He has come off the bench five times under Jones, three in the Six Nations and two on the Australia tour, and, like the coach, has yet to taste defeat.

He has explosive speed and quick feet but at 5ft 10 (1.77m) and not much over 13 stone (83kg) he is slight compared with most modern centers and there were concerns about his defensive solidity at the highest level. Jones, however, has seen enough in camp to throw him in for possibly the most physical examination of all - a test against the Springboks. As a left footer he gives England an extra kicking option and could also be useful as an emergency long-range goalkicker, having famously landed two from the Twickenham halfway line as an 18-year-old in his schooldays. South Africa, who have not lost to England for 10 years but struggled for form in the Rugby Championship, name their team later. — Reuters



Elliot Daly

FOLAU TO WIN 50TH CAP AGAINST SCOTS

EDINBURGH: Thrilling fullback Israel Folau will win his 50th cap for Australia when he lines-up against Scotland on Saturday at Murrayfield. The 27-year-old former rugby league star—who has missed only three tests since making his debut in June 2013 - has been named in a side that shows just one change from the team which eclipsed Wales 32-8 last Saturday. Coach Michael Cheika recalls veteran Will Genia at scrum-half for Nick Phipps—who drops to the replacements bench but will win his 50th cap should he come on during the match. Genia, who will be appearing in his 73rd Test, was unable to play against Wales because of his club commitments to Top 14 outfit Stade Francais.

Genia is reunited with fly-half Bernard Foley, the same partnership who orchestrated the ultimately controversial win over Saturday's opponents in last year's World Cup quarter-finals. Cheika makes four changes, including Phipps, to the replacements with the experienced Dean Mumm returning following a one-week suspension and Will Skelton set for his first Test since August. The Wallabies will wear a red poppy in commemoration of Remembrance Day and donate a match jersey signed by the Test squad to the Mates4Mates charity—which supports current and ex-serving Australian Defense Force members (and their families) who are wounded, injured or ill as a result of their service. — AFP



MISSOURI: Corey Crawford #50 of the Chicago Blackhawks makes a save against Vladimir Tarasenko #91 of the St. Louis Blues at the Scottrade Center on November 9, 2016 in St. Louis. — AFP

BLACKHAWKS WIN SEVENTH IN A ROW

ST LOUIS: Artemi Panarin scored 25 seconds into overtime and Corey Crawford made 27 saves to lead the Chicago Blackhawks over the St. Louis Blues 2-1 on Wednesday night for their seventh straight win. Crawford won his sixth consecutive game and improved to 15-5-5 against the Blues. Chicago has earned a point in nine straight games. Panarin scored on a wrist shot from the slot for his sixth goal of the season. St. Louis' Alex Pietrangolo tied it with 2:11 left in the third on a drive from the point that squeezed past Crawford, who got a piece of the shot. Jake Allen made 28 saves for the Blues.

BLUE JACKETS 3, DUCKS 2, OT

Zach Werenski scored 1:21 into overtime after Columbus blew a two-goal lead before escaping with a victory over Anaheim. Brandon Saad had a goal and an assist and Boone

Jenner got his first score this season for Columbus, which won its fourth straight at home and stretched its point streak to five (4-0-1). Sergei Bobrovsky made 30 saves. Anaheim's Nick Ritchie tied it at 2 early in the third period after Rickard Rakell scored late in the second. John Gibson made 15 stops.

SENATORS 2, SABRES 1, SO

Bobby Ryan and Kyle Turriss scored during a shootout, helping Ottawa beat Buffalo. Turriss scored in the first round to match Sam Reinhart's tally, and then Ryan put Ottawa ahead in the second round. Mike Condon stopped Brian Gionta on Buffalo's final attempt and finished with 31 saves. Ryan Dzingel got a tying goal for Ottawa 7:15 into the second period. Nicholas Baptiste scored for Buffalo and Robin Lehner made 28 saves while the Sabres lost their second in a row. — AP

KOSOVO BOOSTED AS FIFA DECLARE PLAYERS ELIGIBLE

ZURICH: FIFA yesterday authorized two more footballers to play for Kosovo as the country participates in World Cup qualifiers for the first time. Melbourne Victory forward Besart Berisha and defender Mergim Vojvoda of Belgium side Mouscron, who both played for Albania, can now join Kosovo who play Turkey on Saturday. Kosovo's first-ever World Cup qualifying campaign had already been given a lift when 16

players were ruled eligible to join the team in early September. These included players who have already competed for Albania, Switzerland, Germany and Norway. Once Serbia's southern province, Kosovo unilaterally declared independence in 2008 and were granted admission to FIFA last May. After three qualifying matches Kosovo are sitting bottom of Group I after a 1-1 draw in Finland and two defeats. —AFP

NHL results/standings

Columbus 3, Anaheim 2 (OT); Ottawa 2, Buffalo 1 (SO); Chicago 2, St. Louis 1 (OT).

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Chicago	10	3	1	49	34	21
St. Louis	7	4	3	32	36	17
Minnesota	6	4	1	33	22	13
Winnipeg	6	7	1	42	43	13
Nashville	4	5	3	31	36	11
Dallas	4	6	3	33	46	11
Colorado	5	7	0	24	37	10
Pacific Division						
Edmonton	9	4	1	43	35	19
Anaheim	6	5	3	37	33	15
San Jose	7	6	0	30	32	14
Los Angeles	7	6	0	35	32	14
Vancouver	5	8	1	27	41	11
Calgary	5	8	1	36	51	11
Arizona	5	7	0	35	44	10
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Montreal	11	1	1	42	30	23
Ottawa	8	5	0	32	32	16
Tampa Bay	7	5	1	41	38	15
Detroit	7	6	1	38	37	15
Boston	7	6	0	32	35	14
Florida	6	6	1	35	33	13
Buffalo	5	5	3	26	31	13
Toronto	5	5	3	37	48	13
Metropolitan Division						
Pittsburgh	9	2	2	41	34	20
NY Rangers	10	4	0	58	34	20
Washington	8	3	1	33	27	17
New Jersey	6	3	3	29	27	15
Columbus	6	3	2	35	23	14
Philadelphia	6	6	2	49	51	14
NY Islanders	5	6	2	37	40	12
Carolina	3	5	4	31	41	10

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



OKLAHOMA CITY: Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan (left) and Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jerami Grant scramble for a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, Nov 9, 2016. —AP

DEROZAN'S RAPTORS BUST THUNDER'S DEFENSE

WARRIORS BEAT MAVERICKS, RAPTORS DEFEAT THUNDER

OKLAHOMA CITY: DeMar DeRozan scored 37 points to help the Toronto Raptors beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 112-102 on Wednesday night. DeRozan, the NBA's leading scorer, made 13 of 22 field goals and 11 of 15 free throws. Kyle Lowry added 19 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds and Patrick Patterson had 13 points for the Raptors. The Thunder entered the night with the NBA's best record, but they couldn't get their offense going. Russell Westbrook led the way with 36 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, but made just 9 of 26 shots and committed eight turnovers. Victor Oladipo scored 18 points and Steven Adams had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City.

ROCKETS 101, SPURS 99

James Harden had 24 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds as Houston held off San Antonio to hand the Spurs their third straight home loss. Ryan Anderson was 4 for 6 on 3-pointers in scoring 20 points as Houston snapped a four-game skid in San Antonio. Eric Gordon had 15 points and fellow reserve Sam Dekker added 12. Kawhi Leonard scored 34 points for the Spurs but missed his final jump shot, which could have tied the game. LaMarcus Aldridge, who had 14 points, also missed a tip-in attempt at the buzzer. Danny Green made his season debut for San Antonio, scoring eight points in his return from a strained left quadriceps.

WARRIORS 116, MAVERICKS 95

OAKLAND, California (AP) - Klay Thompson hit

his first seven shots and scored 18 of his 20 points in the first quarter as Golden State cruised past undermanned Dallas. Kevin Durant led Golden State with 28 points, Stephen Curry added 24 and Draymond Green had 16 points and 10 rebounds as the Warriors used their outside shooting to build a 19-point lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Harrison Barnes scored 25 points to lead Dallas in his first game against the Warriors since leaving as a free agent last summer.

CLIPPERS 111, TRAIL BLAZERS 80

Blake Griffin had 22 points and 13 rebounds and Chris Paul added 19 points as Los Angeles rolled past Portland to improve to an NBA-best 7-1 with its fourth straight win. The Clippers stunned Portland from the opening tip, shooting 59 percent in the first quarter. They built a 32-point lead in the first half when Griffin had 17 points. Los Angeles' bench opened the second quarter on a 14-2 run to go up 50-18 before extending the lead to 61-32 at halftime. Portland's Damian Lillard, the NBA's second-leading scorer at 32.8 points per game, was held to eight. CJ McCollum, who was averaging 22.9 points, also scored eight.

PACERS 122, 76ERS 115, OT

Paul George scored seven of Indiana's 13 points in overtime as the Pacers beat winless Philadelphia. George finished with 28 points and eight rebounds. Gerald Henderson hit a 3-pointer with 6 seconds remaining in regulation to give Philadelphia a two-point lead. But on

the ensuing Pacers' possession, George hit a jumper with 3 seconds left to tie it. Jeff Teague finished with 30 points and nine assists, and Myles Turner had with 15 points and nine rebounds for Indiana. Robert Covington led Philadelphia with 23 points.

KNICKS 110, NETS 96

Carmelo Anthony scored 14 of his 22 points in the third quarter and Kristaps Porzingis added 21 in New York's victory over Brooklyn. Rookie center Willy Hernangomez had a season-best 14 points, Derrick Rose also had 14 and the Knicks climbed out of a 14-point hole to take the first meeting of the season between the New York rivals. Brook Lopez and Justin Hamilton each scored 21 points for the Nets. They wilted on the second night of back-to-back games after a strong first half. Normally a good fourth-quarter team, they were outscored 38-25 while struggling to run their offense without an experienced NBA point guard.

SUNS 107, PISTONS 100

Eric Bledsoe scored 14 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Phoenix Suns rally to beat Detroit Pistons. Bledsoe added 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Suns. Jared Dudley added a season-high 19 points and Alex Len had 16 points and 14 rebounds. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope led the Pistons with a season-high 27 points and Andre Drummond had 18 points and 14 rebounds.

WIZARDS 118, CELTICS 93

Otto Porter scored a career-high 34 points as Washington beat Boston for its second victory of the season. Porter shot 15 of 19, had 14 rebounds and sparked the fast start with 20 points in the first half. John Wall had 19 points before being ejected for a flagrant foul in the final minutes. Isaiah Thomas led the Celtics with 23 points and Avery Bradley had 21.

HAWKS 115, BULLS 107

Thabo Sefolosha scored 20 points, Dwight Howard added 18 and Atlanta beat Chicago for its third consecutive victory. Paul Millsap added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Hawks while Jimmy Butler led the Bulls with 39 points and Dwyane Wade had 25.

TIMBERWOLVES 123, MAGIC 107

Zach LaVine scored 37 points and Andrew Wiggins added 29 as Minnesota beat Orlando for its first road victory of the season. Karl-Anthony Towns had 20 points and 11 rebounds to help Minnesota snap a three-game losing streak. A night after collapsing defensively against Brooklyn, the Timberwolves led by 30 in the first half. Nikola Vucevic led the Magic with 24 points and 14 rebounds.

HORNETS 104, JAZZ 98

Kemba Walker scored 21 points to help Charlotte beat Utah for its fourth straight victory. Marvin Williams had 19 points, including a big 3-pointer in the fourth quarter to help stretch Charlotte's lead to four. Gordon Hayward led Utah with 29 points.—AP

ALGERIA, GHANA ARE FACING DAUNTING WORLD CUP TASKS

JOHANNESBURG: African football giants Algeria and Ghana could have hopes of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia irreparably damaged if they lose difficult away matches this weekend. Algeria, ranked third in the continent behind the Ivory Coast and Senegal, face resurgent Group B pacesetters Nigeria in Uyo tomorrow. Fifth-ranked Ghana tackle Group E leaders Egypt a day later in Alexandria with the hosts lifting a security-induced ban on spectators to permit a 50,000 crowd.

Should 2014 World Cup qualifiers Algeria and Ghana lose, they will trail Nigeria and Egypt by five points in their groups with a third of the six-matchday schedule completed. Ghana are seeking a fourth consecutive World Cup appearance, which would equal the African record held by Cameroon, and Algeria a third in a row.

While Algeria could not hold an early lead in a surprise 1-1 home draw with Cameroon last month, Nigeria made a perfect start by winning 2-1 in Zambia. English Premier League pair Alex Iwobi of Arsenal and Kelechi Iheanacho of Manchester City scored the Nigerian goals before the visitors survived a second-half Zambian onslaught. Nigeria captain John Obi Mikel of Chelsea says a young, hungry 'Super Eagles' squad are desperate to compensate for failing to make the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations finals.

"It is nice to play with young footballers who are hungry and want to establish themselves as first choices," he told the Nigerian media. "I am reminded of my early days in the national team, playing beside stars like Jay-Jay Okocha and Nwankwo Kanu. It was a great pleasure playing with them. "It is the same with guys like Alex and Kelechi. We enjoy representing our country, creating scoring opportunities and following the instructions of the coach." Recently appointed Germany-born coach Gernot Rohr hopes to complete a hat-trick against Algeria after wins over Tanzania in the Cup of Nations and Zambia.

He believes the Africa Cup failure can be turned to the advantage of the five-time World Cup qualifiers. "Missing out on the 2017 Cup of Nations in Gabon means there is an extra motivation to win our group and go to Russia," he said. "Everybody knows Algeria have great players, but we also have really good footballers and a family-like atmosphere within the squad." The Uyo showdown marks the debut of Belgian coach Georges Leekens, the third handler of Algeria this year after Frenchman Christian Gourcuff and Serb Milovan Rajevac. Gourcuff quit while Rajevac lasted just two matches after players complained about his training methods, team selections and inability to speak French or Arabic. —AFP

CAN LIPPI LIFT SINKING CHINA?

BEIJING: Italian master-coach Marcello Lippi is facing one of his toughest assignments as he attempts what some fans think is impossible: putting under-achievers China on the path to greatness. Starting with Tuesday's World Cup qualifier against Qatar, the silver-haired Lippi will set out to justify his hefty salary as China's new boss and win over a sceptical public. Lippi, 68, won the World Cup with Italy and he is the only coach to lift both the European and Asian Champions League trophies, with Juventus and China's Guangzhou Evergrande.

But he faces an entirely different challenge as coach of China, whose dismal performances have seen them lambasted by their own long-suffering fans. While China's well-heeled clubs, notably Evergrande, have spent their way to success, 'Team Dragon' remain mired at 84th in the FIFA rankings, below Israel, Curacao and Libya. Such is fans' disillusionment that one widely circulated comment on social media compared Lippi's arrival to a tycoon hiring "a Harvard graduate to tutor his retarded son".

Lippi's appointment-at a reported \$20 million a year-is the latest gambit by the Chinese FA, under pressure from President Xi Jinping to craft an era of success. The cigar-loving, medallion-sporting Lippi led Italy to the 2006 World Cup title, four years after China made their sole appearance at the tournament in 2002, when they failed to win a point or even score a goal. But while Lippi had undoubted talent at his disposal at Italy, Juventus and even deep-pocketed Evergrande, he cannot buy in fresh players to revitalize China's squad.

Mental scars

He replaces Gao Hongbo, who resigned in October after two defeats in five days to war-torn Syria and Uzbekistan left the world's most populous nation bottom of Group A in World Cup qualifying, with just one point from four games. With six games left and only the top two of six teams qualifying automatically for Russia 2018, the odds are stacked against China. Defeat in Kunming to Qatar will reduce their



Marcello Lippi

already slim hopes to almost zero. There are reasons for optimism, for next week at least. China beat fellow strugglers Qatar, the 2022 World Cup hosts, in the previous qualifying round in March.

And Kunming, in China's south-west, has an altitude of 1,900 meters above sea level. With China spending an 11-day training camp in the city, home advantage could be crucial. "There is no guarantee of victory against Qatar but we will do our best," Lippi said this week, according to Sina.com. "I am looking for improvements from the players." He has identified his first task as changing the players' mentality, scarred by decades of failure which have left their mark on the team as well as Chinese fans.

"Our main goal at the moment is to help the players to become more confident and know exactly what they have to do," said Lippi. China has spent big on coaches before, with limited success. Former Spain and Real Madrid coach Juan Antonio Camacho joined for a reported \$8 million in 2011, but he was sacked in 2013 after a run of poor results. In April, the Chinese FA unveiled a long-term plan to make the national team a world superpower by 2050. Lippi

has an early part to play in changing the culture around the team.

Hoping for a 'miracle'

According to midfielder Huang Bowen, Lippi's arrival has already had an impact, bringing self-belief to the Chinese camp. "We have Lippi with us," Huang said. "This is what gives us the most confidence. He has stressed that we must have the desire to win and believe in ourselves and our team-mates." Huang is one of seven players in the squad from Guangzhou Evergrande, Lippi's team from 2012 to 2014 who have just won their sixth straight Chinese Super League title.

"They have a winning mentality, they have an understanding of international soccer, and these are all positive things, which could lead us to positive results," Lippi said of Evergrande. Lippi, whose contract runs until January 2019, hasn't entirely given up hope on reaching Russia 2018 - but he admits it would be a "miracle" if China qualify. "If we can win three or four matches among the next six of the campaign, I think it would still be a huge improvement no matter whether we qualify or not," he said. "We all hope a miracle can happen and for the Chinese national team to qualify for the World Cup." —AFP

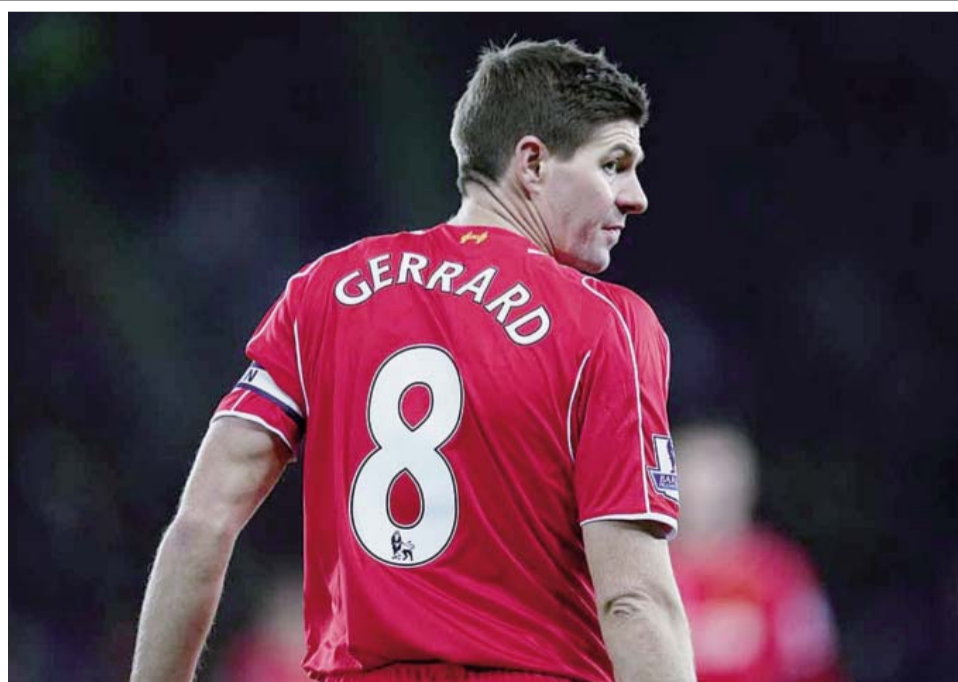
GALAXY BOSS 'HOPEFUL' GERRARD, KEANE STAY

CARSON: Los Angeles Galaxy coach Bruce Arena said Wednesday he hopes Steven Gerrard can be persuaded to prolong his career in Major League Soccer amid reports the former England captain is seeking a coaching or playing role in Britain. Gerrard is out of contract with the Galaxy following the completion of the Los Angeles club's season last weekend in the MLS playoffs. The 36-year-old has been linked to a return to Liverpool in a coaching role while other reports in Britain have suggested he could be tempted into extending his playing career with Celtic.

Arena said no decision on Gerrard's MLS future had been taken yet, but said he hoped the midfielder, and Irish striker Robbie Keane, who is also out of contract, could be tempted to stay with the Galaxy. "We were honored to have Stevie here as well as Robbie and are hopeful they continue to be part of our club but only time will tell," Arena told reporters, saying he had not discussed future plans with either player. "I

haven't spoken to those players. We need to let them have time to comment on what they want to do in their future rather than me commenting on it now," Arena said. "The season just ended. We need a little time to reflect. I'm sure both Stevie and Robbie at the proper time will discuss their futures."

Arena, meanwhile, paid tribute to both Gerrard and Keane's contribution at the club, praising Gerrard for slotting a penalty in Sunday's shootout defeat to Colorado after a lengthy injury layoff. "If Sunday was his last game, to finish the way he finished with that penalty and the 45 minutes he played after being out for close to two months, was pretty impressive," Arena said. "With Robbie Keane, there are very few players who have contributed as Robbie has," he added. "Six unbelievable years, three championships, more than 100 goals. He embraced the league. "You don't always see that from international players." —AFP



Steven Gerrard

POPPIES AND PRIDE AS ENGLAND, SCOTLAND COLLIDE

LONDON: England and Scotland renew the oldest rivalry in international football today in a 2018 World Cup qualifier that has been dogged by a pre-match row about commemorative poppies. The football associations of both countries have pledged to defy a FIFA ban on political, religious or commercial symbols by wearing black armbands with red poppy emblems. It leaves both teams at risk of sanctions from FIFA, but England and Scotland are determined to observe the custom, by which people in Britain pay respect to the country's war dead on November 11. "As head coach, I was keen for us to wear poppies," interim England manager Gareth Southgate said this week. "It's important we represent the nation and wearing the poppy is the right thing to do."

Players on both sides have backed the stance taken by their national associations. But the risk of punishment by world governing body FIFA has led Northern Ireland to decide to wear plain black armbands without poppies on for their home game with

Azerbaijan on the same day. On the sporting front, today's game at Wembley represents Southgate's penultimate opportunity to show his Football Association bosses he deserves to be awarded the manager's job full-time. Southgate was promoted from his role as England Under-21 coach when Sam Allardyce was brought down by a newspaper sting after just one match at the helm.

His four-game tenure has been underwhelming so far, with a labored 2-0 win over Malta followed by a 0-0 draw away to Slovenia in which England were indebted to the reflexes of goalkeeper Joe Hart. But England remain top of UEFA qualifying Group F, two points clear of Lithuania and Slovenia, and the Daily Telegraph has reported the job will be Southgate's barring a disastrous result against Scotland. England host Spain at Wembley on Tuesday in their final game of 2016. England and Scotland's first meeting, a 0-0 draw in November 1872, was the first recognized fixture in international football and they will be facing off for the 113th time.

Iconic images

Their rivalry has produced some iconic images, from Scotland's fans storming the Wembley pitch after a British Home Championship win in 1977 to Paul Gascoigne's memorable volley for England at Euro 96. This will be their first competitive meeting since a two-legged Euro 2000 qualifying play-off in November 1999, which England won 2-1 on aggregate. Southgate has been educating his players on the history of the rivalry with the aid of video footage.

"Of course there will be tackles flying in and a lot of battles and duels, but that's what it's all about," said England striker Harry Kane, who could start after seven weeks out with ankle ligament damage. "You have to keep a cool head, but still keep that passion." England prevailed in their two most recent friendly encounters with Scotland, winning 3-2 at Wembley in August 2013 and 3-1 at Celtic Park in November 2014. But Scotland winger

Robert Snodgrass, who plays for English side Hull City, has taunted England with claims their fans have lost interest in the national team due to recurrent underachievement.

"I speak to English people and I don't think they want England to do well because it's the same old story all the time," he said. "England know their fans will turn on them if they don't score first." As well as Kane, England captain Wayne Rooney will hope to return to the hosts' starting XI after being dropped for the draw against Slovenia. Rooney has returned to Manchester United's starting line-up in their last two games and could replace Kane's injured Tottenham Hotspur team-mate Dele Alli. Celtic midfielder Scott Brown is expected to overcome a dead leg and start for Gordon Strachan's Scotland-fourth in the group after reversing his decision to retire from international football. But Sheffield Wednesday striker Steven Fletcher is a doubt with a knee injury. —AFP



HAMBURG: Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer kicks the ball during a training session in Hamburg, northern Germany. Neuer will miss the next WC 2018 football qualification match between San Marino and Germany due to illness on November 11, 2016. —AFP

GIANTS GERMANY READY TO STEAMROLL TINY SAN MARINO

SERRAVALLE: World champions Germany face minnows San Marino in a 2018 World Cup qualifier with a true David versus Goliath match-up today. Germany take on fellow European powerhouses Italy in Milan next Tuesday in a friendly, their last international of the year, but before the Azzurri, the Germans look destined to clinch three more qualifying points against tiny San Marino.

The landlocked mountainous microstate in North Italy has a population of just 33,400 and its football team is ranked 199 places below second-placed Germany by football's governing body FIFA. Despite a mounting injury list, anything less than a convincing win would be unacceptable to the four-time World Cup winners. Germany top Group C with a perfect record of nine points from three wins, eight goals scored and zero conceded.

At the bottom of the table, San Marino's part-timers have lost all three games, conceding nine goals and scoring just once, when Mattia Stefanelli netted in last month's 4-1 defeat in Norway to be nicknamed 'The Legend'. "It was a great feeling to score a goal for my national team, I dreamed about doing it since I

was a kid," said the 23-year-old, who netted San Marino's first goal in a World Cup qualifier since 2001. The qualifier will be played at Serravalle's Stadio Olimpico, which has a capacity of just 7,000, where Germany beat San Marino 13-0 in 2006 — an away record for die Mannschaft and Stefanelli can expect few chances. "Nothing is impossible," he said.

"We will have to fight until the last minute to hope for an opportunity. "It's something unique and a great opportunity to face the world champions, we have to enjoy it." Previous results suggest a tough night for the hosts. perfect record - Germany romped to a 6-0 home win in 2007, when the teams last met, a year after that 13-0 rout when Lukas Podolski scored four goals. German bookmakers Bwin are offering the lowest possible odds for a Germany win, as well as 4-1 for die Mannschaft scoring ten goals or more, with 51-1 for a San Marino win and 16-1 for a draw.

The Germans want to preserve their perfect record on the road to Russia already beaten Norway, the Czech Republic and Northern Ireland. "The last qualifying match of the year is just as

serious as the three previous games, so we do not want to be arrogant in San Marino," said Loew before boarding Wednesday's flight to Rimini. "We'll be highly concentrated and serious in our task. "It's our duty to get a clear win in San Marino and to extend our lead in the table."

However, Germany have injury woes with captain Manuel Neuer, Toni Kroos, Jerome Boateng and Mesut Ozil missing from their first-choice line-up. Kroos has a fractured foot, Boateng has injured the groin and knee in his right leg and Neuer has a virus. Ozil has been rested for the trip while forwards Julian Draxler and Julian Brandt also miss out with either injury or illness. Loew has called up uncapped trio of Serge Gnabry (Werder Bremen), Yannick Gerhardt (VfL Wolfsburg) and Benjamin Henrichs (Bayer Leverkusen). Despite missing some top names, the Germans expect a heavy win. Miroslav Klose, the all-time top scorer at World Cup finals with 16 goals, will be on the Germany bench for the first time as he begins his coaching career after retiring from all football last week. —AFP

FA ARE 'MORALLY RIGHT OVER POPPIES ISSUE'

LONDON: The English Football Association (FA) are morally right to insist on the England team wearing commemorative poppies in today's World Cup qualifier with Scotland said chief executive Martin Glenn yesterday. World governing body FIFA forbids teams from wearing political, commercial or religious symbols during matches and has warned England and Scotland they could face sanctions if they defy the directive.

But the football associations of both countries have decided their players will wear black armbands with poppy motifs to honor Britain's war dead in the Armistice Day fixture. Glenn, who was speaking at a Sport Industry Club breakfast, said they had been open with FIFA over the issue. "A couple of weeks ago we told FIFA, in line with what he had agreed with them in 2011 (for a game with Spain) that we would wear armbands, not a poppy embedded in the shirt because FIFA have a law of the game that you cannot use political symbols on shirts," said Glenn.

Glenn, who has been in his post for 18 months after a successful career in the food industry, said the post Sepp Blatter regime headed by Gianni Infantino had wanted to make a point. "We had a row with them in 2011 and thought we had got over it," said Glenn referring to a dispute with the then Blatter-run FIFA who eventually conceded and allowed England to wear poppies on armbands in a friendly with Spain. "Unfortunately with the new personalities coming in they wanted to make a bit of a stand, which is very disappointing.

"I had hoped to resolve it quietly but these things never happen quietly. "That forced us to be clear about our position, which is we are going to wear them." Glenn, who admitted he was much more optimistic about the Infantino-led FIFA and welcomed the hiring of former UN official Fatma Samoura as secretary-general, said the FA believed FIFA were misinterpreting the rules. "We think they are interpreting the rules wrongly," said Glenn. "This is a law of the game issue, not a FIFA competition issue. "In England over the last couple of weekends, clubs have worn poppies on the shirts which is also a breach of regulations and nothing has happened about that.

"Why have they done nothing about that? "So I am very confident that our legal position is right. "Our moral position is certainly right. "There are bigger things for FIFA to worry about." Glenn, who has had to deal with his fair share of disappointments since his arrival with England losing to minnows Iceland in Euro 2016 and Sam Allardyce resigning as manager over Daily Telegraph sting operation, said they would fight any sanctions should FIFA impose them.

"We will contest it because, and we have had legal opinion on this, we believe our case is absolutely rock solid so good luck with it," said Glenn. "And if there were something I am sure we could persuade them to divert the fine into supporting the British Legion (a charity that for veterans and serving members of the Armed Services and their families. "But I am very confident it will not come to that." People in Britain wear paper or metal brooch poppies in November to remember the country's war dead. England's game against Scotland falls on November 11, which was the date the Armistice was signed to end World War I in 1918. —AFP

SRI LANKA SWEEP ZIMBABWE SERIES

HARARE: Rangana Herath recorded the best figures by a bowler in a Test in Zimbabwe as Sri Lanka completed a 257-run victory in the second Test at Harare Sports Club yesterday to sweep the series 2-0. Sri Lanka went into the final day needing just three wickets to wrap up the match, and Herath required less than an hour to claim them as he finished with eight wickets in the second innings, bowling Zimbabwe out for 233.

The left-arm spinner's 8 for 63 were the best figures in an innings by a player in Zimbabwe, while his 13 for 152 were the best figures in a match. "I am always trying to improve," said the 38-year-old. "I don't think about records and will take each series as it comes." Zimbabwe's only real hope of pushing Sri Lanka on day five rested with Craig Ervine, who resumed on 65 not out with Zimbabwe on 180 for seven in pursuit of 491 for victory.

But the left-hander was the first batsman to fall as Herath had him well caught by Dhananjaya de Silva at slip for 72. Carl Mumba was next to go, trapped lbw by the left-arm spinner, and although last man Chris Mpofo provided some entertainment as he lofted two huge sixes, he fell to Herath in the same fashion to bring the game to a close.

"His control was exceptional," Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer said of Herath. "He doesn't look like he's doing a lot, but he's got subtle variations that as a batsman you don't pick up. "Only when you watch the replays afterwards do you realise what he was trying to do."

Opening batsman Dimuth Karunaratne was named man of the series for his 280 runs in four innings. Zimbabwe lost both games by large margins, but took both Tests into the final day and nearly secured a draw in the first match.

"We're happy they've gone five days, and there were a lot of positives for us," said Cremer. "But a lot of the mistakes we made at crucial times, like dropping silly catches, changed the games in a huge way.

We need to improve on that." The two teams will play each other in a one-day international on Monday, when a triangular series also involving the West Indies gets underway at the same venue. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

HARARE: Scoreboard at the end of the second Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka on yesterday.

Sri Lanka first innings 504 all out (D. de Silva 127, A. Gunaratne 116, Tiripano 3-91, Cremer 3-136)

Zimbabwe first innings 272 all out (B. Chari 80, C. Ervine 64, R. Herath 5-89, D. Perera 3-51)

Sri Lanka second innings 258/9 dec (D. Karunaratne 88, K. Perera 62, G. Cremer 4-91, C. Mumba 3-67)

Zimbabwe second innings

T. Mawoyo c de Silva b Herath	15
B. Chari b Herath	8
H. Masakadza lbw b Herath	10
C. Ervine c de Silva b Herath	72
S. Williams c Mendis b Kumara	45
M. Waller c K. Perera b de Silva	0
P. Moor c Mendis b Herath	20
G. Cremer b Herath	5
D. Tiripano not out	16
C. Mumba lbw b Herath	1
C. Mpofo lbw b Herath	20
Extras (12b, 6lb, 3w)	21
Total (all out, 58 overs)	233

Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Chari), 2-32 (Masakadza), 3-39 (Mawoyo), 4-113 (Williams), 5-114 (Waller), 6-166 (Moor), 7-176 (Cremer), 8-195 (Ervine), 9-201 (Mumba), 10-233 (Mpofo)

Bowling: Lakmal 15-2-58-0, Herath 23-6-63-8, D. Perera 8-1-42-0, Kumara 9-0-42-1, de Silva 3-0-10-1.

Result: Sri Lanka won by 257 runs

Series: Sri Lanka won two-match series 2-0



RAJKOT: England's Chris Woakes (left) and Ben Stokes (right) run between the wickets as India's Ravindra Jadeja (bottom right) and Wriddhiman Saha watch on the second day of the first Test cricket match between India and England at the Saurashtra Cricket Association stadium in Rajkot yesterday. — AP

STOKES PUNISHES INDIA AS ENGLAND AMASS 537 RUNS

MOEEN, STOKES HIT FOURTH TEST HUNDREDS

RAJKOT: All-rounder Ben Stokes lived a charmed life to register his fourth century as England punished a sloppy India to post a huge first innings total on the second day of the opening test yesterday. After winning the toss and asking the hosts to bowl on a docile pitch, an increasingly confident England capitalised on some slack fielding to amass 537 runs, effectively batting India out of the first match of the five-test series. India openers Gautam Gambhir and Murali Vijay safely negotiated the 23 overs they faced to take their side to 63 without loss at stumps, trailing England by 474 runs.

Gambhir was unbeaten on 28 while Vijay was on 25. Stokes survived two dropped catches, two run out chances and a tough stumping opportunity before he was finally out for an eventful 128 just before the scheduled tea break. The left-handed batsman, who also saw three mis-hits soar high into the air before falling between onrushing fielders, reached three figures with a boundary off spinner Ravindra Jadeja (3-86). After Joe Root scored a hundred on Wednesday, Moeen Ali and Stokes matched the feat a day later to mark the first time in 55 years that an England side had three batsmen score centuries in the same innings at an Asian venue.

Geoff Pullar, Ken Barrington and Ted Dexter all scored hundreds in the second innings of a test against India at Kanpur in December 1961. Resuming on 311-4, England walked out in a positive frame of mind and dominated the Indian attack, who failed to help their cause by bowling too many loose deliveries. Moeen had been on 99 overnight, but picked up the run he needed to bring up his milestone off the third ball of the day

when he dabbled pace bowler Mohammed Shami for a quick single. The left-hander then blasted fast bowler Umesh Yadav for three boundaries in four balls, prompting India captain Virat Kohli to bring on off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin after just five overs with the second new ball. Moeen was dismissed for 117 after shouldering arms to an inswinging delivery from Shami, which ended a brisk 62-run stand with Stokes for the fifth wicket. There was, however, no respite for the Indian bowlers as Stokes and Jonny Bairstow added another 99 for the sixth wicket before the latter was caught behind off

Shami. India had dropped three catches on the first morning of the match and their profligacy continued when wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha dropped Stokes twice off Yadav. Stokes was on 60 when Saha spilled the ball after diving to his left. The wicketkeeper then grassed another almost identical opportunity when the all-rounder had added another run. Bairstow hit five fours and two sixes in his aggressive knock of 46 before Saha finally managed to hold on to a catch. Stokes also added 52 for the ninth wicket with Zafar Ansari before Saha completed a smart catch down the leg side off Yadav to dismiss him. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

RAJKOT, India: Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between India and England at Rajkot's Saurashtra Cricket Association ground on yesterday.

England 1st innings (overnight 311-4; M. Ali 99 not out, B. Stokes 19 not out):

A. Cook lbw b Jadeja	21
H. Hameed lbw b Ashwin	31
J. Root c and b Yadav	124
B. Duckett c Rahane b Ashwin	13
M. Ali b Shami	117
B. Stokes c Saha b Yadav	128
J. Bairstow c Saha b Shami	46
C. Woakes c Saha b Jadeja	4
A. Rashid c Yadav b Jadeja	5
Z. Ansari lbw b Mishra	32
S. Broad not out	6
Extras (b5, lb4, nb1)	10
Total (all out, 159.3 overs)	537

Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Cook), 2-76 (Hameed), 3-102 (Duckett), 4-281 (Root), 5-343 (Ali), 6-442 (Bairstow), 7-451 (Woakes), 8-465 (Rashid), 9-517 (Stokes), 10-537 (Ansari)

Bowling: Shami 28.1-5-65-2, Yadav 31.5-3-112-2, Ashwin 46-3-167-2, Jadeja 30-4-86-3 (1nb), Mishra 23.3-3-98-1

Note: Shami could not complete his 10th over due to an injury. Yadav completed the over

India 1st innings

M. Vijay not out	25
G. Gambhir not out	28
Extras (b8, lb1, w1)	10
Total (0 wickets; 23 overs)	63

Bowling: Broad 5-1-20-0, Woakes 7-2-17-0 (1w), Ali 6-2-6-0, Ansari 3-0-3-0, 2-0-8-0

To bat: C. Pujara, V. Kohli, A. Rahane, W. Saha, R. Ashwin, R. Jadeja, M. U. Yadav, A. Mishra.

Red Bull Bar Bahr Kicks off Today at the Marina Beach



For the past two months, Red Bull Bar Bahr's crew has been working around the clock in preparation for the extraordinary race that combines fun, adventure and challenge, and today, the time has come for the action to begin.

The second Red Bull Bar Bahr edition is set to kick off today at 2:30 PM on the Marina Beach, organized by Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motorsport Club and in partnership with Nissan Al-Babtain, Public Authority For Youth and Sports, Kawasaki, Pirelli, GoPro, Acqua Eva, Marina Mall, Al Anbaa Newspaper, Kuwait Times Newspaper, and Studentalk Magazine.

Red Bull Bar Bahr is a semi-professional motocross championship that combines two sports: Quad Bikes and Jet Skis. Official rules and regulations but also well-devised standards have been set out to preserve sportsmanship and safety conditions in one of the most thrilling competitions. A tripartite committee, consisting of motocross stars Emirati Mohammed Balooshi, Kuwaiti national Mohammad Jaffar and Kuwaiti Mohammad Burbayea who won the first edition in 2014, supervised the logistic preparations for the relay race. The mentioned athletes also oversaw the qualifying rounds held yesterday on Marina Beach, out of which the finalists were selected.

Organizational Expertise and Wide Sponsorship

Emirati Red Bull athlete, Mohammed Balooshi has prepared and overseen the execution of Red Bull Bar Bahr land track. The 37-year-old motorbike race champion has large sports experience as his achievements

record holds many titles including the Arab Motocross Championship for motorbikes, Bahrain Championship and Tunisia Cup. He also won the Umm Al Qiwayn Championship and Kuwait Championship. In 2012, he was the first Emirati to take part in the Dakar Rally where he lasted for nine days in the most difficult endurance race. Balooshi trained junior bikers and established his own academy for "Motocross" bikes to train emerging talents.

Racing Flow and Strategy

The race is mainly based on the relay system; the Quad biker kicks off his race on the land track and as soon as he finishes his round, he gets off his bike, runs towards his teammate and hand him the Jet Ski key so that the latter can begin his race on the water track.

The land track consists of obstacles, bumps, curves, and roadside barriers, which add more challenge and thrill to the event. The Jet Ski track, however, will be delimited by buoys, and will require the participants to perform short, medium and long turns as well as single, double or triple maneuvers. A specific date will be set ahead of the race so that the teams would examine the land and water tracks, and another one will be set to carry out the trainings.

Racing Committee Members
Mohammed Balooshi
Motocross champion Mohammed Balooshi always knew he will accomplish achievements in this sport. Although he started biking at a late age when he was 20 years old (the average age to start biking being seven), Balooshi trained hard and

doubled his efforts to reach his goals. It took him three years of intensive practice to be able to enter his first competition. Balooshi won the "Arab Motocross and Motorbike" title in 2009, which drew him nearer to achieving his dream of competing with the world's greatest motocross riders.

Mohammad Jaffar

Kuwaiti Red Bull athlete Mohammad Jaffar is famous for being specialized in motorbike races of «Motocross» discipline. He started his racing career in 2007, and soon this sport became an integral part of his life, namely after he won his first continental championship in the United Arab Emirates in 2011. Mohammad Jaffar today is one of the best racers in the Middle East in the «Motocross» discipline, and the 28-year-old is working his way to achieve international fame.

"I'm very excited to be part of the supervision on this event that I consider as one of the most important for the Kuwaiti youth, and we miss such kind of events in Kuwait. My role will be tough given the participants' high level of expertise," champion Jaffar said.

Mohammad Burbayea

The racing committee cannot be complete without Mohammad Burbayea who will be supervising the Jet Ski discipline. The Kuwaiti Jet Ski champion is experienced in the event and knows all the competition details and stages, leading him to win "Red Bull Bar Bahr" title for the Jet Ski discipline in 2014. Burbayea is the first Jet Ski champion in Kuwait and the second world champion; he won 28 titles including 19 world

championships.

Thrilling Side Acts

In his second visit in Kuwait, Brian Capper will perform a side act during Red Bull Bar Bahr on Friday, November 11th. After having done his first shows earlier this year, Red Bull athlete Brian Capper is set to carry out a show on his motorbike, raising the adrenaline levels amongst spectators and participants alike.

Born in South Africa, Brian started riding MX at the age of nine, started trial biking at 11, and won his first National title at 18. Capper's discipline is Motor Trial Biking.

Adding an extra kick of excitement on to the water track, Abdul Aziz Matar will perform a Jet Ski show as a side act during Red Bull Bar Bahr this Friday. Matar is a Jet Ski freestyler who started riding Jet Skis back in 2010 and had previously participated in two championships during 2015: UAE Jet Ski Championship in Abu Dhabi in which he won the third place, and Kuwait Jet Ski Championship in which he won the first place, then the second.

Racing Village

The audience will be able to enjoy looking at the latest motorsports cars, bikes, jet skis and tires in addition to accessories and cameras, as part of Red Bull Bar Bahr on the Marina Beach. There will also be a corner for electronic games and art activities, and visitors will be able to watch closely the race starting point from the racing village which has been tailored for the sponsors and the companies participating in the Red Bull Bar Bahr.

