



Candidates make youth violence issue a priority



Obama urges EU leaders to accept Trump



Dubnyk gets 4th SO as Wild beat Bruins



150 Fils

TRUMP TAPS POMPEO, SESSIONS FOR TOP JOBS

FLYNN NAMED NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR



Min 13°
Max 28°



This combination of pictures created yesterday shows (L to R) US Representative from Kansas Mike Pompeo, Retired Lt Gen Michael Flynn and Senator Jeff Sessions. — AFP

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump yesterday tapped arch-conservative Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions to be attorney general and hawkish congressman Mike Pompeo, a strident opponent of the Iran nuclear deal, as his CIA director.

The incoming commander in chief also appointed retired lieutenant general Michael Flynn, a top military counsel to the Republican billionaire and one of his earliest campaign surrogates, as his national security advisor. All three have accepted their appointments, Trump's transition team said in statement. "I enthusiastically embrace President-elect Trump's vision for 'one America,' and his commitment to equal justice under law," said Sessions, a 20-year veteran of Congress.

"I look forward to fulfilling my duties with an unwavering dedication to fairness and impartiality," added the 69-year-old, who was also one of Trump's earliest backers.

Trump described him in the statement as a "world-class legal mind" who was "greatly admired by legal scholars and virtually everyone who knows him."

The appointments represent the president-elect's first steps to appoint a cabinet after a transition effort that so far has been marred by infighting and reshuffles on the team getting ready for the January 20 inauguration.

For director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Trump tapped Pompeo: A congressman who became well known in the controversy over a deadly militant attack against the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya in 2012. "He will be a brilliant and unrelenting leader for our intelligence community to ensure the safety of Americans and our allies," Trump was quoted as saying in the statement.

The 52-year-old co-authored a report slamming then-secretary of state Hillary Clinton's handling of the attack, in which the US ambassador and three other Americans died. And as national security adviser, Trump turned to the 57-year-old Flynn, who is set to play a key role in shaping policy for a president with no experience in government or foreign policy.

"I am pleased that Lieutenant General Michael Flynn will be by my side as we work to defeat radical Islamic terrorism, navigate geopolitical challenges and keep Americans safe at home and abroad," Trump said. A registered Democrat, Flynn served as Trump's leading national security adviser during the campaign and was a highly visible surrogate, with a hardline stance on Islamic extremism. He described it in an interview with the New York Times as an existential threat on a global scale.

Flynn is highly respected as a decorated military intelligence officer who helped combat insurgent networks in Afghanistan and Iraq. But he left the military after President Barack Obama fired him as head of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2014 following complaints about his leadership style. Flynn's appointment does not need approval from the senate. But that of Sessions as attorney general does, and he's got baggage: Racially charged comments he made in the 1980s and which once cost him a chance for a job for life as a federal judge.

Back in 1986 Sessions said that a prominent white lawyer was a "disgrace to his race" for defending African-Americans. Sessions acknowledged saying this in testimony to the US Senate at the time, but he insisted he did not mean it.

In the 1980s he also allegedly addressed a black prosecutor working for him as "boy," and joked about the Ku Klux Klan, saying he had thought its members were "OK, until I found out they smoked pot," according to The New York Times. — AFP

FOR SYRIAN REBELS, TRUMP WIN ADDS TO UNCERTAINTY

BEIRUT/AMMAN: On the eve of Donald Trump's election victory, members of a Western-backed Syrian rebel group met US officials to ask about the outlook for arms shipments they have received to fight President Bashar Al-Assad. They were told the program would continue until the end of the year, but anything more would depend on the next US administration, a rebel official at the meeting said. When Trump takes office in January, it may stop altogether.

The president-elect has signalled opposition to US support for the rebels, and an overhaul of policy on Syria. The military aid program overseen by the Central Intelligence Agency has given arms and training to moderate rebels in coordination with Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan and others.

It helped to support these rebels, fighting under the Free Syrian Army banner, as jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda emerged as a major force in a war approaching its sixth anniversary. US officials declined to comment on any meetings with rebel groups, and previously have not commented on the CIA program given its covert nature.

But Trump has indicated he could abandon the rebels to focus on fighting Islamic State which control territory in eastern and central Syria. He might even cooperate against

IS with Russia, Assad's most powerful ally, which has been bombing the rebels for over a year in western Syria.

Assad, in an interview published on Tuesday, said Trump would be a "natural ally" if he decides to "fight the terrorists". The rebels are looking on the bright side. They say support via the US-backed program has been inadequate and Washington has stopped Saudi Arabia from giving them more powerful weapons.

So the rebels hope a more isolationist United States will give regional states a free hand, allowing Saudi Arabia to provide the anti-aircraft missiles President Barack Obama has vetoed. The rebel official said there had been no contact with US officials since Trump's win. But were US support to end and "this veto lifted", that would be a good outcome, he said. "Everybody is analyzing, there are positive expectations, there are negative expectations - but nothing is yet clear," the official said.

The prospect of a shift in US policy comes at a dark time for the rebellion. Russia on Tuesday escalated its military campaign in support of Assad, drawing for the first time on an aircraft carrier it has sent to the region. Assad and his allies are tightening their grip on rebel-held eastern Aleppo, where heavy air strikes have resumed and insurgents have failed to break the siege. — AFP

KUWAIT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

CANDIDATES MAKE YOUTH VIOLENCE ISSUE A PRIORITY

KUWAIT: Over the past decade, youth antisocial and violent behavior has become a great national concern and a top political policy issue that has been sensationalized by media coverage in Kuwait. Rare, yet devastatingly violent, these crimes are usually committed by youth at schools and public places. Youth involvement in such dysfunctional and violent behaviors put them at risk of being incarcerated, prosecuted, losing their education, career future, and maybe their lives.

In a so-called youth society like in Kuwait, where youth, ages 10-24, constitute about one-third of the total population, the need for a new strategy to increase the likelihood of having the youth population as an integral part of the country's development plan, instead of a liability, becomes crucial. The prevailing response to youth violence and crime by government officials, policy makers, and the juvenile justice system worldwide, and in Kuwait as well, has been reactive and punitive.

Incarceration

Although intervention efforts traditionally have focused on treatment after the fact (eg, incarceration and rehabilitation), decades of research suggest that prevention is the most effective strategy available for reducing youth antisocial and violent behavior. To elaborate further on this subject, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) interviewed two experts in the fields of sociology and media who called for indulging the issue of youth violence in the electoral programs of candidates running for the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26.

Dr Saud Al-Ghanim, Professor of Psychology at Kuwait University (KU) said that youth constitute the largest portion of the Kuwaiti society and keeping eyes shut on this significant portion of the society, adding that candidates' negligence to address issues pertinent to youth and their criticism would make youth shun eschew voting for such candidates. Al-Ghanim added that the issue of youth violence to many candidates does not constitute a phenomenon in Kuwait and not that of a big issue to be addressed, thus, becoming less important to be discussed in their electoral programs rather than addressing "major issues" such as housing, education and health issues.

Strange phenomenon

He pointed out that a large number of candidates believe that solving the issue of youth violence takes time and prefer to address other issues that may be of concern to a larger segment of the society such as education, health and housing. He said that the negligence by many candidates to address the youth violence lies in the lacking of educational background, saying that a candidate with an educational background would for sure put this issue as a priority. He said that a number of candidates in the 2nd constituency have addressed the issues pertinent to youth and not only violence as they are too close to their worries and concern.

He added that youth violence is a strange



Dr Malak Al-Reshaid, Professor of Sociology and Social Service Department at Kuwait University



Dr Saud Al-Ghanim, Professor of Psychology at Kuwait University



Dr Yaqoub Al-Kanderi, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at KU and former Dean of the College of Social Sciences

phenomenon to the Kuwaiti society and is totally rejected, adding that the youth look at the MPs as their role model and if the latter were not up to the responsibility, then, the young generation would follow suit. He urged the State Ministry for Youth to come up with a societal solution and a state project to exploit energies of the youth, saying that four years after founding the youth ministry is still below ambitions. He also called on the State Ministry for Youth Affairs to address the issue of youth in schools, at the home and everywhere as the segment of youth constitutes a large portion of the Kuwaiti society and they are the hopes of the future.

Luring voters

On his part, Dr Yaqoub Al-Kanderi, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at KU and former Dean of the College of Social Sciences, told KUNA that candidates try by all means their best to lure voters to vote for them, saying that many candidates focus on marginal issues and accuse each other rather than focusing on pressing issues including youth violence. He added that many candidates neglect to address social issues such as persons with special needs, violence, drugs, elderly and divorce, saying that such issues when addressed by the candidate do not lure voters, but instead focus on other political issues which interest a large portion of people.

He said the nature of the Kuwaiti society relies heavily on addressing political issues instead of social ones, saying that politics is an easy way to the hearts of voters. He asserted the call for building the mankind rather than focusing on infrastructure, saying that the social issues do not get the attention needed similar to those pertinent to the state infrastructure. Asked whether the current legislations are effective to resolve this issue, Al-Kanderi said that Kuwait is a state of institutions, but "we lack a problem in the implementation of the law effectively".

He also called for simplifying judicial procedures and implement stricter measures

against the violators as juvenile cases take long years until they are over and by then the actual wrongdoing would be forgotten. On her part, Dr Malak Al-Reshaid, Professor of Sociology and Social Service Department at KU told KUNA that many candidates do not give this issue a priority as their educational background focuses primarily on politics, economics and legal approach, adding that the issue of youth violence requires the attention of sociologists and experts in these fields.

The second aspect why many candidates never touch on this issue is because once they do, then they would have to find solutions to such problems which they won't be able to do so as they lack expertise in this domain. She added that many candidates also resort to issues that lure voters such as housing, education and health issues and believe that they lack knowledge if they decide to include the issue of domestic violence in their agendas. — KUNA



TRADITIONAL TERMS HIGHLIGHT KUWAIT'S ELECTIONS' SEASON

KUWAIT: While visiting any 'Maqar' (headquarter) for the 2016 National Assembly hopefuls, people, especially non-Kuwaitis, might mistake terms such as the latter for alien language. So, when a headquarter is 'Yasfer' - it means that the place is so quiet and empty that one can hear the wind gusting right through it. Same thing with a 'Recheech' candidate - one who has a slim-to-none chance of winning a seat in parliament, or in other words a "weak" candidate. So, to put it in perspective; a 'Recheech' candidate would mostly have his/her 'Maqar Yasfer'. However, these words from the Kuwaiti dialect have many meanings that might sometimes poke fun at the chances of candidates to gain a seat at parliament or commend their strong campaign. The elections are slated for November 26. — KUNA

KUWAIT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION



BALLOT BOXES READY FOR VOTERS

KUWAIT: The Elections' Affairs Department of the Interior Ministry is currently putting the last touches on the ballot boxes in preparation for the upcoming parliamentary elections, slated for November 26. The department's personnel have been working continuously to ensure the boxes are as transparent ahead of

the elections. Some 363 candidates, including 15 women are running. Some 483,186 eligible voters, males and females, will head to the polling centers on November 26 to select their candidates. The Interior Ministry has allocated some 4,000 personnel to supervise the elections. — KUNA



CANDIDATES PROFILES

KUWAIT: Candidates of the five constituencies standing for the National Assembly (parliament) elections for the 15th legislative term, due on 26 November, mostly share a high level of education. Nominees of 50-years-old, or over are dominant in all constituencies. The total number of candidates in the five constituencies as registration ended on October 29, stand at 454, males and females.

Out of them, there are 278 candidates holding university degrees, about 61.23 percent of the total number. Nominees carrying diplomas are 81 (17.84 percent); 59 candidates (12.99 percent) are high school graduates, and 34 ones (7.48 percent) completed intermediate school, as only two completed the primary stage, 0.44 percent. Fifty-nine nominees, 12.99 percent of the 278 candidates holding university degrees, had PhDs in social politics, public law, private law, constitutional law, statistics and security management.

They also studied science of Hadith, pharmacology, physical education, educational management, eye surgery, computer science and information system, Tafseer (interpretation) of Quran sciences, political science, software engineering, fundamentals of religion, analytical chemistry, biosciences, psychology, education, family medicine, dentistry, accounting, teaching methodology, business administration, Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence), fundamentals of Fiqh, international public law, human rights, Islamic philosophy, civil engineering, security media and economy.

As for candidates with MAs, they are 61 (13.43 percent of the 278) qualified in economy (Islamic banking), industrial management, military sciences, public law, private law, criminal law, physical education, engineering management, pharmacology, educational management, business administration, civil engineering, strategic studies, educational methodology, technical management, libraries, environmental engineering, educational psychology and guidance, information documents, accounting, computer science, the Arabic language and Sharia (Fiqh and fundamentals).

The 158 BA holding candidates (34.80 percent) studied public administration, law, theatre, surgery, economy, geography, history, accounting, theatre, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering, commercial aviation, financing, media, statistics, maritime navigation, business administration, literature, chemistry, electronic engineering, architectural engineering, dentistry, police sciences, philosophy, education and Sharia.

The 81 diploma holders studied at the Commercial Institute and the Religious Institute, or specialized in police science, mechanical engineering, secretarial work, oil industries, business administration, technological studies, chemical engineering, air traffic control, the English language, military sciences, aviation sciences, journalism, fire-fighting, minute electronics. As for the ages of the 454 nominees, 190 candidates (41.85 percent) are 50 years old over; Some 177 nominees (38.98 percent) are 40-49 years old, and 87 (19.16 percent) are 30-39. — KUNA

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Cannons are stationed at the historic Red Palace in Al-Jahra governorate.— KUNA

MALABO HOSTS AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT

MALABO: The 4th Africa-Arab Summit will be held next week in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The upcoming summit, to be held on November 23, will build up on resolutions made in the previous summit. It will focus on building foundations of respect, trust and common interest. It will also focus on finding common grounds on economic and sustainable development cooperation. The 3rd Africa-Arab Summit was held in Kuwait in 2013 where it was decided to a true geopoliti-

cal openness with countries of the African continent.

Kuwait has kept promises it made in the previous summit of meeting the needs of the African countries of improving their economy, infrastructure, food security, agriculture and development projects; hence bettering the lives of its people. The 3rd Summit adopted a new partnership strategy and a joint plan of action. The two regions reviewed progress made in the three years since, and deliberated

on how to strengthen their cooperation in ways that would live up to the expectations of their citizens in terms of socio cultural and economic development based on the principles of equality, mutual interest and respect.

It issued "Kuwait Declaration" which voiced out a collective desire to promote cooperation in the political, economic and socio-cultural fields between the Arab and African nations as a fix of disputes and violence in the two regions. The Second Africa-

Arab Summit was held in Sirte, Libya, in 2010. It stressed the importance of building a partnership between the two regions which was agreed upon on the First Summit that was held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1977. The first summit came up with "Cairo Declaration" that comprised of 13 articles; it was a true pledge of Arab and African countries to develop bilateral and multilateral relations, through long term comprehensive strategic cooperation. — KUNA

KRCS DISTRIBUTES FRESH WATER TO DISPLACED FAMILIES IN LEBANON

BEQAA: A joint delegation from Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and ZAIN Kuwait telecommunication company has distributed bottled fresh water on the Syrian displaced camps in Beqaa valley at eastern Lebanon. The delegation also visited the water treatment plant that was built by KRCS jointly with Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and were briefed on the work progress in the plant. The society's delegate to Lebanon Dr Musaed Al-Enezi said that the water treatment plant project was established under the umbrella of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to support the displaced families.

Al-Enezi pointed out that offering fresh water for these families will ensure maintaining the children's health and protect them from the polluted water effect. Al-Enezi stated that many camps are randomly scattered and lack of the basic needs for survival in which it makes providing the fresh water a huge problem. On his part, QRCS Project Manager Hussein Hamdan said, that this project aims to distribute 4,000 liters' daily on 2,000 displaced families, pointing out that they are working on increasing the plant efficiency to distribute fresh water to 5,000 families. The water treatment plant was opened at the beginning of the current year with the attendance of the Chairman of KRCS Dr Hilal Al-Sayer. —KUNA



KUWAIT AND INDIA HOLD 3RD ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS

NEW DELHI: The 3rd round of political consultations between Kuwait and India have tackled various issues pertaining to bilateral relations, Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Ali Al-Saeed said on Thursday. The two sides addressed cooperation in energy, air transport, and mutual trade and investment, Al-Saeed who led the Kuwaiti delegation in the consultations held Wednesday added. In addition, they held extensive discussions on the Indian labor in Kuwait, and the latest conditions that the Indian government have put in place for recruitment. They Kuwaiti delegation, which included Kuwait Ambassador to India Fahad Ahmad Al-Awadi, discussed the details of these conditions, Al-Saeed said, noting that the Indian side was convinced of Kuwait's stance on the issue, and promised to look into the matter, considering the latest regulations the Kuwaiti government have implemented in order to protect the foreign laborers. In addition, the two sides exchanged views on a number of bilateral and regional issues of common concern, focusing on the latest developments in Middle East. They also agreed to encourage the concerned authorities in both the countries to take the necessary measures to cement bilateral ties. In the meantime, Al-Saeed on Thursday met with Secretary of Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs Amar Sinha and conveyed to him greetings of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah. During the meeting, Al-Saeed stressed that time-tested deep-rooted bilateral relations, that are being promoted for the good of both countries. — KUNA



ABANDONED VEHICLES, SCRAPS REMOVED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An inspection campaign was recently launched in various Kuwaiti governorates to remove abandoned and scrap vehicles. 480 citations were filed.

Robbery suspect nabbed

A citizen with a criminal record was recently arrested for robbing a number of expats in Salmiya after threatening them with a knife, said security sources.

Abdali land Border Exit

Mol's Relations and Security Media Director Brigadier Adel Ahmed Al-Hashash recently visited the hostel built at Abdali land Border Exit where he inspected the hospitality services provided there.

Crime

Report

KUWAITI ASSAULTED

KUWAIT: A citizen reported that an old friend of his assaulted him with a knife and tried to break into his house in Daher area but he managed to escape before the police arrived at the scene. A case was filed and the suspect was summoned for further investigations. Also, a female citizen was recently arrested for threatening her brother with a knife at the family house in Adan.

SMS love messages

A Syrian living in Salmiya reported that her neighbor (another Syrian) had been sending her several SMS love messages despite her repeated rejection. A case was filed and the suspect has been summoned for further investigations. In another development, two Syrians have been arrested for fraud, said security sources, noting that one of the suspects is wanted for several criminal cases.

Kuwait steals phone

A 25-year-old citizen was recently arrested for stealing a smart mobile phone from a Salmiya store, said security sources.

Having affair

A female citizen working for a local bank recently filed a complaint accusing her colleague of attacking her at the bank and stealing her mobile phone. However, on summoning the suspect, she justified her action- claiming her fellow-worker had been having an affair with her husband. She said she took the phone to stop her from communicating with her husband.

'Heavily drunk'

An Asian driver was recently arrested while heavily drunk and driving his sponsor's vehicle in Salmiya, said security sources. —Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa

CHARITY GROUP HELPS REFUGEES

AMMAN: A voluntary team of Kuwaiti females from 'Charity Group' are distributing assistance to Syrian refugee families in Jordan. Head of the team Adlah Al-Othman said yesterday, that her team will be distributing coupons that could be exchanged for winter clothing and heating units to help the families survive harsh winter conditions. The team will give help, over the next three days, to 280 Syrian refugee families, widowers, orphans and 50 female students in the cities of Jerash, Irbid and Ajloun. According to government statistics, there are more than 1.3 million Syrian refugees living in Jordan. — KUNA

ZAIN ORGANIZES PR, ADVERTISING WORKSHOP FOR GUST STUDENTS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, organized a two-day Public Relations and Advertising workshop for students from Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). The workshop, organized in collaboration with the GUST PR Club, was held at the university's campus in West Mishref.

The workshop was organized in line with Zain's strategy towards the support of the youth and education sectors. In addition, the workshop aimed at increasing the skills of PR and Marketing students through sharing Zain's leading experience in public relations and marketing communications. Zain's Corporate Communications &

Relations and Marketing Communications teams presented the students with a detailed explanatory workshop about Zain's leading experiences and strategies in the fields of Public Relations, Editorial and Media, Social Media, Advertising, and branding.

Zain hosts seminars and student field trips regularly in line with its active Corporate Social Responsibility strategy that caters to the youth and education sectors. Such initiatives focus on the development of school and university students' skills through a series of workshops, development programs, and informative seminars. Zain coordinates similar activities all year-

round with students of various age groups to further increase their knowledge of the telecom industry in Kuwait.

The company is committed to offering school and university students with similar opportunities on an annual basis. Such programs are targeted at students in collaboration with public and private educational institutions in Kuwait, reflecting Zain's ongoing efforts in promoting the education and development of the country's youth. As a leading national company, Zain firmly believes in the advancement of young people's skills and capabilities, and looks to empower and prepare them for the important roles they will play in the further progress of the country.

HSBC HOSTS THE 19TH MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICS ROADSHOW IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: More than 150 people gathered at the JW Marriot hotel recently for HSBC's 19th Middle East Economics Roadshow. The event saw David Bloom, Global Head of Foreign Exchange Strategy, and Simon Williams, Chief Economist, CEEMEA, discuss the most important global and regional trends shaping the Middle East's economies. Each year, the roadshow visits Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Riyadh.

Simon Williams said: "Two years after oil prices started to fall, the slump in energy earnings still dominates the regional outlook. The Gulf is wealthy enough to weather the downturn, but the price will be high - falling reserves, rising debt, and slowing growth against a backdrop of spending cuts that still have years to run. Without a fresh pick up in oil prices, only structural reform can turn the story around - a tough ask for a region that has spent two genera-

tions depending on its oil receipts."

David Bloom said: "Currencies seem to be broken up into three distinct drivers: cyclical, structural, and political. However, as far as the big trended moves in foreign exchange are concerned, politics has been the main driver. For example, Abe in Japan, Modi in

India, Rousseff in Brazil and of course in the UK with Brexit. Lastly, we recently woke up to a game changer for FX when we were surprised to discover the mighty US dollar is also a political currency. This change now indicates caution when it comes to emerging markets."





KFH SPONSORS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND PETROLEUM GRADUATION PROJECTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) took part in sponsoring the engineering graduation projects done by students of College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University, as part of KFH efforts to encourage academic and scientific innovations of Kuwaiti students, and in line with the social responsibility the bank assumes towards the youth.

KFH sponsored over 35 graduation projects which encompasses over 120 College of Engineering and Petroleum students. The students will showcase their projects at the engineering designs exhibition to be held on January 18th -19th 2017.

KFH's support to students of College of Engineering and Petroleum stems from its awareness of the importance of this college since its graduates work in the most vital economic sector in Kuwait; especially that this college includes various branches of engineering that can boost development in all fields. Moreover, KFH firmly believes that students are the real assets of Kuwait, and the pillars of the development process. Meanwhile, graduation projects owners applauded KFH's continuous support and praised its keenness to participate in their activities and events which empowers and motivates them, yet underlines the bank's significant role in assuming social responsibility.



OOREDOO PARTNERS WITH MUROUJ TO SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS, BUSINESSES

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait in 2016, is proudly partnering with Murouj to bring to you Murouj Market - a monthly weekend market for local entrepreneurs and businesses. The market, which is held in Murouj Complex, includes local farm produce, artisanal food products and crafts, with a 'street food' section aimed at highlighting the culinary diversity of Kuwait's local food community. The market also offers a section dedicated for children's activities. It will be held on weekends, from October 2016 until March 2017.

Commenting on this sponsorship, Ooredoo Kuwait Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're happy to be supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs through this engaging project. This sponsorship comes in tandem with our social responsibility strategy, which in turn is based on our core values of Ooredoo, of caring, connecting and challenging. We look forward to meeting those young enthusiastic small business owners as well as our valued customers at the market; today" Ooredoo is a strategic partner of this event.

Updates about the market can be found on Murouj's official Instagram account @muroujkw as well as our Instagram account @OoredooKuwait



Mijbil Alayoub

News

in brief

International cooperation needed to fight corruption

VIENNA: Kuwait is keen on intensifying international efforts against corruption, said a Kuwaiti diplomat on the sideline of a UN meeting yesterday. Delivering a speech to the fifth session of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, First Secretary at the Kuwaiti embassy in Austria Abdullah Al-Otaibi lauded the UN conventions against corruption, stressing it was very important to implement UN decisions within this field. The diplomat revealed to the session Kuwait's anti-corruption efforts, saying that his country continued to implement international standards in this regard. In their various reports, regional and international experts as well as organizations lauded Kuwait's efforts within this field, affirmed Al-Otaibi who added that his country's executive branches had launched several initiatives to undercover the sources of corruption and reduced their influences. The session is headed by Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria and permanent envoy to UN and international organizations' headquarters in Vienna, Sadiq Marafi.

Ministry denies school vaccination infections

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry strongly denied that 20 high school girls were admitted into the ICU after being vaccinated against Diphtheria and Tetanus at their schools. The Ministry explained that upon WHO recommendations, all grade 12 students have been vaccinated for years now against those two diseases. The Ministry also stressed that vaccinations used in Kuwait and the system used in applying them are healthy and safe.

Kuwait, Azerbaijan ink air service agreement

MOSCOW: Kuwait and Azerbaijan have signed a bilateral cooperative agreement in the field of air services. The deal was signed in Baku by Acting Director-General of the Kuwaiti Directorate General of Civil Aviation Yusuf Al-Fawzan and Azerbaijan Airlines Chairman Jahangir Askerov, Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires in Azerbaijan Faisal Al-Mutairi said in a statement to KUNA yesterday. Al-Fawzan hailed this agreement as a watershed in cooperative relations between both nations, expecting it to pave the way for more developed ties in the realms of economy, farming, animal resources, investment and tourism. On his part, the Azerbaijan Airlines chairman voiced confidence that the bilateral agreement would contribute to the promotion of Azeri-Kuwaiti cooperation in economic, trade and tourist domains.

Doha oil meeting 'positive gesture'

DOHA: The unofficial meeting of global oil producers in Doha is considered a positive gesture that will hopefully have an impact on the OPEC ministerial meeting due on November 30 in Vienna, said a Kuwaiti official yesterday. Undersecretary at the Ministry of Oil Sheikh Talal Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah told KUNA the meeting touched on issues connected with the global affairs of oil production, adding that one of the chief items of the meeting was OPEC's intention to reduce the organization's production. Countries such as Russia and Iran had some positive inputs regarding their desire to reduce production, said Sheikh Talal who hoped OPEC would come up with a decision to decrease its output. The decision will exclude Libya, Nigeria, and Iran, said. The Kuwaiti official lauded the role played by Qatar in the process of finding a balance between supply and demand, stressing that it would be beneficial for producers and consumers.

International

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Bombings in Syria's Aleppo hit hospital; 7 die in airstrike

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Erdogan calls for world unity to counter terrorism

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Nancy Pelosi faces challenge As house minority leader

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BERLIN: German chancellor Angela Merkel, third left, attends a meeting with US president Barack Obama, left, French president, Francois Hollande, third right, Spain's Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, right, Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, second right, and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, second left, at the chancellery yesterday. — AP

OBAMA URGES EUROPEAN LEADERS TO ACCEPT TRUMP CONFLICTS IN SYRIA AND UKRAINE TO BE DISCUSSED

BERLIN: President Barack Obama used a meeting with key European leaders yesterday to urge them to work with the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump and to discuss steps necessary to resolve the conflicts in Syria and eastern Ukraine, the White House said.

Obama's meeting with the leaders of Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Spain was likely his last in such a setting before he leaves office. The session expands on lengthy talks he held the day before with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Obama didn't speak with reporters before departing for Peru on Air Force One. The White House said Obama thanked his counterparts for their cooperation during his two terms in office. He urged them to work on common challenges with a Trump administration on the "basis of the core values that define the United States and Europe as open democracies."

Since Obama's arrival on Wednesday on his sixth and last trip to Germany as president, he and Merkel have focused several meetings on issues of globalization and trans-Atlantic cooperation. The talks come largely in the context of what the election of Trump will mean to efforts to seek peace in Ukraine and Syria, the strength of the NATO alliance, trade agreements,

efforts to fight climate change, and other pressing matters.

The White House said in a summary of the meeting that the leaders expressed grave concern about the humanitarian situation in Aleppo. They agreed that increased attacks by the Syrian regime and its supporters, including Russia and Iran, should be immediately halted. They also are calling for humanitarian access to the city to be restored.

Sanctions against Russia

On Ukraine, the White House said the leaders agreed that sanctions against Russia must remain in place until it meets its commitments to resolving the conflict. At a news conference with Obama on Thursday, Merkel diplomatically said she was approaching the incoming Trump administration "with an open mind." Around the world, many are looking to Merkel - one of the longest serving leaders of a major world power, leader of Europe's largest economy and one of the biggest US trade partners with the US - for leadership as Obama leaves office.

Obama seemed to underscore that reality as he effusively thanked Merkel for her "deep friendship." He said he couldn't "ask for a steadier or more reliable partner on the world

stage," while adding that if she chooses to run again for a fourth term next year, he'd vote for her - if he could.

Joining the two leaders Friday were the heads of countries at the center of many of the European Union's coming challenges. British Prime Minister Theresa May is preparing her country for negotiations to leave the trade bloc. Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy faces economic woes in his country that have contributed to financial instability in the EU. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's already shaky economy has been rocked by tens of thousands of refugees. And French President Francois Hollande's socialist government faces a major challenge from the far-right in elections next year.

Trump has applauded the British decision to exit the EU, or "Brexit," and has had meetings with Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party and a key player in the British decision to leave. For his part, Obama said Thursday his hope was that the Brexit negotiations be "conducted in a smooth and orderly and transparent fashion and preserve as closely as possible the economic and political and security relationships between the UK and EU."

Still, Obama noted that he considered the EU "one of the world's great political and economic achievements." — AP

TURKISH OFFICERS SEEKING ASYLUM IN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES

BRUSSELS: The chief of NATO says that Turkish NATO officers have sought asylum in allied countries amid a Turkish government crackdown following a failed military coup. Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said

Friday that "some Turkish officers working in the NATO command structure ... have requested asylum in the countries where they are working." Each country will assess the claims individually, Stoltenberg said in

Brussels. He did not identify the countries or the numbers involved, or give reasons for the requests. German media have reported asylum claims in Germany by members of the Turkish military. Turkey has arrested thou-

sands of members of its military following the July coup attempt, and Stoltenberg noted that Turkey has made "numerous" changes in its NATO personnel. Stoltenberg is traveling to Istanbul tomorrow.—AP



TUNIS: Tunisian mothers of a torture victims carry their sons' portraits as they arrive for a hearing before the Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD) on Thursday.—AFP

TEARS AS TUNISIANS RELIVE TORTURE YEARS

RARE SPOTLIGHT ON DICTATORSHIP CRIMES

TUNIS: As anger erupted and the tears began to flow, four hours of testimony on live television by abuse victims shone a rare spotlight on the crimes of Tunisia's dark dictatorship years.

In a plain white room inside a night club once owned by a dictator's entourage, victims of torture and abuse joined bereaved relatives to deliver an unprecedented account of the violence and intimidation Tunisians endured over decades of despotic rule. "We will not be silent," said Ourida Kadoussi, whose son was killed by security forces during the 2011 uprising against the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. "We want justice for our martyrs."

Kadoussi's witness statement is one of tens of thousands gathered by the Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD), which has tracked human rights violations spanning five decades. The complaints which the commission received include torture, arbitrary detentions, physical abuse and violations of freedom of speech.

The televised interviews, which will continue Friday, are part of the panel's attempt to get Tunisians to confront the demons of their past, as well as provide justice to those who endured the worst.

Latifa Matmati's husband Kamel died in police custody after his arrest in October 1991, just one of hundreds of Islamists to be detained and mistreated under Ben Ali's rule. Latifa told of her frantic attempts to find her husband, who was tortured during his detention. Although he died shortly after being dragged from his office by police, she was instructed to bring him clean clothes and food, teasing her with the hope he may still have been alive. His death certificate didn't arrive until 18 years later. "We want his body so we can bury it," Latifa told the panel. "And we want these people to be held accountable."

'Why did they do that?'

Sami Brahem, an Islamist academic, also spoke of his experience of torture by Ben Ali's henchmen. After being arrested for a remark that was judged to be provocative, he was severely beaten and had his head forced down a toilet bowl. "I couldn't get up for a week," Brahem said.

He also described horrific scenes to the panel—and the television audience—of prisoners stripped naked, beaten and forced to climb on top of one another. "This was sexual violence which I cannot under-

stand. I don't want to sully my country, I want to talk about the honorable things it has done... but why did they do that?" Brahem asked.

"When I was asked to testify, I didn't hesitate in spite of my embarrassment," he said. Some in the room began to cry. "I am ready to forgive if they provide an explanation. It is society's right to know these things, so that they can be told in history." Last to speak was writer Gilbert Naccache, well known for his leftist opposition to Habib Bourguiba, who ruled ruthlessly between 1957 and 1987. "The police, whether they are political or not, only know one method: torture," said Naccache during a testimony sprinkled with dark humor that had audience members chuckling in spite of the seriousness of his allegations. "I have been to prison three times and three times I was subjected to torture."

Naccache said he did not wish to dwell on the details of what he was forced to undergo during the Bourguiba years, or the hardships suffered by Tunisians since the 2011 uprising. For him, Thursday's televised testimonies were "one day that makes up for the frustrations of the last five years."—AFP

OUTRAGE OVER TURKISH PROPOSAL PROTECTING CHILD MARRIAGE

ISTANBUL: A Turkish government proposal which would pardon some people imprisoned for statutory rape in the past decade has fallen short of passage by legislators.

The proposal would defer sentencing or punishment for sexual assault in cases where there was no force and where the victim and perpetrator were married. Following the defeat late Thursday, the government is bringing the proposal back for consideration next week.

An earlier law, abolished in 2005, said there is no crime if the couple marry. The proposed change in the law would apply to cases between 2005 and Nov. 16 or this year. Turkey's ruling party, rooted in Turkey's Islamic movement, says the proposal is meant to protect those who were too young to marry legally. Another vote is scheduled next week.—AP

BOMBINGS IN SYRIA'S ALEPPO HIT HOSPITAL; SEVEN DIE IN AIRSTRIKE

BEIRUT: Intensive bombings pummeled Syria's rebel-held eastern neighborhoods of the city of Aleppo on Friday, residents and rescuers said, hitting an area housing several hospitals and sending the chief of a pediatrics clinic in a frantic search for a place to move his young patients.

Earlier Friday, airstrikes on a village in the rural Aleppo province killed seven members of the same family, including four children, opposition activists said. The attacks mark the fourth day of renewed assault by Syrian government warplanes on eastern Aleppo districts, a rebel-held enclave of 275,000 people. The onslaught began with a Russian announcement of its own offensive on the northern rebel-controlled Idlib province and the central Homs province.

So far, more than 100 people have been killed across northern Syria since Tuesday.

A physician who identified himself as Dr. Hatem, the head of the only pediatric hospital remaining in besieged rebel-held part of Aleppo, said his facility has been targeted once more on Friday, causing damages to its exterior. The hospital was also hit during a wave of airstrikes on the complex housing four hospitals on Wednesday. "Now it is being bombed ... I am sorry ... I have to go to transfer the children" to a safe area, he said in a text message. He uses his first name fearing for his family's safety.

Another Aleppo hospital in a different neighborhood also came under intense bombing late Thursday, he said, though no one was wounded. Many hospitals and clinics in the besieged area have moved their operations underground after months of relentless bombings and airstrikes.—AP



ALEPPO: This image released by Thiqa News Agency shows smoke rising and fires still burning after airstrikes hit the Al-Shaar neighborhood yesterday.—AP



SIIRT, Turkey: A woman waits as rescue workers searching for trapped miners yesterday at the accident site in Siirt. Turkish rescue workers were yesterday battling to save 13 miners trapped after the collapse of a copper mine already confirmed to have left at least three dead. The governor's office in the southeastern Siirt province where the mine is located said two of three bodies recovered after the accident late Thursday had already been identified. —AFP

MORE THAN 20 DEAD IN HEAVY CLASHES IN YEMEN

ELIMINATING HOPE FOR ABIDING BY A TRUCE

ADEN: More than 20 people have been killed in intense fighting between rebels and loyalists on the outskirts of Yemen's third city Tuez, military and medical sources said yesterday.

The clashes have eliminated hope of the warring parties abiding by a truce announced by US Secretary of State John Kerry that was to have taken effect on Thursday. Loyalist military sources

told AFP that 13 rebels and eight pro-government forces were killed over the past 24 hours, while the rebels reported dozens of casualties in shelling of a local market.

Two civilians were also killed and 16 wounded as rebels fired Katyusha rockets on a residential area of Tuez, they said. For its part, rebel-controlled sabanews.net website reported that

pro-government forces fired artillery rounds into areas east of the city.

Rocket crash in market

A rocket crashed into a market selling the mild narcotic leaf qat, popular among Yemenis, leaving 40 casualties, said sabanews.net, without giving a breakdown of dead and wounded. The medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said emergency rooms it supports or manages in Tuez province had received a total of 21 dead and 76 wounded.

Among those killed was a watchman who works at the MSF trauma centre in Tuez. He was killed while "off duty when a blast hit a local market in the neighborhood", said Djoen Besselink, who heads the MSF mission in Yemen. "Fighting has been intensive in Tuez during recent days, and hospitals on both sides of the frontline have received a continuous influx of war-wounded civilians and fighters," MSF said.

Pro-government forces are pressing on with a four-day-old offensive to recapture the presidential residence and police headquarters in the southwestern city, while the Shiite Huthi rebels have brought in reinforcements.

The fighting continued despite Kerry's announcement of a new ceasefire. The US chief diplomat said on Tuesday that rebels were ready to observe a ceasefire plan taking effect from November 17, but President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi's government said it was not aware of any new peace initiative. —AFP

BOKO HARAM STAGES THREE SUICIDE ATTACKS IN NE NIGERIA

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria: Boko Haram Islamists staged three suicide attacks in Nigeria's restive northeast yesterday, leaving four attackers and two civilian vigilantes dead, police said. "Aside from the explosion near a mobile police location in Jiddari, we had two other suicide bombings along Maiduguri-Gamboru road," Borno state police commissioner Damian Chukwu told reporters in Maiduguri, epicentre of Boko Haram's seven-year insurgency.

The Islamist group have multiplied their attacks in recent days, Chukwu said, without detailing the incidents. "This is about the sixth or seventh suspected suicide attack in the last couple of days. The police and other security agents are working hard to stop the ugly trend," he said.

The first attack took place before dawn when a female suicide bomber

blew herself and another bomber up near a police checkpoint at Jiddari, Borno state police spokesman Victor Isuku earlier said. A third suspected bomber survived and was being questioned. "At 3:50am today, mobile police personnel on guard duty opposite the federal high court in Jiddari sighted three suspected suicide bombers comprising two females and a male running towards their sandbag," Isuku said.

"They ordered them to a halt for questioning but they refused," he said. "One of the females detonated the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strapped to her body, killing herself and one other male accomplice," he said.

Later in the morning a male suicide bomber detonated his explosives after being stopped at the entrance of a garage on the Maiduguri-Gamboru road where traders had gathered to travel under military escort. — AFP

UN SAYS WORKING FOR YEMEN PEACE TALKS AFTER KERRY'S PLAN

GENEVA: The United Nations said yesterday that it was working with Saudi Arabia to try to bring Yemen's government to peace talks after it rejected a plan brokered by the United States.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday that the Saudi-led coalition, that backs the government in its fight against the Houthi group, supported a ceasefire plan that the Houthis have agreed to.

But President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's administration rejected Kerry's move, complaining that it played into the hands of the Houthis and sidelined the government. "We are working very closely with Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region that can influence (the parties to the conflict)," U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson told a news conference in Geneva. "We have discovered a stronger and stronger view that this war must come to an end but we have to bring them back to negotiating table," he said, giving no timeline.

The Houthis said on Wednesday they were ready to stop fighting and join a national unity government, raising hopes of a resolution to a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people. — Reuters

NETANYAHU WASN'T READY FOR GAZA TUNNEL WAR

JERUSALEM: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to prepare his country for Hamas's use of tunnels during the 2014 Gaza war, according to a key report cited by local media yesterday.

A two-year inquiry by state comptroller Yossef Shapira reportedly found that despite intelligence warnings, Netanyahu only belatedly and partially informed his cabinet of the danger.

Shapiro, who is in charge of assessing state policies and the use of public funds, opened the inquiry soon after the July-August 2014 conflict between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist group which controls the Gaza strip. His long-awaited report, which ministers and military officials received Thursday, has not been publicly released but local media cited officials familiar with its contents.

Preventing Palestinian militants from launching rockets from Gaza into Israel and destroying Hamas tunnels were Israel's key goals when it launched the 2014 assault, its third war in the coastal territory in six years.

Israel's border with Gaza is sealed by a closely monitored security barrier. But during the war, Israel's military found 32 tunnels, including 14 that extended from the Gaza Strip into Israel, according to a UN inquiry into the conflict.

Gaza militants used the tunnels during combat, including to carry out cross-border attacks. The Israeli army said it destroyed over 30 tunnels during the 50-day conflict. A draft of Shapira's report in October reportedly slammed Netanyahu and Moshe Yaalon, who was defense minister at the time. It was quoted as saying the security establishment "did not have a comprehensive plan for dealing with Hamas's offensive tunnels". A senior army official said last month that Israeli troops should have been better prepared for tunnel warfare.

A source close to Netanyahu on Friday rejected the accusation that he had not adequately informed his cabinet of the threat. The threat was discussed "with all the seriousness required at 13 different meetings," the source said.

The war killed 2,251 Palestinians and left 100,000 homeless, according to the UN. On the Israeli side, 73 people were killed, most of them soldiers. The UN report said both Israel and Palestinian militants may have committed war crimes, decrying "unprecedented" devastation and human suffering.

The Shapiro report may be politically damaging for Netanyahu, who has faced criticism from political opponents over the tunnels. — AFP

EU MINISTERS AT ODDS OVER IMMIGRATION

BRUSSELS: European Union interior ministers were at odds yesterday over how to handle immigration, with heated discussions between states who want more burden sharing and those who oppose any kind of obligatory relocation. "We are looking for compromises but at the moment they are not there," said Thomas De Maiziere of Germany, which last year took in about 900,000 migrants and refugees.

The ministers had a heated debate over dinner on Thursday after EU chair Slovakia put forward its proposal to reform the bloc's asylum system, which collapsed last year as member states

quarreled over how to handle an uncontrolled influx of refugees and migrants that saw 1.3 million people reaching Europe, mostly from the Middle East and North Africa.

"We had a very open discussion during the dinner, sometimes passionate, very frank," said Robert Kalinak of Slovakia. "We knew this would not be easy but we have to breach differing views between member states. "All of us have the same goal - we want to solve the migration crisis ... What we invented last year is not as efficient as we expected so we are obliged to propose other ways." To regain control over the flows of

people into the continent, the EU strengthened its external borders, struck deals with some of the main countries of origin and transit along the migration routes and suspended its Schengen free travel zone.

Overall, the number of arrivals has decreased from last year but they continue unabated in Italy and tens of thousands of people are still stuck in Greece and Italy, sometimes in dire conditions. EU states cannot agree how to handle them. Despite agreeing last year to relocate 160,000 people from Italy and Greece, eastern European countries, including Slovakia, Poland and Hungary,

have refused to take any in. Germany, which received most of those who made it to Europe last year, is backed by Sweden, Italy and Malta - which takes over the bloc's presidency in January for six months - in pushing for obligatory relocation in the asylum reform.

That is precisely what the eastern countries are opposing. Instead, they say, they can offer more resources to police external borders or take on more responsibility for deportations. "We have to have a mechanism on a permanent basis, we cannot discuss it every time there is a crisis," said Carmelo Abela of Malta. —Reuters

SLOVAKIA COMES TO GRIPS WITH PROUDLY NEO-NAZI PARTY CELEBRATING THE TREND

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia: The wave of far-right parties across Europe has been gathering steam from Greece to France and Germany. While most of the continent's extreme forces have taken pains to steer clear of Nazi imagery, Slovakia's answer to the trend celebrates it.

Kotleba - The People's Party Our Slovakia - won almost 10 percent of the seats in Parliament in March. It openly admires the Nazi puppet state which the country was during the World War II. Party members use Nazi salutes, blame Roma for crime in deprived areas, consider NATO a terror group and want the country out of the alliance and the European Union.

The party takes its name from its leader, Marian Kotleba, previously chair-

parties to deal effectively with the post-communist country's problems.

In contrast to most of Europe's far-right groups, "it's truly neo-Nazi, it advocates the legacy of the Nazi war state," says Eduard Chmelar, a Slovak political analyst. Miroslav Mares, an expert on extremism from the Masaryk University in the Czech city of Brno, said the party belongs to the "hard core of right-wing extremism" in Europe. He said it has only some features similar to Greece's Golden Dawn party and to Hungary's Jobbik at its beginning.

What's in common

What they have in common is targeting the mainstream politics. "The parties like that are not looking for solutions, it's

said. "So far, there's no recipe to stop them." Kotleba's new party made news by launching patrols on trains in April in a reaction to a robbery blamed on a member of the Roma minority. Parliament banned such activities in October.

The party has proposed legislation to label non-governmental organizations that receive funding from abroad as foreign agents, and is trying to get the 350,000 signatures needed to force nationwide referendums on the country's membership in NATO and the European Union. "Among our major goals is above all a creation of an independent and self-sufficient Slovakia, that is Slovakia which has an autonomous foreign policy that is not dictated by any foreign structure, such as the European Union," Milan Uhrík, a deputy chairman of the party, told The Associated Press in a rare interview. Kotleba refuses to talk to foreign media, The AP was told.

Speaking in the Parliament building, Uhrík said the EU has been turning into a super state with Brussels in power. "What's the worst is that EU legislation is above Slovak law," he said. NATO is another target. "It's important for Slovakia to leave NATO because we consider NATO a terrorist organization. It doesn't bring peace to the world, quite the contrary," Uhrík said. "NATO is in fact a military organization of the United States and we are militarily subordinated to the United States."

A celebration of wartime Slovakia remains particularly controversial, but Uhrík says it is not about fascism. "As nationalists, we cannot reject the first independent Slovak state," he argued. "We recognize the Slovak (war) state because it was the first Slovak state, not because it was a fascist state."

129th anniversary

On Oct. 13, party members celebrated the 129th anniversary of the birth of Jozef Tiso, a Catholic priest and politician who was Slovakia's war president. During his rule, some 60,000 Slovak Jews were transported to Nazi death camps. He was sentenced to death and hanged in 1947. Rights activists have submitted a petition with 20,000 signatures calling for the party to be banned. Prosecutors are reviewing that request. — AP



BRATISLAVA: In this Oct. 12, 2016 photo deputy chairman of the extreme right Kotleba - People's Party Our Slovakia (LS NS) Milan Uhrík answers questions during an interview with The Associated Press at Slovakia's Parliament.—AP

man of the banned neo-Nazi Slovak Togetherness-National Party, which organized anti-Roma rallies and admired Nazi rule in Slovakia.

Thousands have signed a petition demanding that the party be banned. Analysts say the party's popularity could grow even further. Its simple slogan - "With courage against the system!" - attracts young people fed up with corruption and the inability of mainstream

all about protests," Chmelar said. "You can see it globally. It's the same with Donald Trump, it's the same with (Marine) Le Pen in France. What's important is to be against the system. They're all riding on a wave of public dissatisfaction that has been growing."

These parties "communicate and cooperate with each other, and that dramatically changes the situation in Europe, and that's dangerous," Chmelar



PINKAFELD, Austria: This file photo taken on April 24, 2016 shows the candidate of the far-right Freedom Party (FPOe) Norbert Hofer dropping his ballot at the polling station at the first round of Austrian President elections. —AFP

AUSTRIA'S FAR-RIGHT STOKES FEARS IN WEALTHY COUNTRYSIDE

PINKAFELD, Austria: Ask the people of Pinkafeld what makes them proud of their pastel-colored town set amid pine-strewn hills and many will reply "Our flowers", followed by "...and our Norbert". Prosperous, pretty and almost migrant-free-rural Austria paradoxically offers a happy hunting ground for far-right presidential candidate Norbert Hofer and his populist Freedom Party. Like elsewhere in the countryside, the 45-year-old swept most of the votes in Pinkafeld in the first runoff in May, which was annulled over procedural irregularities.

Back then, he lost by a paper-thin margin to the Greens-backed Alexander Van der Bellen. Now many Pinkafelders hope "Norbert", as he's affectionately known, will finally emerge victorious on December 4 — and not just because he's a local resident. "Hofer's a nice guy who walks his dog around town but I think people here would support him even if he wasn't from Pinkafeld," local newsagent Hannes Stecker told AFP. "There's a lurch to the right in Austria and Van der Bellen is too left-leaning. That scares people off. I'm not keen on either but because some of my opinions are more on the right side, I vote for Hofer," the 21-year-old said.

Other locals say they are also frustrated with the ruling centrist coalition, in power since 2008. "I'm so tired of the main parties always lining their pockets and forgetting about us normal folk," said a butcher in her forties who refused to be named. — AFP

ERDOGAN CALLS FOR WORLD UNITY TO COUNTER TERRORISM

ISLAMABAD: The President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan called the Muslim world Thursday to forge unity and take practical measures to counter the threat of terrorism. Erdogan made his remarks during his address to a joint session of Pakistan's Parliament in Islamabad, where he is currently visiting alongside an accompanying official delegation.

Terrorist organizations such as the so-called Islamic State (IS) and Al-Qaeda are distorting the teachings and

principles of the religion of Islam, which promotes peace and tolerance, and the image of Islamic world as well, he said.

The Turkish President also stressed the importance of fighting those terrorists anywhere in the world and bringing them to justice as soon as possible. Meanwhile, he pointed out the deep-rooted and historic ties between Pakistani and Turkish, adding that the two countries have always shared mutual joy and grief moments

during various occasions. Erdogan also expressed his aspiration to expand multidimensional relations with Islamabad in various fields, including defense, culture, education, and health. The two countries have set the target of enhancing their bilateral trade ties to USD one billion, the Turkish President said, pointing out their signed 51 MoUs and agreements over the last few years, and stressed the importance of focusing on projects that create job opportunities for the

people of both countries. Erdogan also stressed the need for boosting relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan that is vital for peace and security in the region. For his part, Pakistani National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq praised the visiting Turkish President, the Turkish people, who he described as "heroic people", and the "courageous" members of the Turkish Parliament for their national efforts to protect and preserve their constitution and democracy. —KUNA



KARACHI, Pakistan: Pakistani students of the Pak-Turk International school protest on Thursday —AP

PAKISTANI PARENTS RALLY AGAINST TURKISH TEACHERS' EXPULSION

ISLAMABAD: Dozens of Pakistani parents are rallying against a government order expelling their children's Turkish teachers with families from the country.

Yesterday's rally in Islamabad is the second day of protests after 400 Turkish nationals were ordered to leave the country within 72 hours. The Turkish nationals are teachers at the PakTurk International chain of schools and their family members. Ankara has accused the school of links with the movement of U.S.-based dissident cleric Fethullah Gulen, which PakTurk denies.

Syed Amir Abdullah, who represents parents of PakTurk's 11,000 students from 28 campuses across Pakistan, urged authorities to review the expulsion on humanitarian grounds. The school challenged the order in court on Thursday but the petition was dismissed. The expulsion orders came as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Pakistan this week. —AP

PAKISTAN NAVY 'PUSHED' INDIAN SUBMARINE CLEAR OF ITS WATERS

KARACHI: The Pakistani navy detected an Indian submarine off the Pakistani coast and prevented it from entering its waters, it said in a statement yesterday, as tension between the nuclear-armed rivals simmers.

The submarine was detected "south of the Pakistani coast" on Monday, the navy said in a press release. "Thereafter, despite the submarine's desperate efforts to escape detection, it was continuously tracked by Pakistan Navy Fleet units and pushed well clear of our waters," the press release said. The navy also released footage and photographs of what it was said was the submarine trying to enter Pakistani waters. The Indian navy was not immediately available for comment. Relations between Pakistan and India have been strained for several months, while cross-frontier shelling has intensified leading to deaths of civilians and soldiers stationed along the disputed frontier.

Kashmir lies at the heart of the tension between India and Pakistan and the countries have fought two of their three wars over the region since partition and independence from Britain in 1947. —Reuters

A DECADE ON, LEGACY OF MAOIST WAR STALKS NEPAL

10-YEAR CIVIL WAR REMEMBERED

KATHMANDU: Sabitri Chilwal's eyes mist over as she remembers the day 12 years ago when her husband was shot in his office and left to die in a pool of blood at the peak of Nepal's Maoist insurgency.

Sunday marks a decade since the Maoists signed a peace deal to end a 10-year civil war that claimed more than 16,000 lives, laying down their arms and entering politics with a promise to bring change to the deeply feudal country.

The peace agreement hastened the end of a 240-year-old Hindu monarchy and transformed Nepal into a secular republic, and with it came hope that a new constitution would heal the deep fissures in the impoverished Himalayan nation. But Nepal has since shuffled through nine governments, mostly brittle coalitions, as political infighting has thwarted reconciliation and left victims of the bloody insurgency doubtful that they will ever see justice.

Complaints filed

Chilwal is among over 60,000 people who have filed complaints with the two commissions set up in 2014 to investigate the murders, rapes and forced disappearances perpetrated by both sides during the conflict. The commissions have been hamstrung by a lack of funding but the slow progress is also blamed on reluctance among some quarters to find the perpetrators, many of whom occupy positions in the military and political parties. "It has been ten years since the war ended and yet nothing has happened. My husband's killers are walking free," said Chilwal. "They themselves are in the government now. I don't know how anything will happen," she added.

The Maoists swept to victory in the first national elections held after the 2006 peace deal but soon fell out of favor as former cadres accused rebel leaders of adopting lavish lifestyles and betraying their sacrifices.

Nepal's fractious coalition politics however meant that Maoist chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal, better known by his nom de guerre Prachanda or "the fierce one", secured a second chance at being prime minister in August after winning the support of other parties. Prachanda has since promised to



KATHMANDU, Nepal: In this photograph taken on November 11, 2016, Bablu Lama, (R) arrested and tortured by members of the Nepalese army during Nepal's decade-long war, speaks to AFP in an interview. —AFP

resolve disagreements over the new constitution, which was finally adopted in September last year-rushed through parliament four months after a massive earthquake devastated the country and claimed nearly 9,000 lives.

But the passing of the long-awaited charter-meant to usher in a new era of peace and stability for war-torn Nepal-was marred by deadly clashes between police and ethnic minority protesters, who say the constitution has left them marginalized. "If we assess the peace deal after a decade we find that it limited itself to ending the conflict but failed on restructuring (the country) to establish political stability through equality and progressive agendas," said Kathmandu-based political commentator CK Lal. "It gets a pass mark, but bigger issues remain to be addressed," Lal added.

'Diluted, lost, ignored'

The first sign of trouble emerged when members of the historically sidelined Madhesi minority, who live in the densely-populated Terai plains bordering India, complained that new internal borders laid out in the draft charter would leave them under-represented at the ballot box and in the national parliament. The Madhesi-who make up a significant proportion of the Terai pop-

ulation-have long complained of discrimination, with many encountering prejudice due to their close cultural, linguistic and family ties to Indians living across the border. Their demands went unheard and days after the constitution was adopted, protesters kicked off a months-long border blockade that led to a crippling shortage of goods across Nepal. "If you look at the early documents of the Maoists and the peace process there is an agreement on socio-economic transformation on both sides. But it has been hugely diluted, lost or ignored," said Akhilesh Upadhyay, editor of The Kathmandu Post.

Dahal has promised amendments to the constitution by the end of November, hoping to stave off another showdown with Madhesi demonstrators who are threatening a fresh round of protests if their demands are not met.

Shopkeeper Saroj Mishra, 35, was among thousands of Madhesi who protested against the charter last year. Beaten by police during the demonstrations, Mishra said he was fed up of waiting for the government to listen to citizens like him. "The government seems to think Nepal is (only) Kathmandu," he said. "So many years have passed after the peace deal, but here we are still forced to fight." —AFP

JAPAN'S PM CONFIDENT IN TRUMP'S DIPLOMACY

FIRST FOREIGN LEADER TO MEET US PRESIDENT-ELECT

NEW YORK: Japan's leader voiced confidence about Donald Trump as he became the first foreign leader to meet the US president-elect, who was narrowing in on cabinet choices. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met for 90 minutes with the president-elect Thursday evening at Trump Tower to sound him out after a campaign that included rhetoric that alarmed many US allies. "As an outcome of today's discussions, I am convinced Mr Trump is a leader in whom I can have great confidence," Abe told reporters, describing a "very warm atmosphere." He gave no specifics. Japan is one of

Washington's closest allies, but Trump alarmed Tokyo during the campaign by musing about pulling the thousands of US troops from the region, and suggesting that officially pacifist Japan may need nuclear weapons.

Trump also vowed while campaigning to tear up the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a proposed trade pact backed by outgoing Democratic President Barack Obama and which Abe had made a top priority.

Also at the meeting with Abe was Trump's model-turned-business executive daughter Ivanka and her husband,

real estate developer and publisher Jared Kushner. The presence of the couple, who have emerged as key advisors, underscores the family's influence as the president-elect readies to take power.

Flynn as top security adviser?

Trump on Friday will head to his exclusive golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, transition officials said, a location that offers more seclusion and comes amid complaints about the congestion in front of Trump Tower on New York's bustling Fifth Avenue. Trump, who has been interviewing Republican operatives for top cabinet posts, appeared to be zeroing-in on staunch supporters but also considering former rivals.

The president-elect has offered the role of national security adviser to retired general Michael Flynn, a military intelligence officer and staunch campaign loyalist, several US media outlets reported late Thursday, citing transition team sources. It was unknown if Flynn has accepted the job, which does not require senate confirmation.

A former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2012-2014, Flynn was sharply critical of Obama administration policies. Flynn however was ousted from that job amid reports of an abrasive management style and clashes with senior officials. During the campaign his vocal support for Trump gave the businessman credibility with veterans despite the billionaire's lack of military service. And at the Republican National Convention, Flynn led chants of "Lock her up!" -calling for Democrat Hillary Clinton to be imprisoned.

Trump also met with Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama and hinted that he would offer him a prime position. Sessions was one of Trump's earliest supporters. — AFP



NEW YORK: This handout picture, released by Japan's Cabinet Secretariat yesterday shows Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2nd L) being welcomed by US President-elect Donald Trump (R) beside Ivanka Trump (C) and her husband Jared Kushner (L).—AFP

CHINA, US MILITARIES STAGE JOINT HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

KUNMING, China: Chinese and US commanders yesterday stressed the importance of maintaining military-to-military exchanges under the administration of President-elect Donald Trump, saying they are crucial for building confidence between the two armed forces that remain deeply wary of each other.

Troops from the two sides staged joint drills in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming yesterday in an effort to better coordinate responses to humanitarian disasters. "This kind of exchange acts as a bridge to promote relations between the two militaries and I am sure it will be conducted in an even higher level in the future," said Gen. Liu Xiaowu, commander of ground forces for China's Southern Theater Command.

US Army Pacific Commander Gen. Robert Brown also said he would advise the incoming administration to maintain the momentum of engagement. "These types of military-to-military exchanges are really critical because of the trust they build," Brown said. Trump has yet to articulate a clear defense policy toward China and the region as a whole, unsettling officials in close US allies such as Japan and South Korea. Held since 2005, the US-China Disaster Management Exchange is part of efforts to build trust and coordination at a time when the two governments are frequently at odds over disputes in the South China Sea and elsewhere. — AP



KUNMING, China: US Army Pacific commander Gen. Robert Brown, front row center, and Gen. Liu Xiaowu, front row third right, the commander for Southern Theater Command Army of Chinese Liberation Army (PLA), applaud with their soldiers at a group photo session after conducting the US-China Disaster Management Exchange (DME) drill at a PLA's training base yesterday.—AP



MANILA: This handout photo taken on November 18, 2016 and released by the office of Governor Imee Marcos shows military personnel carrying the coffin of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, while members of the Marcos family led by former first lady Imelda (in black) follow the procession during the burial at the heroes' cemetery.—AFP

PROTESTS AS PHILIPPINE DICTATOR MARCOS GIVEN HERO'S BURIAL

MANILA: Ex-Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos was buried in a secretive ceremony at the national heroes' cemetery yesterday, triggering street protests as opponents denounced what they said was the whitewashing of his brutal and corrupt rule. The burial at the "Cemetery of Heroes" was another stunning development in the remarkable political comeback of the Marcos family, a phenomenon given fresh energy by the clan's strong alliance with new President Rodrigo Duterte.

The Supreme Court last week endorsed a decision by Duterte to lay the dictator to rest at the heroes' cemetery, three decades after millions of people took to streets in the famous "People Power" revolution that ended Marcos's reign.

The Marcos family and government moved quickly after the verdict, secretly flying the embalmed body to the cemetery on Friday and interring him despite appeals still pending with the Supreme Court urging it to reconsider. "Like a thief in the night, the Marcos family deliberately hid the information of burying former president Marcos today from the Filipino people," said Vice President Leni Robredo, who was elected separately to Duterte and belongs to another party.

"This is nothing new to the Marcoses—they who had hidden wealth, hidden human rights abuses, and now, a hidden burial with complete disregard for the law." His wheelchair-bound wife Imelda, 87, and their children and grandchildren followed a horse-drawn carriage with military escort that bore his Philippine flag-draped casket, footage released by the family on Facebook showed. The military honored Marcos at the ceremony with a 21-gun salute as soldiers in parade dress and ceremonial rifles stood to attention. "At last our beloved father Ferdinand Edralin Marcos's final instruction to be buried alongside his fellow soldiers was carried out today," daughter Imee Marcos told reporters afterwards.

'Marcos thief'

Two thousand riot police and soldiers guarded the perimeter of the cemetery during the ceremony, blocking entry by journalists. Marcos opponents taken by surprise by the burial quickly organized a series of rallies across the Philippine capital of Manila on Friday afternoon that attracted thousands of people. In one of the biggest at the University of the Philippines, protesters banged on drums and chanted "Marcos thief", "Marcos dictator" and "exhume, exhume". Organizers said various rallies would merge at a roadside monument commemorating the "People Power" revolution. Marcos, his wife and their cronies plundered up to \$10 billion from state coffers and plunged the Philippines into crippling debt during his rule, according to government investigators and historians.

The dictator also oversaw widespread human rights abuses to maintain his control of the country and enable his plundering, with thousands of people killed and tortured, previous Philippine governments said.

Anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International in 2004 named Marcos the second most corrupt leader of all time, behind Indonesian dictator Suharto. Political resurrection After Marcos died in Hawaii in 1989, his family was allowed to return and began its political resurrection. Imelda became a congresswoman and fended off all corruption charges against her. Imee and Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr also became influential politicians. — AFP



DARLINGTON, Indiana: Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies remove items from a minivan during a double homicide investigation in the 200 block of Madison Street on Thursday. —AP

INDIANA WOMAN CONFESSES TO KILLING HER 2 CHILDREN

DARLINGTON, Indiana: A central Indiana woman killed her two young children and then stabbed herself in the neck a day after her husband filed for divorce, a sheriff said Thursday. Brandi Worley, 30, of Darlington, confessed in a "matter-of-fact" demeanor to the killings in a 911 call about 4:30 a.m., Montgomery County Sheriff Mark Casteel said.

A deputy found 7-year-old Tyler Worley and 3-year-old Charlie Worley dead in a bedroom, Casteel said. No information has been released on how they died. An autopsy is scheduled. Their father, Jason Worley, was asleep in the basement, unaware of what was happening in the home about 40 miles northwest of Indianapolis, the sheriff said. "I can't imagine the pain or the grief that these families are feeling," Casteel said during a news conference. "Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers."

A hospital is treating Worley for injuries to her neck. The sheriff's department had not been called to the home before, Casteel said. Online court records show Worley has no prior criminal history. Divorce papers were filed in Montgomery County on Wednesday. Yellow police tape surrounded the home Thursday morning. Deputies were seen removing items from a minivan in the driveway. Tyler was a first grade student at Sugar Creek Elementary, and Charlie was enrolled in pre-school. —AP

TRUMP'S ELECTION VICTORY TRIGGERS FLOOD OF IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS ANXIETY NATIONWIDE AMONG IMMIGRANTS

CHICAGO: Immigration hotlines are buzzing. Legal clinics are seeing an influx of clients. Public schools are fielding frantic questions from parents and students. Since the election, Donald Trump's tough talk on immigration has stirred anxiety nationwide among immigrants regardless of legal status. They are turning to lawyers, schools, advocacy groups and congressional offices for help. "We're operating with a lot of unknowns, and a certain amount of fear comes with that," said Vanessa Esparza-López, a managing attorney at the Chicago-based National Immigrant Justice Center.

In Chicago, a hotline run by the state's largest immigrant-rights group received more than 330 calls in the week after the election, compared with the usual 100 or so. Denver school officials sent a letter to parents in response to questions about the election's effect on students living in the country illegally. The New York Legal Assistance Group said its receiving 40 to 60 daily calls about immigration, up from 20 to 30. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles reported 19 walk-ins on a single day, all with citizenship questions.

Urgent inquiries

The most urgent inquiries have been from young people benefiting from a 2012 federal program started by President Barack Obama's administration that allows immigrants brought to the country illegally as children to avoid deportation and get work permits.



CHICAGO: Andrea Aguilera sits at the Erie Neighborhood House on Thursday. —AP

About 740,000 people have participated in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals system. Attorneys say the program is vulnerable because it was created by executive order, not by law, leaving new potential applicants second-guessing whether to sign up. Andrea Aguilera, a 20-year-old college student in suburban Chicago, feels in limbo with her DACA paperwork expiring next year. She was brought across the Mexican border illegally as a 4-year-old and

largely kept her immigration status secret until she was able to get a work permit through DACA four years ago. She's since worked as a grocery store cashier and intern at a downtown financial company. Two of her siblings are in the program; another is a US citizen. "It's been hard to focus on school," Aguilera said. "I just don't know what's going to come next for us."

During the campaign, Trump pledged to deport the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the country illegally and to build a border wall. The Republican president-elect has not detailed how he will proceed and recently walked back the number of anticipated deportees. The Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for lower immigration levels, explained the spike in activity as uncertainty about whether existing laws will be enforced by Trump's administration. Jon Feere, a legal analyst at the Washington D.C.-based research organization, said those enrolled in DACA were aware of the risks when they signed up. Others should have little concern. "Those who are in compliance with the law have nothing to worry about," he said. Still, even immigrants with permanent legal status have had questions since the election.

Attorneys and immigrant organizations said green card holders feel new urgency to ensure that paperwork such as a renewal application is in order over fears that laws could change under a new administration. Most immigrants can seek citizenship three to five years after getting a green card. — AP

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WASHINGTON: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California speaks at her weekly news conference on Capitol Hill on Thursday. — AP

NANCY PELOSI FACES CHALLENGE AS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

PARTY FACES TWO YEARS IN THE MINORITY

WASHINGTON: House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi is facing a challenge from one of her caucus' frustrated younger members as the party faces another two years in the minority.

Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan said Thursday he will challenge the California lawmaker, who has led the party since 2002 and was the first female speaker from 2007-11, in leadership elections later this month. Democrats have been reeling since last week when the party won fewer seats than she had predicted and lost the presidency. "What we are doing right now is not working," the 43-year-old Ryan said in a letter to colleagues. "Under our current leadership, Democrats have been reduced to our smallest congressional minority since 1929. This should indicate to all of us that keeping our leadership team completely unchanged will simply lead to more disappointment in future elections."

Ryan is from a Rust Belt state that President Barack Obama won in 2008 and 2012, but President-elect Donald Trump won Ohio easily this year. Along with younger members in the caucus, Democrats from several Midwestern states have expressed concern that the party has become too focused on the two coasts and forgotten the working-class voters in the middle. Pelosi is from San Francisco.

Numbers and questions

Well-known for her ability to count votes, Pelosi is still the favorite to win another term as leader. She said in announcing her candidacy on Wednesday that she has the backing of two-thirds of the caucus, though Ryan questioned that number.

The election is Nov. 30. It had been

scheduled for Thursday but was postponed until after Thanksgiving. Pelosi, 76, is a survivor who enjoys enormous respect and goodwill among most Democrats, even as many of her closest allies have left Congress. She has managed to maintain unity within the diverse flock of House Democrats and is an unparalleled fundraiser for them, collecting more than \$100 million in the past cycle alone.

Ryan's bid marks the second time Pelosi has faced a challenge after a dismal Democratic performance in an election. She easily beat back North Carolina Rep. Heath Shuler 150-43 after the party lost the majority in 2010.

But some Democratic lawmakers expressed their frustration in a closed door caucus meeting earlier Thursday. Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-N.Y., said she told her colleagues that "if we don't, as a party, have our leaders accept responsibility for where we are, we can't move forward and get to the point where our message is going to resonate with voters."

Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., said he had issued a challenge in the caucus "that anybody who is running for any position of leadership needs to come back and explain to us how we're going to be able to survive one, the Trump years, but two, to not have the same excuse we have every two years where there's some external factor that somehow causes us to not gain the seats that we need."

Among the frustrations for junior Democrats is that several top Democrats on powerful committees have been atop their posts for many years - well into their 80s in some cases - and are not some of the party's most fresh and vibrant voices. For instance, the top Democrat on the

panel responsible for taxes and the Affordable Care Act is 85-year-old Michigan Rep. Sander Levin, while the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee is John Conyers, 87, who's been in Congress for more than 50 years.

"We've got a couple of big issues coming up, not the least of which is defending the very strong parts of the Affordable Care Act," said Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., a rival of Levin's on the powerful panel.

Some Democrats are pressing for term limits for committee chairmen. Pelosi didn't dismiss the idea. "If you want that, you have to fight for it," Pelosi said. Pelosi was crucial in ensuring Obama's health care overhaul became law in 2010. Even in the minority under Obama, Pelosi has been a savvy negotiator with GOP leaders when Democratic votes were needed to advance legislation. "When somebody challenges you, your supporters turn out, both internally in the caucus and in the country," Pelosi, who has led Democrats since 2002, told reporters at her weekly news conference.

Indeed, her allies spoke strongly in her favor. "She has been an extraordinary leader," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "If it weren't for her, a lot of things that are near and dear to our hearts would have been eviscerated. She's a good negotiator even in the minority."

On the budget front, House Republican leaders said Trump wants a short-term spending bill to keep the government running through March of next year. The current stopgap spending bill runs out in less than a month, on Dec. 9. House and Senate negotiators are working on a bill they could pass before leaving for the holidays. — AP

SRI LANKA ARRESTS FORMER US AMBASSADOR FOR GRAFT

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's former ambassador to Washington was arrested yesterday accused of misappropriating more than \$350,000, the latest member of strongman ex-president Mahinda Rajapakse's family to be investigated for corruption in office. Jaliya Wickramasuriya, a cousin of former president, was detained at Sri Lanka's main international airport as he tried to leave the island, an airport official said.

The police had obtained a court order preventing Wickramasuriya from leaving the country as the authorities probe financial transactions at the Sri Lankan embassy in Washington during his tenure as ambassador from 2008 and 2014. "He is accused of pocketing \$345,000 from the purchase of a building for the embassy," a police officer involved in the investigation said. He said two other instances of misappropriation were also under investigation, involving undisclosed sums.

The current government has accused Rajapakse and his family of syphoning off billions of dollars when they were in power and many of the close relatives are currently on bail pending court action. Rajapakse lost power in a snap election in January 2015 to his former ally Maithripala Sirisena who has since ordered investigations into alleged widespread graft under the former regime. — AFP

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR RUTH GRUBER DIES AT 105

NEW YORK: Ruth Gruber, the journalist and humanitarian whose long, trailblazing life included helping to bring Jewish refugees to the United States during World War II, has died. She was 105.

Gruber died on Thursday at her home in Manhattan, according to her editor, Philip Turner. Gruber, who was born in Brooklyn, started college at New York University at age 15 and had earned a Ph.D. from the University of Cologne in Germany by the time she was 20. Her dissertation was on Virginia Woolf, whom she later met.

Gruber then went into journalism, becoming a foreign correspondent and visiting places including the Soviet Arctic and Siberia. She produced both words and photographs. During World War II, she was appointed special assistant to Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, for whom she carried out a study to see if returning veterans could settle in Alaska.

In 1944, Gruber got involved in a mission to bring a group of 1,000 Jewish refugees from Europe to the United States. She spoke about the day she found out about the effort in a 2010 interview in *The Sunday Telegraph* of London. "I got rid of my breakfast and rushed to the office and said, 'I have to see the Secretary.' I told him, 'Somebody has to go over and hold their hands; they're going to be terrified,'" she said.

As she accompanied the refugees to the US, she interviewed them, which became the basis of "Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1,000 World War II Refugees and How They Came to America," one of her many books. It was later made into a television miniseries starring Natasha Richardson as Gruber. Gruber lobbied fiercely for the refugees to be given American citizenship, which they eventually were granted.

She returned to journalism after the war, covering stories such as the plight of other Jewish refugees and the impetus to allow some to settle in what was then Palestine. — AP



PASADENA, California: In this Jan. 9, 2001, file photo, Dr. Ruth Gruber, left, and actress Natasha Richardson pose for a photo at the Ritz Carlton Huntington Hotel. — AP

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ALLAHABAD: Indian villagers queue outside a bank as they wait to deposit and exchange 500 and 1000 rupee notes in Hanuman Ganj village on the outskirts of Allahabad yesterday. — AFP

INDIA'S MILLIONS PAY PRICE OF CASH BAN

ACTIVISTS SEE 'DISASTER' FOR RURAL WOMEN FROM GOVT DECISION

BULANSHAHAR, India: Indian farmer Zakir Khan should be sowing his winter crops now. Instead he is stuck at home after the government's shock move to pull high-value notes out of circulation left him with no money to pay for seeds or feed his family.

Like millions of rural Indians, Khan lives far from a bank and relies almost entirely on cash to pay for food and the seeds and fertilizer he needs. Most of his notes are now worthless unless he can switch them for new ones or deposit them with a rural bank—many of which are yet to receive the new cash. India's government asked its citizens to put up with what it called the "short-term inconvenience" when it announced the move to withdraw 85 percent of currency in circulation in a bid to tackle widespread tax evasion. But for Khan, left with just 80 rupees (\$1.2) in cash and with no more food in the house, it means a lot more than inconvenience. "The government has robbed us," the 42-year-old told AFP in his native village in Bulandshahr district in the impoverished northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

"The government is saying these hardships are temporary, but if we are unable to sow our crops this month, we won't have anything to eat next year." Huge queues have formed outside banks and ATMs in cities across India as people try to swap their old notes for new ones, while many are finding ways to carry out their

daily transactions online. In rural areas though, none of that is possible. To add to farmers' woes, the prices of vegetables and other staples have plummeted as a lack of cash in circulation hits demand. Traders at Delhi's main produce wholesale market Azadpur Mandi say business is down by as much as 50 percent.

'People are angry'

To try to ease the problems, the government this week announced it would boost a network of mobile ATMs in vans and public-sector bank representatives known in India as correspondents, who provide rural communities with access to bank services. They are part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious plan to bring banking to India's rural masses, where many still have no choice but to rely on private moneylenders who charge usurious interest. But Mohammad Imran, who works as a banking correspondent in a village of 4,000 people, told AFP he had received barely any cash since the November 8 announcement.

"Mostly I take old currency notes from the villagers and deposit them in the bank. There is hardly any cash exchange," said Imran, who had taken more than 2.5 million rupees in old notes to deposit, but only handed out 50,000 rupees in new currency.

"People are angry and often hurl abuse at me for not giving them cash. But I am as help-

less as they are," he said, adding that he tried to prioritize the sick and needy.

Meanwhile a worker at one government-owned rural bank said it still had no cash, 10 days after the announcement. "This is simply a rash decision," he told AFP on condition of anonymity. The government says the move is aimed at bringing billions of unaccounted money into the formal banking system and will ultimately boost the economy. That message has gone down well in rural areas, where resentment over tax evasion by the wealthy runs high, and many say they are prepared to put up with the resulting hardships.

Only six people earning over 500 million rupees filed tax returns in 2012-2013, the latest figures available, even though an estimated 2,100 Indians have a net worth that exceeds \$50 million. "Corrupt people have amassed huge amounts and the poor are suffering as a result. We have to trust the government to bring about change," said Mukesh Yadav, a villager in Uttar Pradesh.

India's move to withdraw high-value rupee bills from circulation to crack down on corruption and counterfeit currency has hurt rural women particularly hard, as most of them are outside the banking system, activists said. But it has also curbed consumption, hurt the agriculture and real estate sectors, and triggered long lines at banks and ATMs as people wait to

deposit cash, withdraw money and exchange old notes. At least a dozen people are reported to have died while standing in queues across the country. The move has had a disproportionate impact on women, more than three-quarters of whom are outside the banking system. Daily labourers and informal workers, who tend to save their money in cash, have also been hurt, activists said.

"The impact on such women is disastrous; they are facing a severe financial crisis," said Kiran Moghe, national joint secretary of the All India Democratic Women's Association.

"Women in villages and in tribal areas use only cash, and they scrimp and save to put aside money. Now they cannot even buy daily necessities," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Women often put aside money without the knowledge of their husbands, building a nest egg for themselves and their children, and as a safety net for emergencies, Moghe said. These women do not have bank accounts as they do not have the minimum amount required, or because their husbands have an account, or because they lack the necessary documentation, according to a World Bank study of rural Jharkhand state. Demonetisation will hurt India's informal sector workers, numbering about 482 million, who earn cash incomes, according to consulting firm Deloitte. — Agencies



BUTEMBO: A general view of the Biosa Market in Butembo. The high unemployment rate is considered "normal" by Godefroid Kambere Matimbya, deputy mayor of the North Kivu province city of Butembo, which counts over a million inhabitants. — AFP

OPEC MOVES CLOSER TO OIL DEAL AS IRAN GETS OFFER

RUSSIA REMAINS 'OPTIMISTIC' OVER OUTPUT AGREEMENT

DOHA: OPEC is moving closer towards finalizing this month its first deal since 2008 to limit oil output, with most members prepared to offer Iran significant flexibility on production volumes, ministers and sources said yesterday. Iran has been the main stumbling block for such a deal because Tehran wants exemptions as it tries to regain oil market share after the easing of Western sanctions in January.

Iran's rival Saudi Arabia, the biggest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, has argued Iran's output has peaked and it should not be granted major concessions.

On Friday, several OPEC oil ministers including Saudi Arabia's Khalid Al-Falih met in Doha on the sidelines of a gas forum. Iranian officials attended the gathering although minister Bijan Zanganeh did not come. At the meeting, OPEC member countries proposed Iran cap its oil output at 3.92 million barrels per day (bpd), a source familiar with the proposal told Reuters.

Iran has previously said it would accept a freeze at between 4.0 and 4.2 million bpd. Gulf OPEC sources have said they wanted Iran to cap output at around 3.6-3.7 million bpd - the volume the Islamic Republic is currently producing, according to OPEC estimates.

The source said Tehran had yet to

respond to the proposal. Iran's OPEC governor, who attended yesterday's talks, said he was optimistic that the producer group would reach a deal when it gathers formally in Vienna on Nov. 30.

Falih said the Friday meeting went well, but declined further comment. If OPEC reaches a deal on Nov. 30, it may also draw support from non-OPEC members including Russia, which promised to cooperate but so far has refrained from any firm commitment.

Russia's energy minister said yesterday he was "quite optimistic" the OPEC oil cartel will reach an agreement later this month on a planned output cut to shore up prices.

Alexander Novak was speaking after informal talks in Doha with some but not all of his OPEC counterparts ahead of the cartel's meeting in Vienna on November 30. The cartel's 14 members have been at odds over the details of the production cut agreed in Algiers in September, which is supposed to lead to a wider agreement with non-OPEC producers including Russia.

Iran has refused to join in until it has restored its market share following the lifting of international sanctions in January. Iraq has asked for an exemption, saying it needs the income to fund its war against the Islamic State jihadist group.

Asked whether he thought Iraq would agree to a freeze or cut at the Vienna meeting, Novak said: "I would say that I am quite optimistic at this point.

"Today's discussions... do instil optimism in me. "And I believe that the consultations of technical experts, which are going to be held soon, and other consultations ahead of the 30th November meeting... would result in an agreement." He also told reporters that Russia was willing to limit production to "certain levels". "We believe that demand will continue to grow. "Even today we have discussed numbers that demand will grow by 1.1, 1.2 million bpd (barrels per day) next year.

OPEC ministers agreed in Algiers to reduce production to 32.5-33 million bpd from the 33.47 million pumped in August, the first cut in eight years.

Falih told the Al-Arabiya news channel in an interview aired on Thursday that he was "still optimistic that the consensus reached in Algiers to put a ceiling to production will be implemented by adopting ceilings for countries". Algeria's energy minister Nouredine Bouterfa said discussions yesterday had been "good" and that "maybe" 32.5 million bpd would be the production target spoken about in Vienna. Iraq and Iran have been asked to freeze their output levels. — Agencies

QATAR HOSTS 18TH MINISTERIAL GECF GAS EXPORTING SUMMIT

DOHA: The 18th Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) kicked off in Doha Thursday. Speaking at the opening speech, Qatari Minister of Energy and Industry Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada, who is also President of 18th Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), has outlined the importance of the 18th GECF ministerial meeting.

He ascribed this importance to two reasons: Firstly, because of the conditions of the market we are facing now and in the near future that require us to address it as appropriately and as early as we can; and secondly because of two important documents that have been made ready for our attention, namely, the GECF Long Term strategy and the GECF Global Gas Outlook 2040. He pointed out that the Long Term Strategy defines the Organization's vision, mission, strategic goals and long-term priority objectives.

It also includes key strategic instruments and initiatives to successfully achieve each of its priority objectives, he noted. "The adoption of this document is very important at this stage as this is going to be the first GECF Long term strategy that will pave the way ahead of us for the years to come," Al-Sada said. "In fact, the two important draft documents of long-term strategy and GECF outlook are the result of such praiseworthy endeavors," he said. He added that "This is our 18th Ministerial Meeting since we began our collective strive to safeguard our interests in the gas sector.

Today, we are meeting at the time of transitional changes in the energy market in general and in gas market in particular. The changes that are bringing both opportunities and challenges for all of us as gas exporting countries." Since last year in Tehran, global gas market developments have been changing the dynamics of the market even in a more rapid way than before, Al Sada pointed out. He indicated that the demand for natural gas grew in 2015 by 1.9%, more than double of that of 2014 and is expected to continue to grow during the next year albeit with lower pace. "The supply side developments, however, are shaping new dynamics and trends in the markets and, as a result, is set to create a new environment of competitiveness." —KUNA

GLENCORE SEEKS \$550 MILLION TO RAISE STAKES IN KURDISH OIL GAME

LONDON: Glencore is seeking to raise \$550 million from investors via a debt issue guaranteed by oil from Iraqi Kurdistan in an attempt to secure a big slice of the high-risk - and high-reward - market in a region at war with Islamic State. Kurdish oil has been targeted by European traders over the past two years, during an industry downturn, since Erbil began selling oil independently from Baghdad. It has been relatively cheap due to the potential for supply disruptions and threats from Iraq's central government to sue anyone touching the crude.

The government of the autonomous Kurdish region in Erbil has borrowed around \$2 billion from Glencore's rivals such as Vitol, Petraco and Trafigura to be repaid in oil. The companies have all borrowed money from banks and lent it to Erbil at their own risk. Glencore, whose commodity trading division has been under pressure to perform as mining profits have declined, was the last merchant to enter the game earlier this year by lending \$300 million to Erbil. The loan is being repaid by way of one mid-sized oil cargo a month, worth around \$25 million.

Now the company is seeking a much bigger role in the region, but wants to split the risks by selling debt notes to be repaid with Kurdish oil income, according to a prospectus seen by Reuters. Technically, the money would be raised by a special-purpose vehicle, says the document which has been sent to a small number of investors who specialise in high-risk markets. It says Glencore expects to enter into a new 5-year agreement with the government of Kurdistan to buy its crude, with deliveries rising from one cargo in January, to two in February-March, four in April and six from May onwards. Six cargoes a month would represent a quarter of overall exports from Kurdistan and would be worth over \$1.7 billion a year at today's price of around \$40 per barrel for Kurdish oil, and more than \$8 billion over the course of five years. —Reuters

MALAYSIA INTERVENES TO HELP SAGGING RINGGIT

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's central bank is intervening in markets to support the beleaguered ringgit, an official said yesterday, as regional authorities grapple with a surging dollar.

Bank Negara Malaysia Assistant Governor Adnan Zaylani replied "Yes" when asked by reporters on Friday whether the central bank was intervening in the foreign-exchange market, Bloomberg News reported. The ringgit has weakened by around five percent since last week's surprise presidential election victory by US billionaire Donald Trump.

Trump's promises to ramp up spending on infrastructure and cut taxes has led to warnings of a surge in inflation. That could force the policy-setting US

Federal Reserve to hike interest rates to cap prices, which has led to a rush back into the dollar.

But Adnan poured water on the possibility that Malaysia could implement capital controls to shield the ringgit, calling speculation over such measures "baseless" and saying they would ultimately be damaging. Speculation of such controls rose after the bank issued a statement earlier this week that was widely interpreted as seeking to curb trading of ringgit futures.

The ringgit had already been among Asia's worst-performing currencies over the past two years amid the oil price slump and political frictions stemming from a corruption scandal linked to Prime Minister

Najib Razak. It has been widely speculated that the central bank has regularly intervened on behalf of the ringgit over that span, eroding its international reserves. The energy-exporting, trade-dependent Malaysian economy has seen growth steadily slow in recent years. Economic growth came in at 4.3 percent in the third quarter, snapping a string of five straight quarters in which the pace of expansion slowed, Bank Negara said last week. Concern also has risen in Malaysia over the potential for clashes between reformists who plan a rally today to demand Najib's removal over the scandal, and a pro-government group that has vowed to confront the demonstrators. — AFP



VOORSCHOTEN: Queen Maxima of the Netherlands (C) listens to someone during her visit of a butchery for the Day of the entrepreneur in Voorschoten yesterday.—AFP

IMF TEAM LEAVES UKRAINE WITHOUT NEW LOAN PROMISE

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING PROGRESS INADEQUATE

KIEV: The International Monetary Fund said yesterday its team had ended a visit to Kiev without seeing sufficient economic restructuring progress to release a new loan to Ukraine this year.

The impoverished and war-scarred former Soviet republic had been hoping to receive a \$1.3-billion (\$1.2-billion-euro) tranche payment in November from a rescue package of \$17.5 billion agreed with the Fund in 2015. But Kiev has only seen \$7.6 billion of that money due to foot-dragging by populist lawmakers in parliament over deeply unpopular belt-tightening measures prescribed by the Fund.

The IMF last released a \$1-billion tranche payment in September that Kiev had expected to see last year. A statement from the Fund's mission said the pro-Western government still needed "some time" to adopt all the economic prescriptions mandated under the four-year program.

"While good progress has been

made, the authorities need some more time to implement policies to ensure medium-term fiscal sustainability—including adoption of the 2017 budget consistent with program targets—safeguard financial stability, and tackle corruption," the IMF team said.

"Discussions on these policies will continue in the period ahead." Ukrainian media reported the IMF had outlined five points that Kiev must comply with in order to receive future payments.

The first involves obtaining capital to keep 12 large and systemically important banks afloat. An earlier central bank stress test found that 28 of 39 lenders checked lacked the required cash at hand to survive another potential economic crisis.

The Fund also wants the government to start gradually raising household bills for gas and central heating to "market levels" starting in March 2017. Ukraine has already slashed its utility subsidies and saw loud street protests from pro-

dominantly pension-age people who cannot afford the new bills.

But economists view Ukraine's subsidization of its energy sector as one of the largest drains on the state budget. The IMF also wants the government to turn its loss-making state gas and oil company into a profitable venture by the end of 2017.

It further would like to see Kiev speed up its privatization efforts and simplify its outdated tax system.

Ukraine has pulled out of a dire two-year recession by recording nine consecutive months of economic growth. But the Fund's statement said that Ukraine's gross domestic product "is still very low—just 20 percent of the EU average, the second lowest level of all central and eastern European countries."

It also noted that "tangible results in prosecuting and convicting corrupt high-level officials and recovering proceeds from corruption have yet to be achieved". — AFP

PAKISTAN 'WAR ON TERROR' HAS COST \$118BN: STATE BANK

KARACHI: Pakistan's "war on terror" has cost the developing country a whopping \$118 billion so far, a new central bank report has said, an amount equivalent to well over one third of its gross domestic product. The central State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) released its annual report on Thursday showing extremist violence cost the country \$118.3 billion in direct and indirect losses from 2002 to 2016.

"Both economic growth and social sector development have been severely hampered by terrorism related incidents," the bank said in the report. Pakistan became a pivotal US ally in the battle against extremism after the September 11, 2001 attacks spurred the US invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.

A Coalition Support Fund (CSF) was approved by the US to support Pakistan in the war, with an annual release of around \$1 billion since 2002. By last year Pakistan had received a total of \$14 billion under the CSF. The country has also been waging a fight against home-grown Islamist insurgents since at least 2004.

The bank said that apart from causing immeasurable human suffering, including casualties and mass displacement, the war had helped drive away foreign investment, stall domestic investment, freeze exports, and slow down trade. Pakistan has carried out major military offensives against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban in its border tribal regions that have sapped their strength, with overall levels of militant violence dropping drastically in 2015 and 2016. The economy, meanwhile, is improving, with the IMF saying in October that the country has emerged from crisis and stabilized its economy after completing a bailout program. — AFP

JAPAN BUDGET AIRLINE PEACH TO BUY 13 AIRBUS AIRCRAFT

TOKYO: Japanese low-cost carrier Peach Aviation said yesterday it would buy 13 Airbus aircraft valued at almost \$1.4 billion as part of its expansion plans to cash in on a pick-up in demand for air travel in the country. Peach, an affiliate of major Japanese carrier All Nippon Airways (ANA), agreed to buy 10 fuel-efficient A320neos and three conventional A320ceos, it said in a statement. The new aircraft are to be used for Peach's "business expansion" it said. The airline flies both domestic and international routes, including to Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul. "This will be the first time for a Japanese (low-cost carrier) to order A320neo aircraft," Peach said, stressing the jet's "superb environmental features". Chief Executive Officer Shinichi Inoue said at a Tokyo briefing that the carrier plans to expand its fleet to at least 35 planes by 2020 and to 100 later. It currently has 18 Airbus A320s.

Inoue added that it is also looking at setting up a base at Sendai airport next year and at Sapporo's Shin-Chitose in 2018. The A320neo has a list price of \$107.3 million and the A320ceo \$98 million. The announcement comes after European aviation giant Airbus last month reported a five percent fall in January-September net profit and said it intends to deliver more planes than initially forecast this year. The plane-maker is improving its position in the Japanese market, which has seen a quasi-monopoly by American rival Boeing with the two biggest carriers—Japan Airlines and ANA—having a privileged relationship with the US manufacturer.—AFP



TOKYO: Airbus ECO Fabrice Bregier (left) shakes hands with CEO of Japan's low cost carrier Peach Aviation Shinichi Inoue during a joint press conference in Tokyo yesterday.—AFP

GOLD SLIDES TO 5-1/2 MONTH LOW ON DOLLAR

LONDON: Gold hit its lowest level since late May on Friday as the dollar surged to a near 14-year high on expectations for a US rate hike next month and more infrastructure spending from the new Trump administration. The US currency is on track for its best fortnight since 1988 versus the yen, having hit its highest since early 2003 versus a currency basket as Donald Trump's presidential win stoked talk of higher fiscal spending and tax cuts to jump-start the US economy. That weighed on gold, which is priced in dollars. Spot gold slid to its lowest since May 30 at \$1,203.52 an ounce, and was down 0.8 percent at \$1,205.76 an ounce.

US gold futures for December delivery were down \$11.90 an ounce at \$1,205.00, off a low of \$1,201.30, its weakest since mid-February. "It's all about expectations, and what markets expect is a large fiscal stimulus, mostly

infrastructure spending, and for the Federal Reserve to be much more aggressive in hiking rates," Capital Economics analyst Simona Gambarini said.

"That's what's being reflected in the (gold) price." Spot prices have fallen nearly 2 percent this week and are more than \$130 an ounce down from their post-election peak, hurt by the jump in the dollar and a surge in US Treasury yields.

US bond yields were set for the biggest fortnightly rise in 15 years yesterday on bets US inflation and interest rates are headed higher. That increased the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion. Fed chair Janet Yellen said on Thursday in congressional testimony that Trump's election has done nothing to change the Fed's plans for a rate increase "relatively soon".

Holdings of the world's largest gold-backed

exchange-traded fund, SPDR Gold Shares, fell another 5.6 tons on Thursday to their lowest since June. Holdings have fallen nearly 30 tons since the US election. "With the pressure that has been seen in gold prices since early November, total ETF holdings in gold have fallen to their lowest level since early July 2016," ING said in a note. "Further outflows could put further pressure on gold prices." Silver was down 1.1 percent at \$16.47 an ounce, having earlier touched its lowest since June 8 at \$16.44, while platinum was 0.5 percent lower at \$925.80. Both metals were set for a second consecutive weekly decline. Palladium was down 1.9 percent at \$713 an ounce, but was set to post a third weekly rise, of more than 6 percent. The metal has benefited from strength in industrial metals, on hopes that higher US infrastructure spending could boost demand. — Reuters



TOKYO: Money traders work at a foreign exchange brokerage in Tokyo yesterday. Japanese shares rose Friday on the yen's weakness while other Asian benchmarks wobbled after Fed chair Janet Yellen signaled that policymakers plan to raise interest rates soon. —AP

DOLLAR CHARGES TO 14-YEAR HIGH, BONDS IN FULL SWING

SOLID US DATA, YELLEN COMMENTS FUEL RATE-HIKE BETS

LONDON: The dollar scaled to its highest level in almost 14 years against a basket of currencies yesterday, while US bond yields were set for the biggest fortnightly rise in 15 years on bets US inflation and interest rates are headed higher. A growing perception that the economic policies of US President-elect Donald Trump will push up consumer prices helped put the dollar on track for its biggest two-week rise against the Japanese yen in almost 30 years. European shares nudged lower in early European trade, while Italian bonds bore the brunt of selling in regional debt markets, with borrowing costs set for their biggest two-week rise since the 2012 eurozone debt crisis.

In Asia, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.4 percent to hover just above four-month lows touched earlier in the week. It looked set to log its fourth straight week of losses. The dollar's rise against the yen raised hopes of an earnings boost to

Japanese exporters, lifting Japan's Nikkei average to a 10-month high. The blue-chip stock index closed 0.6 percent higher. Data on Thursday suggesting the US jobs market is tightening and inflation is gaining traction have bolstered a view that US growth and inflation could accelerate if the Trump administration cuts taxes and increases fiscal spending.

Last week's unexpected US election result has prompted investors to ditch their once rock-solid conviction that growth in developed economies will remain tepid because of tough competition from emerging market economies with lower wages. That has led to a repricing of assets, witnessed most notably in currency and bond markets. "What we're looking at is a broad shift of investment back to the US," said Richard Cochinos, Citi's head of G10 currency strategy in London. "There are expectations for tax cuts next year - which were part of the Trump campaign's promises - and then there's also the idea of what

type of fiscal boost are you going to have. That's what's driving asset prices - it's people's expectations for the fiscal impulse next year," he said.

BONDS RUMBLED

The 10-year US Treasury yield rose to 2.34 percent, its highest since December. It is up about 55 basis points over the last two weeks - the biggest fortnightly rise in 15 years and the second biggest in almost 30 years. In Europe, Italian 10-year bond yields rose 8 basis points to 2.12 percent, racking up 44 bps over the last fortnight in its biggest surge since May 2012. Italy has been at the sharp end of the rout as investors fret about the political repercussions of a referendum next month that could further destabilize a country battling a banking crisis and a weak economy. Rising bond yields across the globe also reflect a reassessment of the Federal Reserve's policy path down the road, beyond a likely rate hike in December. — Reuters

STALLED LUXURY HOTEL PROJECTS IN KABUL 'LOST \$85 MILLION'

KABUL: Stalled luxury hotel and apartment projects next to the US Embassy in the Afghan capital may have lost American taxpayers \$85 million and left the partially constructed buildings as security threats, a government watchdog said on Thursday.

The projects were partially funded by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a US government agency that aims to help foreign investment. But both now appear to have been abandoned in a climate of increasing concern over security, according to a letter to OPIC from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

A suicide bomb attack on Wednesday killed four people in Kabul, illustrating the precarious security involving not only Islamic State and a Taliban insurgency but also a wider breakdown in law and order as government control has weakened. "The \$85 million in loans is gone, the buildings were never completed and are uninhabitable, and the US Embassy is now forced to provide security for the site at additional cost to US taxpayers," the letter said, accusing the developer of possible fraud and OPIC of lax oversight.

Ground was first broken for the hotel in 2004 by then-Afghan President Hamid Karzai, with the project financed in part by an OPIC loan of \$40 million that US officials at the time called the "largest US private investment in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban" in 2001.

It was initially to be run by Hyatt International Corporation and finished in 18 months, according to news reports at the time, but that never happened. By 2007, a group of companies received a new loan of \$60 million to complete the hotel and Marriott International had agreed to manage it, the letter said. It is not clear what happened to the initial \$40 million in loans.

"FALSE ASSURANCES"

In 2013, construction was dragging on, but the developer, incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, promised it would be complete by the end of the year and OPIC approved the disbursement of the last funding, SIGAR reported in the letter.

Marriott reportedly withdrew from the hotel and right after receiving the final loan funding, the developer told OPIC it was stopping all work on the project, SIGAR said. "Based on our inspections it is clear that the assurances made to obtain the final loan disbursement were false and misleading," investigators said. "We are currently determining whether earlier representations made to justify the prior disbursements were also false and misleading." To this day the hulking building sits empty, overlooking the US Embassy which pays an untold amount of money to secure the structure, according to SIGAR. The same developer was also involved in a related project to build a neighbouring apartment complex with \$27 million in OPIC loans, but construction there was also halted after the company received the last funding, SIGAR reported. —Reuters

UK'S HAMMOND PLANS 'STEADY AS SHE GOES' BUDGET: LAWMAKER

LONDON: British Finance Minister Philip Hammond is likely to announce a "steady as she goes" budget plan next week without big tax or spending surprises, and he will avoid setting a firm target for turning the budget deficit into a surplus, a lawmaker said.

Stephen Hammond, who is a friend of the minister and a member of his Conservative party but is not related to him, told the BBC that Philip Hammond would not announce on Wednesday a big increase in spending to help the economy during the uncertainty caused by June's vote to leave the European Union. "Anyone who

thinks Philip Hammond is going to be Keynes I think has probably misunderstood his economic philosophy," Stephen Hammond said, referring to the economist John Maynard Keynes, who argued that aggressive public spending was the best way to fight economic downturns.

Britain's new government has said it will drop the target of former finance minister George Osborne of a budget surplus by the 2019/20 financial year, the last of the current five-year parliament, but will still push to eliminate the deficit. "Intellectually the framework remains that same, that we

intend to achieve a fiscal surplus within the life of the next parliament," Stephen Hammond said in a television interview broadcast late on Thursday. He said any increase in spending on infrastructure would need to provide value for money and show a proven business case although he said Philip Hammond should not be considered "a boring accountant."

While there could be some help for households such as a cut in fuel duty or measures to have savers, there would not be a big focus on what Prime Minister Theresa May has called Britain's "just managing" group of fam-

ilies. "This is the time I think for steady as she goes Autumn Statement," Stephen Hammond said. "No rabbits out of a hat." Hammond's options for his first budget statement since taking over Britain's Treasury in July are limited by the prospect of a slowdown in economic growth over the next few years as Britain negotiates its exit from the EU as well as its already weak public finances.

Many economists expect the British government is now on course to borrow 100 billion more pounds than it previously expected over the next five years. — Reuters

UK HOUSEBUILDERS FIND LENDERS MORE CAUTIOUS AFTER BREXIT VOTE: SURVEY

LONDON: UK housebuilders, particularly those operating in central London, are finding lenders are giving out less finance for new projects since Britain's vote to leave the European Union, according to a report by property consultant Knight Frank. Heightened caution among lenders is causing many to scrutinise deals for longer and reduce the amount of their lending by 5-10 percent of the project cost, Peter Macallan, head of structured development finance at property consultant Knight Frank told Reuters.

"So what that means is that effectively developers are having to put more cash equity into the deals upfront, giving lenders a bit more comfort in an uncertain market with Brexit, the US election and what demand for UK housing stock is going to look like in 3-5 years," Macallan said.

The Residential Development Finance Report 2016/17 by Knight Frank, which surveyed the industry's 50 major operators, said over a quarter of respondents expected the loan-to-value on development projects to fall. The result could be that builders offer bigger discounts to cash buyers to lure landlords and overseas buyers that might have limited purchases due to Brexit uncertainty and an increase in tax on buy-to-let and second homes.

UK property was the hardest hit sector immediately after the Brexit vote, but new homes demand in most of Britain, including outer London, has returned after an initial dip, according to builders and surveys. Central London though remains a weak spot, with property prices forecast to fall and housebuilder Barratt having cut prices of some of its expensive homes. The pace of building in this region has already slowed. — Reuters

ECB RISKS CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS OVER BANK SUPERVISION POWERS

BRUSSELS: The European Central Bank risks conflicts of interests over its bank supervision powers when it uses the same staff to perform monetary and supervisory functions, EU auditors said on Friday. They also cautioned about ECB's excessive reliance on national supervisors, and said the bank had not provided it with all the information they needed. The warnings came in the first report the European Court of Auditors published as part of its mandate to oversee the ECB's "operational efficiency." Following the 2007-08 global financial crisis, the ECB has added to its monetary policy functions the task of supervising the top banks of the euro zone's 19 countries.

The two functions should remain separate, but auditors said the ECB has set up some departments, called "shared services", which provide support to both the monetary and supervisory tasks. "This saves on resources, but the risk of possible conflicts of interests in some areas needs to be addressed," the EU auditors said in a note.

The ECB defended the practice, replied in a note to the report: "The establishment of so-called shared services (...) does not lead to conflicts of interests and is therefore compatible with the principle of separation." Auditors said also the ECB relies too much on staff from national authorities to carry out bank supervision, and this may reduce its effectiveness. —Reuters



WOLFSBURG: (L-R) Karlheinz Blessing, board member of human resources of German carmaker Volkswagen, Herbert Diess, board member of management of the Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand, Matthias Mueller, CEO of German carmaker Volkswagen (VW), Chairman of VW Works council Bernd Osterloh and Lower Saxony State Premier and VW Supervisory board member Stephan Weil attend the company's press conference yesterday. —AFP

VOLKSWAGEN TO SHED 30,000 JOBS IN COST-CUTTING DRIVE

AUTOMAKER TRIES TO RECOVER FROM SCANDAL

FRANKFURT: Volkswagen announced plans yesterday to cut 30,000 jobs in a wide-ranging restructuring of its namesake brand as it tries to recover from a scandal over cars rigged to cheat on diesel emissions tests.

The German company said the job cuts are part of a long-term plan to improve profitability and shift resources and investment to electric-powered vehicles and digital services. Company officials at a news conference at its headquarters in Wolfsburg said 23,000 of the job cuts will come in Germany and that the measures will save some 3.7 billion euros (\$4 billion) a year from 2020. CEO Matthias Mueller said it was "the biggest reform package in the history of our core brand." In addition to Volkswagen, the company also makes cars under other brands including Porsche, Audi, SEAT, Skoda and Lamborghini. The layoffs cap a difficult year for Volkswagen, which has been embroiled in an emissions-rigging scandal that damaged the company's reputation and cost it billions.

In response, Volkswagen has agreed to pay \$15 billion to US authorities and owners of some 500,000 vehicles with

software that turned off emissions controls. Around 11 million cars worldwide have the deceptive software. The scandal has been a spur for the company to address longstanding problems such as high fixed costs at its manufacturing locations in Germany and excessively top-down management that many say created an environment that enabled the cheating.

Herbert Diess, head of the core Volkswagen brand, conceded that Volkswagen had let its costs rise and "lost ground in terms of productivity." The changes, he said, would make the company "leaner and more efficient."

As well as addressing Volkswagen's longstanding cost issue, the cuts underscore the company's status as key jobs provider in the state of Lower Saxony, which owns a stake in the company.

Volkswagen Group, with its multiple brands, has more than 600,000 employees worldwide but the cuts will mainly fall on its 120,000-strong German workforce. Job cuts are also foreseen in Brazil and Argentina.

Volkswagen sells roughly the same number of cars as Toyota and General Motors, around 10 million a year. But

Toyota does it with 333,500 workers and GM with 202,000. The company has said it aims to cut nonessential costs and investments and shift resources toward battery-powered cars and internet-based services such as car-sharing and ride-sharing. The company had been slower than some competitors to move toward electric cars but has shifted its view after the scandal underlined diesel's limitations. Volkswagen now says it plans to introduce more than 30 electric-powered vehicles by 2025, and to sell 2 to 3 million of them a year. To make the job cuts, the company has cut a deal with its powerful worker representatives. Under the terms of the deal, Volkswagen has agreed to keep much of the future investment in new technology in Germany and to rely on voluntary departures such as early retirement, with no firings.

Top employee representative Bernd Osterloh said "the next generation of electric vehicles will be made here in Germany, not abroad." Volkswagen's package of measures received a cautious welcome in markets. The company's share price was up 0.3 percent at 129.45 euros. — AP



PERU: This handout photo taken on November 17, 2016 and released by the official APEC Peru 2016 organization shows Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (C) arriving at Lima's international airport to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit. — AFP

WITH TRUMP WIN, CHINA LOOKS TO SEIZE ASIA FREE TRADE LEADERSHIP

APEC TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF TPP AT PERU SUMMIT

BEIJING: China will position itself as free trade's new champion at an Asia-Pacific summit this weekend, with the Communist government seeking to project economic leadership as a US-led Pacific Rim trade pact languishes under President-elect Donald Trump.

Beijing aims to capitalize on the Trump-induced coma of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with President Xi Jinping selling alternate visions for regional trade at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting this weekend in Peru.

"If the US gives up its leadership here, of course China will take the role," said Tu Xinquan, a trade expert at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, who has advised China's government on trade issues. On the campaign trail, Trump labelled the TPP, championed by President Barack Obama, a "disaster". Obama last week abandoned efforts to win congressional approval for the TPP before Trump takes office, saying its fate was up to the President-elect and Republican lawmakers.

The China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a rival pact that excludes the United States, has become the front-runner for new free trade deals in the region.

The RCEP and the TPP—which excludes China—were viewed as parallel, if competing pathways, to an eventual broader Asia-Pacific free trade zone. But when Beijing hosted the APEC meeting in 2014 and pushed the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) as a framework for liberalising Pacific Rim trade, the United States saw it as a distraction from TPP.

Now, the RCEP is likely the main avenue to a future FTAAP, giving China,

as the largest economy among the deal's 16 countries, a driving role in the future of Asia-Pacific trade.

Obama had argued that the TPP would allow the United States and not China to write the rules of trade for the region.

'GEOPOLITICAL REALITIES

China's efforts to push trade pacts coincide with other soft power initiatives aimed at cementing the country's economic influence, such as Xi's global One Belt, One Road infrastructure plan and the Beijing-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Claire Reade, senior counsel at US law firm Arnold & Porter and a former Assistant US Trade Representative for China Affairs, said China would seek to contrast its commitment to the region with US inconstancy. "The geopolitical realities and China's economic diplomacy make it seem unlikely the smaller countries in the region would spurn China's leadership," she said.

In a sign of frustration with the United States among some TPP members, Peru's president has said that Pacific-rim countries can forge a new trade deal to replace TPP that includes China and Russia but not the United States.

This week, Peru's trade minister said it was engaging China on ways to get involved with RCEP negotiations. If Lima joined the talks, which is unlikely until existing members come to terms, it would be the only participant from the Americas and could encourage other TPP signatories in Latin America to follow suit.

Other TPP members, including staunch US ally Australia, have said they will pursue other free trade options in

Asia. Malaysia has said it would shift its focus from TPP to RCEP, and Vietnam, which is also party to both deals, will shelve its ratification of TPP due to political changes in Washington.

MORE OFF-SHORING

Trade experts say that in addition to dealing a blow to US influence, TPP's failure could mean US goods lose out on lower tariffs and market access to RCEP countries, including Japan, China and India. Proposed dates for an agreement have come and gone, but an RCEP deal could be reached as soon as next year.

Deborah Elms, who runs the Singapore-based Asian Trade Centre consultancy and advises governments, said the lack of US involvement in future trade deals could spur more off-shoring by US companies. "If you want to take advantage of RCEP, you need to be in Asia to service Asian markets. That means you need to be physically present with at least some part of your operation," Elms said.

Governments in the region should take advantage of RCEP momentum, she said. "I would be trumpeting loudly from the rooftops ... Put your whole global operations here to take advantage of the place that is still open for business."

The role-reversal on free trade zones and other uncertainties stemming from Trump's election bolsters China's image, Douglas Paal, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said at a forum in Beijing on Wednesday. "Withdrawing from trade agreements, talking about shaking up alliances, talking about pulling out of the climate change agreement, talking about pulling out of Iran - all of these make China look like the responsible stakeholder," Paal said. — Reuters

HUNGARY TO CUT CORPORATE TAX RATE TO EU LOW

BUDAPEST: Hungary is seeking to lower corporate tax to nine percent starting from 2017, the lowest rate in the European Union, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Thursday.

"Next year, corporate tax will be set at a single, equitable figure of nine percent, for small and medium enterprises, and large corporations alike," he told reporters in Budapest. Hungarian companies with a turnover of under 500 million forints (1.6 million euros, \$1.7 million) currently pay 10 percent of their earnings in tax.

Larger corporations pay 19 percent. The decision to lower taxes rates was taken on Thursday after consultations with Economy Minister Mihaly Varga.

"With these taxes, Hungary will offer the European Union's best fiscal conditions," Orban said.

To date, Bulgaria, Ireland and Cyprus have had the lowest corporate tax rates in the EU.

Varga said in a statement that the 2017 budget had been designed to accommodate a shortfall of 145 billion forints as a result of the corporate tax reform. "That means 145 billion (forints) more will remain in the pockets of corporations. The reserve fund of 200 billion will be more than sufficient to cover this gap," he added.

The Hungarian press said it feared the nation could become a tax haven. "If the government's aim is to attract multinationals and investments, everyone knows that these giants pay less attention to corporate tax than to payroll taxes," the Index.hu website said. — AFP



MONTEILIMAR: People walk past closed stores during a "Lifeless town operation" ("Operation ville morte") as storekeepers protest against the depopulation of the city center and the construction of a shopping mall in the outskirts of the town yesterday in Montelimar, southeastern France. —AFP

MEXICO CB HIKES RATES TO OVER 7-YEAR HIGH AS US ELECTION SINKS PESO

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's central bank hiked interest rates to their highest in over 7 years on Thursday and warned that the election of Donald Trump as US president had cast doubt on the direction of Latin America's second-largest economy. The Banco de Mexico raised its key rate 50 basis points (bps) to 5.25 percent, its highest since May 2009.

The move had been expected by the median of 15 analysts polled by Reuters from the end of last week. But the market later tilted toward a hike of at least 75 bps and the peso closed down just over 1 percent.

"The market was expecting a bit more," said Alfonso Esparza, a strategist at Oanda in Toronto, who still thought the 50 bps hike was the right move due to the risk to growth from Trump's threat to unwind a free trade deal with Mexico.

"It is still very early to know what could be the effect of the new policies of President-elect Trump," he said. "The central bank could end up risking too much before it really knows what will happen with Trump's promises." The central bank said the outcome of the US election could affect the relationship with Mexico, on top of further episodes of global volatility.

"The current environment facing the national economy is characterized by greater uncertainty," it said, adding that "the new international environment" suggested that economic growth could be weaker going forward. The peso slid to a record low last week as Trump swept to power, posting its biggest two-day loss since a 1995 devaluation. —Reuters

Kuwait Times Weekender



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**THAI FISH WITH
NATIONAL FLAG
COLORS SOLD FOR
MORE THAN \$1.5K**

SEE PAGE 24



A Siamese fighting fish with colors resembling the Thai national flag swims in a fish tank in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. — AP



In this April 10, 2015 file photo, Mexican singer-songwriter, Juan Gabriel, performs at the National Auditorium in Mexico City. — AP/AFP photos



Los Fabulosos Cadillacs accept the award for Best Rock Album during the show of the 17th Annual Latin Grammy Awards.

Juan Gabriel a posthumous double winner at Latin Grammys



Nastassja Bolivar



Recording artists Joy Huerta and Jesse Huerta of Jesse J accept Best Contemporary Pop Vocal Album.



Randy Malcom Martinez (left) and Alexander Delgado, of Gente de Zona, accept the award for Best Tropical Fusion Album.

Singer-songwriter Juan Gabriel had never received a Latin Grammy Award during his lifetime, but on Thursday, he became a posthumous double winner. The late Mexican superstar won album of the year and best vocal pop traditional album for "Los Duo 2," a collection of his greatest hits performed by such luminaries of Latin music as Marc Anthony, Alejandro Fernandez, Jose Feliciano and Wisin. A video tribute showed highlights from his decades onstage, and the presenters of the night's final prize called on the audience to "applaud for the master." Gabriel died in August at age 66.

He was named the Latin Recording Academy's Person of the Year in 2009, and Anthony received the honor this year. Jennifer Lopez presented the prize, stealing the show with her duet with Anthony on "Olvidame y Pega la Vuelta," followed by a heartfelt speech in which she described her ex-husband as "a living legend." He was feted in a separate ceremony Wednesday but received the award from Lopez on Thursday's show, held at Las Vegas' T-Mobile Arena and broadcast live on Univision. "Marc, you are a living legend who has laid bare your heart and soul on your musical journey... An artist magical and pure who has given us classics that will stay with us forever," Lopez said in Spanish. "On our own personal and artistic journey, we've learned so much and we've grown so much, and you've always been so many things in my life: my mentor, a twin soul, a father who's not only the Person of the Year, he's the person of all time."

The audience cheered, "Kiss! Kiss! Kiss!" and the former couple obliged with a small peck. Anthony and Lopez were wed from 2004 to 2011. He has been married to Venezuelan model Shannon De Lima since 2014.

Carlos Vives won record and song of the year honors for "La Bicicleta," his duet with Shakira. Vives, who also performed the song during Thursday's show, thanked "the Spanish-speaking community all over the world" as he dedicated his award to his family and homeland of Colombia. Shakira did not attend the ceremony.

Vives accepted the golden gramophone from singer-songwriter Julieta Venegas and actor-director Diego Luna, whose message of unity among Latinos was an indirect allusion to the

rhetoric of President-elect Donald Trump. "Together we can fight hate and discrimination," Luna said. "We are stronger together." Show co-host Roselyn Sanchez also said, "There shouldn't be walls that separate us," but no one mentioned Trump's name from the stage. The show began with a strong message in defense of Latinos, as Juanes and Pablo Lopez performed "Tu Enemigo" ("Your Enemy"), backed by a gospel choir and Cirque du Soleil gymnasts. The song includes the lyric, "your hands are my flag and I have a song as my border."

Sanchez repeated the lyric after their performance, saying, "the only barriers that should exist are the songs." Mexican singer Carla Morrison, who won the Latin Grammy for best alternative song for "Vez Primera," dedicated the award to "all Latinos who are in this country, that the walls would only be mental and we can destroy them and never be separated." — AP



Singer Carlos Vives poses with the Grammy for Record of the Year and Song of the Year.



Reik performs "Ya Me Entere" on stage.



Mon Laferte and Juanes perform on stage.



Recording artist Sofia Reyes



Singer Gente De Zona poses with the Grammy for Best Tropical Fusion Album.



Prince Royce, left, and Gerardo Ortiz perform "Moneda" on stage.



Singers Diego Torres (left) and Rachel Platten perform.



Hosts Roselyn Sanchez (left) and Sebastian Rulli speak on stage.



Banda El Recodo De Cruz Lizarraga poses with the Grammy for Best Banda Album



Singer Marc Anthony performs with Jennifer Lopez during the show.



Nina Pastori poses in the press room with the award for best flamenco album for "Amame Como Soy".



Fonseca, center, performs "Vine a Buscarte" with Raul Alexis Ortiz, left, and Joel Fido Martinez, of Alexis y Fido.



Eugenia Leon, from left, Tania Libertad and Guadalupe Pineda, of "Las Tres Grande" perform "Mi Canto Viene del Sur".



A Siamese fighting fish with colors resembling the Thai national flag swims in a fish tank in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. — AP

Thai fish with national flag colors sold for more than \$1.5K

A Siamese fighting fish with the colors of the Thai national flag has been bought for 53,500 baht (\$1,530) at an online auction, possibly making it the most expensive Betta fish ever sold. Pictures of the fish, with its blue, red and white horizontal stripes mimicking the Thai flag, went viral after its breeder Kachen Worachai posted them on a private Betta fish auction group on Facebook.

Kachen said Thursday he had expected someone to buy the fish for a few thousand baht but was shocked when the bid hit 10,000 baht (\$285) on the second day. "I never expected my fish to go for this price," said Kachen, a 40-year-old convenience store owner who breeds Betta fish as a hobby. He posted the pictures on Nov. 6 with a starting bid of 99 baht (\$2.82) and closed the auction on Nov 8.

Betta fish have been bred previously to reproduce the colors of the Thai flag but Kachen said none have come close. He said the highest previous price for a Betta was for a half-moon Betta fish that sold for 23,500 baht (\$671). "The chance of getting a fish with the flag's exact color is like one in 100,000," said Kachen. "So many people have tried to breed the Thai flag colors. Luck was really on my side." — AP



Ancient Ten Commandments tablet sold at auction for \$850,000

The world's earliest-known complete stone inscription of the Ten Commandments, described as a "national treasure" of Israel, sold at auction in Beverly Hills for \$850,000. Heritage Auctions said the two-foot square marble slab sold Wednesday night at a public auction of ancient Biblical archaeology artifacts. The tablet weighs about 115 pounds and is inscribed in an early Hebrew script called Samaritan.

It likely adorned the entrance of a synagogue that was destroyed by the Romans between AD 400 and 600, or by the Crusaders in the 11th century, said David Michaels, Heritage Auctions director of ancient coins and antiquities. The auction house said the Israeli Antiquities Authorities approved export of the piece to the United States in 2005. The only condition was that it must be displayed in a public museum. "The sale of this tablet does not mean it will be hidden away from the public," Michaels said. "The new owner is under obligation to display the tablet for the benefit of the public."

The tablet lists nine of the 10 commonly known commandments, leaving out "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (King James translation), and adding one often employed by the Samaritan sect, encouraging worshippers to "raise up a temple" on Mount Gerizim, the holy mountain of the Samaritans, according to Heritage Auctions. The tablet was one of a number of Biblical artifacts owned by the Living Torah Museum in Brooklyn, New York, that were up for auction. The auction opened with a \$300,000 bid on the piece. The winning bidder does not wish to be identified. — AP

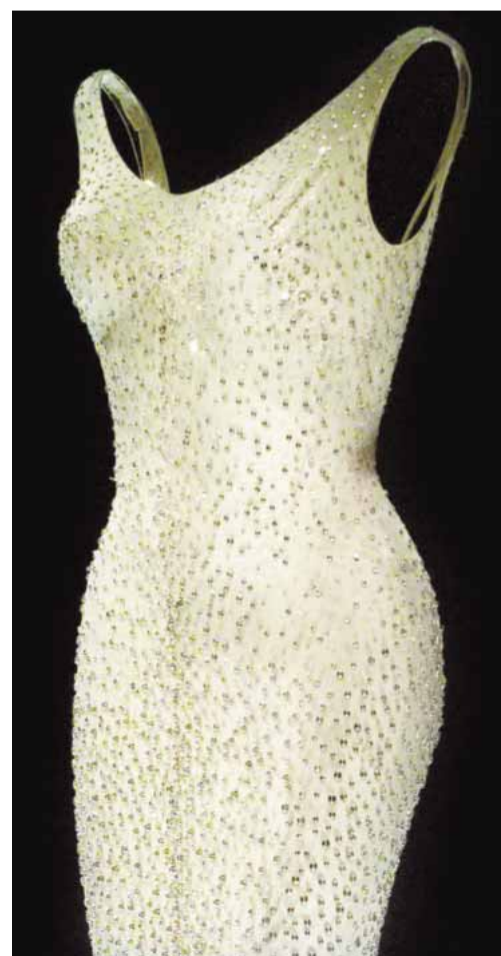


This undated photo provided by Heritage Auctions, HA.com shows the world's earliest-known stone inscription of the Ten Commandments - a two-foot square slab of white marble, weighing about 115 pounds and inscribed in an early Hebrew script called Samaritan. — AP

Monroe dress for Kennedy birthday song sold — \$4.8 million

Officials say a dress worn by Marilyn Monroe as she famously sang "Happy Birthday" to President John. F Kennedy has sold for nearly \$5 million at a Los Angeles auction. Julien's Auctions says that the iconic, form-fitting gown was sold for \$4.8 million Thursday night to Ripley's Believe It or Not. The company says in a news release that the actress wore the Hollywood designer Jean Louis creation - flesh-colored and sparkling with over 2,500 handstitched crystals - on May 19, 1962, for an early 45th birthday celebration for Kennedy at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Monroe's breathy rendition of the birthday song has been broadcast repeatedly since, adding to the lore surrounding the screen icon. It was just a few months later on Aug 5, that the 36-year-old Monroe was found dead from what the Los Angeles district attorney's office ruled was an overdose of barbiturates. — AP



This Friday, Oct 22, 1999 file photo shows Marilyn Monroe's "Happy Birthday, Mr President" dress on display at Christie's in New York.



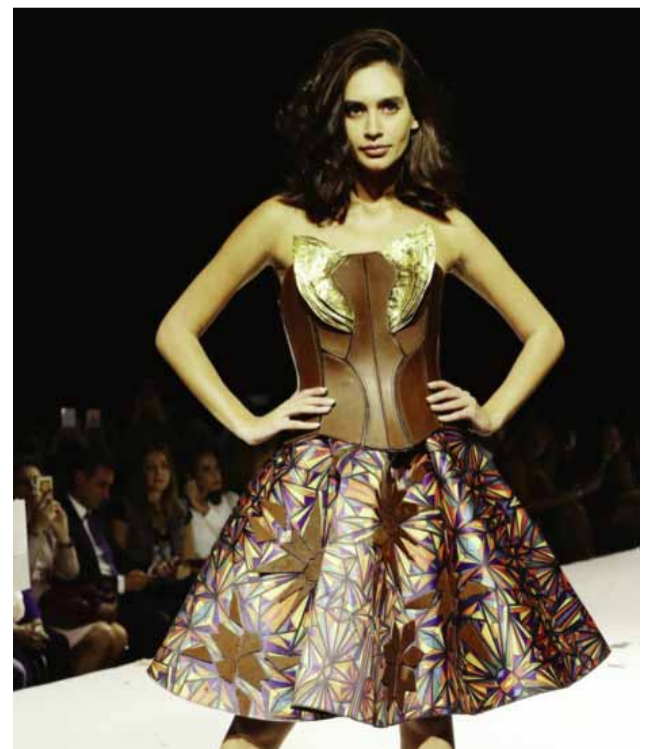
This April 1962 file photo shows actress Marilyn Monroe on the set of her last movie, "Something's Got To Give," in Los Angeles. — AP photos



Salon Du Chocolat 2016 fashion show



Models display chocolate dresses at the Salon Du Chocolat 2016 fashion show in Beirut yesterday. —AFP photos





In this undated photo provided by Ballet Beautiful, Mary Helen Bowers teaches the Supermodel workout in the Ballet Beautiful studio in New York. —AP photos

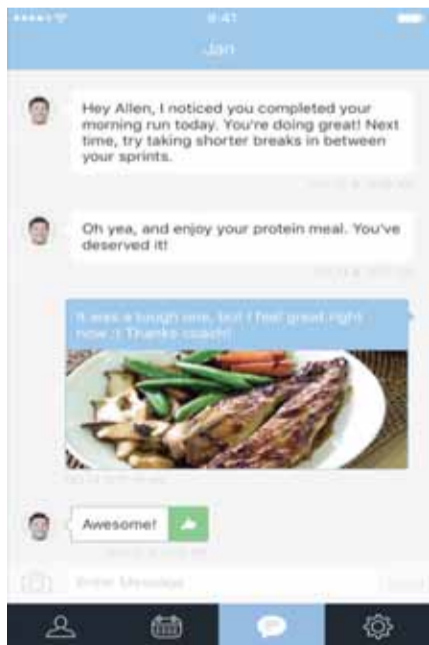


This undated photo provided by Nike shows their Lunar Epic Flyknit Shield running shoe.

From yogis to barre lovers, 10 gift ideas for gym rats



This undated photo provided by Moon Juice shows a jar of their Power Dust.



This undated screen shot from a mobile phone and provided by Fitmo shows the Fitmo App, which connects users who want to achieve fitness and health goals with real personal trainers.

Because golf balls and yoga mats are so predictable. From spinners to CrossFitters and all the barre lovers in between, here's a look at 10 gift ideas to keep every sweaty body in your life moving and motivated.

Stocking stuffers

Exo protein bars: The latest 'it' bars will hit every picky dieter on your list. Exo bars are gluten-, soy- and dairy-free, offering 10 grams of protein per bar from cricket flour. Yep, as in insects. The company says crickets are full of zinc, iron and calcium to help power you through a spin class. They're sweetened with natural sugars like dates and come in flavors like peanut butter and jelly and banana bread. \$3 per bar or \$36 for 12-pack

Tava DVD: Celebrity to the stars Tracy Anderson's newest DVD feels more like a dance party than a workout. Expect some serious booty shaking since the cardio routine was inspired by her sessions training Jennifer Lopez. \$19.99

Yoga and barre lovers

Online barre class: Former New York City Ballet dancer Mary Helen Bowers trained Natalie Portman for Oscar-winning role in "Black Swan." Now the founder of the Ballet Beautiful workout streams classes online for those who can't work out alongside her. Taylor Swift, Gigi Hadid and Karlie Kloss are all regulars. Try the Ultimate Supermodel Workout. \$12.99

Warm-up hoodie: Spiritual Gangster's hip athleisure line offers a new kind of street cred. This cozy "love is the answer" hoodie will keep your warm post savasana. Sizes tend to run a bit small. \$78

Cross trainers/runners

Jabra Elite Sport: Whether they're into boxing, jump-roping or one-armed handstands, every gym rat is looking for one thing. Wireless headphones that will stay put despite serious sweat and movement. Two microphones in each bud help filter

out background noise for up to three hours. Works with Android or Apple iOS. \$249.99

Nike LunarEpic Flyknit Shield: Ice, snow and mud are no problem for Nike's most popular running shoe which now features a water-repellent bootie to keep feet warm and dry. The cool kicks are also safety conscious with reflective details on the heel and laces as well as multi-surface traction. \$200

Workout recovery

"Taller, Slimmer, Younger: 21 days to a Foam Roller Physique" and travel foam roller: Learn to improve posture ailed by too much time slumped over the computer. Lauren Roxburgh's method is a great balance to high-intensity workouts that focuses on alignment. The mini foam roller's raised circular bumps aid in lymphatic drainage and decreasing inflammation. Book \$13.95. Travel roller \$14.95

Power Dust: Gwyneth Paltrow says she puts Moon Juice dusts in her daily protein shakes. The power dust includes Chinese herbs like rhodiola, astragalus and eleuthero that the company says helps sore muscles recover and reduce inflammation. Use it to heal from a heavy lifting session or find stamina for the next one. \$30

Workout newbies

Fitmo: The app connects users with real personal trainers. Choose your coach from a list of profiles and let them create a personalized diet and workout schedule. Trainers give feedback and daily motivations through messaging and video chats. \$10 a month or \$60 a month depending on which coach you choose and the amount of interaction you want to have with them.

Pressed Juicery: Don't let poor meal planning spoil your hard-fought boot camp class. The juices come delivered to your door with enough flavor options to satisfy sweet-tooth skeptics and hardened greenies. \$130 for a three-day cleanse of 18 juices delivered.—AP



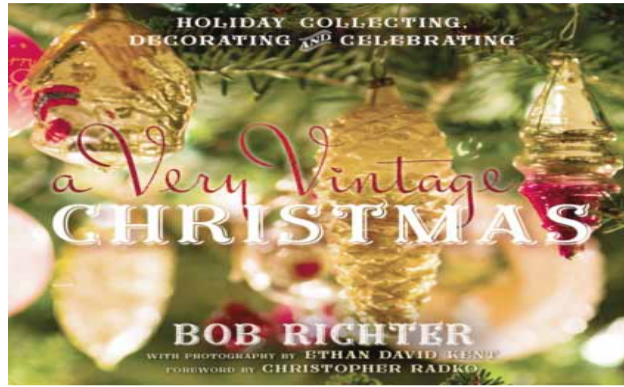
This undated photo provided by Exo shows different flavors of their protein bars. Exo bars are gluten, soy and dairy free, offering 10 grams of protein per bar from cricket flour.



This undated photo provided by Pressed Juicery shows some of their pressed juices. Don't let poor meal planning spoil your hard fought boot camp class.



This undated photo provided by Woman's Day shows different ornaments hanging that may be crafted for the holidays using simple items around the house, such as toothpicks, yarn and cinnamon sticks. —AP photos



This undated photo provided by Bob Richter shows the cover of his book "A Very Vintage Christmas".



This photo taken from video and provided by Woman's Day shows star-shaped ornaments made from wooden clothespins.

Today's crafted ornaments can become tomorrow's keepsakes

Making your own ornaments and decorations for the holidays has its own rewards - the need to create is strong in many of us - but it feels particularly good to dig out your art supplies at this time of year. As Bob Richter puts it in his new book, "A Very Vintage Christmas" (Rowman & Littlefield): "At the heart of it, this is what Christmas means to me - passing along warmth, memories, tradition, stories and so much more."

Richter keeps his childhood memories alive by decorating with vintage ornaments, some of which he received as a small child from relatives. Each delicate piece evokes a memory. "As my grandmother grew older, she took pleasure in letting me decorate her tree, and I have many happy memories of doing it," Richter reminisces in his book. "Now one of my favorite and most treasured ornaments is her favorite Santa Claus. Each year when I hang him on my tree, I think of her and smile."

Our children's handmade ornaments - perhaps incorporating a tiny handprint, a school photo or the year of its making - evoke similar sentiments every holiday season.

"Especially in this culture of time-pressed, technology-obsessed and often distracted people, I think it's more important than ever to pass along the things that really connect us," says Richter. "And Christmas does that." From the December/January pages of Woman's Day magazine come a few ornaments that evoke holidays past. We've amended them with another from the magazine's website that evokes a vintage feel. These crafts require just the simplest of materials, such as toothpicks, yarn and wooden clothespins.

Especially when little glue-sticky fingers are at work, these crafts could become next year's treasures.

Knit bauble

"The ball ornament is the most recognizable ornament at Christmastime," says Woman's Day lifestyle director Taryn Mohrman. "You can use one that's a little chipped . with a bit of yarn, you can turn it into something that evokes soft and cozy, and adds warmth to your tree." Remove the metal top from a plain ball ornament. Hold two colors of yarn together and hot-glue them inside the opening of the ornament. Once dry, wrap both strands around the ornament to cover it completely; use hot glue to secure as you go. Then apply red acrylic paint to the balls of two rock candy sticks, and trim the ends into points using scissors. Once dry, thread these "knitting needles" through the yarn on the ornament and replace the metal top.

Sweet scented tree

"These ornaments make great gift toppers," says Mohrman. Bend a 3 1/2-inch piece of naturally coiled wrapped wire, available at crafts stores, in half to form a loop, and then gently push each end into the hollow part of a cinnamon stick. Use hot glue to attach cut sprigs of fresh rosemary for branches and small gems for ornaments.

Sparkling starburst

This ornament "is about the metallic, the glitter and the shine,"

says Mohrman. Carefully push whole and halved toothpicks into a 1 1/2-inch foam ball, and then apply one or two coats of silver spray paint. While the ornament's still wet, dust fine silver glitter over it. Use a dab of hot glue to attach a string for hanging.

Clothespin snowflake

"This is a good sturdy ornament that can be packed away and stand the test of time," says Mohrman. You need: eight clothespins, craft glue, white acrylic paint, a paintbrush, a foam paintbrush, white glitter, red string and scissors. Start by carefully sliding the metal clips off of the eight clothespins and discard. Reattach two wooden clothespin pieces by gluing the flat sides together. Repeat for the remaining wood pieces. Arrange these reattached wood pieces in the shape of a snowflake and glue together at the base; let dry completely. Apply white paint to the edges and one side of the snowflake. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle on white glitter.

Once dry, flip the snowflake over and apply paint and glitter to the other side. Finally, slip a length of red string through one of the openings in the snowflake and tie the ends into a bow; use it to hang the ornament.

Even simpler nostalgic diy ideas?

Richter suggests stringing popcorn and cranberry chains - three popcorns for each cranberry - and tying hole-punched vintage holiday cards to tree branches with red ribbon. Find boxes of old cards at flea markets for a few dollars, he says.—AP

Small retailers strategize with hope of successful holidays

Small and independent retailers are strategizing to try to make the most of an uncertain holiday season. The last three months of the year are critical for many retailers, who may get half their annual revenue during that time. But consumers who may be hesitant to splurge have led retailers to be increasingly creative about special promotions and discounts, and also prompted many to use technology to help determine what customers want.

"We've had such a protracted, sluggish economy that I assume that's the way it's going to be," says Brian Reardon, owner of Monster Music, which sells musical instruments and provides music lessons in Levittown, New York. Reardon has found it harder to get more people to buy lessons - while the store has 600 students, that's little changed over the past two years. To encourage prospective students or their parents to sign up, he gives away an acoustic guitar when they pay for six months of lessons that cost \$600.

Innovation and quality

Although overall spending at retailers across the country rose in September and November, it remains weak at many stores that get much of their revenue from the holidays. Sales at department stores fell more than 5 percent the first 10 months of the year, according to the Commerce Department. At electronics stores, they were off more than 3 percent, and they edged up just 0.4 percent at clothing stores. Forecasters generally

have predicted retailers will see holiday sales increase a decent 3 percent to 4 percent.

"They're going to have to provide some level of added value, innovation and quality," says Joe Brusuelas, chief economist with RSM US, a consulting firm whose clients include retailers. Traditional brick-and-mortar stores have lost business not only to the internet but also to consumers' growing preference for travel and other experiences over possessions, he says.

Mark Aselstine's wine club and gift basket sales growth has been flat. So he's planning to give customers more options when they order from Uncorked Ventures; alongside the company's \$150 baskets will be some priced \$115, with cheaper shipping. The baskets can be preselected or customized. "The market quite honestly simply hasn't moved in our direction as much as we'd hoped over the past few years," says Aselstine, whose company is based in Berkeley, California.

Some of his customers are looking for good bottles but at lower prices. He's seeing more interest in pinot noir from New Zealand, which costs half of what the California version does. Choices like that have brought down the price of baskets the company sells - while two years ago the average price was \$322, now it's \$45 to \$50 less.

Even companies that seem like they might not have to worry during the holidays are offering deals. Jacques Torres, who sells his high-end chocolate and other food at nine locations in New York and online, has a special promotion with a

sandwich, beverage and ice cream for \$10 at his cafe in Grand Central Terminal. Torres, whose chocolates retail for nearly \$40 a pound, has a lot of competition and rising expenses like rent and wages. "We never used to discount anything. Now we do, because we need the sales, we need the advertising, we need the buzz," he says. Still, retail-

ers can't assume shoppers will opt for the cheapest gifts. Customers of Daddies Board Shop are eager to buy skateboards and snowboards with price tags that run into the hundreds of dollars, but are choosy about lower-priced staples, president Daron Horwitz says.—AP



In this file photo, Jacques Torres, who sells his well-known and high-end chocolate and other food at eight locations in New York and online, assembles a gift basket at his flagship store in New York.—AP

High in the Golan, tourism takes on a political edge



A group of tourists visit a former Syrian army post in Quneitra.



On top of a long-abandoned building, 50 young Arab Israelis listen attentively to Emad Madah as smoke billows into the sky in the distance behind them. Madah is standing in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights near the demarcation line with Syria, explaining the fighting on the Syrian plains below. For his guests, this is their idea of fun. "Every time, I learn something new about nature and live out the events of history in my imagination," says Roni Haloon, a 23-year-old student from the Arab Israeli village of Isfiya who is on his second trip with Madah. Stunning beaches and resorts abound in the Middle East for tourists seeking rest and relaxation, but there are also other options for the more curious in the politically charged region.

Tours encompassing history or politics can also be arranged—and that's where guides like Madah come in. Madah gives unusual tours of the picturesque Golan Heights, which Israel took from Syria in the 1967 Six Day War, delving into history and current events surrounding the disputed territory. Other examples of such alternative tourism include tours of the occupied West Bank led by Israelis or Palestinians providing their versions of the situation there. Madah says his tours aim at "education and entertainment" rather than profit, and seek to help people understand "the Syrian Golan before and after the (Israeli) occupation".

A history lesson

His trips also boost local businesses as his guests visit restaurants and buy goods from local farmers, including the cherries, apples, peaches and pears that grow in the region. Madah, who works in theatre and culture, has been giving alternative tours of the Golan for seven years—which leave from the coastal city of Haifa and run a full day from 8:00 am to 6:00 or 7:00 pm and cost about 100 shekels (\$26). As part of them, he talks about how Israel seizing the land affected the population.

On a recent tour, Madah discusses the town of Quneitra just across the demarcation line. Israel captured and largely destroyed the town in 1967. Syria then briefly recaptured it in 1973, before Israel retook it and eventually withdrew in 1974. Nowadays, the area around the town is held by Syrian rebels battling against President Bashar al-Assad. A few kilometers away from the town, the Israeli army now allows visitors to tour the area's former Syrian military headquarters, long since abandoned. Many rooms in the three-floor building bear traces of conflict.

A sign out front is dedicated to Eli Cohen, an Israeli spy who rose to a key position in Syria in the 1960s. He was hanged in 1965 after being discovered, but Israeli officials say the intelligence he provided was influential in winning the 1967 war. Ruba Abu Ramheen, 20, a law student at Haifa University, says she learns something new each time she visits the Golan with Madah. "I enjoy the nature and pass on what I learn to my friends and family," she says.

5 villages remaining

The tour also passes the stone-strewn Hasbani River. The river, which flows 40 kilometers (25 miles) into Lebanon, is a source of tension between Israel and its northern neighbor and almost ignited a war in 2002, Madah explains. At one point, the group's bus passes a sign reading "beware of mines". The Golan is composed of basalt volcanic rock, with

250 villages and around 150,000 people living there before 1967, Madah explains.

Many were destroyed, with just the five villages of Buq'ata, Ein Qiniyye, Masada, Majdal Shams and Ghajar remaining. Prior to 1967, Christians, Muslims, Druze and Circassians lived there, but the majority left for Syrian-controlled territory during the war. An estimated 22,000 Druze now live in the Israeli-controlled Golan as well as some 25,000 Israelis. "There was a village here" called Jbat Al-Zeit, Madah says, on the way to his hometown of Majdal Shams. But it was destroyed and is now home to the Israeli settlement of Neve Ativ.

At the center of the town square in Majdal Shams stands a monument to Sultan Pasha al-Atrash, who fought against French colonialism in Syria. Haloon, the 23-year-old student, says the tour has been eye-opening. "I never imagined that I would enter the military headquarters and hospital that were run by the Syrian army."—AFP



A group of tourists visit a former Syrian army post in Quneitra.—AFP photos



A group of tourists visit a former Syrian army post in Quneitra, in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights.

Dylan to come to Stockholm next year: Swedish Academy

Music icon Bob Dylan is expected to come to Stockholm next spring, as the winner of this year's Nobel prize in literature will skip the award ceremony in December, a Swedish academy member said yesterday. Sara Danius, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, told public Swedish radio that she received confirmation from Dylan's manager. "Then he will have an excellent opportunity to hold his lecture," Danius said. Holding a lecture is the only requirement for the Nobel laureate and must be done within six months starting from December 10.

The Swedish Academy said the American song writer might perform in the Nordic nation next year. "There is a chance that Bob Dylan will be performing in Stockholm next year, possibly in the spring, in which case he will have a perfect opportunity to deliver his lecture," it said in a statement. On Wednesday, the academy announced that Dylan would skip the Nobel ceremony because of "pre-existing" commitments. "He wishes that he could accept the award personally, but other commitments make it unfortunately impossible. He underlined that he feels incredibly honored by the Nobel prize," it said. Asked on October 28 by

Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper if he would attend the Nobel prize winners' banquet, Dylan said: "Absolutely. If it's at all possible." But the American song writer's decision not to attend the Nobel ceremony does not come as a surprise. The 75-year-old didn't say a word about his prize on the day it was announced on October 13 when he was performing in Las Vegas. Dylan, whose lyrics have influenced generations of fans, is the first songwriter to win the literature prize, although experts bet on writers such as Salman Rushdie, Adonis or Ngugi wa Thiong'o.

Nobel laureates are honored every year on December 10 — the anniversary of the death of prize's founder Alfred Nobel, a Swedish industrialist, inventor and philanthropist. Several other literature prize winners have skipped the Nobel ceremony in the past for various reasons—Doris Lessing on grounds of ill health, Harold Pinter because he was hospitalized and Elfriede Jelinek due to social phobia. The value of the prestigious award this year amounts to 8 million kronor (\$870,000).—AFP



This file photo taken on June 11, 2009 shows US singer Bob Dylan performing during the 37th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute to Michael Douglas at Sony Pictures in Culver City, California.—AFP

Award-winning Philippine filmmaker backs Duterte drug war

Award-winning Philippine director Brillante Mendoza has turned his cinematic skills to promoting someone many in the West would see as an unlikely hero—President Rodrigo Duterte and his deadly drug war. Mendoza has become a celebrated figure in the global independent film industry for his gritty movies exposing social injustice and the sufferings of the poor in his home country. While critics have condemned Duterte's anti-crime crackdown, which has claimed the lives of thousands of poor people, Mendoza has filmed government advertisements promoting it and directed the broadcast of a presidential address to the nation. "If there's one person who understands the situation, it's the president," Mendoza, 56, told AFP at his Manila production house that is full of posters of his movies and trophies from top film festivals including Cannes, Venice and Berlin.

"I know there are a lot of people who are not supportive in totality of what he wants and what he's doing right now, but if you actually have witnessed the real situation, this is the way to go about it." Duterte easily won presidential elections in May largely on a campaign pledge to eradicate drugs by killing tens of thousands of people, warning the Philippines was in danger of becoming a narco-state. Since he took office at the end of June, police have killed more than 1,800 drug suspects and about 2,600 others have died in unexplained circumstances linked to the crackdown, according to official figures. The president has repeatedly insisted police are only killing in self-defense and that most of the unexplained deaths are due to criminals attacking each other. But Western governments and human rights organizations have expressed fears about alleged extrajudicial killings and a breakdown in the rule of law. Those concerns have been fuelled by Duterte's extreme language and comments viewed by critics as incitements to kill.

Culture clash

Duterte said recently he would be "happy to slaughter" three million drug addicts, and likened his campaign to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's efforts to exterminate Jews in Europe. The 71-year-old lawyer later apologized for his Hitler reference, but said he was "emphatic" about wanting to kill drug addicts. French newspaper Liberation branded Duterte a "serial killer". Mendoza, whose films have earned him a French knighthood and a best director award at Cannes, declined to comment on the extrajudicial killings issue. He also said he had no personal knowledge of such deaths, while insisting foreign critics misunderstood Duterte due to a culture clash.

"I would tell them you don't know our president," Mendoza said. "You are only seeing it from your perspective as some-

body who lives far away from the Philippines. Because you are living in a first-world country." For instance, Mendoza said, it was easy for foreigners to misunderstand Duterte's cursing, which he said was merely "an expression" for people in the southern Philippines where he is from.

Mendoza said he became aware of the full extent of the nation's drug problem as he researched his film: "Ma' Rosa", which won the Cannes best actress award in May and earned a nomination in next year's Oscars for best foreign language film. "Ma' Rosa" focuses on a mother selling drugs to make ends meet who is arrested by corrupt policemen. "I didn't know there was a huge problem of drugs in this country," said Mendoza, a former advertising production designer.

The two short films he made pro bono for the government have been viewed millions of times on social media. In his ultra-realist style, they tell the stories of a father who misses milestones in his daughter's life due to substance abuse and a Filipina who is working overseas sending money back home to a son hooked on drugs. Mendoza said he hoped the films, which carry the government's #partnerforchange hashtag, would help spur drug addicts to kick their habits.

Narrow focus

Mendoza said artists and Asians had a better understanding of Duterte than Europeans, who were only learning about him from the media. Indeed, tens of millions of Filipinos from all strata of society continue to support Duterte and his efforts to contain the drug menace in the belief it will make society safe.—AFP



Philippine director Brillante Mendoza poses for the photograph in Paris.—AFP



This cover image released by Heinz Records shows 'Je dis oui!' by Pink Martini.—AP

Review: Pink Martini's new album is entertaining global trip

Pink Martini brings its progressive commitment to "Je dis oui!" ("I say yes"), an entertaining global jaunt in eight languages and a whirling variety of styles. With no airs and graces but plenty of splendor, Thomas Lauderdale's big band/little orchestra explores songs from Armenia to Portugal, a few originals and American standards like "Love for Sale" on its ninth studio album. NPR's Ari Shapiro helps out on "Ov Sirun Sirun," said to be most famous folk song from Armenia and a real tearjerker about unrequited love, while Rufus Wainwright sings "Blue Moon" with its now rarely-played introductory verse which further deepens the melancholy.

Songs from Turkey, Iran and Lebanon add to the subliminal "can't we all get along" message saturating the album, world music from the times before it became just another marketing label and "exotic" sounds were not so easily within reach. "Finnisma Di" revamps a Chopin-quoting tune from the band's first album as a yearning yet hopeful refugee song in Arabic, lyricist Iyad Qasem giving voice to the suspended destinies of so many. Among the originals is a trio of songs in French sung by band mainstay China Forbes from "Souvenir," a recent film starring Isabelle Huppert. She plays a singer who once lost to ABBA in the Eurovision song contest and is attempting a comeback with the support of her much-younger, boxer boyfriend. In other words, one more story where Pink Martini feels right at home.—AP

KASPERSKY LAB'S THREAT PREDICTIONS 2017

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab's discovery in 2016 of an APT able to create new tools for each victim has effectively killed off 'Indicators of Compromise' as a reliable means of detecting infection, according to the company's Threat Predictions for 2017.

The Predictions are prepared annually by the company's expert Global Research and Analysis Team (GReAT) and are based on its wide-ranging insight and expertise. The list for 2017 includes the impact of bespoke and disposable tools, the growing use of misdirection in terms of attacker identity, the fragility of an indiscriminately Internet-connected world, and the use of cyberattacks as a weapon of information warfare.

The decline of IoCs

Indicators of Compromise (IoCs) have long been an excellent way of sharing traits of known malware, allowing defenders to recognize an active infection. The discovery by GReAT of the ProjectSauron APT changed this. Analysis of the group revealed a bespoke malware platform where every feature was altered for each victim, rendering IoCs unreliable for detecting any other victim, unless accompanied by another measure, such as strong Yara rules.

The rise of ephemeral infections

In 2017, Kaspersky Lab also expects to see the appearance of memory-resident malware that has no interest in surviving beyond the first reboot that will wipe the infection from the machine memory. Such malware, intended for general reconnaissance and the collection of creden-

tials, is likely to be deployed in highly sensitive environments by stealthy attackers keen to avoid arousing suspicion or discovery. "These are dramatic developments, but defenders will not be left helpless. We believe that it is time to push for the wider adoption of good Yara rules. These will allow researchers to scan far-and-wide across an enterprise, inspect and identify traits in binaries at rest, and scan memory for fragments of known attacks. Ephemeral infections highlight the need for proactive and sophisticated heuristics in advanced anti-malware solutions," said Juan Andrés Guerrero-Saade, Senior Security Expert, Global Research and Analysis Team.

Other Top Threat Predictions for 2017

- Attribution will flounder among false flags: As cyberattacks come to play a greater role in international relations, attribution will become a central issue in determining a political course of action – such as retaliation. The pursuit of attribution could result in the risk of more criminals dumping infrastructure or proprietary tools on the open market, or opting for open-source and commercial malware, not to mention the widespread use of misdirection (generally known as false flags) to muddy the waters of attribution.

- The Rise of Information Warfare: In 2016, the world started to take seriously the dumping of hacked information for aggressive purposes. Such attacks are likely to increase in 2017, and there is a risk that attackers will try to exploit people's willingness to accept such data as fact by manipulating or selectively disclosing information.

- Alongside this, Kaspersky Lab expects to see a rise in Vigilante Hackers – hacking and dumping data, allegedly for the greater good.

- Growing Vulnerability to Cyber-sabotage: As critical infrastructure and manufacturing systems remain connected to the Internet, often with little or no protection – the temptation to damage or disrupt them could prove overwhelming for cyberattackers, particularly those with advanced skills, and during times of rising geopolitical tension.

- Espionage Goes Mobile: Kaspersky Lab expects to see more espionage campaigns targeted primarily at mobile, benefiting from the fact that the security industry can struggle to gain full access to mobile operating systems for forensic analysis.

- The Commodification of Financial Attacks: Kaspersky Lab expects to see the 'commodification' of attacks along the lines of the 2016 SWIFT heists in 2016 – with specialized resources being offered for sale in underground forums or through as-a-service schemes.

- The Compromise of Payment Systems: As payment systems become increasingly popular and common, Kaspersky Lab expected to see this matched by a greater criminal interest.

- The Breakdown of 'Trust' in Ransomware: Kaspersky Lab also anticipates the continuing rise of ransomware, but with the unlikely trust relationship between the victim and their attacker – based on the assumption that payment will result in the return of data – damaged as a lesser grade of criminal decides to enter the space. This could be the turning point in people being prepared to pay up.

GOOGLE DISAPPOINTED BY SOUTH KOREAN REFUSAL ON MAPPING DATA

SEOUL: South Korea rejected a request by Google to use local mapping data in the company's global maps service in a long-awaited ruling Friday that had divided the country for months.

The company said it was disappointed by the decision, which the land ministry said was based on concerns over national security.

"We're disappointed by this decision. We've always taken security concerns very seriously and will continue to provide useful map services in compliance with Korea's current map data export regulation," Taj Meadows, a Google spokesperson, said in a statement.

The South Korean government said the risks outweighed benefits from exporting the country's mapping data to Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc.

South Korea, facing the overt threat of rival North Korea, bars exporting local mapping data to foreign companies that do not operate domestic data servers.

Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., handles its maps service at data centers outside South Korea. The restrictions have limited the usefulness of Google Maps within South Korea, since the app cannot offer driving or walking directions.

The government had proposed granting permission to Google to use local mapping data for Google Maps if the company would blur sensitive information on South Korean military facilities on its satellite map.

"Our position from the start was that if it deletes security facilities, we would allow exporting (the local mapping data)," said Kim Tong-il, an official at the land ministry. "Google's position is that it won't delete those. The question was whether we would allow that regard-less."

South Korea has been divided over



SUWON: Choe Byong-Nam, a director general of South Korea's National Geographic Information Institute, speaks after a meeting at the National Geographic Information Institute in Suwon, South Korea, yesterday. South Korea has rejected Google's request to use local mapping data in the company's global maps service in a highly-awaited deliberation that divided the country for months. — AP

the issue since Google filed its request in June. The government extended an August deadline to this month, highlighting disagreements between government ministries.

The long-time deliberation reflects growing support for Google within some government ministries that are trying to promote tourism and local firms' overseas businesses. One of the biggest inconveniences that foreign tourists run into in South Korea, which has some of the fastest and cheapest internet access in the world, is the lack of an online mapping service with navigation and directions in foreign languages.

Some local businesses and consumers opposed giving Google full

access to the local mapping data, saying it would be unfair to local companies that operate local data servers to support their map services. They said Google should build data centers in South Korea instead of seeking an exemption from the rules.

Google said earlier that restricting Google Maps in South Korea would be an inconvenience for foreigners visiting the host country of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in 2018.

It also argued that restrictions on exporting the local mapping data could hinder efforts of companies to roll out global services using locations data and will deprive local consumers of cutting-edge services. — AP

GOOGLE HITS PIXEL RESELLERS WITH 'DIGITAL DEATH SENTENCE'

SAN FRANCISCO: Some of Google's unwitting users are learning a harsh lesson: If you violate the company's policies, it can abruptly cut you off from your Gmail account, online photos and other vital digital services.

Several people who recently bought Google's new Pixel phone on behalf of a New Hampshire dealer are now suffering that punishment after the company detected their online purchases and judged they violated its terms of service. Those rules, outlined in a document that few people read closely, forbid the purchase of the Pixel for "commercial" resale.

"There isn't an hour that doesn't go by that I don't think about the enormity of what Google has done to me," said one of the affected resellers, Shmuel Super of Brooklyn, New York. "This is like a digital death sentence."

SELL YOUR PHONE, LOSE YOUR ACCOUNT

Super and his fellow resellers got into trouble for buying up to five Pixel phones from Google's online store and having them delivered to New Hampshire for resale. They received \$5 for each phone. As of Sunday, some started finding themselves locked out of their Google accounts.

In a Thursday statement, Google described the resale arrangement as a "scheme" devised by a dealer looking to sell the Pixels at marked-up prices in violation of its policies.

Google declined to say how many people were affected by the account lockdown. DansDeals, a consumer-focused website that first reported Google's crackdown, concluded that more than 200 people had been blocked from their Google accounts after talking to the New Hampshire dealer behind the Pixel buying spree. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: File photo, the new Google Pixel phone is displayed next to a Daydream View virtual-reality headset, right, following a Google product event in San Francisco. — AP

MALAYSIAN ONLINE NEWS PORTAL CHIEF CHARGED OVER VIDEOS

KUALA LUMPUR: The head of a popular Malaysian independent online news portal was charged Friday for airing what prosecutors called "offensive" videos of a news conference by a former ruling party member, a move a rights group labeled an attack on press freedom.

Malaysiakini's editor-in-chief Steven Gan was charged under the Communications and Multimedia Act in a special cyber court for "uploading offensive videos with the intent of annoying others," his lawyer K.Shanmuga said.

The July 27 videos feature a news conference by Khairuddin Abu Hassan, a former ruling party official, calling on Attorney General Mohamad Apani Ali to quit over his allegedly bias handling of investigations into indebted state investment fund 1MDB.

Gan said prosecutors didn't give any details in court on why the videos were offensive.

"We shall prove in court that covering the press conference is not a crime. We were merely doing our job as journalists," Gan said. If found guilty, he could be fined or jailed up to a year.

Khairuddin wasn't charged for his comments in the video. However, he was charged last year for economic sabotage after he filed complaints with authorities abroad about alleged wrongdoings in 1MDB.

Human Rights Watch slammed the charge against Gan as a serious violation of press freedom and said it showed the "increasingly dictatorial side" of Prime Minister Najib Razak and his government.

"By using rights abusing laws, ludicrous arguments and special cyber courts, Malaysia appears to be aiming at shutting down the vibrant and diverse online news environment that has grown up because of the government's control and censorship of the

mainline print and TV media," the group's deputy Asia director Phil Roberson said in a statement.

Malaysiakini, the country's first online news portal launched in 1999, is known for its criticism of the government. Online media have since expanded and played a key role in helping the opposition make unprecedented gains in the last two general elections. The government earlier pledged not to censor the internet, but Najib has kept an iron grip since allegations of massive fraud in the 1MDB fund erupted last year.

The 1MDB fund is at the center of investigations in the US and several other countries amid allegations of a global embezzlement and money-laundering scheme. Najib started the fund shortly after taking office in 2009 to promote economic development projects, but the fund accumulated billions in debt over the years. — AP

WATCH YOUR SELF-IE! INDIA TOPS RANKING FOR SELFIE DEATHS

NEW DELHI: Next time you're at the Taj Mahal, find yourself standing on a precarious cliff or see an approaching train, maybe just enjoy the moment rather than trying to capture the perfect selfie.

These are just three of the ways that 76 selfie-takers in India have lost their lives, according to a study published by US-based Carnegie Mellon University and Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi.

In the quest for the coolest selfie, more people have died in India in the past two years than the total number of selfie-related deaths in the rest of the world, according to the study titled "Me, Myself and My Killfie: Characterizing and Preventing Selfie Deaths".

Using special search techniques to trawl the internet and social media, the researchers identified 127 confirmed selfie deaths since March 2014.

They blamed people's desire for more "likes" and comments on social media for driving increasingly risky selfie-taking.

"(The) clicking dangerous selfies (has proved) to be so disastrous that during the year 2015 alone, there have been more deaths caused due to selfies than shark attacks all over the world," the researchers said in a blog post.

Three students in northern India died trying to take a daring selfie in front of an oncoming train, according to the study published last week. Another student lost his life when the cliff he was standing on for a photo cracked, sending him plunging 18 metres (60 feet) into a ravine.

A selfie-taking Japanese tourist died after he slipped down the stairs at the Taj Mahal while seven people posing for a group selfie died when the boat they were in capsized. Pakistan took second place in the global killer-selfie rankings with nine deaths, followed by the United States with eight and Russia on six.

India's population of 1.25 billion is nearly four times the size of the US's and over six times the size of Pakistan, but that fails to account for the huge discrepancy between the number of fatalities.

According to the study, China with its population of 1.37 billion only had four selfie-related deaths. The group behind the study hopes their work will raise awareness of the killer trend-and maybe encourage people to just appreciate the view. — AFP



PHILADELPHIA: In this May 16, 2012, file photo, the Facebook logo is displayed on an iPad in Philadelphia. Facebook is under fire for failing to rein in fake and biased news stories that some believe may have swayed the presidential election. — AP

FACEBOOK BOOSTS EFFORTS TO DO GOOD WITH NEW TOOLS

NEW YORK: Facebook is offering new tools for charity fundraising, for marking yourself safe during a crisis and for helping others - or asking for help - after a natural disaster.

The social network made the announcements Thursday in New York at its Social Good Forum, a first-of-its-kind event it hopes to repeat in coming years. The company has dozens of engineers who work on its relatively new "social good" team creating tools for users to help their friends or the world around them.

"The philosophy of everything we do at Facebook is that our community can teach us what we need to do," CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a video played at the event. "And our job is to learn as quickly as we can and keep on getting better and better."

USER POWER?

A tool called "safety check" lets

Facebook users mark themselves safe during a crisis, whether that's a natural disaster, bombing or something else. Once someone marks themselves safe, their friends are automatically notified that they have been accounted for.

At first, Facebook activated the tool in areas where disaster struck. Now, Facebook says it will stop its own activations, handing it off to users instead. How? When a lot of people are posting about an incident (stuff like "was that an earthquake?"), they might get a notification to let friends know they are OK, using safety check. If they do, they can invite other friends to do the same, and so on.

DISASTER AID

Beginning early next year, a tool called "community help" will let users offer and receive shelter, food or other types of help during crises. People have already been

doing this on Facebook and Twitter, using hashtags such as #PorteOuverte (open door) after last year's attacks in Paris that left 130 people dead.

But it was often difficult to pair up. The new feature aims to streamline this. People will be able to select categories to get or offer help with, such as food and water, transportation, baby items or shelter. Once they do, they can use Facebook Messenger to arrange the details.

CHARITY HELP

Facebook started letting charities raise money directly through its platform over the summer.

At the time, users could choose from 100 US nonprofits. Now, that number is 750,000 and growing. People can also add donation buttons to their Facebook Live videos to raise money - but only for actual charities, not a dream vacation. — AP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

- 00:00 Lost Time
- 02:00 Freezer
- 03:45 Last Knights
- 05:45 The Maze Runner
- 07:45 The Machine
- 09:30 Last Action Hero
- 12:00 Airplane vs. Volcano
- 13:45 The Maze Runner
- 15:45 The Machine
- 17:30 Last Action Hero
- 20:00 Automata
- 22:00 Starship Troopers

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

- 01:00 First Response
- 03:00 Frontera
- 05:00 Trust Me
- 07:00 The Silent Mountain
- 09:00 Rosewood Lane
- 11:00 First Response
- 13:00 A Teacher's Obsession
- 15:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine
- 17:00 Rosewood Lane
- 19:00 5 To 7
- 21:00 Scenic Route
- 23:00 Kelly & Cal

OSN MOVIES HD
FAMILY

- 01:30 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight
- 03:15 Peter Pan Live!
- 05:30 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
- 07:15 Eragon
- 09:00 Beyond The Mask
- 11:00 Capture The Flag
- 13:00 Minions
- 15:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
- 17:00 The Last Song
- 19:00 American Girl: Saige Paints The Sky
- 21:00 The Education Of Little Tree
- 23:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 Run All Night
- 03:00 Life Of A King
- 05:00 The Duff
- 07:00 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- 09:00 The Duff
- 10:45 Concussion
- 13:00 Brooklyn
- 15:00 The Rewrite
- 17:00 Where Hope Grows
- 19:00 Mad Max: Fury Road
- 21:00 Backtrack
- 23:00 The D Train

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

- 00:00 Tim And Eric's Billion Dollar Movie
- 02:00 Hot Pursuit
- 04:00 Big Ass Spider!
- 06:00 The Single Moms Club
- 08:00 Just Married
- 10:00 Big Ass Spider!
- 12:00 Hot Pursuit
- 14:00 Coneheads
- 16:00 Just Married
- 18:00 Forces Of Nature
- 20:00 Burying The Ex
- 22:00 Top Five

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

- 01:00 The Dark Half
- 03:00 Love & Mercy
- 05:00 Testament Of Youth
- 07:15 Stone Markers
- 09:00 Grand Central
- 10:45 Testament Of Youth
- 13:00 Love & Mercy
- 15:00 Walking On Sunshine
- 17:00 Grand Central
- 19:00 Siberian Education
- 21:00 A Thousand Times Good Night
- 23:00 Ex Machina

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

- 01:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 02:45 Hey Arnold! The Movie
- 04:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 06:00 Yellowbird
- 07:45 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 09:30 The Wild Thornberrys Movie

- 11:15 Rugrats Go Wild
- 13:00 Hey Arnold! The Movie
- 14:30 Bolts And Blip
- 16:00 Delhi Safari
- 18:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
- 20:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 21:45 Bolts And Blip
- 23:15 Delhi Safari

OSN MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

- 00:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2
- 01:45 Transcendence
- 04:00 The Song
- 06:00 Manny
- 08:00 A Promise
- 10:00 With This Ring
- 11:45 Transcendence
- 14:00 To Write Love On Her Arms
- 16:00 A Promise
- 18:00 The Gift
- 20:00 I Give It A Year
- 22:00 People Places Things

STAR MOVIES HD

- 00:00 Get Over It
- 01:30 The Congress
- 03:30 Starsky & Hutch
- 05:15 Henry's Crime
- 07:00 What Women Want
- 09:15 Little Fish
- 11:15 Lay The Favorite
- 12:45 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
- 15:00 Get Over It
- 16:30 The Longshots
- 18:00 The Congress
- 20:00 Million Dollar Baby
- 22:15 Drowning Mona

sundance CHANNEL

- 01:20 For Ellen
- 02:45 Life Itself
- 04:45 Subconscious Password
- 05:00 Finding Fela
- 07:00 The Cove
- 08:30 Ping Pong Summer
- 10:00 The Brother From Another Planet
- 11:55 This May Be The Last Time
- 13:30 Robert Redford #on Topic
- 13:50 Indie Game: The Movie
- 15:35 Listen Up Philip
- 17:25 California Solo
- 19:00 Jess + Moss
- 20:20 The Cooler
- 22:00 The Disobedient
- 23:45 Subconscious Password

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 River Monsters
- 01:45 Bondi Vet
- 02:40 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 03:35 Tanked
- 04:25 Gorilla Doctors
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 River Monsters
- 06:49 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 07:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:25 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 09:15 Lone Star Law
- 10:10 The Vet Life
- 11:05 Wildest Europe
- 12:00 Treehouse Masters
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 14:45 Rogue Nature With Dave Salmoni
- 15:40 Untamed & Uncut
- 16:35 My Wild Affair: The Rhino Who Joined My Family
- 17:30 Gorilla Doctors
- 18:25 Untamed & Uncut
- 19:20 Lone Star Law
- 20:15 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 21:10 The Vet Life
- 22:05 Treehouse Masters
- 23:00 Lone Star Law
- 23:55 Gator Boys

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- 00:00 My Crazy Ex
- 01:00 The Haunting Of...
- 02:00 My Haunted House
- 03:00 Monster In My Family
- 04:00 My Crazy Ex
- 05:00 The Haunting Of...
- 06:00 My Haunted House
- 07:00 The First 48
- 10:00 Private Crimes

- 10:30 Private Crimes
- 11:00 Homicide Hunter
- 12:00 Frenemies
- 13:00 It Takes A Killer
- 14:00 The First 48
- 16:00 Monster In My Family
- 17:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 20:00 It Takes A Killer
- 21:00 The First 48
- 23:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Redesign My Brain
- 01:20 Superhuman Showdown
- 02:10 Now That's Funny
- 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 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Kids vs Film
- 07:50 Doki
- 08:15 Doki
- 08:40 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:50 Mythbusters
- 17:00 Redesign My Brain
- 17:50 Redesign My Brain
- 18:40 Superhuman Showdown
- 19:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 19:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 20:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 21:10 Troy
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things

HISTORY HD

- 00:20 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 01:10 Counting Cars
- 01:35 Counting Cars
- 02:00 American Pickers
- 02:50 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 03:15 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 03:40 Shark Wranglers
- 04:30 American Restoration
- 05:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 06:00 Leepu And Pitbull
- 06:50 Leepu And Pitbull

- 07:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 08:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 08:30 Counting Cars
- 08:55 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
- 09:45 American Restoration
- 10:10 American Restoration
- 10:35 Shipping Wars
- 11:00 Shipping Wars
- 11:25 Car Hunters
- 11:50 Car Hunters
- 12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 13:05 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 14:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 14:45 Time Team
- 15:35 Counting Cars
- 16:00 Car Hunters
- 16:25 Car Hunters
- 16:50 American Restoration
- 17:15 American Restoration
- 17:40 Shipping Wars
- 18:05 Shipping Wars
- 18:30 Pawn Stars
- 18:55 Storage Wars
- 19:20 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 20:10 Alone
- 21:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 21:50 Forged In Fire
- 22:40 Time Team
- 23:30 Alone

NAT GEO people

- 00:10 Eat Street
- 00:35 Baking Good, Baking Bad
- 01:00 The Shelbourne
- 01:25 Carnival Eats
- 02:15 Raw Travel
- 03:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 03:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 03:55 Croatia's Finest
- 04:45 The Shelbourne
- 05:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 06:25 Poh & Co
- 06:50 Raw Travel
- 07:15 Maximum Foodie
- 07:40 Eat Street
- 08:30 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 08:55 Croatia's Finest
- 09:45 Street Food Around The World
- 10:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 10:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 11:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 11:50 Dog Whisperer
- 12:40 The Shelbourne

- 13:05 Places We Go
- 14:00 Fusion Forager
- 14:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 15:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 15:50 Croatia's Finest
- 16:45 The Shelbourne
- 17:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 18:10 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 19:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 19:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 20:00 Croatia's Finest
- 20:50 The Shelbourne
- 21:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 22:05 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 22:55 The Shelbourne
- 23:20 Places We Go

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Locked Up Abroad
- 01:00 Airport Security: Colombia
- 02:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 02:55 Nazi World War Weird
- 03:50 Kabaddi: The Great Indian Sport
- 04:45 Operation Sumatran Rhino
- 05:40 Air Crash Investigation
- 06:35 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 07:30 Facing...
- 08:25 Dog Whisperer
- 09:20 Dog Whisperer
- 10:15 Monster Fish
- 11:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
- 12:05 Science Of Stupid
- 12:30 Science Of Stupid
- 13:00 Nazi World War Weird
- 14:00 Facing...
- 15:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 16:00 Planes That Changed The World
- 17:00 Mega Factories
- 18:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 19:00 Cold Water Gold
- 20:00 Planes That Changed The World
- 20:50 Mega Factories
- 21:40 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 22:30 Cold Water Gold
- 23:20 Planes That Changed The World

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Predator Battleground
- 01:10 World's Deadliest Animals
- 02:00 Wild Russia
- 02:50 Wild Survivor
- 03:45 South Africa
- 04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 05:35 Hunter Hunted
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Hooked
- 08:20 Unlikely Animal Friends
- 09:15 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 10:10 Amazing Animal Selfies
- 11:05 Animal ER
- 12:00 River Jaws: Monster Catfish
- 12:55 Monster Jellyfish
- 13:50 Mission Critical
- 14:45 Wild Congo
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 Moody Beasts
- 17:30 Dangerous Encounters
- 18:25 Animals Gone Wild
- 19:20 Wild Congo
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 Moody Beasts
- 21:50 Dangerous Encounters
- 22:40 Animals Gone Wild
- 23:30 River Jaws: Monster Catfish

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
- 00:55 Food Factory
- 01:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 02:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 03:00 Superhuman Showdown
- 03:48 Ways To Save The Planet
- 04:36 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 05:24 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 06:12 How Do They Do It?
- 06:36 Food Factory
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Food Factory
- 09:26 How The Universe Works
- 10:14 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 11:50 How The Universe Works
- 13:26 How Do They Do It?
- 15:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 16:14 Redesign My Brain
- 17:02 Mind Control Freaks
- 17:50 The Science Of Fear And Lust
- 18:40 Superhuman Showdown
- 19:30 Ways To Save The Planet



LAST KNIGHTS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016

23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



00:20 Doctors
00:50 The Coroner
01:40 War And Peace
02:25 The Kettering Incident
03:15 The Detectivists
03:45 Him & Her
04:15 The Coroner
05:00 Doctors
09:30 Eastenders
11:00 Stella
13:20 Casualty
14:15 Doctors
15:15 New Tricks
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 The Coroner
20:00 Death In Paradise
21:00 The Durrells
22:00 Class
23:00 The Kettering Incident
23:55 Doctors



00:00 Underground With Dave Attell
00:25 Chris D'elia: White Male, Black Comic
01:15 Broad City
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 I Live With Models
02:30 Broad City
03:00 Nathan For You
03:25 Workaholics
04:15 Key And Peele
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:30 Frankenfood
06:20 Key And Peele
07:15 Ridiculousness
08:30 Workaholics
09:20 Tosh.0
10:10 Catch A Contractor
10:35 Key And Peele
11:25 Ridiculousness
11:50 Catch A Contractor
13:05 Workaholics
13:55 Tosh.0
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Tosh.0
16:30 Key And Peele
16:55 Tosh.0
18:15 Key And Peele
18:39 Key And Peele
19:03 Ridiculousness
19:50 Brotherhood
20:13 Impractical Jokers | Special - Joker's Choice
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 South Park
21:54 Broad City
22:18 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula
23:05 Underground With Dave Attell
23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition



00:00 BBQ Crawl
01:00 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 Amazing Wedding Cakes
08:00 The Kitchen
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:00 Chopped
14:00 Man Fire Food
14:30 Man Fire Food
15:00 Guy's Big Bite
15:30 Guy's Big Bite
16:00 Siba's Table
16:30 Siba's Table
17:00 The Big Eat
17:30 The Big Eat
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Man Fire Food
19:30 Man Fire Food
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 The Big Eat
21:30 The Big Eat
22:00 Man Fire Food
22:30 Man Fire Food
23:00 Chopped



00:30 Scrubs
01:00 Scrubs
01:30 The Detour
02:00 The Detour
02:30 You're The Worst
03:00 Black-Ish
03:30 The Goldbergs
04:00 Fresh Off The Boat
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 George Lopez
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Fresh Off The Boat
08:30 George Lopez
09:00 Black-Ish
09:30 The Goldbergs
10:00 New Girl
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
12:30 Fresh Off The Boat
13:00 George Lopez
13:30 Community
14:00 The Goldbergs
14:30 The Goldbergs
15:00 New Girl
15:30 Scrubs
16:00 Scrubs
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 The Mindy Project
18:30 The Mindy Project
19:00 Baby Daddy
19:30 Modern Family
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Scrubs
21:30 Scrubs
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Prison Break
01:00 Dead Of Summer
02:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
03:00 Deadline Gallipoli
04:00 Live Good Morning America
06:00 Unforgettable
07:00 Chicago Fire
08:00 Bones
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Unforgettable
11:00 Grey's Anatomy
12:00 Bones
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Chicago Fire
15:00 Recovery Road
16:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Bones
19:00 Grey's Anatomy
20:00 The Blacklist
21:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
22:00 Supernatural
23:00 Grimm



00:00 The Night Of
01:35 Funny Or Die Presents
02:00 Game Of Thrones
03:00 Westworld
04:00 The Knick
05:00 Cinema Verite
07:00 A Number
08:15 Path To War
11:00 Hysterical Blindness
13:00 Real Women Have Curves
15:00 The Gathering Storm
17:00 Hysterical Blindness
19:00 Preacher
20:05 Code Black
21:00 Silicon Valley
21:30 Silicon Valley
22:00 John From Cincinnati
23:00 Jonah From Tonga
23:30 Getting On



00:20 12 Monkeys
01:10 Warehouse 13
02:00 Warehouse 13
02:50 Warehouse 13
03:40 Warehouse 13
04:30 Warehouse 13
05:15 Face Off
06:00 Stargate SG-1
09:20 Dark Matter
10:10 Dark Matter

14:20 Seeds Of Destruction
16:00 Killjoys
16:50 Face Off
17:40 Sanctuary
18:30 Sanctuary
19:25 Treasure Island
21:00 Neverland
22:30 Neverland



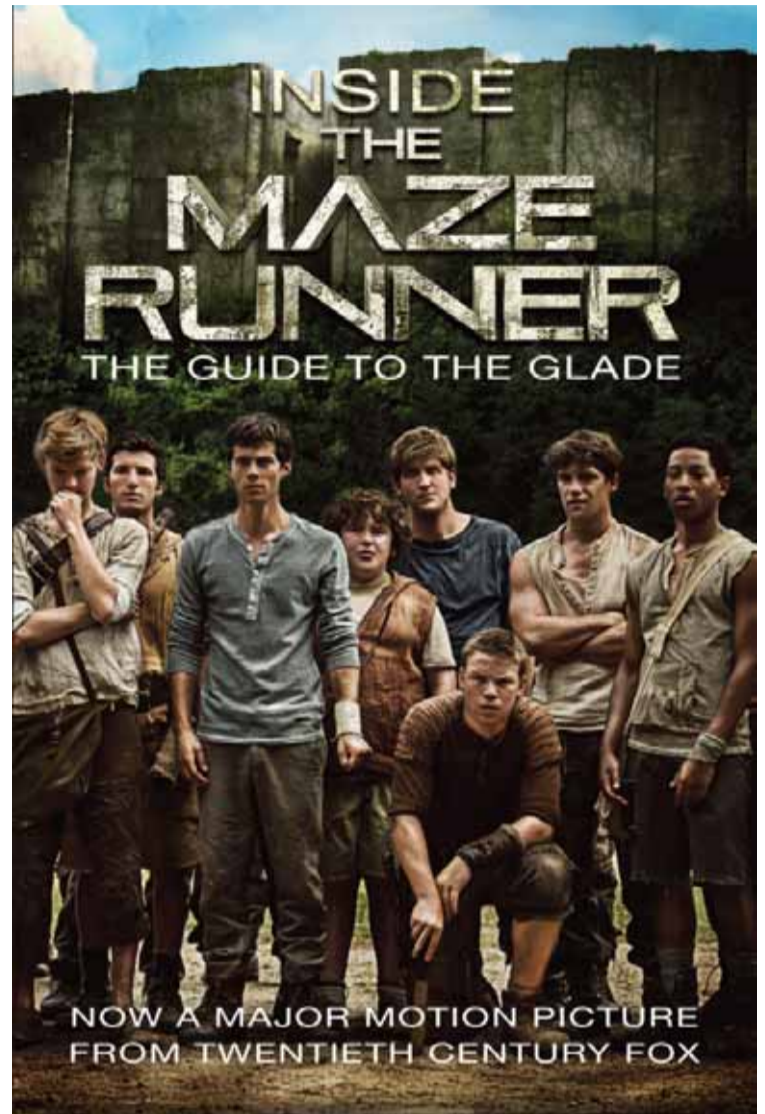
00:00 Bones
01:00 House Of DVF
02:00 Married At First Sight
03:00 Married At First Sight
04:33 Married At First Sight
05:15 Three
06:00 Style By Jury
06:30 Style By Jury
07:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
08:00 Cedar Cove
09:00 Cedar Cove
10:00 Married At First Sight
11:00 Married At First Sight
12:33 Married At First Sight
13:15 Three
14:00 Da Vinci's Demons
15:00 Transporter: The Series
16:00 Private Practice
17:00 Gallery Girls
18:00 Grey's Anatomy
19:00 Grey's Anatomy
20:00 Fashion Star
21:00 House Of DVF
22:00 Bones
23:00 Bones



00:20 Extraordinary Pregnancies
01:10 Secret Eskimo Escape
02:00 Leah Remini: It's All Relative
02:25 Leah Remini: It's All Relative
02:50 Monsters Inside Me
03:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
04:20 Toddlers & Tiaras
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Jon & Kate Plus 8
08:30 Cake Boss
09:20 Separated At Birth
10:10 Designer Darlings
11:50 Say Yes To The Dress
14:45 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
15:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
17:40 Oprah's Master Class
19:20 Suddenly Royal
20:10 Cake Boss
21:00 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
21:50 Oprah's Master Class
22:40 Body Bizarre
23:30 Diagnose Me



0:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat
Noir
07:20 Star Darlings
07:25 Austin & Ally
07:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
07:55 Jessie
08:20 Descendants Wicked World
08:25 Elena Of Avalor
08:50 Star Darlings
08:55 Alex & Co.
09:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
09:25 Girl Meets World
09:50 Stuck In The Middle
10:15 Disney Cookabout
10:40 Harriet The Spy: Blog Wars
12:10 The 7D
12:20 Liv And Maddie
12:45 Liv And Maddie
13:10 Liv And Maddie
13:35 Liv And Maddie
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Bunk'd



THE MAZE RUNNER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Elena Of Avalor
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat
Noir
17:00 Gravity Falls
17:25 Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior
19:00 Star Darlings
19:05 Disney Cookabout
19:30 Elena Of Avalor
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Best Friends Whenever
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



Nickelodeon HD
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Breadwinners
09:00 Get Blake
09:24 Rabbids Invasion
09:48 Lost In The West II
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Rabbids Invasion

13:24 Rabbids Invasion
13:48 Rabbids Invasion
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 Henry Danger Movie
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Rabbids Invasion
17:48 Breadwinners
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger



00:20 Wanda And The Alien
00:31 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:42 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:54 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:17 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:40 Zack & Quack
01:50 Zack & Quack
02:01 Team Umizoomi
02:25 Louie
02:32 Louie
02:37 Louie
02:43 Paw Patrol
02:57 Paw Patrol
03:21 Paw Patrol
03:45 Paw Patrol
04:08 Wanda And The Alien
04:18 Wanda And The Alien
04:28 Dora And Friends
04:51 Dora And Friends
05:15 Blaze And The Monster Machines
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Paw Patrol
06:14 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Wanda And The Alien
07:11 Zack & Quack
07:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!



IDAK conducts 1st Members' Scientific Congress

The Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK) conducted the 1st IDAK Members' Scientific Congress on the 28th of October 2016, at the Kuwait Dental Association (KDA) lecture hall in Jabriya. The theme of the Congress was "Critical Choices for Clinical Success". This was the first time a Congress was organized through IDAK by and for its members.

This congress was mainly intended to provide a platform for the members of IDAK to present their dental research, rare case

reports and innovative clinical techniques in a conference setting and to encourage its members to further pursue research and clinical studies. Papers were presented from the various dental specialties. The paper presentations were organized into four sessions of different specialties and each session was chaired by experienced and eminent dental specialists from within IDAK.

All the presentations were made by IDAK members and all the topics were presented elaborately, followed by discussions

with the audience and chair persons. Almost 150 dentists attended the Congress and thereby gave a major boost to the efforts of the Scientific Committee of IDAK, to stimulate scientific endeavor among its members. It ended with a dinner and on a positive note with a greater resolve among its members to pursue research and clinical studies in various fields in dentistry. IDAK wishes to thank KDA sincerely, for all the support it extended to us in this successful endeavor of ours.

NANMA KUWAIT MALAYALEE CONDUCTS ONASANGAMOM

Nanma Kuwait Malayalee Association conducted Onam- Eid Sangamom at Indian Public school Auditorium Salmiya. Public function was presided by Salim M A (President). Inauguration of the Onam- Eid celebrations was performed by Koshy Alexander (Senior Adv Board Memebr) by lighting the traditional Lamp. Felicitation addresses were given by Dr

Ameer Ahmed (Indian Doctors Forum Former President), Louis James (Board Member), Adv Thomas Paniker (Board Member), Kalanjoor Radhakrishnan (Vice President), Saji J (Kala Ex-Secretary), Madhu Appukuttan (Program Convener), Girija Vijayan (Arts Convener), Shoba Nair (Board Member) and Sherly Suku ((Unit Coordinator).



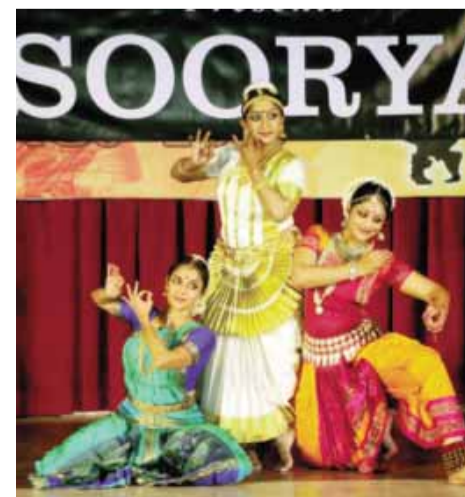
SOORYA FESTIVAL MESMERIZES THE AUDIENCE

Soorya Kuwait Chapter staged 'Soorya India Festival 2016' on the evening of November 04 2016, at the Indian Community School Auditorium, Khaitan, Kuwait. A K Srivastava, Second Secretary, Indian Embassy, inaugurated the festival, which aims to promote international integration through culture, by lighting the lamp, along with Renjith Pillai, Vijay Karayil, President, and B S Pillai, General Secretary. The Embassy Official appreciated Soorya Kuwait Chapter for its excellent efforts in promoting the rich Indian culture. The general secretary welcomed the Audience.

The program, a mix of three oldest dance forms of India - an Odissi dance, a Mohiniyattam recital and a Bharatanatyam presentation by recognized artistes from India, mesmerized the audience of all age groups gathered. The program started with the Odissi dance, by Uthara Antharjanam, one among the very few Odissi Dancers from Kerala. Perfected by Guru Retikanta Mohapatra and Smt. Sujatha Mohapatra, she captivated the audience with her brilliant movements.

The Mohiniyattam by one of India's best and internationally acclaimed performer Smitha Rajan was scintillating as she succeeded in building up an instant rapport with the

audience. With her beautiful presence and an innate grace, the Bharatanatyam by Lakshmi Parthasarathy Arthreya was very strong in rhythm and this aspect came through attractively in her recitals, which was a true entertainment. Later, the artistes were honored with gifts for their outstanding recitals. Renjith Pillai and Vijay Karayil presented the gifts. Soorya has been disseminating Indian art and culture through music and dance with its 19 chapters all over the world.





DDI commemorates World Diabetes Day

Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), a leading campaigner for diabetes awareness in Kuwait, held an informative event to commemorate World Diabetes Day on Thursday, 17 November, 2016 at its premises. The event allowed visitors to consult with diabetes specialists and dietitians as well as gather healthy information from booths that explained various facts of diabetes and promoted healthy lifestyle modification. Around 1000 guests attended the event underlining the interest in Kuwait to prevent and manage this dangerous lifestyle disease.

Many of the booths at the event were about educating visitors on proper dietary habits, sage physical activities and oral health. At this event, there were informative booths offered by the Institute, some of which provided blood glucose testing, fundoscopic and podiatric exams, as well as nutritional, educational and fitness consultations by the Institute's experts. In addition, the event hosted booths by the Kuwait Diabetes Society, Oral Health Program (Ministry of Health), LOY-AC, Kuwait Finance House amongst others, providing assistance to people living with diabetes and the general public.

The primary goal of the event is to prevent the complications of diabetes in people with diabetes through raising awareness about the complications, and empowering those affected by diabetes to proactively take control of their diabetes and improve their quality of life. The main key messages were to take control of blood sugar, watch your cholesterol, keep blood pressure in check, don't forget your kidneys, look out for your eyes and examine your feet.

The event reflected an exciting environment for everyone, and the activities were tailored towards young children through fun shows featuring mascots, a magic show, and other educational activities. "Holding such events and activities stems from Dasman Diabetes Institute's mission statement, where health promotion and awareness are a priority for the Institute. Since its establishment by the Kuwait Foundation of the Advancement of Sciences in 2006, the Institute organizes and takes part in many events and campaigns annually to shed light on diabetes and health in general. This is in accordance with the Institute's belief that, 'Prevention is better than cure'", Dr Qais Al-Duwairi, Director-General of Dasman Diabetes Institute said.





MARRAKECH, Morocco: Members of International delegations pose for a group photo outside the COP22 climate conference on yesterday, in Marrakesh. —AFP photos



MARRAKECH, Morocco: Members of International delegations play with a giant air globe ball outside the COP22 climate conference.

DOGGED BY TRUMP, UN CLIMATE TALKS WIND DOWN

‘WE HAVE TO WORK ON FACILITATING ACCESS TO FINANCE’

MARRAKESH, Morocco: A UN climate summit in Marrakesh tasked with implementing the hard-won Paris Agreement moved toward its scheduled close yesterday, dogged by Donald Trump's promise to abandon the landmark pact. The 196-nation forum was stunned to see an avowed climate change denier capture the White House, and has been left to ponder the impact that could have on their collective effort to beat back the threat of global warming. On Thursday, the conference sought to shore up their commitment with a rare united appeal.

“Our climate is warming at an alarming and unprecedented rate and we have an urgent duty to respond,” the 196 nations, including the outgoing US administration, said in the “Marrakesh Action Proclamation”. “We call for the highest political commitment to combat climate change, as a matter of urgent priority.” Many fear that US presi-

dent-elect Trump—who has described climate change as a “hoax” perpetrated by China—will act on his threat to withdraw from the Paris accord or its framework convention, which could roll back years of painstakingly negotiated political goodwill.

It would also deprive poor countries of billions of dollars in promised finance aid, to help them shift to clean energy and shore up defenses against climate change impacts that can no longer be avoided. “We have to work on facilitating access to finance,” Moroccan foreign minister Salaheddine Mezouar, who has taken over stewardship of the UN talks from France, said yesterday. “There’s no doubt that if Mr Trump makes sharp cuts to the federal government support of developing countries, that will be noticed and have an impact,” veteran climate negotiations analyst Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists told AFP. The Paris pact sets the goal of limiting average global warming to

2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels.

No backtracking

That can only be achieved by rapidly slashing greenhouse gas emissions generated by the burning of fossil fuels, scientists say. Countries—including the United States—have pledged to do so under the deal by shifting to renewable energy sources. But Trump has vowed to boost oil and gas production, and to revive the sagging US coal industry, battered mainly by the rise of natural gas from fracking. Experts say global warming over 2C will result in land-gobbling sea level rise, worsening storms and droughts, disease spread and conflict over ever-scarcer resources. Highlighting the stakes, US government scientists said Thursday that the first 10 months of the year were the hottest in modern times—and 2016 will likely surpass 2015 as the warmest year on record. — AFP

URINE TROUBLE: FINDING A TOILET IN CITIES AROUND THE WORLD IS NO EASY TASK

NEW YORK: With more people than ever before migrating to cities, finding a toilet is not only a chore but a public health issue for hundreds of millions of people around the world, WaterAid, a sanitation charity, said on Thursday. Nearly one in five city dwellers, or about 700 million people worldwide do not have access to decent toilets, according to the Britain-based WaterAid. About 600 million people use dirty or crowded communal toilets and pit or bucket latrines, while some 100 million have no facilities at all, it said. Ensuring sanitation for all by 2030 was among the global development goals adopted last year by the 193 members of the United Nations. Here are a few facts from WaterAid's report on urban areas where toilet troubles are most pressing:

1 India has the highest number of urban dwellers who do not have access to safe and private toilets - 157 million people.

2 Eight Olympic-sized swimming pools could be filled daily with excrement produced by India's 41 million urban residents who must defecate in the open.

3 The 10 countries with the most urban dwellers lacking access to safe and private toilets are: India, China, Nigeria, Indonesia, Russia, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazil, Ethiopia and Pakistan. 4- The 10 countries with the least number of safe and private toilets per capita in urban areas are all located in Africa. In descending order, they are South Sudan, Madagascar, the Republic of Congo, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Togo, Ethiopia, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. —Reuters



INDIA: Indian skilled workers build toilets at a factory in Morbi, some 230km from Ahmedabad, yesterday, on the eve of World Toilet Day. World Toilet Day (WTD), held today each year, is a campaign held around the world to mobilize people over issues surrounding health and sanitation. —AFP

BRITISH GIRL'S BODY FROZEN AFTER DEATH IN UK LEGAL FIGHT

LONDON: A British girl who died after a terminal illness won the right to have her body frozen in an unprecedented ruling, the High Court said yesterday. The 14-year-old girl from London had written to a judge explaining she wanted a chance to “live longer” after suffering from a rare form of cancer. She had researched and decided to undergo cryonics, the process through which people's bodies are frozen in the hope they will be brought back to life with the help of future medical advancements. “I am only 14-years-old and I don't want to die but I know I am going to die,” she wrote to the judge.

“I think being cryo-preserved gives me a chance to be cured and woken up—even in hundreds of years' time.” The girl launched legal action to request that her mother, who supported the child's wishes, be the only person allowed to make decisions about the disposal of her body. Her parents are divorced and the teenager's father initially objected to his daughter's plan. Judge Peter Jackson ruled in the girl's favor in October following a private hearing at the High Court of England and Wales in London. The girl was too ill to attend the hearing and has since died, with her remains being taken to the United States and cryogenically frozen.

US-based Cryonics Institute issued a statement saying that the teenager had arrived at their facility and “packed in dry ice, at 5:00 pm on the 25th of October, approximately 8 days after death,” becoming its 144th patient. Its minimum fee for cryopreservation is \$28,000 (26,400 euros), according to its website, and The Times reported the cost to the girl's family was \$46,000. The case was not reported on before yesterday in keeping with the wishes of the teenager, who also asked that no one involved be identified. Jackson said his decision was based on the dispute between the girl's parents and the best outcome for the child's welfare, not on the science itself, in what he described as an unprecedented ruling.

‘This is my wish’

“It is no surprise that this application is the only one of its kind to have come before the courts in this country—and probably anywhere else,” he said. “It is an example of the new questions that science poses to the law—perhaps most of all to family law,” Jackson added. The judge described the case as a “tragic combination” of childhood illness and family conflict, while praising the girl for the “valiant way” she approached the situation. In her letter to the judge, the 14-year-old wrote: “I don't want to be buried underground. I want to live and live longer and I think that in the future they may find a cure for my cancer and wake me up.

“I want to have this chance. This is my wish.” The girl's solicitor, Zoe Fleetwood, said her client had called Jackson her “hero” after being told of the court's decision shortly before her death on October 17. “By October 6, the girl knew that her wishes were going to be followed. That gave her great comfort,” she told BBC Radio 4. For the last eight years of her life the teenager had not had face-to-face contact with her father, who raised his concerns about the costs and consequences of his daughter being frozen. “Even if the treatment is successful and she is brought back to life in, let's say, 200 years, she may not find any relative and she might not remember things,” he was said to have told Jackson. The father's position however shifted during the case, saying that he respected his daughter's decision.—AFP

SMOG MAY BE EASING, BUT IN PARTS OF CHINA WATER QUALITY WORSENS

READINGS IN SOME REGIONS SHOW MARKED FALL IN WATER QUALITY

SHANGHAI/BEIJING: China is making progress in battling the damaging smog that can shroud its big cities, but in many areas - from parts of the giant Yangtze river to the coalfields of Inner Mongolia - its water pollution is getting worse. Despite commitments to crack down on polluters, the quality of water in rivers, lakes and reservoirs in several regions has deteriorated significantly, according to inspection teams reporting back to the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). In documents published this week, inspectors found that a fifth of the water in the Yangtze's feeder rivers in one province was unusable, and thousands of tons of raw sewage were being deposited into one river in northeastern Ningxia each day. Worried about unrest, China launched its war on pollution in 2014, vowing to reverse the damage done to its skies, rivers and soil by more than three decades of breakneck industrial growth. "We still have a lot of work to do," vice-minister Zhao Yingmin said at a press briefing on Friday. "First, I'd say the point of inspections is to discover problems, and indeed we discovered in some places water quality has gotten significantly worse," he said, noting, though, that the overall situation was improving. Over the first nine months of this year, 70.3 percent of samples taken from 1,922 surface water sites around China could be used as drinking water, up 4 percentage points from a year ago, Zhao said.

A survey published by the MEP last year showed that nearly two thirds of underground water and a third of surface water was unsuitable for human contact, with much of it contaminated by fertilizer run-offs, heavy metals and untreated sewage. China's priority, though, has been air pollution, especially in industrialized regions like Beijing and Hebei, and it said this week that concentrations of harmful small particles, known as PM2.5, fell 12.5 percent in January-October. "With air, you stop pollution at the source, and the blue skies come back instantly," said Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, which monitors Chinese water pollution. "For water, you can stop pollution at the source, but you still have the polluted sediment and the soil that is going to leech into the water, and it's going to take much longer."

week, the top coal producing province of Shanxi revealed that 29 of the 100 surface water sites tested between January and September were found to be "below grade five", with water in the city of Datong deteriorating sharply over the period. In the manufacturing powerhouse of Jiangsu near Shanghai on the eastern coast, inspectors found that the Yangtze, China's longest river, wasn't being protected. They said 20.5 percent of water samples taken from feeder rivers were "below grade five" last year, an increase of 11.4 percentage points in a year. The number of surface water monitoring sites meeting state standards in the coal producing region of Inner Mongolia fell by 7.7 percentage points, and the number categorized as "below grade five" rose by more than three percentage points. In Ningxia in the northwest, another growing coal producer, water at two lakes had deteriorated from grade three to "below grade five", and inspectors found that 6,400 tonnes of raw sewage was being deposited into one river each day. Ammonia and phosphate concentrations in one reservoir in rural Guangxi in the southwest, doubled last year as a result of pollution from farming and fishing, the ministry said. China said this year it would spend 430 billion yuan (\$62.4 billion) on around 4,800 separate projects aimed at improving the quality of its water supplies, though it did not give a timeframe. "You need infrastructure, and there is a deficit that we have to catch up ... but the problem is how to find the motivation to clean up and behave properly, and stop pollution at the source," said Ma at the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs. —Reuters

'Below grade 5'

China grades its water in five categories. Grade three and above is deemed safe for direct human contact, while grades four and five can only be used in industry and agriculture. Water "below grade five" has "lost all functionality". In an action plan published last year, the government vowed to improve water quality nationwide by 2030, and it aims to bring large volumes of unusable "below grade five" water back into the economy.

While improvements have been made in the past five years, China's growing demand for water has put increasing pressure on its limited resources, and sources of pollution have not been put under adequate control, said vice-minister Zhao. This

Tight supply

China has long been worried about a water supply bottleneck that could jeopardize future economic development. Per capita supplies are less than a third of the



CINCINNATI: In this file photo, a visitor touches a picture of Harambe, a male silverback gorilla, at a makeshift memorial outside the Gorilla World exhibit at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden in Cincinnati. —AP

BARRIER TO GORILLA EXHIBIT ENTERED BY BOY INEFFECTIVE

CINCINNATI: Federal inspectors concluded that the Cincinnati Zoo's barrier to keep the public and gorillas separate wasn't in compliance with standards for housing primates when a 3-year-old boy slipped into their exhibit, resulting in the shooting death of an endangered gorilla named Harambe. The US Agriculture Department inspection report, obtained Thursday by The Associated Press, also stated that the zoo's dangerous-animal response team properly followed procedures after visitors called 911 on May 28 to report a child in the gorilla enclosure. A team member concluded the child was in "life-threatening danger." The death of the 17-year-old male western lowland gorilla led to mourning around the globe and a storm of criticism and unending social media attention. The zoo quickly made the barrier taller and added nylon mesh and surveillance cameras. The zoo said there had been no previous problems in the Gorilla World exhibit's 38-year history and its barriers were always found compliant in earlier federal inspections, including in April. The federal investigation is continuing and could lead to fines or other disciplinary action. The department's animal welfare arm confirmed that the zoo's barrier system had been considered to be in compliance during earlier inspections. —AP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (17/11/2016 TO 23/11/2016)

SHARQIA-1

ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	12:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	2:15 PM
TROLLS	4:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	6:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	10:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	12:15 AM

SHARQIA-2

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	1:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	4:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	7:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:30 AM

SHARQIA-3

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	3:15 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	6:00 PM
THU+FRI+SAT	
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	6:00 PM
NO THU+FRI+SAT	
BLEED FOR THIS	9:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	11:30 PM

MUHALAB-1

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	11:30 AM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	2:00 PM
TROLLS	4:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	6:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	10:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	1:00 AM

MUHALAB-2

BLEED FOR THIS	12:00 PM
TROLLS	3:00 PM
THU+FRI+SAT	
BLEED FOR THIS	2:30 PM
NO THU+FRI+SAT	
FORCE 2 - Hindi	5:00 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	7:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	10:00 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	12:30 AM

MUHALAB-3

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	1:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	3:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	6:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:05 AM

FANAR-1

ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	1:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	2:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	4:30 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	6:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:00 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	9:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM

FANAR-2

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	3:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	5:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	8:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	11:30 PM

FANAR-3

AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	12:30 PM
FORCE 2 - Hindi	3:30 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	6:00 PM
FORCE 2 - Hindi	9:00 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	11:30 PM

FANAR-4

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	1:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	4:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	7:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:30 AM

FANAR-5

BLEED FOR THIS	1:00 PM
TROLLS	3:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	5:30 PM
GHOST COINS	8:00 PM
GHOST COINS	10:00 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	12:15 AM

MARINA-1

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	2:45 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	5:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	7:45 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	10:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	12:45 AM

MARINA-2

ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	2:00 PM
NO FRI+SAT+MON	
TROLLS	2:00 PM
FRI+SAT+MON	
TROLLS	4:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	6:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	10:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 PM

MARINA-3

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	1:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	3:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	6:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:05 AM

AVENUES-1

JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	11:30 AM
DOCTOR STRANGE	2:00 PM
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	4:15 PM
FORCE 2 - Hindi	6:45 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	9:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:30 AM

AVENUES-2

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D-4DX	12:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D-4DX	3:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D-4DX (2D+3D+4DX)	5:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D-4DX	8:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D-4DX	11:15 PM

AVENUES-3

ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	12:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	1:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	3:30 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	7:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	10:30 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM

360° 1

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	11:45 AM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	2:30 PM
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	5:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	8:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	10:45 PM

360° 2

RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE	12:30 PM
RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE	2:15 PM
RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE	4:00 PM
RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE	6:00 PM
SHUT IN	8:15 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	10:15 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	12:45 AM

360° 3

LAF WA DAWARAN	1:30 PM
FORCE 2 - Hindi	3:45 PM
SABER GOOGLE	6:15 PM

SABER GOOGLE	8:45 PM
FORCE 2 - Hindi	11:15 PM

AL-KOUT.1

ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	12:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	1:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	4:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	7:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	10:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.2

ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	1:00 PM
RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE	3:00 PM
TROLLS	4:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	6:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:30 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	10:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM

AL-KOUT.3

BLEED FOR THIS	1:15 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	1:30 PM
FRI	
BLEED FOR THIS	3:45 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	6:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D	8:45 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	11:30 PM

AL-KOUT.4

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	3:00 PM
GHOST COINS	5:45 PM
GHOST COINS	7:45 PM
GHOST COINS	9:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	11:45 PM

BAIRAQ-1

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D	12:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D	2:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	5:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	8:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	11:00 PM

BAIRAQ-2

ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	1:00 PM
RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE	3:00 PM
TROLLS	5:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	7:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	10:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:15 AM

BAIRAQ-3

BLEED FOR THIS	1:30 PM
FORCE 2 - Hindi	4:00 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	6:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	9:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS	12:05 AM

PLAZA

PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	3:30 PM
FRI+SAT	
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	3:30 PM
NO FRI+SAT	
PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	6:30 PM
PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	9:45 PM
THU+FRI+SAT	
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:45 PM
NO THU+FRI+SAT	

LAILA

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	4:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	7:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film)	8:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	10:30 PM

AJIAL.1

PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	3:30 PM
PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	6:30 PM
PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	9:45 PM

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pedro Domingo Dias s/o Domingo Dias holder of Indian Passport No. G3441110 and Civil ID No. 268113001912 has changed my name Pedru Domingo Diasy to Pedro Domingo Dias herein after in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Pedro Domingo Dias. **(C 5233)**

I, NAZEEMA MOHAMMED holder of Indian Passport No. L-4904837 and Civil ID No. 278022005597 has changed my name from NAZEEMA MOHAMMED to NASIMUNNISA hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of NASIMUNNISA. **(C 5234)**

17-11-2016

I, Jujar Abbasbhai Dahodwala s/o Abbasbhai Dahodwala holder of Indian Passport No. H8465779 and Civil ID No. 268111401621 has change my surname to Jujar Abbasbhai Dalrotiwala here in after. In all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Jujar Abbasbhai Dalrotiwala. **C 5231)**

I, Shaik Mushtaq s/o Shaik Yousuf holder of Indian Passport No. G3955355 Civil ID No. 276030802124 has changed my name to Shaik Mukthar herein after in all my dealings and docements. I will be known by name of Shaik Mukthar s/o Shaik Yousuf. **(C 5232)**
16-11-2016

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

EMERGENCY

112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:53
Shorook	06:15
Duhr:	11:33
Asr:	14:31
Maghrib:	16:52
Isha:	18:12

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016



DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Saturday 19/11/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:50
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
OMA	643	Muscat	02:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
SYR	341	Damascus	06:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
AVV	651	Sohag	12:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
SVA	2502	Jeddah	13:30
SVA	2504	Jeddah	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
KNE	535	Jeddah	14:05
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
SVA	2508	Jeddah	16:40
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	118	New York	17:00
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
KAC	792	Madinah	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50

SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
OSJ	4116	XQC	20:00
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
THY	764	Istanbul	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45

Departure Flights on Saturday 19/11/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:40
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	644	Muscat	03:50
MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
OSJ	4115	XQC	05:00
AVV	654	Sohag	05:30
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	934	Sohag	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
SYR	342	Damascus	07:00
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	173	Munich	08:35
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00

ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
FDK	802	Damascus	12:45
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
OSJ	4115	XQC	13:00
AVV	652	Alexandria	13:05
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
SVA	9302	Jeddah	14:30
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
SVA	3904	Jeddah	14:55
KNE	536	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
SVA	9308	Jeddah	17:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	1205	Islamabad	23:00
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
FDB	8054	Dubai	23:15
KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25

Word Search Puzzles

Birds

Find and circle all of the birds that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional bird.

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| BLACKBIRD | EAGLE | MARTIN | ROBIN |
| BUDGIE | EMU | MOCKINGBIRD | SEAGULL |
| CANARY | FALCON | MYNA | SPARROW |
| CARDINAL | FINCH | OSTRICH | SWAN |
| CHICKEN | FLAMINGO | OWL | TURKEY |
| CRANE | GOOSE | PARAKEET | VULTURE |
| CROW | HAWK | PARROT | WOODPECKER |
| DODO | HERON | PELICAN | WREN |
| DOVE | JAY | PIGEON | |
| DUCK | MAGPIE | RAVEN | |

Yesterday's Solution

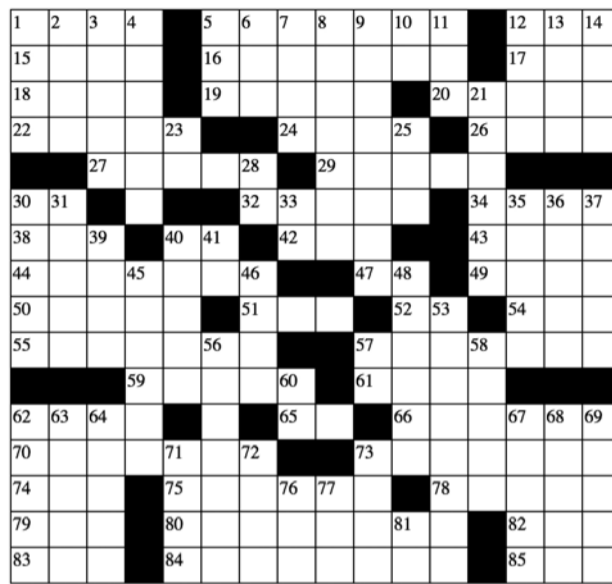
Insects

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

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| ANTS | EARWIG | MOSQUITO |
| APHID | FIREFLY | MOTH |
| BEDBUG | FLEA | SILKWORM |
| BEEBLE | FLIES | SILVERFISH |
| BUMBLEBEE | HORNET | TERMITE |
| BUTTERFLY | LACEWING | THRIP |
| CATERPILLAR | LADYBUG | TICKS |
| CICADA | LICE | WASP |
| COCKROACH | LOCUST | WEEVIL |
| CRICKET | MAYFLY | WORMS |
| DRAGONFLY | | |

The hidden message is: GRASSHOPPER

CROSSWORD 1435



ACROSS

- Having or denoting a low vocal or instrumental range.
- United States linguist whose theory of generative grammar redefined the field of linguistics (born 1928).
- A state-chartered savings bank owned by its depositors and managed by a board of trustees.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- A failure to maintain a higher state.
- A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
- Fastener consisting of a resinous composition that is plastic when warm.
- The ending of a series or sequence.
- (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
- Affected manners intended to impress others.
- The lean flesh of a fish similar to cod.
- Formerly a term of respect for important white Europeans in colonial India.
- Small South American spiny tree with dark crimson and scarlet flowers solitary or clustered.
- Being or moving higher in position or greater in some value.
- Make off with belongings of others.
- Large recently extinct long-horned European wild ox.
- A source of oil.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- An ancient Egyptian city on the west bank of the Nile opposite Cairo.
- Abnormally distended especially by fluids or gas.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- A disreputable vagrant.
- A high wave (often dangerous) caused by tidal flow (as by colliding tidal currents or in a narrow estuary).
- The compass point midway between northeast and east.
- After noon.
- The first month of the year.
- A contorted facial expression.
- American Revolutionary patriot.
- (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- Being one hundred more than three hundred.
- The capital and largest city of Zambia.
- Of or relating to or functioning as a phrase.
- A number of sheets of paper fastened together along one edge.

- Involving the entire earth.
- A device (trade name Aqua-Lung) that lets divers breathe under water.
- An overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration.
- French revolutionary who was prominent in the early days of the French Revolution (1749-1791).
- A rapid escape (as by criminals).
- A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
- A large continuous extent of land.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- A vigorous blow.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- A large number or amount.
- A deep bow.
- Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
- Lap that forms a cloth border doubled back and stitched down v 1.
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- Possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- A state in midwestern United States.
- An affirmative.
- Tropical Asian starlings.
- A branch of the Tai languages.
- A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- A European corvine bird of small or medium size with red legs and glossy black plumage.
- A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
- (Norse mythology) Wife of Thor and guardian of the home.
- A bachelor's degree in science.
- Having a pair of equal and opposite charges.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- Dry red table wine from the Rioja region of northern Spain.
- A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
- A river in eastern France.
- United States baseball player (born 1925).
- The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
- A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- A large fleet.
- Keep in mind or convey as a conviction or view.
- Greek god of light.
- Sloth bears.
- Genus of tall smooth herbs of forested mountains of Europe and Asia minor.
- (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
- A white trivalent metallic element.
- An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
- A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
- Scale-like structure between the base of the wing and the halter of a two-winged fly.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- (computer science) A standardized language for the descriptive markup of documents.
- Pitiable in circumstances especially through abandonment.
- Any wingless blood-sucking parasitic insect noted for ability to leap.
- Having undesirable or negative qualities.
- A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.

Daily SuDoku

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

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

medium

Yesterday's Solution

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

FUKUSHIMA 'SAFE' FOR TOKYO 2020, SAYS BASEBALL BOSS

TOKYO: Fukushima, site of one of the world's worst nuclear disasters, poses no threat to players if baseball games are held there at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, the sport's top official said yesterday.

Tokyo organisers want to hold part of baseball's preliminary rounds in the region to support its recovery from the 2011 quake-tsunami and resulting nuclear crisis.

While any such decision could trigger health fears among participating nations, the head of the World Baseball Softball Confederation insisted it would be safe to play in Fukushima, about 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of Tokyo.

"It can be an issue but from the data I have received, at this moment it's not dangerous in Fukushima," Riccardo

Fraccari told reporters. "From this point of view we do not have any problem to go to Fukushima." Fraccari is set to inspect three venues in Fukushima prefecture today, including Iwaki Green Stadium, which hosted the under-15 Baseball Cup earlier this year.

"Only one country (Germany) refused to come, but the rest were there," the Italian said of the 12-team tournament. Baseball and softball were dropped from the Olympic programme after 2008 but were voted back in by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in large part due to their popularity in Japan.

Any move to stage games in Fukushima still needs to be formally approved by the IOC, however, with a final decision expected next month.

"The main issues are the facilities

and the schedule. The other things are not a problem," Fraccari said, referring to concerns about radiation exposure.

The March 2011 tsunami, triggered by a massive undersea quake, killed around 18,000 people and swamped emergency power supplies at the Fukushima nuclear plant, sending its reactors into meltdown.

Tens of thousands of people evacuated their homes and farms at the time and the Japanese government has been working to rebuild the region, although areas near the crippled plant remain uninhabitable because of radiation dangers.

Fukushima has two baseball stadiums with a capacity of 30,000 each, located dozens of kilometres away from the "difficult-to-return zone" designated by the government.

Tokyo 2020's proposal comes after IOC President Thomas Bach met last month with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and said Olympic officials were considering the option.

It also comes after experts warned the total Tokyo 2020 budget could hit an eye-watering \$30 billion-four times the initial estimate and almost triple that of the 2012 London Olympics.

Tokyo metropolitan officials, led by Governor Yuriko Koike, are pursuing cheaper options, such as relocating the canoeing and rowing events while scaling back plans for a new swimming venue.

IOC executive director Christophe Dubi said recently that the rowing and canoeing could take place in Miyagi prefecture, also part of the region hit hardest by the 2011 disaster. — AFP

MIKKELSEN LEADS OGIER IN RALLY AUSTRALIA

COFFS HARBOUR: Norway's Andreas Mikkelsen, chasing second place in this season's FIA World Rally Championship, led yesterday after winning five of the opening day special stages in the Rally Australia.

The young Volkswagen star held a 15.4 second advantage after 11 special stages south of Coffs Harbour, in New South Wales. Mikkelsen is in a strong position to challenge second-place Belgian driver Thierry Neuville in the championship standings ahead of Sunday's finish. Newly-crowned four-time champion Sebastien Ogier finished second, with three special stage wins, with Neuville in third place. "We had a good morning and a good run, although it is very loose so I expected to lose more time," Mikkelsen said.

"I think we are doing a really good job being third on the road so we will have to keep to this. "We have to push if we want the win and so far it is looking good. The car is really perfect and I am feeling very comfortable in there." Ogier won the final two stages on the faster surfaces and was satisfied with his second position.

"Our position does not reflect the struggle we had this morning and I think maybe others are not making the best of their advantage being behind us," Ogier said.

"It's certainly better than I expected, but it is a struggle to clean the roads and I think it will be difficult to keep this position." Under WRC rules, Ogier will start first again on fresh stages Saturday, but Sunday's running order will be set on Saturday's results.

Standings after Friday's special stages:

1. Andreas Mikkelsen-Anders Jaeger (NOR/VW Polo-R) 57 minutes 16.7 seconds,
2. Sebastien Ogier-Julien Ingrassia (FRA/VW Polo-R) at 15.4,
3. Thierry Neuville-Nicolas Gilsoul (BEL/Hyundai i20) 22.5,
4. Hayden Paddon-John Kennard (NZL/Hyundai i20) 23.7,
5. Mads Ostberg-Ola Floene (NOR/Ford Fiesta RS) 38.8,
6. Eric Camilli-Benjamin Veillas (FRA/Ford Fiesta RS) 46.6,
7. Dani Sordo-Marc Marti (ESP/Hyundai i20) 50.2,
8. Ott Tanak-Raigo Molder(EST/Ford Fiesta RS) 1:30.6,
9. Esapekka Lappi-Janne Ferm (FIN/Skoda Fabia RS) 2:20.3,
10. Lorenzo Bertelli-Simone Scattolin (ITA/Ford Fiesta RS) 2:24.7

Stage winners

Mikkelsen 5 (SS1, SS3, SS4, SS5, SS6), Ogier 3 (SS8, SS9, SS10), Neuville 1 (SS7), Paddon 1 (SS2), Lappi (SS11). — AFP



KUWAIT: Tapan Ramesh, Regional Manager, GTE Olayan giving the man of the match award to Gireesh (TEC).

TEC, AECK, NSS AND KEA WIN ON OPENING DAY OF CETTA TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: The 19th Prof Ramachandran Memorial Cricket Tournament conducted by College of Engineering Alumni Association (CETTA) and sponsored by GTE Olayan Co on November 11 at cricket grounds. The first match, batting first against MACE began steadily with skipper Suresh (21) and Gireesh (13) putting on 37 runs for the opening wicket by the 6th over. After Gireesh's Dinto (15) increased the tempo but his exit (retired hurt) put paid to TEC's charge and they finished on 75 for the loss of 5 wickets in their 12 overs. For MACE, Roy, Jayesh, Sandeep and Manu took a wicket each to peg back TEC. In reply, MACE lost wickets at regular intervals and could score only 50 for the loss of 8 wickets leaving comfortable winners by 25 runs. Sandeep (3), Gireesh (2) man of the match), Sreekumar and Dhanesh (1 wicket each) were instrumental in dampening the hopes of a MACE win.

AECK batting 1st against NIT in the second match scored at a fast pace with useful contributions from Shamir (14) and Mahesh (13). But it was the unbroken 4th wicket partnership of 82 runs between Nimish (50 no

man of the match) and Remon (22 no) that took the match away from NIT. Nimish was particularly impressive with his silken drives and ability to put away the loose balls. Jacob (2) and Tharun were the wicket takers for NIT but could not stem the flow of runs. In reply NIT committed "hara-kiri" with 5 of their batsmen getting run out and AECK won overwhelmingly by 119 runs. For AECK, Munaz (2), Nimish (2) and Mahesh 1 wicket showed they are up and ready for the tougher matches ahead.

In the 3rd match, batting first TKM could not make much headway against the disciplined bowling of KEA. Ziad (12) and Anfar (23 no) fought bravely but the run rate was always below 5 per over. TKM finished at a non too impressive 56 for the loss of 7 wickets in their allotted overs. For KEA, Sibin (2), Ajin (1) & Nasif (1 wicket) helped to keep TKM to a below par total. In reply, after the early fall of Tibish, Govind (17) and Ajin (15 no- man of the match) took the score to 38 by the 6th over to ensure there were no alarms and KEA won comfortably by 5 wickets with 11 balls to spare.

In the final match of the day, NSS batting

first were helped by a spate of no balls from hosts CETAA. Aided by Jaymohan (11) and Shaifuddin (10), NSS reached 51 for 3 by the 11 over. But a hat-trick by Zakir in the 7th over changed the complexion and CETAA showed signs of a strong comeback. But an unbroken partnership of 40 runs between Dileep (18 no -man of the match) and Joe (16 no) took NSS to a comfortable 91 for 6 of their 12 overs.

For CETAA, Zakir (3), Arun (1), Prashant 1 wicket strove manfully but a plethora of wides proved their undoing. In reply, Daniel (16) and Arief (14) showed determination but they were always behind the asking rate. In the end, CETAA could reach only 55 for the loss of 6 wickets leaving NSS deserving winners by 36 runs. NSS put up a fine all round bowling performance with Mahesh (2), Priyan and Arjun (1 wicket each) being the wicket takers.

In the morning, CETAA Vice President Manoj Balakrishnan inaugurated the tournament. Jose Kurishinkal (CETTA) welcomed the gathering while the Chief Guest Tapan Ramesh, Regional Manager, GTE Olayan Co met and spoke with the players.

CARR READY TO RELAUNCH 'BOKS BID AGAINST ITALY

FLORENCE: South Africa's Nizaam Carr is ready to show thousands of Springbok hopefuls what it means to pull on the green and gold jersey when he lines up, out of position, against Italy in Florence.

Described as one of the most exciting young prospects of recent years, Carr made history when he became the squad's first Muslim player on his maiden call-up in 2014, when he made his debut in a 22-6 win over Italy. But a disastrous 2015 he blamed on a debilitating and mystery virus, as well as other issues, meant he dropped off the radar and notably missed possible selection for the 2015 World Cup.

The 25-year-old is now back "in-form" after coming off the bench in a 37-21 loss to

England to earn a place in Allister Coetzee's starting XV against the Azzurri in Florence today. After losing for the first time in a decade to England at Twickenham last week—their fifth test reverse in six outings—the wounded 'Boks are out for redemption.

And Carr, despite not playing at his preferred No 8, wants to show he fully deserves just his fourth cap.

"I was very emotional about falling out of the 'Bok squad in 2015. It was a big year because it was a World Cup year and as a result I really struggled mentally," Carr said in Florence on Thursday. "I took it out on my family and they could see how much it was affecting me. I'm grateful and blessed to be here again and I'm hoping to make a differ-

ence." Carr said he had "seven to nine" doctors probing, in vain, the virus that compounded his nightmare year in 2015.

But he added: "The illness was when I fell back but I made a full recovery so I can't stand here and blame the virus for losing my place.

"It happened, it's in the past and I'm here now, starting against Italy.

I've stepped up mentally and I'm the in-form Nizaam Carr that people know. "I slowly picked up and there are thousands of kids who want to play for the 'Boks. I have a responsibility to not only play for my community, myself and my family, but for all South Africans to make them proud."

Carr replaced Lood de Jager for the final 12 minutes at Twickenham, and did enough to

impress Coetzee. With lock Eben Etzebeth ruled out of the match due to concussion, Pieter-Steph du Toit will return to the second row after playing as flanker against England.

Carr will form a new back row with Willem Alberts moving to blindside after operating at openside last week and Warren Whiteley retaining his place at No 8.

"I've been blessed to be able to able to play No 8 and No 6, although I 100 per cent prefer eighthman," said Carr.

"I have to adapt my game because I can't be standing out wide and playing that linking game I do as a No 8.

"I need to be at the breakdown first because Italy will look to make those leg tackles and get the stealer in over the ball." —AFP

COCKROACH KID LEADS SCOTT, SPIETH IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY: World number seven Adam Scott surged into contention while two-time major champion Jordan Spieth remained within striking distance of leader James Nitties in the Australian Open second round yesterday.

Nitties—who competes on mini-tours in the United States, and complained he often stays in cockroach-infested hotels—fired seven-under 65 to enter the weekend at nine-under 135. New Zealander Ryan Fox was one shot behind at eight-under, with Australia's Rhein Gibson alone in third at the par-72 Royal Sydney Golf Club. Local favourite Scott vaulted into a five-way tie for fourth at six-under, three shots off the pace, after a morning 65 that included a closing nine of six-under 30. Former world number one Spieth is one shot further back in a six-way tie for ninth after following his opening 69 with a 70. Nitties started on the 10th hole and ignited his round with an eagle at the par-five second before producing five birdies in his final six holes. "It's been a pretty rough last three years," Nitties said. "Playing mini-tours this year in America and you're 34 years old and you've been on the PGA Tour and your game hasn't really changed much from then, but you're staying in hotels which have cockroaches running around."

'BRAINLESS' SPIETH

Fox—who has full status on the European Tour for 2017 — will play alongside Nitties in today's final group and is looking to become the first New Zealander to win the Australian Open. "Playing in The Open at St Andrews last year and the Olympics this year, granted I wasn't in this position, hopefully I can draw from those experiences and be nice and relaxed and go out and have some fun tomorrow," 29-year-old Fox said.

Scott picked up four shots in three holes late in his Friday round, which included an eagle at the par-five seventh.

"It's always the secret when you're not quite on top of your game, you just need a good stretch of nine holes somewhere in the tournament and that can carry you," Scott said.

"Hopefully that will be the nine that will (be) enough with two solid days on the weekend to carry me through."

Alongside the 2013 US Masters winner at six-under are fellow Aussies Rod Pampling, Todd Sinnott, reigning US Amateur and Asia-Pacific Amateur champion Curtis Luck, and 20-year-old Lucas Herbert. Spieth carded five front-nine birdies but lost momentum with a three-putt double bogey at the par-four 15th. "It's just the putter that needs improvement but, again, I'm still in it with feeling like I've been brainless on the greens," the American said. The top three players in Sydney who are not otherwise exempt will win direct entry into next July's British Open at Royal Birkdale. — AFP



Adam Scott



CHICAGO: File photo shows Ireland's Joey Carbery, left, celebrates with Josh van der Flier, second from left, after a rugby match against New Zealand, in Chicago. — AP

IRELAND SEEKING DOUBLE OVER THE ALL BLACKS

WELLINGTON: It took the Irish 111 years to beat New Zealand. Today, they'll be seeking a second win over the mighty All Blacks in two weeks.

"We are going into the game as the underdogs," said New Zealand coach Steve Hansen, words that stretch the truth but will still hearten Ireland fans who have suffered a century of heartache at the hands of the world's greatest rugby team. They aren't alone.

The All Blacks' reaction to a loss can be gauged by the seven years since any one team beat them back to back. That was South Africa. Only two home nations have consecutive wins: Wales in 1935 and 1953, and England in 2002-03. Wales hasn't beaten them since, and England just once.

This is the size of the task facing Ireland, whose 40-29 win in Chicago on Nov. 5 was arguably the country's greatest moment in rugby, certainly in modern times. Driven on by the memory of Anthony Foley, the popular former international who died weeks earlier, the Irish took advantage of a sloppy All Blacks per-

formance to score five tries. "You'd love to think that we're favorites, wouldn't you?" Ireland coach Joe Schmidt said, reacting to Hansen's earlier remark. "But I wouldn't suggest that Steve Hansen become a bookmaker. "We're at about 6-1, not that we're allowed to indulge in that. It's a bit better than the 13-1 we were in Chicago. You certainly wouldn't put us as favorites. I think everyone is due a hiccup." Schmidt has acknowledged Ireland caught the All Blacks at an "opportune moment" in Chicago due to the absences of first-choice locks Sam Whitelock (ankle) and Brodie Retallick (concussion), which forced Hansen to play flanker Jerome Kaino out of position in the second row. Hansen defended Kaino afterward, and blamed hooker Dane Coles.

Without Whitelock and Retallick, Ireland bossed the mauls and disrupted lineouts, where Coles came under pressure on throw-ins. Ireland also competed for kickoff ball, forcing more errors.

Whitelock and Retallick are back, but Kaino is out with a minor calf injury.

Otherwise, the All Blacks are at full strength, with Beauden Barrett at flyhalf in his first game since being named world player of the year.

Ireland, whose only change from Chicago has Sean O'Brien replacing the injured Jordi Murphy at openside flanker, is expecting a "Blacklash."

"It wasn't the New Zealand that we had been used to seeing throughout the Rugby Championship," Ireland fullback Rob Kearney said, recalling the game in Chicago. "Their lineout was poor. Some of their handling was pretty poor. They conceded five tries in the whole (Rugby) Championship and we scored five against them. If we're honest, it wasn't the New Zealand that we've all come to know. It's really important that we recognize and understand that." That loss ended the All Blacks' record 18-test winning run, and they began a new one by thrashing Italy 68-10 last weekend. Next stop is Dublin, where they scored an injury-time try and conversion to beat the Irish 24-22 on their last visit in 2014. — AP

DUBNYK GETS LEAGUE-BEST 4TH SO AS WILD BEAT BRUINS

ST PAUL: Mikael Granlund scored with 44.5 seconds left, Devan Dubnyk stopped 25 shots for his league-leading fourth shutout, and the Minnesota Wild beat the Boston Bruins 1-0 Thursday night. Granlund took a pass from Jonas Brodin circled below the end line and came out to the right of Tuukka Rask. His centering pass went off the skate of Adam McQuoid and trickled into the Boston net. Dubnyk has had to carry the Wild lately as Minnesota's offense has mustered just 10 goals in its past seven games, winning three. He has allowed nine goals in his last nine games, stopping 274 of 283 shots in that span to account for a .965 save percentage. Minnesota has allowed an NHL-low 29 total goals in 16 games this season, including 10 in its last nine games, dating back to the 5-0 shutout Oct. 25 in Boston.

LIGHTNING 4, SABRES 1

Alex Killorn had a goal and assist and Tampa Bay won its first game without captain Steven Stamkos. Nikita Kucherov, Nikita Nesterov and Brayden Point also scored, and Valtteri Filppula set up two goals with no-look passes in helping the Lightning win their third straight and improve to 6-2-1 in their past nine. The spread-out offensive contributions came in Tampa Bay's first game since Stamkos tore a ligament in his right knee during a 4-3 win at Detroit on Tuesday. During the game at Buffalo, the Lightning announced Stamkos had surgery and is expected to miss four months. Cody Franson scored for Buffalo, which dropped to 0-4-2 in its past six. It's a stretch in which the team's offense has dried up in managing just six goals.

BLUES 3, SHARKS 2

Jaden Schwartz scored twice and David Perron added the game-winner to lift St. Louis past San Jose. Jake Allen had 29 saves - holding off the Sharks' 6-on-4 advantage over the final 55 seconds as the Blues won their second straight. Kevin Labanc got his first NHL goal and Logan Couture also scored for the Sharks, who lost their second straight after winning the first three on a season-high six-game trip. Perron broke a 2-2 tie with a power-play tally late in the second period. San Jose had killed off its previous 26 penalties over an 11-game stretch.

STARS 3, AVALANCHE 2

Patrick Eaves capped Dallas' three-goal first period and the Stars held off Colorado. Johnny Oduya and Brett Ritchie also scored in the first for Dallas, and Kari Lehtonen finished with 34 saves. Nathan MacKinnon had a goal and an assist and Mikhail Grigorenko also scored for the Avalanche, who nearly rallied after trailing 3-0 after the first. Semyon Varlamov stopped 19 shots and snapped an 11-game winning streak against the Stars. Lehtonen stopped MacKinnon on a breakaway midway through the second period and again on a rebound with 10 minutes left in the game.

FLYERS 5, JETS 2

Michael Raffl and Sean Couturier scored 34 seconds apart in the first period on Philadelphia's initial two shots, and the Flyers went on to beat Winnipeg. Mark Streit, Wayne Simmonds and Brandon Manning also scored for the Flyers, who had 12 players register points. Blake Wheeler and Dustin Byfuglien had the goals for the Jets, who opened a season-high five-game, nine-day road trip with just their second loss in the last six. Couturier got Philadelphia on the board 9:13 in when he capitalized on a Winnipeg turnover and beat Connor Hellebuyck high to the glove side from close range. Raffl doubled the lead



TORONTO: Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Matt Hunwick (2) hits Florida Panthers center Jonathan Marchessault (81) into the boards during first-period NHL hockey game action in Toronto, Thursday. — AP

just over a half-minute later with his third of the season. Steve Mason made 30 saves to improve to 6-0-1 in his career against Winnipeg. Hellebuyck stopped 17 shots.

PREDATORS 5, SENATORS 1

Ryan Ellis scored the tiebreaking goal late in the first period and Pekka Rinne stopped 30 shots to lead Nashville. Mike Ribeiro had a goal and assist, and Colton Sissons, Pontus Aberg and James Neal also scored to help the Predators sweep the two-game series against the Senators. Derrick Brassard scored for Ottawa, and Mike Condon finished with 35 saves in his third start. The Senators haven't scored more than two goals in their last 11 games. Ellis beat Condon on the far side with about 4 1/2 minutes left in the opening period to put the Predators up 2-1.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, PANTHERS 1

Connor Brown had two goals and two assists to lead help spoiling James Reimer's first start in Toronto since leaving the Maple Leafs in the offseason. Mitch Marner had another impressive goal, and Leo Komarov, James van Riemsdyk and Jake Gardiner also scored as Toronto improved to 7-2-0 at home. Nazem Kadri had two assists and Frederik Andersen stopped 27 shots. Aaron Ekblad scored the lone goal for Florida and Reimer finished with 24 saves. The Maple Leafs got to their former goalie quickly, scoring three times in the first period - including two by Brown.

DUCKS 3, DEVILS 2

Ryan Kesler scored the tiebreaking goal on a rush to the net with 3:40 to play, and Anaheim snapped New Jersey's five-game winning streak. Rickard Rakell and Jakob Silfverberg scored 16 seconds apart in the second period for the Ducks, who maintained their Pacific Division lead with their fifth victory in six games. Anaheim struggled in the third period until Silfverberg controlled the puck behind the net and centered it to Kesler, who stormed into the slot and forced home

his team-leading eighth goal. Kyle Quincey had a goal and an assist for the Devils, who had been on their longest streak since February 2013. Devante Smith-Pelly also scored against his former team for the Devils. Jonathan Bernier made 27 saves for the Ducks, who have won the first two on a five-game homestand.

CANUCKS 3, COYOTES 2

Ben Hutton scored on a penalty shot at 2:34 of overtime to lift Vancouver over Arizona. Daniel Sedin had a goal and an assist, and Brandon Sutter also scored for Vancouver, which had lost 11 of 13. Jacob Markstrom made 34 saves. Hutton was hooked on a breakaway by Dylan Strome before beating Louis Domingue with a nice backhand deke for his second goal of the season. Brad Richardson and Anthony DeAngelo

had goals for Arizona, which has lost four straight. Richardson was later carted off on a stretcher with an injured right leg in the second period and taken to a hospital. Domingue finished with 39 saves.

KINGS 4, OILERS 2

Jeff Carter scored the tiebreaking short-handed goal midway through the second period and Los Angeles beat Edmonton. Derek Forbort had a goal and an assist and Devin Setoguchi and Tyler Toffoli also scored for Los Angeles. Peter Budaj made 26 saves. Darnell Nurse and Oscar Klefbom scored for the Oilers, who have now lost five straight games to fall to 2-7-1 since starting 7-1-0. Jonas Gustavsson made 21 saves. Trailing 2-0 after the first period, the Oilers scored twice in the second to tie it before Carter scored at 9:06 of the middle period. — AP

NHL results/standings

Tampa Bay 4, Buffalo 1; Philadelphia 5, Winnipeg 2; Toronto 6, Florida 1; Nashville 5, Ottawa 1; St. Louis 3, San Jose 2; Minnesota 1, Boston 0; Dallas 3, Colorado 2; Vancouver 3, Arizona 2 (OT); Anaheim 3, New Jersey 2; Los Angeles 4, Edmonton 2.

Western Conference							Eastern Conference						
Central Division							Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Chicago	11	4	2	54	43	24	Tampa Bay	11	6	1	58	46	23
St. Louis	9	6	3	44	50	21	Ottawa	10	6	1	39	42	21
Winnipeg	9	8	2	56	55	20	Boston	10	7	0	41	39	20
Minnesota	9	6	1	42	29	19	Toronto	8	6	3	56	58	19
Dallas	7	6	5	48	59	19	Florida	8	8	1	45	48	17
Nashville	7	6	3	46	44	17	Detroit	8	8	1	44	47	17
Colorado	7	9	0	33	45	14	Buffalo	5	8	4	31	45	14
							Metropolitan Division						
Anaheim	9	6	3	48	43	21	NY Rangers	13	4	0	72	38	26
Edmonton	9	8	1	49	49	19	Washington	10	4	2	45	37	22
San Jose	9	8	0	39	39	18	Pittsburgh	10	4	2	48	46	22
Los Angeles	8	9	1	44	47	17	New Jersey	9	4	3	39	34	21
Calgary	7	10	1	42	60	15	Philadelphia	8	7	3	62	64	19
Vancouver	7	10	1	38	57	15	Columbus	8	4	2	47	33	18
Arizona	5	9	2	41	54	12	Carolina	5	6	4	39	46	14
							NY Islanders	5	8	3	40	51	13
Pacific Division							Atlantic Division						
Montreal	13	2	2	56	38	28	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)						

S AFRICA'S DU PLESSIS CHARGED WITH BALL TAMPERING

HOBART: South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has been charged with ball tampering during the second test against Australia in Hobart, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said yesterday.

The ICC announced on Wednesday that it would review footage of the match that appeared to show du Plessis applying saliva to the ball with a lolly in his mouth. "The charge relates to changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3 and has been laid by the ICC Chief Executive David Richardson who has exercised his right to do so," the ICC said in a statement.

"Du Plessis has pleaded not guilty to the charge ... Details of the hearing will be announced in due course," the governing body added.

If proven guilty, du Plessis could be handed a maximum fine of 100 percent match fee, two suspension points and four demerit points. Two suspension points equates to a ban of one test match.

Earlier in the day, Hashim Amla was accompanied at a media briefing by the entire South African squad and support staff to "show solidarity" with their captain. Amla said du Plessis has

done "absolutely nothing wrong". "The reason everybody is here is to stand together and to show solidarity to what has been something we actually thought was a joke. It's not April," Amla said, hours before the ICC charge was announced.

"But the allegations against Faf were really, for us, a ridiculous thing and as a team we are standing strong. For us it is basically a joke. The boys are here, standing strong."

The 32-year-old du Plessis, the stand-in captain for the injured AB de Villiers has previously been in hot

water for ball tampering.

In 2013, he was fined 50 percent of his match fee for ball tampering in the second test against Pakistan. He was caught on camera rubbing the ball against a zip on his pocket on the third day of the match in Dubai, leading umpires Ian Gould and Rod Tucker to penalise South Africa five runs and change the ball. Du Plessis did not contest the charge.

South Africa's innings and 80-run win over Australia in Hobart sealed the three-match test series with a game in hand. — Reuters



CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand's Jeet Raval (R) bats watched by Pakistan's Azhar Ali (L) during day two of the first cricket Test match between New Zealand and Pakistan at the Hagley Park in Christchurch yesterday. — AFP

KIWIS HOLD ADVANTAGE AFTER DEBUTANTS SHINE

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand debutants Colin de Grandhomme and Jeet Raval helped their side into a strong position at the close of the second day's play of the first test against Pakistan at Hagley Oval in Christchurch yesterday.

Left hand opening batsman Raval was on a composed 55, while Henry Nicholls was 29 not out as New Zealand were 104 for three at stumps, 29 runs behind Pakistan's first innings 133. Seam-bowling all-rounder De Grandhomme, a surprise selection, dominated the first two sessions as the 30-year-old's nagging line and length provided him with figures of six for 41, the best for a New Zealander on debut.

De Grandhomme became the eighth New Zealander to take a five-wicket haul on debut, doing just enough off the pitch and through the air to create doubt for Pakistan's batsmen in bowler-friendly conditions.

Pakistan's bowlers were also penetrating, with Mohammad Amir, Sohail Khan and Rahat Ali all taking a wicket in the final session as the hosts slumped to 40 for three when Ross Taylor fell for 11.

Amir had earlier trapped Tom Latham in front for one, before Sohail had New Zealand captain Kane Williamson caught at first slip by Sami Aslam for four.

Raval, who was on the tour of southern Africa earlier this year but did not play a test, was composed on debut as he left balls he needed to and put away the rare bad deliveries.

The 28-year-old, who also took three catches in the slips, brought up his first test half century from 89 balls when he dabbled Rahat behind point for two runs as he and Nicholls settled New Zealand's innings with an unbeaten 64-run stand.

The home side's bowlers had earlier made the most of Williamson winning the toss, reducing the visitors to 88 for four at lunch with De Grandhomme taking three wickets.

They continued to put pressure on Pakistan's batsmen during the middle session, with De Grandhomme completing his five-wicket haul when he had Sohail caught at short mid-wicket. The Aucklander then wrapped up the innings when Rahat Ali nicked behind to wicketkeeper BJ Watling for a five-ball duck.

Captain Misbah-ul-Haq provided the only real resistance for Pakistan with an obdurate 31 from 108 balls. Thursday's opening day was washed out. — Reuters

ASHWIN PUTS INDIA ON TOP IN SECOND TEST

VISAKHAPATNAM: Ravichandran Ashwin starred with the bat and ball to put India on top in the second Test as England's batsmen struggled against spin in their first innings reply on day two in Visakhapatnam yesterday.

England were reeling at 103 for five at stumps in response to India's first innings score of 455. The visitors still trail by 352 runs.

Ashwin, who scored a gritty half-century to propel the Indian score after skipper Virat Kohli's 167, claimed two wickets in the final session to rattle the English top-order.

Pace spearhead Mohammed Shami struck early to shatter skipper Alastair Cook's off stump in an early blow as England began their first innings reply before tea.

Shami bowled an inspired first spell with the new ball as he cleaned up Cook for two in the third over of the innings.

Shami's sensational delivery pitched on a good length before moving in a shade to hit the top of Cook's off stump and break it in two, leaving England 4-1.

Haseeb Hameed, who impressed on debut with a well-made 82 in the second innings of the Rajkot Test, put on 47 runs with Joe Root (53) in his bid to steady the innings.

But Hameed's resistance did not last long as he was run out for 13 after being sent back while attempting to take a second run.

Off-spinner Ashwin soon took charge to get Ben Duckett clean bowled for five and then got the big wicket of Root, who recorded his 24th Test half-century.

Root tried to counter the Indian spin attack during his 98-ball stay laced with six boundaries, but ran out of patience after giving away a catch to long-off.

Debutant off-spinner Jayant Yadav joined his senior partner from the other end to get his first Test wicket after trapping Moeen Ali lbw for one as England slipped to 80-5.

Stokes and Bairstow then played cautiously to see off the rest of the day's play with a 23-run unbeaten stand.

Earlier Ashwin, who scored 70 in the Rajkot Test, continued his good run of form with the bat before the hosts were bowled out in the afternoon session.

Ashwin's fighting 58 came after off-spinner Ali checked the Indian charge with three wickets in the morning ses-

sion, including Kohli, who added just 16 runs to his overnight 151.

Ashwin put on 64 runs for the eighth wicket with Jayant Yadav, who scored 35, guiding India to a respectable first innings score on a pitch that is expected

to offer turn as the match progresses.

Kohli's 226-run third-wicket partnership with Cheteshwar Pujara (119) on the opening day was the highlight of the Indian innings after the hosts elected to bat first. — AFP



VISAKHAPATNAM: India's Ravichandran Ashwin (2R) celebrates the wicket of England's Joe Root with captain Virat Kohli (L) and teammates during the second day of the second Test cricket match between India and England at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Vishakhapatnam yesterday. — AP

SCOREBOARD

VISAKHAPATNAM, India: Scoreboard at stumps on day two of the second cricket Test between India and England at Visakhapatnam on yesterday.

India 1st innings (overnight 317-4; V. Kohli 151 not out, R. Ashwin 1 not out)
M. Vijay c Stokes b Anderson 20
L. Rahul c Stokes b Broad 0
C. Pujara c Bairstow b Anderson 119
V. Kohli c Stokes b Ali 167
A. Rahane c Bairstow b Anderson 23
R. Ashwin c Bairstow b Stokes 58
W. Saha lbw b Ali 3
R. Jadeja lbw b Ali 0
J. Yadav c Anderson b Rashid 35
U. Yadav c Ali b Rashid 13
M. Shami not out 7
Extras (b4, lb5, w1) 10
Total (all out, 129.4 overs) 455
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Rahul), 2-22 (Vijay), 3-248 (Pujara), 4-316 (Rahane), 5-351 (Kohli), 6-363 (Saha), 7-363 (Jadeja), 8-427 (Ashwin), 9-440 (J. Yadav), 10-455 (U. Yadav)

Bowling: Anderson 20-3-62-3, Broad 16-2-49-1, Stokes, 20-4-73-1 (w1), Ansari 12-1-45-0, Rashid 34.4-2-110-2, Ali 25-1-98-3, Root 2-0-9-0.

England 1st innings:
A. Cook b Shami 2
H. Hameed run out (J.Yadav/Saha) 13
J. Root c U. Yadav b Ashwin 53
B. Duckett b Ashwin 5
M. Ali lbw b J. Yadav 1
B. Stokes not out 12
J. Bairstow not out 12
Extras (b 4, lb 1) 5
Total (5 wickets, 49 overs) 103
Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Cook), 2-51 (Hameed), 3-72 (Duckett), 4-79 (Root), 5-80 (Ali)
Bowling: Shami 8-2-15-1, U. Yadav 6-1-14-0, R. Jadeja 15-3-38-0, Ashwin 13-5-20-2, J. Yadav 7-3-11-1.

SUPER THAIS SEEK RECORD FIFTH SUZUKI CUP

MANILA: Thailand will seek to underline their supremacy in Southeast Asian football by retaining the Suzuki Cup, a tournament that draws passionate support and also close scrutiny for possible match-fixing.

The War Elephants are Southeast Asia's last team standing in qualifying for the 2018 World Cup, and they won new admirers in last week's 2-2 draw with Asian champions Australia. Thailand's smooth-passing, attack-minded team have contested the last two Suzuki Cup finals and they are bidding to become the first country to win the competition five times. But their coach Kiattisuk "Zico"

Senamuang said they would not be living on past glories when they open the tournament against Indonesia today.

"Statistics are in the past, we are looking at the present," the former Thailand striker told reporters in Manila. "Every team is strong, we would prefer to only focus on our team. We want to be champions but we will focus on the group stage first," added Kiattisuk.

Victory in the biennial tournament, split between Manila and Yangon, would make Thailand the first country to lift the trophy five times. This year, Thailand also made it to the Asian U23 final, while their women's team

reached the World Cup for the first time.

Thailand's star man is Teerasil Dangda, who top-scored at the 2008 and 2012 Suzuki Cups but missed their 2014 victory during his stint with La Liga club Almeria.

"(Twice) being the top scorer of the tournament was meaningless because we got nothing from it," said Teerasil, who bagged both of Thailand's goals last week against Australia. "I would prefer to win the tournament than be the top-scorer. I was disappointed not to have been in the squad last time." Thailand also play Singapore and co-hosts the Philippines in Group A, while

Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam are in Yangon-based Group B. Southeast Asian football attracts enormous support but it has frequently been plagued by match-fixing, as seen by the suspension of four Laos internationals earlier this month. Anti-corruption agency Sportradar will oversee the competition, monitoring hundreds of bookies for unusual betting patterns. "Sportradar's fraud detection system will notify the AFF (ASEAN Football Federation) if there are any suspicious betting patterns on any of the 12 group games or the six games in the knock-out stages," Sportradar said last week. —AFP

NBA results/standings

Washington 119, NY Knicks 112; Miami 96, Milwaukee 73; Houston 126, Portland 109; Minnesota 110, Philadelphia 86; Chicago 85, Utah 77.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	7	4	.636	-
Boston	6	5	.545	1
NY Knicks	5	7	.417	2.5
Brooklyn	4	7	.364	3
Philadelphia	2	10	.167	5.5

Central Division

Cleveland	9	2	.818	-
Chicago	8	4	.667	1.5
Detroit	6	6	.500	3.5
Indiana	6	6	.500	3.5
Milwaukee	5	6	.455	4

Southeast Division

Atlanta	9	2	.818	-
Charlotte	7	3	.700	1.5
Orlando	5	7	.417	4.5
Washington	3	8	.273	6
Miami	3	8	.273	6

Western Conference

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	7	5	.583	-
Portland	7	6	.538	0.5
Utah	7	6	.538	0.5
Denver	4	7	.364	2.5
Minnesota	4	7	.364	2.5

Pacific Division

LA Clippers	10	2	.833	-
Golden State	9	2	.818	0.5
LA Lakers	7	5	.583	3
Sacramento	4	8	.333	6
Phoenix	3	9	.250	7

Southwest Division

San Antonio	9	3	.750	-
Houston	7	5	.583	2
Memphis	6	5	.545	2.5
Dallas	2	8	.200	6
New Orleans	2	10	.167	7



HOUSTON: Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) brings the ball up the court as he is defended by Portland Trail Blazers guard Evan Turner (1) in the second half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday, in Houston. — AP

HARDEN HAS TRIPLE-DOUBLE AS ROCKETS BEAT BLAZERS

HOUSTON: James Harden posted his third triple double in five games and the Houston Rockets turned offensive blitzed in the first and third quarters into a 126-109 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night at Toyota Center. Harden totaled 26 points, 14 assists and 12 rebounds to pace the Rockets (7-5) while they shot 48.4 from the floor including 14 of 32 on 3-pointers. All five Houston starters reached double figures in points including guard Patrick Beverley, who scored 11 in his first start of the season following preseason left knee surgery. Forward Trevor Ariza scored 16 points while center Clint Capela added 15. Each chipped in seven boards. Guard Eric Gordon added 16 points off the Houston bench.

TIMBERWOLVES 110, 76ERS 86

Andrew Wiggins scored 35 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and 10 rebounds

in a matchup of star young centers as Minnesota cruised to a victory against Philadelphia. Wiggins added 10 rebounds and four assists, while shooting 14 of 20 as two of the four youngest teams in the NBA met for a nationally televised game showcasing the young skill of players like Wiggins, Towns and Philadelphia rookie center Joel Embiid. Gorgui Dieng had his fourth double-double of the season with 12 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, which won for the third time in five games. Dieng also helped limit Embiid to 10 points and 10 rebounds in 23 minutes of action. It's the second straight double-double for Embiid and his third of the season. But the 7-footer entered the game leading all rookies with 18 points per game.

HEAT 96, BUCKS 73

Dion Waiters scored 23 points and Miami

snapped a six-game losing streak with a win over Milwaukee at AmericanAirlines Arena. The losing skid was the longest since 2008 for the Heat. The Heat got some revenge against the Bucks, who had won their previous three meetings in Miami. Even with the win, the Heat is just 2-6 in their past eight games against the Bucks. Point guard Goran Dragic, who had missed the past three games due to an injured left ankle, returned to the starting lineup and contributed 16 points and four assists.

WIZARDS 119, KNICKS 112

John Wall had 23 points and 11 assists as Washington snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over New York. The Wizards returned home after a demoralizing 109-102 loss Wednesday to a one-win Philadelphia 76ers squad during which they trailed by as

many as 24 points. Washington reversed course dramatically by sinking 15 of 25 3-pointers and limiting New York's offense for most of the game.

BULLS 85, JAZZ 77

Jimmy Butler scored 20 points and Dwyane Wade added 18 to lead Chicago to its fourth consecutive victory, a decision over Utah. Robin Lopez added 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who won their third consecutive road game. Chicago overcame shooting 36.7 percent (33 of 90) from the floor by holding Utah to 38.5 percent (30 off 78) from the field. Rudy Gobert scored 16 points, collected 13 rebounds and blocked three shots to lead the Jazz. Dante Exum chipped in 14 points and Rodney Hood added 12 for Utah, which lost its second straight home game. —Reuters

BAYERN UNDER PRESSURE FOR 'BIGGEST CHALLENGE'

BERLIN: Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich face a stern challenge to their place at the top of the table this weekend when Carlo Ancelotti's Bavarian giants play Borussia Dortmund away today.

Bayern could be knocked from top spot even before kick-off if second-placed RB Leipzig pick up a point at Bayer Leverkusen on Friday night to extend their unbeaten record to 11 matches.

But all eyes will be on Dortmund, where the German league's top two strikers-Borussia's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Bayern's Robert Lewandowski-will go head-to-head. Fifth-placed Dortmund are six points behind Bayern in what promises to be a battle royal and between them, Aubameyang and Lewandowski have scored 18 league goals.

"It's not just the fans who look forward to this game, but the players as well," said

Bayern's Germany forward Thomas Mueller. "It's the best game of the year, because it's the hardest to win. "It's the biggest challenge." The battle of Germany's top two teams has been dubbed 'Der Klassiker' by the German media in recent years, but Dortmund's last league win over Bayern-home or away-was more than two years ago.

CLASSIC SHOWDOWN

Nevertheless, hosts Dortmund are eager for their first win over the Bavarians at Signal Iduna Park since April 2012. Both sides have stars with a point to prove against their former club. Bayern's Germany defender Mats Hummels can expect to face a cacophony of whistles and jeers every time the ex-Dortmund captain touches the ball. "If we lose then lots of teams, including Dortmund, will be very close behind us (in the table),"

said Hummels. Mario Goetze, who spent the last three seasons in Munich, will lead Dortmund's attack while defensive midfielder Sebastian Rode is hoping for a start against ex-club Bayern. Dortmund winger Marco Reus could make his first start of the season after a groin injury while Bayern have had both defender Jerome Boateng and winger Franck Ribery back in training after knocks.

Dutch winger Arjen Robben has been given the all clear after complaining of a sore thigh in the Netherlands' 3-1 win over Luxembourg tomorrow in a World Cup qualifier. But Bayern are waiting to hear if Arturo Vidal is fit after the Chile midfielder played in a mid-week World Cup qualifier while carrying an injury-despite requests not to do so from Bayern's chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"Best not to ask," Vidal told reporters after hurting his thigh during Chile's 3-1 win over

Uruguay, having also returned from international duty in October with an ankle injury.

Elsewhere, third-placed Hoffenheim, under Julian Nagelsmann, the youngest coach in Bundesliga history at 29, are at home to bottom side Hamburg on Sunday.

Hoffenheim are unbeaten this season and have caused opponents all manner of problems with a solid 3-5-2 formation. They held Bayern to a 1-1 draw last time out while Hamburg have yet to win a game this season.

Borussia Moenchengladbach have failed to win any of their last five games and they face Cologne on Saturday in the Rhineland derby.

Coach Andre Schubert is under pressure and his side needs a confidence-boosting win for next Wednesday's Champions League clash at home to Manchester City with Gladbach clinging on to third place in Group C. —AFP

ATLETICO SEEK REAL REVENGE IN LAST CALDERON DERBY

MADRID: Atletico Madrid host Real Madrid for the last time in La Liga at the Vicente Calderon today with the pain of a second Champions League final defeat in three years to their city rivals still fresh in the memory.

However, both sides have been troubled by severe injury problems with Atletico's top scorer Antoine Griezmann and Real captain Sergio Ramos facing a race against time to be fit.

Real lifted their 11th European Cup on penalties in the last meeting between the teams in May and Atletico are the more desperate side for more reasons than just revenge as Diego Simeone's men lie six points off the leaders at the top of the table. "There are scars that remain there and that we will never forget," said Atletico captain Gabi.

"They are bitter moments and above all they are hard because of what it meant to all Atletico fans."

Atletico are due to move to their new La Peineta stadium next season after 50 years at the Calderon.

And after two defeats in three games, Gabi believes victory is necessary to get back in the title hunt.

"That it is the last derby at the Calderon in La Liga makes it all the more exciting and special," he added. "If we win we are in the fight once more."

Griezmann returned from international duty with France with a severely bruised left foot, but has trained this week and is expected to start. Real are even more ravaged by injury with Toni Kroos, Casemiro and Alvaro Morata definitely sidelined. Ramos hasn't played since spraining knee ligaments over a month ago, but is aiming to return with his usual central defensive partner Pepe also a major doubt.

However, Madrid will have a fully-fit Luka Modric, who Gabi described as Real's "best player" free to start for the first time in nearly two months. Despite Real's European hoodoo over Atletico, it is the red and white side of Madrid that has dominated in recent seasons in league encounters. Atletico haven't lost a league derby in the past three seasons, including Zinedine Zidane's only La Liga defeat as Real boss in a 1-0 win at the Santiago Bernabeu back in February.

BARCA'S CHANCE

With their two major title rivals facing off, Barcelona have the chance to jump into top spot earlier on Saturday when Malaga visit the Camp Nou. Barca reversed a trend of poor results following international breaks with a 4-0 hammering of Deportivo la Coruna last month, but once again face being deprived of some of their South American stars. Luis Suarez is suspended, whilst Lionel Messi and Neymar only arrived back in Barcelona on Thursday after starring for Argentina and Brazil respectively in World Cup qualifying.

Paco Alcacer will start in Suarez's absence as he continues his search for a first Barca goal since a 30 million euro move from Valencia in August. Meanwhile, Barca should be boosted by the return of Gerard Pique and Jordi Alba from injury.

Sevilla will aim to remain in the title hunt and bounceback from a thrilling 2-1 defeat to Barca a fortnight ago when they visit Deportivo la Coruna.—AFP



LONDON: A combination of pictures created in London yesterday show Manchester United's Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho (L) arriving for the English League Cup fourth round match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England on October 26, 2016 and Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger (R) watching his players during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Arsenal at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on December 13, 2015. —AFP

WENGER, MOURINHO SET FOR OLD TRAFFORD REUNION

LONDON: The next chapter in one of the Premier League's most volatile managerial rivalries will be written this weekend when Arsene Wenger's Arsenal visit Jose Mourinho's Manchester United.

Sparks often fly when the pair are obliged to share a touchline, typified by a notorious shoving match during a Chelsea-Arsenal fixture at Stamford Bridge two years ago.

Wenger has never beaten Mourinho in the league and has been branded a "specialist in failure" by his Portuguese nemesis, but with Arsenal six points above United, he currently has the upper hand.

"You know, we didn't lose always," Wenger said when asked about his record against Mourinho on Thursday.

"We have beaten them and there were many draws as well. I think I have won against every manager in the world during my 20 years here and I do not make of this game a competition between two managers. "It's between two clubs and two teams. I can understand that people want

to create controversy, but it's not that that makes the audience. "I think it's important that it's a top-level game because that will be watched all over the world and for the reputation of the Premier League, it's important that the quality of the game is good." Wenger intends to make a late check on the fitness of Alexis Sanchez, who is not due to report back from international duty with Chile.

Sanchez scored twice for Chile in a 3-1 World Cup qualifying win over Uruguay on Tuesday, despite Wenger warning beforehand it would be "suicidal" for him to play due to a hamstring problem.

Arsenal will be definitely be without right-back Hector Bellerin and central midfielder Santi Cazorla, who have ankle and Achilles problems respectively.

But Wenger's selection problems pale by comparison beside Mourinho's, amid reports the United manager could be without up to seven first-team players. Centre-backs Eric Bailly and Chris Smalling will miss the game through injury, along

with suspended top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic. There also fitness doubts over captain Wayne Rooney, midfielder Marouane Fellaini and full-backs Antonio Valencia and Luke Shaw.

With Saturday's game taking place at lunchtime, victory for Arsenal would lift Wenger's side to the top of the standings and leave United a yawning nine points off the pace. Liverpool, the current leaders, will look to pick up where they left off prior to the international break when they visit Southampton later today.

Jürgen Klopp's crowd-pleasing side have won seven and drawn two of their last nine league games, culminating in a 6-1 demolition of Watford last time out.

Adam Lallana is likely to miss out for Liverpool after sustaining a groin injury during England's 2-2 friendly draw with Spain on Tuesday, in which he scored.

But Klopp is hopeful Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino will both be able to feature after jetting back from international duty with Brazil.—AFP

SPURS HOPE KANE FIT FOR WEST HAM DERBY DATE

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino is crossing his fingers Harry Kane will be fit enough to feature in all three of his side's high-profile fixtures over the next week.

The Premier League's only remaining unbeaten team host West Ham United in today's evening fixture and go into battle in another London derby at Chelsea a week later.

In between is a Champions League trip to Monaco, which will also present a thorough test of Spurs' credentials at a time when a number of key men are absent through injury.

Kane has played just one match since being sidelined by an ankle injury in September, the 1-1 draw at Arsenal immediately prior to the international break. He did not feature in England's 3-0 win over Scotland in World Cup qualifying last Friday and was sent back to Spurs to continue his rehabilitation prior to Tuesday's 2-2 friendly draw with Spain. "The training during the week was good after he came back from the national team," Pochettino said. "He felt a bit tired because training has been hard from Monday until today (Thursday).

"To play 90 minutes? We don't know because we need to manage the next few games. We have Monaco and then Chelsea and we will see what happens during the game.

"But it's true he's in a good condition like he was against Arsenal when we decided he could play." Pochettino faces a similar dilemma with midfielder Dele Alli, who is close to recovering from a knee problem. "We need to assess him," said the Argentine. "He showed he is in very good condition. We need to analyse if we take a risk or not, or if he is on the bench and we protect him for Tuesday or next week. "It was not a big issue. If not for Saturday, he will be available in the squad for Tuesday (against Monaco)."

BILIC FRONTS UP

Defenders Toby Alderweireld and Ben Davies plus winger Erik Lamela have already been ruled out of the West Ham game on fitness grounds.

West Ham will arrive at White Hart Lane still struggling at the wrong end of the table despite suffering only one loss in their last six games.

Manager Slaven Bilic admits a side

that qualified for the Europa League last season are still stuck in a relegation battle. "We are 17th, and if you are 17th you are very close to relegation and we have to improve even more," he said.

"On one hand, the worst thing to do is lose confidence and doubt yourselves individually and as a group.

"On the other hand, you can't keep talking and saying, 'The table doesn't matter, we are a good team and we will click.' "We need to win games because the other teams are also getting unexpected results, which are getting them points. We have improved a lot since the last international break.

"We took seven points from four games and beat Chelsea in the (League) Cup, were much better in every aspect of the game, clean sheets and a few good performances.

"But if we look at the table, we are still in a position we don't want to be."

Captain Mark Noble is suspended and a number of experienced campaigners still injured, but defender Winston Reid has been passed fit. Striker Diafra Sakho, missing since the end of last season with a back problem, could be on the bench. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE			
Man United v Arsenal	15:30	beIN SPORTS 2 HD	beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN
Everton v Swansea City	18:00	beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Southampton v Liverpool	18:00	beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Sunderland v Hull City	18:00	beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Crystal Palace v Man City	18:00	beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Watford v Leicester City	18:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Stoke City v Bournemouth	18:00	beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
Tottenham v West Ham United	20:30	beIN SPORTS 2 HD	beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN
SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA DIV. 1			
Deportivo v Sevilla	15:00	beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Barcelona v Malaga	18:15	beIN SPORTS 3 HD	beIN SPORTS 17 HD ES
Eibar v Vigo	20:30	beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Atletico v Real Madrid	22:45	beIN SPORTS 3 HD	beIN SPORTS 17 HD ES
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE SERIE A			
Chievo Verona v Cagliari	17:00	beIN SPORTS	
Udinese v Napoli	20:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Juventus v Pescara	22:45	beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA 1ST DIV.			
Wolfsburg v Schalke	17:30	beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Borussia Monch' v Koln	17:30	beIN SPORTS	
Mainz v Freiburg	17:30	beIN SPORTS	
Augsburg v Hertha Berlin	17:30	beIN SPORTS	
Darmstadt v Ingolstadt	17:30	beIN SPORTS	
Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munich	20:30	beIN SPORTS	
FRENCH LEAGUE 1ST DIV.			
Paris Saint-Germain v Nantes	19:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Nancy Lorraine v Dijon	22:00	beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Bastia v Montpellier	22:00	beIN SPORTS	
Toulouse v Metz	22:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Stade Rennes v Angers	22:00	beIN SPORTS 1 HD	



SANT JOAN DESPI: FC Barcelona's Arda Turan, center, controls the ball during a training session at the Sports Center FC Barcelona Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi, Spain, yesterday. —AP

'NEW VARDY' SET FOR LEICESTER RETURN AT WATFORD

WATFORD: A two-week break from Premier League action has brought good news and bad for flagging champions Leicester City, who visit Watford today.

A 2-1 defeat at home to West Bromwich Albion sent Claudio Ranieri's men into the international break just two points above the relegation zone and with injury issues piling up.

But an England goal for Jamie Vardy, ending a two-month drought, has given the Foxes a timely boost ahead of their trip to Vicarage Road.

"It was important for him and important for everybody to score," said manager Ranieri.

"Of course he never spoke about it, but I know goalscorers always wants to score. Now we'll see a new Vardy."

Goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel (broken hand) and close-season signing Nampalys Mendy (ankle) remain out and key midfielder Danny Drinkwater is a doubt with a rib injury.

But while Drinkwater was sitting out England's games against Scotland and Spain, Vardy was scoring for the first time in 15 games in the 2-2 draw with the Spaniards at Wembley on Tuesday.

Having being dropped for his side's last two Premier League games, the talisman of last season's title triumph is set for a recall.

"Yes, I think he will have a run of games now," said Ranieri. "He can play normally now."

Vardy went 14 games for club and country without a goal after scoring for Leicester in their 4-1 defeat at Liverpool in September.

Vardy said: "It's just always good to get that goal. That one is in the back of the net now and hopefully I can kick on and start putting more away.

"The gaffer (manager) spoke to us, the strikers. The way we play, we can't get all of us on the pitch and that's just football. "That's how it is. If I'm on the bench then it's up to me to make an impact if I come on." —AFP

Sports



Wenger, Mourinho set for Old Trafford reunion

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CHARLOTTE: Carolina Panthers' Jonathan Stewart (28) dives over the goal line for a touchdown against the New Orleans Saints in the first half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday. — AP

PANTHERS BEAT SAINTS 23-20

CHARLOTTE: When Luke Kuechly was carted off the field with a concussion, the tears streaming down his face as he left, it appeared the Carolina Panthers might be ready for another collapse. Their defensive leader was gone and another big fourth-quarter lead was crumbling. Instead, the Panthers did just enough to hold on and beat the New Orleans Saints 23-20 on Thursday night in a game marred by injuries to key players. When Kuechly went down the lead was at 10, and players gathered around him as he was put on a cart near midfield.

Carolina would give up another score, but hold on for its third win in four games. "We rally behind that guy," defensive end Charles Johnson said about Kuechly. "He's our leader. When you see a leader go down like that, we just rally behind him. I'm keeping Luke in my prayers." The Panthers, who surrendered a 17-point lead and lost to the Kansas City Chiefs last week, entered the fourth quarter with a 23-3 lead before injuries began to take

their toll. Along with Kuechly, the Panthers lost two-time All-Pro center Ryan Kalil (shoulder), top pass rusher Mario Addison (foot) and cornerback Leonard Johnson (chest) to injuries. The Saints lost running back Mark Ingram to a head injury in the third quarter.

"It was the Grim Reaper walking around out there," Panthers quarterback Cam Newton said. Saints quarterback Drew Brees seemed to seize the momentum. Brees, who had been held to 171 yards and no touchdowns in the first three quarters, rallied the Saints back to 23-20 with touchdown passes to Brandon Coleman and Coby Fleener.

But an 18-yard reception by Kelvin Benjamin on a third-and-10 with 2:39 left in the game proved pivotal, taking enough time off the clock where Brees only had 14 seconds to work with on his final drive. He couldn't manage to get his team into field goal range.

Newton finished 14 of 33 for 192 yards, including a 40-yard touchdown pass to Ted

Ginn Jr. as the Panthers (4-6) pulled even with the Saints for third place in the NFC South. "Our mantra is to Keep Pounding and it speaks volumes in situations like this," Newton said. "I will take an ugly win over a pretty loss." Jonathan Stewart also ran for a touchdown and Graham Gano had three field goals. Carolina's next two games are on the West Coast - at Oakland and Seattle. "Hopefully, the time off will give us enough time to heal up for this long road trip," safety Kurt Coleman said. "And also you wonder if it wasn't a Thursday game and it was a Sunday game, would there be these type of injuries? You never know. ... I'm just going to pray for everybody. Not only our team but their team."

BETTER DEFENSE

Brees finished with 285 yards passing. That was a dramatic difference from the last time the two teams met on Oct. 16 when Brees threw for 465 yards and four touchdowns in a 41-38 win over the Panthers.

"They did exactly what we hoped and that was keep the ball in front of them," Rivera said of his young secondary. "You can't ask for the guys to do a better job."

KICKING WOES

Saints coach Sean Payton was upset after the game about the team's continuing struggles on special teams, including a blocked field goal that was returned 73 yards by Kuechly before the half to set up Ginn's touchdown catch. Last week the Saints lost to Denver when a potential game-tying extra point was blocked and returned for a 2-point defensive conversion. "Fundamentally we've got to be able to kick an extra point. ... We've got to be able to, you know, kick a field goal that's a makeable one," Payton said. "We've just struggled in that area. It cost us at New York, it cost us last weekend (against) Denver and it cost us again tonight. And we've got to be smart enough in the game early to understand that the turnovers aren't good."—AP