



Kuwaitis head to polls to elect new Assembly



Myanmar pursues 'ethnic cleansing' of Rohingyas: UN



Record man Rooney lifts Man United



TWO MEN, ONE WOMAN KILLED IN SALWA FLAT

ONE MAN SURVIVES, INFORMS POLICE • TWO SUSPECTS HELD



150 Files



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Damaged trains are seen following an accident in Semnan province, some 250 km east of the Iranian capital Tehran. —AFP

44 DEAD AS IRAN TRAINS COLLIDE

ANKARA: Forty-four people were killed and 103 injured when one Iranian passenger train collided with another at a station about 250 km east of the capital Tehran, state media reported. "I was sleeping when the crash happened. I thought it was an air strike ... When I opened my eyes, there was blood everywhere," a hospitalized passenger told state television. State television footage showed four derailed carriages, two of them on fire and a spokesman for Iran's Red Crescent, Mostafa Mortazavi, told the semi-official Fars news agency that firefighters were trying to control the blaze.

A senior health ministry official later announced via Tasnim news agency that rescue operations had been completed and the final death toll was 44. An investigation into the cause of the crash in the northern province of Semnan was continuing. Semnan provincial governor Mohammad Reza Khabbaz told Iranian television it appeared that a train entering the Haft-Khan station on the outskirts of Shahrud ploughed into another that had broken down there.

"The initial investigation suggests that a mechanical failure, possibly caused by cold weather, forced the express train, operating between the cities of Tabriz and Mashhad, to stop (at Haft-Khan)," Khabbaz said. Tabriz state governor Rahim Shohratifar told Tasnim that the moving train had 400 passengers. It was not clear how many passengers were on the stationary train. Fars earlier reported that 100 passengers had been rescued. Semi-official Mehr news agency said four of the dead were railway employees

aboard the trains.

Later in the day, President Hassan Rouhani issued a statement offering his condolences to the victims' families and assigned senior vice-president Eshagh Janahgiri to lead an investigation and identify those responsible for the incident. Meanwhile, the minister for roads and urban development, Abbas Akhondi, postponed his visit to Turkmenistan to visit the site of the accident. A parliament representative for the region, Gholam Reza Kateb, hinted that the head of the Semnan train station may have mistakenly allowed the train to proceed prematurely.

Iran's rail network aged badly under economic sanctions imposed over its disputed nuclear program, making it difficult to modernize rolling stock, and safety standards suffered. The sanctions were lifted in January after Iran reached a deal with world powers to limit its nuclear activity. Iranian trains have been involved in four collisions this year with road vehicles, including a crash with a truck in July that left around 30 injured near the Caspian Sea in the northern province of Mazandaran.

Collisions between trains have been rarer. In the country's deadliest rail disaster, 328 people were killed when a train transporting sulfur, petrol and fertilizers exploded in northern Iran on Feb 18, 2004. Iran's roads are also notoriously deadly, mainly because drivers show scant regard for rules, with 16,000 lives lost in the Iranian year between March 2015 and March 2016. — Agencies

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two Kuwaiti men and an Indonesian woman were found dead in an apartment in Salwa, a statement by the interior ministry said yesterday. The ministry's media and public relations department said police officers also found an injured Indian man at the scene of the crime. He informed the police about the three dead bodies, said the ministry, adding that forensic teams arrived at the scene and an investigation was launched to determine what took place. The injured man was taken to Mubarak Hospital for treatment and is in stable condition, added the statement.

According to informed sources, one of the Kuwaiti men was a 58-year-old member of the ruling family. He was shot in the neck. The other male victim, aged 68, was gagged and shot in the face. The 46-year-old Indonesian woman was gagged and bound and was shot in the mouth. The Indian man, aged 45, survived after being shot in the back.

Another source said that the ruling family member's secretary had withdrawn KD 450,000 from the bank and given it to the sheikh a few hours before the killings. Later yesterday, sources said two people have been arrested in connection with the murders.

KUWAIT FACING EXCLUSION FROM 2019 ASIAN CUP

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait will be removed from the 2019 Asian Cup if it is still suspended by FIFA on Dec 18. The Asian Football Confederation set the deadline yesterday, giving Kuwait three weeks to resolve a government-imposed law affecting the independence of national sports bodies. FIFA suspended the Kuwait Football Association in Oct 2015 when the national team was midway through a 2018 World Cup qualifying group. Despite Kuwait forfeiting three matches, it still finished third in a five-team group and advanced to an Asian Cup qualifying group stage.

The AFC wants clarity one month before making the 24-team draw in January. The 2019 Asian Cup will be in the United Arab Emirates. Kuwait's national Olympic committee has also been suspended by the IOC since last year for breaching rules that prohibit government interference. Kuwait athletes competed at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic under the Olympic flag and not as a national team.

On Thursday, authorities dissolved the boards of the gymnastics and squash federations, citing "administrative and financial irregularities". The sports authority issued a decree dissolving the boards of the two federations, as well as that of the hunting and equestrian club, which stands as a federation by itself. The Public Authority for Sports appointed temporary committees to run the federations. The move follows earlier controversial decisions to dissolve the federations of basketball, swimming and judo. Authorities sent in police in August to take over Kuwait's Olympic Committee and the Kuwait Football Association. — Agencies



KUWAIT: Speakers are seen during a symposium on the US-GCC relations under JASTA held on the sidelines of Kuwait International Book Fair. —KUNA

JASTA RUNS COUNTER TO LEGAL PRINCIPLES: ACADEMICS

KUWAIT: Two Kuwaiti professors agreed Thursday evening that the US Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) violates the basic principles of the international law and relations. Dr Abdullah Al-Shaiji, professor of political science at Kuwait University, argued that the JASTA lacks many legal principles and poses a threat to foreign investment in the United States.

Speaking at a symposium on 'the US-GCC relations under JASTA' on the sidelines of Kuwait International Book Fair, Dr Al-Shaiji said several countries reduced their investments from the United States following the passing of the controversial act earlier this year.

"The act has had a negative impact on the anti-terror cooperation as well," he pointed out. "The United States will bear the brunt of the JASTA backfire if the act takes forces since there are signs that some countries started

mulling tit-for-tat legislations," he cautioned. Dr Al-Shaiji expected that the new US administration and Congress will reconsider the act.

Meanwhile, KU professor of international law Dr Ahmad Al-Samdan agreed that JASTA lacks the simplest legal principles. "It is totally unjustifiable to sue a country for individual behaviors by its nationals as long as there is no evidence of direct or indirect involvement by its government in any crime," he stressed.

"JASTA will have adverse political and economic impacts on the United States which will definitely lose the confidence of many partners around the world," Samdan warned. The act, passed by the US Congress in September, entitles the families of September 11 victims to sue foreign governments for damages. The 41st edition of Kuwait International Book Fair opened on November 16 and lasts until Saturday; it gathered 565 publishers from 30 countries. —KUNA



CANADA, GCC EAGER TO BOOST TIES: SHUGART

WASHINGTON: Canada is keen on boosting relations with the GCC countries on all possible fields, said Ian Shugart, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, late Thursday. This statement came during Shugart's participation in a Canada-GCC luncheon hosted by Kuwait's Ambassador to Canada Abdulhameed Al-

Feilikawi, said the Kuwaiti embassy. The embassy added that the event included discussions on topics of mutual interest. The gathering is part of the strategic dialogue memo signed between Canada and the GCC states during a meeting the Saudi city of Jeddah back in May. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi inaugurated the Jaber Al-Ahmed Dental Center on Thursday. The center is part of the Jaber Hospital, which is set to be inaugurated later this year. Obaidi told reporters during the event that a committee was formed to find out the best ways to assign an international management team to run the hospital. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



ALL PROCEDURES IN PLACE FOR PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS: MOH

KUWAIT: All health precautions and measures have been completed in time for the parliamentary elections today, the Ministry of Health (MoH) announced on Thursday. In a statement to the press, the MoH's Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi said that a higher health committee dealing with the elections will oversee 61 medical facilities in the nation's five electoral constituencies. He noted that the ministry would also be providing five ambulances, besides 344 emergency units and 144 nurses, all of whom will be on duty during Election Day. On the precautions, the health official said that around 120 personnel will inspect food security and hygiene conditions in polling stations nationwide during through the day. Sahlawi urged citizens to dial the following hotline numbers, 112 or 132 in case of any health emergencies. —KUNA



MoH's Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi

32 SPORTS BODIES TO PARTAKE IN NATIONAL SPORTS DAY: COMMITTEE

KUWAIT: At least 32 sports bodies, including 24 federations and 8 clubs, will take part in the National Sports Day (NSD) to be organized on December 17, Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) Deputy Chairman Duaij Al-Otaibi said yesterday.

The activities of NSD to be sponsored by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah will witness the participation of some government bodies, including ministries of Interior, Education, Information and Health as well as Public Authority for Sport, he added in a press statement. The federations and clubs proposed organizing some sports competitions over several days at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, noted Al-Otabi, also head of Kuwait Shooting Federation and Arab Shooting Federation. The winners of all contests will be honored at the conclusion of the event, he said, indicating that the NSD will include soccer and athletics contests as well as entertainment activities.

Otaibi said the KOC chaired by Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah is keen on upgrading the sports development on all levels, affirming that this would be reflected in the major event which will be held for the first time in Kuwait. He lauded the support of Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud who is paying much attention to this event, expressing his gladness for the big participation of sports bodies and clubs. —KUNA

MUNICIPALITY REMOVES 27 ILLEGAL ELECTORAL ADS IN MUBARAK AL-KABEER

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality has removed 27 illegal electoral ads from the streets of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, it said yesterday. The emergency team of the governorate's municipality department have taken away the 27 unlicensed electoral ads of candidates standing for the 2016 National Assembly (parliament) elections slated for today, November 26, Mubarak Al-Kabeer's public relations section added in a brief statement. It noted that work would continue targeting any other illegal ads.

On Wednesday, it was announced that the municipality monitoring bodies had removed

61 illegal electoral ads in Mubarak Al-Kabeer in two days, in addition to 548 in Al Farwaniyah Governorate since the election campaigns kicked off. Kuwait Municipality had urged the candidates to abide by the relevant laws to secure a smooth electoral process.

On Thursday, Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said in a press statement that no effort was spared to depict a favorable and democratic image of Kuwait through today's elections. Manfouhi added that some 5,953 illegal advertisements were removed. —KUNA



KUWAITIS HEAD TO POLLS TO ELECT NEW PARLIAMENT

A LOOK BACK AT KUWAIT'S ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis are set to head to the polls today to elect 50 members of the National Assembly in parliamentary elections that will set in motion parliament's 15th legislative term. Some 293 candidates, are vying for the much coveted seat in parliament, where the 483,186-strong electorate will vote for 50 candidates representing the nation's electorate constituencies, under the watchful eye of 15,000 security forces.

Moreover, males comprise 47.68 percent of the electorate, while females make up 52.31 percent. The elections are taking place as per law number 42/2006 which deals with reshaping the electoral constituencies, where each constituency will field a total of 10 candidates in which the electorate can only vote for one candidate per constituency. On October 16, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah issued a decree dissolving parliament, citing volatile regional conditions and mounting security challenges.

In 1963, Kuwait's inaugural parliament was elected in an event that ushered in democracy, where 205 candidates vied for 50 seats in the country's first parliament. On December 16, 1980, by virtue of an Amiri decree, Kuwait was divided into 25 electoral constituencies, a system that produced seven legislative terms. As per clause number 80 of the constitution, parliament is made up of 50 MPs who are chosen through parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, on August 1, 2006, His Highness the Amir issued law number 42/2006, which reshaped the electoral constituencies in a way where voters are permitted to vote for four candidates per the constituency they are registered in.

On May 17, 2008, the first election under that system was held after parliament was dissolved in 2006, followed by elec-

tions held in 2009 under the same format. In February 2012, elections took place using the same system. However, after parliament was dissolved in 2012, the system was amended again where the electorate can only vote for one candidate in five different electoral constituencies.

As per clause 83 of the constitution, a single parliamentary term lasts for four years, where it is authorized to issue a raft of legislative and inspective decisions. However, no law can be implemented without the approval of Parliament and His Highness the Amir.

Furthermore, the National Assembly's legislative authority is tasked with implementing legal decisions, including political ones, where no law can be finalized without the approval of Parliament and His Highness the Amir.

Parliamentary decisions regarding financial affairs typically deal with the national budget, in addition to that of the Parliament. His Highness the Amir reserves the right to dissolve parliament with a law clarifying the reasons behind the dissolution, where elections are then held no later than two months after the dissolution.

As per clause 31 of election laws, ballots open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p. m., however, if the entire electorate have casted their votes before the end of the allotted period, then ballots will officially close, subsequently initiating the vote tallying process.

There are a total of 89 delegates in the First Constituency, divided over 16 schools. The Second Constituency features 66 delegates, with 96 and 143 delegates in the Third and Fourth Constituencies, respectively. Lastly, the Fifth Constituency comprises 148 delegates. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi chairs a municipality meeting on Thursday.



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Germany to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner (center) welcomes Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub (left) and Serbian Ambassador Vladimir Kohut. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



GERMAN EMBASSY HOSTS ANNUAL CHARITY BAZAAR

KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Germany to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner hosted the German Embassy's annual Christmas charity bazaar at his residence yesterday morning. Several diplomats were invited to the event. The returns from this year's bazaar will go for Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH), as well as Syrian refugees in Germany.



KUWAIT TO HOST FIRST 'ITALIAN WEEK'

FROM NOVEMBER 27TH TO DECEMBER 4TH

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Italy in Kuwait is glad to announce that the first 'Italian Week' in Kuwait will take place from November 27th until December 4th.

It is with great satisfaction that we launch this initiative this year when Kuwait is the capital of the Islamic

culture and, thanks to the vision of His Highness the Amir, great importance is being given to the development of cultural relations.

The 'Italian Week' is a multi-faceted event that aims to bring 'more Italy in Kuwait', concentrating in the space of a week an articulated

range of art exhibitions, concerts, lectures, a photo contest, a soccer tournament and various promotional activities of the 'made in Italy' designed to further increase the excellent relations between Italy and Kuwait and to broaden the knowledge of areas of excellence, as well as of less known facts about our 'Bel Paese' (Beautiful Country). The full program of the event is available on the website of this Embassy: www.ambkuwait.esteri.it as well as on Instagram: @italyinkwt.

Italy is the third largest eurozone economy and the eighth in the world, a domestic market of 60 million people, a gateway to 500 million consumers from EU and 270 million from North Africa and the Middle East. It is also the second manufacturing country in Europe, with a unique know-how in strategic industries, from machineries to automation, from aerospace industry to shipbuilding, from health to bio-medicine, in addition to the sectors for which Italy is famous in the world, like fashion, design, cars, cuisine, agricultural and food industry.

In Italy, there are research and development centers of excellence and more than 20 Italian universities that are ranked among the best 500 in the world. The quality of life that Italy can offer, with its landscapes, arts, history, culture and cuisine is unique and unrivaled. Therefore, we wish that this initiative will attract the enthusiastic participation of our Kuwaiti friends, and in particular of young people.

A special thanks goes, first of all, to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, for the important support in the organization of three beautiful concerts. Then, to our generous sponsors, who helped us to make this Italian Week come true.



KUWAIT: Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Scognamiglio (left) speaks during a press conference held Thursday to announce the first Italian Week to be hosted in Kuwait. — Photo by Joseph Shagra



Some flyers promoting special events to be held as part of the 'Italian Week.'

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Stars illuminate the night sky in Al-Salmi desert west of Kuwait - a popular site for star gazing. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah inaugurates Al-Farwaniya Security Directorate's new building. — KUNA

MINISTER INAUGURATES NEW PREMISES OF FARWANIYA SECURITY DIRECTORATE

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah inaugurated Thursday Al-Farwaniya Security Directorate's new building. Speaking to reporters during the opening ceremony, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled stated the new building comes within the framework of a series of projects to revamp security facilities nationwide.

The recent security developments require readiness and vigilance to ensure the safety of the nation, he said, stressing the importance of reinforcing initiative-taking behavior among security personnel and training them on taking charge of security actions to enable them to face challenges with high efficiency, he said.

The Kuwaiti political leadership strongly backs the security institution's efforts to retain the country and people's security, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled affirmed. The supreme leadership's support has enabled security men to attain a number of goals during the past period in various fields,

he said, noting that these security achievements have gained the appreciation and respect of the Kuwaiti people.

Meanwhile, the minister praised the plans and measures taken by security bodies for the upcoming parliamentary elections, pointing out Kuwaiti security

institutions' experience and efficiency in dealing with such an event.

He also expressed his hope that this year's election meets people's aspirations, and that the ministry achieves its goal of serving the Kuwaiti people and preserve their safety and security during the electoral process. — KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah tours Al-Farwaniya Security Directorate's new building.

AL-SUMAIT UNIVERSITY IN ZANZIBAR: A RESPECTFUL EDUCATION FACILITY

ZANZIBAR: It is well known that knowledge and education are important tools for the progress and prosperity of any nation and with that fact in mind, Kuwait continues to provide educational assistance to the African continent.

One of the most important Kuwaiti institutes that propagated the cause of education in Africa was Al-Sumait University in Zanzibar, Tanzania, which is named after the late Kuwaiti philanthropist Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumait.

Deputy head of the University Dr Adel Hussain said that the university, established in 1998, only housed one facility that taught the Arabic language and Islamic studies with a mere 25 students receiving education back then.

From 2001 onwards, the university continued to grow until it received recognition from the supreme Tanzanian educational authorities, said Dr Hussain who revealed that the institute now has some 1,000 students enrolled.

Dr Hussain said that the university, which has an academic staff of 50 lecturers, offered now some 14 majors for students to pursue their education, affirming that this would not have happened without the generous aid of the Kuwaiti leadership and people.

Some 3,400 students have graduated from Al-Sumait

University so far and that is all thanks to late Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumait who first planted the seeds of this successful university, said Dr Hussain. Al-Sumait University falls under the jurisdiction of the Direct Aid Society which began its operations in 1981. It is a Non-Government Organization (NGO). — KUNA



News

in brief

KUWAIT CONTACTS BOSNIAN AUTHORITIES OVER DETAINEE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina Nasser Al-Mutairi said the embassy has been in contact with the Bosnian authorities since the Kuwaiti national Mohammad Al-Mutairi was detained. The embassy is doing its utmost to review the sentence issued for the citizen and ensure his early release, the ambassador said in a statement released Thursday night. — KUNA

Diwan mourns Sheikh

KUWAIT: The Amiri Diwan mourned yesterday the passing of Sheikh Sabah Mubarak Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, aged 58. Sheikh Sabah Mubarak Al-Sabah will be laid to rest today after the Asr (afternoon) prayer. — KUNA

Oil exporting contracts

KUWAIT: Kuwait's crude oil exporting contracts have recently increased 28 percent with Japan, and 65 percent with Taiwan, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced Thursday. KPC's marketing team has succeeded in increasing the contract volume of Kuwaiti crude oil with JX Nippon Oil and Gas Exploration Corporation, considered as Japan's number one company in refining potency and operations volume, and Chinese Petroleum Corporation (CPC), which is a major state-run company in Taiwan, the Kuwaiti corporation said in a press statement. — KUNA

MIT picks Sheikha

KUWAIT: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has chosen General Supervisor of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya (DAI) Sheikha Hessa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to be a member of its consultant committee, among elites in culture, science and education. MIT has picked Sheikha Hessa as a visiting member in its consultant committee at the department of architectural engineering, DAI announced in a press statement yesterday. Sheikha Hessa will be the first Arab lady in a committee of creme de la creme of educational experts. The consultant committee will offer recommendations on the academic development of MIA; an institute of which 85 members of its teaching staff are Nobel Prize holders. — KUNA

Kuwaiti astronomer honored

DUBAI: The Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department (IACAD) of the Government of Dubai awarded Dr Saleh Al-Ajiri, a Kuwait astronomer, for his efforts in setting the exact timings of prayers. The honoring took place on the fringes of a forum on the standards of the timings of prayers in the presence of Khaled Al-Jom'an - an astronomer at Saleh Al-Ajiri's observatory, and IACAD Director-General Dr Hamad Al-Shaibani. Jom'an who received the award on behalf of Dr Al-Ajiri, said Dr Al-Ajiri dedicated nearly 70 years of his lifetime in setting the Higrri (Arabic lunar) calendar in a precise and scientific way. "Dr Al-Ajiri's professionalism enriched the astronomical techniques in the Arabian Gulf region," Jom'an said. — KUNA

2nd school in Anbar

BAGHDAD: Kuwait Society for Relief opened Thursday the second elementary caravan school for the internally displaced persons in an area around Anbar province, western Iraq, as part of its 'Kuwait by Your Side' campaign. The school was inaugurated at one of the displaced families' camps in Khalidiya city, eastern Anbar, The United Iraqi Medical Society for Relief and Development (UIMS) said in a statement, adding that it consists of 18 classrooms and accommodates 1,225 male/female students. On November 5th, 'Kuwait by Your Side' campaign opened the first caravan school for the displaced Iraqi families in Amiriyah district of Fallujah city. — KUNA

International

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HAIFA: Palestinian firefighters help extinguish a fire in this northern Israeli city following a wildfire yesterday. —AFP

ISRAEL ARRESTS 13 OVER ARSON

FOREIGN FIREFIGHTERS HELP COMBAT WILDFIRE PLAGUE

JERUSALEM: Israeli police arrested 13 people yesterday on suspicion of arson, authorities said, after massive wildfires tore through central and northern Israel, a conflagration that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu branded as "terrorism". Firefighters kept battling the flames in wooded hills around Jerusalem and in northern areas on Friday, with support from Palestinian firemen and emergency teams from Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Italy, Russia and Turkey. Netanyahu said he had also accepted offers of help from Egypt and Jordan.

On the ground, Palestinian firefighters on Thursday night joined the Israelis, sending four fire engines to the northern city of Haifa and four more to the village of Beit Meir, near Jerusalem. In the cooperative village of religious Jews, where about 400 residents were evacuated from their homes, Israeli and Palestinian crews fought side by side against the flames.

Unseasonably dry weather and easterly winds helped kindle the fires, which erupted on Tuesday and now stretch across half the country. Arson appeared to be behind some

of the blazes, Netanyahu said. "A price will be paid for this arson-terrorism," he told reporters yesterday. He said the arson was carried out by "elements with great hostility toward Israel." "We cannot tell yet if this is organized, but we can see a number of cells operating," Netanyahu said.

Accusations

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said a dozen people had been detained either while attempting to set fires or fleeing the area, but he provided no further details. Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan told reporters 13 people were arrested. Erdan said those arrested were "minorities", an allusion to either Arab Israeli citizens or Palestinians. "The highest likelihood is that the motive is nationalistic," Erdan told Army Radio. Police, however, stopped short of declaring any motive. The fires are the biggest in the country since 2010, when 44 people were killed in a massive blaze in the north. Investigators concluded that fire was caused by negligence.

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, leader

of a far-right party, said on Thursday the fires could not have been started by Jews and on Friday blamed them on "nationalist terrorists", a reference in Israel to Palestinians. "There is no coincidental 'wave of fires'," he wrote on Twitter. "There is a nationalist terrorist wave by fire terrorists meant to murder civilians and cause fright."

There has been no official response from Palestinian leaders. But Ayman Odeh, a leading Israeli Arab politician from Haifa, rejected the suggestion Arabs were responsible for arson attacks and accused the Israeli government of taking advantage of the situation to incite against the Arab minority. Nearly a third of the residents of Haifa, a coastal city of around 250,000 people, including a large Arab population, spent the night in shelters and nearby towns and villages after being ordered to leave on Thursday in the face of walls of flame.

Smoke billowed over the city yesterday morning as firefighters worked to douse the remaining fires. City officials said the situation was under control but that at least 700 homes

had been badly damaged or destroyed. About 80,000 evacuees from Haifa were allowed to return to their homes on Friday as firefighters curbed the flames. Israel's chief of police said on Thursday people may have decided to start fires after seeing the trouble they were causing. "We're in an area where if someone sees on the news there is an opportunity, he can take advantage of the opportunity," said Roni Alsheich.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said forces had arrested a Palestinian man caught trying to set a fire near the Israeli settlement of Kochav Yaakov in the occupied West Bank. Footage aired on Israeli television showed three people setting a fire in an open area near the West Bank settlement of Ariel. Police said one man from the Bedouin village of Rahat in southern Israel had been arrested for incitement after he posted a message on his Facebook page calling on others to start fires. Palestinians seek an independent state in territories including the West Bank that Israel took in a 1967 war. The last round of peace talks collapsed in 2014. —Agencies

MILITANT SIEGE CHOKES SYRIA'S DEIR EZZOR

DEIR EZZOR, Syria: In the Syrian city of Deir Ezzor, a two-year siege by the Islamic State group has forced taxi driver Mohammed Al-Obeid to find a new job and turned its park into a cemetery. Instead of ferrying customers around the eastern city with its fuel shortages, he now buys old furniture and breaks it up for resale as firewood for cooking and heating. "People sell me household furniture - beds and wardrobes - and other wooden objects so they can use the money to buy food," Obeid said in the Jura district where he sells the wood outside his house.

IS militants seized parts of Deir Ezzor in 2014 after a lightning advance across large areas of Syria and neighboring Iraq. In Jan 2015, they imposed a choking siege on the regime-held west of the city, which the UN says is home to around a third of the city's pre-war population of 300,000. Nearly one million people in Syria are living under siege, according to the United Nations, mostly in areas surrounded by government forces.

Deir Ezzor is the only place where IS

has imposed a siege on a pocket of regime-held territory. With no way in or out except by military helicopter, civilians in the city are trapped and have scarce supplies of food and fuel. The World Food Programme has air-dropped aid to the city - the only besieged part of the country to receive such assistance. The regime's key ally Russia has also delivered aid by air.

Queuing for rations

But in the market on Al-Wadi street, there's still little on offer to weary, hungry residents. Rocket and spinach aside, few vegetables are available among the cigarettes, chickens and canned foods. And what is available is often beyond the means of local residents, with a kilo of fly-ridden meat on sale for 15,000 Syrian pounds (\$30). "In two years I haven't eaten meat, fruit or biscuits because of the siege," said 12-year-old Mustafa Al-Musa. "I miss all those foods."

The government now provides free bread to needy residents, distributing it through the Syrian Red Crescent society



DEIR EZZOR: Syrian men sell wood in this Syrian city on Nov 12, 2016. —AFP

which expects to hand out 17,000 batches by the end of November. Outside a nearby public bakery, dozens of locals gathered to wait for rations. "We stand here for hours waiting for a bag of bread to keep us alive," said Um Khaled, a retired government employee

in her sixties. "The siege means we never have enough, and we suffer for hours in the cold and the heat to get a few loaves." Residents have also been forced to dig wells for water, because fuel shortages make it virtually impossible to power pumps. —AFP

CIVILIANS DESPAIR AS ARMY ADVANCES IN REBEL ALEPPO

US SERVICE MEMBER, TURKISH SOLDIER KILLED

ALEPPO: The Syrian army advanced in Aleppo yesterday, pounding the rebel-held east with strikes that killed dozens and added to the despair for more than 250,000 civilians under siege. The US military meanwhile announced its first combat loss in Syria, saying a service member had been killed by a bomb during an offensive against the Islamic State group. Ten days into the Syrian government's renewed bid to recapture all of battered second city Aleppo, regime bombardment has killed nearly 190 civilians and left residents desperate for respite.

The regime is hoping to score its most important victory yet of the five-year civil war, dealing a potentially decisive blow to the rebels by recapturing eastern neighborhoods they overran in 2012. Civilians in the east have been under siege by the army since July, with food and fuel supplies dwindling and international aid completely exhausted. On Thursday alone, 32 civilians were killed in air strikes and artillery fire on eastern neighborhoods, among them five children, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. "I'm terrified by the army's advance and the increasing bombardment," said Abu Raed, a father-of-four living in Fardos neighborhood. "There's no safe place for me and my family."

Rescuers Pull Boy from Rubble

The Observatory said the army now controlled more than 60 percent of the strategic Masaken Hanano district and was pushing on. Masaken Hanano is east Aleppo's largest district and its capture would cut the rebel-held sector in two. The advances have been accompanied by relentless air and artillery bombardment, with medical staff in the east accusing the army of dropping barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas. Damascus and its ally Moscow have repeatedly denied any illegal,

military use of the chemical.

Retaliatory rocket fire by the rebels has killed at least 18 civilians in the government-held west, 10 of them children, according to the Observatory. On Thursday night, rescue workers in several parts of the east battled to extricate civilians trapped under the rubble of bombed buildings. In Bab al-Nayrab, an AFP cameraman saw rescuers battle for more than an hour to pull out a seriously wounded boy. The lower part of his body was trapped and the back of his head badly gashed. He cried out "father, father," as the rescuers used pickaxes to break up the concrete surrounding him.

The desperate conditions have prompted some civilians to flee. In recent days, five families have crossed to Sheikh Maqsd, a Kurdish-controlled enclave between the government-held west and rebel-held east, the Observatory said. Damascus says residents and surrendering fighters are free to leave, and accuses the rebels of preventing civilians from doing so and using them as "human shields."

'Unbearable Circumstances'

On the ground, residents expressed despair. "Living under these circumstances is unbearable," said 43-year-old Mohammed Haj Hussein, in Tariq al-Bab district. "There's no work, there's no food, and the bombing is incessant... I want to get out of here by any means possible." In Bab al-Nayrab district, Abu Hussein said: "I don't know what the UN is waiting for. Why don't they at least evacuate the children and women?" The UN says it has a plan to deliver aid to Aleppo and evacuate the sick and wounded, which rebel factions have approved.

But Damascus has yet to agree, and additional guarantees are needed from Moscow, UN officials say. On Thursday, the

head of the UN-backed humanitarian task force for Syria, Jan Egeland, warned there was no plan B to help civilians in east Aleppo. "In many ways plan B is that people starve, and can we allow that to happen? No we cannot," he said.

Deaths

Meanwhile, a Turkish soldier was killed and five wounded in clashes with IS in northern Syria, the military said yesterday, as Turkish-backed rebels pressed an offensive to take the city of al-Bab from the radical group. The latest casualties bring the number of Turkish soldiers killed in Syria to 17 since Ankara launched a cross-border incursion on Aug 24 to try to push Islamic State and Kurdish fighters from the border, according to Turkish media.

The Turkish military said four Syrian rebels had been killed and 25 wounded in clashes in the 24 hours to yesterday morning. Turkish fighter jets were continuing to strike Islamic State targets near al-Bab, it said. The casualties came a day after three Syrian air strike, the first such Turkish deaths at the hands of Syrian government forces. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Ankara would retaliate.

Further east, in Raqqa province, where a US-backed alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters is battling IS, Washington suffered its first combat loss in Syria, the US-led coalition announced. It said the service member died on Thursday from wounds caused by an improvised bomb near the town of Ayn Issa. US special forces are on the ground in the area supporting an offensive to retake the city of Raqqa, the jihadists' de facto Syrian capital. The death came as Americans celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday. —Agencies



ISTANBUL: People walk in the Fatih district yesterday. —AP

ARABIC SIGNS FACE AXE IN ISTANBUL'S LITTLE SYRIA AREA

ISTANBUL: With its colorful signs, flashing lights and awnings displaying sales messages in Arabic, Istanbul's Aksaray neighborhood looks just like its nickname, "Little Syria". Those scenes soon could change as part of a crackdown on what one local official calls "visual pollution". Last week, Aksaray businesses and residents received a notice ordering them to de-clutter building facades and overhaul their signage. The order represents the latest salvo in an eight-year effort to standardize storefronts and require all signs to be in the Turkish language, which uses the Latin alphabet. It also seeks the removal of signs in Cyrillic lettering and all signs with neon and LED lights.

Some Syrian residents are vowing to ignore the order, seeing it as an assault on their culture. Turkey today is home to 3 million refugees, mostly Syrian. "I will defend my rights because I don't agree with this decision," said Mehmet Basil Souccar, who manages five Syrian restaurants in Istanbul. The 45-year-old, a dual Turkish-Syrian national, estimates that more than two-thirds of Aksaray's stores are owned and operated by Syrians - and predicts street clashes if authorities try to remove Arabic signage. "You can be sure that if they enforce this order, there will be a very ugly picture in Aksaray," he said.

Some argue that their businesses must be identified with Arabic signs to be identified by their largely Syrian clientele, many of them refugees from the besieged city of Aleppo. "Our restaurant's name was well known in Aleppo," said Mahrusi restaurant manager Samer Abou Dan. "If we remove our sign, we might as well shut the restaurant down and leave." —AP

SUPPLIES RUNNING OUT FOR IRAQIS LEFT IN MOSUL

MOSUL: Rasha rummages through her kitchen cupboard and holds up a nearly empty bag of rice - the last of the stock of supplies for her family of five in Iraq's battleground city of Mosul.

"I don't know what will happen when this runs out," she told AFP, as her five-year-old son Yunus fiddled with a toy bazooka his father made him. "We are relying on God." A few blocks away from the home in the densely packed Aden neighborhood, Iraqi special forces are battling Islamic State (IS) militants in grinding house-to-house fighting to oust the group from Mosul, the last major population center it controlled in the country.

But the family are among the thousands of residents of Mosul sitting tight in areas retaken by government troops and praying that the hurricane of violence will soon pass them by. While aid agencies estimated that some 200,000 residents could flee the city in the first weeks of the fighting, five weeks into the operation only around 70,000 civilians have fled their homes. Those who stay behind in the city - often too scared or unable to quit - are facing both danger and deprivation. "We've already had three mortars hit our roof," said the mother-of-three. "I am so afraid for my children."

Power lines are cut, gas for heating is running low, and drinking water is nearly gone. The only supplies the family receives are the occasional bags of bread and packs of bottled water the troops from Iraq's elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) can bring them. But - with temperatures at night dropping below zero Celsius - the thought of making the perilous journey out of Mosul with three young children to one of the sprawling camps for displaced people seems daunting. "At least here we have a roof over our head," Rasha said.

'Huge Concern'

For humanitarian agencies, trying to reach the people inside the recaptured areas of Mosul is becoming increasingly urgent. The fighting and high risks mean that aid deliveries have been severely restricted. The United Nations says it has been able to deliver food to some 37,000 people, but they are on the very eastern fringe of the city. "Security and access is the big challenge," Inger Marie Vennize, a spokeswoman for the World Food Programme in Iraq, told AFP. "It is a huge concern for us because we know that people need food assistance."

Aid agencies have urged the Iraqi forces to ensure them with access or open up safe corridors. Vennize insisted agencies were "discussing everything all the time" for aid to reach people who need it in Mosul, but said air drops for now were not on the table. With fighting raging against a determined enemy who is unwilling to negotiate, there appears precious little room for manoeuvre and the operation looks set to last weeks, if not months longer.

Maan Al-Saadi, a commander with the CTS, insisted that the assault was "ahead of schedule". But he said IS was using unconventional methods that made retaking territory more arduous. "They are using car bombs, suicide bombers and civilians as human shields - this makes it difficult for us." On Wednesday, pro-government militias west of Mosul said they cut off the last remaining routes from Mosul to IS-held territory in Syria. And that means the militants left in the city - already willing to blow themselves up in their hundreds to slow the Iraqi advance - are now almost certainly gearing up for a fight to the death. "They cannot flee. They have two choices - give up or die," Saadi said. —AFP



MOSUL: An Iraqi special forces soldier battles against Islamic State militants in the Bakr frontline neighborhood yesterday. —AFP

IRAQ READIES FORCE TO STORM FLASHPOINT TOWN NEAR MOSUL

BAGHDAD: Iraq is readying a special force tasked with storming Tal Afar, a bastion of Islamic State west of Mosul, in a way that would avoid revenge killings against the town's Sunni population. Capturing or isolating Tal Afar from Mosul is a key part of the US-backed offensive to take back Islamic State's last major city stronghold in Iraq, by allowing the ground forces taking part in the campaign to complete Mosul's encirclement. The army and police forces planning to storm Tal Afar will include Sunni and Shiite Turkmens, reflecting the main mix of the town's population, said Hisham Al-Hashimi, a Baghdad-based analyst who advises the government on Islamic State affairs. Tal Afar's Shiite community fled after Islamic State, a hardline Sunni group, swept through the region two years ago, declaring from Mosul a "caliphate" that also spanned parts of Syria.

The offensive to take Mosul started on Oct 17 with air and ground support from a US-led coalition. The attack on Tal Afar has been so far executed by Popular Mobilization, a coalition made up mainly of Iranian-trained Shiite paramilitary groups whose involvement in the Mosul offensive sparked fears of sectarian killings. The 3,500-strong force being set up to storm Tal Afar will operate from an airbase just south of the city, said Hashimi. Popular Mobilization, or Hashid Shaabi, will stay outside the town, enforcing a blockade, he said. The Iraqi government has been keen on allaying fears of sectarian killings in Tal Afar after Turkey threatened to intervene, citing its historic ties to Iraq's ethnic Turkmens.

Fleeing Civilians

Thousands of civilians fled Tal Afar this week as Popular Mobilization closed in. Several dozen families from the town also arrived in Mosul, said a city resident, asking not to be identified as Islamic State is punishing by death those caught communicating with the outside world. Mosul is already ringed to the north, south and east by Iraqi government forces and Kurdish peshmerga forces. Iraq's US-trained Counter Terrorism Service breached Islamic State defences in east Mosul at the end of October. —Reuters

AS 'CALIPHATE' SHRINKS, IS STRUGGLES IN EGYPT

CAR BOMB ATTACK KILLS 8 SOLDIERS IN SINAI

CAIRO: As the Islamic State group loses territory in Iraq and Syria, one of its deadliest branches is struggling against Egypt's powerful army to maintain a foothold in the Sinai Peninsula. The affiliate, known as Sinai Province, has waged a murky war in the north of the peninsula bordering Israel that has killed hundreds of soldiers and policemen. It also claimed the bombing of a Russian airliner carrying holidaymakers from a south Sinai resort in Oct 2015 that killed all 224 people on board. Egypt's tourism has yet to recover.

But Sinai Province has been unable to seize population centers, with one attempt to occupy a town in 2015 ending with the military unleashing F-16 jets against the militants. Instead the group has tried to keep up a steady war of attrition involving roadside bombings, sniper fire and checkpoint attacks such as the one on Thursday that killed eight soldiers. The militants are increasingly encircled in the peninsula, with the military razing sections of a town bordering the Palestinian Gaza Strip to create a buffer zone and destroying tunnels there, while setting up checkpoints on routes out.

"The military's biggest success is that they have been able to contain the insurgency, by and large, to North Sinai," said Jantzen Garnett, an expert on the jihadists with the Navanti Group analytics company. The army had been struggling to quash the insurgency that took off in 2013 after the military ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, unleashing a bloody crackdown on his followers.

Short Term Progress

Three years into the insurgency, however, a decisive victory against the militants appears distant, as Thursday's attack suggests. "The Egyptian army has made some short-term progress against (Sinai Province) over the past year but the militant group continues to adapt and this progress should not be construed as long-term success," Garnett said. "The military upped up its presence in the Sinai following the July 1 attempt at tak-



EL-ARISH, Egypt: This file photo taken on July 9, 2015 shows a member of the Egyptian security forces standing guard next to a damaged bus following a roadside bomb blast which wounded 20 Egyptian policemen on the outskirts of northern Sinai's provincial capital. —AFP

ing over Sheikh Zuweid," analyst Mokhtar Awad said of the group's attempt to seize the north Sinai town in 2015.

The militants instead have "doubled down on types of operations focusing on trying to commit terrorist attacks... and focus on planting IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and more sniper attacks," said Awad, a research fellow with George Washington University's Program on Extremism. They have also increased assassinations of officers and kidnappings and executions of suspected informants, in two cases publicly shooting them in the streets of North Sinai's capital El-Arish.

The military toll is difficult to verify. The military occasionally announces casualties, such as the eight soldiers killed on Thursday. Other reported casualties are not always disclosed. In November alone, Egyptian media reported on the funerals - held within a day of the deaths - of at least 10 military soldiers

and officers, not counting the eight killed on Thursday. It is impossible to ascertain the toll among militants, who do not disclose their deaths. The military says it has killed hundreds of militants, occasionally publishing pictures of their corpses.

Leader Killed

"It's always murky when it comes to assessing the picture in Sinai due to limits in verification," Awad said. The organization's hierarchy also remains a mystery. In August, the military announced it had killed the group's top leader in Sinai, identified as Abu Duaa, without providing further details. The moniker "Ansari" - used by militants in Sinai for locals of the peninsula - suggests he was a Sinai Bedouin. A captured jihadi has said in interrogations that the identity of the group's overall leader in Sinai was unknown and he passed on instructions through a subordinate. —AFP

ERDOGAN THREATENS TO REOPEN BORDERS

ANKARA ANGERED BY EU FREEZE

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened yesterday to open Turkey's borders to allow migrants to reach the EU, in a move that would tear up a landmark deal that has reduced the flow. Erdogan's comments, some of his toughest in recent times against the European Union, prompted an immediate warning from Germany which helped broker the deal that such "threats" were unhelpful. The threat came a day after the European Parliament angered Ankara by backing a freeze in EU accession talks, already hit by alarm over its crackdown in the wake of the July 15 failed coup.

"Listen to me. If you go any further, then the frontiers will be opened, bear that in mind," Erdogan told the EU during a speech in Istanbul. He said Brussels had cried out for help in 2015 as tens of thousands of migrants massed at Turkey's border crossing with EU member Bulgaria. "You began to ask us 'what will we do if Turkey opens its borders?'" he asked.

'Promises Unfulfilled'

On March 18, Ankara and Brussels forged a deal for Turkey to halt the flow of migrants to Europe - an accord that has largely been successful in reducing numbers crossing the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece. Hundreds of migrants have drowned in the Aegean en route from Turkey to EU member Greece on unseaworthy boats. They included three-year-



ISTANBUL: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a meeting on "Women and Justice" yesterday. — AP

old Syrian Aylan Kurdi, with the images of his lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach spurring the international community into action.

Turkey agreed to step up maritime and land border controls in exchange for incentives on its long-stalled membership bid,

including visa-free travel for its citizens and an acceleration of accession talks. However with an October target passing, no apparent progress on the visa issue and the accession talks stalled, Ankara has accused Brussels of failing to keep its side of the bargain.

In response to Erdogan's remarks, Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer said the deal was in the interest "of all parties" and that "threats on either side are not helpful". "Where there are difficulties, we need to resolve them," she added. Erdogan said while Turkey itself was looking after three million refugees mainly 2.7 million Syrians from the civil war, but also Iraqis - but "you (the EU) did not fulfill your promises". "You never acted honorably, you did not act right," he told the bloc.

He has also accused Brussels of failing to fulfill a promise to deliver some six billion euros (\$6.3 billion) in aid for refugees. The EU says the money is to be transferred gradually for individual projects and not in a single payment. On Thursday, two people died and two others were badly burnt when a fire broke out on the Greek island of Lesbos, where many migrants who crossed from Turkey are housed. The vote by the EU Parliament reflected spiralling tensions between Ankara and the bloc after Brussels repeatedly expressed alarm over the magnitude of Turkey's crackdown after the coup. — AFP



State of Kuwait

Announcement from Ministry of Commerce & Industry Consumer Protection Department

Ministry of Commerce & Industry - Consumer Protection Department, in accordance with Law No. 39/2014, and in cooperation with Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. (Authorized Distributor and Provider for TOYOTA Kuwait).

As an After sales service and commitment to customer satisfaction, TOYOTA announces recall of 2016-TOYOTA RAV4 because the power back door becomes inoperative due to insufficient heat resistance. Hence the power back door won't be able to open and close using power function.

TOYOTA takes this opportunity to further confirm its commitment to its customers in Kuwait, sparing no effort to provide them with best products and services to the highest safety and quality standards.

Steps and Procedures to be taken by Al Sayer TOYOTA :

First: Call:

Dealer will call car owners.

Second: Replacement:

Lexus Service Center will replace the power back door ECU free of charge.

Third: Service and Maintenance Center:

Customers are kindly requested to call Al Sayer TOYOTA Service on 1803803 for proper advice and guidance.

TOYOTA apologizes for any inconvenience, sparing no effort to ensure best customer service and safety levels.

Dear Valuable Customers:

TOYOTA vehicles belonging to new owners of any model year/ ages are requested to register your vehicle details and contact number with us.

We need your co-operation to serve you better for any customer satisfaction program.

UPBEAT FILLON HEADS FOR FINISH

PARIS: Conservative French presidential frontrunner Francois Fillon was holding a final rally in Paris yesterday as he seeks to clinch the nomination for the center-right Republicans in a primary vote this weekend. Fillon, whose surge has taken commentators and pollsters by surprise, gave an assured performance in a televised debate on Thursday night against his centrist rival, longtime favorite Alain Juppe.

Fifty-seven percent of viewers judged Fillon to have been the most convincing, according to an independent poll for the BFMTV television channel of 908 people who followed the nearly two-hour exchange. A total of 8.5 million people tuned in to hear the two ex-prime ministers stress their differences on public sectors cuts, relations between France and Russia, and their views on multiculturalism.

Fillon was to hold a rally in Paris yesterday evening where he hoped to draw up to 10,000 people, while Juppe was campaigning in the city of Nancy in eastern France. Both men are already looking ahead to their rivals in next year's election that will feature resurgent far-right leader Marine Le Pen, as well as a Socialist party candidate and independents. "I think I am best placed with my program to beat Marine Le Pen," Juppe said on Friday, referring to the nationalist and anti-immigration boss of the National Front.

Clear Differences

Thursday night's debate cast into stark relief the differences between the candidates, with Fillon often portraying 71-year-old Juppe as not ambitious enough and Juppe accusing his rival of being unrealistic. "It is true that my project is more radical and perhaps more difficult," said Fillon, whose economic ideas have been compared to those of late British prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

The 62-year-old devout Catholic wants to slash an eye-popping 500,000 public sector jobs over five years and scrap the 35-hour working week in a bid to kick-start the sluggish French economy. He is also more socially conservative, believes France is "on the verge of revolt", and takes a harder line on Islam in France.

Juppe has stressed how many on the far-right are in favor of his rival's proposals. "No, France is not a multicultural country. France has a history, a language and a culture which have naturally been enriched from outside," Fillon said on Thursday during the debate. — AFP



PARIS: Francois Fillon (left) and Alain Juppe take part in the first televised debate between the two remaining candidates for the rightwing Les Republicains (LR) party primaries on Thursday. — AFP

MANHUNT FOR KILLER AT FRENCH HOSPICE

MONTFERRIER-SUR-LEZ, France: French police were hunting yesterday for a killer who burst into a retirement home for Christian missionaries in southern France and stabbed a 54-year-old worker to death, security sources said. The man, brandishing a sawn-off shotgun and a knife, tied up and stabbed the woman in the village of Montferrier-sur-Lez near the city of Montpellier on Thursday night. Local prosecutor Christophe Barret told AFP that "there is no particular evidence about the motive" for the killing at the home, where more than 70 mostly former missionaries live.

The attack comes with French security forces on their highest possible alert following a string of attacks by Islamist extremists, including on Christian targets. A source close to the case, who asked not to be named, told AFP yesterday that investigators were not treating it as a terror case so far but the man was still on the loose. A nurse raised the alarm about the attack and when police arrived they found one of her colleagues stabbed to death. Armed police then searched the building but the killer had fled and was not found despite a huge police search operation overnight, backed by a helicopter. — AFP

STEIN SEEKS VOTE RECOUNT IN US RUST BELT

WASHINGTON: Former Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein on Thursday launched a bid to seek a vote recount in Wisconsin, the first of three Rust Belt states won by Donald Trump where she intends to challenge the result. Stein's campaign announced Thursday that it had raised the \$1.1 million necessary to fund a recount in Wisconsin and was on track to do the same in Pennsylvania and Michigan, having raised \$2.7 million of a \$4.5 million goal. Her campaign has cited unspecified "anomalies" as grounds to mount a challenge in all three states.

The move comes amid stepped-up calls from some of Trump's left-wing opponents to challenge the results of the November 8 election, which was marked by warnings of foreign hacking and vote rigging. "The unexpected results of the election and reported anomalies need to be investigated before the 2016 presidential election is certified," Stein said on her website. "We deserve elections we can trust."

Although there is virtually no chance of overturning the result, the demands could reignite debate over the legitimacy of Trump's election, already fuelled by Democrat Hillary Clinton's lead in the popular vote which now stands at two million. "Raising money to pay for the first round so quickly is a miraculous feat and a tribute to the power of grassroots organizing," Stein's website read. The Midwestern state of Wisconsin was a key battleground in the Nov 8 election, helping propel the Republican Trump to a victory that stunned the nation.

Trump also won swing state Pennsylvania, and claimed a razor-thin victory in Michigan according to



Jill Stein

unofficial results released Wednesday. Although she lost in the indirect electoral college tally which decides who wins the White House, Clinton's lead in the popular vote has risen as official results are finalized, narrowing the result in some swing states where she lost. Clinton conceded on Nov 9 and her campaign is not supporting the recount calls.

'Election Integrity Movement'

Stein's demands follow a bitter presidential campaign that included persistent charges of Russian hacking and fraud. Trump also warned during his campaign that the election would be "rigged," and refused to say whether he would accept the results. Any result change would not help Stein, who won just over 1.1 percent of Wisconsin's vote. But she launched the recount effort after computer scientists

reportedly told the Clinton campaign the election may have been rigged in Trump's favor.

The scientists, including University of Michigan's J Alex Halderman, together with voting rights activist John Bonifaz and others, said Clinton's votes were 7 percent below expectations in counties that tallied votes with electronic machines. "These recounts are part of an election integrity movement to attempt to shine a light on just how untrustworthy the US election system is," Stein's website said, adding that the attempt is "not intended to help Hillary Clinton." Clinton lost by a razor-thin margin of around 27,000 votes in Wisconsin and 60,000 votes in Pennsylvania. Unofficial results released by Michigan's secretary of state's office, put Trump ahead by a mere 10,704 votes. "I think it's only natural and good for Americans to be reassured that our votes are counted," Stein told CNN Thursday, "especially after such a divisive and bitter election where 80 percent of Americans... basically said they were disgusted with this election."

'Demographics, Not Hacking'

But one of the scientists she cites, Halderman, Wednesday sought to dampen mounting speculation that recounts would change the election's result. "Were this year's deviations from pre-election polls the results of a cyberattack?" he wrote on Medium. "Probably not." Rather, the polling was more likely "systematically wrong". The only way to remove any lingering controversy, however, would be to study "paper ballots and voting equipment in critical states", he added. — AFP

BATTLE SURROUNDS TRUMP SECRETARY OF STATE CHOICE

PALM BEACH, Florida: As families across a bitterly divided America gathered for Thanksgiving, a battle erupted Thursday in Donald Trump's camp over his pick for secretary of state, with loyalists seeking to block the path of Mitt Romney, a fierce former critic of the billionaire. With the president-elect hunkered down at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida for the holiday weekend - from where he urged the country to unite after a "painful" campaign - his team appears split over the prospect of making Romney, the Republican presidential candidate in 2012, America's top diplomat.

Some of Trump's staunchest supporters have united to oppose naming a man who called the real estate magnate a "fraud" and a "conman" during the campaign, when he helped lead the party establishment's drive to sideline him. But the other leading choice for top diplomat, outspoken former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani - one of Trump's loudest supporters from early in his campaign - has drawn scrutiny for business dealings that could pose conflicts of interest.

Opposition to Romney

Despite his lack of experience in foreign policy, Giuliani, 72, has openly lobbied for secretary of state, telling Trump's advisers he is interested in no other position, The New York Times reported. However, Giuliani's candidacy has drawn attention to business dealings with foreign governments that may rule him out. Picking Romney - who lost the White House race to Barack Obama four years ago - would reassure the Republican establishment and US allies worried about Trump's foreign policy.

But the businessman and former Massachusetts governor who savaged Trump's candidacy during the campaign also publicly differs from him on Russia, a leading foreign policy challenge. While the president-elect has praised President Vladimir Putin, promising to improve strained relations with Moscow, Romney has called Russia America's "number-one geopolitical foe". Trump's close aide Kellyanne Conway cast further doubt on his suitability Thursday in what appeared to be a bad sign for Romney. — AFP

TRUMP KEEPS POLITICS ON HIS THANKSGIVING MENU

MOGUL SAYS HE'S TRYING TO SAVE JOBS IN US

WEST PALM BEACH/WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump spent the Thanksgiving holiday at his Mar-a-Lago resort on Thursday, dining with his family at the Florida golf club after revisiting a campaign pledge he made about restoring American manufacturing. Trump, known for his use of Twitter to drive political debate, tweeted about an Indiana air conditioner maker he featured in his election campaign as an emblem of trade deals he said were unfavorable to American workers.

Trump, who has not been seen in

public since arriving in Florida on Tuesday, said he was "working hard, even on Thanksgiving, trying to get Carrier A.C. Company to stay in the US (Indiana). MAKING PROGRESS - Will know soon!" Carrier Corp, a division of United Technologies Corp, responded on Twitter that the company has had "discussions with the incoming administration" but had "nothing to announce at this time." A representative for the company had no additional comment.

Earlier this year, the company said it would move 1,400 jobs to Mexico from

Indiana, giving a three-year timetable for the shift. The state's Republican governor, Mike Pence - later picked by Trump as his vice-presidential running mate - decried the decision, and spoke out against it often on the campaign trail. Trump made Carrier's decision part of his rallying cry against the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico. He said he would slap taxes on the company's air conditioners shipped back to the United States.

Asked by Reuters last week whether the company was reconsidering its decision given Trump's victory in the Nov 8 election over Democrat Hillary Clinton, the company said in a statement it was "making every effort" to help its Indiana employees during the shift. "By providing three years advance notice of the move and by funding education and retraining programs for up to four years after the move is complete, we are providing employees with both time and opportunity to help them to make a smooth transition," the company said.

Carrier also cited an agreement it had reached with the United Steelworkers union about compensation for affected workers. Trump's Thanksgiving comments on Carrier were reminiscent of remarks he tweeted last week about Ford Motor Co, a company he criticized during the campaign for shifting some production lines to Mexico. When Ford informed Trump it would not shift production of a Lincoln sport utility vehicle to Mexico from Kentucky, he took to Twitter to say he saved the plant, although the company had never considered moving the whole factory south of the border. — Reuters



BEDMINSTER, New Jersey: In this Nov. 20, 2016 photo, US President-Elect Donald Trump (left) stands with investor Wilbur Ross after a meeting at the Trump National Golf Club Bedminster clubhouse. Trump is poised to offer the position of commerce secretary to Ross, the head of a private-equity firm.

32 BODIES, 9 HUMAN HEADS FOUND IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY: Authorities have exhumed 32 bodies and nine heads from several clandestine graves this week in a southern Mexican state plagued by kidnappings and murders, officials said Thursday. The remains were unearthed between Tuesday and Thursday in 17 pits on a hill in the village of Pochahuixco, part of the municipality of Zitlala, a region beset by turf wars between drug cartels. "The discoveries are terrible," Guerrero state security spokesman Roberto Alvarez said, adding that the victims include 31 men and one woman.

The remains were taken to the state capital, Chilpancingo, to be identified, Alvarez said in a statement. No arrests have been made in the case. The bodies were found in 17 of 20 pits that were dug up by investigators. Seven were found on Tuesday, five on Wednesday and the rest on Thursday in various states of decomposition. No other remains were found but soldiers are scouring the region for any other hidden graves. No arrests were made. Drug cartels have been burying their victims in hidden graves across the country

for years, and authorities regularly find human remains. At the border between the western states of Jalisco and Michoacan, for instance, 75 bodies were unearthed from 37 clandestine graves between late 2013 and early 2014. Guerrero has been plagued by a series of mass kidnappings, including 12 people abducted in the municipality of Ajuchitlan del Progreso last week.

Heads in a Cooler

The clandestine graves were found after authorities received an anonymous tip about a camp where people were being held, Alvarez told AFP. When they arrived at the site on a hill, they found a kidnap victim as well as two cars, a motorcycle and bulletproof vests. Soldiers and police also found four heads inside a cooler that could be linked to nine bodies that were found on a roadside in the town of Tixtla a few days ago, he said. The Ardillos and Los Rojos drug gangs are fighting over territory in the Zitlala region, the security spokesman said. "There are a lot of murders, a lot of abductions," he said. Guerrero is one of the country's most violent states and a major opi-

um poppy grower. Last weekend at least 24 people were killed in the state.

43 Students

Los Rojos have also been battling the Guerreros Unidos drug cartel. In the Pacific resort of Acapulco, the Beltran Leyva gang and the Independent Cartel of Acapulco battle for supremacy. Guerrero is also known for the disappearance of 43 students in the city of Iguala in Sept 2014, a case that drew international outrage and remains unsolved. The Iguala case put a spotlight on the rash of disappearances in Mexico, where some 28,000 people have been reported missing since 2007 in addition to tens of thousands killed in connection with drug violence. Frustrated by the lack of progress by the authorities, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters of the disappeared have led their own searches across the country, learning to detect clandestine graves on their own. They look for unturned earth and pierce the ground with sticks, smelling the end of it for the stench of rotting flesh. —AFP



BRASILIA: This file photo taken on May 24, 2016 shows then acting Brazilian President Michel Temer (right) greeting the new minister of culture Marcelo Calero during his swearing-in ceremony at the Planalto Palace. — AFP

MINISTER AT CENTER OF BRAZIL'S LATEST SCANDAL RESIGNS

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Michel Temer's minister in charge of relations with Congress, Geddel Vieira Lima, resigned yesterday following an accusation that he had pressured another minister to approve a property investment. His resignation, along with accusations by another minister that Temer also discussed the investment with him, rattled investors yesterday, pushing Brazil's currency and stock prices lower as traders worried the turmoil would affect efforts to overhaul government finances and restore economic growth.

Vieira Lima is the fourth Cabinet minister to quit over corruption allegations since Temer replaced impeached leftist Dilma Rousseff earlier this year and vowed to clean up government. His departure deprives Temer of his point man in negotiations with Congress, a key post for an administration striving to enact unpopular austerity measures to reduce a widening budget deficit and spur a recovery for an economy in its worst recession since the 1930s.

The crisis came to a head following news reports late on Thursday that Marcelo Calero, who resigned last week as culture minister, told federal police that Temer himself pressured him to resolve a dispute with Vieira Lima. The dispute involved a permit for construction of a luxury oceanfront building in which Vieira Lima had purchased an apartment and that needed approval by a culture ministry agency because it would be built in a historical preservation district in Vieira Lima's hometown of Salvador. After Brazil's public prosecutor's office said it was studying a possible investigation into the case, a presidential aide told Reuters early yesterday that Vieira Lima's situation had become untenable. The Brazilian real slumped as much as 2.2 percent to 3.4679 reais to the dollar, the biggest intraday drop since a day after US President-elect Donald Trump's unexpected victory. It later pared losses to trade 0.92 percent lower on the day. — Reuters

COLOMBIA SIGNS CONTESTED NEW PEACE DEAL WITH FARC

OPPOSITION AGAINST REDRAFTED VERSION

BOGOTA: Colombia's government and FARC rebels signed a controversial revised peace accord Thursday to end their half-century conflict, set to be ratified in Congress despite bitter opposition. President Juan Manuel Santos and guerrilla leader Rodrigo "Timochoenko" Londoño signed the new deal with a pen made from a spent bullet, in a low-key ceremony in the capital Bogota.

The original deal - signed with great fanfare in September - was rejected by voters in a referendum last month, a shock upset that sent negotiators back to the drawing board. The new plan bypasses a vote by the Colombian people, against bitter opposition from critics. They say the revisions are only cosmetic and will still grant impunity for war crimes committed by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Santos, who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the conflict, said the new deal was better than the original. "It includes the hopes and observations of the vast majority of Colombians," he said after signing it. "We all know in our souls that the cost of the armed conflict is too high."

Fragile Ceasefire

The deal was immediately sent to Congress, where it is expected to pass after being debated next week. Santos and his allies hold a majority in the legislature. The government and FARC both say they are under pressure for fear that their fragile ceasefire could break down. A recent wave of alleged assassinations in conflict zones has added to calls to seal a deal fast. But an aftermath of discord and uncertainty appears likely as opponents promised to keep resisting the peace plan, including with street protests.

"The country has spoken. It has said, 'Yes to peace, but without impunity,'" said top opponent Alvaro Uribe, a conservative ex-president and senator. "What we have here remains total impunity," he told RCN television.

Speaking later in the Senate, he called for another referendum on some of the contested "basic issues" in the deal.

Opposition Objections

The government and FARC negotiators' redrafted version of the deal includes concessions from the rebels on issues such as reparations for victims. But Uribe complains it still ignores key demands, notably on punishing FARC leaders for the killings and kidnappings blamed on the group. Under the deal, the Marxist rebels would disarm and become a political party. The deal allows non-custodial sentences for convicted FARC members.

Uribe and his allies demand tougher punishments and say rebel leaders guilty of war crimes should not be allowed to run for office before completing their sentences. A survey by pollster Datexco published on Wednesday found that 58 percent of people want more revisions to the deal.

Bypassing Voters

Congress will open a live televised debate on the deal from next Tuesday. On the streets of Bogota, passerby Overnis Diaz welcomed the agreement. "We have lived through a war of more than 50 years. We want no more bloodshed," he said. But another local, Dayanna Gil, said: "It should be approved through a popular vote... We should all have a say."

Disarmament in Months

Santos said that five days after the deal is approved, the FARC rebels will begin gathering in demobilization zones and will hand over their weapons to the United Nations within five months. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hailed Thursday's deal. "The violent incidents that have taken place recently in conflict-affected areas underscore the relevance of many of the commitments contained in the agreement and the urgency of putting them into effect," his spokesman said in a statement. — AFP



BOGOTA: Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (left) and the head of the FARC guerrilla Timoleon Jimenez shake hands during the second signing of the historic peace agreement at the Colon Theater on Thursday. —AFP



MANILA: Thousands of anti-Marcos activists carrying placards and mock coffin with a life-size papier-mache depicting the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos during a protest near Malacanang Palace yesterday. — AFP

NUDE STUDENTS, ACTIVISTS PROTEST MARCOS' BURIAL

MANILA: Thousands of Filipinos, including more than a dozen nude students, protested yesterday against the hasty burial of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a heroes' cemetery, in a growing political storm that's lashing the president who allowed the entombment. A few thousand activists joined a "Black Friday" protest despite rainy weather at Manila's seaside Rizal Park, where they carried Marcos' effigy in a mock coffin.

While the anger was directed at Marcos and his family, President Rodrigo Duterte was also targeted for allowing the burial of the dictator, who was ousted in a largely peaceful "people power" revolt three decades ago. Protesters held placards that read "Digong traitor, a lapdog of the dictator," using Duterte's nickname. Dozens of students trooped outside the presidential palace in Manila in a separate protest and burned an effigy of Marcos in a mock coffin.

At the state-run University of the Philippines, a fraternity turned its annual recruitment ritual into a protest with naked student recruits running with placards that read, "Marcos dictator not a hero." "This run is a manifestation of our anger against what we see as the Marcoses trying to revise history, trying to revive their name because they have fallen from grace," Alpha Phi Omega fraternity spokesman Toby Roca said. "We are angry that they are trying to ignore our painful history of human rights abuses under his term."

Duterte, whose father served in Marcos's Cabinet, allowed the burial on grounds that there was no law barring his interment at the Heroes' Cemetery, where presidents, soldiers, statesmen and national artists are buried. It was a political risk in a country where democracy advocates still celebrate Marcos's ouster each year. — AP

'GAME OF THRONES' LEAVES NEPAL VICTIMS IN THE COLD

HOKSHE, Nepal: Farmer Ganesh Prasad Gautam beamed as the young woman behind the desk littered with files called his name out at the rundown government office in the mountains of central Nepal. After 18 months of living in a shack made of corrugated iron, tarpaulin and bamboo amid the ruins of his earthquake-hit house, he is finally receiving long-promised government funds to start rebuilding his home.

The 54-year-old farmer was one of eight million people affected in April last year when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck the Himalayan nation - leaving 9,000 dead and destroying one million homes as well as schools, businesses roads, and bridges. "The money is late and it's not enough to build what I had before, but at least the government has given it," Gautam said to nods from fellow villagers gathered at the office in Hokshe village, 64 km east of Kathmandu. "We've already endured one winter and two monsoons like this - out in the open with no protection from the rain and cold."

But Gautam is one of the lucky ones. Constant feuding between a myriad of political parties has fuelled political turmoil and weak governance in Nepal, delaying efforts to rebuild the country of 28 million people despite an outpouring of aid, analysts said. Ongoing political instability in a country which has seen 24 governments in 26 years has stymied reconstruction efforts. "You are looking at a country that has had three governments since the earthquake - all coalitions and none with a solid majority," said Renaud Meyer, Country Director for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal. "There is no doubt the political landscape is the biggest barrier for the recovery and reconstruction of Nepal to take place. It requires consistency, it requires determination and the less open it is to spoilers, the better."

Politics Prevails

Wedged between India and China, Nepal - famed as the birthplace of Buddha and home to Mount

Everest - is one of the world's poorest countries. A decade-long civil war between Maoist rebels and government forces ended in 2006, raising hopes of development in a country where one in four people live on less than \$1.90 a day - the World Bank's measure of extreme poverty. The three main parties - the Nepali Congress (NC), Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) and the Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) - have over the years made unlikely bedfellows in fragile coalitions and politicians are seen as selfish and power hungry.

Critics say rather than focus on reconstruction, former Prime Minister Sushil Koirala's NC-led government exploited a wave of national solidarity in the quake's aftermath to finalise Nepal's long overdue constitution. Even though a new charter was adopted in Sept 2015, and a new coalition government led by Khadga Prasad Oli's UML party took power, the historic moment was marred by bloodshed in street clashes in the southern Terai region bordering India.

More than 50 people died in the crisis, which forced Oli to resign nine months after taking power as his main coalition partner, the Maoist Centre party, withdrew its support. The constitutional crisis and political changes resulted a six-month delay in setting up the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) - the key agency overseeing Nepal's recovery. As a result, families are only now receiving the first installment of a promised 200,000 rupee (\$1,880) housing grant. But for some Nepalis, the funds are too little, too late. Down the road from the five-star Hyatt Regency hotel in Chuchepati on the outskirts of Kathmandu, amid the hundreds of blue and white plastic tents which make up a displacement camp, housewife Shanti Pariyar, 42, complains of sleepless nights. Little food, daily treks to queue for two jerry cans of clean water, few toilets, no privacy to bathe and monsoon rains which flood her tarpaulin tent are bad enough, she said. But what keeps her up at night is the 300,000-rupee (\$2,815) debt she has racked up since her village home was destroyed, forcing her family to move to the capital in search of work. — Reuters

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'THEY RAPED US ONE BY ONE': ROHINGYA WOMAN

TEKNAF, Bangladesh: The brutal gang rape that Habiba and her sister endured is a story that is becoming depressingly familiar among the thousands of Rohingya refugees fleeing to Bangladesh to escape the violence of Myanmar's soldiers. "They tied both of us to the bed and raped us one by one," said 20-year-old Habiba, who has now found shelter with a Rohingya refugee family a few kilometres from the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. "We're almost starving here. But at least no one is coming here to kill or torture," said Hashim Ullah, Habiba's older brother who escaped with his sisters.

Habiba and her sister Samira, 18, say they were raped in their home in Udang village by troops who then burnt down their house. "They torched most of the houses, killed numerous people including our father and raped many young girls," said Habiba, who agreed to be identified in this story. "One of the soldiers told us before leaving that they will kill us if they see us around the next time they come here. Then they torched our house."

Widespread allegations of rape have raised fears that Myanmar's security forces are systematically using sexual violence against the stateless Rohingya. The violence has forced thousands to



TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Mosammat Samira, 18, (right) and her sister Mosammat Habiba, 20, who were gang-raped by the Myanmar army in their village Udang in the northern part of Rakhine state a week ago, are seen on Thursday. —AFP

flee, prompting a UN official to accuse Myanmar of carrying out "ethnic cleansing" of the Muslim minority. Ullah and his siblings escaped after taking the family's \$400 savings and walking to the Naf River that separates southern Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The trio spent four days hiding in the hills with hundreds of other Rohingya families, before they found a boat owner willing to take them to

Bangladesh. "He asked for all of our money," Ullah said. The boat owner left them on a small island near the border. The siblings walked across the scrubland until they found a Rohingya family who offered them shelter.

Rape as War Weapon

Similar stories of violence and dispossession fill the rows of plastic-roofed shacks that have become the only refuge for thousands of Rohingya

Muslims who have fled Rakhine state. The escapees have told of gang rapes, torture and murder being carried out by Myanmar troops in the small strip of land that has been under military control after deadly raids on police border posts last month. Foreign journalists and independent investigators have been barred from entering the area.

While the military and government have rejected the charges, rights groups have long accused the military of using rape as a weapon of war in several other ethnic conflicts which simmer in the country's borderlands. Thailand-based NGO the Womens League of Burma has documented 92 cases of sexual violence by fighters between 2010 and 2015, which they say have been used "as a means of shaming and destroying ethnic communities". Fears of Muslim men violating Buddhist women have also long stirred the hatred of hardline nationalists in Myanmar. Allegations Muslims raped Buddhists sparked sectarian clashes in 2012 that drove tens of thousands of Rohingya into displacement camps and riots two years later near Mandalay. But the volume of rape allegation among the Rohingya fleeing Rakhine suggest a pattern of abuse by Myanmar's army beyond anything documented before. —AFP

MYANMAR PURSUING 'ETHNIC CLEANSING' OF ROHINGYAS

THOUSANDS IN ASIA STAGE PROTESTS

TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Myanmar is engaged in "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya Muslims, a UN official has said, as reports emerged yesterday of troops shooting at villagers as they tried to flee. Thousands of desperate people have pushed over the border into Bangladesh in the last few days, bringing with them horrifying stories of gang rape, torture and the systematic killing of their ethnic group.

John McKissick, head of the United Nations refugee agency in the Bangladeshi border town of Cox's Bazar, said troops in Myanmar were "killing men, shooting them, slaughtering children, raping women, burning and looting houses,

forcing these people to cross the river" into Bangladesh. The UN says up to 30,000 Rohingya, a stateless ethnic group, have abandoned their homes in Myanmar, desperate to escape the soldiers that have poured into the strip of land where they live near the Bangladesh border.

Dhaka says thousands are massed on the border, but has refused urgent international appeals to let them in, instead calling on Myanmar to do more to stop people fleeing. "It's very difficult for the Bangladeshi government to say the border is open because this would further encourage the government of Myanmar to continue the atrocities and push them

out until they have achieved their ultimate goal of ethnic cleansing of the Muslim minority in Myanmar," McKissick said. Vivian Tan, a press officer for the UN agency, said McKissick was "recounting what different sources, including new arrivals, have told him about the conditions they fled" and added the reports were "very worrying".

Farmer Deen Mohammad was among the thousands who evaded stiffened border patrols, sneaking into the Bangladeshi border town of Teknaf four days ago with his wife, two of their children and three other families. "They (Myanmar's military) took my two boys, aged nine and 12 when they entered my village. I don't know what happened to them," Mohammad, 50, told AFP. "They took women in rooms and then locked them from inside. Up to 50 women and girls of our village were tortured and raped." Mohammad said houses in his village were burned, echoing similar testimony from other recent arrivals. One Rohingya man, who asked not to be named, told AFP in Myanmar that troops had stormed into a neighboring village early yesterday morning and fired indiscriminately on residents as they tried to escape.

Protests

Meanwhile, thousands of Bangladeshis marched in the capital's streets yesterday to protest the persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar, one of several similar rallies in the region. Chanting "Stop killing Rohingya Muslims," they marched in Dhaka as violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state escalated, forcing thousands to leave their homes. — AFP



HONG KONG: Hong Kong's last British colonial governor Chris Patten gestures as he speaks at the Foreign Correspondents Club yesterday. — AFP

PATTEN SLAMS HK INDEPENDENCE

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's last British colonial governor Chris Patten attacked the city's pro-independence movement yesterday as the push for a split with China grows over fears of Beijing's tightening grip. Patten said he was fully behind the strengthening of democracy in Hong Kong, but accused independence activists of "making a mockery" of the issue. His comments came on the same day that two publicly elected young lawmakers, Baggio Leung and Yau Wai-ching, appealed against a ban against them taking up their seats in the legislature.

They were disqualified in a High Court judgement last week after they added expletives and used derogatory terms for China when taking their oaths of office in October. The High Court's move had been preempted by an earlier intervention from Beijing which said they should not be allowed to join parliament. Patten was governor of Hong Kong when it was handed back to China by Britain in 1997 under a semi-autonomous deal protecting its freedoms for 50 years. There are deep-seated concerns that those liberties are now under threat. He said that he believed passionately in the city's rule of law and freedoms, but dismissed the pro-independence camp as resorting to headline-grabbing "antics". "It would be dishonest, dishonourable and reckless for somebody like me to pretend that the case for democracy should be mixed up with an argument about the independence of Hong Kong," he told a packed room at the Foreign Correspondents' Club during a visit to the city. — AFP



JAKARTA: A Muslim man shouts slogans as he holds a defaced poster of Myanmar's Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi during a rally against the persecution of Rohingya Muslims outside the Embassy of Myanmar yesterday. — AP

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MANCHESTER: A shoe shop promotes 'Black Friday' discounts at the Trafford Centre shopping mall in Manchester, north-west England yesterday. Black Friday is a sales offer originating from the US where retailers slash prices on the day after the Thanksgiving holiday. —AFP

UK FIRMS SHOW NO BREXIT VOTE HIT

BUSINESS INVESTMENT RISES STRONGLY IN Q3, BEATING EXPECTATIONS

LONDON: British companies brushed off the uncertainty over Brexit in the three months after June's referendum and increased their investment, helping to drive solid growth in the economy, official data showed yesterday. Business investment expanded at a quarterly rate of 0.9 percent in the three months to September, the Office for National Statistics said, beating expectations for a 0.6 percent rise in a Reuters poll of economists.

Britain's economy overall grew by 0.5 percent in the third quarter, the ONS said, helped by a rebound in exports and robust household spending, the ONS said. A separate survey showed retail sales growing at the fastest pace in more than a year this month and suggested strong consumer spending will continue to drive the economy in the fourth quarter.

Britain's economy has performed much better than most economists had expected in the immediate aftermath of June's vote to leave the European Union. But a much bigger test awaits next year. Rising inflation caused by the pound's post-referendum plunge looks set to squeeze household spending and economists said they still expected business investment to slow. "So far, so good, then," HSBC economist Elizabeth Martins said. "But we find it hard to believe that the economy can sustain this pace of expansion, given the indications from business surveys and growing price pressures."

Britain's business investment statistics are prone to big revisions and the ONS said most of the investment decisions captured in yesterday's data probably took place before the Brexit referendum.

While tech giants Facebook and Google and carmaker Nissan have committed to investing in Britain since the vote, some business surveys suggest the scores of smaller firms have curbed plans for capital spending recently. In a move aimed at offsetting the likely slowing of private investment in the next couple of years, finance minister Philip Hammond this week announced he will borrow 23 billion pounds (\$29 billion) to invest more in housing, transport and digital infrastructure over the next five years. The strong retail sales figures from the Confederation of British Industry on Friday chimed with the official data showing households increased their spending by 0.7 percent in the third quarter, slowing slightly but still helping to drive the economy in the face of uncertainty around Brexit.

But the outlook for household spending looks doubtful. The Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank warned of "dreadful" wage growth on Thursday with wages set to be lower in inflation-adjusted terms in 2021 than they were in 2008. Net trade added 0.7 percentage points to economic growth in the third quarter, the biggest positive contribution since early

2014 and helped by strong growth in exports after the pound's post-referendum plunge. "So the weak pound may already be delivering some upsides," said Martin Beck, senior economic adviser to the EY ITEM Club consultancy. "But the downsides of that weakness in

pushing up inflation means that GDP growth in the near-term may struggle to match Q3's performance." The economy overall expanded 2.3 percent versus the same period a year earlier, unchanged from a preliminary estimate. —Reuters

SAUDI SAYS WON'T ATTEND NON-OPEC TALKS MONDAY

DUBAI: Top OPEC oil exporter Saudi Arabia has told the producer group it will not attend talks yesterday with non-OPEC producers to discuss limiting supply, OPEC sources said, as it wants to focus on having consensus within the organization first.

The meeting was planned to discuss the contribution that producers outside the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will make to a proposed supply-limiting agreement. OPEC oil ministers meet on Wednesday to finalize the deal.

"There is an official letter from (Saudi Arabia) saying (it is) not attending the meeting because the ministers should agree to the cut and then present the agreement to non-OPEC countries," an OPEC source said.

"This will be more effective." The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is trying to finalize a September agreement that would reduce production to between 32.5 million and 33 million barrels per day.

It aims to remove a supply glut and prop up oil prices, which at just over \$48 a barrel are less than half their level of mid-2014. The organization also wants non-OPEC producers such as Russia to curb output. Despite extensive diplomacy since September, the OPEC side of the deal still faces setbacks from Iraq's call for it to be exempt and from Iran, which wants to increase supply because its output has been hit by sanctions. — Reuters



AUDI KUWAIT PARTNERS WITH AUB TO OFFER PREFERENTIAL FINANCING

KUWAIT: Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company, the exclusive dealer of Audi in Kuwait, has partnered with Ahli United Bank to provide its clients with a unique offer when they purchase any Audi vehicle through the dealership.

The promotion, which is valid until the 30 November 2016, presents customers preferred service agreements and benefits upon the purchase of any Audi model. Audi Kuwait offers customers an extensive range of models available from KD 11,999 with the addition of 1-year comprehensive insurance, a 5-year/75,000 km service package; 3-year warranty/unlimited mileage, 3-year road side assistance, and free registration. "Ahli United Bank is a well-known and established Islamic banking institu-

tion and we are pleased to offer customers of the bank and Audi Kuwait this limited time offer," Robert Jazzini, Senior Sales Manager at Audi Kuwait said.

Located in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area - Jahra Road, the Audi Kuwait showroom invites customers to view a wide range of models and experience a test drive from Saturday to Thursday during the hours of 9 am to 1 pm and from 4.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

The Audi Group, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 16 locations in twelve countries. In the second half of 2016, the production of the Audi Q5 will start in San JosÉ Chiapa

(Mexico). 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2015, the Audi Group delivered to customers approximately 1.8 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,245 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and about 54,800 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2015 financial year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of Å58.4 billion and an operating profit of Å4.8 billion. At present, approximately 85,000 people work for the company all over the world, about 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on new products and sustainable technologies for the future of mobility.

OIL DOWN ON STRONG DOLLAR, OPEC LOGJAM

LONDON: Oil prices slid yesterday, dragged by a strong dollar and uncertainty over whether OPEC will agree to cut production at the group's meeting next week, but benchmark contracts were on track to close the week with gains close to 4 percent.

Brent crude futures were trading at \$48.53 a barrel at 1253 GMT, down 47 cents. US crude futures fetched \$47.56 a barrel, down 40 cents. Overall activity on both contracts was thin after the US Thanksgiving holiday and ahead of the weekend. The main drag on prices was the dollar, which this week hit levels last seen in 2003 against a basket of other currencies. A strong dollar could crimp fuel demand due to higher costs for holders of other currencies.

Reports that state oil giant Saudi Aramco would in January increase oil supplies to some Asian customers also cast a shadow on markets, traders said.

A decline in China's October crude oil imports to their lowest on a daily basis since January added to the bearish

tone. But analysts said fundamentals were little changed - apart from concerns over the fate next week of a Saudi-led plan for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers to agree on cuts in crude output.

The market "is taking it easy ahead of a long weekend (in the United States) and uncertainty over OPEC," said Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst with SEB Bank in Oslo. "There is no other big bearish news."

Schildrop said prices could rebound if the Nov. 30 meeting succeeded in reaching a targeted production cap of 32.5 million to 33.0 million barrels per day (bpd), from the 33.64 million bpd the group pumped in October. On Thursday, the oil minister of non-OPEC nation Azerbaijan said OPEC was also pushing oil producers outside the group to make big cuts in output. Most analysts expect some form of cut, but it is uncertain whether that would be enough to prop up a market dogged by oversupply since 2014. — Reuters

ZIMBABWE'S MONEY RUNS OUT, SO DOES MUGABE'S POWER

HARARE: In Zimbabwe, where worthless \$100 trillion notes serve as reminders of the perils of hyperinflation, President Robert Mugabe is printing a new currency that jeopardizes not just the economy but his own long grip on power. Six months ago, the 92-year-old announced plans to address chronic cash shortages by supplementing the dwindling U.S. dollars in circulation over the past seven years with 'bond notes', a quasi-currency expected at the end of November.

According to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), the bond notes will be officially interchangeable 1:1 with the US dollar and should ease the cash crunch. The central bank also promised to keep a tight lid on issuance. After a 2008 multi-billion percent inflationary meltdown caused by rampant money-printing, many Zimbabweans are skeptical. The plan has already caused a run on the banks as Zimbabweans empty their accounts of hard currency.

Internal intelligence briefings seen by Reuters raise the possibility that the bond notes, if they crash, could spell the end of Mugabe's 36 years in charge. A Sept. 29 Central Intelligence Organization (CIO) report revealed the powerful army was as unhappy as the rest of the population with the new notes and had told Africa's oldest leader to "wake up and smell the coffee". "Top security officers have told Mugabe not to blame them if Rome starts to burn," the report said. Reuters was unable to determine the author of the report. It is also unclear if Mugabe has seen the report, whose final audience is not specified. Mugabe's spokesman did not respond to requests for comment, nor was the CIO available. But the report offers a rare glimpse into the thinking of Mugabe's security forces - the backbone of his power - and their concerns about the implosion of what used to be one of Africa's most promising economies. "Mugabe was openly told that the bond notes are going to cause his downfall," the report said.

WAITING FOR THE DROP

The notes' first test will come in the informal foreign exchange markets on the streets of Harare. If they fall heavily in value, they are likely to unleash an inflationary spiral that could bleed the banking system of its last few dollars and wipe out Zimbabweans' savings for the second time in less than a decade, economists say.

The same happened in 2008: powerful individuals with access to dollars at the official 1:1 rate were able to buy bond notes at a discount on the unofficial market and then convert them back to dollars at face value. "You start with one dollar, then you've got 10, then you've got 100, then you've got 1,000 - and it's not even lunchtime," said John Robertson, one of Zimbabwe's most respected private economists.

In Harare's chaotic Road Port bus station, the main terminus for those heading to and from South Africa, Zimbabwe's biggest trading partner, some bus operators are fearing the worst. Required to pay nearly all their expenses - fuel, road tolls and police bribes in Zimbabwe and South Africa - in hard currency cash, they are particularly exposed.

"It's like being on death row. You don't know when the hangman is going to open your cell door," said ticket-seller Simba Muchenje, pulling a wad of worthless 2008 Zimbabwe dollars from his briefcase and tossing them onto the counter. "It's just taking us back to the bad old days." In interviews, none of eight money-changers trading South African rand and US dollars said they would accept bond notes at their \$1 face value because of fears of immediate depreciation. The rand and the US dollar have become Zimbabwe's currencies since the local dollar was scrapped in 2009.

"The banks may say 1:1, but here we say 2:1. We can't afford to pay the same as the banks. I'm running a business, not a bank," said Patience, a 32-year-old money-changer.

REASSURING WORDS

Given Zimbabwe's recent history of hyperinflation, the RBZ is keen to allay fears the printing presses are about to go into overdrive, and that the bond notes are a roundabout route to a new Zimbabwe dollar. "The introduction of bond notes does not mark the return of the Zimbabwe dollar through the back door," it said in a statement on its website.

Instead, the bank has presented the notes as a 5 percent "export incentive" - a top-up added by the central bank to the accounts of those receiving foreign exchange either from overseas remittances or via farming, manufacturing and mining exports. They will also be backed by a \$200 million "loan facility" from Afreximbank, a Cairo-based lender owned by the African Development Bank and dozens of African governments and central banks. — Reuters

DOLLAR DIPS ON BOND YIELDS, THANKSGIVING HANGOVER

LONDON: The dollar retreated against its major peers yesterday, a pullback in US bond yields spurring some profit-taking as the world's main currency headed for its best run in almost two years.

Expectations of rises in US inflation and interest rates have driven the greenback to a more than 6 percent gain over October and November, its strongest showing over a similar period since early 2015. Most currency players expect the gains to continue, but the combination of Thanksgiving, the processing of corporate flows before the month-end and perceived risks looming for markets in the first half of December led some to cash in gains now.

The Australian and New Zealand dollars also both got some help from rises in iron ore prices and bullish trade figures respectively. "US yields gapped higher at open but we have been unable to hold those gains and that has encouraged some profit-

taking," Jeremy Stretch, CIBC head of currency strategy in London, said.

"There is a degree of consolidation (but) there is still a consistent bias that means the dollar will remain pretty much supported into the Fed meeting next month. The message seems to be take some profit and we will be looking to go again."

After hitting an 8-month high of 113.90 yen in Asian trading, the dollar was down 0.4 percent on the day at 112.94 yen, still on track for a more than 2 percent gain on the week.

The euro rose almost half a percent to \$1.0592 after dropping to \$1.0518 on Thursday, its lowest since March 2015. "The euro's indulging in a bit of ... short-covering, and I suppose it can benefit from quiet, thin markets," Societe Generale strategist Kit Juckes said.

"At the very least, dollar-yen is a buy on dips in

this environment. Our target is 120 next year, but our 114 forecast for March could be reached a week after we revised it. If this move continues at the recent pace, the whole 2017 USD rally might have been done by the time 2017 even begins."

Emerging market equities and currencies have been hit hard by the spectre of higher US interest rates and the prospect of U.S. trade protectionism under President-elect Donald Trump.

The Turkish lira, for example, slumped to a record low even as its central bank raised interest rates for the first time in nearly three years on Thursday. The lira was hurt as European Union lawmakers called for a temporary halt to EU membership talks with Ankara. Some expect a further sell-off in emerging markets to eventually revive demand for the flagging yen, normally a go-to currency in times of market tumult, along with the Swiss franc. — Reuters

TURKEY TARGETS LUXURY CARS WITH HIKE IN SPECIAL CONSUMPTION TAX

ANKARA: Turkey increased its special consumption tax on cars yesterday, a move that will be applied to all but the cheapest models in what the finance minister said was a response to demands from the industry. Speaking to reporters in Ankara, Naci Agbal said that no increases would be applied to cars that cost less than 40,000 lira (\$11,578). Models costing 40,000-70,000 lira would see a price rise of around 3 percent, he said.

The change, which Agbal said would contribute around an additional 3 billion lira to the budget, is seen as potentially positive for sales of mass-market cars made in Turkey as it would drive up the cost of luxury competitors, many of which are imported. "The goal is not to obtain revenue, it is to amend the system's broken structure and move to a just and new taxation system," Agbal said. Under the current system, imported luxury cars with smaller engines are in the same tax bracket as mass-market models, many of them made in Turkey by firms including Toyota and Renault, or Ford Otosan and Tofas, local joint ventures with Ford and Fiat. The new system will make even small-engine luxury cars more expensive.

The changes will not be welcomed by car importers including Dogus Automotive, which sells brands including Volkswagen, Audi and Bentley in Turkey.

"New taxes for higher-priced cars are negative for premium car sales and Dogus could take a hit," Oyak Securities said in an e-mailed note. "For Ford Otosan and Tofas, the negative impact would be softer as passenger car domestic sales have a smaller share in their total sales and light commercial vehicle tax rates will stay unchanged," it said. Ford Otosan and Tofas both export models produced in Turkey as well as supplying the domestic market. — Reuters

DAWN QUEUES, TRAFFIC JAMS AS BLACK FRIDAY DEBUTS IN GREECE

ATHENS: Long queues snaked outside department stores and roads were blocked near malls thousands of Greeks bucked falling wages and joblessness to join the country's first-ever Black Friday shopping craze. In Athens, Thessaloniki and other major Greek cities, the queues formed before participating stores—mostly tech and clothes chains—opened at 0600 GMT.

It was soon clear that most of the shoppers were youngsters skipping school to take advantage of up to 80-percent reductions in the sales. At a prominent department store, Xbox One home video game consoles priced at 199 euros (\$210) sold out in less than two hours. Despite large crowds, no major disturbances or fights occasionally seen at such promotions abroad were reported. Greek retail groups have expressed scepticism about the promotion which further threatens to undermine struggling small business owners. Nikolas Kougioumtsis, head of the Athens trade association, said Black Friday was "not a positive" day for many sellers. — AFP

HK-SHENZHEN STOCK MARKET LINK TO OPEN ON DECEMBER 5

MAINLAND TECH SHARES TO OPEN UP FOR FOREIGNERS

SHANGHAI: A long-delayed trading link between the Shenzhen and Hong Kong stock markets will open December 5, regulators said yesterday, opening up the mainland's tech shares to foreign investors for the first time. Originally slated to launch last year, it was delayed after a massive market run-up and subsequent rout. The start date was decided by Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the SFC said in a statement, with its chairman Carlson Tong saying the two regulators had "established mechanisms to protect the integrity of both markets".

The scheme will link mainland China's second stock exchange, the world's eighth largest with a market capitalisation of \$3.3 trillion as of September, with the bourse in Hong Kong. The former British colony is now a special administrative region of China but remains deeply connected to the global financial system, unlike the mainland's closed markets. The new link builds on a similar "stock connect" between Shanghai and Hong Kong launched two years ago, which gave foreigners new access to Chinese companies not quoted elsewhere, and enabled mainlanders to trade in Hong Kong. The Shenzhen connect will enable foreigners to buy shares in a total of 863 Chinese firms for the first time, authorities said earlier.

They include appliance manufacturer Midea—which bought German robotics firm Kuka this year—model carmaker Rastar, owner of Spanish football club Espanyol, and Suning Commerce, part of the group that acquired Inter Milan earlier this year. China's Securities Times newspaper cited exchange general manager Wang Jianjun as saying that by value, nearly 60 percent of the newly available firms were in new and emerging industries, such as information technology and medicine, among others.

Some of the biggest are little-known outside China, such as Focus Media Information Technology, which owns 180,000 television advertising screens across the country and is valued at \$23 billion, or video surveillance provider Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology, market capitalisation \$22 billion. But a 6



HONG KONG: People walk outside the Hong Kong Stock Exchange building in Hong Kong. A long-delayed trading link between the Shenzhen and Hong Kong stock markets will open December 5, regulators said yesterday opening up the mainland's tech shares to foreign investors for the first time. — AFP

billion yuan (\$900 million) minimum market capitalisation excludes fast-growing smaller companies. That could protect outside investors from some of the wilder gyrations of Chinese share prices. More than 99 percent of China's 116 million investors are rumour-driven small investors, the latest official figures show an unusually high proportion by global standards.

The mainland's bourses have been compared to casinos, with insider trading and dramatic swings in share prices seemingly unconnected to underlying business prospects. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index soared by 150 percent in the 12 months to June last year, despite China's economic growth slowing, in a bubble promoted by authorities, before it burst in spectacular fashion. "China's mainland market is still very heavy on speculation. If investors from Hong Kong side can't understand this, they may not come," Haitong Securities analyst Zhang Qi told AFP.

Symbol over substance?

Beijing has been trying to have Chinese A shares included in the influen-

tial MSCI Emerging Markets Index, which could help steer more foreign portfolio investment into the country at a time when authorities are fighting off capital flight. Analysts say the stock connect represents another effort by Beijing to prove to international investors its capital markets are gradually opening.

It could perhaps strengthen its case for inclusion as the trading quota "could allow more funds to move across the border", Sam Chi Yung, Hong Kong-based senior strategist at South China Research Limited, told AFP.

Beijing maintains strict foreign exchange limits as part of the ruling party's tools to control the currency, and the stock connect scheme works by enabling investors to deposit funds in one jurisdiction and make trades in the other. A total of 23.5 billion yuan in cross-border transactions will be allowed per day under the Shenzhen scheme, regulators said. But despite heavy hype before its November 2014 launch, the Shanghai-Hong Kong connect has failed to excite traders, with both daily quotas for "southbound" mainland and "northbound" international buyers often going unfilled. — AFP

INDIA'S MODI DEFENDS CASH BAN AMID CHAOS, CRITICISM

FITCH TO REVISE DOWN INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit back yesterday at the mounting criticism of his decision to withdraw all high-denomination bank notes from circulation, describing the move as "for the larger social good".

The November 8 move to ban the 500 and 1,000 rupees (\$7.30, \$14.60) notes some 85 percent of all bills in circulation-as legal tender has sparked turmoil in the vast cash-reliant nation. Long queues have formed outside banks across the country as people try to get rid of their old notes, and the government has repeatedly changed rules surrounding the exchange process in response to pressure from various groups and mounting chaos.

"The decision isn't being criticized much (by the common man)," Modi said in a speech yesterday, in which he praised citizens as "soldiers in this fight against corruption and black (unaccounted) money".

"Some things have to be done above politics for the larger social good," he added.

Critics of the move have included former prime minister Manmohan Singh-whose economic reforms are credited with rescuing India from the brink of bankruptcy in the early 1990s-who said that the decision could shave two percentage points from the country's GDP.

Ratings agency Fitch has also said it would revise down India growth forecasts for the fourth quarter of 2016 after the shock move. Others have slammed the government for its "shoddy implementation" of the scheme.

But Modi hit out at his rivals, saying those criticizing his decision were doing so because they were "sad that they didn't get any notice, a chance to prepare for the decision".

"It is such a great step. A big, big decision. And, for those who dream of a great future

for the country, let's come together to remove the problems being faced by the common man," he added.

In weeks since the decision, people nationwide have complained of a cash-crunch, with rural farming areas, where local banks and post offices have been slow to receive new notes, the hardest hit. Modi also urged Indians to switch to non-cash methods of spending.

"Every person has a right to spend his or her money. No one can take anyone's money. Now people can also spend through mobile technology," he said, mentioning that the country had around a billion mobile handsets and 60 percent of its population was under 35 years. The Modi government claims that the move is an attempt to encourage more people into formal banking, which will also increase taxable income in a country where only around 3 percent of Indians pay any income tax. —AFP

SUDDEN CURRENCY MOVE SPOILS BUSINESS AT INDIAN FOOD MARKET

NEW DELHI: The scale of India's cash economy can be seen in the Azadpur Mandi wholesale fruit and vegetable market. Trucks bring load after load of fresh produce to its grimy lanes every day. Then a complex web of wholesale merchants, smaller traders and retailers delivers the produce to most of north India. Almost every transaction, like most in India, is done in cash. And business at the massive New Delhi market is evaporating, the food spoiling and wasted, two weeks after the government's surprise currency move made more than 80 percent of India's banknotes useless.

By withdrawing all 500- and 1,000-rupee notes from circulation, the government is trying to clean India's economy of "black money," or untaxed wealth. Its success remains to be seen, but for now the move has created serpentine queues outside banks and ATMs of people replacing their rupee notes or making small withdrawals.

Few people have access to banks, however. The vast majority of Indians earn and spend in cash, and more than half of the country's 1.3 billion people have no bank accounts. In Azadpur people are upset: the impossibly wiry laborers who transport fruit and vegetables in handcarts around the 90-acre market, the big traders who conduct hundreds of thousands of rupees of business in a day and the small retailers who buy a few baskets or crates of food to sell each day.

Stopping to talk to a reporter would have been impossible a month ago, but business at the market was so thin on a recent day that groups of traders and workers were free to speak. A look at how India's currency move has impacted people at one crucial market.

Worried about their next meal

Jitendra Prasad sits propped on one edge of his wooden handcart. Flies buzz over bunches of ripe bananas but few customers stop to even ask his price. People are holding on to their precious 10s and 100s out of fear of when they'll be able to make their next withdrawal, he says. Banks and ATMs are dispensing the new 2,000 rupee bill but smaller bills are scant. For Prasad the big bills are useless:



NEW DELHI: A laborer squats on a truck loaded with cucumbers waiting for customers at Azadpur Mandi, one of Asia's largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables, in New Delhi, India. The scale of India's cash economy can be seen in this market. — AP

"We don't have enough money to give them change." So his fruit sits unsold or has to be thrown away. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has claimed the currency move had the support of India's poor, since it was aimed at corrupt wealth. "The poor are sleeping soundly. It is the rich who are looking to buy sleeping pills," he declared a few days after the switch.

Prasad for one isn't sleeping well. "We are worried day and night. We are worried about having food to eat." Handcart puller Jagat came to Azadpur Mandi to find work when he was 14. He has done every odd job the market has. And he says it's never been harder to make enough to scrape by.

"I would make 1,000 rupees a day (\$14.50). At this time in the morning I would be so busy I wouldn't have time to stop and talk. But now making even 200 rupees (\$3) is hard." Some days there is no work at all. For now small loans, from other laborers in the market, is helping a little. "But if this doesn't end soon we will starve. What else?"

Struggling to do business

Everywhere in the market groups of traders have time on their hands. "Nothing is going on here. Our suppliers have stopped buying. So, we are not getting any produce. What are we going to sell to our customers? Our investments are stuck. The new currency bills are not easily available," says Sanjay, a wholesale buyer of sweet limes, who uses just one name. "Things are so bad that I'm actually taking the old currency notes from the few people who show up to buy," he says pointing to the sacks of fruit piled in his hop.

He knows that it'll be a while before he can deposit the bundles of old notes in the bank, "but what can I do? Throw it all away?"

Amit Kumar hasn't had a customer hail his auto rickshaw all morning, a rarity on usual days. Over the last two weeks he has seen fares drop by about half. But food costs just as much and the rent won't pay itself. He's not hopeful that the government will help ease the problem of cash flow that has hit people like him so hard. — AP

YES OR NO, ITALIAN REFERENDUM TO HAVE MODEST MARKET REACTION

ROME/BENGALURU: Victory or defeat for Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's constitutional reform referendum will hit financial markets only modestly, a Reuters poll found, with analysts split on how serious a "No" vote would be for the future of the euro project. Renzi has said he will resign if he loses the Dec 4 ballot an outcome all opinion polls say is the most likely - on his plan to drastically reduce the role of the upper house Senate. The Reuters survey of 32 analysts conducted on Nov 24-25 showed investors expected to demand an extra 25 basis points in yield to hold Italian debt over its German equivalent if the reform is rejected, with the euro dipping 1.25 percent.

Similar moves in the other direction are expected if voters approve the reform at the ballot box, which Renzi is presenting as a chance to speed up lawmaking and stabilize government. While the poll consensus shows only muted reaction to either outcome, the European Central Bank said the risks are rising to euro zone financial stability and it would react to any "economic shock" from the vote.

The most pessimistic view in the poll was for a 70 basis point premium on the Italian/German yield spread and for the euro to fall as much as 10 percent. Half the analysts polled see a "serious" blow to the euro project if Italians reject the plan, which those opposed to it say will over-centralise power and make Italy less democratic. The other half said the blow would not be serious. "I think the market underestimates the long-term consequences of a 'No' outcome," said DekaBank economist Kristian Toedmann. "Italy's reform agenda is a project for many years. If it fails, trend growth will not accelerate and government debt will become less sustainable. This cannot be compensated by (ECB) quantitative easing forever," he said. Italy's chronically stagnant economy is struggling to post convincing growth and its debt pile, one of the world's biggest, keeps it under close investor scrutiny.

CRACK IN THE EURO PROJECT?

Many in the financial markets worry that, if Renzi resigns, the anti-euro 5-Star Movement could come closer to power. Renzi has said he will not participate in any attempt to form a technocrat government of the kind that took over after Silvio Berlusconi's last administration collapsed in 2011. "The 'No' scenario opens up a very volatile phase," said Intesa Sanpaolo fixed income strategist Sergio Capaldi. "In case of Renzi's resignation there is no clear path for the formation of a new government. A short-term government could just approve an electoral law for the Senate and announce early elections." Further investor concerns focus on Italy's banks, which, saddled with 200 billion euros in bad loans, are holding back lending to small companies that traditionally relied on them.

Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, the world's oldest bank, is among the biggest worries as it plans a 5 billion euro (\$5.29 billion) recapitalization plan. Monte dei Paschi plans to launch a stock sale on Dec. 7 or 8 into what could be turbulent markets if the referendum goes against Renzi and his government resigns. "If the prospect loomed of a failed capital hike for MPS, the next hypothesis is a bail-in, which would have serious consequences," said IG strategist Vincenzo Longo, recalling the case of four banks the state rescued from bankruptcy last year. — Reuters

CHINA'S SILK ROAD FEEDS HOPE OF 2017 RECOVERY

SHANGHAI: After five years of falling revenue, forecourts overcrowded with unsold machinery and idle factories, China's push to build a modern day Silk Road is fuelling a recovery for the country's heavy equipment industry, according to executives from many companies gathered in Shanghai this week. Construction equipment makers - a proxy for China's infrastructure, resources and construction sectors - suffered a plunge in sales after 2011, as commodity prices collapsed. Industry sales in China peaked that year at \$35 billion, according to consultancy Off-Highway Research; and this year, they are estimated at \$9 billion - the worst sales level in more than a decade.

But speaking at a crowded biennial industry show this week, executives from machinery makers said that in the third quarter of this year there were finally signs of life. They now expect growth next year for the first time since 2011, as a glut of used equipment ages, the industry works through accumulated inventory and companies benefit from ambitious government projects.

Overall demand for excavators in China jumped by 50 percent in September, while sales of earth-moving and road-making machinery, a major beneficiary of the Silk Road effort, turned positive after five years of losses, according to Off-Highway.

"We've seen fairly significant signs of bottoming and turning around," said David Beatenbough, a vice-president of Guangxi LiuGong Machinery Co Ltd, one of China's largest construction machinery manufacturers, where he oversees research and development.

"We're seeing quite a bit in rail, some in roads... and a little bit in traditional real estate," he said. China has estimated the Silk Road initiative, known as 'One Belt, One Road', could add \$2.5 trillion to China's trade in the next decade, making it critical to the post-financial crisis turnaround - and the benefits will go well beyond machine makers. Chinese President Xi Jinping's initiative, includes a drive for an integrated economic area through Central Asia, West Asia, the Middle East and Europe, based on new infrastructure - such as roads and railways, and increased trade links. Official data has shown broader signs of stabilization in the China's economy, driven by billions of dollars in government spending and a property boom in major cities, even as private investment and exports remain stubbornly weak. Beijing, which is seeking to cushion the impact of the country's slowest growth in 25 years, has accelerated approvals, sent officials to probe stalled projects and encouraged private investors to play a bigger role in infrastructure building.

Earlier this month, the country's top economic planner said it had approved 2.97 trillion yuan (\$429.3 billion) worth of projects in the first ten months of the year, 2.9 percent higher than the amount approved over the same period last year.

REVVING UP

Infrastructure spending is entering a growth phase globally, led by the ambitious plans to rebuild the United States under President-elect Donald Trump and including Britain, which on Thursday freed up an extra 23 billion pounds (\$28.6 billion) to invest in rail, telecoms and housing infrastructure - all good news for machinery makers.

It is still early days in the recovery. For example, US heavy equipment maker Caterpillar did not have booths at the Shanghai show this year - a contrast with 2012, when it filled a hall with a 12,000-square-metre display. But after one of the grimmest years in decades, other signs are rosier. Beyond Shanghai, John Deere, Japan's Komatsu and others have given cautiously positive outlooks in recent weeks. And Caterpillar itself last week reported a third consecutive month of sales growth in Asia, driven by China, and said it sees growth ahead in 2017 - if Chinese government support for projects continues. Most see growth in other parts of Asia too, as Chinese construction firms go into southeast Asia or Pakistan. A weak yuan - it has fallen 6 percent against the dollar so far this year - will also make Chinese companies more competitive internationally. "Business confidence is coming back... and (firms) are starting to see some good results," Karin Sun, Beijing-based senior consultant at Off-Highway Research, said in reference to China. Chen Dewei, vice-general manager of excavator and wheel loader maker Fujian Jingong Machinery in southern China, said his company has been able to trim inventories to what he called a "reasonable" level. —Reuters

LUFTHANSA PILOTS THREATEN TO EXTEND STRIKE OVER PAY

AIRLINE CANCELS 2,800 FLIGHTS OVER FOUR DAYS

BERLIN: Pilots at Lufthansa threatened yesterday to extend their latest strike in a long-running pay dispute with the German airline, raising pressure on management and leaving passengers fearing fresh disruption. The walkout - the 14th since early 2014 - began on Wednesday and has already grounded some 2,600 planes and affected more than 315,000 passengers. Lufthansa has said the disruption has started to hit medium-term bookings.

The airline said it would cancel a further 137 flights on Saturday, around 5 percent of its schedule, including 88 intercontinental flights. Some short- and medium-haul flights would also be affected, it said. Lufthansa urged the union to enter arbitration but the union said it wants to see a better offer first. "As things stand at present, we will have to keep striking as there is no basis for negotiations or arbitration with Lufthansa at the moment," said Joerg Handwerk, board member at the Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) pilots' union.

The union wants an average annual pay increase of 3.7 percent for 5,400 pilots in Germany over a five-year period from 2012. Lufthansa has offered 2.5 percent over six years to 2019. Lufthansa Chief Executive Carsten Spohr has said the carrier's future would be on the line if pilots' wages were raised to the level demanded. Lufthansa says it has to cut costs to compete with leaner rivals such as Ryanair on short-haul routes and Emirates on long-haul flights, despite making a record profit in 2015. Lufthansa pilots are well paid by industry standards. A pilot at Lufthansa earns on average 180,000 euros (\$190,000) a year before tax, though a captain on the highest pay level can earn as much as 22,000 euros a month before tax.



DUESSELDORF: Flight passengers walk past an information sign with the logo of German airline Lufthansa yesterday at the airport in Duesseldorf, western Germany. — AFP

LONG-TERM DAMAGE?

Passengers at Frankfurt airport yesterday were running out of patience. "It's not pleasant," said Lufthansa passenger Dieter Eidt who was booked on a flight to Rome and faced a lengthy delay. "I believe that they are demanding something that can't be fulfilled and which is unjustified," Eidt said of the pilots. Senior conservative lawmaker Michael Fuchs has called for forced mediation to end the dispute. "It can't be that hundreds of thousands are taken hostage for the interest of a small majority," he said, adding the walkout risked damaging German business.

The economy ministry said it was up to management and the union to find a solution. Shares in Lufthansa, down more than 13 percent this year, traded 0.6 percent lower yesterday as investors fretted over the prospect of stoppages

dragging on. Ruxandra Haradau-Doeser, an aviation analyst at Kepler Chevreux, said Lufthansa's profit target of 1.8 billion euros (\$1.9 billion) for 2016 could be at risk if the strike lasts throughout the whole of next week.

However, she added that investors expected Spohr to stand firm. "Investors trusted him on this. He is in a difficult position. If he were to yield, in my opinion he would lose the trust of investors and the market," she said. Pilot strikes in 2014 cost Lufthansa 222 million euros, roughly 21 million euros per day, according to the IW Cologne Institute for Economic Research.

In 2015, walkouts by pilots and cabin crew cost it 231 million euros, around 30 million per day. The airline has since agreed deals with the main unions representing ground staff and cabin crew in Germany. — Reuters

S AFRICA BRACES FOR CREDIT REVIEW AS GROWTH FALLS

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa braced for a potentially damaging credit rating review yesterday as Moody's releases its latest assessment amid political tension, reform blockages and weak economic data. President Jacob Zuma has been engulfed by graft scandals and a power struggle with Finance Minister Pravin

Gordhan, while growth has fallen to 0.5 percent and unemployment hit a 13-year high.

Moody's was expected to issue its updated grading later, before Standard & Poor's makes its key announcement a week later on December 2. S&P currently has South Africa - the continent's most

developed economy-rated at the lowest investment grade, and a downgrade would put the country's bonds into so-called "junk" status. Moody's currently rates South Africa two levels above junk. Any downward review would further drain investor confidence in the country's prospects under Zuma and the ANC party, which has ruled since the end of apartheid.

"We are politicizing downgrading. That is our problem," the president told parliament this week. "We have been working hard... and we are talking to them (rating agencies)." Efforts to avoid junk status have been at the centre of political drama for months, with Zuma loyalists at loggerheads with Gordhan, who is widely respected among international investors.

"Zuma has focused on removing Gordhan and maintaining his grip on power, while Gordhan (has) been working very hard to avert a ratings downgrade," the Eurasia consultancy group said in briefing note. — AFP



JOHANNESBURG: This file photo taken on March 20, 2015 shows people from a school group looking at an electronic screen with stock index figures at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). South Africa braced for a potentially damaging credit rating review yesterday as Moody's releases its latest assessment amid political tension, reform blockages and weak economic data. — AFP

LEGO OPENS FIRST TOY BRICK FACTORY IN CHINA

BEIJING: Lego's first Asian factory opened in China yesterday, the company said, a year after the Danish firm found itself embroiled in controversy over refusing to sell toy bricks to provocative Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. Only the fifth Lego factory in the world, the plant in eastern Zhejiang province will pump out up to 80 percent of the company's products sold in the boom-

ing Asia market, the company said. China's fast-growing consumer market is a prize for foreign companies, even as expansion slows in the world's second-largest economy.

But knockoff sets of colorful building blocks are widely available in the country, and online gaming is massively popular among young people, posing challenges to Lego's expansion. The com-

pany was criticized in 2015 when artist Ai Weiwei said it refused to sell him bricks because they would be "used for political works". Ai has been targeted by Chinese authorities for his advocacy of democracy and human rights as well as other criticisms of the government.

Earlier this year Lego opened its then-largest retail store in the world in Shanghai, and it has updated its fig-

urines to include dragons and ninjas in a bid to boost its appeal to Asian buyers. "Asia-including China-is a future core market for the LEGO Group," said Bali Padda, the company's chief operating officer. Its new China plant will employ 1,200 people and represents an investment of more than 100 million euros, the company said, without offering specifics. — AP

TRUMP'S STOCK IN PIPELINE COMPANY RAISES CONCERN

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP HOLDS STAKES IN OVER 500 FIRMS

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump holds stock in the company building the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline, and pipeline opponents warn that Trump's investments could affect any decision he makes on the \$3.8 billion project as president.

Trump's 2016 federal disclosure forms show he owned between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in stock in Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners. That's down from between \$500,000 and \$1 million a year earlier. Trump also owns between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in Phillips 66, which has a one-quarter share of Dakota Access. While Trump's stake in the pipeline company is modest compared with his other assets, ethics experts say it's among dozens of potential conflicts that could be resolved by placing his investments in a blind trust, a step Trump has resisted.

The Obama administration said this month it wants more study and tribal input before deciding whether to allow the partially built pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota. The 1,200-mile pipeline would carry oil across four states to a shipping point in Illinois. The project has been held up while the Army Corps of Engineers consults with the Standing

Rock Sioux, who believe the project could harm the tribe's drinking water and Native American cultural sites.

The delay, which comes as protests unfold daily along the proposed route, raises the likelihood that a final decision will be made by Trump, a pipeline supporter who has vowed to "unleash" unfettered production of oil and gas. He takes office in January.

"Trump's investments in the pipeline business threaten to undercut faith in this process - which was already frayed - by interjecting his own financial well-being into a much bigger decision," said Sharon Buccino, director of the land and wildlife program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

"This should be about the interests of the many, rather than giving the appearance of looking at the interests of a few - including Trump," Buccino said.

Trump, a billionaire who has never held public office, holds ownership stakes in more than 500 companies worldwide. He has said he plans to transfer control of his company to three of his adult children, but ethics experts have said conflicts could engulf the new administration if Trump does not liquidate his business holdings.

Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, called Trump's investment in the pipeline company "disturbing" and said it fits a pattern evident in Trump's transition team. "You have climate (change) deniers, industry lobbyists and energy conglomerates involved in that process," Grijalva said. "The pipeline companies are gleeful. This is pay-to-play at its rawest." Besides Trump, at least two possible candidates for energy secretary also could benefit from the pipeline. Oil billionaire Harold Hamm could ship oil from his company, Continental Resources, through the pipeline, while former Texas Gov. Rick Perry serves on the board of directors of Energy Transfer Partners.

Possible conflicts

Concern about Trump's possible conflicts comes as protests over the pipeline have intensified in recent weeks, with total arrests since August rising to 528. A clash this past week near the main protest camp in North Dakota left a police officer and several protesters injured.

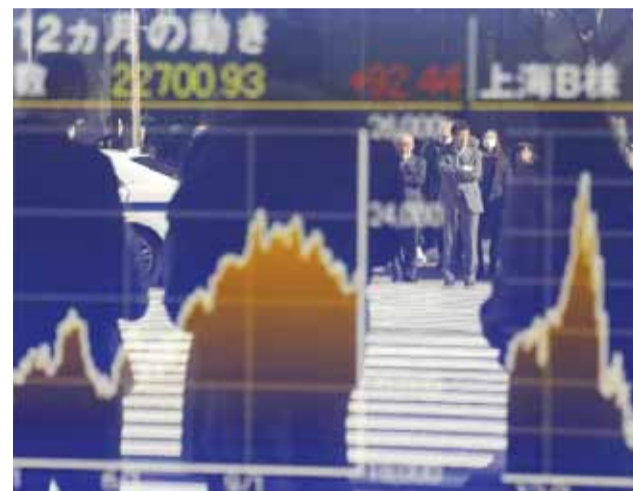
North Dakota Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple, along with GOP Sen. John Hoeven and Rep. Kevin Cramer, called on President Barack Obama to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to approve the pipeline crossing, the last large segment of the nearly completed pipeline.

Kelcy Warren, CEO of Dallas-based Energy Transfer, told The Associated Press that he expects Trump to make it easier for his company and others to complete infrastructure projects.

"Do I think it's going to get easier? Of course," said Warren, who donated \$3,000 to Trump's campaign, plus \$100,000 to a committee supporting Trump's candidacy and \$66,800 to the Republican National Committee. "If you're in the infrastructure business," he said, "you need consistency. That's where this process has gotten off track."

The Army Corps of Engineers granted Warren's company the permits needed for the crossing in July, but the agency decided in September that further analysis was warranted, given the tribe's concerns. On Nov. 14, the corps called for even more study.

The company has asked a federal judge to declare it has the right to lay pipe under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. The judge isn't likely to issue a decision until January at the earliest. — AP



TOKYO: People are reflected on the electronic board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian stock markets were mostly higher yesterday in subdued trading after US markets were closed on the Thanksgiving holiday. — AP

JAPAN SUFFERS LONGEST CONSUMER PRICE FALL SINCE 2011

TOKYO: Japan's consumer prices fell in October, government data showed yesterday, extending the longest string of declines in five years and underscoring its struggles to conquer deflation. The weak inflation data-core prices excluding fresh food fell 0.4 percent from a year ago-come several weeks after Japan's central bank pushed back the timeline for hitting its 2.0 percent inflation target.

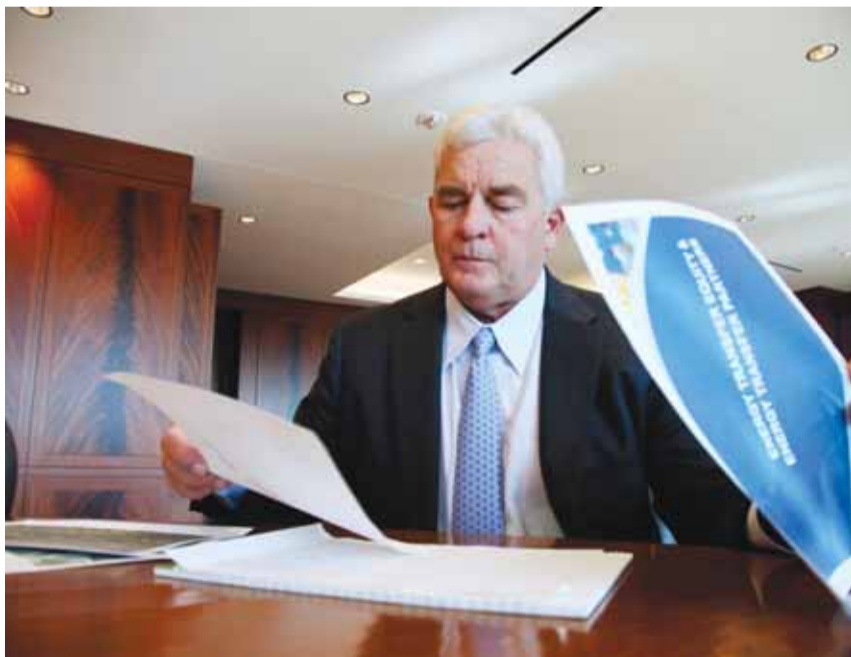
The BoJ's target is a key part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's faltering bid to pump up the world's number three economy. The country has been struggling to reverse a deflationary spiral of falling prices and lacklustre growth but October's data mark eight straight months of declines-the longest streak since 2011.

Bank of Japan (BoJ) governor Haruhiko Kuroda has pointed a finger at weak crude prices as the chief culprit behind the weakness. Japan's prime minister hand-picked Kuroda to help drive his "Abenomics" growth blitz of big spending, easy money and structural reforms, unveiled in early 2013.

The program sharply weakened the yen-fattening corporate profits-and set off a stock market rally that spurred hopes for the once-soaring economy. But growth remains fragile while inflation is far below the BoJ's target. Earlier this month, the central bank said it expected to hit two percent inflation by March 2019 — four years later than its original target and the latest in a string of delays.

"What was supposed to be a quick two-year victory has transformed into a prolonged war of attrition that is set to drag on," Yasunari Ueno, chief market economist at Mizuho Securities, said in a commentary before yesterday's data were published. The bank's price goals would be "difficult to achieve", said Yasuhiro Takahashi, senior economist at Nomura Securities.

"I'd say prices will turn into positive territory eventually, but so far upward movement of prices... is still weak," he said. "The reason behind the slow pace of price rises is because the economic recovery is very slow." The BoJ hoped that consumers would spend more if prices were rising, persuading firms to expand operations and getting the economy humming. But wage growth has fallen below expectations, meaning workers have less money to spend. Abe's promises to cut through red tape-the key third plank of Abenomics-have also been slow in coming. — AP



DALLAS: Energy Transfer Partners CEO Kelcy Warren reviews documents at his office in Dallas on the Dakota Access oil pipeline that is mired in controversy after thousands of protestors have sought to block its expansion underneath a water source close to the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota. — AP

Kuwait Times Weekender

55
Annual - Time

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016

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Nigerian model Davidson Obennebo walks the runway during the 33rd Final of Elite Model Look at Campo Pequeno, in Lisbon on November 23, 2016. — AFP

**Florence Henderson, 'Brady Bunch'
Mom and TV Icon, dies at 82**

SEE PAGE 24



RITA ORA DEFENDS JUSTIN BIEBER AFTER HE PUNCHED A FAN IN BARCELONA

The 25-year-old pop star said she can empathize with the 'Sorry' hitmaker, who punched 18-year-old fan Kevin Ramirez and left him with a bloodied lip after he reached through the window of Justin's moving car to grab him. Rita reflected: "I'm not speaking for anybody, but knowing him and his incredible background, I know how it feels to be uncomfortable and scared." Rita insisted Justin's reaction to his overly-enthusiastic fan was perfectly natural, saying it's how most people would have responded in the same situation. She explained: "I feel like anyone who had a hand in their face is going to protect themselves." In fact, the 'How We Do' hitmaker said she has found herself in similar situations in the past and admitted it was a

"scary" experience. The pop singer told the Metro newspaper: "There are definitely moments where they cross over the boundary of it becoming almost scary." Rita also heaped praise on fellow singers Zayn Malik and Selena Gomez, both of whom have been open about their mental health issues over the last year. Rita admitted she can relate to the pop duo because she has had her own mental health troubles, too. She said: "Artists are finally speaking about it, thank God, because I go through it. It's not something to be afraid or ashamed of. It happens to the best of us, especially when you've got a lot on your plate."

Kanye West spent Thanksgiving in hospital

The 39-year-old rapper was admitted to UCLA Medical Centre in Los Angeles on Monday (21.11.16) after suffering from "exhaustion" and "sleep deprivation", and although his family were hoping to he would be back on his feet in time for the annual American holiday, reports suggest he was not released. The 'Famous' rapper - who has two children, three-year-old daughter North and 11-month-old son Saint - had to spend most of Thanksgiving alone as he doesn't want to tell his children about his condition. A source said previously: "North and Saint [West] just think their dad is away now. Kanye wants to get better, so that's a big part in this healing process. "Kanye is trying to get better, but he has not been released yet because he and the doctors feel he needs more time to recover. "Kim is by his side now and will stand there till everything gets better." The 'Gold Digger' rapper wasn't alone for the entire day though, as 36-year-old Kim reportedly dropped by for "several hours" in the morning before heading off to her half-sister Kylie Jenner's house to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with her family. Meanwhile Kanye - who was forced to cancel the 21 remaining dates of his 'Saint Pablo Tour' in favor of receiving hospital treatment - has been "starting to feel more like himself", and is thought to be well on the way to recovery. Another source said: "[Kanye's] starting to feel more like himself. "He understands that getting help at the hospital was necessary. He is resting and getting help. They are taking it day by day."



Mariah Carey says Oprah Winfrey once gave her a piece of invaluable career advice

The 'Fantasy' singer has earned herself a reputation for being a diva over the years and it's a tag she has never sought to play down. Mariah admits Oprah once took her to one side to tell her there were some things she had to keep doing for herself, "don't let anybody think that you don't put your own shoes on anymore". And managing her own footwear was one she has tried to stick to - although she claims it's hard when she's wearing extravagant heels. Speaking in her new E! documentary series 'Mariah's World', the R&B legend - who is seen having her tootsies laced into a pair of platform heels by an assistant - shared: "Oprah told me, 'Don't let anybody think that you don't put your own shoes on anymore,' and she's really right. "Problem is some of these shoes are abusive and I can't put them on and I'm not going to lie about it." Mariah has given E! cameras unprecedented

access to her life for the eight episode series, and the fly-on-the-wall documentary shows her life as a pop star and her with her family, including her five-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe, her children with ex-husband Nick Cannon. The cameras also captured moments of Mariah's relationship with businessman James Packer and shows her going to a wedding dress fitting, however, the couple's engagement was abruptly called off last month. The romance looks on shaky ground in the first episode as Mariah makes the decision to postpone the nuptials, originally planned for March, so she can focus on her 27-date, '25 country Sweet Sweet Fantasy Tour'. 'Mariah's World' premieres on December 4 on the E! cable network.

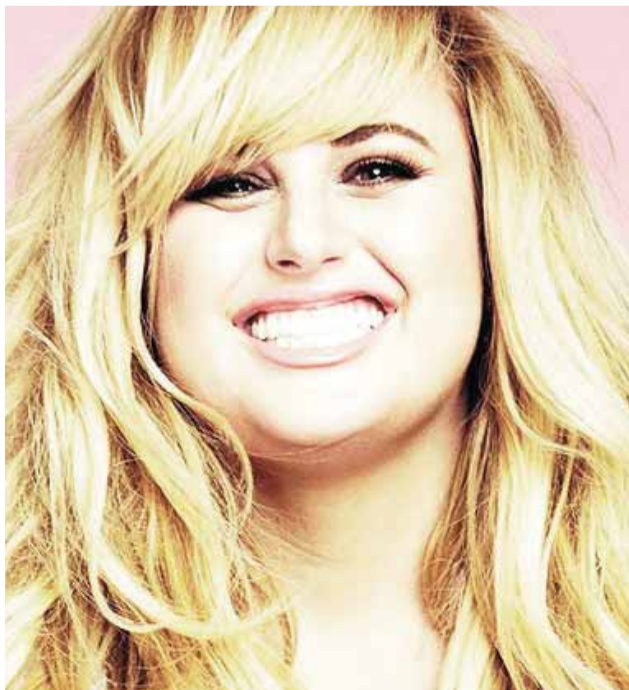




Selena Gomez has returned to Instagram

The 24-year-old singer took a break from the photo sharing app over three months ago after she entered rehab for depression, but made a triumphant return to the site on Thursday (24.11.16) when she posted a picture of herself with her fans, and detailed how she had "fought the fight of not being enough". The 'Hands To Myself' hitmaker wrote: "I have a lot to be thankful for this year.. My year has been the hardest yet most rewarding one yet. I've finally fought the fight of not 'being enough'. I have only wanted to reflect the love you guys have given me for years and show how important it is to take care of YOU. By grace through faith. Kindness always wins. I love you guys. God bless (sic)" Selena's return to social media comes after she recently made her first public appearance at the American Music Awards - where she picked up the gong for Favourite Female Artist - after taking time off due to suffering from "anxiety, panic attacks and depression" because of her lupus condition. During her acceptance speech, the 'Same Old Love' singer said she was left "absolutely broken

inside" before deciding to enter rehab. She said: "I think it's safe to say most of you know my life whether I liked it or not. And I had to stop, because I had everything and I was absolutely broken inside, and I kept it all together enough to where I would never let you down, but I kept it too much together to where I let myself down." She went on to thank her fans for being "so damn loyal", and urged others in her position to seek help saying they "do not have to stay broken". The 'Kill Em with Kindness' musician continued: "All I can say from the bottom of my heart is I'm so grateful that I have the opportunity to be able to share what I love every single day with people that I love, and I have to say thank you so much to my fans, because you guys are so damn loyal, and I don't know what I did to deserve you. But if you are broken, you do not have to stay broken. "That's one thing you should know about me: I care about people. And this is for you."



Rebel Wilson believes she has the 'best job ever'

The 36-year-old actress - who is known for her comedic roles in 'Pitch Perfect' and 'Bridesmaids' - has admitted she has "so much" to be grateful for this year and is thankful she has a successful career in the film industry because she "loves entertaining" people with her movies. The blonde beauty took to social media to broadcast her feelings, which saw her post an image of herself, with the caption: "Happy Thanksgiving everyone!! I'm lucky to be spending it with my sisters and new baby niece in LA. There's so much I have to be grateful for this year! To all the wonderful Americans that I'm around, to all the fantastic people I got to work with this year - stretching from the West End to the Hollywood Bowl - and to all the people around the world who support me!! I love you guys!! "I love entertaining you all and feel like I have the best job ever!! (sic)." And the Australian-born star has revealed she is currently "working hard" on a

new project. She added "I have been working hard this year behind the scenes to develop new movies (sic)." Meanwhile, Rebel insists it is her plus size figure, which makes her funny. Speaking previously, she said: "There's something about me that people like laughing at." Recalling the time she had an epiphany to pile on the pounds and focus on comedy, she added: "I was like, 'Oh. That girl's getting a lot of laughs, a lot easier than me. What is it?' Because I don't think there's much difference in talent. "And I remember distinctly thinking, 'I think it's because she's fatter'. And then, I don't know if it was mega-conscious, but I thought, 'How can I get more laughs? Maybe if I was a bit fatter ...' And then suddenly I was fatter, and doing comedy."

Adele has reportedly threatened to leave America following Donald Trump's election

The 'Hello' hitmaker's pal has said the star - who is an avid Hillary Clinton supporter - is "distracted" with the results of the US presidential election and is seriously considering ditching her 6.5 million Hollywood home to return to the UK. Her pal said: "Adele's gut reaction was to get out of LA. "She was so pro-Hillary and was confident the result she favored would happen." However, the 28-year-old pop superstar - who has four-year-old son Angelo with her husband Simon Konecki - hasn't made her mind up yet, and is believed to be weighing up the pros and cons of staying in Los Angeles, where there are better schools and she is not recognised as much by her fans. Her friend told The Sun newspaper: "Now some time has passed, she realises how

great California is, given the schools, lifestyle and weather, and how she's not disturbed as much as she is in the UK. "Democrats are also heavily in the majority in California, so she's surrounded by people of similar beliefs." It comes after the 'Make You Feel My Love' singer announced she is planning on having another child when she finishes her 'Adele Live' world tour. As she closed the US leg of her tour on Monday (21.11.16) in Phoenix, Arizona, she told the audience: "I'll see ya later, I'll see ya on the other side. In a couple of years when I'll be back, you won't be able to get rid of me. I'm going to go and have a baby."





In this May 2015 photo, actress Florence Henderson spoke during the Alzheimer's Association, Orange County's 9th annual Visionary Women Luncheon at Rancho Las Lomas in Silverado, California. — AP



In this June 12, 1967 file photo, composer Richard Rodgers, left, poses at opening night with stars, Florence Henderson, center, and Giorgio Tozzi, of the New York revival of "South Pacific," which Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II wrote.

Florence Henderson, 'Brady Bunch' mom and TV icon, dies at 82

Florence Henderson, the actress who defined the television mom of the modern era with her starring role in "The Brady Bunch," died Thursday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She was 82.

Henderson's manager, Kayla Pressman, said Henderson died on Thanksgiving night surrounded by family and friends. She'd been hospitalized the day before Henderson seen was on camera as recently as Monday when she attended the taping of ABC's "Dancing With the Stars." Her one-time TV daughter, Maureen McCormick of "Brady Bunch" fame, was a contestant on the show this season. Henderson herself was a contender on the show in 2010.

Busy career

Henderson had a busy career on Broadway in the 1950s and '60s, but it was "The Brady Bunch" that turned her into a household name and face. The ABC sitcom created by the prolific Sherwood Schwartz ran from 1969 to 1974, presenting a G-rated image of an typical American family, albeit a blended one, during a turbulent period for the nation. Henderson played the genial Carol Brady, the widow (or "lovely lady" in the words of the show's famous theme song) with three daughters who fell in love with a widower, Mike Brady, with three sons. Henderson's TV mom was always cheerful, always ready to soothe her children's problems with sound advice and a warm snack.

Henderson maintained a good sense of humor about the role that set the course for the rest of her career. She never tired of participating in "Brady Bunch" revivals, whether in TV or film, and she traded on her trustworthy Carol Brady persona to become a pitchwoman for products ranging from Wesson Oil to Polident denture grip.

Well liked

Henderson was well-liked by her TV family, and has often been hailed by friends and co-workers as a warm and generous actress with impeccable comedic timing. McCormick and the other five actors who played the "Brady" kids reunited to celebrate Henderson's 80th birthday in 2014. Robert Reed, the actor who played Henderson's on-screen husband, died in 1992.

"Brady Bunch" has endured for decades in syndication, ensuring that Henderson remained a bankable TV icon for decades. Henderson kept up a tireless schedule of guest star roles, ranging from "Ally McBeal" to "30 Rock" to "WWE Raw." Her resume includes visits to virtually every TV game show and talk show of the past 40 years. Long before she was Carol Brady, she notched a TV milestone as the first woman to guest host "The Tonight Show."

"Brady Bunch" also spawned "The Brady Bunch Variety Hour" in 1977, the 1981 TV movie "The Brady Girls Get Married" and subsequent "Brady Brides" TV series, followed in 1990 by another attempted revival, "The Bradys." She played the grandmother of her original Carol Brady character in the 1995 feature "The Brady Bunch Movie," which starred Shelley Long and Gary Cole.

More recently Henderson fronted two series of her own for Retirement Living TV: "Who's Cooking with Florence Henderson" and "The Florence Henderson Show" talk show that earned an Emmy nomination in 2010. A native of Dale, Ind., Henderson was the 10th child in a family of tobacco farmers. She began singing as a toddler. After graduating from high school, Henderson moved to New York to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Henderson made her 1952 in the musical "Wish You Were Here."

Her stage credits also include starring in the touring production of "Oklahoma!" where she became lifelong friends with Shirley Jones, "Fanny." She was also in Noel Coward's last Broadway play, "The Girl Who Came to Supper." Her only major film role came just as she was signing on to star in "Brady Bunch." In 1970's "Song of Norway," she played the wife of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg.

Henderson recounted her career in the 2011 memoir "Life Is Not a Stage: From Broadway Baby to a Lovely Lady and Beyond." She detailed the drama that existed behind the scenes on "Brady Bunch" as well as in her personal life during the run of the show, including stories of fighting on the set and dealing with infidelity in her marriage to theatrical manager Ira Bernstein.

During her decades in the public eye, Henderson was an active philanthropist and prominent supporter of numerous causes including City of Hope and the House Ear Institute. (Henderson herself had to undergo surgery in the 1960s to prevent deafness). She also raised money for the Sisters of St. Benedict monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana, including through appearances as a celebrity contestant on game shows like "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and "Weakest Link."

Henderson and Bernstein had four children before divorcing in 1985. She soon married hypnotherapist John Kappas, who died of cancer in 2002. — Reuters



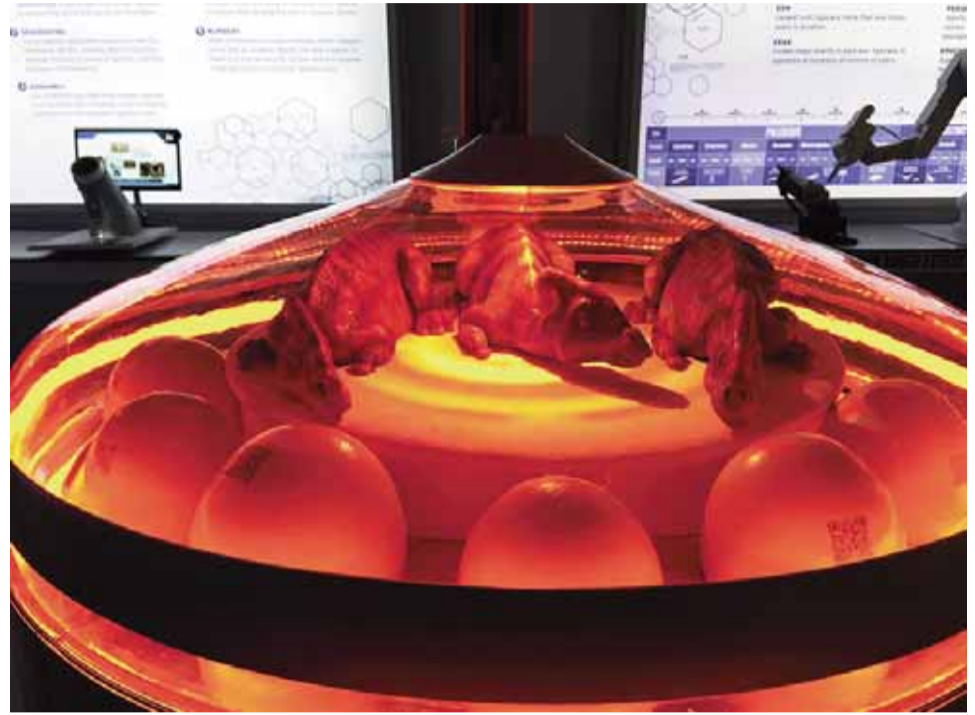
In this April 24, 2015 file photo, Alex Trebek, left, and Florence Henderson arrive at the 2015 Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Awards at The Universal Hilton in Universal City, California.



In this Jan. 20, 1977 file photo, actress Farrah Fawcett-Majors, right, joins her husband Lee Majors in a television appearance together in the sit-com "The Brady Bunch." At left are actors Geri Reischl, Robert Reed and Florence Henderson. — AP



This Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016 photo, shows a pair of Pachyrhinosaurus that move around as part of the 'Jurassic World' exhibit at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.



A dinosaur hatching room that is part of the 'Jurassic World' exhibit. — AP photos

'JURASSIC WORLD' COMES ALIVE AT PHILADELPHIA EXHIBIT

Dinosaurs in museums tend to be of the fossilized variety, but a new exhibit in Philadelphia is bringing the creatures and their world to life.

"Jurassic World: The Exhibition" opens at the Franklin Institute on Friday. Based on the blockbuster dinosaur movie franchise, the experience mixes the vibe of a theme park with the backstory of science, but the big - like, really big - attraction is the animatronic dinosaurs, some measuring over 24 feet tall.

The traveling show made its world premiere in Melbourne, Australia, earlier this year, but Philadelphia's US debut offers some new features.

Here's what visitors can expect at the exhibit, which runs through April 23:

Dinosaur petting zoo

Guests can meet a towering Brachiosaurus, come face-to-face with a Velociraptor and get up close and personal with a Tyrannosaurus rex. The lifelike, life-size dinosaurs were designed by The Creature Technology Co., which created the enormous creatures for the "Walking with Dinosaurs" arena shows. A family-friendly "Gentle Giants Petting Zoo" also promises interactions with a baby Pachyrhinosaurus and its 29-foot-long mother. Visitors can even "pet" a small dinosaur.

What's different from Melbourne?

The US debut of the exhibit offers a look inside a raptor training paddock, like the one used by Chris Pratt's character in 2015's "Jurassic World." It also includes an interactive raptor.

Tom Zaller, president of Imagine Exhibitions, said that the US show also adds additional science-related content and interactive elements.

The exhibit is nearly double the size of the Australian version.

Pro paleontologist

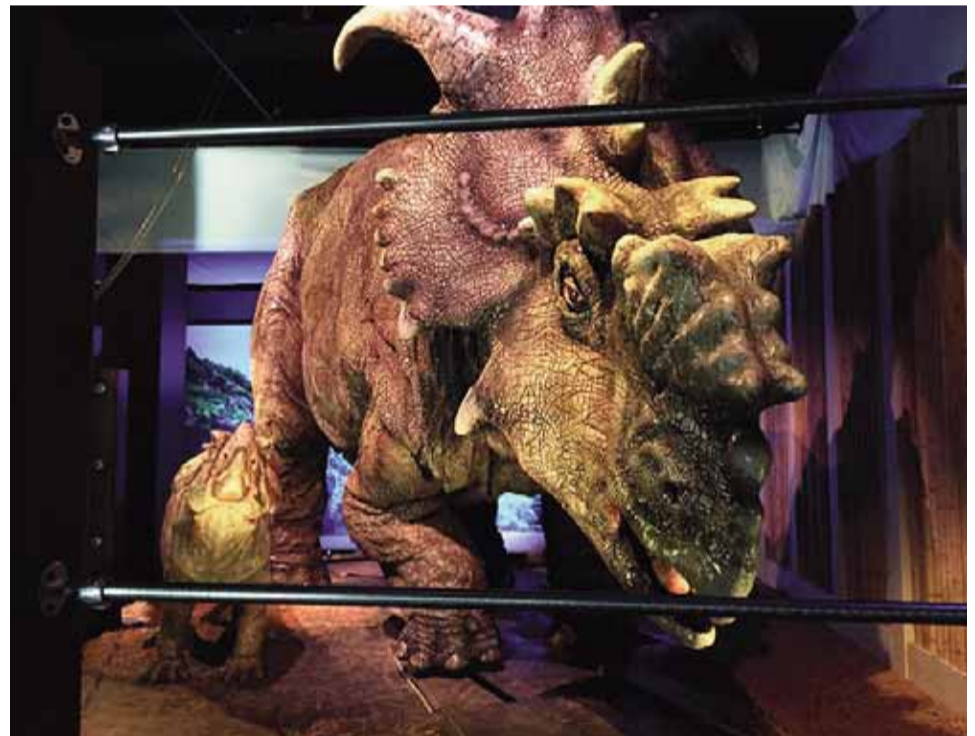
Exhibit organizers worked closely with paleontologist Jack Horner, one of the best-known dinosaur researchers in the world, to help get the science right. Horner discovered the world's first dinosaur embryos and found that dinosaurs had nests and cared for their young.

In his book "Jurassic Park," Michael Crichton based the character Alan Grant on Horner. Steven Spielberg brought Horner on as a technical adviser on all of the "Jurassic Park" movies - and Horner did it without a college degree and with dyslexia.

Fake creatures, real science

The museum hopes to appeal to fans of science in addition to fans of the movie. An educator guide offers ways to look at the exhibit through scientific eyes on topics including: ethics in science; climate change; DNA and genetics; and extinction.

It also offers interactive exhibits. Brave visitors can even stick an arm into a pile of dinosaur dung to feel its squishy, warm interior as a way to learn about identifying animals by studying their leavings. — AP



A pair of pachyrhinosaurus that move around as part of the 'Jurassic World' exhibit.



An animatronic stegosaurus on display at the 'Jurassic World' exhibit.



A screenshot from Zaradasht Ahmed's 'Nowhere to Hide' documentary.

Zaradasht Ahmed's 'Nowhere to Hide' takes top prize at IDFA

Although the documentary world had plenty of recent upsets to concern itself with - not least the rise of nationalism across Europe and America - the fallout from the Iraq war was not forgotten at this year's IDFA. The award for Best Feature-Length Documentary went to "Nowhere to Hide," a Norway-Sweden co-production directed by Zaradasht Ahmed that tells of the experiences of a male nurse named Nori Sharif who worked in a hospital in Jawala, part of the "triangle of death" in central Iraq, from the time the US army left in 2011 until he was forced to leave the area by the arrival of ISIS in 2014.

Said the jury: "There are those films which are wonderful to see and there are films that the world needs to see. The film we [chose] is both of these things. The experience was immersive and left us deeply touched. The director respected the unique perspective that only the subject could have and in doing so he gave us an unprecedented window into the real-life lasting consequences of war." In the same category, the Special Jury Award went to "Still Tomorrow" (pictured) by Jian Fan, an intimate portrait of a Chinese woman named Xiuhua Yu, who, unexpectedly, became an internet sensation via her poetry. From a poor rural background, and disabled with cerebral palsy, Yu finds her newfound success a means to escape from her situation, but with bittersweet results.

Other awards:

Best Dutch documentary

"Radio Kobani," Reber Dosky, Netherlands SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR DUTCH DOCUMENTARY "Stranger in Paradise," Guido

Hendrikkx, Netherlands MID-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY "Death in the Terminal," Tali Shemesh, Asaf Sudry, Israel SPECIAL JURY AWARD, MID-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY:

"Come Back Free," Ksenia Okhapkina, Estonia

FIRST APPEARANCE AWARD

"Who We Were," Sine Skibsholt, Denmark

SPECIAL JURY AWARD, FIRST APPEARANCE

(DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

PETER WINTONICK)

"Plastic China," Jiu-liang Wang, China

IDFA DOCLAB AWARD, DIGITAL STORY-TELLING

"Deprogrammed," Mia Donovan, Canada

SCENIC IDFA DOCLAB IMMERSIVE NON-

FICTION AWARD "DeathTolls Experience," Ali

Eslami, Iran BEELD EN GELUID IDFA AWARD

FOR DUTCH DOCUMENTARY "Radio Kobani,"

Reber Dosky, Netherlands ARRI IDFA AWARD,

BEST STUDENT DOCUMENTARY "When Will

This Wind Stop," Aniela Astrid Gabryel, Poland

IDFA SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR STUDENT

DOCUMENTARY "Close Ties," Zofia

Kowalewska, Poland IDFA AWARD FOR BEST

CHILDREN'S DOCUMENTARY:

"Rockrollers," Daan Bol, Netherlands

IDFA SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR CHIL-

DREN'S DOCUMENTARY "Naomi's Secret,"

Saskia Gubbels, Netherlands PRINS BERN-

HARD CULTUURFONDS DOCUMENTARY

AWARD Ester Gould. The festival runs until

Sunday 27 November, when the winner of

the VPRO IDFA Audience Award will be

announced. — Reuters

LOHAN APOLOGIZES TO UK TOWN OVER CHRISTMAS LIGHTS NO-SHOW

Lindsay Lohan has apologized to an English town for failing to keep a date to switch on its Christmas lights. The actress posted a video on Twitter saying she couldn't attend Thursday's event in Kettering because of "my busy schedule."

Lohan's link to the town 80 miles (130 km) north of London began June 23, the night of Britain's European Union membership referendum. In a series of tweets about the vote across Britain, she posted: "Sorry but Kettering where are you?"

The incident prompted local lawmaker Philip Hollobone to invite Lohan to switch on Kettering's festive lights. Kettering Borough Council chief David Cook said local authorities "appreciate how hard she and her team tried to make this work and we were delighted to get a video message wishing us well." — AP



Lindsay Lohan

Madonna stands by son Rocco Ritchie after reported arrest



Madonna says she is supporting son Rocco Ritchie after reports surfaced Wednesday that the 16-year-old was arrested for possession of marijuana in London. Madonna released a statement to The Associated Press Wednesday calling the September arrest "a family matter." She said: "I love my son very much. I will do whatever I can to give him the support that he needs, and I ask that you respect our privacy at this time."

Rocco was the subject of a months-long custody dispute between Madonna and ex-husband Guy Ritchie. The couple divorced in 2008. They finally agreed in September to allow Rocco to continue living with his father in London.

According to a report in The Sun newspaper, Rocco was arrested on Sept. 28. — AP

Madonna



In this photograph taken on Nov 10, 2016, 26-year-old Kishan Manocha (third left) participates in an Odissi dance lesson under the tutelage of acclaimed dancer Madhumita Raut inside a garage-turned-studio in New Delhi. — AFP photos



A dance student drinks water inside a kitchen during a dress rehearsal performance of the Bharatnatyam dance under the tutelage of guru Aayurshi Neeraj at her residence in New Delhi on Nov 11, 2016.

Roots revival:

India's classical dance is back en vogue

Students elegantly curve their hands before breaking into synchronised footwork at a class in New Delhi, where growing numbers are signing up for Indian traditional dance classes rooted in Hindu mythology. Class participants range from preteens to surgeons and marketing managers - but they have all chosen to learn traditional Indian dance, which emerged from the country's temples centuries ago, over western options such as ballet, jazz and hip hop.

"Tradition is becoming popular now," said Nitya Pant, a Mumbai-based marketing executive who practices Odissi - an ancient temple-based dance. "No other form can give you the satisfaction that classical dance gives you," added the 29-year-old. "You feel like you're one with god." Such is the appeal that Pant flies to Delhi, spending around Rs7,250 (\$100) every weekend, on flights just to train under acclaimed dancer Madhumita Raut.

India is home to eight major classical dance styles including Odissi and Bharatnatyam - a genre originating in the country's southern temples more than 2,000 years ago - that tell stories of gods through facial expressions, hand gestures and rapid footwork. They run deep in India's culture, performed at marriages, folk festivals, school contests, on reality shows and most notably in Bollywood films.

While reasons for enrolling vary from exercise to extra-curricular points in college applications, Nabanita Baul Dutta says dance saved her from depression. "Dance is happiness to me," said the 23-year-old housewife, who has been learning Bharatnatyam in Delhi for the past year. "After moving to Delhi, I went into depression... Then I found akka (guru), I came to her and I got out of depression," said Dutta. In a cramped living room, Dutta's guru Aayurshi Neeraj recites a 'sollukattu' - a sequence of syllables that

correspond to movements - keeping rhythm with a wooden stick and plank. Her students clasp their hands in front of them and stamp out beats with their feet. "Bharatnatyam to me is spirituality and it is a meditation," said Neeraj.

A garage-turned-studio in an upmarket part of the capital serves as Raut's studio where she teaches Odissi, a more fluid-moving dance in which face and hand movements are perfectly timed. Pant and five other students mirror Raut as she forms mudras (hand gestures) to a steady chant. "My children also learn different forms of dancing. Today they are learning Zumba-Rumba something like that and one year back it was hip hop..." said 47-year-old Raut, listing off dance crazes that slipped in and out of fashion.

"They know that Odissi is for keeps," she adds comparing the allure of traditional dance to the enduring appeal of classic texts. "There is a difference between literature, a coffee table book and a magazine," said Raut, who has more than 60 pupils and a growing waiting list. "Shakespeare will be there always," she added.

Temples to Concert Halls

Once performed in temples and royal courts, India's classical dance has found international resonance with troupes performing around the world. Thanks to a mushrooming Indian diaspora, traditional dance schools have popped up globally, piquing the interest of other nationalities too. Back in Delhi, the students say the West looks to India in search of spirituality, culture and history, which is why this classical art has gained international popularity.

"What is lacking, especially in the US and so, they don't have a very rich cultural history... I think they seek and they want to find that piece of ancient history, that art form," said Pant, who has been learning Odissi since she was 14. "They're leaning to India because we've had the most ancient civilizations and that's why India and its culture has become so popular."

Her guru Raut, an award-winning dancer who has lived, taught and performed in Europe, the US and Japan, believes Indian dance transcends borders between people and countries. "Today it's music, tomorrow it's costume, day after tomorrow it's movement. It's so graceful. There's no end to it," Raut said. "It's a vast treasure and it can be shared and it will only spread and spread." — AFP



Raut poses alongside photographs of herself on a wall.



(Left to right) Dance students Priyanka Venkateswaran (36), Ankita Nayak (16) and Rujuta Pandav (33) participate in an Odissi dance lesson under the tutelage of Raut.



A dance student watches her guru Neeraj during a dress rehearsal performance of Bharatnatyam.



Israeli film director Rama Burshtein (R) chats with an unidentified man during the Haifa Film Festival. — AFP

Orthodox Israeli director opens window on closed society

Film director Rama Burshtein's team includes all the usual movie-making roles, but with a couple of exceptions: her rabbi and an assistant who keeps her from coming into contact with men. That's because Burshtein also happens to be an ultra-Orthodox Jewish woman, which means she strictly observes religious tradition. It leaves the director of the "Fill the Void," her critically-acclaimed 2012 breakout film which was shown at the Venice Film Festival, with a difficult balance strike between her art and her beliefs. And there is no instruction manual on how to do it, says this 49-year-old American-Israeli, wearing a multi-coloured head wrap to hide her hair, as required of ultra-Orthodox women. "Every time I have to go back to my rabbi, and together we're thinking on how to deal with situations that come up. There is no book that tells you how to make cinema with Halakha (Jewish law)."

While there is a mini-industry of ultra-Orthodox movie-making within Israel that caters to this closed community, Burshtein is the first to have crossed over into the mainstream with so much success. She recently presented her latest film, a romantic comedy called "Through the Wall," at the Haifa Film Festival.

The story revolves around a 30-something woman who returns to her faith and is set to marry, but is left by her fiancé a month before the wedding. But she doesn't cancel the reception, the invitations or the rabbi-relying on God to deliver her a husband. "Everything that is happening in my movies has to be according to the Halakha, which means men and women would not touch in my film," Burshtein said. "They would play together, but not touch."

'Very naughty'

The director also has to abide by certain rules herself. "I never sit alone with a man," she said. "I work with male cinematographers, but I have a personal assistant that sits with me all the time, not because I am a righteous person, but because I am very, very naughty and I need to protect myself because I can kind of lose it and I become friendly with everybody."

Her production team also doesn't work on the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest. Torn between two lives, it took years for Burshtein to make "Fill the Void." Born in New York to a secular Jewish family, she was a fan of Quentin Tarantino who studied cinema and was at one time briefly interested in Buddhism.

At 25, she decided to join the ultra-Orthodox community. Her husband is a mohel, who carries out circumcisions according to Jewish law. "When I became religious, I thought I would never do anything that was connected to cinema," she said. "I got married, I had four kids and I was really busy with my new life." But that was to change. "Doing films for the secular world, the general public, came out of pain, not me wanting to do it or deciding to do it," she said. "I just felt that we don't have a voice and everyone is interpreting us just the way they feel like, even if it has nothing to do with us and what is happening in my world."

A growing presence

"Fill the Void" tells the story of an 18-year-old Hassidic girl whose sister dies in childbirth. She is then pressured to marry her sister's husband. The ultra-Orthodox community in Israel, estimated at between seven and 10 percent of the eight million population, has for many years been largely absent from

popular culture. They tend to live in their own communities, with the men typically dedicating their lives to religious study. But in recent years, the Orthodox lifestyle has found its way into mainstream films such as Amos Gitai's "Kadosh" (1999), "Eyes Wide Open" from Haim Tabakman (2009) and David Volach's "My Father My Lord" (2007). And the Israeli television series "Shtisel," about an ultra-Orthodox family in Jerusalem which is partly in Yiddish, is being adapted in the United States by Amazon. "In several years, (the ultra-Orthodox) they have become ubiquitous, even central" to music, films and television, said Avner Shavit, film critic for Israeli news site Walla.

'4,000 years old'

With Burshtein, both Israelis and foreigners are being offered a unique look at the issue of woman within the community. The ultra-Orthodox themselves, however, can often seem uninterested in what the rest of the world says about them. Only a few people close to Burshtein attended the recent premier of her film in Haifa—easily identifiable in their black coats and skullcaps, long dresses and scarves.

"My community, they don't feel the need to make that bridge (with the secular audience)." "They are busy with their lives. Most of my friends have 10 kids." While her films may be "kosher," they are filled with emotion, focusing on a look or the breathing of a character. Film critic Shavit said he even detected something of a "feminist" undercurrent at times—"if we see it in its context" of extreme conservatism. Burshtein said she does not intend to stop anytime soon. "We are almost 4,000 years old," she said. "We have a lot of stories." — AFP



Israeli film director Rama Burshtein poses for a photograph during the Haifa Film Festival on October 20, 2016, in Haifa. — AFP



French artist Guillaume Bottazzi works on a large-scale painting above Jourdan Square near the European institutions in Brussels yesterday. —AFP

OSCAR-WINNING 'HEAVEN CAN WAIT' PRODUCTION DESIGNER DIES



Paul Sylbert, a prolific production designer who won an Oscar for his work on Warren Beatty's "Heaven Can Wait," died yesterday at age 88 outside of Philadelphia, producer Hawk Koch said Wednesday.

A Brooklyn native and Korean War veteran, Sylbert and his late twin brother Richard Sylbert became some of the most sought-after production designers in the business following arts school, working together on Elia Kazan's "A Face in the Crowd" and "Baby Doll." Richard Sylbert, who won Oscars for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" and "Dick Tracy" in addition to working on "Chinatown" and "Shampoo" died in 2002 of cancer. Paul Sylbert's career would span over four decades, during which he worked on films like "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Kramer vs Kramer," "Blow Out," and "The Prince of Tides," for which he scored another Oscar nomination.

He also designed for the New York City Opera Company, wrote and directed the 1971 film "The Steagle" and penned a book about his experiences in Hollywood called "Final Cut." Recently, he was on the faculty of the Film & Media Arts Department of his alma mater Temple University in Philadelphia.

Koch, who worked with Sylbert on five films, said "Paul was one of a kind. He was as smart and well-read as anyone I have ever come in contact with, and he was respected by all that knew him. Aside from the work, he loved music, literature, opera, and friends." Sylbert is survived by his wife Jenny and his two children. — AP

This March 12, 1974 photo shows Anthea Sylbert, from left, brothers Richard and Paul Sylbert. — AP



WASHINGTON: A man types on a computer keyboard in this photo illustration taken in Washington. — AFP

JAPAN TARGETS A SUPERCOMPUTER TO LEAP INTO TECHNOLOGY FUTURE

MACHINE WILL BE WORLD'S FASTEST-KNOWN SUPERCOMPUTER

TOKYO: Japan plans to build the world's fastest-known supercomputer in a bid to arm the country's manufacturers with a platform for research that could help them develop and improve driverless cars, robotics and medical diagnostics. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will spend 19.5 billion yen (\$173 million) on the previously unreported project, a budget breakdown shows, as part of a government policy to get back Japan's mojo in the world of technology. The country has lost its edge in many electronic fields amid intensifying competition from South Korea and China, home to the world's current best-performing machine.

In a move that is expected to vault Japan to the top of the supercomputing

heap, its engineers will be tasked with building a machine that can make 130 quadrillion calculations per second - or 130 petaflops in scientific parlance - as early as next year, sources involved in the project said. At that speed, Japan's computer would be ahead of China's Sunway Taihulight that is capable of 93 petaflops. "As far as we know, there is nothing out there that is as fast," said Satoshi Sekiguchi, a director general at Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, where the computer will be built.

The push to return to the vanguard comes at a time of growing nostalgia for the heyday of Japan's technological prowess, which has dwindled since China overtook it as the world's second-biggest

economy. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has called for companies, bureaucrats and the political class to work more closely together so Japan can win in robotics, batteries, renewable energy and other new and growing markets.

Deep learning

In the area of supercomputing, Japan's aim is to use ultra-fast calculations to accelerate advances in artificial intelligence (AI), such as "deep learning" technology that works off algorithms which mimic the human brain's neural pathways, to help computers perform new tasks and analyze scores of data. Recent achievements in this area have come from Google's DeepMind AI program, AlphaGo, which in March beat South Korean professional Lee Seedol in the ancient board game of Go.

Applications include helping companies improve driverless vehicles by allowing them to analyze huge troves of visual traffic data, or it could help factories improve automation. China uses the Sunway Taihulight for weather forecasting, pharmaceutical research, industrial design, among other things. Japan's new supercomputer could help tap medical records to develop new services and applications, Sekiguchi said.

The supercomputer will be made available for a fee to Japan's corporations, who now outsource data crunching to foreign firms such as Google and Microsoft, Sekiguchi and others involved in the project said. The new computer has been dubbed ABCI, an acronym for AI Bridging Cloud Infrastructure. Bidding for the project has begun and will close on Dec 8. Fujitsu Ltd, the builder of the fastest Japanese supercomputer to date - the Oakforest-PACS, capable of 13.6 petaflops, declined to say if it would bid for the project. The company has, however, said it is keen to be involved in supercomputer development. — Reuters

AUSTRALIA SAYS IBM SETTLES OVER ONLINE CENSUS FAILURE

CANBERRA: Global technology giant IBM carried most of the blame for the crash of Australia's online census three months ago and had compensated the government for the financial cost of the debacle, the prime minister said yesterday. Australia's first attempt to conduct a census online shut down for 43 hours in August after the website failed to cope with routine denial-of-service attacks.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said IBM, the Australian Bureau of Statistics' head contractor, had reached a "very substantial" confidential settlement with the government over the failure that "absolutely" covered costs. "It would not be an exaggeration to say that we had a collective sense of humor failure about IBM's performance here and they have fessed up (confessed), they've paid up and we're going to learn the lessons of

this incident very diligently," Turnbull told Melbourne Radio 3AW. "Overwhelming the failure was IBM's," he said.

IBM Australia said yesterday the company had no further comment to add to a submission it made to a Senate inquiry last month into the failure. IBM Australia Managing Director Kerry Purcell told that inquiry he apologized for the inconvenience and took full responsibility for the failure. He blamed a router failure. Australian Bureau of Statistics boss David Kalisch told the same inquiry that the failure had cost taxpayers 30 million Australian dollars (\$22 million). A report on the failure published on Thursday by Alastair MacGibbon, special adviser to the prime minister on cybersecurity, described the website's denial-of-service protections as "inadequate." — AP

WINDOWS SHOPPING THREATS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

KUWAIT: Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, Christmas. There's a lot of shopping to be done between now and the end of 2016. As throngs of discerning shoppers flock to the high street and online shopping carts are filled to the brim, cybercriminals are busy preparing their wares to take advantage of the high sales period. With this in mind, we decided to outline some of the biggest threats facing both retailers and consumers in the upcoming holiday season:



Chris Brown, VP EMEA and APAC, Digital Shadows

DDoS attacks

With the Mirai botnet demonstrating its ability to launch high-volume denial of service (DDoS) attacks, some might deem the busy sales period as an opportune moment to showcase their capability or cause widespread disruption by targeting retailers. Allied to this is the threat of DDoS extortion, as attackers may use the threat of disabling retail operations during the busiest period of the year as a means of earning a quick profit. Just this week the web hosting and building service Squarespace was affected by two DDoS attacks that affected a number of e-commerce sites. A user on the AlphaBay Dark Web marketplace claimed responsibility for the attacks and alleged they had tried to extort Squarespace for up to \$2,000 USD, though this was not confirmed.

Compromise of e-commerce sites

This issue has emerged as a problem in 2016 with thousands of e-commerce sites being infected with keyloggers designed to steal credit card data entered into online checkout forms. Many of the compromised websites ran the Magento shopping cart system, though other platforms such as Powerfront CMS and OpenCart, as well as payment processing systems such as Braintree and VeriSign were also purportedly targeted.

POS malware

Cybercriminals are likely to exploit the large number of transactions conducted during the next month by targeting point of sale devices (POS) such as card readers and payment terminals. When a new campaign for the POS malware known as FastPoS was discovered in September 2016, it became clear that the malware was still under active development. A similar pattern was detected in 2015, whereby new campaigns and upgrades appeared to occur in the months leading up to Christmas. It's highly likely that the same will occur in 2016.

Skimming

In similar vein to POS malware, cybercriminals will likely seek to take advantage of the increased number of withdrawals made at ATMs this season. These card reading devices aren't always easy to spot. In September, US authorities warned of a new technique known as 'periscope skimming' which involves the use of a specialized skimming device connected directly to the ATM's internal circuit board. This technique was likely developed in response to anti-skimming measures, and criminals are almost certain to be developing new ways to avoid detection.

Phishing pages

Attackers will try and trick users through fake websites that at face value look incredibly similar to those belonging to legitimate retailers. These sites, however, often steal victims' credentials when they try to make a purchase, or will be used as a landing page to download a particular strain of malware. We expect phishing email campaigns encouraging users to visit these sites to be particularly prevalent at this time of year.

HACKERS ATTACK EU EXECUTIVE

BRUSSELS: Hackers attacked the European Commission's computers on Thursday, flooding the EU executive's servers with digital service requests, but while connection speeds were affected, there was no data breach, the Commission said. "Yesterday afternoon the Commission was targeted by an attempt to saturate our internet connection," Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas told a news briefing yesterday. "The commission took effective countermeasures and there was no interruption of service, although connection speeds were affected for a while, there was no data breach," he said. Schinas said the Commission did not know who was behind the attack, which was of the distributed denial of service (DDoS) type when too many simultaneous requests to servers cause the service to crash. The attack happened as Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko visited Brussels to discuss visa free travel to the EU. Schinas declined to comment if there was any connection between the attack and the visit.

LinkedIn hacker

In another development, the Czech Justice Ministry says Russia has joined the United States in seeking the extradition of a Russian man who faces charges in the United States of hacking and stealing information from computers at LinkedIn, Dropbox and other San Francisco Bay Area companies. The Justice Ministry said Wednesday that Russia wants Yevgeniy Nikulin of Moscow extradited due to a 2009 Internet theft. — Agencies

SMARTPHONE MAKERS URGED TO LOCK OUT MOST APPS FOR DRIVERS

GUIDELINES DESIGNED TO REDUCE CRASHES

DETROIT: The government wants smartphone makers to lock out most apps when the phone is being used by someone driving a car. The voluntary guidelines unveiled Wednesday are designed to reduce crashes caused by drivers distracted by phones. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also wants automakers to make infotainment systems easy to pair with smartphones. Drivers could still make calls but the phones and automaker systems would lock out the ability to enter text. Internet browsing, video not related to driving, text from books, and photos also would be locked out. Navigation systems would be permitted, but with guidelines on how to avoid driver distraction.

Fatal crashes caused by distracted drivers are on the rise, and that's contributing to a spike in traffic deaths during the past two years. The government

says 3,477, or about 10 percent, of the more than 35,000 traffic fatalities last year involved distracted drivers. That's up 8.8 percent over 2014. Traffic deaths spiked 10.4 percent in the first six months of this year and rose 7.2 percent last year, after years of declines. "With driver distraction one of the factors behind the rise of traffic fatalities, we are committed to working with the industry to ensure that mobile devices are designed to keep drivers' eyes where they belong - on the road," NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind said in a statement.

Automakers already are moving this direction, with many offering Apple CarPlay and Android Auto that pair smartphones to car touch screens and allow limited use of the phone apps. NHTSA wants phone makers to develop technology that can determine if someone is driving a car and then disable

most of the apps. But at present, that technology doesn't exist. In its absence, the agency wants phones to have a "driver mode" that would be activated by the smartphone user. General Motors, for instance, has the Apple and Android pairing system in about 40 models worldwide.

Already, it prevents use of many phone functions that could cause distraction, spokesman Vijay Iyer said. The system, he said, won't let drivers type a text message, but it does allow text by voice. "The fundamental direction is to keep your hands on the wheel, eyes on the road and minimize distraction and offer up other means of interaction, primarily voice," he said. NHTSA will take public comment for 60 days before deciding whether to put the guidelines in place. Unlike a federal government rule, auto and cellphone makers don't have to obey the guidelines. — AP

GIFT GUIDE: COOL TECH TOYS FOR KIDS

NEW YORK: Looking for a cool tech gift for a kid in your life? There's no shortage of fun and fairly educational items these days. New toys for the holidays include little robot friends full of personality and magnetic blocks that snap together to teach the basics of computer programming. Here are some toys designed to keep kids entertained without sacrificing on education:

Hands-on tech

Tablet screens and apps haven't gone away, but they're just not enough on their own. With these toys, kids can create and build with their hands, not just a tablet. Osmo. As kids arrange magnetic blocks or puzzle pieces, their creations show up on the iPad thanks to a mirror attached to the tablet's camera. By arranging blocks, for instance, kids put together lines of code to guide an on-screen monster. Another game teaches entrepreneurial and math skills by letting kids run their own pizza shop. The base set costs \$30. You then buy add-ons, such as coding for \$50 and the pizza business for \$40. It works only with iPads for now.

Makey Makey

You connect one end to a computer's USB port and the other to any material that conducts electrici-



Photo shows Fisher-Price's Think & Learn Code-a-Pillar, which introduces basic coding concepts by letting preschoolers assemble segments that each tells the caterpillar to do something different, such as "turn left" or "play sound." — AP

ty, such as coins or even a banana. Kids can then turn bananas into keyboards and pencil drawings into controls for video games. The basic set costs \$25, though for \$50, you get additional clips and connector wires.

Meccano sets

This is for the tween or young teen who is handy with a wrench and has a lot of time. Even the trio of smaller Micronoids sets (\$40) require a decent amount of time and significant motor skills. The larger models, such as the \$140 Meccanoid 2.0, can take the better part of a day to construct. Once assembled, these robots can be programmed to dance, play games and interact with each other.

Illumicraft

Don't let the girly colors or rainbow stickers turn you off. The \$20 kit combines science and crafting to introduce basic circuitry. Projects include light-up diaries, jewelry organizers, smartphone speakers and picture frames.

Code This Drone

Software company Tynker and drone maker Parrot have joined forces to create this kit, which includes a drone and a one-year subscription to Tynker's education service. The kit costs \$100 to \$150 depending on the drone selected. It teaches the basics of coding through games played with an app-controlled mini drone. Kids can program their own flight plan of flips and turns, or build their own game to send an on-app through an obstacle course, as the real drone mirrors the movements.

Coding for preschoolers?

Parents with dreams of future high-tech careers are eager for their children to learn computer programming. And some toy makers say it's never too early to introduce coding concepts, even if a child is still in diapers. Think & Learn Code-a-Pillar. Kids as young as 3 can "write" code by snapping together a \$50 toy caterpillar. Each section signifies a command, such as "go straight" or "play sounds." — AP



This photo provided by Anki shows the Cozmo Memory Match game. Whether you're looking for something educational or a toy that's just for fun, there are a lot of choices for the holidays. — AP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

01:00 REC 4: Apocalypse
03:00 Deep Rising
05:00 Hercules Reborn
07:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
09:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
11:00 Armored
13:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
15:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
17:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
19:00 Armored
21:00 Con Air
23:00 Black Rose

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

00:00 Jayne Mansfield's Car
02:15 The Stranger
04:00 A Kind Of Magic
06:00 Boychoir
08:00 Love Under The Stars
10:00 Before I Disappear
12:00 A Kind Of Magic
14:00 Boychoir
16:00 Abandoned
18:00 Before I Disappear
20:00 The Harvest
22:00 Invasion Day

OSN MOVIES HD
FAMILY

00:00 The Unbeatables
02:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
04:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian
06:00 Despicable Me 2
08:00 Home
10:00 Big Fat Liar
12:00 Storm Rider
14:00 Strange Magic
16:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...
18:00 Inside Out
20:00 Jem And The Holograms
22:00 Santa's Little Helper

OSN MOVIES HD

00:30 No Escape
02:30 The Visit
04:15 Fantastic Four
06:00 Believe
07:45 Steve Jobs
10:00 Fantastic Four
12:00 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
14:45 The 5th Wave
16:45 Insurgent
19:00 The Best Of Me
21:00 Daddy's Home
23:00 Dirty Grandpa

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

01:00 The Babymakers
03:00 The Proposal
05:00 Jack
07:00 Passed Away
09:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
11:00 Jack
13:00 The Proposal
15:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
17:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
19:00 Shanghai Noon
21:00 The To Do List
23:00 All The Wrong Reasons

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

00:30 Black Swan
02:30 Foreverland
04:30 The Village
06:30 One Fine Day
08:30 The Railway Man
10:30 I'll Follow You Down
12:15 Foreverland
14:00 The Village
16:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost
18:00 I'll Follow You Down
20:00 The Fisher King
22:30 Kill The Messenger

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

00:30 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
02:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots

03:45 Worms
05:15 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
07:00 Jetsons: The Movie
08:45 The Nutcracker Sweet
10:30 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
12:15 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
14:00 Worms
15:30 The Three Dogateers
17:15 Space Warriors
19:15 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
21:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
23:00 The Three Dogateers

OSN MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

01:00 The Humbling
03:00 Chef
05:00 All The Wilderness
07:00 The Giver
09:00 The Imitation Game
11:00 Paranoia
13:00 Chef
15:00 Pompeii
17:00 The Imitation Game
19:00 Cut Bank
21:00 Little Accidents
23:00 Me And Earl And The Dying Girl

OSN MOVIES HD

01:15 Night Moves
03:15 Bad Santa
04:45 Battlefield Earth
06:45 Kinky Boots
08:30 Edmond
10:00 The Shipping News
12:00 Love And Other Impossible Pursuits
13:45 Real Steel
16:00 Night Moves
17:45 Employee Of The Month
19:30 Bad Santa
21:00 Resurrecting The Champ
23:00 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day

sundance
CHANNEL

00:50 Jane Wants A Boyfriend
02:30 The Cooler
04:10 Salt Of This Sea
06:00 In Conversation With
06:30 Love, Lust And Lies
08:00 Dream School
09:00 Help Us Find Sunil Tripathi
10:15 Finding Neverland
11:55 Our Song
13:35 Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter
15:20 Brother's Keeper
17:10 Web Junkie
18:35 Pink Floyd: Story Of Wish You Were Here
19:40 Our Song
21:20 My Life So Far
23:00 Driving Lessons

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

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

SC 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
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



X-MEN - THE LAST STAND ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2016



- 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 I 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



- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 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
- 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



FANTASTIC FOUR ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 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
- 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



- 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



- 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!
- 07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 08:10 Paw Patrol
- 08:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 08:58 Dora The Explorer
- 09:21 Paw Patrol
- 09:45 Little Charmers
- 09:57 Bubble Guppies
- 10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 10:40 Zack & Quack
- 10:52 Team Umizoomi
- 11:15 Louie
- 11:22 Louie
- 11:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies



The outgoing head of mission of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) government's trade office in Kuwait Hilmi Akil hosted a reception on the occasion of the thirty third anniversary of the TRNC. Official diplomats and media persons attended the event.



BHAVANS ORGANIZES 'MODEL UNITED NATIONS -2016'

All the world is a stage and Bhavans became a stage of the world on November 3, 2016. The third edition of Bhavans Model United Nations a one-and-a-half-day event, was convened at Indian Educational School, Kuwait (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan) on November 3, 2016 with a formal inaugural ceremony graced by Josephine Moss, the UN Co-ordination Specialist in the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Kuwait.

The proceedings of the day rolled on with the traditional lighting of the lamp followed by the UN Anthem. In her address, Josephine enlightened the gathering with a thought provoking speech on 'Sustainable Development Goals.' (SDG-2030) of the UN which had indeed a tranquilizing effect on the audience. She gratefully and appreciatively mentioned the Honorable Amir of Kuwait's generous contributions of 1.5 billion \$ towards the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Josephine also called for a collaborative effort by the student community and the UN, for achieving a society which is technically advanced and humanitarian value based. The need of the hour demands a world of harmo-

nously knitted souls to make the world a better place to live in, to extend the extinction of man on the planet. She also opined that there can be deliberations on 'human rights violations' in the forthcoming editions of BMUN. She emphasized the fact that today's youth, the future diplomats should have the ability to solve problems, and to shoulder responsibilities for which these kinds of simulations of the UN pave a path. She applauded the painstaking efforts taken by the Bhavans MUN Club for hosting such a meaningful deliberation at Bhavans BMUN 2016. Principal T Premkumar presented Josephine with a memento and expressed his gratitude for accepting the invitation and speaking to the delegates.

The ceremony gathered momentum with 'Gavel Handing Over' by T Premkumar, the principal, Indian Educational School, Kuwait. The simulation witnessed a strong clash of ideologies of the 48 potential contestants representing various schools in Kuwait.

The third edition was diverse by all means as there were four parallel committees such as The General Assembly deliberating on Brexit and its aftermath and on Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), The Historic

Security Council debating on Kargil War with a freeze period of May 1999, ICC (International Cricket Council) an unconventional committee, which is the first of its kind on a UN platform discussing 'the Impact Of Premier Leagues on Cricket', last but not the least the World Media Council 'WMC' where students played the role of the reporters and presented their reports of their respective committees at regular intervals.

Dr Prathap Unnithan, a toastmaster par excellence, currently serving in the dental causality department at Amiri Hospital, Kuwait, adjudged the speaking skills of the delegates. Summit of excellence was put up by the MUN core committee. The committee was adjourned by 3 in the afternoon of the first day with updates leading to its next day's progress.

Day two of the event started sharp at 8:30 in the morning with the delegates back with a bang shaking off the early wintry numbness, determined to climb up the podium holding the coveted trophy high up to the smiling November sun. The committee proceedings had the framing and voting of the draft resolutions officially drafted by the different blocs within the committee.

By 11am, the official proceedings of the valedictory function started, which had Mahesh Iyer, the principal, SMART Indian School, Kuwait as the guest of honor. Sree Aswathaman, a member of the organizing committee BMUN-2016 welcomed the guest of honour, the dignitaries, the delegates, the faculty advisors and the parent community to the event.

The stalwarts of BMUN 2016, the delegates came and shared their incredible experiences, and journey with BMUN. Jaidev Shriram, a delegate from FAIPS-DPS mentioned that there was no parallel to BMUN and thanked Bhavans for organizing a 'top-notch unmatched event.'

The much awaited moment of the event, the prize distribution ceremony was hosted by Shiv Govind Dahima, the Secretary General of BMUN -2016. The guest of honor, Mahesh Iyer, the principal, SMART Indian School Kuwait, T Premkumar, the principal, Indian Educational School Kuwait and the senior vice principal, IES, Suresh V Balakrishnan felicitated, and gave away the trophies for the Best Delegate and the Best Position Paper of each committee. The overall trophy of BMUN 2016 was bagged by FAIPS-DPS Kuwait.



'AKDENIZ HATAY SOFRASI' CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY IN THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR OF TURKEY

Akdeniz Hatay Sofrasi, the prominent Turkish restaurant and the treasure trove for those interested in tasting Hatay and Antakya authentic cuisine, celebrated its one year anniversary in the presence of Murat Tamer, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey along with media delegates and journalists. The restaurant enjoys a strategic, prime location at Murooj Complex in Sahara Resort - Subhan to pro-

vide a huge array of authentic Turkish dishes making it one of the most favorite destinations in Kuwait. Today, 'Akdeniz Hatay Sofrasi' Restaurant is associated with luscious culinary and spectacular service.

It is worth mentioning that 'Akdeniz Hatay Sofrasi' Restaurant was established a year ago by Mohamed Naser Al-Hajery and Sons Company, a leading name in the FMCG (Food

and Beverage) industry in Kuwait, to offer scrumptious choices of authentic Antakya dishes such as: Kebab, Chicken Salad, beef platter and cheese Kunefe that are you're not likely to find elsewhere. Yet the taste is as spectacular as the presentation to offer a one-of-a-kind culinary experience for those who are looking to enjoy their taste buds with a variety of delicious turkey flavors of main dishes, salads, starters and desserts.



INDIAN COURT BANS FIRECRACKER SALES IN SMOG-HIT DELHI

NEW DELHI: India's top court ordered a temporary ban on the sale of firecrackers in New Delhi yesterday, after air quality reached crisis levels in the world's most polluted capital. The order came weeks after the Supreme Court criticized the federal government for failing to do more to tackle pollution, which it described as a "public health emergency". "(The) Supreme Court directs suspension of licenses for possessing, stocking and selling firecrackers in Delhi-National Capital Region till further orders," the court said.

It also ordered the Central Pollution

Control Board, a government body, to study the harmful effects of materials used in firecrackers and report back within the next three months.

Air quality in Delhi plummeted earlier this month as millions of people set off heavily polluting firecrackers to celebrate the Diwali festival, exacerbating existing problems from the burning of crop stubble in neighboring states. The concentration of PM2.5 — the fine particles linked to higher rates of chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease — reached "hazardous" levels in the first 10 days of November. — AFP



NEW DELHI: In this 2016 file photo, Indians walk to work as Delhi traffic police officers manage an intersection enveloped by smoke and smog, on the morning following Diwali festival in New Delhi. — AP



NEW YORK: In this Nov 21, 2016 photo, Dunia Sibomana (9) left, plays with Annabelle Chaix, 9, at their house in the Brooklyn borough of New York. The Congolese boy who was severely disfigured in a chimpanzee attack is marveling doctors a year after reconstructive surgery in New York. His host father, Kim Chaix, says Dunia was shy and withdrawn when he arrived, but is now flourishing socially. — AP

BOY DISFIGURED BY CHIMPS THRIVES AFTER US SURGERY

SIBOMANA THE LONE SURVIVOR OF CHIMPS ATTACK IN CONGO

NEW YORK: A Congolese boy who was severely disfigured in a chimpanzee attack is marveling doctors with his resiliency a year after he was brought to New York to undergo reconstructive surgery.

Nine-year-old Dunia Sibomana was the lone survivor three years ago when chimpanzees attacked him and two playmates near a preserve in Congo. His 4-year-old brother and a young cousin died. Dunia's face was left a frightening mask. His lips were ripped off, his cheek was torn apart and he was left with muscle damage that made it hard to swallow or communicate.

In January, Dunia underwent a rare surgery at a Long Island hospital that involved grafting tissue and muscle from his forearm to recreate his lips. He still has a lot of healing ahead of him, but nearly a year later, Dunia is thriving with a host family in Brooklyn. He can once again open and close his mouth, eat and talk normally.

And doctors and his host family say the boy, who was once self-conscious, shy and withdrawn, has blossomed. He has become fluent in English, learned

taekwondo, soccer and surfing, and made friends in his new neighborhood. "He has a ton of friends. He can't walk down the street without people stopping to give him a high-five," said his host father, Kim Chaix. "It's New York City that's really raising this child."

Dunia lives with Chaix, his wife and their 9-year-old daughter Annabelle, who walks to school with Dunia arm in arm. On a recent afternoon, Dunia played video games with Anabelle before reading the Dr Seuss classic "The Cat in The Hat."

"There's a connection between them," Chaix said of Dunia and his daughter. Dunia affectionately calls Annabelle "Goldie," after her golden hair. She reads him books at bedtime and makes him snacks.

Dunia, who hadn't attended school in Congo, is now in second grade. "A lot of the social stigma that he came with is now gone," said Dr. Leon Klempner, an assistant professor of dentistry at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, who helped bring Dunia from Congo last November with the help of the nonprofit foundation Smile Rescue Fund for Kids. "He's got a lot more confidence now. He doesn't get the

stares that he used to get." Dr. Alexander Dagum, the hospital's chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery, said he knows of only three other cases in which the same surgery has been performed. The hospital is covering the cost of the surgery, and the doctors have all donated their time.

Dunia has not lost complete touch with his homeland. He spends weekends with a family from Congo, brushing up on his heritage and native language of Swahili. Dunia's mother died several years ago. His father still lives in Congo in an area without regular access to phones or internet, but the two communicate via videos they record for each other. Intermediaries deliver the recordings to Dunia's father. Chaix said it's still unclear what Dunia's future holds - whether he'll stay in the U.S. after the school year or go to a boarding school in Rwanda. Chaix said Dunia once told him he didn't ever want to go back to Congo or speak Swahili again, but after spending time with other people from his home country and buying some traditional African clothing, he's "embraced it."

"We've all grown from this whole experience," Chaix said. — AP

VIETNAM SEIZES SMUGGLED IVORY HIDDEN WITH WAX, WOOD NAILS

HANOI: Vietnamese authorities have seized 619 kilograms (1,362 pounds) of ivory smuggled from Africa after finding 4 tons at the same port over the past two months, state media and an official said yesterday.

The ivory seized Thursday had been hidden in two containers arriving at Cat Lai port in southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City, the Customs newspaper said.

Le Dinh Loi, the city's deputy customs chief confirmed the report, but did not give more details yesterday. The smugglers used more sophisticated tactics than previous shipments by packing wax around the ivory when it was sealed inside emptied-out timber and using wood nails to evade X-ray checks, according to the newspaper, published by the General Department of Customs. The seizure came just a week after leaders and senior officials from more than 40 countries met at an international conference on illegal wildlife trade in Hanoi, which was attended by Britain's Prince William.

The conference called for stepped-up efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. At the conference, Prince William, who is president of United for Wildlife, praised Vietnam, China and other Asian countries for taking steps to battle wildlife trafficking, but said rhinos, elephants, pangolins and tigers are still being killed in horrifying numbers.

He said the international community is not moving fast enough to keep up with the crisis. Vietnam is one of the world's major transit points and consumers of ivory and rhino horn. Elephant ivory is used as jewelry and home decorations in Vietnam, which bans hunting of its own dwindling population of elephants. — AP



HO CHI MINH CITY: Vietnamese officials check seized ivory, which was packed with wax around when it is sealed inside emptied-out timber in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. — AP

PREPARE FOR 'SURPRISE' AS GLOBAL WARMING STOKES ARCTIC SHIFTS: SCIENTISTS

BARCELONA: Unless the world stops burning fossil fuels that are fuelling global warming, irreversible changes in the Arctic could have disastrous effects for the people that live there and for the rest of the planet, researchers warned yesterday.

The Arctic's ecosystems are fundamentally threatened by climate change and other human activities, such as oil and gas extraction, they said in a report for the Arctic Council, an inter-governmental forum working to protect the region's environment. "Arctic ecosystems are changing in dramatic ways: the ice is melting, sea levels are rising, coastal areas are eroding, permafrost is thawing, and the areas where plants and animals live are shifting," said the report.

It identifies 19 "regime shifts" - meaning major, hard-to-predict tipping points - that have happened, or could occur, in the Arctic's land and water. They include a switch to sea-ice free summers and the collapse of various fish stocks. Those shifts affect the stability of the climate and landscape, the ability of plant and animal species to survive, and indigenous peoples' subsistence and ways of life, the report added.

The potential impacts of Arctic regime shifts on the rest of the world are "substantial", such as influencing Asia's monsoon, but poorly understood, it said.

"If multiple regime shifts reinforce each other, the results could be potentially catastrophic," Johan Rockström, director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre and co-chair of the five-year study, said in a statement. "The variety of effects that we could see means that Arctic people and policies must prepare for surprise. We also expect that some of those changes will destabilize the regional and global climate, with potentially major impacts."

Co-editor Marcus Carson of the Stockholm Environment Institute told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that in the past six to 12 months, he had heard a lot more "warning bells ringing about the Arctic and what spill-back effects it might have". This month, scientists have said temperatures around 20 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average are being registered over the Arctic Ocean, delaying the annual recovery of sea ice. — Reuters

AS WARMING SEAS MENACE FISH, COMMUNITIES SUFFER

CORROSIVE WATER THREATENS WIDE RANGE OF SEA LIFE

MARRAKESH, Morocco: When nearly all the young oyster crop died two years in a row at shellfish farms in the US Pacific Northwest, workers at first suspected a virus. But the real culprit was a new worry: a change in the acidity of the sea water feeding the oyster tanks. As the world's oceans absorb carbon dioxide that is building up in the atmosphere, seas have become 30 percent more acidic than they were before the industrial era, said Carol Turley, a senior scientist at Britain's Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

The increasingly corrosive water threatens a wide range of sea life, particularly shellfish such as oysters and scallops, making it hard for them to form and maintain shells.

Warming of the world's oceans, as they absorb rising heat associated with climate change, also is killing coral reefs and driving more fish species toward cooler seas and away from the regions where they have traditionally lived and been caught, Turley said on the sidelines of the recent U.N. climate talks in Marrakesh. Another effect of warming is a reduction in the amount of oxygen in the sea, threatening fish, said Ulf Riebesell, a German ocean researcher who works on acidification, among other problems.

"The ocean is under a major challenge. It's not only heating up, it's also acidifying and losing oxygen. The three stressors come simultaneously and they play out worldwide," he said in Morocco. That is fuelling new challenges for

both rich and poor communities around the world, from small-scale fishermen who can no longer bring in a catch, to conservationists watching fish move out of hard-won reserves, and coastal and island states fearful their tourist industries will collapse with their ailing reefs.

"It's happening too fast for organisms and ecosystems to develop strategies to cope," said Hans Portner, a scientist with

the German-based Alfred Wegener Institute and a contributor to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"There's a high risk of losing up to 90 percent of coral reefs in a 1.5-degree Celsius warmer world by the end of the century. This is a system that has already gone beyond its tolerance limits," he said. — Reuters



SVALBARD, Norway: A polar bear stands on an ice floe near the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, Norway. Scientists said yesterday that Svalbard has seen such extreme warmth this year that the average annual temperature could end up above freezing for the first time on record. — AP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (24/11/2016 TO 30/11/2016)

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24-11-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohamed Sadiq Riyasat, holder of Indian Passport No. M6103097 has changed my name to Sadique Riyasat Pathan. Herein after in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Sadique Riyasat Pathan. **(C 5240)**
24-11-2016

I, Hassan S/o Zoyabali Mithawala

holder of Indian Passport No. Z3199917 and Civil ID NO. 292070202684 has changed my name to Hassan Zoyabali Mithawala herein after in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Hassan Zoyabali Mithawala. **(C 5237)**

I, Hozefa S/o Shabbir holder of Indian Passport No. Z3201289 and Civil ID No. 277021101304 has change my name to Hozefa Shabbir herein after in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Hozefa Shabbir. **(C 5238)**

I, Ayesha D/o Sequeira Elias Pascal holder of Indian Passport No. P6318774 and Civil ID No. 279012301733 has changed by name Ayesha Bano herein after in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Ayesha Bano. **22-11-2016**

Automated enquiry
about the Civil
ID card is
1889988

EMERGENCY

112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 04:57
Shorook 06:20
Duhr: 11:35
Asr: 14:30x
Maghrib: 16:50
Isha: 18:11



Word Search Puzzles

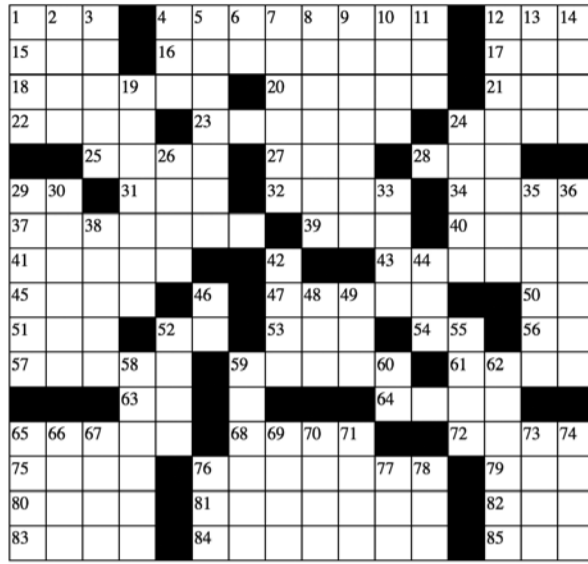
Friendship

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word related to friendship.

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

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| ACQUAINTANCE | COMPANION | HONESTY |
| AFFECTION | COMRADE | KINSHIP |
| AFFINITY | CONFIDE | LEND |
| ALLY | EMPATHY | LOYALTY |
| AMIGO | FAVOR | PAL |
| AMITY | FONDNESS | ROOMMATE |
| BOYFRIEND | FRIENDLINESS | SHARE |
| BUDDY | FUN | SUPPORTIVE |
| CHUM | GIRLFRIEND | SYMPATHY |
| CLOSENESS | GOOD TIMES | TRUST |

CROSSWORD 1442



ACROSS

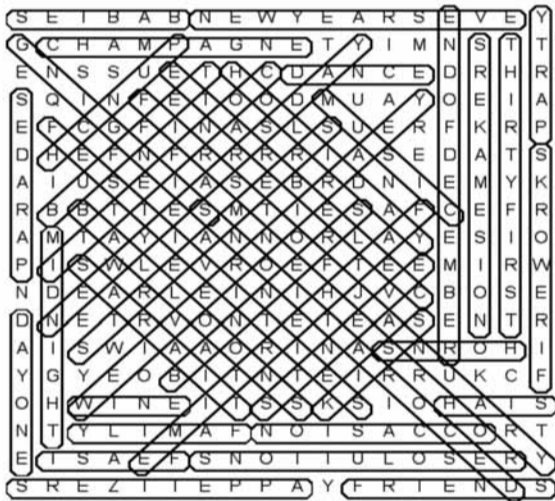
- Standard time in the 7th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 105th meridian west.
- A meter for measuring electrical resistance in ohms.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- The branch of biology that studies the structure and function of cells.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- Large high frilly cap with a full crown.
- Tie again or anew.
- Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
- A fee charged for exchanging currencies.
- A chronic emphysema of the horse that causes difficult expiration and heaving of the flanks.
- The highest level or degree attainable.
- A rapid escape (as by criminals).
- The last (12th) month of the year.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
- A disorderly outburst or tumult.
- A small ball with a hole through the middle.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- The administration of a strong electric current that passes through the brain to induce convulsions and coma.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- An edible seaweed with a mild flavor.
- 1 species.
- City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
- An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- Step on it.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
- Either of two large African antelopes of the genus Taurotragus having short spirally twisted horns in both sexes.
- (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- Before noon.

DOWN

- Informal terms for a mother.
- Work doggedly or persistently.
- The inner and thicker of the two bones of the human leg between the knee and ankle.
- South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
- Bleeding into the interior chamber of the eye.
- A unit of weight equivalent to 1000 kilograms.
- Motivation based on ideas of right and wrong.
- Give a promotion to.
- Relating to totemism.
- Armor plate that protects the chest.
- The seed of the cereal grass.
- (botany) Of or relating to or resembling a calyx.
- The content of cognition.
- A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine.
- A member of a North American Indian people living in central Baja California.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- (trademark) A liquid that temporarily disables a person.
- Cause to run off the tracks.
- The elapsed time it takes for a signal to travel from Earth to a spacecraft (or other body) and back to the starting point.
- A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
- Corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality.
- Indigo bush.
- Decapod having eyes on short stalks and a broad flattened carapace with a small abdomen folded under the thorax and pincers.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
- Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
- A French abbot.
- Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggesting candelabra.
- (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
- Unknown god.
- Ctenophore having tentacles only in the immature stage.
- Informal terms for money.
- Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- A hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal cortex.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- The sixth month of the civil year.
- Toward the mouth or oral region.
- A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
- A master's degree in library science.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- The force of workers available.

Yesterday's Solution

Happy New Year



- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| APPETIZERS | DECORATIONS | HATS | PARADES |
| BABIES | END OF DECEMBER | HOLIDAY | PARTY |
| BALLOONS | EVENTS | HORNS | PUNCH |
| BANNERS | FAMILY | KISS | RESOLUTIONS |
| BUFFET | FATHER TIME | MIDNIGHT | SINGING |
| CELEBRATE | FEAST | MUSIC | STREAMERS |
| CHAMPAGNE | FESTIVITIES | NEW YEARS DAY | THIRTY FIRST |
| CONFETTI | FIREWORKS | NEW YEARS EVE | TIARAS |
| DANCE | FIRST OF JANUARY | NOISEMAKERS | WINE |
| DAY ONE | FRIENDS | OCCASION | YEAR IN REVIEW |

The hidden message is: TIMES SQUARE IN NEW YORK CITY

Daily SuDoku

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

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

easy

Yesterday's Solution

B	O	B		A	L	K	A	N	E	T		G	A	B	A	
A	L	E		S	W	E	D	I	S	H		A	R	A	S	
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CANADIENS OVERCOME HURRICANES 2-1

MONTREAL: The Montreal Canadiens slowed down the streaking Carolina Hurricanes. Max Pacioretty broke a tie 14 seconds into the third period and the NHL-leading Canadiens beat Carolina 2-1 on Thursday night to end the Hurricanes' winning streak at five games. Carey Price made 31 saves, and Andrew Shaw also scored for Montreal. The Canadiens improved to 15-4-2 and avenged a 3-2 loss last week in Carolina with backup Al Montoya in goal.

"We played solid defensively against a hot Hurricanes team," Shaw said. "Everyone was contributing at both ends. They'd won five in a row and we knew they'd be flying." Elias Lindholm scored for Carolina, and Cam Ward stopped 21 shots. "You're not going to win every game," Hurricanes forward Jeff Skinner said. "Some games you get the bounces and others you don't, but we have to believe in the system. There's a lot of positive things in our game."

The Hurricanes dropped to 8-7-4. "We were up against a team that's playing really well," Montreal coach Michel Therrien said. "It wasn't by luck that they won five in a row." The Canadiens will play their next five on the road. "This trip comes at a good time," Therrien. "It's a big challenge against good teams. I'm anxious to see how we play. We're playing with confidence, which is important."

Pacioretty put Montreal ahead early the third when he took the rebound of Tomas Plekanec's shot off the end boards and banked it in off Ward. Carolina coach Bill Peters challenged that Plekanec was off-side on the play but the goal stood up to video review. The Hurricanes opened the scoring at 10:32 of the first period after a bounce put Lindholm in alone on the right side for a perfect wrist shot to the top corner. Shaw tied it at 12:08, fighting off a check to jam in a feed from behind the net by Charles Hudon.

NOTES

The Hurricanes lead the NHL in penalty killing. They stopped both Montreal power plays and have not allowed a short-handed goal in 11 games (0 for 24). ... Carolina outscored opponents 14-5 during its five-game winning streak.

UP NEXT

Hurricanes: Complete three-game Canadian trip at Ottawa on Saturday night. Canadiens: Open five-game trip in Detroit on Saturday night. They also will face Anaheim, San Jose, Los Angeles and St Louis. — AP



RALEIGH: Brock McGinn #23 of the Carolina Hurricanes skates against the Montreal Canadiens during the game at PNC Arena in Raleigh, North Carolina. — AFP

IAAF UNDER FIRE

BERLIN: The wanted son of ousted international athletics president Lamine Diack took millions of euros from Russian competitors in return for "total protection" from failed doping tests, a new investigation said yesterday. Germany's ARD television and France's Le Monde newspaper said six athletes each paid between 300,000 and 700,000 euros (\$318,000-\$740,000) to top officials including Papa Massata Diack who is wanted by French authorities but in hiding in his native Senegal.

His father, Lamine Diack, is under house arrest in France. "The organized cover-up of suspected doping in the world of track and field has as such assumed a previously unimagined scale," said ARD. "And once again, it is primarily athletes from one nation under scrutiny: Russia." The two media organizations said their information were based on files held by Paris financial crime prosecutors who are investigating corruption allegations against the Diacks.

At least six Russian athletes had paid to have their suspicious doping test results covered up, including long-distance runner Liliya Shobukhova, walkers Valeriy Borchin, Olga Kaniskina and Vladimir Kanaikin and Sergey Kiryapkin as well as steeplechase runner Yuliya Zaripova, the report said. The media organizations also quoted letters sent by the then president of Russia's athletics federation, Valentin Balakhnichev, who had threatened to go public with the doping deal if the IAAF fails to offer the immunity it had promised. "Let us remind you that the background of these six cases from the very beginning was very far from any legal and ethical frames," according to the letter addressed to IAAF officials by Balakhnichev dated July 30, 2014.

"You decided to use multiple ABP (athlete biological passport) violations by the Russian athletes as an excellent way for your own prosperity. In 2011, when we faced 19 shocking ABP cases including Olympic and world champions, you offered us a deal. "Naming it as a deal, we are too much diplomatic. It was cynical and cruel blackmail," he added. Balakhnichev stepped down from his post as Russian athletics chief a week after ARD aired its first documentary in December 2014 alleging systematic doping in Russian athletics. Investigations into the allegations have since uncovered rampant Russian state-run doping at the Sochi Olympics and other events. —AFP

ONSLAUGHT PUTS DENMARK IN WORLD CUP DRIVING SEAT

MELBOURNE: A surprise onslaught from Denmark odd couple Thorbjorn Olesen and Soren Kjeldsen blew the World Cup of Golf wide open yesterday during a high-scoring second round of fourball play in Melbourne. Several teams made significant moves at Kingston Heath, but none bigger than the Danish duo, who produced a sensational 12-under par 60 to rocket to the top of the leaderboard at 12-under overall-three clear of China and four ahead of Spain. Olesen admitted he thought about the possibility of scoring an elusive 59 as the pair drilled eight birdies and two eagles to stun the galleries, a blitz that included a 139-metre hole out from Kjeldsen on the par four third.

The younger Olesen was the star, contributing six birdies and an eagle, but the accurate ball striking of world No.45 Kjeldsen playing first allowed his partner, ranked 67, the freedom to explore the possibilities in cold and windy conditions. Kjeldsen said the pair complemented each other. "Thorbjorn's very flashy, he hits very far off the tee and overall he's just got an amazing game," the 41-year-old said of his 26-year-old countryman. "Whereas myself, I'm sort of like a train-I just arrive on time but without too much of the flashy stuff." Kjeldsen added that he could play around Kingston Heath for the "rest of his life", portraying the infinity he has quickly developed with the course.

"This is my kind of golf," the four-time European Tour winner said. "You don't just get up and whack it as hard as you can. You have to think your way around." As the format switches back to the more difficult "foursomes" (where players hit the same ball taking alternate shots) today, Denmark will be joined in the last group out by the event's other surprise package-China duo Li Haotong and Wu Ashun. The Chinese have become fan favorites this week courtesy of their energetic "chest-bumping" celebrations, and there was plenty to be excited about as they followed up their impressive 70 on Thursday with a seven-under 65.

Overnight leaders Spain kept their title pursuit on track with Rafa Cabrera Bello and Jon Rahm producing a five-under round of 67, while American pre-tournament favorites Rickie Fowler and Jimmy Walker ensured they would be a factor over the weekend by carding their own 67. England and Italy were the other big movers on day two, each posting rounds of 66 to move to seven-under and equal with the US and France, who conjured a five-under round of 65. New Zealand (64), Netherlands (64) Japan (65), Taiwan (65) Scotland (65), Sweden (66), India (66), Thailand (66), Wales (66) and South Africa (66) all had rounds of six-under or better to either catapult up the leaderboard, or make amends for a poor showing in the foursomes. — AFP



MELBOURNE: Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen plays from a fairway bunker during his match at the World Cup of Golf at Kingston Heath in Melbourne, Australia yesterday. — AP

ASHWIN SPINS INDIA BACK TO THE TOP

MUMBAI: For those who feared for the future of finger-spin bowling, Ravichandran Ashwin's stupendous success over the last 16 months has come as a mighty relief. While the art of off-spin has grappled with the menace of chucking, the 30-year-old Indian has risen to the top of the ICC test bowling rankings on the back of seven Man of the Series performances.

Apart from skipper Virat Kohli, nobody is more important to India's test success on home soil and on Saturday he will unpack his bag of tricks in Mohali as the hosts attempt to lock up the five-test series against England. All this success has come against the background of the International Cricket Council's 2014 declaration of war on off-spinners with illegal actions. Numerous bowlers required remedial work to get back to permissible limits of bend in their elbows and the crackdown wrecked the career of Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal, one of the world's leading spinners in the post-Muttiah Muralitharan era.

Ashwin, though, has managed to fox batsmen

without ever needing to bend the rules. A tall off-spinner who bowls in half-sleeves, Ashwin is a rarity in an age when many slow bowlers look to hide the extent of their elbow bend under full sleeves. Against New Zealand in September, Ashwin became the second fastest bowler to take 200 test wickets, taking one more match than former Australia leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett (36) to achieve the feat. It has not always been plain-sailing for Ashwin, however, particularly outside India.

Overseas struggles

An opening batsman in junior cricket whose father Ravichandran was a club paceman, Ashwin transformed himself into an off-spinner and emerged from the southern city of Chennai to overtake Harbhajan Singh as India's leading slow bowler. Two years after making his debut against West Indies in 2011, he went wicketless in both innings of the Johannesburg test against South Africa and lost his

place as number one spinner to left-armner Ravindra Jadeja when India were overseas. "The criticism that came out of that game got the better of me," Ashwin said recently. "It told me that I wasn't good enough and that I needed to improve. It made me raise my standards." Returning to the nets, he made some tweaks to his action and returned to the side in England in August 2014.

A slow bowler with a penchant for targeting the opposition's best batsman, his 'carrom' ball - a finger-spinner delivered with the knuckle - has flummoxed the best players of spin. He also bowls a slider and has the ability to summon up the occasional leg-break when he feels he needs it. With his refurbished armoury, he picked up 62 wickets from nine tests in 2015 to finish as the highest wicket-taker in the world. He is firmly on course to repeat the feat for a second year with 55 wickets in nine matches so far and three more home tests against England to come. — Reuters



ADELAIDE: Australian batsman Usman Khawaja (left) hits a shot during the second day of the third Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa at the Adelaide Oval yesterday. — AFP

KHAWAJA HITS TON AS AUSTRALIA TAKE LEAD

ADELAIDE: Usman Khawaja hit his country's first century of the series and Peter Handscomb a half century on debut as Australia reached 307 for six with a lead of 48 at end of the second day of the day-night third test against South Africa yesterday. Khawaja's magnificent 285-ball 138 not out was the glue in Australia's innings, the left-hander putting on 137 with Steve Smith until his captain was calamitously run out and then 99 with Handscomb. Sean Abbott (3-38), who took two wickets in the first hour, returned to dismiss Handscomb before Kagiso Rabada bowled another debutant, Nic Maddinson, for a duck and Vernon Philander removed Matt Wade for four.

Khawaja will resume with Mitchell Starc (16 not out) on day three as the hosts look to extend their lead and put themselves in a commanding position to get the result they need to avoid a first ever 3-0 series sweep on home soil. Now 29, Khawaja has been recalled and discarded with regularity since his debut in 2011 but was retained for Adelaide despite the clearout that followed the humiliating innings and 80-run defeat in Hobart. After opening in place of David Warner in the wake of South Africa's declaration on 259-9 on Thursday, he negotiated a difficult opening hour yesterday before mixing fierce concentration with some typically elegant strokes.

and Quinton de Kock removed the bails. Handscomb, brought into the side on the back of a double century for Victoria, proved a more than able partner, however, and any prospect of another Australian batting collapse quickly dissipated. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

ADELAIDE, Australia: Scoreboard at the close on the second day of the day-night third Test between Australia and South Africa at the Adelaide Oval on yesterday.

South Africa first innings 259 for 9 declared (F. du Plessis 118 not out, S. Cook 40; J. Hazlewood 4-68)

Australia first innings (14-0 overnight)

U. Khawaja not out	138
M. Renshaw c Elgar b Abbott	10
D. Warner c Elgar b Abbott	11
S. Smith run out (Philander/deKock)	59
P. Handscomb b Abbott	54
N. Maddinson b Rabada	0
M. Wade c De Kock b Philander	4
M. Starc not out	16
Extras (b3, lb7, w2, nb3)	15
Total (6 wickets, 102 overs)	307

To bat: Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Lyon, Jackson Bird
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Renshaw), 2-37 (Warner), 3-174 (Smith), 4-273 (Handscomb), 5-277 (Maddinson), 6-283 (Wade)
Bowling: Philander 24-4-82-1 (3nb), Abbott 25-11-38-3, Rabada 20-3-61-1 (2w), Shamsi 24-4-79-0, Duminy 6-0-25-0, Elgar 2-0-11-0, Bavuma 1-0-1-0.

WILL TRUMP HELP OR HURT LA'S BID FOR OLYMPICS?

NEW YORK: Four years ago, an unexpected guest crashed a celebration in Manhattan so he could hang out with US Olympians who were on their way to the London Games. The guest: Donald Trump. The president-elect, who also carried the torch in the lead-up to the Athens Games, has been a longtime sports fan and admirer of the Olympics. He also likes winning, which is what has attracted him, over the years, to a US team that routinely dominates the medals.

It would be no stretch then to imagine Trump as a natural supporter of the effort to bring the Olympics back to Los Angeles in 2024. But Olympic bidding is a contest decided more by secret handshakes than a scoreboard. Though it claims to be above politics, the International Olympic Committee is teeming with them - and many of its 98 members factor in geopolitical considerations when deciding which city to entrust with their most sacred and valuable property, the Olympic Games.

No surprise then that Trump's election sent a ripple through Los Angeles bid leaders. They recognize that if the United States is viewed as an unsteady player on the global stage when the games are awarded next September, it will give IOC members - not historically a pro-American group anyway - one more reason to favor Paris or Budapest over LA. "We just finished our presidential election and some of you may question America's commitment to its founding principles," American sprinter Allyson Felix told IOC members last week at a Los Angeles bid presentation. "I have one message for you: Please don't doubt us. America's diversity is our greatest strength."

The US government will not bankroll an LA Olympics, which makes it more of a side player when it comes to bidding. But every bid needs some amount of buy-in from the top, and for a long time, a direct appeal from a head of state was thought to be a key way to bolster a bid. Convinced this was the case, President Barack Obama flew to the IOC's final bid meeting in Copenhagen in 2009 to support Chicago in its attempt to land the 2016 Olympics. He got burned when his home city was the first one eliminated in the voting. Reflecting on that last month, Obama told New York Magazine, "I think we've learned that the IOC's decisions are similar to FIFA's decisions: a little bit cooked."

Trump has no apparent baggage with the IOC, and, in fact, an IOC member - American hockey player Angela Ruggiero - is one of a handful of Olympians to appear on Trump's reality TV show "The Apprentice" back in the day. She got fired. But if there's any real fence-mending to be done, it might be between Trump and the LA bid itself. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, a Democrat with ties to Hillary Clinton, said over the summer that a Trump victory could turn off voters. "I think for some of the IOC members, they would say, 'Wait a second, can we go to a country like that, where we've heard things that we take offense to?'" Garcetti said.

Trump won, and operatives in the LA bid have had what they've described as "preliminary" discussions with the incoming administration. They have not offered details. Assuming Trump doesn't impede LA's progress, the IOC could be faced with a choice between two leaders whose populist, nationalist messages have won over voters, while causing some international discomfort: LA's biggest challenger is Paris, and French polling shows far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen has a reasonable chance in that country's election next spring. — AP

COWBOYS WIN NFL 10TH STRAIGHT

ROETHLISBERGER, BROWN LEAD STEELERS PAST COLTS

LOS ANGELES: Rookie quarterback Dak Prescott got hot in the fourth quarter as the Dallas Cowboys won their 10th straight with a 31-26 win over the Washington Redskins on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Prescott completed six of seven passes in the fourth quarter for the first-place Cowboys who improved to 10-1 on the season in front of a crowd of 93,099 Thursday at AT&T Stadium. Prescott ran for one touchdown and passed to receiver Terrance Williams for another as he finished with 17 pass completions for a total of 195 yards in the second of three NFL games on Thanksgiving day.

"We have high expectations for ourselves on offense," Prescott said. "We obviously want to score on every possession and they gave us some scoring chances late. "No matter if we're up or down, we're going to go out there and score and I think we've shown that the last couple of weeks." The Cowboys seized command in the fourth quarter with a couple of seven-play scoring drives, including the first one that chewed up 78 yards. Prescott capped that first drive with a six-yard touchdown run and rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott scored on the second 48-yard drive with a one-yard run.

"Those guys are just really good football players," Dallas tight end Jason Witten said. "I don't think we really view them as rookies. "The responsibilities that have been thrown on them, they've handled it well and they're executing at in a big way at critical times throughout games." The Redskins (6-4-1) got a solid performance from star quarterback Kirk Cousins, but couldn't get past the Cowboys's defense. Washington didn't get its first touchdown until the start of the fourth and the Cowboys didn't fold in the final seven minutes of the contest. Cousins, who pulled the Redskins to within 24-19 on a 67-yard scoring strike, completed 41 passes for 449 yards and three touchdowns.

Final push

The Redskins made one final push, closing to within five points on a Jordan Reed touchdown catch with just under two minutes remaining in the game. In Detroit, Matt Prater's 40-yard field goal on the final play gave the Lions a 16-13 win over the Minnesota Vikings and sole possession of first place in the NFC North. The Lions (7-4) have trailed in the fourth quarter in all of their victories this season. Darius Slay's interception of a Sam Bradford pass set up the game-winner.



TEXAS: Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrance Williams (83) is pushed out of the end zone by Washington Redskins' Bashaud Breland (26) after Williams caught a pass for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game on Thursday, Nov 24, 2016. — AP

Prater booted a 58-yard kick at the end of regulation in Minnesota earlier this month, setting the stage for Detroit's 22-16 overtime win. In the night game, Ben Roethlisberger passed for 221 yards and three touchdowns - each to Antonio Brown - and the Pittsburgh Steelers recorded a 28-7 victory against the

host Indianapolis Colts, whose starting quarterback Andrew Luck was out with a concussion. Roethlisberger completed 14-of-20 passes, and Le'Veon Bell rushed 23 times for 120 yards and a touchdown as the Steelers won for the second time in five days on the road after beating Cleveland on Sunday. — AFP

BRONCOS BATTLE RIVAL CHIEFS IN THE RACE TO CATCH RAIDERS

LOS ANGELES: The Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos embark on the closing stretch of the National Football League season with a marquee contest tomorrow against another 7-3 team, the Kansas City Chiefs. The Broncos will be well-rested as they are coming off a bye week which helped some of their injured players get healthy ahead of their first meeting of the season against the Chiefs. "It's a new year and a new battle," Broncos coach Gary Kubiak said. "I think this team is really excited: the coaches, the organization, everybody. We're there with six weeks to play. "We have a lot of big football games to play in. We're all excited. You can feel it around here."

So can the Chiefs, who are in the thick of the chase for a playoff berth as well. The two teams are tied for second place in the AFC West, one game behind the Oakland Raiders. The game, originally scheduled in the afternoon, was moved to a prime-time evening matchup. "I don't think you could make it any bigger or more intense than it already is," said Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith. "The way the division has gone to this point, it's already pretty tight. "This is our first crack at these guys and they're the defending Super Bowl champions. We've been in a lot of battles with these guys over the years."

Denver has leaned on its staunch defense this season. But the offense has shown progress under the direction of quarterback Trevor Siemian, whose seven wins are the second most by a Broncos quarterback in his first nine career starts in franchise history. "He hasn't had that much consistency," Chiefs linebacker Derrick Johnson said. "He's not very tall in the pocket, but somehow he is still making all the throws he needs to make. So hats off to that. "You'd

think a shorter guy like him should have some problems seeing back there. He's pretty comfortable. Hopefully, we can make him uncomfortable. That's our plan."

Playoff lives

In other key contests tomorrow, the Raiders square off against the Carolina Panthers who are fighting for their playoff lives. Carolina quarterback Cam Newton is the Panthers primary weapon for passing and running and will try to keep it close. After slowing down the New Orleans Saints to keep their slim playoff hopes alive, the Panthers have to figure out how to do the same against the high-flying Raiders. Tom Brady and the New England Patriots travel to New York to face the Jets, with the star quarterback looking to establish more records this season. Brady is rolling and should be able to attack the Jets' defense with efficient throws up the middle of the field.

He needs just 57 yards tomorrow to become the fifth quarterback in history to throw for 60,000 yards. Brady has completed 70.4 percent of his passes-with 16 touchdowns and one interception-in the six games since his return from his four-game Deflategate suspension. The Patriots are 5-1 in those six games to sit at 8-2 in pursuit of their fifth Super Bowl title. In other games tomorrow it is, the Arizona Cardinals at Atlanta Falcons, Cincinnati Bengals at Baltimore Ravens, Jacksonville Jaguars at Buffalo Bills, Tennessee Titans at Chicago Bears, New York Giants at Cleveland Browns, San Diego Chargers at Houston Texans, San Francisco 49ers at Miami Dolphins, Los Angeles Rams at New Orleans Saints and Seattle Seahawks at Tampa Bay Buccaneers. — AFP

TITANS LINEBACKER DUO RANK 2ND IN NFL WITH 17 COMBINED SACKS

NASHVILLE: Derrick Morgan is having the best season in his seventh year in the NFL, while Brian Orakpo on the other side of Tennessee's defensive line is just two sacks shy of matching his career high. Together, the Titans linebackers are taking down quarterbacks as good as any duo in the NFL. Morgan has eight sacks, while Orakpo has nine for a total of 17. Only Cliff Avril (10) and Frank Clark (7 1/2) of Seattle have more combined sacks, and that's by just a half sack.

"Those two guys right there are game-changers, and when those two are rolling there's nobody out there that can stop them," Titans defensive lineman Jurrell Casey said. "So it's really hard for an offensive line to contain either one of them. And when you get guys like that rushing off the edge, it makes the game a lot easier for the guys in the middle and for the secondary, makes the game 10 times easier for them." Morgan, the Titans' first-round pick in 2010 out of Georgia Tech, and Orakpo now find themselves in a race to see who can become the first Tennessee player to pile up double-digit sacks since Casey had 10 1/2 in 2013.

"That's any edge defender's goal is to get to double digits," Morgan said. "That'd be something special if we were both able to get to double digits and finish off the year strong." Orakpo had 11 sacks as a rookie with Washington in 2011 and had 10 in 2013 also with the Redskins. This already marks his best season since then, and Orakpo already has 32 quarterback pressures with five games left - five shy of what he totaled all of last season. Padding the sack level to 10 or higher is much more special since the quarterback winds up on the ground. "Oh, that'd be huge not only for me and him because of how hard we work together since day one, but for this franchise and organization." Orakpo said. "I love working with the guy. We both bring it. We both complement each other very well." The Titans (5-6), who visit Chicago (2-8) tomorrow, haven't had this kind of production from a defensive duo since 2010 when Jason Babin (12 1/2) and Dave Ball (seven) combined for 19 1/2 sacks. Defensive end Jevon Kearse (14 1/2) and linebacker Eddie Robinson (six) combined for 20 1/2 sacks in 1999 when this franchise reached its lone Super Bowl. — AP

SETBACKS ENDURE AS RUSSIA PREPS FOR WCUP

MOSCOW: Corruption scandals, extended deadlines and even a wobbly pitch are just a few of the setbacks Russia has faced ahead of the 2018 World Cup, though authorities vow everything will be ready on time. Putting the final touches on the infrastructure in four host cities—Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Kazan and Sochi—has become all the more pressing because they will also host the Confederations Cup next year, a dress rehearsal for the 2018 tournament. President Vladimir Putin this month assured that all stadiums would be built within deadlines and with good quality—a pledge labour disputes and technical problems in recent months could jeopardize.

At Saint Petersburg's futuristic 68,000-seater stadium, the retractable pitch had been rendered unsuitable for play due to technical issues that made it unstable—just the latest problem to plague the venue, under

construction for nearly a decade. The wobbly pitch, however, is not expected to cause any more delays in the stadium's construction, which is set to be completed by the end of the year despite delays and the main contractor quitting this summer. "The issue is that the field rolls into the stadium on an unstable base. It needs to be strengthened," RIA Novosti quoted Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko as saying this month. Earlier this month, the former deputy governor of Saint Petersburg, Marat Oganessian, was arrested over a fraud scheme with a firm that was supposed to provide the stadium with a video scoreboard.

Airport makeovers

The government also announced last month that the new stadiums being built in Nizhny Novgorod and Volgograd—which were set to be completed by

December 2017 - would not be done until the first quarter of 2018. Despite many hiccups, Russian officials have remained upbeat about the prospect of hosting a successful World Cup. "The construction process is difficult and complicated," Dmitry Svishchev, a member of the parliament's sports and physical culture committee said. "But there have never been any construction projects completed easily and without any setbacks."

He added that he expected the stadiums and infrastructure to "be beautiful." The airports of some host cities are also undergoing makeovers. Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport announced last month that it had invested \$865 million into building a new terminal and was expanding its operations ahead of the World Cup. But Kaliningrad's Khrabrovo airport, which is being rebuilt ahead of the tournament, is in "terrible condition," Vedomosti business daily wrote in September. — AFP



KAZAN: Volunteers walk in front of the tennis academy center in Kazan on the eve of the 2017 Confederations Cup draw. — AFP

RUSSIA'S ANCIENT KAZAN THRIVES AS SPORTS CAPITAL

MOSCOW: Interspersed among minarets and candy-colored church domes, world-class sports venues dot the landscape in Kazan, a Russian cultural hub that has earned a reputation as an international sports capital. The city of 1.2 million, located some 700 kilometers east of Moscow on the banks of the Volga River, is hosting the draw for the 2017 Confederations Cup today and is something of a Russian sporting Makkah. Kazan, the administrative capital of Russia's oil-rich, majority-Muslim



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin places his hand on an official match ball for the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup, named 'Krasava', during a meeting with FIFA president at the Kremlin yesterday on the eve of the Confederations Cup draw to be held in Kazan. — AFP

Tatarstan region, has hosted international and European competitions in weightlifting, hockey, figure skating, boxing, swimming and fencing, among a long list of disciplines. Most memorably, the city hosted the 2013 Summer Universiade and the FINA World Championships last year.

City officials say that hosting the Universiade - world student games - was a major milestone that considerably boosted the development of sports infrastructure. "More than 30 new sports venues were built from scratch, while 19 others were completely renovated," Kazan deputy mayor Damir Fattakhov said. "The hosting of the student games became a powerful spur to developing the city's sports infrastructure." Fattakhov added that the city authorities also encouraged student sport by transferring the ownership of 18 sports venues to a local sports academy, a university and other educational institutions. "That was a wise decision. Now Kazan students have excellent opportunities to take part in sports at up-to-date venues," he added.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin called Kazan the "sports capital of Russia" during a visit to the city in 2013 and repeated this during a visit to Tatarstan in April. "People here know what sport is, they love it and are capable of organizing the major sports events," he said at the meeting of his sports council. Kazan was founded as a fortress in 1005 and was part of the Golden Horde Mongol empire before in the 15th century becoming the capital of a powerful Tatar principality called the Kazan khanate. The city joined the Russian Empire in 1552 after being seized by Ivan the Terrible, who ordered thousands of Russians to resettle there. — AFP

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PREVIEW

AL AIN BANKING ON 'BRAZILIAN AMOORY'

DUBAI: Al Ain will look to star playmaker Omar Abdulrahman as they bid to snatch victory from Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors in the second leg of the AFC Champions League final today. Top-rated Abdulrahman, known as "Amoory" will be a key man as the Emiratis strive to overcome a 2-1 deficit against South Korea's Jeonbuk at their home stadium in UAE. Brazilian hitman Leonardo hit a sizzling second-half double to give Jeonbuk the edge in last week's first leg, after Abdulrahman brilliantly set up Al Ain's opener. Leonardo said shaggy-haired Abdulrahman, who has drawn interest from Manchester City, Barcelona and Arsenal, played with all the freedom of a Brazilian—but warned he wasn't Al Ain's only dangerman.

"Omar Abdulrahman is like a Brazilian, an incredible player with great quality," said the Jeonbuk forward, according to the Asian Football Confederation website. "He's performed with distinction for Al Ain and for his national team, and the fact that there are many big clubs after him is evidence enough of his ability. "But we have to focus not only on him, Al Ain have other dangerous players who we must prepare for. As a team, I don't believe they are very different from us in terms of the set-up and playing style, we just have to be careful." Expectations are high for Abdulrahman, who will try to help Al Ain win their second Asian title and, next week, is favorite to be named Asia's player of the year at an awards show in Abu Dhabi.

'Beautiful football'

Abdulrahman was anonymous in last week's first half in Jeonju but he came alive after the break, forcing a fine save before he held off three defenders to set up Danilo Asprilla's opener. It looked to have turned the game but Leonardo equalized with a rocket from outside the box before he calmly converted a penalty to put Jeonbuk in the driving seat.

Colombia's Asprilla warned the final wasn't over yet and said Al Ain still expected to be crowned Asia's club champions in front of their home fans. "On our own pitch, at home, we can play our game—our beautiful football and we have confidence we can get the result we want," he said. "I believe in myself and my team-mates that we can get the win at home and can lift the AFC Champions League title." However, Jeonbuk's attacking trident of Leonardo, Kim Shin-Wook and Ricardo Lopes remain a real threat and Al Ain will do well to keep them quiet for 90 minutes.

Leonardo's double put him on 10 goals for the competition, a hat-trick away from equalling the all-time record of 13 shared by Guangzhou Evergrande's Muriqui and Adriano of FC Seoul. "We have to play intelligently in today's game and we have to work hard and work together to ensure we can secure the victory we need," Leonardo said. "The AFC Champions League is everything we've worked towards this year, not just this year, but ever since losing the 2011 final. "Now that we have this opportunity we have to give our lives to win this game. — AFP

Extras

Iniesta eyes Clásico return after injury

BARCELONA: Barcelona captain Andres Iniesta returned to training yesterday following a month out with a knee injury and is hopeful of playing in next month's Clásico, the Spanish champions said. Iniesta, 32, suffered knee ligament damage in a 3-2 win at Valencia on October 22, but the former Spain star is in line to feature against bitter rivals Real Madrid next Saturday after it was initially feared he could be sidelined for months. The midfielder has started just three league games for Barcelona this season as Luis Enrique's side trail leaders Real by four points after 12 matches. The Catalan giants face a tricky assignment away to fifth-placed Real Sociedad tomorrow, with Barca seeking a first league win at Anoeta since 2007. Turkey international Arda Turan is also unlikely to make the trip to San Sebastian after he missed training due to a fever.

Terry set for more than 2 weeks out

LONDON: Chelsea captain John Terry will be out of action for more than two weeks because of a "muscular problem", Blues boss Antonio Conte said yesterday. Former England centre-back Terry, 36 next month, has made just one substitute appearance since the London club started a six-match winning run that has taken them to the top of the Premier League. Terry will miss Saturday's league match against London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, with his only start since returning from an ankle injury in the EFL Cup loss at West Ham in October. "For tomorrow I don't have available John Terry and (John) Obi Mikel," Conte said. "John has a muscular problem and Obi is recovering from a muscular problem." The Italian manager added that Terry could be sidelined for "two, three weeks, maybe", with a gluteus (buttocks) problem. In a bid to get some game time, Terry featured for Chelsea's development squad in Monday's 3-2 win over Southampton.

Bale faces lengthy spell on sidelines

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane expects to be without the services of Welsh forward Gareth Bale for a long period of time. Bale damaged tendons in his right ankle during Tuesday's 2-1 win at Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League and he will undergo surgery next week in London. "It's tough to see a player out injured," Zidane told a news conference ahead of Saturday's home game against Sporting Gijon. "Bale is going to be out for a very long time." Bale has been key all season for Real, who lead the La Liga standings and have qualified for the Champions League round of 16. The 27-year-old has scored seven goals and set up three more in 16 starts in all competitions. Real are also without German midfielder Toni Kroos, who is out until next year due to a broken foot, and Spanish forward Alvaro Morata who is sidelined with a torn hamstring. French defender Raphael Varane, who scored Real's opener in Tuesday's victory in Lisbon, will rest this weekend as a precaution ahead of next week's Clásico in Barcelona.

Palace striker Remy suffers new setback

LONDON: Crystal Palace forward Loic Remy has suffered a new injury and will be out for up to three more weeks before making his debut, manager Alan Pardew said yesterday. Signed on loan from Chelsea at the start of the season, the French international had to return to Stamford Bridge after less than a fortnight with a thigh strain. "Loic has picked up a different injury. It's the calf and that's a disappointment," Pardew told a news conference ahead of Saturday's Premier League game at bottom club Swansea City. Both teams are in poor form, with the Welsh club looking for their first win under new American manager Bob Bradley and Palace on a run of five successive defeats.

FRENCH LEAGUE PREVIEW

MONACO KEEP COOL AHEAD OF MARSEILLE CRUCIAL CLASH

PARIS: Monaco midfielder Bernardo Silva brushed off comparisons between the Ligue 1 title contenders and Europe's heavyweights ahead of today's visit of traditional French giants Marseille. Leonardo Jardim's side qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League in midweek as winners of Group E following a 2-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur and find themselves locked in a three-way battle with Nice and Paris Saint-Germain in France.

Monaco have terrorized opposing defenses with a European-high 39 league goals, generating genuine belief they can topple reigning champions PSG to land a first top-flight title since 2000. "We know we're good but we must keep on working. There are still things to improve. We play very attacking football, we score lots of goals but we can never be perfect," said Portuguese international Silva. "To be compared with Real Madrid or Barcelona is great but we're not at the same level. We can't get carried away. "We have a bit more experience this year, but compared to the giants of Europe, we still have a long way to go." Monaco have collected 16 of a possible 18 points at the Stade Louis II and could again provisionally replace leaders Nice at the top with victory over Marseille, who secured their first win under new coach Rudi Garcia last weekend. Unai Emery's PSG seized control of their Champions League destiny with a 2-2 draw at Arsenal on Wednesday, leaving them as heavy favorites to wrap up first place in Group A. "We almost played the perfect match," midfielder Blaise Matuidi told Canal+. "These matches allow us

French League Table

French Ligue 1 table ahead of this weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Nice	13	10	2	1	25	9	32
Monaco	13	9	2	2	39	15	29
Paris SG	13	9	2	2	26	7	29
Lyon	13	7	1	5	21	16	22
Guingamp	13	6	4	3	18	13	22
Rennes	13	6	3	4	14	17	21
Bordeaux	13	5	5	3	16	14	20
Toulouse	13	5	4	4	17	12	19
Saint-Etienne	13	4	6	3	14	11	18
Angers	13	5	3	5	12	12	18
Marseille	13	4	5	4	13	13	17
Metz	13	5	2	6	13	22	17
Montpellier	13	3	6	4	20	27	15
Dijon	13	3	5	5	16	18	14
Caen	13	4	1	8	10	22	13
Bastia	13	3	3	7	10	13	12
Nantes	13	3	3	7	9	18	12
Nancy	13	3	3	7	8	19	12
Lille	13	3	1	9	10	19	10
Lorient	13	2	1	10	9	23	7

to gauge ourselves and we showed that Paris are a great team."

Nice dumped out of Europe

The capital club have won five of their last six matches but face a tough assignment on Sunday with a trip to resurgent Lyon, who

snapped PSG's long unbeaten run in the corresponding fixture at Parc OL last season. Alexandre Lacazette's second-half winner against Dinamo Zagreb kept alive Lyon's hopes of prolonging their Champions League adventure and Bruno Genesio's men are also chasing a fourth league victory on the trot. —AFP

SPL PREVIEW

CELTIC LOOK TO SECURE 100TH TROPHY AGAINST ABERDEEN

GLASGOW: Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers cannot afford to linger long on his side's European elimination as they prepare to take on Aberdeen in the Scottish League Cup final tomorrow. The match at Hampden Park is an opportunity for Rodgers to secure his place in the club's history books days after he watched as the Hoops were powerless to stop a Lionel Messi-inspired Barcelona secure a 2-0 win at Celtic Park on Wednesday.

They were already certain to bow out of the Champions League in the group stage but that result ended the Glasgow giants' hopes of even making it into the Europa League, condemning them to bottom spot in Group C. That was a blow for the ambitious former Liverpool manager who has made a massive impact since his arrival in the summer. But now Rodgers, who has seen Celtic go 10 points clear of Aberdeen at the top of the Scottish Premiership after just 12 games, has the chance to win a first piece of silverware with the club. If Celtic do win, it would be an historic 100th trophy for them and they hope it will be the first leg of a treble, with the league title looking inevitable and the Scottish Cup to come. Despite their huge success in Scotland, Celtic have only won the treble on three occasions in their history with the last coming in the 2000/01 season under Rodgers' fellow Northern Irishman Martin O'Neill.

Emilio Izaguirre, who has been at Parkhead for the past six years, is one of the more experienced players in the Celtic dressing room and he insisted their European exit wouldn't have a negative impact on the players. "Barcelona are the best team in the world. It's as simple as that. We tried our best, but it was so difficult to play against them," the Honduran international said. "But now we focus on the cup final. That now means everything. "We have to put this game behind us. Tomorrow is a huge match for all of us and I am looking to win another medal for Celtic. "This club is all about winning titles and this is a fantastic chance to do it again in front of our supporters. "We need



Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers

to win this final. We are disappointed to lose at Celtic Park, we never want to do that, but we can make it up for it soon."

Dons hungry for silverware

They will face an Aberdeen side desperate to reclaim a trophy they last secured in 2014. Manager Derek McInnes was the man who led the club to that success, their first trophy in 19 years. He believes his side, who have provided Celtic's main challenge in the league for the past two years, can inflict a first domestic defeat of the campaign on the Glasgow club despite losing their two league clashes this season. "This is where our players want to be. They all are at Aberdeen to win trophies and kick on in their careers. Tomorrow is a chance for them to show that," he said. "It's clear there have been improvements at Celtic. Their league form last season was good and they only lost three games, twice against us, but if they continue in a similar vein they are going to be out of sight. "But every team is beatable and we certainly feel we are closer to them than maybe some people think. "We have to play well, but we have a real confidence and belief in our own ability that we can go and win the thing." —AFP

GERMAN LEAGUE PREVIEW

BAYERN DENY 'CRISIS', HOST LEVERKUSEN

BERLIN: Faltering Bayern Munich hope to break their second mini winless streak this season when they host Bayer Leverkusen today to launch their counter-attack on top spot in Germany. For the first time since September 2015, second-placed Bayern do not top the table at the start of a weekend of Bundesliga fixtures. Having won the Bundesliga title in each of the last four seasons, things are currently not going Bayern's way. New leaders RB Leipzig, who are at Freiburg on Friday, are on a record run and yet to taste defeat in their first 11 league games to leave them three points clear of Bayern.

Leipzig coach Ralph Hasenhuettl acknowledged their 3-2 win at Leverkusen last Friday, to put them top, stirred up a wasps' nest "so of course there is some buzzing" in Bayern. Following their home draw with Hoffenheim, narrow defeat at Borussia Dortmund and 3-2 loss at Russia's Rostov in the Champions League on Wednesday, Bayern are wobbling. This is the second time the Bavarian giants have gone three games without a win since Carlo Ancelotti took charge at the start of the season. Poor defending was at the root of their problem in Rostov. The tension around the defending German champions is clear, especially as the Rostov defeat ended their hopes of winning their Champions League group.

'A circus'

"It's useless to make a circus out of things now," fumed chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge after the loss in Rostov. "We have to do things better, especially in today's next game against Bayer Leverkusen." Captain Philipp Lahm denies Bayern are in crisis, but "at the moment we are a bit careless and making too many mistakes. "We don't seem to know that our opponents can also score and will punish our mistakes," he added, bemused. Bayern are waiting on the fitness of defender Jerome Boateng.

The Germany centre-back suffered a thigh injury in Rostov and was criticized by Rummenigge for a poor display, but the whole Bayern defense is currently shaky. Having served time in jail for tax evasion, Uli Hoeness is set to be re-elected as Bayern president. The out-spoken Hoeness wants to put Bayern back on the attack and the 64-year-old will have plenty to say if results do not improve. Leverkusen are buoyed from their midweek Champions League draw at CSKA Moscow which means they progress at the expense to the last 16 at the expense of Tottenham Hotspur. The sides drew 0-0 in Leverkusen in February on their previous meeting and it is four years since Bayer last poached a win in Munich.

Reus returns

Third-placed Dortmund are at Eintracht Frankfurt having welcomed back Germany winger Marco Reus, who led the scoring in their record 8-4 drubbing of Legia Warsaw on Tuesday. Coach Thomas Tuchel, who made nine changes for the side which beat Bayern, has a few defensive frailties to fix. Antony Modeste, the league's joint top scorer with 12 goals alongside Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, will look to add to his tally for fourth-placed Cologne against Augsburg. Fifth-placed Hoffenheim, who along with RB Leipzig, are still unbeaten this season, are at Borussia Moenchengladbach, who are 13th. Gladbach held Manchester City to a 1-1 draw on Wednesday which ended their Champions League hopes and booked their passage into the Europa League. —AFP

SPANISH LEAGUE PREVIEW

SOCIEDAD HOODOO HANGS OVER BARCA

MADRID: Barcelona face an uncomfortable trip to bogey side Real Sociedad as they seek to avoid losing further ground on Real Madrid just a week before the two clash in the Clasico. Barca have lost on their travels to San Sebastian in each of the past three seasons and already trail Real by four points having been held 0-0 at home by nine-man Malaga last weekend. The champions will at least benefit from having the on-fire Lionel Messi available.

Messi was badly missed due to illness against Malaga, but took his tally to 18 goals in 15 games this season with a double in a 2-0 win at Celtic that guaranteed Barca's place in the last 16 of the Champions League as winners of their group on Wednesday. All four of Barca's slip-ups in La Liga this season have come when Messi hasn't completed the 90 minutes. "It is a difficult game because of the team they have. They are playing very well, they are up in the European places and it is years since we won there," Messi said on Thursday.

"It will be a very tough game. We can't afford to play badly because we need to win." A run of four straight wins, including over Atletico Madrid in their last home outing, has seen Real Sociedad rise to joint fourth in the table. "To play against Barcelona is always an extra motivation because there are one of the best in the world and we know what it means to play against them," said the Basque side's Mexican forward Carlos Vela. Barca will again be without the injured Andres Iniesta and Samuel Umtiti, while Neymar has to be careful as a yellow card would see the Brazilian miss the Clasico through suspension.

Spanish League Table

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

Real Madrid	12	9	3	0	34	10	30
Barcelona	12	8	2	2	32	13	26
Sevilla	12	7	3	2	22	17	24
Villarreal	12	6	4	2	19	8	22
Real Sociedad	12	7	1	4	21	13	22
Madrid	12	6	3	3	25	11	21
Bilbao	12	6	2	4	16	13	20
Eibar	12	5	3	4	17	15	18
Celta Vigo	12	5	2	5	18	22	17
Las Palmas	12	4	4	4	21	20	16
Malaga	12	4	4	4	17	16	16
Espanyol	12	3	6	3	14	17	15
Real Betis	12	4	2	6	13	22	14
Alaves	12	3	4	5	11	16	13
Leganes	12	4	1	7	11	22	13
Valencia	12	3	2	7	16	22	11
Deportivo	12	2	4	6	10	19	10
Sporting Gijon	12	2	3	7	11	25	9
Osasuna	12	1	4	7	12	23	7
Granada	12	0	5	7	10	26	5

Life without Bale

Barca could find themselves seven points back by the time they kick off tomorrow as Madrid host the struggling Sporting Gijon today. Zinedine Zidane's men extended their unbeaten run in all competitions to 30 games with victory at

Sporting Lisbon on Tuesday. However, progression to the last 16 of the Champions League for a record 20th straight season came at a huge cost as Gareth Bale will have to undergo surgery on an ankle injury that is set to keep the Welshman out for at least two months. —AFP

ITALIAN LEAGUE PREVIEW

JUVENTUS FANS WAIT FOR MILAN FAN KEAN

MILAN: Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri could hand teenage starlet Moise Kean his full debut for the injury-hit Turin giants against Genoa tomorrow-even if he is secretly an AC Milan fan. Kean, a powerfully-built striker, joined an elite group of 16-year-old Serie A debutants when he replaced Mario Mandzukic in a 3-0 win over Pescara last weekend. On Tuesday Kean showcased his talents to a global audience when he made a late cameo in a 3-1 Champions League win over Sevilla that secured Juve's ticket to the last 16.

Now, he could start alongside Croatia star Mandzukic at the Luigi Ferraris stadium-if Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain fails to recover fully from a thigh knock that kept him on the bench in Seville. The Italian champions hold a seven-point lead over Roma and Milan ahead of tomorrow's trip to Genoa and Allegri will definitely be missing striker Paulo Dybala and attacking midfielder Marko Pjaca.

Attacking options are limited and Allegri said after Tuesday's game: "At the moment Pjaca and Dybala are still sidelined, so he (Kean) will be staying with the squad for the moment. "He's making progress. He's had a few ups and downs, like all young players, but he's on his way back after spending a little too much mental energy." Kean, who has been compared to Mario Balotelli, made such an impact at youth level that he was regularly moved up the age groups. While videos of his skills have gone viral in Italy, a clip showing his older brother Giovanni has been featured regularly on sports websites in the past week.

As Kean walked on to make his Juve debut in

Italian League Table

Italian Serie A table ahead of weekend fixtures (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Juventus	13	11	0	2	26	9	33
Roma	13	8	2	3	30	14	26
AC Milan	13	8	2	3	21	17	26
Lazio	13	7	4	2	25	14	25
Atalanta	13	8	1	4	21	14	25
Napoli	13	7	3	3	23	14	24
Torino	13	6	4	3	29	16	22
Fiorentina	12	5	5	2	18	11	20
Inter Milan	13	5	3	5	18	16	18
Chievo	13	5	3	5	13	14	18
Sampdoria	13	5	3	5	16	19	18
Genoa	12	4	4	4	14	14	16
Bologna	13	4	4	5	14	19	16
Cagliari	13	5	1	7	20	30	16
Udinese	13	4	3	6	17	22	15
Sassuolo	13	4	1	8	16	25	13
Empoli	13	2	4	7	6	17	10
Pescara	13	1	4	8	9	23	7
Palermo	13	1	3	9	10	26	6
Crotone	13	1	2	10	10	26	5

Turin, Giovanni wept with emotion as he watched from the stands in Turin surrounded by applauding fans. Later, he admitted that Kean is really a fan of Juve's scudetto rivals Milan. "When he was younger he used to support Inter, thanks to (Nigerian forward) Obafemi Martins," said Giovanni Kean. "Then he switched to AC Milan

because our uncle, our mother's brother, was a fervent Milan supporter and used to sit with us and show us all their games." The potential conflict is unlikely to worry Allegri, who steered Milan to their last league title, in 2011, but he is watching the Rossoneri's progress this season a little more closely. —AFP

CITY AIMING TO EXTEND UNBEATEN RUN AT BURNLEY

MANCHESTER: Manchester City head into their Premier League match against Burnley today boosted by having secured a place in the last 16 of the Champions League with a game to spare after a midweek draw at Borussia Moenchengladbach. The 1-1 result in Germany means manager Pep Guardiola and his City players can focus on the Premier League for the next month or so, beginning with a visit to Burnley. Guardiola's side have been inconsistent while juggling European and domestic demands, dropping points in each of their last three home league matches and falling to third place in the table as a result.

They were not entirely convincing in Germany either, with a failure to win meaning they are now certain to finish second in their Champions League group, which is likely to result in a tougher draw in the next round. Even so, it is worth remembering that Guardiola's team are unbeaten in five matches in all competitions—a run that includes a memorable victory over Barcelona. They have been beaten just once in the Premier League so far this season and are, for all their recent difficulties, just one point behind leaders Chelsea, who visit Eastlands on December 3.

Guardiola's players stayed in Germany to train on Thursday before flying home. A short turnaround could cause problems for City, who lost 1-0 on their last league visit to Turf Moor in March 2015. "It is tough to fly back and be prepared but mentally we have got to be prepared," winger Kevin De Bruyne said. "There will be almost no training for the game today but we will try to be there and have a good performance."

'Huge gulf'

Guardiola must consider what role, if any, Yaya Toure should play against Burnley. The midfielder made a surprising return to the starting line-up at Crystal Palace last weekend, and was the best player on the pitch, scoring both goals in a 2-1 win. Toure had not featured for City since August, having fallen out with Guardiola after being left out of his Champions League squad. The dispute was exacerbated when Dimitri Seluk, the player's agent, publicly criticized Guardiola, but Toure has been welcomed back into the squad after apologizing to his manager.

City captain Vincent Kompany, however, has definitely been ruled out after damaging his knee ligaments at Palace, the latest of several injury setbacks. Burnley, widely expected to be fighting relegation after promotion from the Championship in May, reached the heights of ninth place before this month's international break. However, Monday's 4-0 loss at West Bromwich Albion was a sobering experience for manager Sean Dyche and his players. Dyche does not really have the depth of squad to make multiple team changes and so is likely to give those players who underperformed at The Hawthorns a chance to redeem themselves against City.

As a result, Burnley striker Andre Gray—who has started just once since completing a four-game suspension in late October—may have to settle for a place among the substitutes again. Burnley have been much tougher to beat at home than away this season, but Dyche has acknowledged that his side face a significant challenge this weekend. "There's a huge gulf between where we are as a club and where Manchester City are as a club, both on and off the pitch," he said. "But it is the marvel of football, when random results turn up. "We've had our fair share of them over my time here, and even this season. So who knows on that side of things?" — AFP

BLOODIED SPURS READY FOR STAMFORD BRIDGE RETURN

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur face a major test of nerve today when they return to Stamford Bridge, scene of the 2-2 draw with Chelsea that ended last season's title challenge. Spurs had nine players booked and Mousa Dembele was hit with a six-game ban for gouging Diego Costa's eye in a stormy May 2 encounter that delivered the Premier League crown to Leicester City. Mauricio Pochettino's side are licking their wounds once again, having been dumped out of the Champions League by Monaco, but goalkeeper Hugo Lloris says they will relish the trip to Chelsea.

"I said the same after we lost against (Bayer) Leverkusen at Wembley: this is the best type of game to bounce back," said the France international following Tuesday's 2-1 loss to Monaco at the Stade Louis II. "The only thing is to digest the frustration of this defeat and look forward. "It's a big disappointment, but we need to keep our chins up because it's a big game today." Harry

Kane struck twice late on as Spurs came from behind to beat West Ham United 3-2 at White Hart Lane on their previous league outing. But that was Spurs' only win in their last nine fixtures in all competitions, a run that has seen them slide to fifth in the table, four points below leaders Chelsea.

Chelsea, in stark contrast, are flying, having won their last six games without conceding a goal and will be defending an unbeaten home record against Spurs stretching back 26 years. Centre-back Gary Cahill says it is important for the players not to get carried away. "We're happy with our work, but the league isn't won now," he told the Chelsea website. "There's plenty more football—it's not even Christmas yet—so keep going, keep the foot down and keep trying to produce performances like we have been in the last few weeks."

Should Chelsea slip up, Liverpool and Manchester City—both just a point below them—will have designs on supplanting them at the summit.

European competition means Klopp has had a full week to prepare his team for their next league assignment. But City manager Pep Guardiola will have little time to drill his players ahead of today's trip to Burnley, which follows Wednesday's 1-1 Champions League draw at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The result in Germany took City into the last 16, albeit as runners-up behind Barcelona, and they will now look to build on last weekend's 2-1 win at Crystal Palace. "Obviously it's only two days in between for the next game, so that's tough to fly back and be prepared, but I think mentally we need to try to be prepared," City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne told the club website. Arsenal, in search of a second wind, welcome Bournemouth to the Emirates Stadium tomorrow. Arsenal needed a late Olivier Giroud header to rescue a 1-1 draw at Manchester United last week, then saw their hopes of top spot in their Champions League group fade in a 2-2 draw with Paris Saint-Germain.

Giroud's goal condemned United to a third successive home draw in the league—the first time that has happened since April 1992 — but they bounced back to crush Feyenoord 4-0 in the Europa League. United, nine points below Chelsea in sixth, face West Ham tomorrow in the first of back-to-back home games against the east London club, who return to Old Trafford in the League Cup on Wednesday. Having netted his 248th United goal against Feyenoord, skipper Wayne Rooney will equal Bobby Charlton's club scoring record if he scores against West Ham. — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timing)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Burnley v Man City	15:30
beIN Sports 2 HD	
Leicester v Middlesbrough	18:00
beIN Sports 4 HD	
Liverpool v Sunderland	18:00
beIN Sports 2 HD	
Hull City v Albion	18:00
beIN Sports 8 HD	
Swansea City v Crystal Palace	18:00
beIN Sports 12 HD	
Chelsea v Tottenham	20:30
beIN Sports 2 HD	
SPANISH LEAGUE	
Malaga v Deportivo	15:00
beIN Sports 3 HD	
Real Madrid v Sporting Gijon	18:15
beIN Sports 3 HD	
Espanyol v Leganes	20:30
beIN Sports 3 HD	
Sevilla v Valencia	22:45
beIN Sports 3 HD	
ITALIAN LEAGUE	
Torino v Chievo Verona	20:00
beIN Sports 4 HD	
Empoli v Milan	22:45
beIN Sports 4 HD	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
Eintracht v Dortmund	17:30
beIN Sports 5 HD	
Hamburger v Werder Bremen	17:30
beIN Sports	
Koln v Augsburg	17:30
beIN Sports	
Borussia M v Hoffenheim	17:30
beIN Sports	
Ingolstadt v Wolfsburg	17:30
beIN Sports	
Munich v Leverkusen	20:30
beIN Sports	
FRENCH LEAGUE	
Monaco v Marseille	19:10
beIN Sports 6 HD	
Girondins v Dijon	22:00
beIN Sports	
Montpellier v Lorraine	22:00
beIN Sports	
Nantes v Lille	22:00
beIN Sports	
Caen v Guingamp	22:00
beIN Sports	
Metz v Lorient	22:00
beIN Sports	

Record-hunting Rooney

Liverpool, who ceded top spot after drawing 0-0 at Southampton last weekend, host a Sunderland team buoyed by back-to-back wins that have lifted them off the foot of the table. "It's our job to show from the first second as a big group, crowd involved, that we are different—here it's different," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told his pre-match press conference. "Sunderland, if they win football games in the Premier League: well done, deserved, whatever. But not here." Like his Chelsea counterpart Antonio Conte, Liverpool's absence from

English Premier League Table

English Premier League table ahead of the weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Chelsea	12	9	1	2	27	9	28	Southampton	12	3	5	4	12	12	14
Liverpool	12	8	3	1	30	14	27	Burnley	12	4	2	6	11	19	14
Man City	12	8	3	1	27	11	27	Stoke	12	3	4	5	13	19	13
Arsenal	12	7	4	1	25	12	25	Leicester	12	3	3	6	14	20	12
Tottenham	12	6	6	0	18	8	24	Middlesbrough	12	2	5	5	10	13	11
Man Utd	12	5	4	3	17	14	19	Crystal Palace	12	3	2	7	17	21	11
Everton	12	5	4	3	16	14	19	West Ham	12	3	2	7	13	23	11
Watford	12	5	3	4	17	20	18	Hull	12	3	1	8	10	27	10
West Brom	12	4	4	4	16	15	16	Sunderland	12	2	2	8	12	21	8
Bournemouth	12	4	3	5	14	16	15	Swansea	12	1	3	8	11	22	6

INSPIRED ROONEY CONFOUNDS HIS 'OBITUARY' WRITERS AGAIN

LONDON: An angry Wayne Rooney was adamant last weekend that his critics in the media were trying to write his sporting obituary. On Thursday, he picked the moment to demonstrate that reports of his footballing demise had been greatly exaggerated. With one bravura goal and another magical 'no-look' assist in the crucial 4-0 Europa League victory over Feyenoord at Old Trafford, England's one-man footballing soap opera took a fresh twist after the most turbulent of weeks even by the 31-year-old's dramatic standards. A week earlier, Rooney had apologized for published pictures that had supposedly been taken of him while socializing among a late-night wedding party while he was on international duty

as England captain.

Just a few days later following United's game against Arsenal, though, he had sounded rather less apologetic as he launched a spirited self-defense and attacked the "disgraceful" treatment he had endured. "It feels as if the media are trying to write my obituary and I won't let that happen," Rooney had said in a most uncharacteristically angry riposte. "I have not finished yet." It was a courageous response, especially amid widespread speculation about a career that has appeared to be fading fast but, typically, Rooney's appetite for a good fight was evident again as he chose a crucial night at Old Trafford to produce a landmark performance. — Reuters

Sports



Cowboys win
10th straight

43



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney (right) chips the ball over Feyenoord's Australian goalkeeper Brad Jones (left) to score the opening goal during the UEFA Europa League group A football match between Manchester United and Feyenoord on November 24, 2016. — AFP

UNITED THRASH FEYENOORD 4-0

ROONEY CLAIMS A PIECE OF CLUB HISTORY

PARIS: Wayne Rooney claimed a piece of club history as he set Manchester United on the way to a 4-0 Europa League win over Feyenoord on Thursday that saw them close on the last 32. Rooney got the opening goal against the Dutch side at Old Trafford to score for the 39th time in Europe, matching Ruud van Nistelrooy's club record. He is now only one goal away from equaling Bobby Charlton's all-time club scoring record of 249 goals after setting United on the way to a welcome victory. Juan Mata and Jesse Lingard also netted either side of an own goal by Brad Jones and United now need only draw away to Zorya Luhansk in their final Group A match to qualify. "It was a good win. We are pleased to get four goals," Rooney said.

"The second goal killed the game. At 1-0 you never know what can happen. It's a great feeling to score goals for this club. I am pleased and there is plenty more to come." Fenerbahce are top of the section after beating the Ukrainian side 2-0 in Istanbul with second-half goals by Miroslav Stoch and Simon Kjaer. Meanwhile, Southampton's hopes of reaching the knockout rounds remain in the balance after Claude Puel's side lost 1-0 away to Sparta Prague in the Czech Republic. A solitary first-half goal by Zimbabwean full-back Costa Nhamoinesu, firing a Borek Dockal free-kick past Fraser Forster, was the difference between the sides at the Generali Arena.

"I think we played a good first half without a clinical edge, but after we lost the structure in the second half to keep our calm. It was not enough to win this game," said Puel. Southampton could have clinched qualification in different circumstances but instead they now face a decisive final Group K game against Hapoel Beer-Sheva at St Mary's next month, while Sparta progress as group winners. "Now it's important to keep our concentration," added Puel. "We have to play a very good game for the next game at home to make sure we qualify, for the players and fans."

Inter out

In Israel, Hapoel came from two goals down to record a remarkable 3-2 win over Inter Milan, whose troubles continue as they are eliminated. Goals from Mauro Icardi and Marcelo Brozovic had the Italian giants in control after just 25 minutes. However, Brazilian striker Lucio Maranhao reduced the deficit on 58 minutes and the Nigerian Anthony Nwakaeme equalized from the penalty spot after Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic had been sent off. Ex-Chelsea striker Ben Sahar then came off the bench to score a stoppage-time winner at the Turner Stadium. Southampton and Hapoel are level on seven points apiece and the Premier

League side must either draw 0-0 or win on December 8 if they are to reach the last 32.

Elsewhere, Roma secured their place in the knockout phase as winners of Group E after Edin Dzeko netted a hat-trick in a comfortable 4-1 win at home to the Czech champions Viktoria Plzen. Thirteen of the 24 qualifying berths for the knockout stage have been claimed with a round of group matches still to play, with 2012 finalists Athletic Bilbao also progressing. The Basque side beat Italian outfit Sassuolo 3-2 at San Mames, with Raul Garcia and Inigo Lekue netting either side of a strike from the veteran Aritz Aduriz.

Athletic join Belgians Genk in qualifying from Group F, while APOEL of Cyprus and Greek champions Olympiakos are now through from Group B and both Anderlecht and Saint-Etienne progress from Group C. Krasnodar of Russia were the other team to clinch their place in the last 32 on Thursday after a 1-1 draw at home to Salzburg secured thanks to a late goal by Fedor Smolov. Krasnodar will finish second in Group I behind Schalke, who defeated Nice 2-0 in Gelsenkirchen to make it five wins from five. The French league leaders are eliminated after Yevhen Konoplyanka and Dennis Aogo got Schalke's goals, the latter from a penalty. — AFP