



MOI DRAWS PLAN TO PROTECT MOSQUES DURING MUHARRAM

HUNDREDS HELD IN CRACKDOWN • 'BUTCHER' BUSTED • JAIL BEATING REFUTED



Min 20°
Max 35°
High Tide
00:40 & 12:53
Low Tide
04:52 & 17:40



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd holds a security meeting yesterday. (Right) Residents board a police bus during a nationwide crackdown yesterday. — MOI



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has set a plan to safeguard mosques and husseiniyas with the start of the month of Muharram, Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd said yesterday. The plan aims to protect lives and valuables as well as to ensure the safety of all worshippers, "which we refuse to compromise in any way," a statement by the ministry quoted Fahd as saying. "Diligent efforts on the part of security forces are key to the success of this plan," the undersecretary noted. Moreover, Fahd underscored the need of diligence and cooperation between government bodies to ensure that the plan goes off without a hitch.

Meanwhile, a comprehensive security inspection campaign in various governorates resulted in arresting 417 people, including eight wanted for criminal cases, 53 wanted for civilian claims, 56 absconders, 187 for not holding IDs, seven for drug possession, eight for alcohol possession, 83 with expired residency visas and 14 wanted people, in addition to filing 776 traffic tickets. Also, a "butcher" was arrested for collecting dead sheep from the desert, cleaning them at his house and selling them, said security sources.

Separately, the interior ministry's relations and security media department yesterday strongly denied social media rumors about a central prison inmate who was beaten. It explained that during a routine inspection last Tuesday, prison authorities found some illegal items in the prisoner's possession and confiscated them, after taking standard measures followed to deal with the smuggling of illegal items into prison.

SENIOR PEOPLE GIVEN PROPER CARE: SUBAIH

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LIVERPOOL MOVE SECOND, CHELSEA BACK ON TRACK

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NEW DELHI: Indian workers from the eastern state of Bihar gather in a hotel on Sept 29, 2016 after they were repatriated by the Indian government from Saudi Arabia. — AFP

INDIAN MIGRANTS RETURN HOME, RECALL NIGHTMARE

NEW DELHI: They left India for Saudi Arabia with big dreams, but have returned with only harrowing tales after an oil price slump threw the economy into turmoil, leaving thousands of poor migrant laborers stranded. The workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines were left destitute, without enough money to get home or even to buy food after losing their jobs. This week around 40 workers from the impoverished east Indian state of Bihar finally arrived home with stories of being "left to die" by their employer Saudi Oger, the once-mighty firm led by Lebanon's billionaire former prime minister Saad Hariri. The company, which at one time had some 50,000 workers on its payroll, was hit by a drop in income from its core construction business after Saudi Arabia delayed or cancelled projects in the face of plummeting oil revenues. "They closed down the mess (canteen) suddenly. For three days we did not have even water to drink.

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WHITE HOUSE RACE HITS NEW LOW

TRUMP DRAGS SEX SCANDALS INTO CAMPAIGN

DUTERTE DEFIANT OVER CALL TO KILL 3M DRUG DEALERS

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte refused to back down yesterday over his stated desire to slaughter millions of people, as global condemnation built against him likening his crime war with Hitler's efforts to exterminate Jews. Duterte on Friday drew parallels with the Nazi's mass murder of Jews and his anti-drug crackdown, which has left more than 3,000 people dead and raised concerns about the rule of law crumbling in the chaotic Asian democracy.

Facing a fierce international backlash, Duterte's spokesman released a statement insisting the president did not want to be compared with Nazi leader Adolf Hitler but confirmed he was prepared to kill three million people in his crime war. "We do not wish to diminish the profound loss of six million Jews in the Holocaust," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement. "The president's reference to the slaughter was an oblique deflection of the way he has been pictured as a mass murderer, a Hitler, a label he rejects."

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WASHINGTON: Donald Trump indicated in a new interview that he's ready to drag ex-president Bill Clinton's sex scandals into the White House campaign, after Democrats lashed out at the billionaire's Twitter rant against a pro-Hillary ex-Miss Universe. Trump told The New York Times that he believes talking about the sex scandals that stained the career of Hillary's husband Bill would turn female voters away from her. "She's nasty, but I can be nastier than she ever can be," Trump told the Times

in an interview posted late Friday.

He added: "Hillary Clinton was married to the single greatest abuser of women in the history of politics," referring to Bill Clinton (president 1993-2001). "Hillary was an enabler, and she attacked the women who Bill Clinton mistreated afterward. I think it's a serious problem for them, and it's something that I'm considering talking about more in the near future," he told the newspaper.

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Rodrigo Duterte



GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan: US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump pays his respects at former US President Gerald Ford's tomb on Friday. — AFP

ALEPPO HOSPITAL HIT, ARMY PRESSES ASSAULT

ALEPPO: The largest hospital in rebel-held east Aleppo was bombed yesterday for the second time in days as Syrian government forces pressed a Russian-backed offensive to retake the entire city. Aleppo, once Syria's vibrant commercial powerhouse, is now at the heart of a major military campaign by President Bashar Al-Assad's fighters and his steadfast ally Moscow. The offensive, announced on September 22, has seen dozens of civilians killed and residential buildings flattened in the east, where an estimated 250,000 people live under government siege.

As the situation for civilians grows increasingly dire, the largest hospital in east Aleppo was hit by barrel bombs, the medical organization that supports it said. "Two barrel bombs hit the M10 hospital and there were reports of a cluster bomb as well," said Adham Sahloul of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). Sahloul said a small group of patients and doctors "were inside the hospital for basic triage, bandaging, and cleaning services for emer-

gency cases" when the bombardment began. SAMS radiologist and hospital administrator Mohammad Abu Rajab made an urgent call for help on Saturday morning from inside M10. "The hospital is being destroyed! SOS, everyone!" he said in an audio message distributed to journalists. M10 had already been hit on Wednesday along with the second-largest hospital in the area, known as M2. That bombardment heavily damaged the two facilities and left only six fully-functional hospitals in the city's east, according to SAMS.

At the bombed hospital, an AFP journalist saw bloodstained hospital beds and dented equipment lying in disarray beneath blown-out windows. "A new barrel bomb fell this afternoon in front of the hospital, forcing medical staff... to evacuate all patients to another one and leave the hospital," a doctor at M10 told AFP. European Parliament president Martin Schulz called the hospital bombing a "war crime." "Intl community must unite to prevent city annihilation," he tweeted. French Foreign

Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said that "the systematic targeting of structures and health workers is particularly unjustifiable."

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council urged the UN Security Council to "immediately intervene to stop the aggression against Aleppo." The World Health Organization has called Syria the most dangerous place in the world for health workers, and Aleppo in particular has seen much of its medical infrastructure destroyed or heavily damaged. Since fighting first broke out there in 2012, Aleppo has been divided by a front line between rebel forces in the east and government troops in the west.

After the government launched its offensive last month, more than 220 people have been killed by bombardment on Aleppo's east, including six children and 12 other civilians on Friday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. In west Aleppo, rebel rocket fire killed 15 civilians and wounded 40 on Friday, state television reported.

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KAFR BATNA, Syria: A Syrian man carries the body of a girl following an air strike in the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta area on the outskirts of the capital Damascus on Friday. — AFP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir was received at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.—KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir is being received by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir is being received by Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

AMIR RETURNS HOME FROM US VISIT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his official delegation, arrived back home from the US after leading a Kuwait's delegation to the Leaders' Summit on Refugees

recently held at the United Nations. His Highness the Amir was received at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, senior sheikhs, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah

Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, besides senior state officials.

His Highness the Amir's accompanying delegation comprised Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Fahad Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Director of His Highness the

Amir's Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abdullah Abu Alhasan, Chief of the Amiri Diwan Protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and head of the Media and Cultural Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Yusuf Hamad Al-Roumi.—KUNA



HALF OF MEN LIVING IN KUWAIT CANNOT IDENTIFY PROSTATE CANCER SYMPTOMS

SURVEY UNDERLINES NEED FOR MORE EDUCATION ON PROSTATE CANCER

KUWAIT: The Patient Helping Fund Society together with global biopharmaceutical company, AstraZeneca, have launched a nationwide appeal for all men in Kuwait to educate themselves on prostate cancer following alarming survey results which revealed 56 percent were unable to correctly identify the symptoms of the disease. With September marking prostate cancer awareness month across the globe, The Patient Helping Fund Society and AstraZeneca are working together through their 'Protect What's Precious' initiative to encourage men to take the time to speak to their doctor throughout the month and learn about the symptoms and risks of the second leading cause of cancer death in men worldwide.

Chairman of Patients Helping Fund Society, Dr Mohammad Al-Sharhan, said the nationwide survey, which was commissioned by AstraZeneca Gulf, involved more than 250 people in Kuwait and highlighted the need for more education on prostate cancer.

"We all know that education and awareness is vital for an early diagnosis and successful prognosis of any disease but this is especially true with prostate cancer. When it is diagnosed early, the five-year survival rate of prostate cancer is almost 100 percent, that's why the survey results are so concerning," Dr Al-Sharhan said.

"Symptoms of prostate cancer can include a need to urinate frequently, especially at night, difficulty starting urination

or holding back urine, weak or interrupted flow of urine and painful or burning urination."

"More often than not however, it's not until the more advanced stages of the disease that symptoms begin to surface. That's why it's important for men to also learn about the risk factors of prostate cancer and ensure they are regularly visiting their GP so they remain one step ahead."

According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, the older you are, the more likely you are to be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Although only 1 in 10,000 men under age 40 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, the rate shoots up to 1 in 38 for ages 40 to 59, and 1 in 14 for ages 60 to 69. Race and family history of prostate cancer can also affect a man's risk in developing the disease.

The survey results also highlighted the fact that there was little awareness of prostate cancer screening options, with 84 percent of respondents admitting they were unaware screening existed.

Although recommendations on prostate cancer screening can vary, screening can help identify cancer early on when treatment is most effective. A normal PSA test, combined with a digital rectal exam, can help reassure you that it's unlikely you have prostate cancer. Screening is something men between 40-70 years old should also discuss with their doctor.

"One in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, so it is

important for men to learn about both non-aggressive, slow-growing forms of prostate cancer and aggressive forms of this disease through conversations with their doctors," Dr. Al-Sharhan said.

"Unfortunately the survey found that men avoided visiting their doctor because 54 percent believe they could fix the issue themselves and 22 percent because they are too busy but regularly going to the doctor is extremely important and even if you feel fine, you should still see your doctor for check-ups. These visits can help you avoid or better treat problems in the future."

"We hope these survey results can help men and their family realize the importance of regularly visiting their doctor and staying informed so they can take control of their health and avoid unnecessary risks," he added. Patient Helping Fund Society launched its partnership with AstraZeneca Gulf in June this year with the aim to increase awareness and education of all cancers in Kuwait through the campaign 'Protect What's Precious' which aims to aid in early detection and successful prognosis of the disease. During prostate cancer awareness month, Patient Helping Fund is encouraging all men to start regularly visiting their doctor to learn more about the disease and avoid unnecessary health risks in the future.

Speaking on its recent collaboration with Patient Helping Fund Society, Area Vice President for AstraZeneca Middle

East, Samer Al-Hallaq, said: "AstraZeneca is delighted to be supporting Patient Helping Fund Society to increase awareness of prostate cancer throughout September with the 'Protect What's Precious,'" he said. "We aim to encourage men to become more aware and understand the need for early detection."

5 THINGS MEN SHOULD LEARN ABOUT PROSTATE CANCER

1. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men and the second leading cause of cancer death in men worldwide.
 2. Prostate cancer can occur at any age, although men 65 years and older are at higher risk.
 3. Men with a family history of prostate cancer have an increased risk of developing cancer. The closer the relation, the higher the chances.
 4. Obesity and smoking is linked to a higher risk of aggressive prostate cancer.
 5. Symptoms of prostate cancer include:
 - * A need to urinate frequently, especially at night
 - * Difficulty starting urination or holding back urine
 - * Weak or interrupted flow of urine
 - * Painful or burning urination
 - * Blood in urine
 - * Frequent pain or stiffness in the lower back, hips, or upper thighs.
- Speak to your GP to find out about other prostate cancer symptoms.

Local Spotlight

ISSUE OF PARENTAGE AND CITIZENSHIP

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net



The issue of the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-citizens has been a matter of concern for a long time. This topic is an old one, but sensitive too. It has turned into a ticking time bomb over the failure to reach a solution that treats these women fairly and clearly, once and for all.

We know that wives and children usually follow the name and nationality of the husband, but in Kuwait, this subject has become complicated to the point where some MPs and activists are calling to amend the Kuwaiti nationality law, like some Arab countries that allow women to grant citizenship to their children. Some women resort to divorcing their non-Kuwaiti husbands to obtain Kuwaiti citizenship for their children. This is the prejudice suffered by Kuwaiti women married to foreigners, compared to Kuwaiti men married to non-Kuwaiti women.

There are plenty of defenders of the rights of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis, because they see it as unjust that a woman can't give Kuwaiti nationality to her children, who are forced to take the nationality of the father. The problem is compounded when the husband is a stateless person (bedoon).

I really wonder why these women do not accept reality and the nationality of their chosen husbands. I frankly believe that marital partnership means acceptance of each party as they are and who they are, whether over nationality or position.

There are calls for amending Article 2 of the citizenship law to stipulate that a Kuwaiti citizen is someone who is born in Kuwait or abroad to a Kuwaiti father or a Kuwaiti mother. I believe this is difficult to achieve on the ground and under the current Kuwaiti demographics. Some state the success of some Arab legislation that allow women to naturalize their sons, like in Egypt, but the laws in the Gulf states, for example, do not allow this. Defenders of these laws claim that amending them to keep up with social changes is not a sufficient or logical reason.

It is natural that a citizen receives privileges in his homeland, and this is not prejudice, because naturalization involves material concessions, especially in the GCC. But for some to seek divorce in Kuwait and then remarry outside the county to avoid registering and documenting the marriage to ensure the naturalization of the children is unacceptable in my opinion.

MINISTRY COMBATING UNJUSTIFIED PRICE HIKES: AL-SHEMALI

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Ministry of Commerce and Industry Undersecretary Khaled Al-Shemali stressed that the ministry is combating unjustified price hikes, considering it as a crime committed against all consumers. Shemali explained that well-studied prices set according to international pricing and costing methods are acceptable and are being closely followed up by special committees.

Afia cards

Moh's official spokesperson Dr Ahmed Al-Shatti announced delivering 9,100 'Afia' cards to retirees covered by the new health insurance system till Thursday night. Shatti added that the Afia care center received over 4,075 calls from citizens, which indicates positive interactions from citizens inquiring about the system. Shatti

added that distribution of the cards would resume Monday, and strongly denied selling any of these cards, warning that doing so would be illegal.

Smuggling attempt

Cairo airport customs foiled an attempt to smuggle rare stuffed animals to Kuwait.

Foodstuff monitoring

Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi strongly denied the presence of any foul food items including pork and stressed that all foodstuff imported in Kuwait is meticulously examined to make sure it is hygienic and safe. Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality inspected stores and restaurants at Qurain markets and co-ops, which resulted in confiscating and destroying 72 kg of chocolate, pastries, biscuits and sweets, in addition to filing 55 citations.

KUWAIT DELEGATION IN THE HAGUE

BRUSSELS: A delegation of Kuwaiti lawyers and legal personnel from the Chamber of Industry and Commerce has visited headquarters of the Permanent International Criminal Court in The Hague, getting acquainted with latest applied technologies and mechanisms in international criminal judicial tasks.

Tareq Al-Shmairi, counselor at the State of Kuwait's Embassy and head of the financial panel of the international tribunal, told KUNA yesterday that the delegation

held constructive discussions with Ronny Abraham, the chief judge of the International Court of Justice, and a number of judges, focusing on mutual cooperation and prospects of Kuwait's employment of the judges' expertise.

The 20-member delegation of Kuwaiti attorneys and legal figures, during the week-long visit which concluded on Friday, attended a trial session and met the dean of Leiden Law School of Leiden University.—KUNA



BRUSSELS: The delegation meets with the chief judge of the International Court of Justice Ronny Abraham.—KUNA



KUWAIT: The at-grade road opening starts from the Ali Al-Sabah Academy, and extends to the roundabout at the intersection of the Mohammad Bin Al-Qasim Street in both directions.

SERVICE ROAD ON JAHRA PROJECT OPENS PARTIALLY

MINISTRY ISSUES ADVISORY FOR ROAD USERS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced yesterday another partial service road opening on the Jahra Road Development Project. The at-grade road opening starts from the Ali Al-Sabah Academy, and extends to the roundabout at the intersection of the Mohammad Bin Al-Qasim Street, in both directions.

The entrance to Jahez Street will be temporarily closed, and road users going to the hospital area will need to use the alternative road through the Islamic Medicine Center (IMC). However, for those wanting to exit onto Jahra Road from the hospital area can do so using Jahez Street.

Engineer Ahmad Al-Hassan, the Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering Sector at the Ministry of Public Works, commented: "The series of

partial openings of both elevated and service roads witnessed recently on this project contributes to the on-going improvement of traffic patterns in the surrounding areas. With a major opening expected soon, a significant improvement will be felt by all road users."

"The Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of Traffic have been working closely with us, and inspections have been carried out to ensure that all safety standards and necessary opening procedures have been met. As always, we seek to ensure minimal disruption, and the opening will take place during low periods of traffic. We ask the public to be cautious when using the new roads as openings and changes have an effect on the flow of overall traffic patterns," added Yasser Boudastour, Project



Engineer at the Jahra Road Development Project. This mega project involves the construction of 17.7 km of viaducts (7.3 km of mainline Jahra Road, 2.4 km of bridges on linked roads and

8.0 km of ramps), including a trough at the 2nd Ring Road intersection, 10 pedestrian bridges, and service roads. The Jahra Road project also includes major utilities relocation works.

FM DISCUSSES SITUATION IN ALEPPO WITH ARAB OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday had contacts with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry, GCC Secretary-General Abdul-Latif Al-Zayani, Arab League's Secretary-General Ahmad Abul-Gheit and Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Iyad Madani. During the calls, they discussed the current deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria's Aleppo, and how to coordinate efforts in order to resolve it.

Kuwait also called for an urgent and extraordinary meeting of the Arab League at the level of delegates in order to discuss the deteriorating humanitari-

an situation in Syria's Aleppo, and to make necessary appeals to the international community and humanitarian organizations.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday it had also called for an urgent and extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the level of delegates. Kuwait's permanent delegate at the Arab League, and its Consul in Jeddah and delegate at the OIC have started relevant procedures in this regard.

Kidney patients

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is launching a new phase in its campaign to treat Syrian refugees suffering from

kidney failure and illnesses. Maha Al-Barjas, the KRCS General Secretary, said in a statement to KUNA that the new stage, due for six months, would get underway early next month.

The Kuwait Red Crescent, in coordination with the Lebanese Red Cross, launched the project to provide medical aid for the Syrian refugees suffering from kidney problems more than two years ago. Meanwhile, the manager of the state-run hospital in the northern city, Dr Khaled Kamal Eddine, said the KRCS aid depicted the great message by the State of Kuwait, explaining that the assistance included various equipment and devices necessary for treating the kidney patients.

The KRCS has been involved, since flare-up of the Syrian crisis, in various humanitarian activities to help the Syrian refugees, estimated at 1.5 million.

Meanwhile in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa valley, a team of the Kuwait Medical Association conducted on Friday a number of surgeries for Syrian refugees. The association chairman, Dr. Mohammad Al-Mutairi, told KUNA that the team would also carry out cardiac operations. Dr. Khaled Al-Sehlawi, member of the association, said a number of ill children and elderly were examined in the refugees' camps and were given the needed treatment. The association humanitarian campaign proceeds for three days. —KUNA

Frankly Speaking

IS INTELLIGENCE A BLISSFUL REALM?

Jeri Al-Jeri

Similar to the concept of heaven in all the religions, paradise can only be a blissful realm in which all one's wishes are granted to him, at no expense of any of his resources, not to mention his time nor his will power! Such a place, is to die for. But away from the religiosity of this age of old concept of paradise, how can we relate it to worldly intelligence? And how much of a paradise can we engineer in this worldly life?

Intelligence gave us medical advancements, astrological and subatomic measurements, linguistically grammar, and the joy of literature. As well as the facilitation of wealth circulation among satisfied societies, as it should. Any thinker realizes that intelligence reduces the expenses of our time and resources in our way to obtain whatever it is that we desire, however there are a more illusory meanings that might not be obvious for most thinkers, such as the invisibility of heaven itself to whom are not "meant" to be in it. There is a vast array of meanings that might not be very obvious to everyone. What are these meanings? To what degree can intelligence make our life heavenly?

Neurons, brain cells, fire electrochemical signals to each other in order to communicate bits of information that are observed by our senses or computed mentally, "figuring things out". The bigger the network of neurons the more "enlightened" the person is. Case in point, the more complex and abundant the networks are about a particular field of knowledge the happier the brain is and the deeper a state of "flow" is reached, because none of all the neurons can activate a communicational process without both the secretion and the observation of a list of happiness hormones, such as the famous dopamine and the less acknowledged, serotonin; not to mention the rest of the list of "life is sweet" hormones that are secreted during all positive cognitions. We can only speculate how a 30 years old career in writing or surgery or even cuisines, washes our brain with these hormones, lifting the spirits to an kind of paradise that is simply unimaginable for whom are not "enlightened" by this unknown circuitries. However, how can we relate the concept of paradise with the notion of time and reservoir of will power?

Humanity's first heart catheterization was in Al-Andalus, by the surgeon Abu-Kasim Al-Zahrawi in 8th century. It was time consuming compared to the Kuwaiti Professor Ibrahim Al-Rashdan's CMT method, Carina Modification Technique, which dramatically decreases the catheterization period, this exemplifies how the advancement of intelligence brings us closer to the instant satisfaction of the heavenly life. Plus, what defines paradise is, security. Being safe for as long as possible from suffering or 'penance'. How much of this quality we need?

Wise men are thought to be reserved characters, restrained from all worldly forums of indulgence, abstaining from evil, in modern terms, costs and negatives. The wise, will not eat nor drink to harm himself, such MSG's, aspartame products such sodas and junk foods, securing his physiological and psychological serenity. Keeping away from bad social groups, and managing his wealth in a way that optimizes the use of his earnings, regardless of all the temptations. From fires and caves, to heaters and air-conditions, from scrolls to Google, from pigeons to twitter, from ghost folklore to psychiatric therapy, and from smoke signals to Kuwait Times, intelligence is 'paradise'. In conclusion, the age old concept of 'paradise of the hereafter, in all religions is conceptualized as a pleasurable realm of desires automatically and instantly met, without costs nor worries of any ills. Such a place can be found on earth in its more limited version. The more intelligent we are, the closer we will be. Knowledge is light.



KUWAIT: Passengers being rescued from the wreckage of a car yesterday.

FIREMEN RESCUE SIX MEN FROM VEHICLE WRECKAGE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Six people were trapped inside a vehicle when it turned over in an accident along Airport Road, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and had to cut open the wrecked car to free the injured and send them to hospital.

Subhan fire: Fire broke out in a restaurant in Subhan, said security sources. Firemen found that the fire started in the restaurant's chimney. No casualties were reported.

Family rescued: A Kuwaiti family was rescued when their vehicle got swamped on Khwaisat's muddy beach.

Jabriya fire: A fire broke out in a first-floor Jabriya apartment, said security sources. The building was evacuated and the fire was controlled without any casualties.

Wanted Arabs arrested: Kuwait Interpol officials arrested four wanted Arabs based on requests from their respective countries' Interpol offices. Security sources said the suspects included a Saudi wanted for bribery, two Egyptians sentenced to life and another Egyptian sentenced to 15 years in prison for rape.

Caught with weapons: A citizen was arrested with unlicensed weapons, ammunition and drugs, said security sources.

Expat arrested: A 54-year-old unemployed Iranian was arrested for stealing the contents of vehicles after closely watching owners who had withdrawn money from the bank.

News

In brief

KPC announces LPG prices for Oct

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced new prices of liquefied petroleum (LPG) for the month of October. The price of propane will be sold at \$340 per metric ton; butane will be sold at \$370 per metric ton, KPC said in a statement on Friday. Propane or butane are flammable mixtures of hydrocarbon gases; they are used as fuel in heating appliances, cooking equipment, and vehicles. Prices of liquefied gases are affected by international oil prices, the performance of the US dollar against other main currencies, natural disasters, economic crises and geopolitical factors.

Kuwaiti Gen visits exhibition in Baku

MOSCOW: Commander of the Kuwaiti Ground Forces Maj Gen Sheikh Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah on Friday visited the 2nd Azerbaijan International Defence Exhibition in Baku. Speaking to KUNA, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Baku Saud Abdulaziz Al-Roumi said. Sheikh Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation were impressed by the highly-organized exhibition and military equipment and technology put on display.

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Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A view of the Kuwait Scientific Center from the sea. —KUNA

KFH TAKES PART IN 5TH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

SHEIKH SALMAN INAUGURATES TAMKEEN SYMPOSIUM

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) took part in the inaugural ceremony of the 5th youth empowerment symposium as part of its 5th consecutive year of partnership with Tamkeen.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs in Kuwait Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud inaugurated the Tamkeen symposium in assurance of the commitment towards supporting the national youth and sponsoring their projects and activities as they are major pillars for the future development.

KFH affirmed its commitment to assume the social responsibility and support the youth. The bank underlines the importance of the symposium as it hones the youths' skills by enabling

them to benefit from the projects and ideas presented in the symposium. In addition, it grants them the opportunity to listen to success stories of local and global figures who contribute to add a lot to the youth by providing them with outstanding ideas and experiences.

Tamkeen is deemed as one of the significant youth initiatives in Kuwait that aims at investing in the youth and helps them to build a promising future by organizing forums and conferences that include elite group of lecturers from different nationalities.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of

Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.



KFH PR team with Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud.



KUWAIT: The Charge d' Affaires of the United States of America Joey R Hood hosted a welcome reception to officially introduce Press Attache Heather Ward and Cultural Attache Dr Zennia Paganini on Wednesday at the Radisson Blu Hotel. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

NEW KUWAITI ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO BELGIAN FM

BRUSSELS: Kuwait's new ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, Jasem Mohammad Al-Budaiwi, met here Thursday the Head of Protocol at the Belgian Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Francoise Gustin and handed her over a copy of his credentials, according to a Kuwait embassy statement here. Ambassador Al-Budaiwi asserted during the meeting the deep relationship between the two countries and the special ties between the two Royal families of the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Belgium.

He also stressed that the fifty years of diplomatic relations between the two countries reaffirmed a great friendship which brought the two countries closer together and greater coordination at the bilateral and multilateral levels. From her side, Ambassador Gustin welcomed Ambassador Al-Budaiwi to Belgium and affirmed Belgium's commitment to deepen its ties with the State of Kuwait. She also recalled King Philippe's former visit to Kuwait where he headed a number of economic delegations, noted the statement.

Al-Budaiwi who previously was Kuwait's ambassador in South Korea arrived in Brussels only on Wednesday to take up his new post in the Belgian capital. —KUNA





KUWAIT: Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh attends 'International Day of Older Persons' ceremony.—KUNA

SENIOR PEOPLE ARE GIVEN PROPER CARE: AL-SUBAIH

KUWAIT: Senior people are given proper care in all aspects of their lives, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih stressed yesterday.

Al-Subaih, who is also Minister of State for Planning and Development, made this statement to mark "International Day of Older Persons," a holiday that raises awareness about issues affecting the elderly. According to statistics made by the senior care administration at the Ministry last month, the number of senior citizens who benefited from mobile care amounted to 3,219, including 918 males and 2,301 females.

Senior home care services, meanwhile, sponsored 30 elders, 16 Kuwaitis and 14

non-Kuwaitis. There are a set of strict rules and regulations to accept elders at the home care service, the Minister pointed out, explaining that her Ministry does not encourage tearing families apart. However, if seniors do not have proper care at home, the Ministry is obligated to provide the best services for them and the best staff to look after them.

In 1991, the United Nation General Assembly decided to mark October 1 as International Day of Older Persons to raise awareness on the essential requirements for the well-being of older persons. According to the UN latest statistic, almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The National Guard Deputy Commander Lt General Hashim Abdul Razzaq Al-Refa'e received at his office the National Guard Operations Commander Brigadier, Bader Abdullah Hamad and the Protection Brigade Commander, Brigadier Hamad Salem Ahmed. He honored them for their sincere efforts upon instructions from HH the Amir and commander in chief of Kuwait Armed forces.



CALL TO REINFORCE MONITORING OF CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH WORLD HEART DAY 2016

KUWAIT: The World Heart Federation Global Policy Call The World Heart Federation calls on all governments to implement reliable and fit for purpose surveillance and monitoring systems for cardiovascular disease (CVD) in order to better prevent, treat and control the world's biggest killer. The World Heart Federation is emphasizing the need to ensure that every country has information on the World Health Organization Global Action Plan (GAP) Targets and a set of measures or indicators on quality of care appropriate to a range of contexts including the primary healthcare level. This call is tied to the strengthening of health systems, in particular monitoring and surveillance, by providing complementary recommendations to governments drawn from the World Health Organization NCD Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and the Health Data Collaborative, supported by the World Bank, USAID and WHO.

Dr Salim Yusuf, President, WHF, says: "We know that robust monitoring and surveillance are key to guiding what policies and strategies we implement and whether they are successful in reducing CVD rates. Countries that measure these rates are also the ones which demonstrate the greatest reductions in CVD. "We are calling on governments to reinforce their commitment to

preventing premature deaths by taking some key steps toward better surveillance of their populations

Dr Mohammed Al-Jarallah Director and Head of the Department of Cardiology, Sabah Al Ahmad Cardiac Center said: "In establishing systems for monitoring the burden and treatment of CVD governments should prioritize the following actions:

- Strengthen vital and cause of death registration systems (to better record statistics on births and causes of death)

- Include details of CVD key interventions (for example services provided, numbers of people being treated) in existing health information systems

- Collect information on a representative subsample of the population on the prevalence and quality of care of patients with hypertension and CVD; and undertake periodic data collection on the behavioural and metabolic risk factors (harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, tobacco use, unhealthy diet, overweight and obesity, raised blood pressure, raised blood glucose, and hyperlipidemia), and determinants of risk exposure such as marketing of food, tobacco and alcohol in a sub sample of the population.

Why is this needed?

- To monitor public health/health system

interventions

- To support evidence-based advocacy, policy development and coordinated action

- To ensure that appropriate prevention and treatment services are provided based on need

- To reinforce political commitment to prevent and control

Dr Raja Dashti, Chairman and Head of Internal Medicine and Consultant Cardiologist Amiri Hospital comments: CVD - including heart disease and stroke - is the leading cause of death globally, claiming 17.5 million lives each year. However, at least 80% of premature deaths from CVD could be avoided by addressing risk factors such as tobacco use, raised blood pressure and physical inactivity; and improving the use of simple treatments after a heart attack or stroke.

"CVD is the world's number one cause of death and tackling it must happen on the global stage. To achieve this we need accurate data upon which countries can build their health strategies, so we very much welcome this call on national government to improve surveillance and monitoring of CVD. No matter what the country, we all benefit from shining the spotlight on the gaps and opportunities in global data collection."

Dr Rajesh Rajan, Cardiologist Sabah Al Ahmad Cardiac Center, Amiri Hospital pointed out the impact such preventive care and activities and also said it will help in following:

- Develop and/or strengthen CVD surveillance capacity

- Effective national and regional policies for the prevention and treatment of CVD

- Progress towards meeting the Global Monitoring Framework (GMF) Targets including; reduction in raised blood pressure, reduction in tobacco use, improved access to essential medicines and technologies, improved access to drug therapy and counselling

- Every country has reliable information on o CVD mortality o Prevalence of CVD (number of people living with CVD) o Prevalence of CVD risk factors (at least hypertension and smoking) o Quality of preventive, primary and acute care

Cardiovascular disease burdens individuals in their most productive years by creating deaths, disabilities and illnesses at early ages that are largely preventable. In Kuwait the impact of CVD is much higher and around 45% of the total death are due to CVD. Cardiovascular disease and non-communicable diseases threaten international development by placing an incredible strain on national economies due to high medical costs and lower worker productivity as a result of premature death and disability.



HCA NHS Ventures

HCA International Hospitals

Committed to collaboration

HCA NHS Ventures is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country.

Harley Street at UCH is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006.

Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions.

Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JACIE accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant; this treatment significantly widens the opportunity to find a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en-suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STxTM, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

Harley Street at Queen's is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk

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IMRT and RapidArc™ technology. Harley Street at Queen's offers advanced state-of-the-art treatment in the most comfortable of surroundings.

The Christie Clinic is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 34 inpatient rooms, 10 chemotherapy chairs, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity to the city centre.



Crime

Report

ASIAN DUO ARRESTED FOR WORKING AS BARBERS

KUWAIT: Two Asians were arrested pending deportation for working as barbers without any licenses or observing hygiene conditions. Security sources said the suspects practiced their illegal profession in the open and attracted many customers, as they charged only 100 fils from Asians and 250 fils from Arabs for haircuts and 50 fils from Asians and 100 fils from Arabs for shaves.

Drug-trafficking

Narcotics detectives were tipped off by Saudi authorities concerning a citizen involved in drug trafficking. Security sources noted Saudi authorities also said that the suspect was originally a Saudi citizen sentenced to death for drug trafficking, and that he fraudulently obtained Kuwaiti citizenship to escape death. Security sources said that the suspect made an agreement with a citizen to add him to his family file in 1991, and got citizenship in 1996. The Saudi was arrested, while the citizen helped him fled the country.

Multiple robberies

A Saudi and three bedoons were arrested in Rumaithiya for multiple robberies.

Forgery

Three Arab expats were arrested for forgery, said security sources, noting that the suspects specialized in forging KD 20 bills and that they had printed a total of KD 1,060 to check if they could sell it. The suspects claimed that the mastermind is a citizen, who is still at large.

Counterfeit currencies seized

An Egyptian was arrested in Salmiya with KD 300 in fake KD 20 notes, said security sources, adding that the suspect confessed to buying the fake money cheaply.

Mother threatened

A female citizen filed a complaint against her 16-year-old daughter, accusing her of threatening her with a knife after she blamed her for being preoccupied with her mobile phone all the time and neglecting her studies. A search is on for the girl, who fled the house when her mother called the police.

Major arrested

A police major was arrested red-handed receiving a KD 800 bribe to release an Asian in custody, said security sources. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

YAHOO SCANDAL

By Osama Ahmed

The international media recently reported the hacking of the personal data of over 500 million users of US technology giant Yahoo in 2014. This seems to be the largest hacking in history. It included getting access to names, email accounts, phone numbers, birthdates and passwords. The company believes that a certain country was behind the hacking and urged all users to change their passwords.

My personal experience with Yahoo stretched for years, long before the new social media networks were developed. Millions of people, including me, had been using Yahoo's email, browser and the popular Messenger software.

By the way, I did not create my account using my real personal information. I used fake information. Then, Facebook launched in 2004, and I started using it in 2007. This is when I totally stopped using Yahoo and it became a story of the past. However, a few months ago, I started noticing that several attempts had been made to hack my Yahoo email by several hackers in various Asian and South American countries. I did not care then because I had already stopped using it. But on hearing news about the hacking of millions of Yahoo accounts, I realized that I was right in giving up Yahoo, which now seems as a technology from ancient times, just like prehistoric dinosaurs!

Finally, I advise everybody to shift to using other more reliable services that have high security measures, such as those from Google or Microsoft. You can also use Facebook for immediate communication with family and friends because it is the best. The decision is up to you.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

HOTSHOTS

By Saad Al-Motesh

Some people believe that as soon as they grab a pen, they can become hotshots and write whatever they wish without realizing the problems they could incur upon themselves. This also includes many people who talk and believe that by recording some videos, they have become role models for others.

Many of these hotshots record videos on their mobile phones and upload them on social media networks like Instagram in seek of fame, with a belief that such fame would satisfy whoever asked them to publish those videos in the first place without even knowing that the

He who understands this anecdote will surely realize how such people do themselves and those close to them harm by describing themselves with unreal traits.

videos do them and their families more damage than they do to others.

To make myself clearer, let me tell you this story from the Abbasid era: A man from Damascus visited Baghdad where he saw a little child. "You look very much like me...has your mother ever been to Damascus?" the man asked the kid. "No, sir. My mother has never been out of Baghdad, but my father once told that my grandfather used to work as a goldsmith in Damascus!" the boy stunningly answered.

He who understands this anecdote will surely realize how such people do themselves and those close to them harm by describing themselves with unreal traits. This usually happens with social media fame-seekers, who do not mind doing so even at the expense of their families and relatives!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

GHANIM AL-NAJJAR WINS KD500,000 IN GULF BANK QUARTERLY TRIO DRAW

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced the winners from its successful 3 in 1 quarterly draw event that took place Thursday on Marina FM's Diwaniya Show. 3 Draws took place at the same time and location. The Al-Danah draw was held for the cash prize of KD 500,000, while the Salary & Red Account draws included a brand new 2016 Cadillac CTS and cash prizes up to KD1000. The draw event was held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Gulf Bank would like to congratulate the winner Ghanim Hamad Abdulrahman Al-Najjar (KD500,000 winner).

In addition Gulf Bank would like to congratulate the Bank's Salary and Red account draw winners, which included the following: Ahmad Abdulaziz Qasem Al-Matroud (2016 Cadillac CTS), Rashed Salem Rashed Al-Hajri (1000 KD winner), Ahmad Abdullah Ahmad Al-Naqah (1000 KD winner).

To participate in the Al-Danah draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200.

Customers can open a new Al-Danah account at any one of the 56 Gulf Bank branches in Kuwait. Those who already have an account can increase their chances of winning by increasing their deposits. This will also increase their chances of winning one of the two KD1,000 prizes, which are drawn each working day.

Furthermore, new Red Account or Salary Account customers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac.

For further information about the Al-Danah, Salary and Red accounts and prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, or call Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center on 1805805. General information about Gulf Bank's products and services, can also be found at the Bank's website at www.e-gulfbank.com



Kuwaiti Al-Najat Charitable Society offer help to the Syrian Refugees in Jordan.



KFAS, AOU SIGN AGREEMENT TO EDUCATE SYRIAN REFUGEES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and Arab Open University (AOU) signed an agreement to earmark a sum of \$900,000 to educate Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin told KUNA that the endeavor comes as a follow-up to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's pledge to donate \$300 million in humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees. Moreover, he disclosed that the four-year agreement features a college

education and vocational training for Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon, which will provide them with job opportunities. Speaking on the inaugural year for the agreement, he noted that a sum of \$10 million has been allocated, while the amounts for the remaining years will be decided shortly. Shihab-Eldin also said that through a sound education, this project will save the teenage demographic from social ills. "Kuwait has been exemplary in its humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees, setting a prece-

dent for other nations to follow," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to KUNA, President of AOU's branch in Lebanon Dr. Fairouz Sarkees said that this agreement will ensure a pleasant livelihood for these refugees, adding that the university is welcoming them with open arms. Similarly, President of AOU's branch in Kuwait Mouthi Al-Humoud said that the university will put forth strenuous efforts to ensure the success of this project, as she described education as one of life's necessities. On the agree-

ment, she added that it will further solidify Kuwait's status as a bastion of philanthropy.

School bags distributed

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed school bags to Syrian refugees in East Lebanon, on Friday. KRCS delegate to Lebanon Dr Musaad Al-Enezi told KUNA that the aid agency has been giving out assistance to the Syrian refugees since they have sought refuge in Lebanon in 2011. Different kinds of aid

packages, from food rations to educational and health services, have been delivered to thousands of Syrian refugees in various parts of Lebanon. KRCS will continue providing life-saving assistance to the unfortunate Syrians, a team member of KRCS Awatif Al-Qallaf pointed out. She added that Kuwaiti Government and its people are avid supporters to this humanitarian crisis and will strive to alleviate some of the hardships the refugees suffer on a daily bases. —KUNA



New India-Pak salvos as UN chief offers to mediate

LOCAL MUSLIMS WARY OF HUNGARY'S ANTI-MIGRANT REFERENDUM



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (center) addresses MPs at the Turkish National Assembly (TBMM) during the opening of the 2nd legislative year of the 26th term yesterday. — AFP

ERDOGAN STIRS TROUBLE OVER 1923 TREATY
 NEIGHBORING GREECE AND SECULAR OPPOSITION ALARMED

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stirred up controversy over the treaty that almost a century ago set the borders of modern Turkey, alarming both neighboring Greece and secular opposition at home. In a speech Thursday, Erdogan for the first time rejected the notion that the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne was a "victory" for Turkey and wistfully lamented the loss of Aegean islands which are now Greek territory. The treaty - the founding basis of the modern Turkish state out of the ruins of the Ottoman Empire - has usually been seen inside the country as a triumph of its secular leadership led by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

For the secular opposition in Turkey, Erdogan's comments have represented another dangerous lapse into neo-Ottomanism, signaling his regret that Ankara does not control territory stretching from Balkans to Africa as Constantinople did in Ottoman times. But for pro-Erdogan commentators his remarks were a timely reminder that modern Turkey has just

a fraction of the territory controlled by the Ottoman Empire.

'Is this a Victory?'

"You see the Aegean, don't you?" Erdogan told local officials in the speech at his presidential palace. "In Lausanne, we gave away islands (so near that) your voice can be heard if you shout across to them. Is this a victory?" he asked. "They were ours. There are our mosques, our shrines there." Erdogan rounded on those who negotiated the treaty who included Ismet Inonu, Ataturk's right-handman who would later succeed him as president and still a hero for secularists. "Those who sat at that table could not make the best of the agreement. Today we are suffering the consequences."

After the Ottoman defeat in World War I, the existence of any future Turkish state had been in question. However thanks to the strategic brilliance of Ataturk and victory in

the War of Independence against Greece, modern Turkey was founded in 1923 as a state stretching from the Mediterranean to Persia. The military victory and Lausanne Treaty reversed the outcome of the 1919 Treaty of Sevres which, if implemented, would have seen modern Turkey reduced to a rump around Istanbul and Anatolia.

Under the new borders enshrined in Lausanne, all the Aegean islands went to Greece, with the exception of Gokceada (Imroz) and Bozcaada (Tenedos). Several islands however had already been captured from the Ottoman Empire in a 1912 war.

'Dangerous for Relations'

Athens, which has had generally solid relations with Ankara during Erdogan's rule, said the controversy would not do ties any good. "Calling the Treaty of Lausanne into question ... is dangerous both to relations between our two countries and the wider region," Greek

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said. Junior foreign minister for European affairs Nikos Xydakis told SKAI TV "Erdogan's surprise outbursts" were becoming customary. "He is facing great pressure inside," he said, pointing to the July 15 failed coup and the troubles in neighbouring Syria and Iraq.

Erdogan's comments were indeed surprising, given that on the 93rd anniversary of the treaty on July 24 he lauded the treaty as the "founding document of the Republic" and a "victory won with our glorious people's faith, courage and sacrifice." Aykan Erdemir, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said Erdogan's "U-turn" marked a crumbling of unity with the secular opposition in the aftermath of the July 15 coup. "Now that the Turkish president has reestablished full control over the country, he feels comfortable to go back to his anti-republican and polarizing narrative," Erdemir told AFP.

'Betray History'

Turkey's main opposition party leader spoke out against Erdogan's comments, describing them as a betrayal of history. "Don't forget that you sit on that chair thanks to Lausanne," said Kemal Kilicdaroglu of the Republican People's Party (CHP), the party founded by Ataturk which sees itself as the guardian of its secular principles. "Nobody has the right to betray their history." Yusuf Kaplan, columnist in the pro-government Yeni Safak newspaper, however described Lausanne as a "death warrant" and praised Erdogan for throwing "taboos on the trash". "Turkey could not be invaded from outside but was captured inside by being secularized from the top by secular elites." But Hayri Inonu, mayor of the Sisli district in Istanbul and grandson of Ismet Inonu, said the proof of Lausanne's success is the existence of "the (Turkish) Republic itself" where the crescent and star Turkish flag would wave forever. "The rest is empty talk." — AFP

CAR BOMB KILLS 2 IN MOGADISHU

MOGADISHU: At least two people were killed and five injured yesterday when a car loaded with explosives blew up near a restaurant in Mogadishu, a security official and witnesses said. The car was parked in front of the Blue Sky restaurant, near a busy road close to the headquarters of the Somali National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) in a southern district of the city. The blast was detonated remotely outside the restaurant, security forces spokesman Mohamed Dahir told AFP, adding that "information we have gotten so far indicates that two civilians were killed in the blast."

Sources said the restaurant is frequented both by security personnel and civilians. "I saw two dead bodies and five wounded, most of them civilians who were passing by the area," added eyewitness Abdulkadir Shilow. "There is chaos around the restaurant and Somali forces sealed off the road after the blast."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility although immediate suspicion fell on the Al-Qaeda linked Islamit group Shabaab, locked in battle against the Somali government and which regularly mounts attacks in the city. Despite being driven out of the capital in 2011 by an African Union force deployed in 2007 the group still control vast swathes of outlying rural

areas from which they launch guerrilla operations. Somalia last month announced a further delay in already-postponed parliamentary elec-

tions, pushing them to between Oct 23 and Nov 10, with the president elected no later than Nov 30. — AFP



MOGADISHU: A Somali soldier and bystanders stand near the wreckage of a car and a body after an explosion yesterday. — AP

TURKEY EXTENDS MANDATE FOR TROOPS IN IRAQ, SYRIA

ANKARA: Turkey's parliament yesterday overwhelmingly approved a one-year extension of an existing mandate to use Turkish troops abroad in Syria and Iraq. The mandate was first approved by parliament in Oct 2014 and was renewed for another year in Sept 2015. It allows military action in Turkey's two southern neighbors against Islamic State jihadists and other groups deemed by Ankara to be terror organizations.

Using the existing mandate, Turkey on Aug 24 launched an unprecedented operation inside Syria dubbed Euphrates Shield to back pro-Ankara rebels fighting IS jihadists and a Kurdish militia. Ankara is also believed to have an unspecified number of troops in the Bashiqa camp outside IS-controlled Mosul in northern Iraq involved in training Iraqi fighters who plan to recapture the city.

The bill passed easily on the first day of the new session of parliament with support from the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), secular opposition Republican People's Party (CHP)

and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). Only the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) voted against. According to the state-run Anadolu news agency, the new mandate will run until Oct 30, 2017.

In his speech marking the opening of parliament, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the initial goal of the Syria operation was to create a "safe area free of terror organizations" some 5,000 sq km in size. Erdogan hailed the results of the operation so far in the Syrian town of Jarabulus, saying its population had expanded from 2,000 to 40,000 since being captured from IS jihadists. As well as targeting the jihadists, the operation is also aimed against Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia which Ankara regards as a terror group.

Erdogan said he believed that Mosul could be taken from IS but warned Baghdad and Turkey's Western allies that Ankara had to be involved in any operation and included in the decision-making process. — AFP

US RAIL SAFETY UNDER MICROSCOPE AFTER DEADLY CRASH

NEW YORK: This week's train crash at a major transport hub to Manhattan - the fifth deadly US rail accident in under three years - spotlighted safety concerns and chronic underinvestment in America. One woman was killed and more than 100 people injured when a commuter train traveling "at a high rate of speed" plowed into the station at Hoboken, New Jersey during the morning rush hour on Thursday.

Experts said it was miraculous that more people were not killed given that the train was carrying 250 passengers and the first carriage flew into the air before slamming into the interior wall of the terminal, collapsing portions of the roof. Investigators said Friday that it could take days before they can comment on the cause of the crash, but experts highlighted safety problems and sluggish investment in upgrading railroads in a country where most people travel by car or plane. Thursday's destruction marked the fourth deadly rail crash in less than three years on the East Coast alone. New Jersey's Republican Governor Chris Christie, a prominent ally in Donald Trump's race to become president, in July temporarily shut down \$2.7 billion worth of New Jersey Transit projects in a political dispute with state Democrats. His transportation official denied any culpability in Thursday's crash, saying that no safety or maintenance expense had been affected. But New Jersey Transit, which ferries hundreds of thousands of commuters to and from work each week, has suffered from poor investment for years.

Expensive Technology

A federal law passed in 2008 required rail companies to adopt Positive Train Control, a technology designed to help prevent accidents, by the end of 2015. The date was then pushed back to 2018, but with the technology expensive and state budgets tight, many parts of the country are still lagging behind. The system slows a train automatically if the conductor does not abide by signals or the mandated speed limit.

But it has yet to be installed on any New Jersey trains or track segments, and no staff have been trained how to use it, according to an NJ Transit report filed two weeks ago with the department of transportation, the Daily News reported. The vice president of the National Transportation Safety Board, while refusing to speculate on the cause of Thursday's crash, confirmed that investigators would examine what role the system could have played in this case.

Speeding was the cause of both an Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia in 2015 that killed eight people and wounded 200 others and the Metro-North crash in New York in December 2013 which killed four people and wounded 67. Robert Halstead, a railroad accident reconstruction specialist based in Syracuse, New York, told AFP that around half the country has so far adopted the Positive Train Control technology, with California the most advanced.



NEW YORK: Afternoon rush hour commuters are seen in a NJ Transit train prior to departure at Penn Station on Sept 29, 2016. — AP

"The problem is the cost: It costs between \$75,000 and \$100,000 to equip one single locomotive. Then there is the cost of equipping the line," he

said. "Nationwide the cost to equip everything with PTC is \$10-\$15 billion - and that is money taken out of the maintenance budget," he said. — AFP



FORT PIERCE, Florida: Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton takes a selfie with supporters after speaking at a rally about national service at the Sunrise Theatre on Friday. — AFP

CLINTON WINS ENDORSEMENTS, BUT THEY MAY NOT HOLD MUCH SWAY

'UNBIASED' USA TODAY ALSO SLAMS TRUMP

NEW YORK: "A clear and present danger to our country." "Xenophobia, racism and misogyny." "Beneath our national dignity." Those aren't excerpts from attack ads by Hillary Clinton's campaign. Those are longtime Republican newspapers disavowing Donald Trump. If newspaper endorsements equaled victory, Clinton would be in line for a historic landslide. She has been endorsed by dozens of papers ranging from such expected backers as The New York Times to such once-certain GOP advocates as The Dallas Morning News, the Arizona Republic and the Cincinnati Enquirer, which on Sept 23 called for "a leader who will bring out the best in Americans, not the worst."

On Friday, USA Today ended its tradition of not taking sides and published an anti-endorsement, contending that Trump "lacks the temperament, knowledge, steadiness and honesty that America needs from its presidents." The paper didn't back Clinton but advised readers to "Stay true to your convictions." The same day, The San Diego Union-Tribune endorsed Clinton - the first Democrat it has endorsed in its history.

Trump, meanwhile, is supported by far fewer publications. They include a paper owned by son-in-law Jared Kushner (the New York Observer) and the National Enquirer, a tabloid whose parent

company is run by Trump friend David Pecker and whose content usually focuses on celebrity scandal. Trump scorned the negative editorials Friday, tweeting that "The people are really smart in cancelling subscriptions to the Dallas & Arizona papers & now USA Today will lose readers! The people get it!" "I don't read USA Today," he said later to WZZM13 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "It's not much of a newspaper as far as I'm concerned."

If Clinton's overwhelming advantage among editorial boards mirrors the revulsion Trump has inspired from officials in both parties, the endorsements may also illustrate the decline in newspapers' power to shape opinions and the strength of Trump's anti-establishment appeal. Polls show Clinton trailing in Texas, Arizona and Ohio despite the unexpected support of GOP papers. During the primaries, the venerable conservative paper the New Hampshire Union Leader endorsed Chris Christie, only to have the New Jersey governor lose the state decisively, drop out and back Trump. The Arizona Republic favored John Kasich in the state's GOP primary, but Trump won easily, and the Ohio governor finished fourth.

Impact

"Newspaper endorsements don't have nearly

the impact they used to," says Mark McKinnon, co-host of Showtime's political show "The Circus" and a longtime adviser who has worked with former President George W Bush and Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the GOP's 2008 presidential candidate. "There are just way too many other sources of information for voters today."

"They are just part of the wave," says political historian Rick Perlstein, who is in the midst of a multivolume series on the rise of the conservative movement and has written in depth about elections of the 1960s, '70s and beyond. "They don't start anything, and probably didn't determine much - but betoken a widespread disgust in the air."

Readers may not let editorials tell them how to vote, but they care enough to respond. Dallas Morning News editor Mike Wilson recalls a group of about a dozen people demonstrated against the endorsement across the street from the paper. Wilson went down to talk with them. In a series of tweets, he described a discussion that began angrily but settled into a serious dialogue. "I got a few words in and persuaded zero people," he tweeted.

Wilson said he's received some messages from Clinton supporters thanking the newspaper for the editorial, but hasn't heard that it changed anyone's mind. "They're not really meant to end arguments, they're meant to start discussions, and this one certainly did that," he said. "One of the reasons we exist is to take editorial positions on things that can improve lives in our community," he said. "That is one of the core functions of a newspaper."

Peter Bhatia, editor and vice president of audience engagement at the Cincinnati Enquirer, said he knows that the impact of editorial endorsements has lessened. "The days of people taking the endorsements of an editorial board and going into the polling place with them are pretty much long gone," he said. But he still considers it an important obligation. The newspaper's editorial board came to consensus pretty quickly so they decided to get it out.

As anticipated, some readers lashed out. Bhatia said he received some 150 angry emails and there were some canceled subscriptions. "I am impressed by how thoroughly rehearsed some of the attacks on Hillary Clinton are," he said. "They have a very familiar bent to them." He also cites their incivility, but doesn't find that unusual in the Internet age. He said there also have been a few dozen positive notes. He said he gave an interview to CBC radio in Canada and got a long email from someone who found his arguments convincing. Just one problem: The person lives in Canada and can't vote. — AP

TRUMP'S HABIT OF FUMING OVER SLIGHTS COMES AT POLITICAL COST

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's five-day feud with a former beauty queen is only the latest example of his insistence on airing and re-arranging his grievances no matter the political cost. The Republican nominee's brash, confrontational style has thrilled his millions of supporters, who have cheered the celebrity businessman's tenacity and thirst for verbal combat. He bragged in the early weeks of his campaign last year, "When people treat me unfairly, I don't let them forget it."

Critics say that stubborn refusal to back down is born of a thin skin and overwhelming pride - and it gets him into political trouble again and again. He repeatedly brings up perceived slights, breathing new life into damaging storylines, instead of making the politically savvy calculation to move on. Other feuds that have dogged his campaign:

Alicia Machado

The 1996 Miss Universe winner has been at the center of the campaign since Democrat Hillary Clinton noted in this week's debate that Trump had ridiculed the Venezuela-born actress for gaining weight and dubbed her "Miss Piggy" and "Miss Housekeeping". Trump fumed on stage and the next morning, in an interview, said that Machado's "massive" weight gain had been "a real problem" for the pageant, which he then owned. As Machado did a series of interviews attacking Trump, the celebrity businessman and his allies hit back, prolonging the story's lifespan.

And then Trump took to social media before dawn Friday to unleash a tweetstorm on Machado, saying she had a "terrible" past that a "duped" Clinton had overlooked before holding her up "as an 'angel'" in the first presidential debate. He also accused the Democrat's campaign of helping her get US citizenship but offered no proof. "Did Crooked Hillary help disgusting (check out sex tape and past) Alicia M become a US citizen so she could use her in the debate?" read a missive from Trump posted on his verified Twitter account at 5:30 am. Clinton later Friday ripped Trump, calling the series of posts "unhinged, even for him."

Family of Capt Humayun Khan

Khizr and Ghazala Khan, a Muslim-American family whose son, Capt Humayun Khan, was killed while serving in Iraq in 2004, became one of the most dramatic moments at July's Democratic National Convention. Khizr Khan denounced the candidate's plan to temporarily ban Muslim immigrants from entering the United States, accused Trump of sacrificing "nothing and no one" and produced his pocket copy of the Constitution while suggesting Trump had never read it.

Trump hit back in an interview days later - he implied that the soldier's mother stood silently alongside her husband during the speech because her religion restricted her from speaking - and then returned to it on social media. "Mr Khan, who does not know me, viciously attacked me from the stage of the DNC and is now all over TV doing the same - Nice!" he tweeted. The back-and-forth between the nominee and the Khans rapidly escalated, prompting several top Republicans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a nonprofit service organization with 1.7 million members, to denounce Trump, whose poll numbers soon sank.

Judge Gonzalo Curiel

In May, Trump said that the federal judge presiding over a lawsuit brought by former Trump University students had an "absolute conflict" in handling the case because he is "of Mexican heritage". Trump, who at the time was the presumptive Republican nominee, claimed that US District Judge Gonzalo Curiel - he was born in Indiana - had "an inherent conflict of interest" because Trump plans to build a wall along the border between the US and Mexico.

Trump's comments were condemned by Democrats and Republicans alike. House Speaker Paul Ryan described what Trump said as the "textbook definition of a racist comment". The episode lingered for days, and while Trump eventually released a statement saying his comments were being "misconstrued", he did not apologize or suggest that Curiel was treating him fairly. Trump University is the target of two lawsuits in San Diego and one in New York that accuse the business of fleecing students with unfulfilled promises to teach secrets of success in real estate.

Pastor in Flint, Michigan

Trump earlier this month visited Flint, where he intended to further his recent pitch to African-American voters while highlighting how the federal government had failed the impoverished city. But in a speech to a traditionally African-American church, he was cut off, chastised and then heckled after he began to attack Clinton. "Mr Trump, I invited you here to thank us for what we've done in Flint, not give a political speech," said the Rev Faith Green Timmons, the pastor of the Bethel United Methodist Church.

The Republican nominee stopped, then said "OK, that's good. Then I'm going to go back to Flint" and its water crisis that had sickened its citizens. But Trump went after the pastor the next morning during a "Fox and Friends" interview. He claimed that the pastor was "a nervous mess" and accused her of having a political agenda while insisting that he thought "something was up".

Ted Cruz

A day after accepting the Republican presidential nomination at his party's convention, Trump suddenly pivoted back to the GOP primaries, choosing to re-litigate a pair of months-old battles with rival Ted Cruz. In what should have been a feel-good victory lap the morning after his thundering acceptance speech, Trump instead defended his decision to retweet an unflattering photo of Cruz's wife, Heidi, and returned to wondering about possible links between Cruz's father and President John F Kennedy's assassin.

"All I did was point out the fact that on the cover of the National Enquirer there was a picture of him and crazy Lee Harvey Oswald having breakfast," Trump said in front of a group of bewildered supporters in Cleveland. "Did anybody ever deny that was the father? They're not saying, 'Oh, that wasn't really my father.' It was a little hard to do. It looked like him." Actually, Cruz had ridiculed the idea as "nuts". He also declared that, two days after Cruz was loudly booed at the Republican National Convention for not endorsing the new nominee, he would never accept the Texas senator's backing. Last week, Cruz said he would support Trump. — AP

US POLICE RELEASE VIDEO OF FATAL SHOOTING OF BLACK MAN

LOS ANGELES: Following days of protests, police in San Diego on Friday released video footage of the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man, saying the decision was made to counter "misinformation" being circulated about the incident. The grainy cellphone and surveillance videos show the victim, Alfred Olango, 38, a Ugandan immigrant, pacing back and forth as he is confronted by two police officers in the parking lot of a strip mall.

He is then seen being tasered and shot as he points an object at one of the officers. The cylindrical object turned out to be a vape inhaler. The deadly confrontation in El Cajon, a suburb of San Diego, has prompted daily street demonstrations that turned violent late Thursday after protesters blocked some streets, hurling bottles and rocks at passing vehicles and police and smashing car windows. One person was also pulled off his motorcycle.

Davis said police used tear gas to disperse

the crowd and five people were arrested. "Our goal today is to clarify and hopefully calm the community's concerns regarding the recent officer-involved shooting," police chief Jeff Davis told reporters on Friday as he released the video footage. "Our only concern at this point was community safety," he added. "We felt that the aggression of some of the protesters was escalating to the point where it was necessary to release some information."

Davis said several stores had shut down on Friday and schools had let out students early, fearing more violence. The shooting took place as the United States is reeling from a string of police shootings of black men, including one earlier this month in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and another in Charlotte, North Carolina, that also ignited protests and heightened racial tensions. Local officials in El Cajon have vowed a thorough and transparent investigation and initially refused to release the video of the incident pending the outcome of a probe. — AFP



NOVI, Michigan: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives at a rally Friday. — AP

100-DAY COUNTDOWN TICKS IN VENEZUELA CRISIS



CARACAS: Workers and mayors from cities and municipalities rally in opposition to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro gather at the vice-presidency in demand of more resources from the government on Sept 29, 2016. — AFP

CARACAS: The next 100 days in Venezuela could mark a turning point in the South American country's seething political crisis, deciding whether the socialist president and his party stay in power. On Jan 10, 2017, President Nicolas Maduro will have completed four years of his six-year term at the helm of the major oil exporter, whose economy is reeling from sharply lower global crude prices. Yesterday began the 100-day countdown for Maduro's opposition to mount a recall referendum.

If the recall vote occurs before Jan 10 and Maduro is ousted, early elections will be held. But the National Electoral Council (CNE) has announced that, according to the rules, the referendum could only be held in the middle of the first quarter of 2017. If Maduro loses the recall vote post-January 10, he would be replaced by his hand-picked vice president, defeating the opposition's hope to change government.

The center-right opposition coalition

Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) has set a petition drive on Oct 26-28 aimed at collecting four million signatures, or 20 percent of voters, supporting a recall vote. The coalition insists that the referendum should be held in 2016. Nevertheless the CNE, which the opposition says is beholden to Maduro's government, says there is not enough time left to review the petition signatures and organize the vote this year. With the prospect of holding a referendum in 2016 dim, analysts have projected at least three scenarios in the unfolding crisis.

Recall in 2017

The MUD wants the petition drive's required 20 percent minimum of support for success to be calculated on a nationwide basis. But the CNE has said the 20 percent threshold will be determined state-by-state. The opposition is "very likely" to muster the required signatures because of the "vision of change" in the country, said Francine Jacome,

head of the Venezuelan Institute for Social and Political Studies. According to pollster Venobarometro, seven in 10 Venezuelans want a change in government and 76.4 percent disapprove of the job Maduro is doing.

If voters overwhelmingly want a recall vote, "it will be difficult if the authorities don't hold a referendum," economist Luis Vicente Leon, head of the research firm Datanalisis, told AFP. "But they will do it in 2017 and it remains to be seen what the opposition response will be. It would raise tensions," he added. The authorities for now have supported Maduro, because he is at risk of losing "Chavismo", the movement named for Maduro's late predecessor and mentor, the socialist firebrand Hugo Chavez. "The demons will be let loose beginning January 11 when the fighting over the presidential succession begins," said Benigno Alarcon, a political science professor at Andres Bello Catholic University. — AFP

SHAKIRA JOINS COLOMBIA STARS SUPPORTING FARC PEACE DEAL

BOGOTA: Some of Colombia's most famous artists, athletes and writers, from singer Shakira to soccer star Falcao, are lending their support to the peace accord with Marxist rebels that aims to end a half-century of war. Shakira, along with Juanes and Carlos Vives - two Colombian musicians popular across the Spanish-speaking world - sang stirring messages of reconciliation, forgiveness and love after President Juan Manuel Santos signed the peace pact Monday with the head of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Rodrigo Londono. "As Colombians, our most important mission now is to pardon," Juanes wrote on Twitter.

Colombians on Sunday will cast ballots in a national referendum to approve the accord, which if approved would put a final end to a fratricidal war that has left more than 300,000 people dead or missing. "My Colombia, we have much to do; taking care of our children and educating them will pave the path of peace," Shakira said. A video from Carlos Vives spoke of the importance of signing the peace pact, but cautioned that there was still a "long road ahead before we can reach a durable peace." In 2014, two years after peace talks were launched in Havana between the Colombian government and FARC, Vives composed the song "A Step Toward Peace," which he recorded along with some 30 other Colombian artists.

'A Country that can Forgive'

Two Colombian soccer stars, Falcao and Carlos "El Pibe" Valderrama, added their own words of support. "I imagine a country capable of forgiving," Falcao - whose full name is Radamel Falcao Garcia Zarate - wrote in the

national daily El Tiempo. "What do I want?" Valderrama asked in an interview with AFP in early September in Bogota. "For my children and grandchildren to live in peace, and me as well in the years I have left," he answered.

Nairo Quintana, a winner of the Vuelta de Espana, Spain's most important cycling race, also urged his fellow countrymen to vote "Yes" today. So have writers and poets like Hector Abad Faciolince, Santiago Gamboa, Piedad Bonnett, and Juan Gabriel Vasquez. Also supporting a "Yes" vote is the Colombian-American actor John Leguizamo.

Some 'No' Votes as Well

However a minority of Colombian celebrities have publicly opposed the peace deal. Novelist and filmmaker Fernando Vallejo has denounced president Santos as a "low-life" for negotiating peace terms with "the most harmful and criminal group Colombia has ever known: the bandits of FARC". Writer Plinio Apuleyo Mendoza claims that the pact could transform Colombia into a 21st-century socialist country.

And John Jairo Velasquez, a former enforcer for drug lord Pablo Escobar who has admitted to killing at least 250 people but who now presents himself as a deeply remorseful truth-teller, has called for Colombians to embrace the far right and "stand together in favor of the 'No'." The most prominent opponent is the Alvaro Uribe, the popular hardline former president (2002-2010). Uribe, now a senator, claims that the peace deal gives impunity to atrocities and opens the doors to "Castro-Chavismo," a reference to the leftist regimes in Cuba and Venezuela. — AFP



CULIACAN, Mexico: A red line prevents access to burned cars, part of a military convoy, which was ambushed by gunmen on Friday. — AFP

GUNMEN AMBUSH MEXICO MILITARY CONVOY, KILL FIVE

SONS OF 'EL CHAPO' LIKELY BEHIND AMBUSH

CULIACAN, Mexico: The sons of imprisoned drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman were probably behind a grenade attack on a military convoy in northern Mexico on Friday, killing five soldiers, authorities said. Some 60 gunmen, who also fired several rounds from assault rifles, freed a wounded suspect who was being escorted by the soldiers in an ambulance during the pre-dawn ambush in Culiacan, capital of the state of Sinaloa, state and military officials said.

Guzman's sons were "very probably" responsible for the attack, which freed a suspect identified as Julio Oscar Ortiz Vega, alias "El Kevin," General Alfonso Duarte, a regional commander, told reporters. The gunmen stole the ambulance while a military Humvee caught fire in the assault, which left 10 people injured, including a Red Cross worker. Four of the injured were in surgery.

The soldiers were returning with the wounded suspect after another shootout in the mountain community of Bacacoragua, part of the municipality of Badiraguato, the region where Guzman and other notorious drug lords were born. The suspect was "being transferred to Culiacan for immediate medical attention... but

unfortunately this group acts in a premeditated, cowardly, treacherous way, using firearms and grenades," Duarte said.

The general said Guzman's brother, Aureliano Guzman Loera, alias "El Guano," is battling for control of drug production against the Beltran Leyva drug cartel in the remote region. One of Guzman's sons, Jesus Alfredo, was kidnapped by rivals for a few days in August. Another son, Ivan, is also allegedly involved in cartel activities. President Enrique Pena Nieto vowed on Twitter that the assailants "will answer to the law." Sinaloa is one of Mexico's most violent states and the ambush came as murders are on the rise this year across the country.

Guzman Woes

Guzman is hailed as a Robin Hood-type figure in his stronghold, and his cartel is still considered a fearsome force despite his capture. The cartel leader was arrested in the Sinaloa coastal city of Los Mochis in January, six months after he escaped from prison near Mexico City by sneaking through a 1.5-km tunnel that opened into his cell's shower. Guzman now

waits for a Mexican judge to decide whether he can be extradited to the United States, a ruling that he could appeal, although US officials believe he could be in US territory before the end of the year.

His capture dealt a blow to his cartel, but the gang still has a strong leader, his longtime associate, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, who has never spent a day in prison. Guzman's sons are also accused by the authorities of having roles in the criminal group. But in a sign of the cartel's vulnerability, one of them, Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar, 29, was kidnapped in a restaurant in the Pacific resort of Puerto Vallarta in August, apparently by members of the rival Jalisco New Generation drug cartel.

Two US government officials, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, have told AFP that the son was released days later and the reasons for the abduction are unclear. One of the US officials said the kidnapping appeared to be a "non-sanctioned event" committed by lower ranking members of the New Generation cartel, and that their bosses ordered them to release Guzman's son. — AFP



CALI, Colombia: A placard urging to vote "YES" in the upcoming referendum on the peace agreement is seen at the Ermita church on Friday. — AFP

TOURISTS FOOLED BY OCTOPUS FERRY DISASTER

NEW YORK: Ever heard about the gargantuan octopus that dragged a New York City ferry and its 400 passengers to the river bottom nearly 53 years ago? A cast bronze monument dedicated to the victims of the steam ferry Cornelius G Kolff recently appeared in Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan, erected a stone's throw from a handful of other somber memorials to soldiers, sailors and mariners lost at sea or on the battlefield. But if you can't recall the disaster it could be because the artist behind the memorial, Joseph Reginella, made the whole thing up.

The 250-pound monument, which depicts a Staten Island ferry being dragged down by giant octopus tentacles, is part of a multi-layered hoax that also includes a sophisticated website, a documentary, fabricated newspaper articles and glossy fliers directing tourists to a phantom Staten Island Ferry Disaster Memorial Museum across the harbor. It took Reginella six months to put it together.

He said the idea for the project came to him while he was taking his 11-year-old nephew from Florida on the ferry between Manhattan and Staten Island. "He was asking me all kinds of crazy questions like if the waters were shark-infested," he said. "I said 'No, but you know what did happen in the '60s? One of these boats got pulled down by a giant octopus.'" The story just rolled off the top of my head" and the idea for a mock memorial was born.

It evolved to become "a multimedia art project and social experience - not maliciously - about how gullible people are," said Reginella, who creates artworks for store windows and amusement parks. The monument never stays in one spot for more than two days "because the

city will come and take it away," he said, adding that it takes two people to break it down. "It's definitely an experience when you see people who don't know about it. They get this strange look on their face, they stare out at the water and walk away," he said. "I sit close by with a fishing pole and fish. I eavesdrop on the conversations."

Sometimes, he said, when he overhears people saying, "How come nobody has ever heard of this?" he'll interject, offering that the disaster happened on Nov 22, 1963, a day that the news was dominated by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. "It creates a plausibility for them, and they shake their head 'Maybe.'"

Puzzled tourists looking for the memorial museum on Staten Island and its supposed collection of wreckage with "strange suction-cup-shaped marks" sometimes wonder into the Snug Harbor Cultural Center asking for directions. The staff at the nearby Staten Island Museum admits it too was puzzled at first. "We kind of scratched our heads and said we don't know where it is and started looking further into it, and realized it was a hoax," said spokeswoman Rachel Somma. "Most people have the feeling that it's not a reality. It's a treasure hunt for them. It's fun. That's what we love about it. ... It's great that it gets people out here," she added. — AP



NEW YORK: In this Sept 29, 2016 photo, artist Joseph Reginella poses for a photo in the Staten Island borough with the cast bronze faux monument dedicated to the memory of the victims of the steam ferry Cornelius G Kolff. — AP

POWERFUL HURRICANE MATTHEW BARRELS TOWARDS JAMAICA, HAITI

MIAMI: Caribbean residents are preparing for a weekend of heavy rain and flooding as powerful Hurricane Matthew barrels towards Jamaica, Haiti and eventually Cuba. For several hours overnight Matthew became a Category 5 storm - the strongest on the 1-5 Saffir-Simpson scale, and the most powerful Caribbean storm since Hurricane Felix in 2007. By early yesterday, Matthew had weakened into a still dangerous Category 4 hurricane, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said.

The storm was swirling off the northern coast of Colombia and Venezuela packing winds of 250 km per hour, with higher gusts. The center of Matthew was located 365 miles south of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, and 420 miles southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, the NHC said. The storm is currently moving towards the west at seven miles per hour, but is expected to turn towards the northwest on Saturday.

Matthew became a Category 1 hurricane on Thursday afternoon, then swiftly rose to Category 4 a day later. Late Friday it strengthened into a powerful Category 5 storm. The NHC's long-term forecast has Matthew hitting the southern coast of Cuba late Monday or early Tuesday after tearing across Jamaica. As for threats to US soil, "it is too soon to rule out possible hurricane impacts from Matthew in Florida," the NHC said. Hurricane Felix killed some 150 people

and left thousands homeless when it slammed the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua in Sept 2007.

Haiti, Jamaica Prepare

Residents in Jamaica and southern Haiti scrambled to prepare as the storm headed in their direction. Forecasters said that 25-38 cm of rain could fall across the region. In Haiti, authorities warned residents of the country's southern islands that they were "first at risk," and urged them to prepare. "We invite them to secure the area surrounding their homes and begin to stock up on water and food," Edgar Celestin, a spokesman for the Haitian civil protection agency, told AFP.

In Jamaica, Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie told The Star newspaper that Prime Minister Andrew Holness had instructed authorities to "go full speed ahead" with efforts to prepare for and respond to the hurricane. That includes placing some 2,000 homeless people in shelters, McKenzie told the newspaper. Separately, the US embassy in Jamaica said it will be closed tomorrow and Tuesday for consular services "due to the anticipated effects of Hurricane Matthew". Heavy rain from Matthew "may produce life-threatening flash flooding and mud slides" in the affected area, the NHC warned, saying isolated areas could be lashed with up to 25 inches of rain. — AFP

SPAIN'S CRISIS-HIT SOCIALISTS IN LEADERSHIP SHOWDOWN

MADRID: Spain's crisis-hit Socialists gathered for a key meeting yesterday to attempt to help end the country's prolonged political deadlock and decide the fate of embattled party leader Pedro Sanchez.

The roughly 300 members of the party's federal committee were summoned to Socialist headquarters in Madrid for a showdown between allies of Sanchez and opponents who want him out. The outcome could see the party lift its veto on a new government led by acting conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, a move that could be key to unblocking Spain's nine-month political paralysis.

With feelings running high, the meeting started late and the committee then agreed to go into recess to determine the parameters of the debate and if there would be a vote after it, El Pais reported on its website. Since December 2015, the country has been without a fully-functioning executive as rivals fail to agree on a government following two elections in which none of the main parties won an absolute majority.

Even Rajoy, whose Popular Party won both elections though without enough seats to rule alone, was forced into negotiating a minority government

which was voted down in parliament earlier this month. "Tomorrow's federal committee meeting faces a decisive debate,"

Sanchez made his first public appearance late Friday since senior party members tried to oust him on Wednesday. His face was sombre as he said the committee would face a "decisive debate."

The Socialist Party (PSOE) has been wracked for months by internal dissent, and tensions boiled over into open warfare after 17 members of the party's 35-strong executive quit together in a bid to force Sanchez out. The ill-feeling was evident again Saturday as Sanchez supporters shouted "no means no, no means no," in showing their backing for his continued opposition to a Rajoy-led administration.

Dozens of PSOE members backing Sanchez were out bright and early at party headquarters to roundly boo his opponents, decrying them as "putschists" and "fascists" as they showed for the meeting.

Hints at resignation

Sanchez detractors want the PSOE to use the 85 parliamentary seats it won in June polls to help unblock the nation-

al deadlock and allow Rajoy to lead a right-wing government by abstaining in a vote of confidence, rather than voting against as it did earlier this month. The PSOE's place is "in the opposition," said Socialist lawmaker Eduardo Madina, who opposes Sanchez.

Sanchez opposes another Rajoy term, pointing to repeated corruption scandals hitting the PP and inequalities sparked by years of austerity. "Spain doesn't deserve another four years of Mariano Rajoy at the head of the Spanish government-four more years with a prime minister who has systematically lied to Spanish society," he said Friday.

This fundamental divergence in views is what will be at stake in Saturday's meeting. Sanchez hinted he would step down if a majority of those at the federal committee reject his vision of what direction the party should take in other words if they favoured abstaining.

"Obviously I could not put into practice a decision that I don't agree with," he said. If his critics get their way and he quits, an interim leadership will be appointed which would likely direct the Socialists to abstain if Rajoy decided to go for another vote of confidence, thus



MADRID: Supporters of Spain's Socialist party leader Pedro Sanchez hold placards that read: "No Popular Party" as they shout slogans outside the party headquarters in Madrid, yesterday. —AP

unblocking the situation and avoiding a third round of elections.

If Sanchez wins, though, he will press ahead with his plans to appeal directly to grassroots members by calling primary elections on October 23 to

elect a new leadership, and the future would be a lot more uncertain. Spain's parliament has until October 31 to produce a government or new elections will be called in December-the third in a year. — AFP



BUDAPEST: A man arrives for prayers at a mosque in Budapest, Hungary, Friday. Muslims in Hungary say they are wary of the government's anti-migrant referendum which has boosted xenophobic feelings. —AP

MUSLIMS WARY OF HUNGARY'S ANTI-MIGRANT REFERENDUM

POLLS COULD BOOST XENOPHOBIC FEELINGS

BUDAPEST: Muslims in Hungary say they are wary of the government's anti-migrant referendum this weekend, which polls suggest has boosted xenophobic feelings. The government, contending that there is a direct link between migrants and terrorism, is seeking a popular mandate in Sunday's vote for its opposition to accepting any mandatory European Union quotas for resettling asylum seekers.

"I'm starting to feel that my own homeland is repudiating me," says Timea Nagy, a Hungarian Muslim. Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said Hungarians have "no problems" with the local Muslim community, but he believes any EU quotas to relocate asylum seekers, including many Muslims, would destroy Hungary's Christian identity and culture. Orban hopes that a rejection of EU quotas in the referendum will be mimicked by others and force Brussels to reconsider the scheme.

A poll taken in August by the Publicus Institute for the Vasarnapi Hírek newspaper found 35 percent of the 1,000 people asked said it was obligatory to help refugees, down from 64 percent in September 2015. Some 5,600 Muslims

live in Hungary, according to the 2011 census, the latest available.

On Friday, about 30 people took part in a "Muslims living among us" walking tour in a Budapest neighborhood, an effort to counter prejudice. "In the past year, especially since the migrant crisis is causing tension in Hungarian society, this is one of our most popular walks," said tour guide Anna Lenard. "We present Hungarian Muslim communities and try to show their human face because people living here get a lot of false information from the media."

The tour in the city's so-called "New Buda" neighborhood stretching to the Danube River includes stops in several shops and mosques, as well as presentations and chats by community leaders.

"We could say that this (referendum) campaign is against the migrants but in reality it is covertly against Islam, that's how people mostly understood it," said Tayseer Saleh, imam of the Darussalam Mosque. "We do not support the migrants coming to Europe," Saleh said. "We support putting an end to the problems there and I guarantee that 90 percent of the people will

return to their homeland." Government billboards and media ads have drawn a direct link between migration and terrorism, warned Hungarian diplomats, Orban said the Muslims in Hungary were a "valuable asset" and wanted to avoid causing "awkward situations, even at the verbal level" for them. "We are truly glad that there are kebab shops on our avenues. We like buying lamb from Syrian butchers at Easter," Orban said. "We are going to honor this Muslim community in Hungary, but we don't want their proportion to grow suddenly."

Speaking last September at a meeting of Hungarian diplomats, Orban said the Muslims in Hungary were a "valuable asset" and wanted to avoid causing "awkward situations, even at the verbal level" for them. "We are truly glad that there are kebab shops on our avenues. We like buying lamb from Syrian butchers at Easter," Orban said. "We are going to honor this Muslim community in Hungary, but we don't want their proportion to grow suddenly."

Local Muslims said the problems they faced in light of the government's referendum campaign were far beyond awkward.

"I consider myself a good Hungarian and I want to be one, too," Timea Nagy said. "But if people are surrounded by this kind of propaganda and they are so impressionable, it often makes you wonder." — AP

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES SAY ACADEMIC YEAR IN PERIL

JOHANNESBURG: South African protesters lob rocks at security guards at one of the continent's leading universities. Police fire rubber bullets at students on another campus. Vice-chancellors warn that students might not be able to finish the academic year if a national dispute over financing higher education is not resolved soon. Twenty-two years after the end of white minority rule, grievances over economic inequities are fueling unrest that has forced the closure of some of South Africa's most prominent universities, which are struggling to cover costs. Opinion has splintered among students, faculty, parents and the government, which acknowledges funding shortfalls but accuses a radical minority of bringing campuses to a standstill.

One target of protesters' condemnation is Adam Habib, vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, also known as Wits. Habib, in turn, has suggested it is ironic that Wits, whose student population is mostly black, could unravel because of protesters who say they are committed to "decolonization."

He tweeted: "The tragedy of our moment." The protests are smaller than widely popular demonstrations in 2015 that forced the government to suspend university fee increases this year. Demonstrations picked up again after the government said universities can increase fees by up to 8 percent next year, although it will pay about \$180 million to cover the costs of poor students in 2017.

Wits and the University of Cape Town hope to resume the academic program on Monday. Some students vehemently oppose that plan. Once a student demand for free education is met, "we are willing to go back to class. I mean, we are here because we want to study and get degrees," said Mzwanele Ntshwanti, a student leader at Wits who wore a jacket with an emblem of the Student Representative Council.

"We've managed to disrupt the system because that's the only language that they understand," he said Friday in a reference to university administrators and the government. Ntshwanti was standing outside the Great Hall, a temple-like building whose tall columns evoke Western academic traditions that irk some South African students who demand a curriculum more focused on African affairs. As he spoke, about 100

members of the Wits teaching staff, many in red and black academic robes, rallied on the Great Hall steps to demand more state funding and an end to violence. "No cops on campus!" read a placard. About 10 police vehicles were stationed on a nearby campus road and in a parking lot besides the Origins Centre, a university museum that explores human evolution. On Sept 20, protesters at Wits threw stones at private security guards, smashing glass at the Great Hall entrance. Some guards picked up projectiles and threw them back, contributing to an image of a prestigious center of learning as a chaotic battleground. In a separate incident, the government blamed student activists for the death of a university worker who was hospitalized after being affected by a fire extinguisher sprayed by protesters.

Wits is charging between \$2,200 and \$4,200 for tuition for a first-year undergraduate in 2016. In addition, there are book, travel and lodging costs. The government says it will pay tuition for students from households with up to \$43,700 in annual income, a measure expected to benefit about 80 percent of undergraduates.

On Wednesday, police fired rubber bullets and arrested 11 students during a protest for free education at Rhodes University in the city of Grahamstown. That prompted the vice-chancellor, Sizwe Mabizela, to say students should not become "collateral damage" in the dispute over costs. Vice-Chancellor Max Price of the University of Cape Town on Friday met 200 protesters who oppose the university's reopening on Monday. Separately, about 2,000 students and staff, some holding books, held a silent rally urging the resumption of classes, Price said on the university's website.

"There's a lot of uncertainty. There are a lot of different political positions and views on campus," said Mehdi Iqani, an associate professor of media studies at Wits. There are also expectations of more violence. Wits Vuvuzela, a university newspaper, advises students how to respond to stun grenades, rubber bullets and tear gas in a section titled: "What to expect from the police and how to stay safe."

Around the corner from the Great Hall at Wits is a piece of graffiti with instructions. It starts: "How to make a petrol bomb: a guide for students." — AP



JOHANNESBURG: A student wears a noose around her neck as lecturers and staff of Witwatersrand University demonstrate in support of the free education movement and against violence on campus yesterday in Johannesburg. —AFP

RUSSIA RISKS 'PARIAH' STATUS: JOHNSON

LONDON: British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Russia was in danger of becoming a pariah nation, as he hit out at alleged "double tap" bombing raids in Syria, hitting aid workers. "They drop one bomb and then they wait for the aid workers to come out, civilian people pulling the injured from the rubble, and then five minutes later they drop another bomb," he told The Sun newspaper.

Johnson said the British government had evidence that Russian jets had carried out such attacks, which were "unquestionably a war crime." "We have evidence. We have good ground to believe that the

Russians themselves have been doing that. "We are trying to document that fully because that is in my view unquestionably a war crime." He said Britain and the United States were looking at a "range of options" designed to ramp up the pressure on Moscow.

"The single most potent weapon we have is shame," he said. "The world's attitude towards Russia has been hardening and I think people now believe that Russia is in danger of becoming a pariah nation. "If they continue like this they will forfeit any sympathy and any admiration in the world at all, and I think they do care about that. — AFP

BELFAST PROTEST ENDS AS POLICE LET PARADE PASS



BELFAST: Police line the route as Orange Order members parade along the Crumlin Road adjacent to the nationalist Ardoyne district in north Belfast, North Ireland, yesterday. —AP

BELFAST: Pro-British protestants ended a three-year protest in Belfast yesterday after authorities allowed them to complete a march marking a 17th century military victory, passing a neighborhood dominated by rival Catholics. Protesters began their vigil in July 2013 at the point where police halted the parade marking King William of Orange's victory over the Roman Catholic King James at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, which helped secure Protestant supremacy in Ireland.

Parades are staged annually by Protestant unionists, who want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. The tradition is seen as provocative by Catholic Irish nationalists who want to be part of a united Ireland. The Parades Commission, a body set up to resolve Northern Ireland's annual "marching season" tensions, brokered a compromise between the rival sides under which local residents agreed to end their protests during the outboard leg of the of the march from the city centre to a parade ground. In exchange, the marchers agreed a moratorium on the return leg back past the Catholic area, which routinely sparked rioting in the evening of every July 12.

Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein described the agreement as heralding a "new era of peace building" in North Belfast. Early yesterday morning, two Orange Order bands and more than a hundred marchers passed the Catholic estate, with some 60 protesters looking on with signs reading: "walk of shame."

A caravan that had been used to house the protesters at the vigil was towed away. Over 600 police, many in riot gear, were on duty for yesterday's march. The cost of policing the protests since 2013 has been in excess of 21 million pounds (\$27 million), police said.

A 1998 peace agreement paved the way for a power-sharing government of unionists and nationalists, meant to end decades of sectarian and political killings in Northern Ireland.

Violence has subsided, but police say the threat from dissident groups opposed to the peace deal remains high. — Reuters

PAKISTAN BANS BOLLYWOOD FILMS AS TENSIONS ESCALATE

ISLAMABAD: Indian films have been banned in cinemas across Pakistan as tensions between Islamabad and nuclear-armed rivals New Delhi over recent scuffles in the disputed Kashmir region spilled into the world of Bollywood and celebrity. The tit-for-tat retaliation came after Pakistani actors and technicians were banned from working on Bollywood sets by the Indian Motion Pictures Producers Association (IMPPA).

Tensions have been simmering for months between India and Pakistan, but were dangerously ratcheted up Thursday when India claimed it had carried out "surgical strikes" across the heavily militarized Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border in

disputed Kashmir. The rare public admission of such an action on alleged "terrorist" targets prompted furious rhetoric from Pakistan, with both sides reporting fresh cross-border firing but no casualties early yesterday morning.

"It is deeply regrettable that a film trade body, the IMPPA, has passed a resolution to ban Pakistani stars and technicians from working in India," a statement from Pakistan's Film Exhibitors and Distributors group said late Friday.

"Following the IMPPA decision... the majority stake holders of the (Pakistani) film industry have decided to suspend the screening of all Indian films until normalcy returns." Celebrities on both sides of

the border have also weighed in on tensions over the past week. Bollywood star Salman Khan saw a vicious social media backlash after he was reported as saying that Pakistani artists should not be equated with terrorists.

While singer Adnan Sami, British-born but of Pakistani origin who received Indian citizenship last year, has been slated on Twitter by Pakistanis since praising Indian forces. Indian filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt received a similar roasting when he posted an image of himself calling for peace.

"Sadly, there isn't much difference in the level of sanity on both sides," observed Pakistani media website Mango Baaz in a story comparing the

online reactions across the border. Indian movies are screened in a majority of Pakistani cinemas, as filmmakers in the South Asian nation strive to revive its struggling motion picture industry. Many Pakistani singers and film actors have been cast in the Indian films in a bid to improve people-to-people contact between the rival countries. Cinema employees in Karachi were seen removing the giant posters advertising Indian films over the weekend and replacing them with banners for Pakistani and Hollywood movies. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since they gained independence from Britain seven decades ago, two of them over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. — AFP

INDIA-PAKISTAN TENSIONS STIR WARTIME MEMORIES

NAUSHERA DHALLA, India: As he surveyed his largely deserted village along India's border with Pakistan, Kuldeep Singh cast his mind to his childhood when his home was on the frontline of a full-blown war between the two arch rivals. "All of this reminds me of when I was a boy back in 1971 and I can now understand what my father must have felt like sending me away to live with his relatives back then," said the father-of-three.

"My wife and kids are already getting restless to come back home after three days. I'm also missing them but we don't yet know what's going to happen, so it's better to wait another day or two." The 54-year-old farm laborer sent his wife and three children to live with relatives after a dramatic escalation of tensions between the two nuclear-armed rivals this week which saw India carry out a series of strikes on the Pakistani side of the de facto border in divided Kashmir.

The evacuation order was delivered over the loudspeaker from the local gurdwara (temple) in what is a mainly Sikh village. The Singh family's village of Naushera Dhalla in the northern Punjab state is around 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and barely a kilometre from the border.

Like Kashmir, Punjab was also divided between India and Pakistan when both gained their independence at the end of British colonial rule seven decades ago and parts of the state became battlefields when the two countries went to war in 1965 and most recently in 1971.

While India says it has no desire for a further escalation in the situation, it has nevertheless ordered thousands of villagers to move away from the border in case they once again become a theatre of war. While most of Naushera Dhalla's 4,500 residents have sought shelter elsewhere, a few male residents have stayed behind to look after their land and livestock and pro-

tect their property from potential looters.

Speaking to an AFP correspondent while huddled in the centre of the village, those who have remained all said they felt they couldn't afford to do otherwise but had no illusions about what was at stake.

Theatre of war

Lakhvinder Singh, a 58-year-old tailor, said he too had vivid memories of the 1971 war when Naushera Dhalla also emptied in a matter of hours and soldiers took over their rudimentary mud-hut homes. "The shelling and firing started around 5.15pm in the evening and we left by around 9.30pm the same night," he said. "We could see the light of bombs and gunfire in the dark night from both the sides. "It is tense at the moment but I don't think there will be war—there shouldn't be a war. "But if there is, it's people like us who will lose the most. Even though we are happy for what our government has done with an attack on terrorists, we don't think war will do us any good."

The 1971 war, which began after India intervened in the war of separation which led to Bangladesh's (formerly east Pakistan) independence.

Since then, both countries have become nuclear powers, which means that any sharp downturn in relations sends alarm bells ringing in diplomatic circles. In another village even closer to the border, Sohan Singh said he could remember way back to partition when Punjab became the main setting for the largest mass migration in history before becoming a war zone.

Sohan Singh, who gave his age as "about 85", said there was no way that he would take to his heels and desert the small village of Danoji Khurd also close to the border. "Where would we go? If we leave, we will starve," said Singh, surrounded by around two dozen male villagers who were all discussing the tensions. "I'll be here for as long as I am alive." — AFP



JAMMU: Indian army soldiers stand on a tank transporter outside an army camp in the village of Jourian, Akhnoor Sector west of Jammu yesterday. — AFP

INDIA, PAKISTAN TROOPS OPEN FIRE AMID TENSION

UN CHIEF OFFERS TO MEDIATE AS BORDER VILLAGES EVACUATED

NEW DELHI: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fresh fire across their border yesterday as UN chief Ban Ki-moon offered to mediate between the nuclear-armed neighbors following an alarming spike in tensions.

Two days after Indian troops carried out a series of surgical strikes on militant camps across the Pakistani side of their dividing line in Kashmir, officials said there had been cross-border skirmishes further south.

Although there were no casualties, the pre-dawn exchanges heightened the fear among villagers living along the border, tens of thousands of whom have already been ordered to leave home. "There was small arms fire and mortar shells fire from across the border in Akhnoor sector which lasted for around two hours," Pawan Kotwal, a top civilian official in India's Jammu and Kashmir state, said.

A Pakistan military statement said its troops had "befittingly responded to Indian unprovoked firing" in the Bhimber sector on the Pakistani side.

The exchanges came shortly before Indian army chief Dalbir Singh travelled to Northern Command headquarters, which are in Jammu and Kashmir, to meet soldiers involved in Thursday's strikes. Singh was able to "personally compliment officers and men who successfully executed surgical strikes" during his visit, the army said on Twitter.

The two countries, who were separated at birth at the end of British colonial rule in 1947,

have fought three full-blown wars in the last seven decades—including two over Kashmir. The Himalayan region, the Indian side of which forms the bulk of the country's only Muslim majority state, is at the heart of the latest tensions which have been mounting in the last three months.

Since a charismatic Kashmiri separatist was shot dead by Indian soldiers in early July, more than 80 civilians have been killed in the region, many of whom had joined street protests in defiance of a curfew order.

A Pakistan-based militant group then carried out a raid on an Indian army base in mid-September which killed 19 soldiers, the deadliest such attack in over a decade. Amid massive public anger over the raid, India has sought to isolate Pakistan-whom it accuses of sponsoring militant groups—and has managed to persuade nearly all its other neighbors to boycott a regional summit which was to have been held in Islamabad in November.

India's announcement that it had carried out "surgical strikes" in the early hours of Thursday on militant posts on the Pakistani side of the Kashmiri frontier in turn provoked fury in Islamabad whose prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, denounced what he called "naked aggression".

A Pakistani envoy, Maleeha Lodhi, met Ban at UN headquarters in New York overnight to ask the veteran diplomat to intervene personally. Ban called on "both sides to exercise maxi-

mum restraint and take immediate steps to de-escalate the situation", a statement from his spokesman said after the meeting.

Mediation offer

The UN chief said India and Pakistan should address differences through diplomacy and dialogue, and offered to mediate.

"His good offices are available, if accepted by both sides," the UN spokesman said. Lodhi told AFP "the time has come for bold intervention" by Ban while India's UN mission said there was "no desire to aggravate the situation".

But aware things could yet escalate, India has evacuated thousands of people from near the northern border in Punjab state as well as in Jammu. An AFP correspondent in the Punjab village of Naushera Dhalla said most of its 4,500 residents had moved out, leaving only a small number of men to guard their land. The village was also evacuated in 1971, the last time the pair fought an all-out war. "We take turns to patrol the main road to make sure no thieves or robbers come into the village," said Jamsheer Singh, one of those remaining.

"I haven't had a drop of alcohol for the last four nights because if there is an emergency and any of us are drunk, we may not be able to react as fast as we need." Meanwhile in the Battal sector of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, normal life has also come to a halt. "Our market is closed as no one dares to venture outside," said shopkeeper Shujaat Kazi. — AFP



AMRITSAR: Indian volunteers from the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) distribute free food to villagers of the India-Pakistan border area in the village of Dhanoa Khurad, some 40kms from Amritsar yesterday. — AFP

CHILDREN HIT BY ARTILLERY IN RESTIVE NORTHERN MYANMAR

YANGON: A two-year-old girl was killed and two children injured yesterday after their village was hit by heavy artillery in Myanmar's rebel-held north, an activist and local resident said, the latest violence to threaten the new government's peace bid.

The shots were reportedly fired in Pu Wang village in northern Shan state, an area bordering China where ethnic minority rebels are locked in a long-running battle with the Myanmar army. Sporadic clashes in the region have displaced tens of thousands of people and dampened enthusiasm for a peace push driven by Myanmar's newly elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"It happened in the morning today when these three children were playing. Six powerful shots were fired into the village," Ying Sau, a pastor in the ethnic Kachin village, told AFP. His nephew's two-year-old daughter was killed, while two children, ages 5 and 6, were injured and taken across the border to a hospital in China, he said.

Khon Ja, an activist from the Kachin Peace Network, also reported the death and posted photos on Facebook of the injured children receiving treatment in China's Yunnan province.

Both blamed the heavy firing on the Myanmar army, which AFP could not reach for comment. Myanmar's restive

borderlands have been rocked by several outbreaks of violence in recent weeks, only a month after Suu Kyi launched a major peace dialogue aimed at ending the simmering insurgencies.

Her summit brought many key players to the table for early peace talks, though several powerful ethnic militias actively clashing with state troops did not attend.

The US Embassy in Yangon said in a statement Friday it was "deeply concerned" by ongoing fighting in Kachin, a state just north of the town where the children were hit yesterday. "The increase in conflict in this area has led to suffering and displacement of local populations. It also has the potential to undermine the progress and goodwill generated by the recent Union Peace Conference," the embassy said.

Around 100,000 people are currently displaced in Shan and Kachin states due to the violence, according to UN figures. More than a dozen ethnic minority groups have waged insurgencies against the Myanmar army since the country won independence from Britain in 1948.

Suu Kyi, whose new civilian government ends five decades of military rule, is determined to end the fighting. But the conflicts are complex and experts say the peace process will take years. — AFP



JAMMU: Indian villagers, who have migrated from their village close to the border with Pakistan, walk with their bags in Khor in Akhnoor Sector west of Jammu yesterday. — AFP

CHINESE NAVY SHIPS ARRIVE IN MYANMAR FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT

BEIJING: Two Chinese navy ships have arrived in Myanmar's main city of Yangon for a five-day visit, state media said yesterday, the latest move by Beijing to reinforce military ties with its strategically-located southern neighbor.

China has been on a diplomatic offensive since the government of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi came to power in April, aiming to forge good ties with the resource-rich country. Suu Kyi visited China in August, where President Xi Jinping told her he wanted to ensure the "correct direction" of relations, and a senior Chinese military officer went to Myanmar last month.

The two warships, the Xiangtan and the Zhoushan, arrived on Friday, and were met by senior Myanmar military officers, the official Xinhua news agency said. China had a close relationship with Myanmar's former military-run government, and has looked on with some nervousness at its democratization process.

China has been pushing Myanmar to resume work on the Chinese-invested \$3.6-billion Myitson dam project, 90 percent of whose power was originally planned to have gone to China. In 2011, then-President Thein Sein angered China when he suspended work on the dam, at the confluence of two northern rivers in the Ayeyarwady river basin, over environmental protests. — Reuters

ASEAN MINISTERS SEEK WAYS TO EASE SOUTH CHINA SEA TENSION

TERROR THREATS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA GROWING: SINGAPORE

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii: Countries need to look for practical ways to defuse incidents in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, Singapore's defense minister said. Ng Eng Hen told reporters Friday on the sidelines of a meeting in Hawaii that incidents may not necessarily involve military ships. He noted navies have established protocols for when they encounter each other at sea.

Instead, confrontations may develop between fishing vessels or other civilian ships, the defense minister said. Defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and US Defense Secretary Ash Carter talked at their Hawaii meeting about ways to prevent such incidents from escalating, Ng said.

Singapore doesn't have any claims to disputed islands, but Ng said it's interested in the issue because the South China Sea is a major shipping route and many economies depend on it.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own, citing historical reasons. That has pitted it against the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, all members of ASEAN. China has recently developed shoals and coral reefs into seven islands with massive land-reclamation work. Some of the islands have airstrips capable of handling military aircraft.

In July, an international arbitration tribunal ruled against China's claims, saying they were illegal. Beijing has rejected the ruling and continued its activities. Ng said the tribunal's ruling is law, but there are "practical concerns" to consider. "For Singapore, a non-claimant state, our main interest is, either with or without a ruling, how do you make sure the region is still stable and to make sure you actually have mechanisms to prevent any escalations?" he said.

Carter told reporters he and his counterparts

discussed improving coordination and cooperation between their militaries to keep the region's waterways open. He said he asked the heads of the US Navy and US Coast Guard to hold a meeting with ASEAN partners next year to share their best practices for maritime security.

Terror threats

The threat that violent extremist groups pose to Southeast Asia is growing each year as they become more organized and focused in



HONOLULU: Singapore's Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defense, speaks at a press conference at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam on Friday in Honolulu. — AP

their aims, Eng Hen said. Over 1,000 Southeast Asians have flocked to join Islamic State's self-declared "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria, Ng said. "Every year we meet, the situation and threat from extremist terrorism rises," Ng said. "Compared to, say, a year or even two years ago, they're more organized...they're more networked, they're more clear in their articulation of what they want to achieve."

Security officials said in June that Southeast Asian militants who claim to be fighting for Islamic State said they had chosen one of the most wanted men in the Philippines to head a regional faction of the group. Authorities in the region have been on heightened alert since Islamic State claimed an attack in the Indonesian capital Jakarta in January in which eight people were killed, including four of the attackers. Ng cited a recent plot in which an Indonesian cell coordinated by an Islamic State member in Syria had planned to shoot up hotels in Singapore's Marina Bay area. The plot was foiled by Indonesian authorities, he said. "They have gone beyond networks to push the flow of funds, weapons. They are already plotting," Ng said. US defense officials believe that hundreds of citizens from Southeast Asia have returned to their home countries after joining Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, raising concerns that they may try to launch a wave of attacks. Ng said Southeast Asian defense chiefs believe that if Islamic State were destroyed in its base in Iraq and Syria, that would actually increase the risk to their region in the short-term, because seasoned Islamic State fighters would likely return home. The United States is leading an air campaign to dislodge Islamic State from Iraq and Syria. "They would decide to come back, some reenergized, some trained and the networks would still be existing," Ng said. — Agencies

HONG KONG LEADER CALLS FOR UNITY WITH CHINA

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's leader called on the city to unite behind its current political system yesterday in the face of increasing calls for independence from China, as protesters were bundled from the auditorium where he was speaking. Leung Chun-ying was giving an annual address as part of National Day celebrations which mark the founding of the People's Republic of China by Mao Zedong in 1949, after communist forces won a civil war on the mainland.

Hong Kong is governed under a semi-autonomous "one country, two systems" arrangement a deal made when the city was handed back to China by Britain in 1997. The agreement protects Hong Kong's freedoms for 50 years, but there are growing fears those liberties are being eroded by Beijing, leading to increasing tensions. Leung described the system as the "most beneficial and most practical" for Hong Kong. "One country, two systems needs each and every Hong Kong resident to defend it to their utmost," Leung said.

He also encouraged young Hong Kongers to visit China, saying there was "deep kinship" between the two sides. A group of pro-democracy lawmakers interrupted the speech shouting: "CY step down!". Security escorted them from the hall at the harbourfront convention centre, with one district councillor carried out. Veteran Democratic Party legislator James To, among the protesters, said Leung had "caused divisions in the city and has made Hong Kongers feel they can't go on (with Leung in charge)".

'Hong Kong independence'

Several new legislators who won seats in elections last month and are calling for self-determination and independence for Hong

Kong boycotted the event. Former protest leader Nathan Law, who at 23 is the youngest ever member of the Legislative Council, said he stayed away because of what he described as China's human rights violations. "As long as they don't recognize that what they are doing is wrong, we shouldn't go and celebrate this kind of holiday," Law said, listing the Cultural Revolution and the disappearance last year of five booksellers from Hong Kong as among the incidents.

The booksellers worked for a publishing house known for salacious titles about Beijing leaders. All surfaced in detention in China. Law led mass pro-democracy rallies in 2014 which failed to win concessions from Beijing. He is now calling for self-determination for the city. Since the 2014 rallies, there have been increasing demands for a break from China. Newly elected pro-independence lawmaker Yau Wai-ching also boycotted the event. "It's not the national day of the Hong Kongers," she said. Large red banners calling for Hong Kong independence were draped across several university buildings yesterday. A small group of protesters led by rebel lawmaker Leung Kwok-hung, known as "Long Hair", gathered outside the convention centre calling for the release of political prisoners in China.

They held up a makeshift coffin scrawled with the words "In memory of the people's heroes", and threw "hell money"—paper replicas of bank notes traditionally burned at funerals. Around 50 pro-Beijing supporters wearing red t-shirts marched through the city's Tsim Sha Tsui retail district Saturday afternoon waving large Chinese flags and blaring the national anthem. They also sang patriotic songs and shouted "we are Chinese" and "oppose Hong Kong independence". — AFP



HONG KONG: Protesters carry a fake coffin during a march organized by the League of Social Democrats on China's National Day of celebrations in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

EIGHT DEAD, 19 MISSING AFTER CHINA LANDSLIDES

BEIJING: At least eight people have died and around 19 are still missing after devastating landslides swept through two eastern Chinese villages, local authorities told the official Xinhua news agency yesterday.

Heavy wind and torrential rains brought by Typhoon Megi triggered the landslides on Wednesday, burying dozens of homes from the villages of Sucun and Baofeng in Zhejiang province's Suichang county. More than 4,000 rescue workers with 180 diggers were scrambling to find survivors but persistent rain and poor road conditions had hindered rescue efforts, the agency reported. Video footage of the landslide on social media showed torrents of water and rock pouring down a mountain towards houses in the valley below while terrified onlookers screamed.

Typhoon Megi had already claimed one life on Wednesday morning, when a flash flood tore through the home of a villager in the coastal province of Fujian, according to reports.

At least 2.09 million people from three provinces have been affected by the typhoon, which has destroyed roughly 1,200 houses, the People's Daily reported Saturday. The storm is estimated to have caused China 5.53 billion yuan (\$835 million) in damages. The typhoon smashed into Taiwan earlier in the week, leaving a trail of destruction and killing seven as it raked across the island. — AFP

PORN FILM PLAYS ON JAKARTA BILLBOARD, POLICE PROBE

JAKARTA: An explicit pornographic video was broadcast on a public billboard in broad daylight in Jakarta, with police and cybercrime specialists yesterday searching for the culprit behind the gaffe.

The offending clip of a couple engaged in a steamy tryst beamed at peak hour on Friday, shocking and amusing motorists in equal measure as they crawled along the major road in heavy traffic.

The power was quickly shut off to the "videotron"—as the giant advertising screens are locally known—but not before the whole scandalous incident was captured on motorists' phones and sent viral on social media. The hashtag "videotron" was quickly trending, with much speculation about who was responsible for the X-rated gaffe, which broadcast just a stone's throw from the South Jakarta mayor's office.

The video file-titled "Watch Tokyo Hot"—appeared to be streaming from a personal computer, prompting suggestions that someone's week was about to take a turn for the worse.

But police were still searching for a motive behind the "videotron" scandal, Jakarta metropolitan police said in a statement yesterday. A specialist cybercrime unit had joined the investigation to determine whether the broadcast was deliberate or hacking was involved, the police's head of public relations Awi Setiyono said.

Police have seized a computer from the offices of a private company as part of their investigation, he added. Access to pornographic websites is blocked in Muslim-majority Indonesia, and romantic scenes in films and television programs are heavily blurred or cut altogether by state censors. — AFP



BEIJING: Visitors gather on Tiananmen Square during National Day in Beijing yesterday, China celebrates its National Day to mark the 67th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. — AFP

NORTH KOREA BUILDING NEW SUBMARINE: US THINK TANK

SEOUL: Recent satellite imagery suggests North Korea may be building a new, larger submarine for ballistic missiles, a US think tank has said, as the isolated state pushes its nuclear weapons program.

The news comes after the North in August test-fired a submarine-launched missile (SLBM) 500 kilometres (around 300 miles) towards Japan, which leader Kim Jong-Un said put the US mainland and the Pacific within striking range.

"Commercial satellite imagery strongly suggests that a naval construction program is underway at North Korea's Sinpo South Shipyard, possibly to build a new submarine," the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University said on its closely-watched website, 38 North. "If this activity is indeed to build a new submarine, it would appear to be larger than North Korea's GORAE-class experimental ballistic missile submarine, which has a beam of approximately 7 meters."

Analysts say that while Pyongyang has made faster progress in its SLBM system than originally expected, it is still years away from deployment. A proven SLBM system would take North Korea's nuclear strike threat to a new level, allowing deployment far beyond the Korean peninsula and a "second-strike" capability in the event of an attack on its military bases.

South Korea's military authorities believe Pyongyang is eyeing a submarine capable of carrying multiple SLBMs, to replace an existing experimental submarine used for the August test, according to Seoul's Yonhap news agency. North Korea is barred under UN resolutions from any use of ballistic missile technology, but this year alone it has test-fired more than 20 missiles and carried out two nuclear tests. Its fifth and most powerful nuclear test on September 9, when Pyongyang detonated what it said was a miniaturized atomic bomb, provoked worldwide condemnation and prompted the UN Security Council to begin work on a new sanctions resolution.

Also this month, the North claimed to have successfully ground tested a new, high-powered rocket engine, a move Seoul said was designed to showcase its progress towards being able to target the US east coast.

Call to defect

South Korean President Park Geun-Hye



GERYONG: South Korean President Park Geun-hye, standing at bottom right on the car, waves to cadets during the 68th anniversary of Armed Forces Day at the Geryong military headquarters in Geryong, South Korea, yesterday. — AP

PASSPORT-FORGER 'CONFESSES' TO DISMEMBERING DEAD MAN

BANGKOK: An American accused of running a passport-forgery ring in Bangkok confessed to dismembering—but not murdering a man found in his freezer, Thai police said yesterday, as detectives continue to piece together details of the macabre crime. The 63-year-old suspect, who police initially struggled to identify because of his numerous passports, was arrested one week ago alongside two other Americans accused of producing fake travel documents from their crime den in the Thai capital.

Police also found guns, drugs and the bagged body parts of a foreigner in their freezer. Herbert La Fon, described as the gang's ringleader, allegedly opened fire on police during the raid before the trio

was handcuffed and detained.

"He admitted only that he dismembered the body but said he had no involvement in murdering the Hungarian man," Bangkok's police chief Sanit Mahathavorn told reporters yesterday. "I cannot disclose the details, but I can say that his testimony was useful. As for (his claim) that the motive of the killing was debt, police are not really convinced by this," said Sanit, adding that officers were up until 3am interrogating the American.

It was not immediately clear what La Fon's explanation for possessing or cutting up the corpse was. Police have stressed that his story keeps changing. It is also not uncommon for suspects to later retract

confessions made in Thai police custody, where many have alleged being beaten by officers.

Forensic experts are still working to identify the man found in the freezer but said they believe he was Hungarian and middle-aged. "Initially we think he was Hungarian. We don't know the time of his death because the body had been frozen for a long time," Udomsak Hunvichit, head of Chulalongkorn Hospital's forensic department, told local broadcaster Channel 3.

The gruesome case has gripped the Thai public as it provides a glimpse into Bangkok's shadowy underworld, long a haven for foreign criminals and fugitives.

Little is known about the three men other than that La Fon was wanted by the FBI in 1979 on charges of credit card fraud. A US Embassy official confirmed American law enforcement agencies are assisting with the case. Thailand is a hub for a fake documents trade that has helped shield countless criminals and migrants from local and foreign authorities.

In February Thai police arrested an Iranian man known as "The Doctor" who crafted pristine passports from his home in a Bangkok suburb and sold the documents to thousands around the globe—including gangsters, rebels, refugees and migrant workers. — AFP



A herd of camel walk through the wild in Ras Al-Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, yesterday. — AP

WHITE HOUSE RACE HITS NEW LOW

Continued from Page 1

In an apparent effort to pre-empt the attacks, the Clinton campaign released audio of Bill Clinton talking about his marriage with Hillary. "I think that she has literally spent a lifetime dealing with not only her joys and her blessings, but also heartbreaks and disappointment, and sometimes unfair treatment," a reflective Bill says.

Hillary Clinton, campaigning in Florida yesterday, described Trump as "unhinged" after the Republican presidential candidate unleashed a volley of pre-dawn tweets early Friday against former beauty queen Alicia Machado. The Venezuela-born Machado claims the billionaire bullied her mercilessly after winning the Trump-owned Miss Universe beauty pageant in 1996. "Did Crooked Hillary help disgusting (check out sex tape and past) Alicia M become a US citizen so she could use her in the debate?" said Trump, in one of a series of virulent tweets.

According to the fact-checking website Snopes, Trump's sex tape allegation apparently refers to Machado's appearance on a reality TV show in which she is shown in bed, under covers, with another participant. Machado also appeared in Playboy magazine. But a pornographic video circulated in recent years purporting to star the former Miss Universe was debunked as a fake.

Clinton, who mentioned Machado in the Monday debate, has blasted Trump's history of abusive remarks that included humiliating the ex-beauty queen over her weight gain and Latina origins, nicknaming her "Miss Piggy" and "Miss Housekeeping". "Who gets up at the at three in the morning to engage in a Twitter attack against a former Miss Universe?" Clinton asked supporters in Florida on Friday. "His latest Twitter meltdown is unhinged, even for him," she said. Trump was unapologetic. "For those few people knocking me for tweeting at three o'clock in the morning, at least you know I will be there, awake, to answer the call!" he wrote.

Machado dismissed the fresh attacks with a message on Instagram, calling them "cheap lies" from a man intent on defaming her. "By way of his hate campaign, the Republican candidate insists on discrediting and demoral-

izing a woman, which is clearly one of his most frightening characteristics," she wrote in her post in Spanish, next to a photo of herself draped in an American flag.

Separately, the website Buzzfeed posted a clip from a 2000 soft porn Playboy video in which Trump welcomes playmates to New York. In the clip Trump opens the door of a limousine as the models emerge. He then pops a bottle of champagne, and a splash of fizzy liquid lands on the Playboy bunny logo. The Clinton campaign pounced on the story. "There's been a lot of talk about sex tapes today and in a strange turn of events, only one adult film has showed up today and it's star is Donald J Trump," wrote Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill.

Clinton pulled ahead of Trump by three percentage points in a Fox News national poll out Friday, besting the billionaire 43 to 40 percent. Although Clinton's lead is within the poll's margin of error, it shows a bump for Clinton, who beat Trump by only one percentage point in the same poll two weeks ago. The nationwide results come as Clinton's numbers improve in a number of critical swing states following the debate. Florida - with its prodigious number of electoral votes - has swung back toward Clinton since Monday's debate, polling shows. Meanwhile a Detroit News-WDIV-TV four-way matchup conducted in the battleground state of Michigan found Clinton leading Trump by seven percentage points after the debate.

Also out late Friday was a video deposition from June in which Trump acknowledged that he lost business after disparaging Mexicans at the start of his campaign. Trump appears answering questions relating to a lawsuit involving celebrity chefs Jeffrey Zakarian and Jose Andres, who pulled out of a deal to work at the real estate magnate's new Washington DC hotel because of the candidate's comments. The Macy's department store and the Spanish-language Univision network cut ties with Trump after his tirade.

Trump acknowledged that "a few bad days of press" came after his statement, and a loss of some business. "I don't know how I can quantify it, but I think we were hurt," he said. The video was released at the request of several media outlets despite opposition from the Trump campaign. — AFP

ALEPPO HOSPITAL HIT, ARMY PRESSES ASSAULT

Continued from Page 1

The official news agency SANA said 13 people were wounded Saturday in the western Al-Midan neighborhood, also by rebel shellfire.

The assault has seen government forces seize territory in both the Suleiman Al-Halabi neighborhood in the city center and on the northern edges of Aleppo. Yesterday, regime loyalists backed by heavy raids advanced on the edges of the Bustan Al-Basha neighbourhood in Aleppo's north, the Observatory said. An AFP correspondent said clashes and the loud booms of shelling were heard around the Suleiman Al-Halabi and Bustan Al-Basha fronts throughout the night.

An official at the Suleiman Al-Halabi pumping station in the rebel-held area said most of Aleppo had water cuts on Saturday because of damage by the continued bombing. Residents of regime-held areas expressed

relief that the rebels were being pushed back, but said they feared retaliation. Majed Abboud, 32, said he was happy about the army's advance. "But I'm afraid that with these ferocious clashes, there will be some kind of reaction from the armed groups."

The battle for Aleppo has sparked some of the most brutal violence since the March 2011 beginning of Syria's conflict, which has killed more than 300,000 people and displaced over half the population. The Doctors Without Borders (MSF) medical charity warned Friday that "bombs are raining" over the city, turning east Aleppo into "a giant kill box". Diplomatic efforts to end the fighting across the country have all but collapsed. Russia on Friday accused Washington of protecting jihadist groups in its effort to overthrow Assad. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Russia was in danger of becoming "a pariah nation" and the Aleppo attacks were "unquestionably a war crime". — AFP

INDIAN MIGRANTS RETURN HOME, RECALL...

Continued from Page 1

There was no power either," electrician Imam Hussain told AFP after landing in New Delhi this week. "I was even arrested because my identification documents were not renewed by my employer. The situation there was worse than hell," said the 27-year-old.

Hussain was among millions of poor Asians working in the Gulf states, where human rights groups say many suffer exploitation and abuses with no channels for redress. Under the kingdom's kafala system, most foreign workers are barred from moving to a new job without their boss's consent before their contracts end, leaving many trapped. It has been criticized by rights groups as a form of bonded labor or even slavery. Hussain and his fellow migrants had spent several days in Delhi as they waited to go home to Bihar, sleeping on mattresses on the floor of a budget hotel's garage and eating on a filthy, open terrace.

But their huge relief at coming home meant they barely noticed the discomfort. "We are just so relieved to be back home finally. All we want is to see our family and start our lives afresh," said Santosh Singh, a low-wage construction laborer as he waited to board a train to his native village. Saudi Arabia is the favored destination for Indian laborers, with nearly three million working mainly in the construction sector.

A 2014 report by Amnesty said close to a thousand low-wage migrant laborers are provided clearance to travel to Saudi Arabia every day. Bihar, which has some of the worst rates for poverty, malnutrition and life expectancy in the country, has the highest migra-

tion rates, according to a government report in 2007. Many leave to escape an exploitation-ridden rural economy in the absence of any local enterprise or industry.

Migration offers an easy opportunity to the often semi-literate workforce to earn relatively good wages abroad. "In Siwan district where I live they used to make public announcements about overseas job vacancies with the beating of the drum," said Zakir Hussain, who went to Riyadh in 2013 and was making some 30,000 rupees per month (\$450) before the problems began. "I have 15 members in my family and it (going abroad) was my only chance at a better life. "But look what happened. I have not been paid since December. All my dreams are shattered. I just hope I will get back my dues someday," he said.

In August, the Indian foreign ministry stepped in to repatriate thousands of Indian migrant workers who did not even have money to buy their tickets. The Saudi government then took action, providing food and medicine to Indians staying in camps while promising to provide free passage to all those who wanted to go back to India. Saudi Arabia has also said it will handle legal claims of the Oger workers in an effort to get their money back.

Sheikh Dilsher, who worked for Oger for 18 years, is still unable to come to terms with the sudden turn his life has taken. "I slogged all my life for them," he said, tears welling up his eyes. "But what did I get in return? All my benefits which came to some 42,000 Saudi riyal (around \$11,200) have been withheld. I have no money and no hope now." — AFP

DUTERTE DEFIANT OVER CALL TO KILL 3M...

Continued from Page 1

Nevertheless, Abella confirmed Duterte had intended to say he wanted to kill millions of people in the Philippines to achieve his mission of eradicating illegal drugs. "Duterte was referencing to his 'willingness to kill' three million criminal drug dealers - to save the future of the next generation and the country," Abella said. On Friday Duterte raised the example of Hitler's genocidal campaign against Jews, as he talked about his efforts to extinguish the illegal drug trade in the Philippines.

"There are three million drug addicts (in the Philippines). I'd be happy to slaughter them," Duterte said. "At least if Germany had Hitler, the Philippines would have," he said, then paused. "But you know, my victims, I would like to be (sic) all criminals to finish the problem of my country and save the next generation from perdition."

Duterte, 71, won elections in May in a landslide after a campaign dominated by his pledge to eradicate drugs by killing tens of thousands of people. Since Duterte took office on June 30, police have killed more than 1,200 people and about 1,800 others have died in unexplained circumstances, according to official figures.

The United States, a former colonial ruler of the Philippines and until Duterte's ascension its most important ally, condemned his Hitler comments. "I'll stress that it (relationship) has to be one that's based on shared values, democratic values, respect for human rights, and words matter," US State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner said in Washington. "And within

that context, President Duterte's comments are a significant departure from that tradition. And we find them troubling."

US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter also described Duterte's comments as "deeply troubling". The United Nations special adviser on the prevention of genocide, Adama Dieng, warned in a statement that Duterte may be in danger of committing crimes against humanity. Dieng called on Duterte to "exercise restraint in the use of language that could exacerbate discrimination, hostility and violence and encourage the commission of criminal acts which, if widespread or systematic, could amount to crimes against humanity".

Phelim Kine, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch called on the US and the European Union to act, saying Duterte's comments could further embolden police and other armed groups to "lawlessly slaughter" fellow Filipinos. At home, Duterte congressional allies Sarah Elago and Marjohara Tucay of the small Kabataan (Youth) party drew the line on the Hitler comments. "When it comes to your independent foreign policy... we can lend you unequivocal support. But if you start comparing yourself to Hitler, we will not have any of it," they said in a statement.

Duterte has in recent months faced relentless criticism from Western governments and rights groups over the apparent extrajudicial killings. US President Barack Obama called on Duterte to fight his drug war "the right way", and respect the rule of law. Duterte, 71, has typically reacted with defiance abusive language to his critics, while insisting he is not doing anything illegal. — AFP

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WORLD'S CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION ON THE POINT OF NO RETURN



Issues

BRUTAL HEADWINDS CRUSH CENTER-LEFT EUROPEAN GIANTS

By James Pheby

Bitter internal strife, plunging support among voters and surging populism: Has there ever been a worse time to be a center-left party in Europe? A dozen years ago, left-of-center giants seemed a natural source of government in many European states. But today the tally of parties that are declining, sidelined or ideologically adrift is long. The sick list is headed by Britain's Labour Party, where veteran radical Jeremy Corbyn last week easily won a leadership challenge by centrist MPs angry at his part in the shock Brexit vote.

But political analysts say the venerable party - founded in 1900 - faces electoral oblivion despite his victory. Its dismal standing in the opinion polls is mirrored across Europe. As with Labour, Spain's Socialist Party is in the grip of a fratricidal war over the performance of its leader, Pedro Sanchez, at a time of national crisis. In Germany, the Social Democratic Party has lost half its members since 1998. In France, President Francois Hollande is the most unpopular president in his country's modern history and would be routed if he stands in next year's presidential elections, according to opinion polls.

Center-left parties recently lost power in Denmark, a stronghold of social democracy, and registered their worst-ever results in Finland and Poland. In Greece, support for the once dominant Pasok has plunged to just six percent. "Social democracy is a shadow of itself," German political analyst Albrecht von Lucke said on NDR television channel. "We are dealing with decline of historic proportions."

For many commentators, the finger of blame points at globalization. They say immigration has become a lightning rod for anger, with older manual workers blaming an influx of foreign labor for job insecurity and lower wages. "The metropolitan elite think 'great, free movement, we're all multicultural', but the working class don't really see the benefits and feel threatened by it," says Isabelle Hertner, a lecturer at King's College London. "The average person doesn't necessarily benefit, just the best qualified people. It's difficult for center-left parties to bridge that gap."

Far-Left Insurgency

Other perceived factors in the center-left's decline are the 2008 financial crisis, China's entry into the world economy, shrunken public coffers and technological innovation. Put together, these have savaged the credibility of the "third-way" politics championed by Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and other Social Democrats once ruling Europe. The model embraced capitalism, globalization and vast public spending programs to vacuum up votes among both the comfortable middle classes and industrial heartlands during the booming 1990s and early 2000s.

Post-crash, the traditional far-left became emboldened by the apparent failure of the center-left's vision of capitalism, and with its subsequent austerity programs. "A lot of center-left parties were actually in power, so you think 'you have not regulated financial markets, so what's the point in voting for you?'" said Hertner. Anti-establishment feeling and the organizational opportunities afforded by social media helped more radical, tech-savvy leftists take over Britain's Labour Party and fuelled the boom of populist leftist parties across Europe.

"Right across Europe, you've had a trend for new parties to set up with an activist base," said Patrick Dunleavy of the London School of Economics (LSE), citing Podemos in Spain, Italy's Five-Star movement and Syriza in Greece. "There's been a tendency for parties that were much more digitally organized, and much more aiming at recruiting a mass membership."

Populism's 'Silver Bullet'

Britain's Brexit referendum revealed that many voters in Labour's working-class heartlands turned to rightwing populism, blaming foreign competition and immigration for hastening their demise. "Populists claim that complex problems can be solved by simple, invariably divisive, solutions," Nick Clegg, the former leader of Britain's center-left Liberal Democrats wrote in a newly-published autobiography. "Pull out of the EU. Pull apart the UK. Reduce immigration. Blame Islam. Arrest bankers. Stop free trade. Populism offers silver-bullet solutions to our problems."

With the rights that social democrats fought hard to secure now entrenched in western Europe, these parties are also finding it difficult to convince voters of their reason for existing, said Hertner. The future is bleak, former Spanish Socialist Party boss Felipe Gonzalez told Spanish magazine Jot Down in July. "There is no alternative to ending the crisis... and the politics of 'austericide' other than a social democrat manifesto," he said. "The paradox is that social democracy isn't currently fit to offer this." — AFP

Washington Watch

JASTA: IRRESPONSIBLE AND DANGEROUS

By Dr James J Zogby

Congress' vote to override President Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act was both embarrassing and irresponsible. The bill, known as JASTA, amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act allowing US citizens to sue foreign governments and entities for damages resulting from acts of terrorism committed on US soil on or after Sept 11, 2001. Clearly directed at the government of Saudi Arabia, JASTA has caused enormous concern and not only in that country. In his veto statement, President Obama cited three reasons for his strong opposition to the bill.

In the first place, JASTA takes the authority to determine whether a state has become a sponsor of terrorism away from the federal government and places it in the hands of local courts which the President noted could make "consequential decisions...based upon incomplete information...[about] the culpability of individual foreign governments and their role in terrorist activities against the United States". This, he argued, is "neither an effective nor a coordinated way for us to respond to indications that a foreign government might have been behind a terrorist attack".

The president went on to note that the US takes its responsibility seriously and only designates a foreign government of being a state sponsor of terrorism after "national security, foreign policy, and

intelligence professionals carefully review all available information." The implication of his argument is that it is dangerous to take this serious process out of the hands of the professionals and turn it over to tort lawyers, juries, and local judges.

The president's second concern was that in passing this bill, Congress upends the long standing principle of foreign sovereign immunity. This, he warned, would open the door for other governments to pass similar legislation that would "allow their domestic courts" to hold the US liable for actions committed by US personnel or "members of an armed group that received US assistance...or abuses committed by police units that received US training." This would put the assets of the United States and the foreign holdings of American businesses at risk.

Finally, the president noted that JASTA would "create complications in our relationships with even our closest partners" endangering our nation's ability to seek "their cooperation on key national security issues."

Disturbing

In overriding the strong case the president made in issuing his veto, Congress acted in a manner that was irresponsible, dangerous, and damaging to the national interests of the United States. Most disturbing was the fact that, on the day of the vote, 28 Senators released a letter in which they acknowledged that the bill

was flawed, pledging to "fix" it in the next term. They understood that they were wrong and still voted to override the veto.

The problem is that damage has been done that no "fix" will cure. Not unlike the Dubai Ports controversy of a decade ago, JASTA has shaken Arab trust in the United States putting at risk business partnerships and national security relationships. I have already heard from Arab businessmen who are saying that they are reconsidering investments in and partnerships with American businesses. This happened after Dubai Ports and it will happen once again in the aftermath of JASTA.

While Members of Congress will argue that they passed JASTA out of concern for the families of the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks, their motives were simply not that pure. More to the point, I suspect that they were motivated by crass opportunism: exploitation of the continued pain of the families of 9/11 victims, the pervasiveness of anti-Arab sentiment (with Saudi Arabia being an especially soft target), and electoral considerations.

In voting to override Obama's veto, Congress ignored the fact that there is no evidence that the government of Saudi Arabia was responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks. As the White House spokesperson made clear after the vote, the US 9/11 Commission Report "concluded that they were not able to find any evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or that any senior Saudi gov-

ernment official were knowingly supportive of the 9/11 plotters."

That being the case and that being known by Members of Congress, one might reasonably ask why they wouldn't have been honest with the families of the victims - and their lawyers who were pressing them to act - and warn them of the dangers and the ultimate disappointment of moving down this path? Was it because they lacked political courage or was it because in an election year they took the more expedient path of passing JASTA?

Here's what might happen now. The tort lawyers who "represent" the families will try to shop around for a friendly jurisdiction in which to file their case. They will hope to make their case before a sympathetic jury, playing on their sympathies, their fears, and their prejudices. Any decision will be appealed and at some level will be overturned. Along the way, both the Saudi government and the families will pay millions in legal fees; more damage will be done to the US-Arab relationship; and, in the end, no one will benefit except the lawyers, themselves. The problem is that the Members of Congress who created this heartbreaking mess for the families, the United States, and the US-Arab relationship will most likely not be held accountable or feel responsible for what they have done.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

CHANGE NOT PART OF TRUMP CHARACTER - OR APPEAL

By Julie Pace

Donald Trump will not change. He may surround himself with new staff and even listen to their advice for a while. He may stick to a scripted, more measured message if it looks to be working. But he'll always be the man who can't let go of a grudge, whether it's with a judge who ruled against him or a military father whose son was killed fighting for the United States overseas.

He'll always be the man who embarrassed a young beauty queen about her weight, then defended his comments two decades later when Hillary Clinton raised them in a debate. And the man who on Friday - just 38 days away from potentially being elected president of the United States - deepened his highly personal criticism of former Miss Universe Alicia Machado in a pre-dawn Twitter tirade. "Did Crooked Hillary help disgusting (check out sex tape and past) Alicia M become a US citizen so she could use her in the debate?" Trump wrote in a message timestamped 5:30 am.

Some voters may applaud Trump's moves. Some may prefer his stubborn refusal to censor himself. Enough voters may ultimately elect him president. But Trump's pattern of abrasive behavior has left him deeply unpopular with many Americans, particularly women and minorities, who hold significant sway in presidential elections. If Trump does win in November, he'll have to figure out a way to lead a country where many people believe he's racist, sexist and uncivil.

Most Republican leaders long ago gave up hope that Trump would make a full-scale pivot into a more palatable politician in the general election. But they've still found ways to rationalize their support for him, to look past his most volatile moments and offensive rhetoric. Some Republicans hinge their hopes on a belief that if Trump is elected president, he'll surround himself with high-quality experts to help guide his decision-making. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Texas Sen Ted Cruz, both of whom have their own designs on the White House, argue a Trump presidency would at least give them a chance of implementing conservative legislation in Congress,

while a Clinton White House would be nothing more than an impenetrable roadblock.

Examples

But Republicans might also worry that Clinton's ability to get under Trump's skin so easily has provided a blueprint that world leaders like Russia's Vladimir Putin could use to rile him as president. And they should have no illusions that the brash businessman can control his belligerent behavior and avoid offending many Americans. Trump's decades in the public eye are littered with examples of long-held grudges with business associates and demeaning comments about women. One of his first moves after clinching the Republican nomination was to start a feud with

US District Court

Judge Gonzalo Curiel, claiming his Mexican heritage made him biased against Trump in a legal case. Trump emerged from the party conventions this summer locked in an ugly fight with Khizr Khan, an American Muslim whose son was killed serving the US Army in Iraq.

The latest controversy came at one of the most critical stages of the campaign - on the debate stage in front of a televised audience of 84 million people and with early voting already underway in some states. Trump struggled in Monday night's debate to fend off Clinton's criticism of comments he made about Machado two decades earlier. When Clinton accused him of calling the former Miss Universe "Miss Piggy," he said, "Where did you find this? Where did you find this?"

Rather than let the matter go, he defended himself the next morning, apparently blind to how offensive his comments seemed. "She gained a massive amount of weight," said Trump, who owned the pageant at the time she won. "It was a real problem. We had a real problem." Surely by week's end, Trump was aware that his criticism of Machado risked damaging his campaign and giving Clinton fresh fodder to argue that he is too thin-skinned to serve as commander in chief. That made his decision to keep the story alive Friday and deepen his denigration of Machado all the more perplexing. "Using Alicia M in the debate as a paragon of virtue just shows that Crooked Hillary suffers from BAD JUDGEMENT! Hillary was set up by a con," Trump wrote in one of three early morning messages about the Venezuelan-born Machado, who is now an American citizen.

Clinton advisers can hardly believe their good fortune as the race barrels toward the finish line. The Democrat has been dragged down by decades of her own baggage and has struggled to persuade voters she is honest and trustworthy. And the race with Trump is far closer than most Clinton supporters expected. But the core of Clinton's case against Trump has always been that the Republican is too hypersensitive to be trusted in the Oval Office. And just over five weeks from Election Day, Trump is giving her more evidence. "When something gets under Donald's thin skin, he lashes out and can't let go," Clinton wrote in her own Twitter message Friday. "This is dangerous for a president." — AP



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NBA - NO 1 DRAFT PICK SIMMONS BREAKS FOOT

NEW YORK: Number one draft pick Ben Simmons faces a delayed start to his NBA career after suffering a broken foot during training with the Philadelphia 76ers, the team confirmed on Friday. The 20-year-old Australian rookie sustained the injury after rolling an ankle during the session at Stockton University in New Jersey. X-rays and an MRI scan revealed a fracture of the fifth metatarsal bone on Simmons' right foot, the Sixers said. "Further medical evaluation and treatment options are being considered at this time and additional updates will be provided when appropriate," a Sixers statement said. Metatarsal fractures are common in the sports world and depending on the severity can take between six to eight weeks to heal. The injury means Simmons is all but certain to miss the start of the Sixers new season, which gets underway against the Oklahoma City Thunder on October 26. Simmons, the first top pick for the Sixers since Allen Iverson in 1996, averaged 19.2 points and 11.8 rebounds in his lone US college season at Louisiana State.—AFP



KUWAITI ATHLETES WIN 5 GOLDS, TWO SILVERS IN MALAYSIA OPEN

KUALA LUMPUR: A contingent of Kuwait athletes has clinched five gold medals and two silvers in the Malaysia Open Athletics Championship, after bagging three golds and two silvers yesterday. Essa Zankawi and Yaqoub Al-Yoha both won gold in the discus throw and 110 meters hurdles events respectively, with the latter administering a new record of 13.83 seconds. Moreover, Majid Al-Zaid snagged the gold medal in the decathlon contest, while Ali Al-Sabagha won silver in the pole vault. Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi feted the athletes for their accomplishments, as he told KUNA that the athletes were well prepared for the championship. Speaking on the support given by the country's leadership, Al-Asousi said it was instrumental to the success of the athletes in international events of such magnitude. Furthermore, Kuwait's Mishary Suror won gold in the shot put contest with a record of 19.54 meters, while his compatriot Khaled Al-Subaie bagged the gold in the triple jump. The championship, which kicked off on Friday, features participation of athletes from 10 Asian nations.—KUNA

INTER'S DE BOER CRACKS WHIP, SLAMS BROZOVIC

MILAN: Inter Milan coach Frank De Boer has warned his players over the use of social media and their lack of professionalism in two shock defeats that have dented their European prospects. Inter, who sit third in Serie A, four points behind champions and leaders Juventus, travel to Roma on Sunday looking to get back to winning ways after a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Bologna last week and another poor showing in Europe. While De Boer slammed Inter's lack of focus on the pitch, Marcelo Brozovic has been slammed for his conduct off it. As Inter were losing 3-1 to Sparta Prague in the Czech capital in the Europa League on Thursday, Croatian midfielder Brozovic was posting pictures of himself and his girlfriend on the social media platform Instagram. Already sidelined due to disciplinary problems, he has been left out of the squad to face Roma on Sunday. "All my players need to realise that social media is important, but can also be dangerous," De Boer said. "They need to know when not to use it, that goes for everyone.—AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco Giants third baseman Gordon Beckham dives in vain for a grounder by Los Angeles Dodgers's Charlie Culberson during the second inning of a baseball game on Friday, Sept 30, 2016.—AP

RED SOX OVERPOWER TORONTO BLUE JAYS

BOSTON: David Ortiz hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 on Friday night. The AL East champion Red Sox snapped a three-game losing streak and stayed a half-game ahead of Cleveland in the race for home-field advantage when their playoff series begins next week. The Blue Jays fell one game behind Baltimore in the wild-card race and are now within range of Detroit and Seattle in the fight for the AL's final post-season berth. With his image moved into the grass in center for the final regular-season series of his career, Ortiz hit his 38th homer of the year - and No 541 of his career - to help Boston rally from a 3-1 deficit with four runs in the seventh. Dustin Pedroia had three hits for Boston, and Brad Ziegler (2-3) picked up the win with one inning of scoreless relief. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 31st save. Devon Travis had three hits, including a pair of doubles, and Jose Bautista homered for Toronto. Joe Biagini (4-3) got the loss.

RANGERS 3, RAYS 1

Yu Darvish looked playoff-ready with a season-high 12 strikeouts in six innings, and Texas clinched home-field advantage throughout the postseason. The Rangers have the tiebreakers over fellow contenders Boston and Cleveland. The AL owns home-field advantage in the World Series thanks to its win in the All-Star Game. Darvish (7-5) allowed one run and three hits. Shin-Soo Choo returned to Texas' lineup after missing 39 games with a fractured left forearm. Choo pulled a single to right in his first plate appearance since Aug. 15 and went 1 for 4. Matt Andriese (8-8) gave up three runs and seven hits, including solo home runs to Carlos Beltran and Rongued Odor.

ORIOLES 8, YANKEES 1

Baltimore's Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 47th home run, and Jonathan Schoop and Adam Jones also went deep in a six-run fifth inning. The Orioles opened a one-game lead over the Blue Jays and remain 1 1/2 games in front of Detroit for the AL's two wild

cards. Two games are left, and the Orioles' magic number for a postseason berth is two. Trumbo and Jones homered off Michael Pineda (6-12), who started with 3 2/3 hitless innings and suddenly became ineffective. Schoop tied his career high with five RBIs. Yovani Gallardo (6-8) won for just the second time in nine starts since Aug 5, allowing two hits, three walks and Mark Teixeira's sacrifice fly in six innings. Eliminated on Thursday, New York rested two regulars and pulled four others by the sixth inning.

METS 5, PHILLIES 1

Jay Bruce homered for the third straight game and drove in three runs, Robert Gsellman threw six sharp innings and the Mets moved closer to securing a wild-card berth. The defending NL champions reduced their magic number to one. The Mets began the night atop the wild-card race, with San Francisco one game back and St Louis two behind. Gsellman (4-2) scattered seven hits and struck out seven. Philadelphia starter Alec Asher (2-1) allowed three runs and five hits in six-plus innings.

CARDINALS 7, PIRATES 0

Carlos Martinez pitched seven sharp innings, Matt Holliday hit an emotional home run and St Louis stayed in the middle of the NL wild-card race. The Cardinals began the day trailing San Francisco by one game for the second wild card. The Giants hosted the Los Angeles Dodgers later Thursday night. Martinez (16-9) gave up five singles, walked one and struck out nine. Holliday, who broke his left thumb when he was hit by a pitch Aug 11, asked the club to activate him Friday to make what could be his farewell appearance in a Cardinals uniform. The Cardinals are not planning to pick up their \$17 million option on his contract for 2017. Holliday received a standing ovation before he pinch-hit in the seventh and responded with his 20th homer, and then came out for a curtain call. Pittsburgh's Tyler Glasnow (0-2) pitched five innings of one-run ball.



SEATTLE: Shortstop Ketel Marte #4 of the Seattle Mariners fields a throw from catcher Mike Zunino #3 of the Seattle Mariners as Marcus Semien #10 of the Oakland Athletics steals second base during the fifth inning of a game at Safeco Field on September 30, 2016.—AFP

TIGERS 6, BRAVES 2

Miguel Cabrera hit two home runs, Ian Kinsler and Justin Upton also connected and Detroit moved up in the playoff race. The Tigers won their third straight and pulled within a half-game of Toronto for the second AL wild card. The regular season is scheduled to end Sunday, but the Tigers might need to play beyond that. They were rained out against Cleveland this week and would have to make up that game if it impacts their playoff chances. Detroit's Daniel Norris (4-2) gave up one run and struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings. The Braves, playing their final series at Turner Field before moving north to the suburbs next year, had won 10 of 11. Matt Wisler (7-13) got the loss.

MARLINS 7, NATIONALS 4

Christian Yelich homered for Miami, and Dee Gordon's infield single in the sixth inning scored the go-ahead run. The game began following a 1 hour, 43 minute rain delay. The series opener came a day after a memorial service in Florida for Jose Fernandez. The Marlins ace died in a boating accident Sunday. Mike Dunn (6-1) got the win and AJ Ramos pitched the ninth for his 40th save. Anthony Rendon and Stephen Drew hit back-to-back home runs for Washington in a four-run fourth. Sammy Solis (2-4) got the loss. Bryce Harper went 0 for 4 with four strikeouts in his return to the Nationals lineup after sitting out the previous four days with a left thumb injury.

CUBS 7, REDS 3

Ben Zobrist homered twice and drove in three runs, helping the Cubs to the win. Jake Buchanan (1-0) pitched five shutout innings as Chicago improved to 14-3 against Cincinnati this season with two games to play. The right-hander allowed two hits in his first start since 2014 with Houston. Anthony Rizzo also drove in two runs for the NL Central champions, who were coming off a rare tie in Pittsburgh due to rain. Joey Votto hit a two-run homer in the ninth for last-place Cincinnati, which announced before the game that manager Bryan Price would return next season. Josh Smith (3-3) was charged with two runs and three hits in five-plus innings.

WHITE SOX 7, TWINS 3

Carlos Rodon tied an AL record by striking out the first seven batters and Tim Anderson had three hits to help the White Sox hand the Twins their 103rd loss - the most since the franchise moved to Minnesota. Rodon (9-10) finished with 10 strikeouts in six innings and was charged with three runs and three hits. Anderson also drove in two runs in Chicago's sixth win in seven games. Tyler Duffey (9-12) gave up five runs in two-plus innings to ensure Minnesota won't have a 10 game winner while reaching the most losses since the Washington Senators went 50-104 in 1949. The 57-103 Twins have two games left.

INDIANS 7, ROYALS 2

Ryan Merritt retired his final 13 batters while pitching five strong innings in his first big league start and Francisco Lindor hit a three-run homer for Cleveland. Merritt (1-0) gave up a run on three hits in the first, but nothing after that. Merritt, who had made three relief appearances after being promoted Sept. 11 from Triple-A Columbus, threw 62 pitches, striking out four and walking none. Lindor, who snapped an 0-for-29 drought with

MLB Results/Standings

Results from the MLB games on Friday: Baltimore 8, NY Yankees 1; Miami 7, Washington 4; NY Mets 5, Philadelphia 1; Chicago Cubs 7, Cincinnati 3; Boston 5, Toronto 3; Detroit 6, Atlanta 2; Texas 3, Tampa Bay 1; Colorado 4, Milwaukee 1; Chicago White Sox 7, Minnesota 3; Cleveland 7, Kansas City 2; St. Louis 7, Pittsburgh 0; Arizona 5, San Diego 3; LA Angels 7, Houston 1; Seattle 5, Oakland 1; San Francisco 9, LA Dodgers 3.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				NATIONAL LEAGUE			
EASTERN DIVISION				EASTERN DIVISION			
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	93	67	.581	Washington	93	67	.581
Baltimore	88	72	.550	NY Mets	86	74	.538
Toronto	87	73	.544	Miami	79	80	.497 13 1/2
NY Yankees	83	77	.519	Philadelphia	70	90	.438 23
Tampa Bay	66	94	.413	Atlanta	66	93	.415 26 1/2
CENTRAL DIVISION				CENTRAL DIVISION			
Cleveland	92	67	.579	Chicago Cubs	102	57	.642
Detroit	86	73	.541	St. Louis	84	76	.525 18 1/2
Kansas City	81	79	.506 11 1/2	Pittsburgh	78	81	.491 24
Chicago White Sox	78	82	.488 14 1/2	Milwaukee	71	89	.444 31 1/2
Minnesota	57	103	.356 35 1/2	Cincinnati	67	93	.419 35 1/2
WESTERN DIVISION				WESTERN DIVISION			
Texas	95	65	.594	LA Dodgers	91	69	.569
Seattle	86	74	.538	San Francisco	85	75	.531 6
Houston	83	77	.519	Colorado	75	85	.469 16
LA Angels	73	87	.456	San Diego	68	92	.425 23
Oakland	67	93	.419	Arizona	67	93	.419 24

a double in a four-run third, homered off the left-field foul pole in the seventh. Kansas City's Yordano Ventura (11-12) gave up four runs and six hits in six innings.

ROCKIES 4, BREWERS 1

Nolan Arenado hit his NL-leading 41st homer for Colorado, and Chad Bettis pitched effectively into the seventh inning. Bettis (14-8) allowed one run and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings while extending a career high in wins this season. He struck out five in the Rockies' first win in four games against Milwaukee this season. Carlos Estevez got four outs before Adam Ottavino worked the ninth for his seventh save. Chris Carter connected in the fourth inning, becoming the sixth player in Brewers history to reach 40 home runs in a season. Brent Suter (2-2) got the loss.

GIANTS 9, DODGERS 3

Madison Bumgarner lined a key two-run double in the sixth and emphatically pumped his arms while yelling in celebration at second base, and San Francisco maintained its slim lead for the second NL wild card. Brandon Belt added a three-run homer in the seven-run inning and Bumgarner (15-9) beat the Dodgers for the first time in seven starts since May 21, 2015. It was win No 100 of his career. The Mets stayed one game ahead of the Giants for the top wild card, while San Francisco remained a game up on St Louis for the second spot. Angel Pagan might have made the play of the night - without his glove or bat. He body-slammed a male fan in the left field grass during the fourth inning after he ran onto the field. Once Rich Hill left the game, San Francisco pounced against Brandon McCarthy (2-3).

ANGELS 7, ASTROS 1

Jeffrey Marte homered and scored twice and Daniel Wright earned his first major league victory to help the Angels beat Houston. In Wright's ninth big league appearance, he limited the Astros to one run and six hits while striking out five. Wright (1-5), who was claimed off waivers from the Cincinnati Reds on Sept. 4, became the 24th pitcher to get a win for the Angels this season, setting an American

League record. The Texas Rangers previously held the record with 23 winning pitchers in 2014. Mike Trout set a club record with his 114th walk of the season, breaking Tony Phillips' previous Angels record set in 1995. Trout stole two bases, bringing his season total to 29. The Angels broke the game open with a four-run second inning. Brad Peacock (0-1) loaded the bases with no outs for Kaleb Cowart, who doubled to empty them. Kowart took third on the throw, allowing him to score while Ji-Man Choi was caught in a rundown two batters later.

MARINERS 5, ATHLETICS 1

Robinson Cano hit two home runs, Taijuan Walker pitched six effective innings and Seattle moved within one game of the second AL wild-card spot. Seattle, which has won seven of nine, is one game behind Toronto for the second spot. The Mariners also trail Detroit by a half-game. Cano had a two-run homer in the first. He added his 38th home run in the third, a solo shot that gave him 100 RBIs for the season. Norichika Aoki and Nelson Cruz also homered off Raul Alcantara (1-3), who was tagged for five runs on seven hits in two-plus innings. Walker (8-11) allowed one run on two hits in six innings, but walked five in a 113-pitch outing. The only run came on Ryon Healy's 13th homer to open the sixth. Evan Scribner, Nick Vincent and Steve Cishek each pitched a scoreless inning of relief.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, PADRES 3

Paul Goldschmidt and Chris Owings each hit a two-run home run and Arizona opened its final series of a disappointing season with a win. Ryan Schimpf hit a two-run home run for San Diego. Randall Delgado (5-2) pitched an inning of relief to get the victory. Patrick Corbin threw 2 2/3 innings of scoreless relief before Daniel Hudson came on to get Wil Myers to pop out to first for his fifth save. Edwin Jackson (5-7) gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings to take the loss. The crowd for the matchup between the bottom two teams in the NL West was announced at 42,651, the second-largest of the season at home for the Diamondbacks. Only the season opener drew more.—AP

KUMAR FLOORS NEW ZEALAND WITH FIVE-WICKET HAUL

KOLKATA: Indian fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar said he was in dreamland yesterday after his debut five-wicket haul at home left New Zealand tottering at 128 for seven on day two of the second Test in Kolkata. At stumps after a rain-hit day's play at Eden Gardens, the Black Caps were still trailing India, who posted 316 in their first innings, by 188 runs with BJ Watling on 12 and Jeetan Patel on 5 battling to survive.

Getting good support from new-ball partner Mohammed Shami, who struck first with the wicket of opener Tom Latham, Kumar made life difficult for the visiting batsmen. The 26-year-old Kumar recorded his fourth five-wicket haul in 15th Test, but it was also his first on home soil. "It was one of my dreams to take five wickets in India. When I saw that the wicket would help me, I told myself I want to take five wickets," Kumar told India's Star Sports television network. "In India you rarely get this kind of wicket (that helps the pacers), so I wanted to make full use of it, I really wanted to make use of the opportunity and I'm very happy with how I bowled."

Martin Gupthill, who is in the middle of a woeful run of form, was bowled for 13 by a beautiful Kumar delivery that left the batsman in two minds. Stand-in-skipper Ross Taylor (36) and Luke Ronchi (35) managed 62 runs for the fourth wicket to put up some resistance but Ravindra Jadeja had other ideas. Left-arm spinner Jadeja broke through Ronchi's defences after trapping the batsman lbw, although television replays suggested that the ball may have missed the leg stump. Ronchi failed to capitalise on a reprieve when he was on 16 when substitute fielder Gautam Gambhir dropped the ball at point off Shami.

A nearly two-and-a-half hour rain interruption, which forced an early tea, did not change New Zealand's fortunes as the visitors lost three wickets in the final session. "It's important that we get those three

wickets early tomorrow morning and it would be nice if we do better in the second innings," India's wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha, who notched a half century earlier in the day, told reporters after stumps. Kumar got Taylor caught at first slip on another one of his deliveries that had the right line and length.

Missed hat-trick

Kumar wreaked havoc in the 33rd over the innings to pick up two wickets—Mitchell Santner and Matt Henry—off consecutive deliveries only to miss out on a hat-trick. Watling and Patel then played through the final few overs of the day under murky conditions before umpires called bad light. Earlier the hosts, who started the day on 239 for seven, were bolstered by Saha's unbeaten 54, which included 7 fours and 2 sixes.

Saha and Jadeja, who scored 14, put on 41 runs for the eighth wicket to add some useful runs to the team's first innings score. "They are making runs at the end of the innings, which had made a difference. Today they were 240 overnight and then they made 300 and whatever, that's a big chunk of runs from the last three wickets," said Ronchi. "That is something we have to improve on to stay in this Test, or in this series even, going forward."

"Hopefully tomorrow we can do the same thing with our tail, make some runs and they'll be very valuable runs in the situation we are in." Saha, who registered his third Test fifty in 17 matches, looked in fine form but ran out of partners at the other end. New Zealand recalled pacer Henry claimed three wickets while Trent Boult, Neil Wagner and Jeetan Patel took two each. "A lot of us were quite surprised when we saw the grass on the wicket... People are surprised the seam bowlers have taken as many wickets as they have, from both sides," said Ronchi. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA: Scoreboard at stumps on day two of the second Test India against New Zealand in Kolkata yesterday: **India 1st innings** (overnight 239/7; W. Saha 14 not out, R. Jadeja 0 not out)

India 1st Innings	New Zealand 1st Innings
S. Dhawan b Henry 1	T. Latham lbw b Shami 1
M. Vijay c Watling b Henry 9	H. Nicholls b Kumar 1
C. Pujara c Gupthill b Wagner 87	R. Taylor c Vijay b Kumar 36
V. Kohli c Latham b Boult 9	L. Ronchi lbw b Jadeja 35
A. Rahane lbw b Patel 77	M. Santner lbw b Kumar 11
R. Sharma c Latham b Patel 2	BJ. Watling not out 12
R. Ashwin lbw b Henry 26	M. Henry b Kumar 0
W. Saha not out 54	Jeetan Patel not out 5
R. Jadeja c Henry b Wagner 14	Extras (b 5, lb 4, w 5) 14
B. Kumar lbw b Santner 5	Total (7 wickets; 34 overs) 128
M. Shami c Henry b Boult 14	Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Latham), 2-18 (Gupthill), 3-23 (Nicholls), 4-85 (Ronchi), 5-104 (Taylor), 6-122 (Santner), 7-122 (Henry)
Extras (b 8, lb 10) 18	Bowling: Kumar 10-0-33-5, Shami 11-0-46-1, Jadeja 8-3-17-1, Ashwin 5-2-23-0
Total (all out; 104.5 overs) 316	To bat: N. Wagner, T. Boult
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Dhawan), 2-28 (Vijay), 3-46 (Kohli), 4-187 (Pujara), 5-193 (Sharma), 6-200 (Rahane), 7-231 (Ashwin), 8-272 (Jadeja), 9-281 (Kumar), 10-316 (Shami)	Toss: India
Bowling: Boult 20.5-9-46-2, Henry 20-6-46-3, Wagner 20-5-57-2, Santner 23-5-83-1, Patel 21-3-66-2	Umpires: Richard Kettleborough (ENG) and Rod Tucker (AUS)
New Zealand 1st innings	TV umpire: CK Nandan (IND)
M. Gupthill b Kumar 13	Match referee: David Boon (AUS)
	Reserve umpire: Nitin Menon (IND)



KOLKATA: India's Mohammed Shami (right) fails to field a ball on the second day of the second cricket test match against New Zealand, in Kolkata yesterday.— AP

BOXING - SCOTTISH BOXER TOWELL DIES AFTER FIGHT

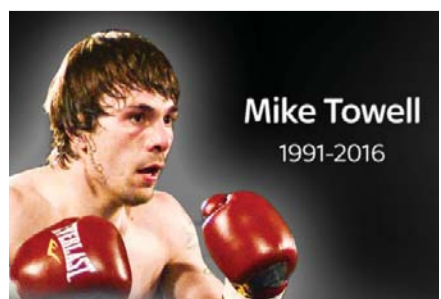
LONDON: Scottish boxer Mike Towell died in hospital after being seriously hurt in a fight, his management company confirmed yesterday. The 25-year-old Dundee fighter was stretchered from the ring following a fifth-round loss to Welshman Dale Evans in a St Andrews Sporting Club fight at a Glasgow hotel on Thursday. He was taken by ambulance to the city's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, but in the early hours of yesterday his management team said he had died with his family at his bedside.

"Within the last hour Mike Towell passed away—he will always be in our hearts #RIPronMike," St Andrews Sporting Club said on Twitter. Towell's partner, Chloe Ross, wrote on Facebook: "I'm absolutely heartbroken to say my annoying best friend passed away tonight at 11.02 very peacefully." Boxing trainer Shane McGuigan tweeted: "Heartbreaking news that Mike Towell has lost his life. May he rest in peace, thoughts go out to his loved ones."

British promoter Eddie Hearn said: "Absolutely devastated by the passing of Mike Towell—all of our thoughts with his friends and family at this time." Towell was knocked down twice in the fight before referee Victor Loughlin stopped the bout in the fifth round. Towell had been unbeaten prior to the fight, a British welterweight title eliminator, with 11 wins and one draw

on his professional record. Ross, the mother of Towell's son, Rocco, said he had been "complaining of headaches for the last few weeks".

But a spokesman for St Andrews said nobody in Towell's management team was aware of any headache problems prior to the fight. Loughlin had also been in charge of March's British middleweight title fight between Chris Eubank and Nick Blackwell, who had to retire after suffering a bleed on the skull during the bout. British brain injury charity Headway called for boxing to be banned in the wake of Towell's death. "We are deeply saddened to hear of this tragic loss of life," said Headway chief executive Peter McCabe in a statement. "Quite rightly, the focus at this time should be on supporting the family. But the question remains: how many more lives have to be damaged or lost before this senseless sport is banned?" —AFP



DHAKA: Bangladesh's players pose with the trophy after winning their series against Afghanistan in Dhaka, Bangladesh yesterday.— AP

BANGLADESH CRUSH AFGHANISTAN

DHAKA: Opener Tamim Iqbal smashed a brilliant century as Bangladesh crushed Afghanistan by 141 runs in the third one-day international (ODI) to clinch the three-match series 2-1 in Dhaka yesterday. Tamim helped Bangladesh reach 279-8 with 118 in as many balls, his seventh ODI century — the highest for his country — before the home side dismissed Afghanistan for 138 runs in 33.5 overs in a lopsided contest at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain grabbed 3-24 runs playing his first match in more than eight years while paceman Taskin Ahmed chipped in with 2-31. This was Bangladesh's sixth consecutive series victory in ODIs. The winning streak started in November 2014 when they blanked Zimbabwe 5-0 at home. The purple patch also included three series wins against much fancied Pakistan, India and South Africa. During the period, Bangladesh also reached the World Cup quarter-finals in Australia-New Zealand last year.

The victory in the third ODI was not assured until Bangladesh, who elected to bat first, got a commanding total for the first time in the series, which was otherwise dominated by Afghanistan. Tamim made the most of a dropped catch early in his innings to give Bangladesh the kind of platform they were looking for, but an unexpected collapse in the middle-order denied them a bigger total. Afghanistan skipper Asghar Stanikzai missed an easy catch when Tamim had just opened his account and the left-hander never looked back, completing his century with a single off Dawlat Zadran.

Substitute fielder Naveen-ul-Haq took the catch at long-off off Mohammad Nabi to end the onslaught of Tamim, who hit 11 fours and two sixes. Tamim got very good support from one down Sabbir Rahman, who scored his career best 65 off 79 balls and put 140 runs for the third wicket with the left-hander after the early dismissal of opener Soumya Sarkar (11). "I should have got it in the first game. I got it in the third ODI and I'm happy," said man-of-the-match Tamim, who scored 80 in the first match. "It wasn't the easiest wicket to bat on. I thought the ball

SCOREBOARD

DHAKA: Scoreboard of the third one-day international between Bangladesh and Afghanistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday:

Bangladesh	Hashmatullah Shahidi c Tamim b Mosharraf	0
Tamim Iqbal c Sub b Nabi 118	Asghar Stanikzai run out	1
Soumya Sarkar c Shahzad b Ashraf 11	Samiullah Shinwari c Rahim b Taskin	13
Sabbir Rahman c Mangal b Shah 65	Mohammad Nabi c and b Mosharraf	3
Shakib Al Hasan c Shahzad b Dawlat 17	Najibullah Zadran c Sabbir b Mosaddek	26
Mushfiqur Rahim lbw b Rashid 12	Rashid Khan run out	17
Mahmudullah not out 32	Mirwais Ashraf not out	4
Mosaddek st Shahzad b Rashid 4	Dawlat Zadran c and b Shafiqul	0
Mosharraf Hossain c Najibullah b Nabi 4	Extras (b1, w4)	5
Mashrafe Mortaza c Mangal b Ashraf 2	Total (all out; 33.5 overs)	138
Shafiqul Islam not out 2	Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Shahzad), 2-52 (Mangal), 3-52 (Hashmatullah), 4-55 (Stanikzai), 5-83 (Samiullah), 6-88 (Rahmat), 7-89 (Nabi), 8-132 (Rashid), 9-132 (Najibullah), 10-138 (Dawlat)	
Total (eight wickets, 50 overs) 279	Bowling: Mortaza 6-2-15-1 (w1), Shafiqul 5.5-0-28-1 (w1), Shakib 6-0-34-0, Mosharraf 8-1-24-3, Taskin 7-0-31-2 (w1), Mosaddek 1-0-5-1 (w1)	
Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Soumya), 2-163 (Sabbir), 3-212 (Tamim), 4-226 (Shakib), 5-230 (Rahim), 6-235 (Mosaddek), 7-248 (Mosharraf), 8-270 (Mortaza)	Result: Bangladesh won by 141 runs Series result: Bangladesh won series 2-1	
Did not bat: Taskin Ahmed	Man of the match: Tamim Iqbal	
Bowling: Nabi 10-1-41-1 (w1), Dawlat 10-0-58-1 (nb2, w4), Ashraf 8-0-43-2, Shinwari 3-0-28-0, Rashid 10-0-39-2 (w1), Shah 8-0-59-1 (w2), Mangal 1-0-9-0	Toss: Bangladesh	
	Umpires: Shamshuddin Chettithody (IND) and Sharfuddoula Saikat (BAN)	
Afghanistan	TV Umpire: Masudur Rahman (BAN)	
Mohammad Shahzad b Mortaza 0	Match Referee: Richie Richardson (WI)	
Nawroz Mangal lbw b Mosharraf 33		
Rahmat Shah c Sub b Taskin 36		

was spinning a bit early on.

The wicket was hard and dry. I took my time and finally got a hundred," he said. Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Moratza said the series win will give his team the desired confidence in the upcoming matches against England who arrived here on Friday. "A lot of important series are coming up. Hopefully the boys can keep it up. I think that's a sign of improvement," he said. Bangladesh looked on course to score well excess of 300 runs when Tamim and Sabbir were batting but dramatically they lost their way, something that has typified their batting throughout the series.

Leg-spinner Rashid Khan stopped the run flow, along with Nabi, with two crucial wickets and finished with 2-39. Medium pacer Mirwais Ashraf also played his part with two wickets for 43 runs. Mahmudullah staged a late recovery for Bangladesh with an unbeaten 32 from 22 balls. Afghanistan captain Stanikzai blamed their bowling for the loss. "We played the first two games, according to the plan. Today, especially the bowlers didn't bowl according to the plan, which is why they made 279 runs on this wicket," he said. Bangladesh will now host England in three-match ODI series starting on October 7.—AFP

LYNX BEAT MERCURY

ST PAUL: Maya Moore scored 26 points and the defending WNBA champion Minnesota Lynx beat the Phoenix Mercury 96-86 on Friday night to take a 2-0 lead in the semifinal series. Lindsay Whalen scored 12 of her 16 points in the fourth quarter for Minnesota, playing at the Xcel Energy Center — home of the NHL's Minnesota Wild — for the second straight game because of a scheduling conflict at the Target Center in Minneapolis. Rebekkah Brunson added 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Sylvia Fowles had 14 points and nine rebounds for the top-seeded Lynx. Earlier Friday, Fowles was honored as the league's defensive player of the year and Cheryl Reeve as the coach of the year. Diana Taurasi had 31 points for the eighth-seeded Mercury. Penny Taylor added 16.

SPARKS 99, SKY 84

Candace Parker had 20 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists to help the Los Angeles rout Chicago for a 2-0 series lead. League sixth woman of the year Jantel Lavender added 20 points, league MVP Nneka Ogwumike had 18, and Kristi Toliver 17 in the Sparks' return to their home court at Staples Center. They won Game 1 by 20 points in Long Beach on Wednesday night. Reserve Clarissa Dos Santos scored 15 points and Jamierra Faulkner added 14 for the Sky. Elena Delle Donne watched in street clothes again because of a right thumb injury. She shared the league scoring title with New York's Tina Charles, averaging 21.5 points.—AP



TEXAS: Minnesota Lynx's Sylvia Fowles (34) and Dallas Wings' Plenette Pierson (22) chase after the ball in the first half of a WNBA basketball game in this file photo. Fowles was selected as the WNBA's defensive player of the year, the league announced on Friday, Sept. 30, 2016.— AP

POLISH RUNNER WINS WORLD'S TOUGHEST RACE - SPARTATHLON

SPARTI: Polish runner Andrzej Radzikowski won the 245.3km historic Spartathlon race yesterday for the first time, clocking 23 hours, 1 minute and 13 seconds. Radzikowski, 35, was 18th last year and two years ago finished third. Finishing second was Italy's 39-year-old Marco Bonfiglio in 23:35.14 while 42-year-old Radek Brunner of the Czech Republic was third in 24:06:39. The first woman across the line and fourth overall for the second year in a row was 37-year-old American Katalyn Nagy in 25:22:26. The race traces the classical

route of Pheidippides, an Athenian messenger sent to Sparta in 490 BC to seek help against the Persians in the Battle of Marathon. The Spartathlon is one of the world's most difficult races, run over rough tracks, crossing vineyards and olive groves, steep hillsides and, most challenging of all, the 1,200m ascent and descent of Mount Parthenion in the dead of night. The 34th edition of the race started at the Acropolis in Athens on Friday with 392 runners from 37 countries, and ended in the southern Greek town of Sparta.—AFP

KVITOVA ENDS TITLE DROUGHT WITH WUHAN WIN

WUHAN: Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova ended her 13-month title drought with a straight set win over Dominika Cibulkova at the Wuhan Open yesterday. The former world number two appeared to be in a hurry to secure the crown her second in Wuhan-taking just over an hour to defeat Cibulkova 6-1, 6-1. Kvitova has had a year of stark highs and lows-scooping an Olympic bronze medal but failing to get further than the round of 16 at any of the Grand Slams. "I need this kind of consistency all year, which to be honest, I don't think I can really do that. I'm probably the player who has up and downs," Kvitova told reporters after the final.

"I'm happy that my ups, they are really high, which I love of course. The downs are very low, but that's how it is." The year began with a split from coach of seven years David Kotyza and she has since taken an unconventional approach to her game and paired back her time on the practice court.

"I just reduced the practices and I feel a little bit better, more in love with the tennis or something," she said. "I mean,

without the practicing, it's not possible. But I really need to find a balance, to have some time off to enjoy a day."

After the run of early round exits at the start of the year, she appears to have turned the tide in China and the Wuhan title will see her move to 11th in the rankings when next week's leaderboard is released on Monday. She also has an outside chance of qualifying for her fifth consecutive WTA Final in Singapore. Cibulkova, meanwhile, is assured of a new career-high ranking on Monday - rising to number eight. She also now sits at number seven on the Road to Singapore leaderboard but needs a strong run in Beijing next week to guarantee her first ever qualification in the elite eight-player event. "I'm not thinking about Singapore that much because that would be a dream come true if I would get there," said Cibulkova. "I don't want to make too much pressure on myself."

'Power player'

Wuhan was the fifth final of the season for the newly wed Slovak who also

reached the quarter finals of Wimbledon, saving a match point in a three set thriller against fourth-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska, and won two titles this year. It marks an impressive comeback after surgery on her left Achilles tendon forced her off the court for four months in 2015. After a three-and-a-half-hour epic against new world number one Angelique Kerber in the third round, Kvitova has looked untouchable on court-hitting 143 winners in four matches. "She was really powerful from the first strokes. That's how she overpowered me today," Cibulkova told reporters after the match. "When she's playing like this, she can beat anybody."

The first point of the final went to Cibulkova but Kvitova then dominated for the next three games until the Czech double faulted to concede the fourth. The Olympic bronze medalist bagged the first set on an ace-her seventh of the match. Kvitova was two points up in the second when Cibulkova held her service game to take the score to 2-1. But the six-foot Czech towered over her 5'3" opponent for the rest of the match,



WUHAN: Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic hits a return to Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during the final of the WTA Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei province yesterday. — AFP

breaking her serve to snatch the title on the first match point. "I think I always knew that I'm kind of the power player on the tour. But it's always tough for me to find the balance between the power

and (not missing) some easy shots," Kvitova said. Both Kvitova and Cibulkova now travel to Beijing for the China Open where they have first round byes.—AFP

CHINA'S QIAO ADVANCES TO FINAL AT KOREA OPEN

SEOUL: China's Qiao Bin yesterday survived a stiff test from Hong Kong's Wong Wing-Ki to advance to the men's singles final at the Badminton World Federation Korea Open. Qiao defeated Wong 21-18, 21-16 as the Hongkonger, who survived a long quarter-final the previous day, couldn't quite dig deep enough. "He was quicker than me today," said Wong. "I think my long quarter-final against Tian Houwei yesterday made me slightly slower."

Qiao will clash with South Korea's Son Wan-Ho, who defeated compatriot Lee Hyun-Il 21-13, 14-21, 21-10 to secure a berth at the final. In the women's tournament, South Korea's Sung Ji-Hyun made her second straight Korea Open final by routing younger teammate Kim Hyo Min 21-5, 21-10. Sung will meet with Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, who brushed aside compatriot Minatsu Mitani, 21-17, 21-11. Men's Doubles

great Lee Yong-Dae and partner Yoo Yeon-Seong of South Korea overcame China's Wang Yilyu/Huang Kaixiang 21-11, 21-16. The Korean couple will face Li Junhui/Liu Yuchen, who made their second Superseries final in two weeks. The Chinese-champions at last week's Yonex Open Japan-took their time to get going against Malaysia's Goh V Shem/Tan Wee Kiong, but shot ahead in the end, 18-21, 21-15, 21-13. China's Luo Ying and Luo Yu ruined Olympic Women's doubles silver medalists Christinna Pedersen/Kamilla Rytter Juhl's quest for a second straight Superseries title. The Luos made their first Superseries final this year with the 21-15, 17-21, 21-12 result. The twins will now take on Olympic bronze medalists Jung Kyung-Eun/Shin Seung-Chan of South Korea, who overpowered compatriots Chang Ye-Na/Lee So-Hee 23-21, 21-15 in an earlier semi-final.—AFP

IN IRELAND, GAELIC FOOTBALL IS THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN

DUBLIN: The biggest crowd in Europe will not be watching detached professionals kissing the badge of their latest football team, but at the All-Ireland Gaelic football final. Two amateur teams, Dublin and Mayo, will attempt to win the coveted All-Ireland trophy for Gaelic football in a replay following a rare draw two weeks ago. Every year players from 32 counties across the island of Ireland, plus teams of emigrants in London and New York, compete for the GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) Sam McGuire Cup.

Yesterday evening, fans from all over the globe crammed into Dublin's 82,300-capacity Croke Park, some having paid many multiples of the 60 euros (\$67) ticket price. "The All-Ireland final will beat any World Cup final or European final, trust me," says former Manchester United and Ireland football captain Roy Keane. "It's about local pride, that's what GAA is-people representing their parishes and the streets where they grew up."

"Gaelic football in Ireland is different. They don't move clubs when they get fed up. They represent the people they're brought up with." Ireland's national sport mixes the pace, power and skill-sets of football, rugby and basketball. Encounters are typically bruising affairs where fouls can be difficult to define. It is not a sport for the faint of heart. The pitch is similar to a rugby union pitch, but larger, while the goals at each end are H-shaped with football-style goal nets extending behind them.

The scoring is relatively simple: three points for a goal and one if the ball, which is like a standard football only slightly smaller, is kicked or punched over the bar and between the posts. Dublin, last year's winners, are the hot favorites. Mayo, a county on the western seaboard, have come close five times in recent years, but have not lifted the trophy since 1951. It is the first replay in 16 years and will be worth more than three million euros to GAA coffers. Last time out, Mayo snatched a draw deep in additional time, but many analysts believe they deserved to win, prompting much discussion of 'the curse' that supposedly hangs over the county.

'Here to witness history'

The story goes that the last time Mayo won the trophy in 1951 they failed to pay their respects while passing a funeral as they passed through the county on a victorious homecoming journey. As a result, a priest apparently warned that Mayo would never win another All-Ireland until all of them had died. Two of that team are still alive. Speculation that tickets might be easier to come by second time round turned out to be wishful thinking. Fans of both counties dressed in the blue of Dublin and red and green of Mayo thronged the streets and bars of Dublin from early Saturday morning, many scouting for spare tickets. Sipping a pre-match pint of Guinness at the Big Tree pub near Croke Park, Sean Duffy, 51, from the little village of Louisburgh in Mayo, told AFP he would likely "endure more than enjoy" the match. "I'm here to witness history," he said. "Many a man hasn't lived long enough to see this day so I have to be here in case we do it today." Few stadiums wear their heart on their sleeves quite like Croke Park, the stands of which are named after Irish patriots. It was the scene of what became known as Bloody Sunday, when British troops drove into the stadium during a match in 1920 and massacred 14 people in response to shootings by the IRA (Irish Republican Army). One terrace, Hill 16, was built from the rubble of the 1916 Easter Rising, the catalyst for independence from Britain. The country will again come to a standstill on Saturday evening: almost one million people watched the last match, 70 percent of the Irish viewing public.

Generations of expats will join them in some of the furthest flung corners of the world. Paul Gorman, 50, a banking official from Dublin, says he would not grudge Mayo the win, but points out that Dublin have not managed back-to-back championship wins since the mid-1970s. As a returned emigrant from England, he says he relishes every opportunity to support his team in a final. "I used to have to watch from afar because of work commitments while I was away, so I wouldn't miss this for the world now that I'm home," he says. "There is simply no better place to be."—AFP



CHASKA: Rory McIlroy of Europe hits out of a bunker on the 12th hole during morning foursome matches of the 2016 Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National Golf Club yesterday in Chaska, Minnesota. —AFP

EMOTIONAL MCILROY LEADS EUROPE CHARGE BUT US LEADS RYDER CUP

CHASKA: An emotional Rory McIlroy led Europe's morning charge yesterday on day two of the Ryder Cup even as the United States clung to a 5-3 lead at Hazeltine. Third-ranked McIlroy and Belgium's Thomas Pieters went off first for Europe against Americans Phil Mickelson and Rickie Fowler in morning alternate shot foursomes matches, Pieters first facing the crucible of 1,500 screaming spectators just after dawn at the first tee and putting his tee shot into the fairway. "We're not going down without a fight," McIlroy said. Americans swept Friday foursomes 4-0, their best start since 1975, only for Europe to go 3-1 in afternoon four-ball matches to close the gap and seize momentum. "We're still behind on the cards in boxing terms," McIlroy said. "We got hit by some pretty good punches out there, but we came back at them pretty well. Still a little bit to do, but momentum has definitely switched to our side."

"We've pulled it back a good bit, and we plan to pull it back even further." The US squad is trying to snap a three-Cup losing streak to Europe, which has dominated by taking the trophy in eight of the past 10 editions of the biennial team golf matches, including the 2012 Miracle at Medinah when Europe made the greatest last-day rally in Cup history to keep the trophy. McIlroy's vigorous yells of "Come on," during his 3-and-2 victory Friday with Pieters in four-ball over US Open champion Dustin Johnson and Matt Kuchar, were followed by bows to the crowd, one he saw as quite hostile, after an eagle putt at the par-5 16th hole closed out the match.

"I did that little celebration at Medinah and it's one I'll continue to do because it's a hostile environment out here and I want them to know how much it means to us," McIlroy said. "And sort of silence them and say, 'You're welcome.' It's nice to do that sometimes." McIlroy, coming off a title at the US PGA's season-ending Tour Championship last weekend, is 3-0 in winning the Cup and hopes his victory dance inspires teammates as well. "I wanted to put an exclamation point on that session for us," McIlroy said. "I honestly actually thought about the celebration before I hit the putt."

Europe captain Darren Clarke broke up his star pairing of Olympic champion Justin Rose and British Open champion Henrik Stenson-who went 1-1 Friday against Jordan Spieth and Patrick Reed-to pair them with newcomers in yesterday foursomes. England's Rose will join countryman Chris Wood against PGA Championship winner Jimmy Walker and two-time major champion Zach Johnson, who won in foursomes Friday. Stenson and England's Matthew Fitzpatrick, the youngest player in the event at 22, come up against Brandt Snedeker and Brooks Koepka.

Spanish duo echo Seve-Jose

The last morning match sees Spieth and Reed facing Spaniards Sergio Garcia and Rafa Cabrera Bello, who teamed to win Friday in four-balls. It was Garcia's 16th tandem triumph and Cabrera

Bello's Ryder Cup debut. "This is very special for us," Garcia said. "He was a rock out there and he gave me so much confidence to go for shots." Cabrera Bello was honored to debut alongside Garcia, mindful of the past Ryder Cup super pairings of compatriots Seve Ballesteros and Jose-Maria Olazabal. "Having my Ryder Cup debut

with a good friend and a countryman was extremely special," he said. Competition continues with four afternoon four-ball matches and concludes today with 12 singles matches. Europe need 14 points to keep the Cup while the US team needs 14 1/2 points to take the trophy.—AFP

NHL 2016-17: ODDS STACKED AGAINST PENGUINS REPEATING

PITTSBURGH: After the Penguins paraded the Stanley Cup through the streets of Pittsburgh, Sidney Crosby took it to his hometown of Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, Evgeni Malkin to Moscow and Phil Kessel to a children's hospital in Toronto as part of the summer-long celebration. If there's one thing champions in the NHL have learned, it is to savor those moments because history says they won't happen back-to-back. No team has repeated as Cup champion since the salary-cap era began in 2005, and the last back-to-back winners were the Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and 1998. Sorry, Penguins. And sorry to the San Jose Sharks, as no team in the past eight seasons has lost in the final and gotten back the next year.

The Chicago Blackhawks and Los Angeles Kings are rested from an unusually short spring, the Tampa Bay Lightning boast the deepest team in the league and the Washington Capitals are virtually unchanged after dominating the regular season. All those things, plus playing into June, stack the odds against the Penguins raising the Cup again in 2017. "You're coming off such a high, it's going to be tough to get to that (level) right away," Pittsburgh defenseman Trevor Daley said. "How you become a great team in this league is you have the hunger every night. Teams that are proven winners are usually the great teams, the LAs and Chicagos. Pittsburgh is right up there now in that conversation. We're hungry to do it again."

Because they have two top goalies in Matt Murray and Marc-Andre Fleury, the Penguins are perhaps the best positioned team to repeat in recent history. That doesn't mean it'll be easy. Online sportsbook Bovada set the Penguins and Blackhawks as co-Cup favorites with the Capitals, Lightning, Dallas Stars, St. Louis Blues and Sharks not far behind. It wouldn't be a surprise if any of those teams make it through a World Cup of Hockey-condensed regular season and a grueling division playoff format and get to celebrate in June.

"The parity in the league allows for a lot of teams to have the same goal and actually legitimately have a chance at it," said Washington winger Justin Williams, who won the Cup with Carolina in 2006 and Los Angeles in 2012 and 2014. "There's a handful of teams that have those aspirations and they're real." Rather than parity, Commissioner Gary Bettman prefers the term "competitive balance," which speaks not only to the lack of repeat champions and the

death of NHL dynasties but the variance in playoff teams. Of the 30 teams, 24 have made the playoffs at least once over the past three seasons. "Unless you're (cheering for) the team in the dynasty market, you could care less," Bettman said. "All you care about is that your team is competitive." Competition isn't the problem. It's so high that playoff teams can't miss a beat or fear they'll drop out. The Florida Panthers look like a team just beginning a run of playoff appearances with young stars like Aaron Ekblad and Aleksander Barkov, but president of hockey operations Dale Tallon knows it'll come down to breaks and injuries because "it's going to be a battle to return to the playoffs."

It's a battle because the top teams haven't lost much. The Penguins made a few tweaks and will be without Cup-winner Murray to start the season, but they can turn to 2009 winner Fleury and still lean heavily on Crosby, Malkin and defenseman Kris Letang. Elsewhere in the East, the Lightning re-signed Steven Stamkos, the Capitals are primed for another run with Alex Ovechkin and Vezina Trophy winner Braden Holtby, and the Montreal Canadiens should be back in contention with all-world goalie Carey Price healthy after missing most of last season with a knee injury.

Chicago has cycled pieces in and out while winning the Cup in 2010, 2013 and 2015, but the core of Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Duncan Keith is as strong as ever. The Blackhawks would have liked to go deeper in last year's playoffs, but not doing so could pay dividends this season as it has in the past. "It might be good for the guys to have a longer off-season and come back hungry for the start of the season," defenseman Niklas Hjalmarsson said. Trading off years with the Boston Bruins' 2011 championship mixed in, the Blackhawks and Kings know all too well about the Cup hangover that the Penguins will try to avoid. Peaking at playoff time and maintaining that level amid injuries and bounces takes a lot, plus the system is skewed against back-to-back champions. "It's more hard than before when teams were really dominating and could spend so much on salaries and they can buy different players," said Blackhawks winger Marian Hossa, who lost in the final in 2008 with Pittsburgh and 2009 with Detroit before winning three times with Chicago. "In this modern day, it's extremely hard. ... It's really, really hard to repeat."—AP



DUBLIN: Dublin supporter Padraic O'Reilly, flanked by Mayo supporters daughter and mother Sarah Barcoe and Anne Barcoe (right) pose for a photograph outside Croke Park ahead of the GAA All-Ireland Gaelic Football Final replay match between Dublin and Mayo at Croke Park, Dublin, Ireland yesterday.—AFP

ALLARDYCE CASTS SHADOW OVER PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION

LONDON: Premier League chiefs will hope attention returns to on-field matters this weekend after an uncomfortable few days in the spotlight for English football. Sam Allardyce's one-game career as England manager came to a shock end after just 67 days on Tuesday following controversial comments made to undercover reporters, which continued Thursday with Southampton assistant manager Eric Black filmed offering alleged advice on giving bribes to officials at other clubs.

Allardyce, 61, was also secretly filmed giving advice on how to circumnavigate transfer rules and mocking England predecessor Roy Hodgson. Appointed England manager on a £3 million-a-year contract (\$3.9 million), Allardyce also agreed to travel to Singapore and Hong Kong as an ambassador for their fictitious firm for a fee of £400,000.



BOLTON: Former England soccer team manager Sam Allardyce leaves his home in Bolton, England. Even by English soccer's standards, the latest embarrassment is a new low after Sam Allardyce was forced out in disgrace after one game in charge of the national team. —AP

England Under-21 coach Gareth Southgate has been placed in caretaker charge for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers, but, with the Football Association still to appoint a permanent replacement, a succession of Premier League managers have found themselves being asked if they would like a shot at the England job. Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe, one of English football's rising managerial stars, ruled himself out of replacing Allardyce for the time being. "I think I have said in many interviews that the England job is the ultimate job...It sounds arrogant but I am not interested in the (England) job now, but

you never know what will happen in the future," said Howe.

Veteran Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, long spoken of as a possible England manager, is out of contract with the Gunners at the end of the season. "I've said many times that my priority has always been Arsenal Football Club and I have to assess how well I do until the end of the season," said the Frenchman, looking to build on his side's 3-0 win over Chelsea away to Burnley today. Manchester City will look to return to winning ways at Tottenham Hotspur today after a midweek 3-3 draw away to Scottish giants Celtic ended their perfect record under manager Pep Guardiola. "We're going to recover well, to focus on White Hart Lane," Guardiola said.

Stuck in a rut

After his side's lacklustre defeats against Liverpool and Arsenal, Chelsea manager Antonio Conte could do without another setback at Hull as he tries to revitalize a team stuck in a rut since last season. The Blues' miserable defense of the Premier League title cost Jose Mourinho his job last term and, while it's far too soon for Conte to fear the axe after his close-season appointment, he knows demanding owner Roman Abramovich doesn't take kindly to prolonged spells of poor form.

Conte, whose cause isn't helped by the ankle injury that continues to sideline captain John Terry, said: "I'm lucky because Mr Abramovich is very passionate about football. To talk with him about football is very interesting. To discuss and explain my idea of football. We haven't got a magic wand to change the situation in two months, three months, four months. We don't forget the past. The past is there, it's very clear. We finished in 10th place last season. When you finish 10th, it means you have problems. We must change the situation and we must work hard together and we are doing this."

Southampton, fresh from a 3-0 win over West Ham, travel to Leicester City, with the Premier League champions beating Porto 1-0 in the Champions League following a 4-1 defeat by Manchester United. Liverpool, who thrashed Hull 5-1 last week, are away to Swansea while bottom of the table Sunderland will seek a first league win of the season at home to West Brom. United, for whom Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored in a 1-0 home win over Zorya Luhansk in the Europa League on Thursday, face struggling Stoke at Old Trafford today. —AFP

RANIERI CHALLENGES SUPERSTITIOUS VARDY

LEICESTER: Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri has challenged Jamie Vardy to prove his curious pre-match drinking ritual still works by ending his goal drought against Southampton today. Vardy revealed in his new autobiography that he superstitiously drank a glass of port out of a Lucozade bottle the night before every match last season.

The England international striker's unusual habit worked a treat as he left opposing defenders punch drunk en route to scoring 24 times in Leicester's incredible Premier League title triumph.

But Vardy, 29, who also said he consumes three cans of Red Bull and two espressos on the day of a game to boost his energy, has only three goals this term and has gone five matches without scoring. Keen to keep him on his toes, Ranieri questioned if the ritual had lost its magic following Vardy's latest blank, in Leicester's 1-0 Champions League win over Porto on Tuesday.

"He took it before Porto? Why didn't he score?!" Ranieri said. "A nutritionist gives them something to eat but after they go home they are professional and can eat and drink what they want. For me it's important to watch on the pitch, when they play and train well I am happy. Sometimes the players do something just because, 'Ah, I scored a goal and I want to continue'. It's okay. It's the doctor who has to investigate and say the port is good or not good. Jamie is doing a fantastic career, from non-league to national team. I don't believe port can do something. It is a glass of red wine. It is okay. For me it is only superstition, nothing more."

MODRIC INJURY ADDS TO REAL MADRID PROBLEMS

BARCELONA: Real Madrid are set to be without influential midfielder Luka Modric for up to a month due to a knee injury. The Croatian sustained the injury in Tuesday's 2-2 draw at Borussia Dortmund although he managed to complete the 90 minutes. "Following tests carried out on Luka Modric at the Sanitas La Moraleja University Hospital, he has been diagnosed with an injury to the articular cartilage in his left knee. His recovery will continue to be monitored," Real said in a statement. Modric is set to miss Real's La Liga fixtures with Eibar, Real Betis and Athletic Bilbao and Alaves as well as their Champions League game at home to Legia Warsaw, while he is a doubt for the return trip to Poland.

He will also miss Croatia's World Cup qualifiers against Kosovo and Finland. Modric's prolonged absence is the latest midfield blow for Real, who recently lost Casemiro for up to two months with a fractured fibula. News of Modric's injury emerged after Zinedine Zidane gave a

news conference on Saturday before Real's game with Eibar today, when they will look to pick up a first win in four games following draws with Villarreal, Las Palmas and Dortmund. Real twice squandered the lead in their last two games, drawing 2-2 against Las Palmas and Dortmund, but the coach said he was not concerned about the team's displays.

"When you draw twice it means something, especially when you had the game under control. We had a lot of chances but I'm not worried," Zidane said. "We've conceded twice in the last two games and that hasn't happened to us for a long time. Now we have to get back to winning, because we always want to win. The most important thing is to be at our best from the start to the finish." Zidane confirmed midfielder Isco would take Modric's place against Eibar and make his first start of the season. Isco was named in the Spain squad for World Cup qualifiers against Italy and Albania despite playing just 55 minutes of league football this campaign. — Reuters



LIVERPOOL: Crystal Palace's Christian Benteke (centre) in action with Everton's Ashley Williams (left) and Phil Jagielka during their English Premier League soccer match Everton versus Crystal Palace at Goodison Park, Liverpool on Friday, Sept 30, 2016. — AP

LUKAKU, BENTEKE STRIKE AS PALACE HOLD EVERTON

 Everton	1
 Palace	1

LONDON: Everton moved up to third place in the Premier League despite being held to a 1-1 draw by Crystal Palace as Belgium strikers Christian Benteke and Romelu Lukaku both got on the scoresheet in a battling encounter on Friday. Benteke headed the equaliser for Palace five minutes into the second half after Lukaku opened the scoring in the 36th and remarkably it was the Everton forward's first Premier League goal from a direct free kick out of the 65 he has scored. The draw took Everton to 14 points from six matches before their rivals play this weekend with a top-of-the-table clash that sees leaders Manchester

City, who have a maximum 18 points, visiting Tottenham Hotspur in second on 14.

"It's a good point in the end. We defended set plays and second balls well against a difficult team," said Everton manager Ronald Koeman. "The team performance was outstanding, although we'd like to create more opportunities. We've had a good start to the season. The position in the table is not everything at the moment and we need to improve, but we're doing a good job." Having lost their unbeaten league record at Bournemouth last weekend, Everton looked hungry to make amends and, propelled by the fleet-footed Yannick Bolasie playing against his former club, they quickly took the initiative.

A Bolasie cross came close to picking out Lukaku at the far post after 14 minutes before the Belgium targetman did make his mark on the scoreboard 10 minutes before the break. He bent a superb free kick over the wall after Damien Delaney was penalized for a high boot on Phil Jagielka, although the Everton defender

had handled the ball as he raised both arms to protect himself. "I have chased the ball and put my head in," said Jagielka. "I got a bit scared and tried to protect myself and ended up handballing it. It is a natural reaction to a high boot. The ref knew that. It was his decision."

Alan Pardew thought his Palace side were hard done by with the foul given against them. "I was a bit disappointed that the referee gave the free-kick. It was a bit harsh," he said. Palace have proved lucky opponents for Lukaku, who has scored four goals in his last five top-flight appearances against the south London side who stay in seventh spot. However, his Belgium team mate Benteke denied Everton the victory when he powered a header past helpless goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg from Joel Ward's cross. He has now scored five goals in six games against Everton. There were nine yellow cards handed out at Goodison Park the most in the top flight this season-but it was more competitive than dirty as both sides battled for points in another of this season's Friday night matches. —Reuters

MAN CITY'S GUARDIOLA EXPECTS SPARKS TO FLY AT TOTTENHAM

LONDON: After a ding-dong 3-3 draw with Celtic in the Champions League, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola anticipates another breathless encounter in this weekend's Premier League showdown with Tottenham Hotspur. With six wins from six matches, City are the league leaders and early title favorites, but Tottenham, four points back in second place, are enjoying their best start to a top-flight campaign since 1965.

Guardiola and his Spurs counterpart Mauricio Pochettino employ an aggressive, high-pressing style and the City manager thinks the fans at White Hart Lane today could be in for a treat. "What I like is teams who are active and you see that when they play, they want the ball," said Guardiola, who could become the first manager to win his first seven Premier League matches. "They want to keep it and they are so aggressive without the ball. I like to see that and Liverpool

and Tottenham are both teams in that way.

"I think it's fantastic what happened in Glasgow. One attacked, then the other did, it was 3-3 and the fans enjoyed it and the people here watching did too. The fans for Man City were disappointed because they didn't win, but were happy with what they saw. They saw until the last moment they tried to win. That is what I am after. Until the last minute, try to win the games, it doesn't matter what happened. At the end I went to the locker room and the players were tired. They were exhausted. So much so that they couldn't talk and that is what I want from my players."

Pochettino's managerial career has been closely entwined with Guardiola's, the two men having started life as top-level coaches in the same city and during the same season. In his first game as a head coach, former Argentina centre-back Pochettino saw his Espanyol team hold Guardiola's Barcelona to a 0-0 draw in a Copa del Rey tie in January 2009. A month later, Espanyol sensationally won 2-1 at Camp Nou to end a 27-year wait for a derby victory and give Pochettino his first win as a manager. It was Barcelona's first league loss in six months and one of only three home defeats that Guardiola suffered in a maiden season that concluded with a league, Copa del Rey and Champions League treble.

Kane, De Bruyne absent

Guardiola and Pochettino were effusive in their praise of each other in Friday's pre-game press conferences. The Spaniard called Pochettino "one of the best football managers in the world", while Pochettino branded Guardiola "the best manager in the world". But underpinning the mutual affection is a keen awareness of the threat posed by the other and with Spurs already four points adrift of City, Pochettino is desperate not to lose further ground. "It's very early to start to speak about whether it's an important game to prove something," he said. "It's only the beginning, but we know three points is already important to reduce the gap. It's a very important game for us and them, but it's only a game. At the beginning of the season, we play against City, who are unbeaten in the Premier League. It's first against second in the table, a very tough match, and very important for both teams." Spurs recorded a league double over City last season, cruising to a 4-1 home win in the equivalent fixture a year ago. Pochettino hopes to have Eric Dier, Moussa Dembele and Danny Rose back after hamstring injuries, while Moussa Sissoko is expected to overcome a bang to the head sustained during the 2-1 win at Middlesbrough. Striker Harry Kane, a scorer in last season's 4-1 win over City, remains sidelined by an ankle injury, with Vincent Janssen due to deputise again. Guardiola reported no new injury problems. Vincent Kompany, Kevin De Bruyne and Fabian Delph all have muscular injuries and are only expected to return following the international break. —AFP



GLASGOW: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola gives instructions during the Champions League, Group C soccer match, Celtic versus Manchester City, at Celtic Park, Glasgow on Wednesday Sept 28, 2016. — AP

PAYET'S MAGIC RESCUES SPLUTTERING WEST HAM



LONDON: Dimitri Payet produced an early contender for goal of the season as the West Ham star's sublime strike salvaged a 1-1 draw against Middlesbrough yesterday. Slaven Bilic's struggling side were in danger of a fifth successive Premier League defeat after Christian Stuani put Middlesbrough ahead early in the second half at the London Stadium. But Payet finally showed a glimpse of last season's fine form to drag West Ham level with a superb individual effort that brought the France playmaker his first league goal this term.

Even Payet's heroics couldn't completely lift the gloom over the east London club, who remain in the relegation zone with only one win from their first seven league games. Middlesbrough, with only one victory since winning promotion last season, are two points and two places above the Hammers after ending a three-match losing streak. After leaking 16 goals already this season, West Ham had the worst defense in the top-flight going into the weekend's fixtures.

And Bilic's beleaguered rearguard suffered another blow when right-back Sam Byram was carried off in visible discomfort after suffering a hamstring injury just min-

utes after kick-off. Middlesbrough had only two wins in their 22 previous trips to London but they came close to the opener through striker Jordan Rhodes, who nearly marked his first Premier League start with a goal when he headed just wide. West Ham's build up to such a significant game wasn't helped by claims Andy Carroll and Darren Randolph got drunk after Bilic told captain Mark Noble to take the squad for a morale-boosting night out on Monday.

No blame was attached to Noble, but the midfielder could have felt the fates were conspiring against him when he unleashed a powerful curling effort just before half-time, only to see it hit the crossbar and rebound to safety. Middlesbrough took advantage of that escape to open the scoring in the 51st minute when Viktor Fischer's corner reached Stuani and he rose highest to head goalwards. Noble almost cleared before the ball crossed the line, but referee Neil Swarbrick signalled it had gone in after consulting the goal decision system. West Ham fans responded by chanting their displeasure at the club's decision to leave Upton Park for their new home at the former Olympic Stadium, a venue which has been marred by problems on and off the field since they took residency. But their singing had a more celebratory tone in the 57th minute thanks to Payet's brilliant equalizer. After a sluggish start to the season, Payet was back to his mesmerizing best as he span away from Antonio Barragan, cut across the edge of the penalty area past three more defenders before angling a low shot beyond goalkeeper Victor Valdes.— AFP



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani heads the ball during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Bordeaux at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris yesterday. — AFP

CLINICAL CAVANI LIFTS PSG

PARIS: The oft-maligned Edinson Cavani was at his clinical best yesterday with a first-half brace to help champions Paris Saint-Germain ease to a 2-0 victory over Bordeaux in Ligue 1. Cavani struck twice in the first half-hour at the Parc des Princes as PSG built on their midweek Champions League win away to Ludogorets in Bulgaria and got back on track domestically. Paris had come into the weekend in fourth spot in the table having lost at Toulouse last time out, their second defeat in just seven league matches under new coach Unai Emery.

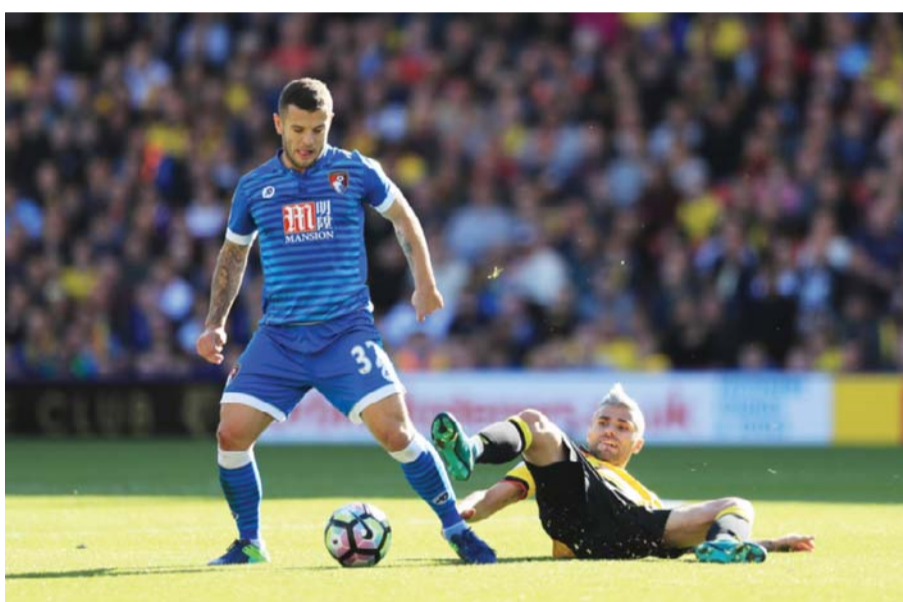
But this was a comfortable victory against a disappointing Bordeaux side, and it lifted PSG to within a point of leaders Nice, who host Lorient on Sunday. "It's possible that was our best match of the season, but in the second half we could have scored a third goal to make things easier and boost our confidence," said Emery, who welcomed the return of the club's ultras

after a six-year ban. "The atmosphere was good. It is more positive for the team and shows it's special to play at the Parc des Princes." Cavani has extra responsibility as the spearhead of the champions' attack since the departure of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, but he came in for huge criticism for an erratic display in last month's Champions League draw with Arsenal, despite opening the scoring that night. And yet with his brace on a bright autumn afternoon in the French capital, the Uruguayan has now scored nine times in PSG's subsequent five matches in all competitions.

Cavani got the breakthrough inside three minutes, attacking an Angel Di Maria cross from the left at the near post and heading past Cedric Carrasso in the Bordeaux goal. Carrasso was kept busy, tipping a Thomas Meunier shot around the post as PSG came forward in search of a second goal. They duly doubled their lead on the half-

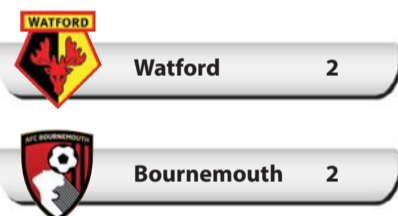
hour mark as Layvin Kurzawa's low ball in from the left was deftly back-heeled in by Cavani. It was the former Napoli striker's eighth goal of the season in Ligue 1 and his 13th altogether for club and country since the campaign began. Fortunately for Bordeaux there was no more scoring, although Di Maria did have a second-half effort disallowed for offside.

Di Maria was later replaced by teenager Jonathan Ikone, who came on to make his Ligue 1 debut, while summer signing Hatem Ben Arfa also came off the bench towards the end for the first time after being left out of PSG's last five games. Monaco could go provisionally top with a win away to Metz, while Toulouse can climb back above Emery's side if they beat Caen in Normandy. The big game of the weekend sees Lyon entertain sworn enemies Saint-Etienne in the Rhone-Alpes derby today evening.—AFP



WATFORD: AFC Bournemouth's Jack Wilshere (left) and Watford's Valon Behrami battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Vicarage Road, Watford yesterday. —AP

BOURNEMOUTH AND WATFORD SHARE THE SPOILS, DRAW 2-2



WATFORD: Nigerian forward Isaac Success rose from the bench to head in a second-half equalizer as Watford drew 2-2 at home to Bournemouth in the Premier League yesterday. Eddie Howe, linked with the vacant England job this week, twice saw his Bournemouth side go ahead through Callum Wilson and Joshua King. But Troy Deeney scored his 99th Watford goal to cancel out Wilson's opener and Success headed in a second equaliser in the 65th minute to spare manager Walter Mazzarri from defeat on his 55th birthday.

Bournemouth, who have won just once in 16 league visits to Vicarage Road, climbed to 12th, level on points with 11th-place Watford. Bournemouth had impressed in a 1-0 win over Everton last weekend and Howe named an unchanged team, but it was Watford who bossed the early exchanges. Mazzarri's men enjoyed a near monopoly on possession and saw Odion Ighalo drag a shot wide from strike partner Deeney's flick. But after home goalkeeper Heurelo Gomes had tipped an in-swinging free-kick from Junior Stanislas over the bar at the other end, the visitors went in front in the 31st minute.

Stanislas sent a cross into the box and Wilson got ahead of his man at the near post to meet the ball with a header that squirmed beneath Gomes. Watford emerged for the second half with the bit between their teeth and after Deeney had seen an improvised 'scorpion kick' volley saved by Artur Boruc, the hosts leveled. Nordin Amrabat's trickery took him to the byline on the right and from his cut-back, Deeney equalized. Bournemouth almost went ahead again moments later when Jack Wilshere struck the post with a low, curling effort after a trademark jinking run. Just before the hour, Boruc had to display razor-sharp reflexes to repel a header from Deeney.

Bournemouth retook the lead in the 62nd minute, King turning Valon Behrami inside-out and netting via a deflection off Younes Kaboul within seconds of coming on for Jordon Ibe. But Mazzarri had a super sub of his own up his sleeve and three minutes later Success, 20, equalized with a fine header that gave him his first Watford goal since signing from Granada. The visitors came closest to snatching victory amid frantic exchanges in the latter stages, twice rattling the woodwork. On-loan Arsenal midfielder Wilshere squandered an appar-

ent tap-in by sending the ball against the post, while Stanislas saw a free-kick come back off the bar.— AFP



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Man United v Stoke City	14:00	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Leicester v Southampton	16:15	beIN SPORTS 9 HD
Tottenham v Man City	16:15	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Burnley v Arsenal	18:30	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Valencia v Atletico de Madrid	13:00	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Real Madrid v SD Eibar	17:15	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
RCD Espanyol v Villarreal	19:30	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Malaga v Athletic de Bilbao	19:30	beIN SPORTS 9 HD
Celta de Vigo v Barcelona	21:45	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
ITALIAN LEAGUE		
Empoli v Juventus FC	13:30	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Atalanta v SSC Napoli	16:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Bologna FC v Genoa	16:00	beIN SPORTS 13 HD EN
Cagliari Calcio v Crotone	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Sampdoria v Citta di Palermo	16:00	beIN SPORTS 7 HD
AC Milan v Sassuolo Calcio	19:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Torino v ACF Fiorentina	19:00	beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN
AS Roma v Internazionale	21:45	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
GERMAN LEAGUE		
Wolfsburg v FSV Mainz 05	16:30	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
Schalke 04 v Monchengladbach	18:30	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
FRENCH LEAGUE		
Angers v de Marseille	16:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
OGC Nice v Lorient	18:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
Lyonnais v Saint Etienne	21:45	beIN SPORTS

GERMAN LEAGUE ROUNDUP

BAYERN HELD AT HOME AS ANCELOTTI MISSES RECORD

BERLIN: Leaders Bayern Munich dropped their first Bundesliga points of the season yesterday as their 1-1 draw at home to Cologne denied Carlo Ancelotti a record-equaling sixth straight win. Joshua Kimmich's first-half header at Munich's Allianz Arena was cancelled out by Anthony Modeste's volley to break the Bavarian giants' 100 percent record in the league this season. It meant Ancelotti missed out on equalling the Bundesliga record of six straight wins for a coach in his debut season in Germany's top flight. "We were good in the first half and controlled the game, then we lost the cohesion and order in our game," admitted Ancelotti.

"We haven't played well in the last two matches, but we have to keep going after the international break." Cologne could easily have claimed a rare win in Munich. Simon Zoller sprinted clear of the defense and his shot beat Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, but rolled agonizingly past the post two minutes into injury time. Ancelotti made seven changes to the side which lost 1-0 at Atletico Madrid on Wednesday in the Champions League. Only Manuel Neuer, Xabi Alonso, Xabi Alonso and Robert Lewandowski kept their starting places. "I don't think we have rotated too much," added Ancelotti when asked if his policy of rotation had been a factor.

"I trust all my players and a few were tired, so it was appropriate to rotate." Bayern took the lead on 40 minutes when left-back Juan Bernat skipped through a tackle to deliver a superb cross, which Kimmich launched himself at to head the ball home past Cologne goalkeeper Timo Horn. The visitors drew level on 63 minutes when Modeste volleyed Marcel Risse's cross over Neuer.

It was only the second goal Bayern had conceded at home this season in five games at the Allianz Arena. Bayern could have gone back in front, but Germany star Thomas Mueller was left with his head in his hands when Horn deflected his close-range shot onto the far post with 76 minutes gone. The result leaves Bayern three points clear while fourth-placed Cologne preserve their unbeaten record this season.

With Borussia Dortmund playing Bayer Leverkusen later, Hertha Berlin took their chance to claim second place with a 2-0 win at home to Hamburg. Vedad Ibisevic's scrambled shot gave Hertha a first-half lead at Berlin's Olympic Stadium before he also converted a second-half penalty. Hamburg stumbled to their fifth straight defeat and their first under new coach Markus Gisdol after Bruno Labbadia was sacked last week. Along with Bayern, Cologne and RB Leipzig, Hoffenheim remain one of the four unbeaten Bundesliga teams after their 2-1 win at Ingolstadt, achieved thanks to first-half goals by Sandro Wagner and Kerem Demirbay. Having drawn four of their six games this season, Hoffenheim are seventh.

Freiburg are in mid-table after Vincenzo Grifo's early effort gave them a 1-0 win at home to Eintracht Frankfurt. Werder Bremen's 2-2 draw at Darmstadt left them just above the relegation places. Bremen's Senegal defender Lamine Sane and Germany Under-21 winger Serge Gnabry, with his second since joining from Arsenal, netted their goals while Antonio-Mirko Colak scored twice for Darmstadt. On Friday, Leipzig's 2-1 victory at home to Augsburg saw them go a sixth game unbeaten, giving them the best start to a season by a team making its debut in Germany's top flight after promotion.— AFP



MUNICH: Cologne's Yuya Osako (top) and Bayern's Xabi Alonso challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and FC Cologne at the Allianz Arena stadium in Munich yesterday. —AP

SPANISH LEAGUE ROUNDUP

SEVILLA FLY HIGH IN SPAIN AFTER BEN YEDDER BRACE

BARCELONA: Two flicks of the heel were enough for Sevilla to provisionally pull level with Real Madrid on points at the top of the Spanish league yesterday. Wissam Ben Yedder scored his second of two goals in stoppage time to snatch a 2-1 win over a tough Alaves side at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium. Ben Yedder's winner went in off the side of his left heel, deflecting Victor "Vitolo" Machin's low cross under goalkeeper Fernando Pacheco. The French forward's first goal came in the 74th when substitute Ganso passed superbly to set him up. Ganso had his back to the goal and was falling forward from a collision, but still managed to flick his left boot back and send a perfect assist for Ben Yedder to fire home. Alaves was clinging to a point until Ben Yedder struck again after defender Victor Laguardia scrambled in the equalizer from a corner kick in the 84th. It has shaped up to be quite a week for Ben Yedder, one of Sevilla's most important off-season signings as it overhauled its squad for new coach Jorge Sampaoli. On Tuesday, the former Toulouse standout also scored in a 1-0 victory over Lyon in the Champions League. "I'm very happy for (Ben Yedder)," Sampaoli said. "He was having difficulties adapting to Sevilla, to the language, his teammates, understanding my orders, our system, many things. But in these two games he has shown why he is at Sevilla." Alaves' Edgar Mendez squandered an

excellent early chance when he hit the post with only goalkeeper Sergio Rico to beat. Before the late flurry of goals, the match was marred by several leg injuries, with all the injured walking off the pitch when substituted. Alaves lost Kiko Femenia and Daniel Torres in the first half, while Sevilla lost forwards Samir Nasri and Luciano Vietto in a three-minute span with a half-hour to play. Referee Mateo Lahoz also had to be replaced late because of a calf problem. Madrid hosts Eibar today when Barcelona, which trails Madrid and Sevilla by a point, visits Celta Vigo.

Granada 0, Leganes 1

Leganes continued its excellent debut in the top flight with a third win in seven rounds. This latest pushed Granada to the bottom of the standings. Leganes defender Alexander Szymanowski struck in the 76th with a left-footed shot from the edge of the area after Robert Ibanez sprung a counter-attack. "The key was (to) not make mistakes and wait for our opportunity," Leganes coach Asier Garitano said. All three of Leganes' victories have come away from the modest club's home stadium in Madrid. Granada's latest loss ruined the debut of its caretaker coach, Lluís Planaguma, who took over managing duties following the firing of Paco Jemez. In June, Leganes earned promotion to Spain's first division for the first time in the club's 88-year history.— AP

Ancelotti misses record; Bayern held at home



Watford and Bournemouth share the spoils



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KVITOVA ENDS TITLE DROUGHT WITH WUHAN WIN Page 17



SWANSEA: Swansea City's Borja Baston (left) and Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho (centre) in action during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea yesterday. — AP

MILNER SPOT ON AS LIVERPOOL SINK SWANSEA



SWANSEA: James Milner propelled Liverpool to second place in the Premier League as his late penalty secured a 2-1 win against Swansea City yesterday. Milner's spot-kick sealed an impressive comeback for Jurgen Klopp's team and enabled the Reds to move to within two points of Premier League leaders Manchester City, who face Tottenham Hotspur today. Liverpool trailed to an early Leroy Fer goal at the Liberty Stadium and looked second-best before Roberto Firmino took control to inspire his side's fourth successive league victory.

"We showed a reaction, were more organized, clear in all situations and we deserved to win," said Klopp. "The performance was not perfect, but it was good enough

today." Brazil forward Firmino scored Liverpool's equalizer early in the second half and won the crucial penalty that Milner converted in the final minutes. Struggling Swansea's fifth defeat in seven league games will increase the pressure on manager Francesco Guidolin, who has had to deal with speculation he is set to lose his job.

Ryan Giggs and Bob Bradley are among the names reportedly lined up as potential replacements for Guidolin. "I don't know. It's not my decision," Guidolin said when asked about the reports. "It's just for me to prepare for the game and the team. I know the situation. It's a possibility. The important thing is to prepare with patience." Klopp made one change to the side that thrashed Hull City 5-1 at Anfield a week ago, with Dejan Lovren returning to the starting line-up at centre-back in place of Ragnar Klavan.

There was a solitary change, too, in the Swansea team following their 3-1 defeat by Manchester City as striker Borja Baston started a league game for the first time in place of the injured Fernando Llorente. Former Atletico Madrid forward Borja was in the thick of the action, but

wasted an early chance to endear himself to the locals by heading over from Wayne Routledge's fine cross. Liverpool's defence was looking surprisingly fragile despite Lovren's return to action and Fer made the most of the instability to put the home side ahead.

Backlash

Borja atoned for his earlier lapse when he rose above Joel Matip at the far post to get his head to Gylfi Sigurdsson's corner. He nodded down into the goalmouth, where Fer applied the finishing touch from close range. There were suspicions of offside, but Fer got the benefit of the doubt and sprinted off in celebration of his fourth goal this season. A Liverpool backlash was expected, but Swansea belied their lowly status as they enjoyed the upper hand against high-flying opponents.

Fer exemplified their self-belief when he tried his luck from distance, only to see his shot veer off target, before Jack Cork had a shot on the stretch comfortably saved. Borja should have doubled the lead midway through the first half when Lovren misjudged Sigurdsson's free-kick,

but he headed wide. Klopp's worries deepened when Adam Lallana had to be withdrawn with a groin injury, a problem that will put the attacking midfielder in doubt for England's upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Malta and Slovenia. Little was going right for Liverpool and Daniel Sturridge was rightly booked by referee Michael Oliver for diving in the Swansea penalty area.

However, Liverpool looked invigorated after half-time and Swansea were suddenly on the back-foot as momentum swung in the visitors' favour. It was left to Firmino to be the Liverpool saviour when he nodded past Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski from skipper Jordan Henderson's lobbed cross. Determined Swansea defending kept Liverpool at bay for a while, but the hosts cracked at last with six minutes left. The incessant Liverpool pressure paid off when Swansea substitute Modou Barrow made a mess of trying to clear his lines, the ball ballooned up in the air and Angel Rangel fouled Firmino. Milner, traditionally a midfielder but deployed at left-back this season, showed no mercy with a cool finish from the penalty spot. — AFP

CHELSEA BACK TO WINNING WAYS



KINGSTON UPON HULL: Willian and Diego Costa scored twice in six second-half minutes as Chelsea won 2-0 at Hull City yesterday to claim a first win in four Premier League games. Willian struck in the 61st minute after Chelsea launched one of a series of increasingly dangerous counter-attacks. Costa's pass picked out the Brazilian, who checked, putting his defender out of the game in the process, before curling an unstoppable shot into the top-right corner of the Hull goal.

Six minutes later the game was put beyond Hull's reach in similar fashion. Having powered into the area, Nemanja Matic saw a shot blocked by Curtis Davies, but Costa latched onto the rebound to bend a shot past Hull goalkeeper David Marshall for his sixth goal in seven games. Victory provisionally lifted Chelsea to sixth place in the table and saw Hull drop to 15th. Yet Hull had forced Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois into the only two saves of significance in the first half and, in between, gave as good as they got against a club they have not beaten in 28 years.

After just four minutes, and a David Luiz foul on Dieumerci Mbokani, Robert Snodgrass's terrific 25-yard free-kick forced the Chelsea keeper into a twisting save as he turned the ball over his crossbar. In first-half injury time, Ryan Mason gathered the ball 25 yards from goal and unleashed a strong shot that Courtois appeared to see late as he forced it behind for a corner. Chelsea started with a three-man defence, a tactic adopted by manager Antonio Conte in the second half of last weekend's 3-0 defeat by Arsenal, which meant Branislav Ivanovic lost his place. The move saw winger Victor Moses make his first start for the club since May 2013 at wing-back, underlining Conte's desperation to end his team's recent run of poor form.

Willian looked a lively performer for the visitors as he attempted to spark them into some attacking



KINGSTON UPON HULL: Hull City's Scottish goalkeeper David Marshall (left) makes a save under pressure from Chelsea's Spanish midfielder Pedro during the English Premier League football match between Hull City and Chelsea at the KCOM Stadium in Kingston upon Hull yesterday. — AFP

life and on 16 minutes the Brazilian just missed the far post with a low, driven shot. Moses also might have won a penalty on another day, with replays suggesting he had been tripped by Adama Diomande. But for all Chelsea's possession, there was not a serious moment of concern for Marshall in the Hull goal over the opening 45 minutes. His first real test came in the opening minutes of the second period as Eden Hazard turned his man just inside the home half and darted towards goal before dispatching a curling shot that Marshall diverted over.

The ensuing corner was only half-cleared by the home side and N'Golo Kante latched onto the rebound with a low shot that Marshall smothered easily. The pressure was mounting, with Chelsea looking particularly threatening on the counter-attack, through Costa and the pairing of Willian and

Hazard behind him. That combination should have brought about an opening goal on 58 minutes. Kante's through-ball was perfectly weighted and allowed Costa to round Marshall before shooting goalwards, the ball passing through the legs of Sam Clucas and striking the foot of the post.

The rebound fell kindly for Kante, but the former Leicester City midfielder hurried his follow-up attempt, sending the ball high and wide. With Chelsea looking more and more menacing a goal soon followed and matters might have worsened for the hosts three minutes later as Costa saw an 18-yard shot parried by Marshall following another break. Costa, with a wild shot from the corner of the six-yard box, and Oscar, whose low attempt was pushed away by Marshall, might have further extended the visitors' lead in the closing minutes. — AFP

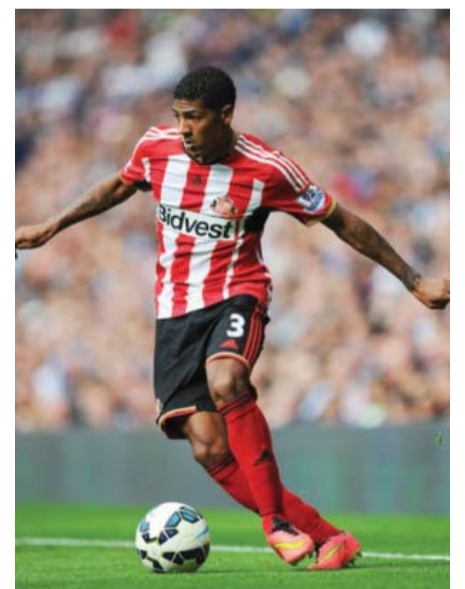
SUNDERLAND GRATEFUL TO VAN AANHOLT BUT REMAIN WINLESS



SUNDERLAND: Substitute Patrick van Aanholt scored with just seven minutes left to earn struggling Sunderland a 1-1 draw at home to West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League yesterday. It looked as if Nacer Chadli's classy first-half opener would give the Baggies all three points until Dutchman Van Aanholt, on for the injured Jan Kirchhoff, conjured an equalizer at the Stadium of Light. The result will come as something of a relief to the Sunderland fans and beleaguered manager David Moyes, but they are still without a win and have only two points from seven matches.

No strangers to a slow start, it is the third time in four seasons that the Black Cats have gone winless through their opening seven games of the campaign, but at least the draw prevented them from equaling their own record for the worst start to a Premier League season. West Brom had come from behind with a late goal to draw at another struggling side, Stoke City, last time out but on this occasion it looked as if they would hold on for the victory after going in front. On a sunny day in the north-east of England, Jermain Defoe sliced a great early chance wide for the hosts before Sunderland goalkeeper Jordan Pickford was forced into a good save from Chadli.

However, the Belgian, a summer signing from Tottenham Hotspur, opened the scoring 10 minutes before the break, finishing coolly into the bottom corner after being set up by Matt Phillips. There was then a huge let-off for Moyes's side as James McClean playing against his former club-fluffed his



Patrick van Aanholt

lines after finding himself clean through. Fortunate to be only one goal down at the break, things got worse for Sunderland early in the second half when German midfielder Kirchhoff had to be taken off to be replaced by Van Aanholt.

Pickford then saved well from Darren Fletcher before the home side began to rally and only a fine block by Jonny Evans stopped Defoe from leveling. Van Aanholt had been dropped from the starting line-up as Moyes made five changes to his team following last week's 3-2 home defeat to Crystal Palace, and he perhaps felt he had a point to prove as he grabbed the equalizer. The former Chelsea player started the move down the left and found Duncan Watmore. He got the ball back to the Dutchman and his scuffed effort went in, the point lifting Sunderland off the bottom at least until Stoke play Manchester United today. — AFP

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German minister heads to Iran, business ties still limited

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Indians disclose \$10bn in tax evasion amnesty

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FROM FERRARIS TO SUVs: 5 CARS THAT SHONE AT THE PARIS SHOW



HONG KONG: A woman walks past a display of the Hang Seng Index that sank 442.32 points or 1.9 percent to 23,297.15 at a bank in Hong Kong, Friday. Global stock markets were sharply lower Friday as investor sentiment was dented by renewed worries about the financial health of Deutsche Bank following reports that some hedge funds were moving their businesses out of Germany's biggest bank.— AP

YUAN JOINS ELITE CLUB OF IMF CURRENCIES

BEIJING: China's yuan joins the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies yesterday in a milestone for the government's campaign for recognition as a global economic power.

The yuan joins the US dollar, the euro, the yen and British pound in the IMF's special drawing rights (SDR) basket, which determines currencies that countries can receive as part of IMF loans. It marks the first time a new currency has been added since the euro was launched in 1999.

The IMF is adding the yuan, also known as the renminbi, or "people's money", on the same day that the Communist Party celebrates the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

"The inclusion into the SDR is a milestone in the internationalisation of the renminbi, and is an affirmation of the success of China's economic development and results of the reform and opening up of the financial sector," the People's Bank of China said in a statement.

China will use this opportunity to further deepen economic reforms and open up the sector to promote global growth, the central bank added.

The IMF announced last year that it would add the yuan to the basket, so actual inclusion is not expected to impact financial markets. But it puts Beijing's often opaque economic and foreign exchange policy in the international spotlight as

some central banks add yuan assets to their official reserves. Critics argue that the move is largely symbolic and the yuan does not fully meet IMF reserve currency criteria of being freely usable, or widely used to settle trade or widely traded in financial markets. U.S. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has said he will formally label China a currency manipulator if he wins November's election.

China stunned investors by devaluing the currency last year and the yuan has since weakened to near six-year lows, adding to worries about already feeble global growth.

Some China watchers also fear that Beijing's commitment to further market opening and financial sector reforms will fade after its diplomatic success, despite repeated reassurances from Beijing it will continue with the process.

US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said on Thursday the yuan was "quite a ways" from true global reserve currency status. The new IMF status recognises the "enormous" change in China in the last 10 years that had made the yuan more open, but Beijing still had work to do to make its currency and its economy more market-driven, he said. "Being part of the SDR basket at the IMF is quite a ways away from being a global reserve currency," he said.

Capital Economics said inclusion of the currency in the IMF's SDR basket will have



WASHINGTON: File photo, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde speaks during a news conference, in Washington. On Friday, Lagarde called the inclusion of China's renminbi as the fifth currency in an elite group of the world's reserve currencies "an important and historic milestone" for the international financial system.— AP

minimal impact on foreign demand for yuan assets, so "offers little support" for the currency.

"If anything, the risk is that official intervention to keep the renminbi stable ahead of its inclusion will subsequently be paired

back, allowing for renewed depreciation," it said in a research note. The IMF on Friday fixed the relative amounts of the five currencies in the basket for five years, based on their average exchange rates over the past three months.—Reuters

TRUMP WIN WOULD HIT MEXICO LIKE A 'HURRICANE'

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's central bank chief said on Friday that a Donald Trump victory in the US presidential election would hit Mexico like a hurricane.

Speaking on local radio, Agustin Carstens also said that "it was a reality" that there was a correlation between the country's weakening currency and the Trump campaign. The Mexican peso has fallen about 11 percent against the dollar this year.

Asked whether the Republican nominee's victory would be like a category five storm for the country, Carstens said "yes, it would be a stronger hurricane" than if Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton wins.

Carstens added that the scenario for Mexico was better with a Clinton win in the Nov. 8 presidential election. In a radio interview later on Friday, Carstens said that he does not expect the government's currency commission to hold any extraordinary meetings prior to the U.S. election.

The commission's next scheduled meeting is Nov. 17. Mexico's central bank on Thursday hiked its benchmark interest rate by 50 basis points, to counter the peso's decline, concerned it could fan inflation.

In Friday morning trade, the peso was 0.96 percent stronger, at 19.335 per dollar. Trump has vowed he would build a wall on the border with Mexico and renegotiate or scrap the North American Free Trade Agreement if he is elected. The United States is Mexico's main trading partner, and Wall Street analysts say concern over any potential trade restrictions have weighed on the peso.

The peso has become a vehicle used to cover against the risks linked to the November election, Carstens said. Queried about Trump, he added that "one candidate's" unconventional ideas posed a risk to the economies of Mexico, the United States and the world. When asked what would happen if Clinton wins, Carstens said that if the factors that cause volatility reduce, the peso could strengthen.

"Without a doubt, I agree with the possibility that the peso could appreciate under certain scenarios in the future," he said.

Carstens added that the bank had to use its judgment in using tools such as the sale of dollar-denominated foreign reserves. Trump's visit to Mexico City in August to meet President Enrique Pena Nieto sparked outrage across the country, and led to the resignation of Luis Videgaray as finance minister.— Reuters

DEUTSCHE BANK MARKET PRESSURE EASES AS US FINE LOOKS SMALLER

NEW YORK: Heavy market pressure on Deutsche Bank eased Friday as a knowledgeable source told AFP the US fine over toxic debt it sold would be only \$5.4 billion, not the \$14 billion originally demanded.

A person familiar with the talks between Deutsche Bank and the Department of Justice said an agreement could come in the next few days to settle the US government charges that the bank knowingly sold high-risk mortgage securities ahead of the 2008 financial crisis.

The final amount of the settlement could also be slightly different, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The news powered the shares of Germany's biggest lender dramatically higher as worries about its financial stability under the pressure of a potentially massive US fine ebbed.

US-traded shares of the bank finished up 14 percent at \$13.09, while in Frankfurt, in part due to different market hours rela-

tive to the timing of the news, shares added 6.4 percent at 11.57 euros.

Deutsche Bank and the Justice Department declined to comment on the news of a deal, as did the German finance ministry. But worries about the impact of the case on Deutsche Bank had spread through markets and into the political realm over the past week, unnerving investors. Adding to the rising concerns were conflicting reports in German media on whether Berlin would come to the troubled Bank's aid if necessary.

'NO BASIS FOR SPECULATION'

Then late Thursday the bank's US-traded shares plunged on news that a number of hedge funds that clear derivatives business through Deutsche Bank had pulled out money.

The shares also tumbled as the Frankfurt stock market opened Friday, falling by more than nine percent at one point, hit-

ting a historic low of 9.90 euros. This sparked fears that a banking meltdown reminiscent of the 2008 crisis was in the making, potentially dragging other European banks and global markets down with it. Deutsche Bank chief executive John Cryan managed to lift the mood with a letter to staff Friday insisting the bank was not at risk. "At no time in the last two decades has Deutsche Bank been as safe as it is today," Cryan wrote.

"In a situation like this, the most important factor is our liquidity reserves. Currently they still amount to more than 215 billion euros (\$241.7 billion)," he said.

"This is an extremely comfortable buffer. This is clear proof of how conservatively we have planned." "There is therefore no basis for this speculation," he added. "Nor can uncertainty about the outcome of our litigation cases in the US explain this pressure on our stock price, if we take the settlements of our peers as a benchmark."

BAILOUT LESS LIKELY

The bank has suffered for months from perceptions of a weak capital base.

In June it flunked the US Federal Reserve's stress test. A month later Deutsche was among the worst performers in a European Banking Authority stress test, although Cryan insisted the exercise had demonstrated the institution's resilience to future crises. A settlement with US authorities of \$5.4 billion would be just shy of the total Deutsche Bank has set aside in provisions for outstanding legal actions.

CMC Markets analyst Jasper Lawler said that improved match of figures "may make a rights issue more palatable and makes a government bailout much less likely."

Still, the US toxic mortgage-securities case is just one of 8,000 legal challenges burdening Deutsche Bank. An investigation by New York regulators over allegations of money laundering at its Moscow office looms.—AFP

DEUTSCHE BANK SETTLEMENT OVERSHADOWS US EQUITIES

NEW YORK: Deutsche Bank will likely cast a pall over equity markets next week as the largest German lender navigates a possible multi-billion dollar settlement with the US Department of Justice over the sale of mortgage-backed bonds.

Deutsche shares traded in the United States hit a record low, falling as much as 24 percent since the DOJ asked the bank to pay \$14 billion to settle charges related to its sale of toxic mortgage bonds before the financial crisis.

But the stock had its best day in five years Friday, on record volume, after news agency AFP reported that Deutsche was nearing a much-lower \$5.4 billion settlement with the DOJ.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley estimated Deutsche could pay about \$6 billion to settle with the DOJ. Stocks on Wall Street broadly tracked Deutsche over the past few days and will likely continue to do so, analysts say. "While it is in the headlines, it is an overhang," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Wunderlich Securities in New York.

US WALL ST WEEK AHEAD

"Once they come to some resolution on the difference between what they are charged, \$14 billion, and what they are going to pay, call it \$5 or \$6 billion, the market is going to be afraid there is a problem," Hogan said.

Deutsche's market capitalization of near \$18 billion makes it much smaller than its U.S. peers like Bank of America, at \$155 billion, or Citi, at \$133 billion.

However its trading relationships with the world's largest financial institutions make a potential breakdown at Deutsche a bigger risk to the wider financial system than any other global bank, the International Monetary Fund said in June.

"Its world print and eurocentric role are unrivaled, so it is going to drive the narrative next week," said Peter Kenny, senior market strategist at Global Markets Advisory Group in New York.

"My sense is we're not really going to have the kind of clarity that investors like to have ... for probably weeks," AFP reported, citing a person familiar with the matter, the settlement could be announced in the next couple of days.

Analysts stopped short of comparing the present turmoil at Deutsche to the bankruptcy of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers in 2008, part of a financial crisis that triggered the deepest recession in decades for the US economy.

"Deutsche Bank is not Lehman and does not threaten a 2008-like 'sudden stop' to the global economy," said Mohamed El-Erian, chief economic adviser at Allianz.

The concern, he said, lies in this being "a reminder of the fragility of some European banks" and an additional headwind to European growth.

The S&P 500 rose for the week but the index's

banks, suffered big losses, as a group, on Monday and Thursday because of the turmoil surrounding Deutsche Bank. Separately, the grilling of Wells Fargo's chief executive in Congress over fraudulent business practices also weighed on bank shares.

Frankfurt's stock exchange will be closed tomorrow for the Day of German Unity. Equity investors will also focus next week on the 10 speeches by top US Federal Reserve officials, with the highlight from Vice Chair Stanley Fischer on Friday, and clues to monetary policy. Key economic data, including September's employment report on Friday, will keep traders on tenterhooks.

"We got our own troubles here with the economy slowing down, next week we'll know if (week data) was a blip or a trend," said Phil Orlando, chief equity strategist at Federated Investors in New York.

He added: "The market has to have a healthy respect for the downside in the event the DOJ and Deutsche don't find a reasonable agreement." — Reuters

IRAQ'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLANS TIED UP BY US BUDGET TUSSLE

DUBAI/WASHINGTON: Iraq's plans to raise \$2 billion on international debt markets to help fill a budget gap caused by low oil prices were thwarted this week by the US Congress' refusal to guarantee half the bonds' value.

As part of a 2017 budget endorsed by the International Monetary Fund, Baghdad said it would seek to issue a \$1 billion bond fully guaranteed by the United States in order to lower borrowing costs before issuing another \$1 billion.

Those funds would complement a three-year \$5.34 billion standby loan, which the IMF approved in July in exchange for economic reforms. Baghdad hopes the IMF deal will unlock more than \$12 billion in additional aid from sources such as the World Bank and the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

Western allies have acknowledged the need to guard major OPEC producer Iraq's fragile economy from a collapse that would risk undermining military gains against Islamic State by a US-led coalition and local forces that are looking to retake the militant stronghold of Mosul later this month.

While the Obama administration requested the guarantee be included in a "continuing resolution" - stopgap legislation that keeps the US government running while more permanent spending decisions are agreed - it did not end up in the final version passed by Congress on Wednesday.

Lawmakers said they had tried to keep side issues out of the spending bill in order to ensure it would go into effect before the

new fiscal year began on Oct. 1.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's financial advisor, Mudher Salih, who has worked closely on the bond issue, and a source familiar with the matter told Reuters the guarantee had been held up by Republicans in Congress, without providing details.

Republicans have majorities in both the House and Senate, but it was unclear if they had a particular objection to putting up more funding for Iraq, which has already received billions of dollars in military, economic and humanitarian aid from Washington since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Many members of Congress are frustrated with Iraq's government. They worry that the United States has sent far too much money to Baghdad, with too few results, due to corruption and incompetence.

Many also view the Iraqi government as being too close to Iran, and are angry with its Shi'ite leaders for alienating minority Sunni Muslims.

The Iraq loan guarantee could still be included in spending legislation that must pass in order to keep the government open past Dec. 9, when the temporary spending bill expires.

Salih told Reuters on Thursday that Iraq was likely to delay the bond issuance until at least early 2017, in part because of the lack of a US guarantee.

Baghdad's latest budget proposal for 2017 forecasts expenditures of 90.224 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$77.6 billion) with a shortfall of around 12 trillion dinars. — Reuters



QINGDAO: Chinese workers load modular equipment at an offshore oil engineering platform in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province yesterday. Manufacturing activity in China continued its rebound in September on improving production and demand, government data showed yesterday — a positive sign for the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

CHINA FACTORY ACTIVITY EXPANDS AGAIN IN SEPT

BEIJING: Activity in China's manufacturing sector expanded again in September, an official survey showed yesterday, which may indicate that recent positive momentum can be sustained.

The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 50.4 in September, identical with the previous month's level. A reading above 50.0 shows growth on a monthly basis.

September's 50.4 reading matched the prediction of a Reuters poll. After a significant pickup in March, China's official PMI slipped, falling below 50 in July before showing expansion in August.

In an encouraging sign, new export orders increased in September, rising to 50.1 from the previous month's 49.7. In September, output edged up to 52.8 from 52.6 in August, but the index for total new orders slipped to 50.9 from 51.3. A sub-index for smaller firms fell, while performance at larger companies improved, a sign that the government's dependence on big state firms for growth this year has not changed. Economists say the pattern over the past few months suggested sustained economic growth, but a growing dependence on government spending and an overheated property market may pose increased risks later this year with

debt levels continuing to rise.

Industrial profits rose at the fastest pace in three years in August, with rising sales and higher prices stimulated by a construction boom and heated property market.

STILL STRUGGLING

But profits remained uneven, as traditional heavy industries with excess capacity such as steel still struggled for growth. Sectors like hi-tech, auto manufacturing and shipbuilding showed strong expansion, the survey showed.

Jobs were again lost, though at a slower pace, with the employment sub-index rising to 48.6, compared to 48.4 in August. Job losses could be rising as the government has pledged broad capacity cuts across a range of industries.

Industrial overcapacity remains one of the main drags on economic growth. Beijing has pledged to quicken the pace of its industrial capacity cuts, particularly in steel, after falling behind earlier in the year.

China's state planner rejected a request in September by the nation's steel makers for coal mines to ramp up coking coal output to help ease supply tightness that has triggered a frenzied price rally.

China's slowing economy and problems with industrial overcapacity have also reduced investment opportunities, a view reinforced by Fan Gang, a member of China's central bank monetary committee. Private investment grew just 2.1 percent in the first eight months of the year, remaining at record lows.

A similar official survey showed activity in China's services sector expanded at a slightly faster pace, with the official reading at 53.7 in September from 53.5 in August.

A measure of the construction industry rose as the government has gone on an infrastructure spending spree. The services employment sub-index rose in September, but still indicated services companies were cutting staff.

Beijing has been counting on a strong services sector to pick up the slack as it tries to shift the economy away from a dependence on heavy industry and manufacturing exports. A private business showed on Friday that factory activity expanded in September but the improvement was marginal and manufacturers continued to shed jobs.

The Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index for September rose to 50.1 from a no-change level of 50.0 in August. — Reuters

TEXAS BUSINESSMAN WYLY STRIKES \$198M DEAL WITH SEC

NEW YORK: Texas businessman Sam Wyly has agreed to pay \$198.1 million to resolve claims by US securities regulators that he engaged in a long-running securities fraud to hide trades in companies he controlled using offshore trusts, according to a court filing.

According to papers filed by the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday in Manhattan federal court, Wyly is also in talks to resolve tax claims by the Internal Revenue Service after he was ordered to pay \$1.11 billion.

The settlement is subject to approval by SEC commissioners and a federal bankruptcy judge in Dallas, where the once-reported billionaire filed for Chapter 11 in 2014 amid the SEC's pursuit for monetary sanctions.

Under the settlement agreement, Wyly, 81, and his family have agreed to take steps to have the offshore trusts at issue in the Isle of Man make payments to satisfy a judgment the SEC obtained in 2015.

The SEC will meanwhile cooperate with ensuring Wyly receives a credit against his federal income tax liabilities of nearly \$181 million.

Neither the SEC nor a spokesman for Wyly responded immediately to a

request for comment yesterday. The SEC sued Sam Wyly and his brother Charles Wyly in 2010, alleging they earned \$553 million in undisclosed profits by trading in four companies they controlled using trusts in the Isle of Man.

Both denied wrongdoing. Charles Wyly died in 2011, and his estate was substituted as a defendant. After a jury in May 2014 found them liable for securities fraud, a federal judge ordered Sam Wyly to pay \$198.1 million and Charles Wyly's estate to pay \$101.2 million.

Sam Wyly, who last appeared on Forbes magazine's list of the 400 richest Americans in 2010 with a net worth of \$1 billion, and Caroline "Dee" Wyly, Charles Wyly's widow, subsequently filed for bankruptcy.

The IRS in bankruptcy court took both to trial, alleging Sam and Charles Wyly committed tax fraud by shielding much of their wealth in offshore trusts.

US Bankruptcy Judge Barbara Houser in Dallas earlier this year found Sam Wyly liable and ordered him to pay \$1.11 billion in back taxes, interest and penalties.

The case is US Securities and Exchange Commission v. Wyly et al, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 10-5760. — Reuters



MANILA: In this Sept. 29, 2016 photo, a man changes his US dollar bills to Philippine peso beside a sign showing the exchange rates at a money changer in Manila, Philippines. Analysts and businessmen point to uncertainties about Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's policies and flip-flopping pronouncements as largely to blame for foreign selling in the stock market and the peso's plunge to a seven-year low, reversing initial optimism after June 30 inauguration. — AP

INDIANS DISCLOSE \$10BN IN TAX EVASION AMNESTY

NEW DELHI: A government amnesty targeting tax evasion in India has prompted tens of thousands of suspected tax dodgers to disclose nearly \$10 billion in undeclared income, the finance minister said yesterday.

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent out about 700,000 notices earlier this year to suspected evaders to coax them to declare hidden income and assets, known as "black money" in India, promising they would not be pursued by authorities if they came clean and paid a penalty. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters the four-month scheme that closed on Friday had led to 64,275 declarations, resulting in a provisional 652.5 billion rupees (\$9.8 billion) in undisclosed wealth.

Jaitley added the final figure would likely be higher. Factoring in taxes owed and penalties of 45 percent, the government could raise more than 293.6 billion rupees (\$4.4 billion) from the declared income, according to Reuters calculations.

There was no public target for the initiative, but government officials had an internal goal to raise about \$7.5 billion in back taxes.

During the 2014 elections, Modi pledged to bring back billions of dollars in "black money" if elected. Modi, in a tweet, called the outcome of the scheme "successful" and said it was "a great contribution towards transparency and growth of the economy."

In a country of 1.3 billion, fewer than 18,000 people declared annual income of 10 million rupees or more in 2012/13, the latest figures show. — Reuters



NEW DELHI: File photo, India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley addresses a press conference in New Delhi, India. Tens of thousands of Indians have declared a total of \$9.5 billion in black money as part of a one-time opportunity to come clean under a government scheme, Jaitley said yesterday. — AP



PARIS: Models remove a cover to unveil the new Porsche Panamera at the Paris Auto Show in Paris, France, Friday. Many major automakers are finding the Paris auto show, held in a city whose mayor wants to ban diesels to reduce pollution, as a fine place to show off new zero-emission electric cars. —AP



PARIS: Members of the public attend the Paris Motor Show at the Porte de Versailles Exposition Centre in Paris yesterday. The Paris Motor Show runs from October 1 until October 16. — AFP

FROM FERRARIS TO SUVs: 5 CARS THAT SHONE AT THE PARIS SHOW

PARIS: An obscenely powerful hybrid sports car, a family-friendly SUV with enough space for seven adults, and an electric vehicle that promises to keep going for over 300 miles (500 kilometers) on a single charge - these are some of the notable vehicles shining on the display stands under bright overhead lights at the Paris auto show.

Executives at this year's show are talking about how the industry can adapt to - or, better yet, profit from - disruptive change such as electric engines, networked vehicles, car sharing, and autonomous driving. All that could start coming together between 2020 and 2025, some think.

Right now, however, they have some cars they want to sell.

Here are five of the vehicles getting the most attention at the Paris Mondial de L'Automobile, which opens to the public Saturday and runs through Oct. 16. If you are lucky enough to be in the City of Light, an adult ticket costs 16 euros (\$17.90).

LAFERRARI APERTA

This limited edition of the Ferrari's

LaFerrari supercar offers the pleasures of open-top driving in a car that performs pretty much like a Formula One racer. It's a hybrid, meaning its electric motor assists the monster 12-cylinder internal combustion engine to add even more powerful acceleration. The car does 0-100 kph (0-62 mph) in less than three seconds, and offers a top speed of 350 kph (217 mph). With the top off, aerodynamic design channels away the airflow so that the two occupants can conduct a conversation even at high speeds. That's if they're not relishing the finely tuned roar of the engine, or its "soundtrack," as the company puts it, promising "full, harmonious sound that's more intoxicating than ever." All 200 are already sold at prices of 1.8-2.0 million euros (\$2.0-\$2.2 million).

PORSCHE PANAMERA 4 E-HYBRID

It's a comfortable four-door sedan. No, it's a high-performance sports car. If it's the Panamera, it's a little bit of both. The all-wheel drive car draws on the technology used in the company's 918 Spyder supercar so that the electric motor continually adds

power; the car accelerates to 100 kph (62 mph) in just 4.6 seconds and reaches a top speed of 270 kph (168 mph).

It can go up to 50 kilometers (31 miles) on just the battery - making the vehicle a little quieter than, say, the company's 911 sports car - and emits a relatively low 56 grams per kilometer of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed by scientists for global warming. The vehicle goes on sale in November. The price in France is 110,222 euros (\$123,680), including value-added tax.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER DISCOVERY

The first complete redesign of the Discovery in 12 years, this family oriented large SUV has room for seven adults in three rows. The seats can be rearranged remotely through a smartphone app even when the operator is outside the vehicle, and the second and third rows can fold flat in 14 seconds. The suspension automatically lowers the car 4 centimeters (1.5 inches) to make it easier to get in and out. There are six charging points, places to store iPads, 9 USB ports, and a 4G WIFI hotspot that can handle up to

eight devices. There's no shortage of power for towing, with three diesel variants of 180, 240 and 258 horsepower and a 340 horsepower gasoline engine. Prices start at 50,900 euros and head north to 74,300 euros.

OPEL AMPERA-E

This is the European version of the Chevrolet Bolt five-door hatchback going on sale this year in the United States and early next year in Europe. It has attracted attention by getting a range rating of 238 miles (383 kilometers) under the U.S. standard on a full charge; the company promises a 310-mile (500 kilometer) range as measured by the European standard. It claims drivers can add 150 kilometers (93 miles) in 30 minutes of charging.

Those distances may not be equaled in everyday driving, with the European test standard, for example assumptions relatively gentle acceleration. Many obstacles remain before all-electric vehicles reach widespread acceptance. Will this car be a significant jump toward making electrics seem more practical to price-conscious regular car buyers? As

always, the market will provide the answer. The U.S. manufacturer's suggested retail price is \$37,495, which doesn't count the tax break of up to \$7,500.

BMW X2

BMW showed off a potential new addition to its X-series of SUVs and crossovers, this one offering a sportier take with a flat roofline and big air intakes giving the grill a wider, more aggressive look. The company calls it a "sport-activity coupe," referring to its lower roofline - more like the sloping shape of a coupe than a boxier SUV. BMW tweaked the trademark kidney shaped twin grilles, flipping them upside down so that they narrow from bottom up. The look is enhanced with a different slant to the windshield and lower stance. "The BMW X2 is really tapping into a new market, the sort-of coupe style SUV. It is showing that SUVs are not just about being practical, they can be fun and they can be sporty as well," says Jim Holder, editorial director of Autocar, automotive magazine. It's still a concept car, meaning no date for it to go on sale or price information. — AP

WILL GERMANY DEUTSCHE BANK BECOME THE NEXT LEHMAN?

FRANKFURT: Germany's biggest bank is looking shaky and some investors fear it could collapse and endanger the wider financial system.

Some even wonder whether it might become the next Lehman Brothers, the US bank whose failure heralded the worst of the global financial crisis in 2008. Experts warn against drawing such quick conclusions. Deutsche Bank's shares are down 51 percent so far this year and it's negotiating a multibillion fine in the U.S. that it could have trouble paying.

But it's exactly because it is so big and important that it is unlikely to be allowed to simply fail, the way U.S. authorities did with Lehman.

Here are some questions and answers about the bank and what it might mean for the rest of the world.

WHAT'S AILING DEUTSCHE BANK?

The recent turmoil was triggered by a demand by US authorities that Deutsche Bank pay \$14 billion to settle an investigation in mortgage-backed securities, the investments that turned out to be duds and helped trigger the global financial crisis. That sum is about the same as Deutsche Bank's entire market value as of Friday.

It's unlikely the bank would pay the full amount - industry peer Goldman Sachs paid \$5 billion in a similar investigation. But the fact that it could get hit with a big bill increased the possibility that it may have to tap investors to raise the cash. That would dilute shareholders' stakes and send shares down even farther.

IS THAT IT?

No, Deutsche Bank also has more fundamental problems. It is loaded with risky financial trades called

derivatives and has struggled for years to turn its business around, particularly its investment banking unit. Before the financial crisis of 2007-2008, it earned much of its money from investment banking. New regulations have pushed banks to hold larger financial buffers and reduce their risky investments. That has made investment banking less profitable. And compliance with all the rules has imposed costs as well.

Like other European banks, its profit margins have been squeezed by record low benchmark interest rates. Low rates reduce the difference at which a bank can borrow money and lend it out.

The International Monetary Fund said in June that Deutsche Bank was the biggest source of systemic risk among the globe's big financial institutions.

WILL IT NEED A BAILOUT?

It's too soon to tell. One of the things that unnerved investors this week is that the German government has refused to say it would rescue the bank, if needed. But that's likely because there's a general election next year in Germany and politicians don't want to be seen promising taxpayer money to save a bank after spending billions during the financial crisis.

If push comes to shove, experts say, the German government would be under pressure to step in to help. Deutsche Bank is the country's biggest financial group and has links to many other banks. As such, it is considered systemically important - its failure could conceivably endanger the stability of the European or even global financial system.

Yet new European rules on bank bailouts could limit the government's choices and expose investors to losses. The rules, which went

into effect Jan. 1, are intended to protect taxpayers from failing banks. In some circumstances they require shareholders and creditors to take losses before a bank can turn to taxpayers.

WOULD ITS COLLAPSE BE ANOTHER 'LEHMAN MOMENT'?

That's the big question, but analysts say probably not.

Lehman Brothers was, like Deutsche Bank and other major financial groups, closely connected to other banks. But Lehman's finances were, by some accounts, far shakier. After Lehman imploded, inquiries showed that the company used accounting tricks to mask \$50 billion in debt, making it look like it was in better shape than it really was. Deutsche Bank has passed a "stress test" this year that has required it to open up its books to regulators. It has more reserves it can readily tap - over 200 billion euros (\$224 billion) - whereas Lehman had trouble paying back customers who wanted their money back.

Also, the European Central Bank can make available big, ultra-cheap, short-term loans for banks if the system as a whole gets into trouble.

THEN WHY ARE INVESTORS WORRIED?

Burned by the experience of the financial crisis, it seems investors may be faster to respond to perceived dangers. "In banking, perception is everything, and in times of stress investors tend to shoot first and ask questions later," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

At the very least, it looks like Deutsche Bank will have to raise capital, and that tends to hurt the share price. The bank has tried to bring in money this week by selling a subsidiary for 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion). But analysts say that ultimately it will likely have to tap shareholders for cash. Others have suggested it merge with another weak German group, Commerzbank, which this week announced it was cutting thousands of jobs to save on costs.

More broadly, Deutsche Bank's problem highlights how weak many European financial groups still are. Unlike in the U.S., where banks were made to restructure aggressively in the wake of the financial crisis, European banks have been slow to clear out soured investments from their books and to readjust their business models. — AP



The campaign visual

KFH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS 11TH DRAW 'USE KFH CARDS AND YOU MAY WIN MERCEDES AND CASH PRIZES UP TO \$200,000'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the 11th draw of the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUVs and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Ahmad Aladwani, Meshari Almutairi, Abrar Alalush, Abdulaziz Alsaedi, Salem Alshebani, Ahmad Alenezi and Marwan Aday.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will gain a chance to enter a draw and win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz cars and a chance to win the value of their purchases up to \$2000 daily for 100 days ending October 11th 2016. It is worth noting that KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used in international purchases are eligible for the daily draw.

Moreover, clients will gain the chance to enter 2 draws to win 2 Mercedes-Benz cars. The first draw will be for the first car Mercedes Benz GLE 400. This draw will be held after 50 days of the launch for purchasing transactions conducted from day 1 to day 50, while the second draw will be for

the second car Mercedes Benz GLE 450 Coupe, and will be held after 100 days of the launch for purchasing conducted from day 51 to day 100 of the campaign.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster the bank's pioneering position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, while benefiting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence, especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.



FRANKFURT: In this Jan. 27, 2016 file photo a sign reading "cash point" stands near the headquarters of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, Germany. Worries over the financial stability of Deutsche Bank returned to the fore Friday sending shares in Germany's biggest bank into a tailspin and to a record low. — AP

HISTORIC TAKEOVER OF PUERTO RICO'S FINANCES BEGINS

SAN JUAN: A federal control board on Friday took over Puerto Rico's finances and several government agencies for the first time in the US territory's history in a bid to haul the island out of an acute economic crisis. The seven-member board met in New York and was briefly interrupted by protesters who yelled, "This is slavery!" and "Stop pilaging Puerto Rico!" The meeting was livestreamed over the internet following pledges that the board would operate with transparency.

It ordered Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla to produce a fiscal plan in two weeks and submit weekly and monthly revenue reports

that detail how the government is adhering to its budget. Members also voted on which Puerto Rico government agencies would come under the board's oversight. They include the island's central government, its largest public university, its heavily indebted utility companies, a Government Development Bank that is running out of cash and a public pension system underfunded by more than \$40 billion.

"We're working as quickly as possible," said Jose Carrion III, who was elected board president, to reporters after the meeting.

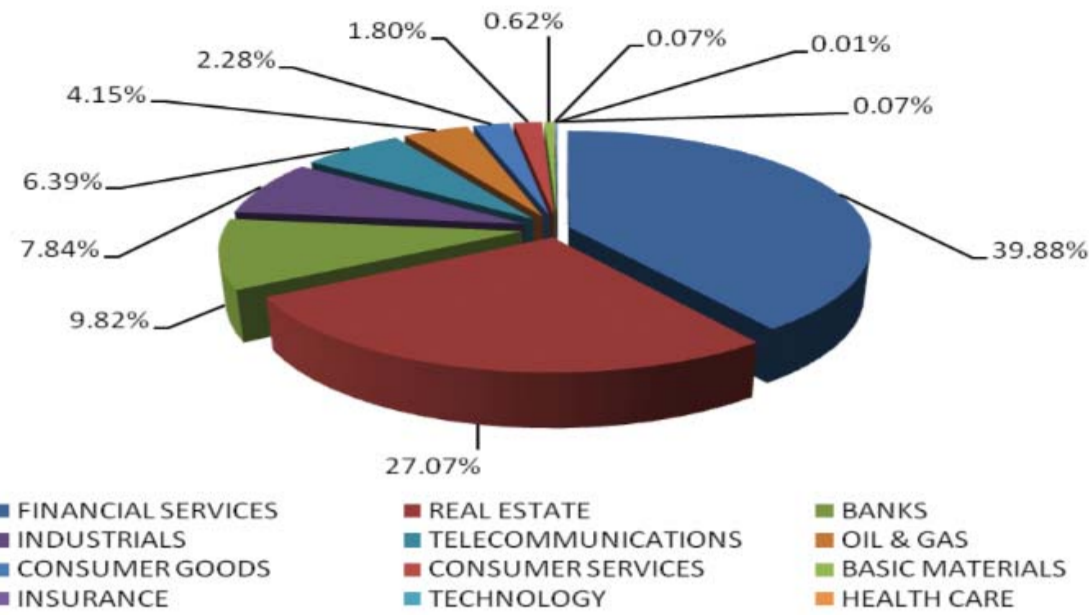
The board was approved by Congress in June and is charged in part with helping

restructure a portion of a nearly \$70 billion public debt that Garcia has said is unpayable. Carrion is one of four Republicans on the board, along with three Democrats. Also on the board is a representative of Puerto Rico's governor who is barred from voting. During a televised address on Thursday, Garcia urged the board to make the public pension system one of its priorities. He also requested that the board consider intervening in a trial in which a federal judge is expected to soon rule on whether Puerto Rico will have to pay its debts even though the U.S. legislation signed in June also protects the island from lawsuits through February 2017. — AP

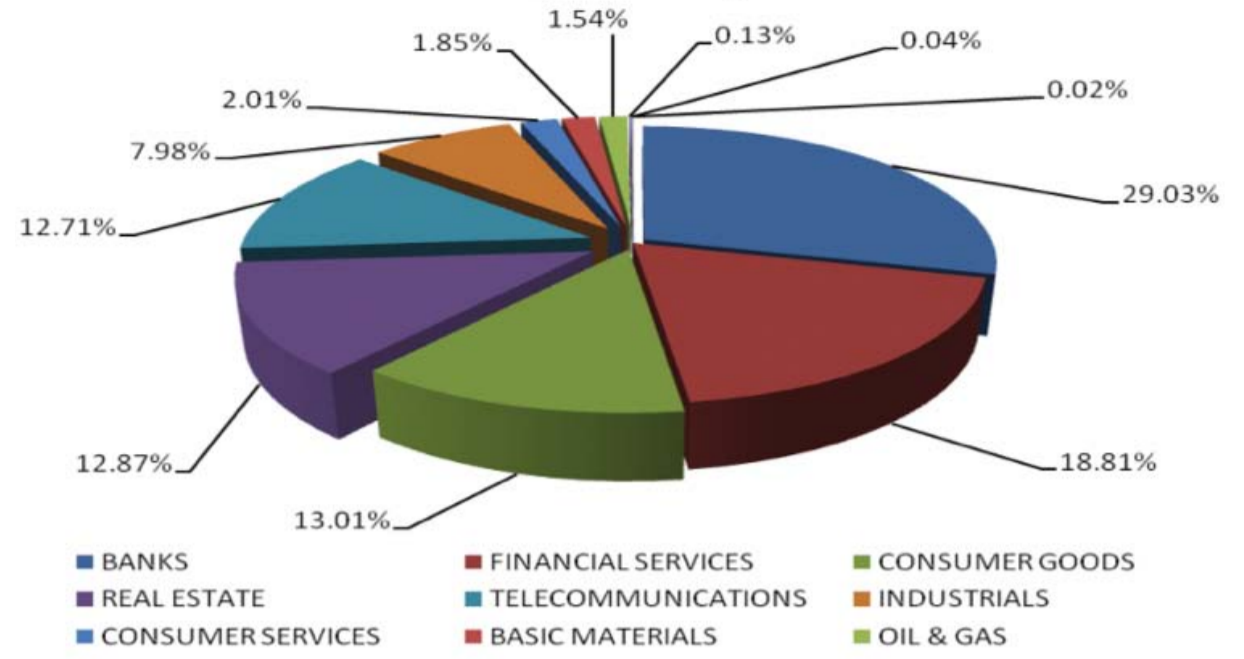
KSE ENDS SEPTEMBER WITH MIXED PERFORMANCE

BAYAN INVESTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Monthly Trading "Volume"



Monthly Trading "Value"



KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended September with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 5,398.39 points, down by 0.39% compared to the closings of the month before, the Weighted Index increased by 1.30% after closing at 351.87 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 814.10 points increasing by 1.53%. Furthermore, last month's average turnover decreased by 8.68%, compared to the preceding month, reaching KD 6.02 million, whereas trading volume average was 56.38 million shares, recording decrease of 9.34%.

The stock market indices' closings were mixed as a result to the different traders' preferences, where there was a purchasing trend on some leading and operational listed stocks headed by the Banks Sector stocks, which positively affected the Weighted and KSX-15 indices' performance to end the month in the green zone, while the small-cap stocks continued its pressure on the Price Index to end the last month with some loss due to the quick speculations and the profit collection operations witnessed by such stocks during most of the daily sessions of the month.

The market performance during the month of September was reflected on the total market capitalization, which gained around KD 314 million, despite the decreased number of trading days during the month, due to the Adha Eid holiday, as the market cap reached by the end of the month KD 23.64 billion, compared to KD 23.32 billion at end of August, and with a growth of 1.34%.

On the other hand, the market witnessed during the last month a refrain from trading by some traders, waiting for positive motivators to arise and to push them to invest their money in the market, which caused the trading activity to



drop on both levels, the volume and the value, compared to the month of August. Also, the market is currently witnessing a general state of watch and cautious in dealing, as the traders are waiting for the listed companies 9 months 2016 results, which contributed to the decline in the trading activity. For the annual performance, the Price Index ended

last month recording 3.86% annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the Weighted Index decreased by 7.82%, and the KSX-15 Index recorded 9.59% loss.

Sectors' Indices

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last month in the red zone,

while the other four recorded increases. The Consumer Goods sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.21% to end the month's activity at 1,132.32 points. The Insurance sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.31%, closing at 975.19 points, followed by the Oil & Gas sector, as its index closed at 756.96 points at a loss of 1.31%. The Technology sector was the least declining as its index closed at 968.08 points with a 0.24% decrease.

On the other hand, last month's highest gainer was the Banks sector, achieving 0.81% growth rate as its index closed at 794.59 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Health Care sector's index closed at 1,069.57 points recording 0.56% increase. The Industrial sector was the least growing as its index closed at 1,154.56 points with a 0.41% increase.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated total trade volume during last month with 359.71 million shares changing hands, representing 39.88% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 27.07% of last month's total trading volume, with a total of 244.16 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of KD 27.97 million or 29.03% of last month's total market trading value.

The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last month turnover of KD 18.13 million representing 18.81% of the total market trading value.



GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE AL DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al Danah daily draws on 25 September 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 18 September - 22 September 2016. The Al Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners were:

- (Sunday 18/9):** Fatemah Ahmed Habib Shakrallah, Naser Matar Sameer Kayed
 - (Monday 19/9):** Mohammed Ahmad Taleb Taleb, Yagoub Rekan Abdulrahman Al-Khaldi
 - (Tuesday 20/9):** Nasser Khalaf Nasser Al-Mutirat, Rabab Khalaf Haji Ibrahim
 - (Wednesday 21/9):** Samir Aloun, Salman Hussein Ghloom Mohammad
 - (Thursday 22/9):** Mohammad Rabi Amin Morelly, Abdulaziz Al-Hassan Essa Ahmad
- Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 where-by the Al Danah Millionaire will be announced. Open an Al Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the Millionaire Draw!

Five reasons why the Al Danah account is the Best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 Million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year Win Big, Live Big, with Al Danah 2016.

Al Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days.

To take part in the Al Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al Danah and its winners.



NISSAN CATAPULTS PRODUCT LINE-UP TO NEW LEVEL TO DELIVER INNOVATION AT PARIS MOTOR SHOW



DUBAI: Nissan is delivering innovation and excitement to the Paris Motor Show, catapulting its product line-up to a whole new level with the rebirth of the iconic Nissan Micra. The company is also building on its Intelligent Mobility vision, announced at the Geneva Motor Show, with the 100 percent electric LEAF not only on display but used as a mobile energy source to power exhibits on Nissan's stand using vehicle-to-grid technology.

Paul Willcox, Chairman, Nissan Europe, said: "We're delivering on our commitment of innovation and excitement for everyone with the launch of the new Micra - a modern car for modern city living that reinforces our position as a leader in automotive design and style."

"This year we have continued to strengthen our product line up, not only with the rebirth of the Nissan Micra but with the new, more brazen Nissan GT-R supercar and the Nissan Murano crossover in Russia. We're also keeping one eye firmly on the future with our Intelligent Mobility vision, redefining how cars are driven, powered and integrated into society, and the Micra itself features many of the building-blocks of this vision."

Nissan's Intelligent Mobility vision, a framework to move customers around the world towards a safer and more sustainable future, is already being realised right here today.

Intelligent Drive: Hot on the heels of the debut of Nissan's Pro PILOT autonomous drive technology in the Nissan Serena minivan in Japan, Nissan is set to premiere the technology in Europe in the new Nissan Qashqai next year.

Intelligent Power: Starting with producing the world's best-selling

electric vehicle (EV), the Nissan LEAF, Nissan is always testing cutting-edge applications for EV technologies.

Intelligent Integration: EV battery technology has moved to a whole new level as Nissan partners with Eaton on a residential home energy storage unit called xStorage and joins forces with Enel on trials of vehicle-to-grid technology in Denmark and the UK.

As a showcase of this cutting-edge technology, the Nissan stand at Paris is powered in part by the Nissan LEAF, using its pioneering bio-directional charging to deliver energy from the car to the show.

The company has also beaten its previous European sales figures, recording double-digit growth in a number of markets and countering economic headwinds with strong sales of its market-leading crossovers and EVs.

In Western Europe sales at the end of FY15 (March 2016) were up 9.4% versus FY14, a record-breaking year, with major markets including Spain (+19.3%), Germany (+13.2%), Italy (+8.8%), UK (+4.2%) and France (+3.9%) seeing significant increases. Sales in Europe of Nissan's crossovers were more than 432,000 in FY15, making the company's range the best-selling in the category.

Willcox added: "Our product line-up has never been as strong or more cohesive - showing that we're unafraid to reinvent ourselves across all segments and disrupt the status quo. While others take a cautious view, we continue to invest in our vision of the future, right now."

This year also marks two important manufacturing milestones for Nissan - 30 years in Sunderland, UK, and 10 years in St Petersburg, Russia.

BOURSA KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN 8TH EUROMONEY CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait participated at the 8th Euromoney conference that was held on 27th September, 2016 at the JW Marriott - Kuwait City. The conference themed 'Meeting the Challenge of Financial Innovation and Reform' addressed challenges and opportunities facing the Kuwaiti economy in an era of global uncertainties. Boursa Kuwait Vice Chairman and CEO, Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al Khaled, highlighted the company's role in developing the overall financial market status and upgrading standards of the capital markets to the international level.

Al Khaled commenced by highlighting the objective behind the establishment of Boursa Kuwait and the role it plays in the wider national vision for the State of Kuwait. Al Khaled said: "Boursa Kuwait was founded in April, 2014 by the Capital Markets Authority Commissioners' Council resolution No. 37/2013 dated 11/20/2013 and permeable to Law No. (7/2010), to replace the Kuwait Stock Exchange. The company's strategy focuses on a) creating a competitive securities exchange at the regional level by creating an attractive issuer base and broadening the investor base, and b) upgrading the standards of the capital markets to the international level by increasing depth and breadth of products, developing the stock exchange infrastructure and upgrading the stock exchange business environment."

On the impact of the privatization of the stock exchange on the financial market, Al Khaled said: "The change in legislation signifies that Kuwait is on a path of much-needed economic diversification, which was made all the more obvious by the recent decline in oil prices over the last year. Moreover, it is imperative to note that there is value in the non-oil private sector that needs a supporting legislature to allow it to reach its full potential, and that is what we are seeing now with the privatization of Kuwait Stock Exchange."

By driving this strategy forward, Boursa Kuwait aims to enhance the current level of performance of the exchange, achieve emerging market status and enable the market to compete with regional peers; ultimately building a market that reflects the strength, depth and flexibility of the



Vice Chairman and CEO Boursa Kuwait, Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al Khaled.

Kuwaiti private sector.

Since it officially assumed responsibilities of the stock exchange in April, 2016, Boursa Kuwait has come a long way and was able to address some of the challenges and weaknesses it identified during the planning phase. Its approach focused mainly on delivering and reinforcing transparency, whereby it launched the Company Information Portal (CIP), a tool designed by Boursa Kuwait, with the aim of providing a credible and updated information platform for all listed companies, which can be used as a reference site by all stakeholders. This was followed by the upgrade of its Financial Data Service available on the exchange website, which was rolled out over two phases, in affiliation with Thomson Reuters and the replacement of KARS with Market View; a new page on the exchange website where clients can view all previous day disclosure changes and automation of submitting financial statements for disclosure purposes.

This marks only the start for Boursa Kuwait and the change it plans to bring about. With a firm and steady approach, Boursa Kuwait will work towards not only improving market status on a business level, but rather to engage the nation as a whole, by raising awareness and educating all segments and engaging our nation as a whole, to support the development of our economy on all fronts.

ASAR - AL RUWAYEH & PARTNERS CO-SPONSORS 8TH ANNUAL EUROMONEY KUWAIT CONFERENCE 2016

KUWAIT: ASAR - Al Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR), Kuwait's leading and most prominent corporate law firm and one of the region's top tier firms, co-sponsored and participated at the yearly Euro money conference that took place at Kuwait on September 27th. The platform included the participation of senior government officials, market experts and businessmen, discussing the challenges and opportunities facing the Kuwaiti economy in an era of global uncertainty.

The central theme of 'Meeting the Challenge of Financial Innovation and Reform', discussing Kuwait's fiscal, monetary and economic diversification strategy included topics such as Digitalization, Innovation and the future of Kuwaiti business, finance and governance. There was also a strong underlying theme in the programme to explore the role of Kuwait in the international financial system. The event was a unique opportunity for Euro money and the audience to interact with senior government officials in an informal setting.

From ASAR's part, Ahmed Barakat, Managing Partner at ASAR, addressed the conference on the recent legislative developments in Kuwait and how they are affecting businesses in the country.

Barakat said: "Recently in 2016, Kuwait has announced significant reforms, designed to balance the national economy and diversify the nation's sources of income. These reforms include plans to boost non-oil revenues and reduce public spending, as well as financial sector reforms, changes to the public sector's role in the economy, and incentives to empower citizens to launch their own businesses. For this reason, we at ASAR are tackling these issues through raising and addressing the necessary legal changes for implementing this reform plan."

Barakat also commented on the gradual implementation of the Basel III capital adequacy standard and the introduction of comprehensive Capital market Bylaws as part of the major developments in the banking and Capital market sectors, let alone the recent enhancement and beefing up of the legal



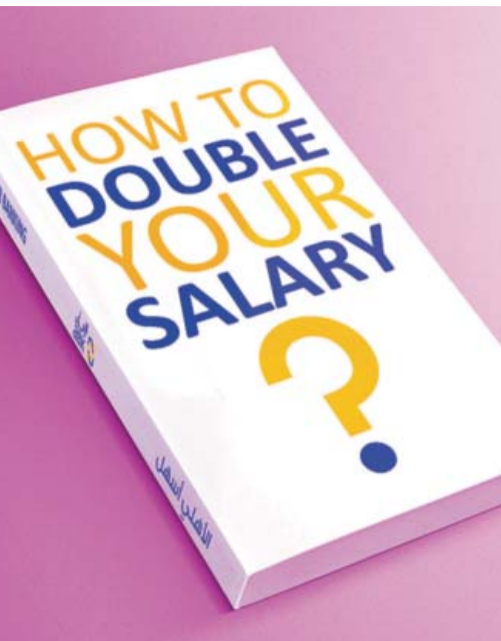
Ahmed Barakat

frameworks dealing with private/public partnership projects and foreign direct investment in Kuwait.

In closing, Barakat added: "As experienced corporate lawyers, we applaud the government and parliament for taking proactive and positive measures to fill in the legislative gaps in such a challenging market like Kuwait."

With dedicated offices in Kuwait and Bahrain coupled with its associated offices and relationships, ASAR provides clients across an extensive range of industry sectors with comprehensive legal advice and support for their business activities in Kuwait, across the GCC and beyond.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate and commercial law firm in Kuwait by reputable legal guides such as the Chambers Global Guide, International Financial Law Review (IFLR) and the Legal 500. In 2015, ASAR was awarded with the IFLR National Law Firm of the Year Award; an award which ASAR has been delighted to receive for the 7th consecutive year. The firm also won the "Best Restructuring Deal in the Middle East" award by IFLR in 2014. Further, the firm won the prestigious "2014 Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year" and the "2014 Best Banking and Finance Legal Team - Kuwait" awards from Acquisition International Magazine in 2014. ASAR lawyers have also received multiple awards under different categories in the Fourth Edition of 'Best Lawyers' in Kuwait.



ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 22ND 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' WEEKLY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 22nd 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 27th September, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw.

The winners this week were:

- 1) Salem Abdulwahab Abdul Hameed Hasan, South Sabahiya Branch.
- 2) Sherin Nanayakkara, Fahaheel Branch.

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 3rd October, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



INFINITI VC-TURBO ENGINE TECHNOLOGY PRESENTED IN PARIS

PARIS: INFINITI is giving attendees of the 2016 Paris Motor Show (Mondial de l'Automobile) a glimpse into automotive future today (29 September 2016), with the reveal of ground-breaking new engine technology.

INFINITI's new VC-Turbo (Variable Compression Turbo) is the world's first production-ready variable compression ratio engine. Promising to be one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created, VC-Turbo technology combines the power of a high-performance 2.0-liter turbo gasoline engine with the torque and efficiency of an advanced diesel power train - without the equivalent emissions.

Roland Krueger, President of INFINITI Motor Company, commented: "The pioneering new VC-Turbo power train represents a leap forward for engine development. Vehicle engineers believe that a breakthrough in internal combustion technology would come from mastering the variable compression ratio. INFINITI will be the first to bring this technology to the market in

2018. This new generation of power trains will help our global growth and expansion of the INFINITI product portfolio." Making its European debut in Paris is the INFINITI QX Sport Inspiration Concept, laying down markers for the design of future INFINITI QX models. The daring new concept has received some design upgrades since its global reveal at the Beijing Auto Show in April 2016, and explores the brand's vision for a next-generation, mid-size premium SUV.

VC-Turbo The first production-ready variable compression engine

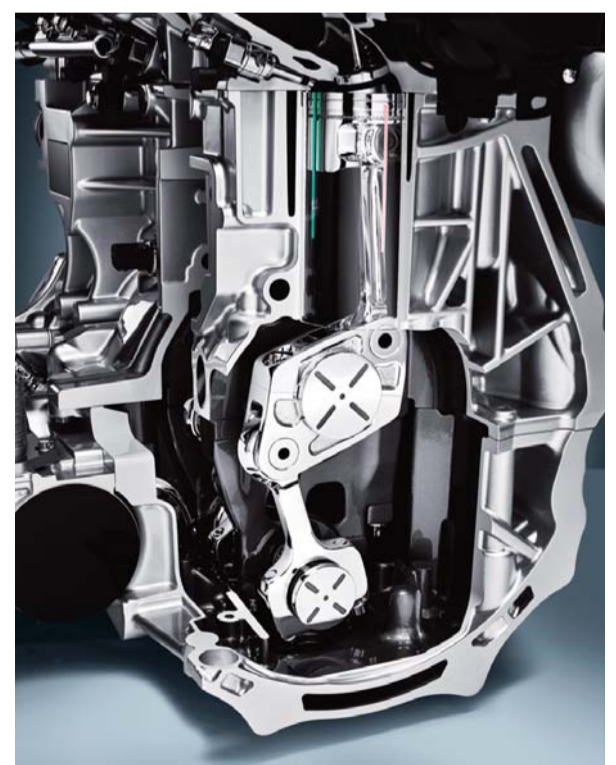
Transforming on demand, INFINITI's VC-Turbo technology uses an advanced multi-link system to seamlessly raise or lower the reach of the pistons, detecting the car's driving condition and driver inputs, and instantly selecting the most suitable compression ratio. The engine is able to offer any compression ratio between

8:1 (for high performance) and 14:1 (for high efficiency).

With a development target power output of approximately 200 kW (268 hp / 272 ps) and 390 Nm torque, the VC-Turbo engine will be comparable to certain six-cylinder gasoline power trains for performance, while significantly outperforming them in efficiency.

The four-cylinder VC-Turbo engine achieves lower levels of noise and vibration than conventional internal combustion engines, particularly diesel, and is lighter and more compact than V6 units with comparable power outputs.

INFINITI's VC-Turbo technology marks a significant leap forward for the internal combustion engine, joining other renowned power train innovations such as liquid-cooling, fuel injection, catalytic converters, and turbo charging. The arrival of the variable compression ratio engine will establish new benchmarks - for power, efficiency and emissions - against which future power trains will be measured.



DEMAND FOR ALASKA CRUISES GROWING AGAIN

ANCHORAGE: A growing consumer demand for Alaska cruises has put the state back in the million-passenger club as it rebounds after a leaner stretch. And next year is expected to be even better with larger capacity ships added to the Far North lineup.

The millionth passenger was recently counted as the Alaska cruise industry's season was nearing its end. Final passenger totals are expected to be slightly higher.

"Alaska's very popular," Holland America Line spokesman Erik Elvejord said Friday. "We've been getting a lot of interest in it." Overall visitor numbers also are growing, with a record of more than 2 million travelers in the state last year. This summer's season is projected to be "just as positive" and expected to continue next year as well, according to Sarah Leonard, president of the Alaska Travel Industry Association.

"With continued interest by cruise companies including

Alaska itineraries and bringing bigger ships to Alaska ports, we expect the growth to continue next summer," Leonard said Friday in an email to The Associated Press.

John Binkley, president of Cruise Lines International Association Alaska, says the 2017 season is expected to bring up to 45,000 additional passengers from this year's tally. That would break the old record set in 2008.

The number of sailings also is expected to slightly grow, from 477 this year to 481 next year. Alaska's last previous million-passenger season was in 2009. "It's been slow to build back," Binkley said, noting the state's competition with other markets as the cruise industry booms globally, particularly in Asia markets.

The drop in passenger numbers also has been blamed on other factors, including the national recession that ate into discretionary income. Binkley also says the numbers were

affected by a \$46 passenger head tax approved by voters in 2006, although some have questioned how larger role it played.

The cruise association sued the state over the tax, but dropped the suit after a tax cut approved by state lawmakers was passed into law in 2010.

Around the same time, state funding was increased for travel industry marketing. That boost lasted only a few years before the state's current financial crisis cut into funding, Binkley said.

"We had some very robust years of marketing that brought Alaska back into competition really with other destinations," he said. The increasing demand is prompting Holland America Line to replace two smaller vessels with larger capacity ships for Alaska sailings next year. Altogether, Holland America utilizes seven vessels in Alaska.

Elvejord, the Holland America spokesman, said every destination tends to be cyclical as far as passenger numbers go. In Alaska's case, demand has ramped up even more in recent months.

"The interest is growing," Elvejord said. The southeast Alaska town of Sitka is among communities enjoying the growth spurt that's been building since completion of a deep water dock in 2012. This summer, an estimated 130,000 passengers visited the town, a figure that's expected to grow to more than 160,000 next year, according to dock manager Chris McGraw. Before the dock's construction, cruise ship passengers were brought to shore in smaller boats. That still occasionally happens when there are two ships at port, but for the most part passengers are disembarking at the dock.

"It's making Sitka more attractive for the cruise companies," McGraw said. — AP

US GOVERNMENT CUTS CORD ON INTERNET OVERSIGHT

WASHINGTON: The US government yesterday ended its formal oversight role over the internet, handing over management of the online address system to a global non-profit entity. The US Commerce Department announced that its contract had expired with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, which manages the internet's so-called "root zone."

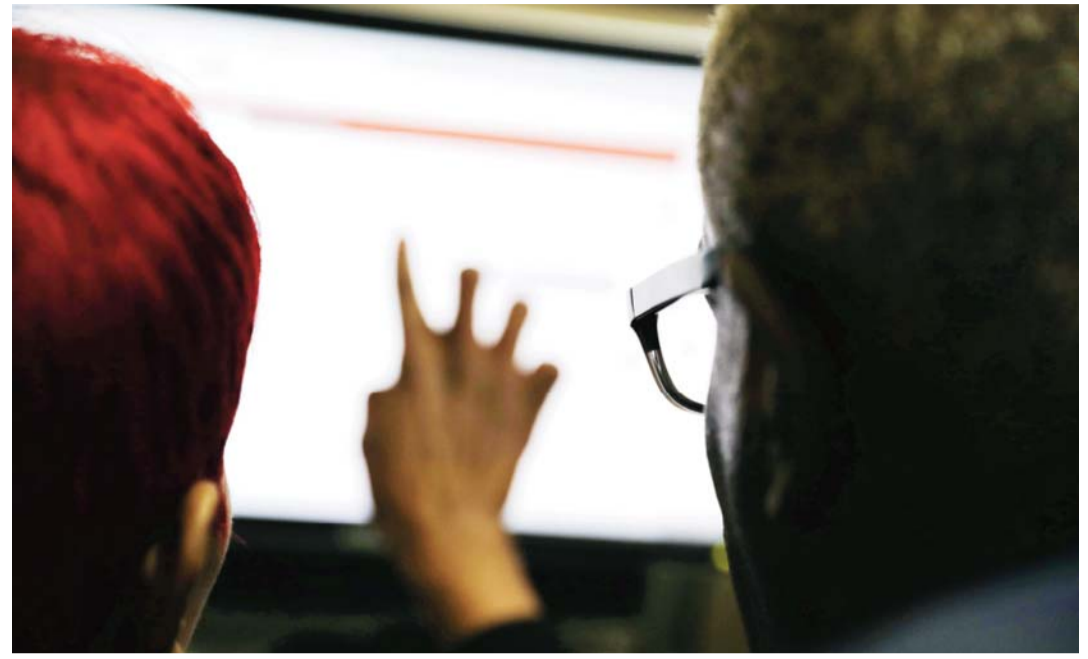
That leaves ICANN as a self-regulating organization that will be operated by the internet's "stakeholders"—engineers, academics, businesses, non-government and government groups. The move is part of a decades-old plan by the US to "privatize" the internet, and backers have said it would help maintain its integrity around the world. US and ICANN officials have said the contract had given Washington a symbolic role as overseer or the internet's "root zone" where new online domains and addresses are created. But critics, including some US lawmakers, argued that this was a "give-away" by Washington that could allow authoritarian regimes to seize control.

A last-ditch effort by critics to block the plan—a lawsuit filed by four US states—failed when a Texas federal judge refused to issue an injunction to stop the transition. Lawrence Strickling, who heads the Commerce Department unit which has managed these functions, issued a brief statement

yesterday confirming the transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). "As of October 1, 2016, the IANA functions contract has expired," he said. Stephen Crocker, ICANN's board chairman and one of the engineers who developed the early internet protocols, welcomed the end of the contract.

"This transition was envisioned 18 years ago, yet it was the tireless work of the global Internet community, which drafted the final proposal, that made this a reality," he said in a statement. "This community validated the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. It has shown that a governance model defined by the inclusion of all voices, including business, academics, technical experts, civil society, governments and many others is the best way to assure that the Internet of tomorrow remains as free, open and accessible as the Internet of today."

The Internet Society, a group formed by internet founders aimed at keeping the system open, said the transition was a positive step. "The IANA transition is a powerful illustration of the multi-stakeholder model and an affirmation of the principle that the best approach to address challenges is through bottom-up, transparent, and consensus-driven processes," the group said in a statement. — AFP



ATLANTA: People work on a job search on a computer at an office in Atlanta. The US government plans to cede control of some of the internet's core systems, namely, the directories that help web browsers and apps know where to find the latest weather, maps and Facebook musings. — AP



CALIFORNIA: Members of the media and invited guests take a look at the new iPad Pro during an event at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif. Apple announced it is extending its push into selling business technology by forging a partnership with the Deloitte consulting firm to advise companies on using iPhones, iPads and Apple software in the workplace. — AP

A YEAR OF ALPHABET: GREAT FOR GOOGLE, LESS SO FOR MOONSHOTS

GOOGLE'S REVENUE GROWTH ACCELERATES

SAN FRANCISCO: Reorganizing itself under the umbrella company Alphabet has done wonders for Google - but less so for a grab bag of eclectic projects ranging from robotic cars to internet-beaming balloons, which are suffering costly growing pains. A year after Alphabet took shape, Google's revenue growth has accelerated - an unusual development for a company of its size. That success, however, also underscores Alphabet's dependence on the fickle business of placing digital ads in core Google products like search, Gmail and YouTube video.

As a result, it remains vulnerable to swings in marketing budgets and stiffening competition from another equally ambitious rival, Facebook. Alphabet was supposed to speed the process of turning offshoot businesses into new technological jackpots. CEO Larry Page predicted that separating these smaller "moonshots" from the massive search-and-advertising business would spur innovation by fostering a more entrepreneurial atmosphere. That hasn't happened during Alphabet's first year.

Making the shift

Until Page and fellow Google co-founder Sergey Brin created Alphabet (which turns one on Sunday), investors complained that Google was spending too much on high-risk efforts. New chief financial officer Ruth Porat, who joined Google in mid-2015, responded by reining in expenses to keep them more in line with revenue growth. A few months later, Page announced the plan to draw a dividing line between Google and the far-flung forays Alphabet now refers to as "Other Bets." The mish-mash includes smart-thermostat maker Nest; the Fiber project, a high-speed internet service; and

X lab, where the company is building robotic cars and designing the stratospheric balloons designed to beam internet service to remote areas. Other "Other Bets" include the biotech firm Verily and medical-research firm Calico, which has been studying ways to stop aging. Alphabet also runs funds investing in startups and mid-sized companies. Page argued that fencing off Other Bets would make Google "even better through greater focus."

Core successes

That part of Page's vision appears to be panning out. After subtracting ad commissions, Alphabet's second-quarter revenue jumped 22 percent from the previous year to \$17.5 billion. It was the best performance in four years, adjusted for changes in currency exchange rates, says RBC analyst Mark Mahaney. Alphabet shares rose 25 percent over the past year, easily outpacing major market indexes. "Folks will be hard pressed to say that Alphabet hasn't been a success," S&P Global Market Intelligence analyst Scott Kessler says. Alphabet declined to comment on its first-year performance. But Sundar Pichai, who became Google's CEO in the restructuring, told investors in July, "There is an amazing energy right now." Among other things, Google has been making strides in the still-nascent field of artificial intelligence, hoping to create more convenient services that attract even more eyeballs for its advertisers.

Stalled bets

But the demand for financial discipline and accountability appears to have taken a toll on Other Bets, which lose billions of dollars a year. Key leaders have defected from Alphabet's high-

profile self-driving car project and its Nest line of internet-connected devices. Alphabet also has scaled back plans to expand its Fiber service to dozens of US cities.

Creating a holding company also was supposed to make it easier to diversify through major acquisitions. But Alphabet's biggest deal so far has been the \$625 million purchase of a business software maker, Apigee Corp, which had annual revenue of just \$92 million. Alphabet could make a much bigger splash if it buys Twitter, as recent reports say it is considering. Twitter would give Alphabet a popular publishing outlet to monitor trends, mine data and sell even more ads. Alphabet declined to discuss whether it's mulling a bid, which would be expensive; Twitter might fetch between \$20 and \$30 billion, despite its problems with user growth and online harassment.

Looking beyond

Google is doing so well that investors aren't fixating on the losses with Other Bets, Kessler says. Only three Bets - Nest, Fiber and Verily - are generating even a smidgen of revenue. In nine months, the Other Bets companies have lost a combined \$2.6 billion on expense of \$410 million. Another big loss is expected in the July-September quarter; the company reports results on Oct. 27. BGC analyst Colin Gillis still sees the gamble as prudent and expects at least one of the projects will come up with a breakthrough that lessens Alphabet's dependence on Google. Optimism is fine as Google keeps growing at a robust rate. But Wall Street will likely ratchet up the pressure if the company falters and nothing emerges from Other Bets to help pick up the slack. — AP

YAHOO HACK MAY BECOME TEST CASE FOR DATA BREACH DISCLOSURE RULES

WASHINGTON: Yahoo's disclosure that hackers stole user data from at least 500 million accounts in 2014 has highlighted shortcomings in US rules on when cyber attacks must be revealed and their enforcement. Democratic Senator Mark Warner this week asked the US Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate whether Yahoo and its senior executives properly disclosed the attack, which Yahoo blamed on Sept 22 on a "state-sponsored actor." The Yahoo hack could become a test case of the SEC's guidelines, said Jacob Olcott, former Senate Commerce Committee counsel who helped develop them, due to the size of the breach, intense public scrutiny and uncertainty over the timing of Yahoo's discovery.

Yahoo has not specifically addressed when it learned of the 2014 attack. And the vagueness of SEC's 2011 rules on disclosure and its failure to enforce them are drawing equal attention, privacy lawyers and cyber security experts said. The agency has "been looking for the right case to bring forward," said Olcott. The agency in 2011 told publicly traded companies to report hacking incidents that could have a "material adverse effect on the business" but did not define that. SEC has never acted against a company for failing to disclose a cybersecurity incident or threat, and it has brought just two enforcement actions against companies for insufficient data protection, an agency spokesman said.

Lawyers said this reflected difficulty in determining if breaches were material and many companies' belief that reporting on cyber threats generally satisfies the disclosure requirement. Yahoo has not offered a precise timeline about when it was made aware of the breach. On Sept 9, it said in an

SEC filing it did not know of "any incidents of, or third party claims alleging ... unauthorized access" of customers' personal data that could have a material adverse effect on Verizon Communication Inc's planned \$4.8 billion acquisition of Yahoo's core business. Since then, Yahoo has not clarified if it knew of the attack before that SEC filing. "Our investigation into this matter is ongoing and the issues are complex," a Yahoo spokesman said last week.

In his letter, Warner asked the SEC to evaluate whether the current disclosure regime was adequate. He cited reports that fewer than 100 of 9,000 public companies disclosed a material data breach since 2010. "I don't know that we need new rules. But in certain situations, you may need more aggressive enforcement," said Roberta Karmel, a Brooklyn Law School professor. The SEC in 2014 examined whether cyber disclosure rules needed to be strengthened and imposed new requirements for broker-dealers and investment advisers but not public companies.

'Punish the victim'

Some policymakers worry rules compelling prompt disclosure of cyber attacks could deter companies from cooperating with authorities. "We cannot blame executives for worrying that what starts today as an honest conversation about a cyberattack could end tomorrow in a 'punish the victim' regulatory enforcement action," Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker said this week. Congress last year expanded liability protections for companies that share cyber information with the government, and Pritzker urged granting companies temporary immunity during the response to a hack. — Reuters

NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BUY 1,000 BODY CAMERAS

NEW YORK: The New York Police Department, the largest city police force in the United States, has agreed to buy 1,000 body cameras, officials confirmed Friday. The move is part of a nationwide push to equip more police with the technology in response to a national outcry over the deaths of unarmed-out African American men at the hands of police in disputed circumstances. An official at the New York's mayor's office confirmed to AFP that the police department had agreed to order 1,000 body cameras from Seattle-based Viewu LLC. The city of more than 8.5 million people has around 34,500 uniformed police officers.

"The department worked very closely with all the concerned parties in the selection process. We are looking forward to the implementation of the program," a police spokeswoman said in a statement. The Daily News newspaper said the planned purchase was part of a five-year, \$6.42 million contract that police hope to start rolling out in 20 precincts by the

start of 2017. New York police began a body-camera pilot program in December 2014, six months after the death of father-of-six Eric Garner in a police chokehold that sparked nationwide protests. The tiny, flat cameras look like pagers and can be clipped onto uniforms to record police interactions and activities in real time.

The devices, which are far cheaper than dashboard cameras, are a relatively recent innovation in the United States but the New York agreement is likely to increase chances they will become standard equipment in coming years. A 2012 study by the Rialto Police Department in California found that for officers using the cameras, complaints from the public dropped almost 90 percent and uses of force went down nearly 60 percent. A series of killings of unarmed black men by mostly white police officers since August 2014 has sparked protests, charges of racism and revived the debate about excessive use of police force. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: Photo shows the dashboard of the Tesla Model X car, at the company's headquarters in Fremont, Calif. Newer cars that connect to the internet are capable of collecting vast amounts of data about their drivers. Tesla Motors has used data to reveal, sometimes within hours of a crash, how fast the driver was going and whether or not the company's semi-autonomous Autopilot system was engaged. — AP

CALIFORNIA PROPOSES GIVING MORE FREEDOM TO TEST SELF-DRIVING CARS

SAN FRANCISCO: California will allow companies more leeway in testing self-driving cars on public roads while restricting how the nascent technology is advertised under revised draft regulations released on Friday. In one of the biggest changes, the new regulations would allow for the absence of a driver in some instances, provided there is two-way communication with the vehicle.

The original draft regulations by the Department of Motor Vehicles were criticized by some tech companies, such as Alphabet Inc's Google, and carmakers as being overly restrictive and stifling innovation. Moreover, disabled groups complained that the requirement of a driver in the car hurt the very people that autonomous vehicles would most benefit.

California has been at the forefront of the fast-growing autonomous vehicle industry, fueled by technology companies in Silicon Valley, and is one of a handful of states to have passed regulations enabling self-driving car testing on public roads.

Currently, 15 companies have permits to drive autonomous vehicles on public roads in the state provided there is a licensed driver in the car. Now, carmakers will have to certify that they have met a 15-step safety assessment issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That safety assurance means self-driving cars will no longer be required to be tested by a third-party, as in the original proposal. The changes also prohibit advertising semi-autonomous systems like enhanced cruise

control and lane-assist systems using terms like "autonomous" or "self-driving." The systems help steer and keep vehicles in lanes but still require a human to remain engaged.

Such partially autonomous systems, which transfer control of the vehicle between the driver and the car and vice versa, have come under scrutiny since a May fatality involving a Tesla Motors Inc driver using the company's Autopilot semi-autonomous system. Some consumer groups and others have criticized the Silicon Valley electric car maker for the choice of the name Autopilot, which could suggest that the technology does not require a driver's intervention. The draft regulations face a new period of public comment before being finalized. — Reuters

ZIKA ILLNESSES ARE MILD AT WORST IN US TEENS, YOUNG CHILDREN

NEW YORK: A first look at US teens and young children who were infected with Zika suggests the virus typically causes at worst only a mild illness. Zika infection during pregnancy can cause severe brain-related birth defects. But the report seems to confirm health officials' belief that infections after birth in children are similar to infections in adults—most people don't feel sick, and some develop only mild symptoms like fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes.

Some experts say there's not enough data to answer questions about the virus's potential impact on the developing brains of infants and small children, however. The report, released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is based on 158 infections from earlier this year in kids ages 1 month to 17 years.

All the children picked up the virus while traveling abroad, and the bulk of them were older kids in their teens. Only 16 were age 4 or younger and only four were under a year old. Experts are worried about very young children because



MARATHON, FLORIDA: In this Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016 file photo, *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito larvae swim in a container at the Florida Mosquito Control District Office. —AP

they can be more severely affected by infections in general, and because their brains are developing rapidly. "I'm really concerned about birth through the first birthday," said Dr. Carrie Byington, a University of Utah researcher who focuses on infections in children.

None died

None of the children studied died, and none developed a paralyzing condition seen in some infected adults called Guillain-Barre syndrome. But Guillain-Barre is rare, seen only once in every several thousand Zika illnesses in adults. It may be that kids can still get it, but there weren't enough cases for it to surface, said Dr. Ganeshwaran Mochida, a pediatric neurologist at Boston Children's Hospital.

Zika outbreaks have swept through Latin America and the Caribbean in the last year, but data on infections in children are limited. Experts have based conclusions about how infections progress in kids partly on what was seen

in 10 children in a Zika outbreak on a South Pacific island in 2007.

Zika is mainly spread by a tropical mosquito called *Aedes aegypti*, though it can also be spread through sex. Mosquitoes have been spreading the virus in Florida's Miami-Dade County, as well as in Puerto Rico and some other US territories. Most of the more than 3,600 reported infections in the 50 states, including about 800 pregnant women, have been seen in people who traveled to and were infected in Zika outbreak countries.

Also on Friday, the CDC updated its advice to US couples who may have been infected with Zika and are thinking of having a baby. They recommend men use condoms or refrain from sex for at least six months after returning from a Zika-hit area. That's longer than the eight weeks previously recommended because researchers have found that the virus can linger in semen for months. The recommendation for women to use protection remains eight weeks from possible Zika exposure. —AP

REPORT: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FAILED TO FOLLOW HEALTH LAW

\$5 BILLION DISPUTE

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration failed to follow the president's health care law in a \$5 billion dispute over compensating insurers for high costs from seriously ill patients, Congress' investigative arm said Thursday.

The opinion from the Government Accountability Office is a setback for the White House and bolsters Republican complaints that administration officials bent the law as problems arose carrying out its complex provisions. The finding may complicate efforts to stabilize premiums in the law's insurance marketplaces, where about 11 million people get coverage.

The Obama administration said it "strongly disagrees" with the GAO's conclusion. At issue is how the administration has handled a little-known, but important program called "transitional reinsurance." Working in the background of the law's coverage expansion, the three-year program collects fees from employer and other private health insurance plans and channels the money to health plans that face large claims for treating patients with catastrophic medical

problems. The law specified that the fee would collect \$25 billion from 2014-2016, and \$5 billion of that would go directly to the Treasury. But when fee collections fell short, the Health and Human Services Department failed to allocate a share of the money to the Treasury, saying it would do so later as more money came in.

Grieved foul

Republicans cried foul and asked the GAO to examine the issue. On Thursday, Republicans got the ruling they had hoped for. "HHS lacks authority to ignore the statute's directive to deposit amounts (collected under the program) in the Treasury," the GAO's general counsel, Susan A. Poling, wrote.

The administration's interpretation of the law "is inconsistent with the plain language of the statute," she said. It didn't help the administration's case with GAO that the original HHS plan for distributing the fee money called for paying the Treasury.

Republicans accuse the Obama administra-

tion of shortchanging the Treasury to "bail out" the health care law.

"The administration should end this illegal scheme immediately, and focus on providing relief from the burdens of this law," Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said in a statement. Barrasso is a leader on health care issues.

Previously, Republicans have complained that the administration flouted the law when it delayed a requirement that larger employers must offer coverage to their workers. Responding to Thursday's GAO opinion, the Obama administration said that the program was implemented "lawfully and in a transparent manner" and "helps to reduce premiums for consumers."

The GAO has no enforcement power over its ruling, but congressional opponents of the health law could use the finding to write legislation that forces HHS to pay the Treasury. Generally, lawmakers of both parties respect GAO's rulings on federal budget issues.

The reinsurance program is one of three financial backstops created by President Barack Obama's law to support insurers as they built their customer base in the new markets for subsidized private insurance. Reinsurance provides a safety net for insurers by helping to pay large claims, an important consideration for companies selling coverage to a customer pool they didn't know.

The marketplaces have been tough for insurers, due in part to less-than-promised support from a different government stabilization program. Insurers also say they've been swamped by higher-than-expected claims and by customers who sign up for coverage, use it on expensive care and then stop paying premiums. Major carriers such as UnitedHealth Group and Aetna have scaled back their role after forecasting annual losses that will top \$300 million.

The health insurance industry is concerned over the escalating dispute between Republicans in charge of Congress and the administration.

David Merritt, a vice president of America's Health Insurance Plans, said the purpose of reinsurance is to protect the most vulnerable patients and keep coverage affordable for everyone else. Any changes to the program "will put consumers and their coverage at risk," Merritt said. —AP



BANGKOK: In this June 26, 2013, file photo, a Bangkok Metropolitan Administration worker fogs a home with mosquito repellent. —AP

THAILAND CONFIRMS SE ASIA'S FIRST ZIKA-LINKED BIRTH DEFECTS

BANGKOK: Authorities in Thailand have confirmed that two cases of babies with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads, were caused by the Zika virus, the first such cases found in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Prasert Thongcharoen, a senior Health Ministry official, said in a statement Friday that the linkage to Zika was confirmed by laboratory tests in two of three cases of babies afflicted with microcephaly. The results were inconclusive in the third case. The World Health Organization urged countries in the region to take stronger measures to contain the virus. The UN agency said the cases are the first of Zika-associated microcephaly in Southeast Asia.

"Zika virus infection is a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of a pregnant woman and her unborn child. Countries across the region must continue to strengthen measures aimed at preventing, detecting and responding to Zika virus transmission," WHO Southeast Asia regional director Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh said in a statement.

Zika generally causes a mild flu-like illness, but a major outbreak in Brazil last year revealed that it can result in severe birth defects when pregnant women are infected. The disease is spread primarily by mosquitoes, and WHO urged private citizens as well as governments to take strict

mosquito control measures. Mosquitoes are a constant concern in Thailand because they also transmit malaria, dengue fever and chikungunya. Statistics issued by Thai health officials show more than 300 confirmed Zika cases since the start of the year.

On Thursday, US health officials advised pregnant women to postpone travel to 11 countries in Southeast Asia because of Zika outbreaks. The advisory covered Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Zika has existed in some areas of Southeast Asia for years, and some residents may be immune. But it said a number of US travelers have become infected in the region in the last year.

WHO said travelers to areas with Zika virus outbreaks "should seek up-to-date advice on potential risks and appropriate measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to mosquito bites and sexual transmission of Zika." But it advised pregnant women "not to travel to areas of ongoing Zika virus transmission." "Pregnant women's sexual partners living in or returning from areas with Zika virus outbreaks should ensure safer sex or abstain from sex for the duration of their partner's pregnancy," it said. —AP



WASHINGTON: In this photo taken April 5, 2016, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. speaks on Capitol Hill. —AP

UTAH MAN MAY HAVE CONTRACTED ZIKA FROM DYING FATHER'S TEARS

SALT LAKE CITY: A Utah man who mysteriously contracted Zika from his infected father may have got it by touching his dad's tears or sweat with his bare hands, according to new research that found the unusual transmission method was likely caused by his dying father having 100,000 times the normal level of the virus.

The research done by University of Utah doctors and published Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, doesn't give definite answers to why the father's levels were so high or why the son contracted the virus in a way not documented anywhere else. But it does offer new details about the events the led to a case that has puzzled researchers.

The father, 73, had been diagnosed with prostate cancer eight months before his June death, the report says. He was receiving radiation therapy and anti-androgen therapy, which may have made it easier for the virus to replicate, said Dr. Sankar Swaminathan, chief of the infectious diseases division at University of Utah Health Care. But Swaminathan said the cancer and treatment doesn't totally explain why the man had such extremely high levels.

Vague details

He became ill after returning from a three-week trip to the southwest coast of Mexico, his native country that he left in 2003 to move to the United States, the paper says. The report still doesn't provide the man's name or the exact spot in Mexico he visited.

In Mexico, he ate ceviche and soft boiled turtle eggs and went

fishing in the ocean, but those food choices and activities played no role in coming down with the virus, Swaminathan said. He and other family members were bitten by mosquitoes, leading him and several others to come down with Zika. His son, a healthy 38-year-old, became sick five days after visiting his father in the hospital and was diagnosed with Zika. He recovered and later told doctors that he had helped nurses care for his father, including wiping his eyes without gloves. None of the nurses or doctors who treated his father became sick, or did other family members. Health officials and researchers tested mosquitoes in the Salt Lake City area and didn't find any Zika-infected bugs.

The virus causes only a mild illness in most people. But during recent outbreaks in Latin America, scientists discovered that infection during pregnancy has led to severe brain-related birth defects.

Researchers in this new report concur with a previous assessment by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the son contracted the virus through a new method other than the two main sources: mosquito bites and sexual activity with an infected person.

But Swaminathan said the findings don't mean people visiting Zika-infested areas and countries need to wear gloves all of the time. They believe the rare transmission happened primarily because the father's extremely high levels of the virus. "There's no risk of shaking hands with a person who has a typical Zika infection," said Swaminathan, who treated the two. —AP

COLORADO GIVES MARIJUANA CANDY A NEW LOOK TO AVOID CONFUSION

DENVER: Wondering if that brownie contains pot? Colorado has you covered. A requirement that edible marijuana products come with a diamond-shaped stamp and the letters T-H-C - not just on the packaging but on the brownies, candies and other edibles themselves - takes effect Saturday. The rule referencing marijuana's psychoactive ingredient was added after complaints that the treats look too much their non-intoxicating counterparts. It is the first such requirement in any legal weed state.

Colorado's new "universal symbol" for foods that contain marijuana is designed to give the treats a distinct look even after they're out of the packaging. In other words, a pot cookie being passed around a high school cafeteria no longer will look so innocent, giving parents a way to identify marijuana edibles without smelling or tasting them.

Other requirements

The stamping requirement comes in addition to exhaustive labeling and packaging rules that include childproof zippers and lids, along with warnings that the product should be kept away from children and not eaten before driving or while pregnant or nursing.

"We want to ensure that people genuinely know the difference between a Duncan Hines brownie and a marijuana brownie, just by looking at it," said state Rep. Jonathan Singer, a Democrat who sponsored the law requiring stamped edibles.

There are no numbers in Colorado or any marijuana state on how many children or adults accidentally eat pot. But a 2016 study tracing admissions at Children's Hospital Colorado just outside Denver found that more kids were treated for accidental pot ingestion after legalization, from 1.2 per 100,000 population two years prior to legalization to 2.3 per 100,000 population two years after legalization.

Marijuana ingestions remained relatively rare, though, with the hospital reporting 81 children treated for accidental pot ingestion between 2009 and 2015. Authors noted that "poor child supervision or product storage" was present in about a third of those cases. Still, reported accidental ingestions caught lawmakers' attention. The law was passed more than a

year ago but is just now taking effect because of difficulties implementing it. None of the other legal weed states has considered a universal symbol requirement for marijuana products themselves, as opposed to the packaging.

Candies and baked goods may be simple to stamp, but the label requirement gets a lot trickier for bulk items such as granola, or marijuana-infused sodas or powders that can be dissolved in water. The state ultimately settled on new packaging rules for those impossible-to-stamp items, requiring that sodas come in small single-serve bottles, for example.

Colorado also requires that edible packages contain the phrase, "Keep out of reach of children." At BlueKudu, which makes marijuana-infused chocolates, owners had to buy new molds for a line of candy bars that include flavors like mint chocolate, toffee almond

and coffee crunch. Company founder Andrew Schrot said that when he started his company in 2011 for medical marijuana customers, his pot treats looked like any other chocolate bars. But he said the switch to a recreational market in which new marijuana users were trying his products necessitated change. "This is not your normal chocolate bar. There's something different about it. You can tell just from looking at it," Schrot said.

Colorado's marijuana industry initially was hesitant about the change, pointing out in regulatory meetings that alcohol makers aren't required to dye their drinks funny colors to make sure parents don't let kids get hold of the booze. "Some of the industry expectation was, 'Let's keep it on the parents and the users in keeping it away from children or people who shouldn't use it,'" Schrot said. — AP



DENVER: In this Monday, Sept. 19, 2016, photo, candy bars wrapped in new packaging to indicate that the products contain marijuana are shown in the kitchen of BlueKudu candy in the historic Five Points District. —AP

IN ANNUAL RITUAL, DELHI STRUGGLES WITH DENGUE, CHIKUNGUNYA

NEW DELHI: Poonam Devi moans in pain on the stretcher in the packed hospital emergency room. Her ankles and wrists swollen, an IV hooked up to left arm to hydrate her. Patients like her, fevered, aching, unable to walk or sit on their own, are packing hospitals across New Delhi because of chikungunya, a mosquito-borne viral illness. In the Indian capital alone, cases of chikungunya soared to 3,251 so far this year from just 64 last year, according to government data. Last year it was dengue, another viral ailment transmitted by mosquitoes, that infected thousands.

The cycle of illness and packed hospital "fever clinics" plays out every year as monsoon rains fill puddles and open drains in the teeming city, creating swarms of mosquitoes that thrive in the warm, damp weather. Some years it's mainly dengue; in others, it's mostly chikungunya. The epidemics start promptly in August and stay for months, sickening tens of thousands and killing dozens, each year seeming to catch the government and population unprepared for it.

"Everyone in our neighborhood is getting it," said Devi's sister, Susheela, who goes by one name. She sat holding her sister's hand inside Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, one of the city's largest government-run hospitals. A portion of the hospital's emergency room has been set aside for chikungunya patients like Devi.

One day last week, Dr. Prerna Mor, who was supervising incoming patients at the hospital, had already seen nearly 300 patients with clinical symptoms of chikungunya in the first four hours of her shift. Mor, a fellow resident and a few nurses quickly assessed patients before other doctors took over. Dengue and chikungunya have killed at least 20 people in the capital so far this year, according to news reports. But statistics on the illnesses are likely conservative since the poorest people in this city of 16 million never see a doctor or a hospital. Both diseases are treated only for their symptoms, reducing the fever and relieving the aches, until the infection passes. As a result, tens of thousands of people are tested at private laboratories and treated at private clinics, which don't report on what made their patients sick unless the government specifically asks. Just as predictable as the illnesses each year is the shifting of blame as soon as the public hears of the soaring number of cases. Each year the government goes into overdrive only after hundreds if not thousands have already been sickened.

This year is no different
Stung by criticism that it has handled

the outbreak so far very poorly, the local government has set up hundreds of clinics, like the one where Devi was diagnosed, to treat chikungunya, dengue and malaria patients. It has canceled all vacation for doctors and staff at government-run clinics and hospitals.

Hundreds of municipal workers rushed to trim knee-high grass in public parks and fog the city with anti-mosquito pesticides - after many had already gotten sick.

But experts say responsibility for controlling diseases spread by mosquitoes cannot be the government's alone. Officials conduct public-awareness advertising campaigns urging people to wear long sleeves, use mosquito repellent and get rid of standing water. But the advice is routinely ignored, even with municipal workers going from home to home in some neighborhoods on the lookout for mosquito breeding areas. "There's no community participation here. People want the government to take the entire responsibility of keeping their neighborhoods clean," said Dr. A.K. Gadpayle, medical superintendent at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Without the communities coming together to ensure mosquitoes don't breed, "no government anywhere in the world can succeed," he added. The annual outbreak comes as health experts and governments contemplate the potential for a global outbreak of another mosquito-borne illness, Zika. Like dengue and chikungunya, Zika is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. A recent study published in medical journal *Lancet* says 2.6 billion people living in parts of Asia and Africa could be at risk of Zika infection, based on analysis of travel, climate and mosquito patterns in those regions.

But experts in India caution that the study may exaggerate the risks because the Zika virus has been around since the late 1940s and it's not clear if the virus had reached these countries sometime in the past, allowing people to build immunity.

Zika can cause fetal death and severe brain defects in the children of women infected during pregnancy. Yet the vast majority of people infected never get sick, and symptoms are mild for those who do, so surveillance systems may have missed cases. No cases of Zika have been reported in India so far. "In the times of rapid international travel, and international mass gatherings such as the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics, or religious gatherings like the hajj, there is always a potential threat of import of Zika infection," said Dr. Lalit Pant, an infectious diseases specialist at the Public Health Foundation of India. — AP



PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND: In this Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016 photo, hospital patient Olivia Stephenson, of Lincoln, Rhode Island, covers the lens of a flashlight as she messages back two light pulses, meaning thank you, to people in surrounding buildings from her room.—AP

CITY SKYLINE BLINKS IN NIGHTLY RITUAL TO CHEER UP SICK KIDS

SPARKLING MINUTE EACH NIGHT

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND: For one sparkling minute each night, skyscrapers, tugboats, hotels, a yacht club and police cruisers send a blinking goodnight message to sick kids inside a children's hospital.

A gesture that began with a single light six years ago has become a nightly display along the Providence River - and a highly anticipated ritual - inside Hasbro Children's Hospital. "It's special to know that people I don't even know will take the time" to flash the lights, said 13-year-old Olivia Stephenson, who has been admitted to the hospital three times since June, most recently last week.

To thank the invisible strangers shining their lights at her and fellow patients, she blinks her own flashlight back toward the downtown skyline, using a two-flash response that means "thank you." "They don't know me; they could skip the step of flicking the lights, but they do it anyway," she said after seeing the Good Night Lights display for the first time in late August. "I hope they saw the thank you."

Some of Providence's bigger hotels have installed permanent signals that automatically turn on flashy messages at 8:30 p.m., to the delight of giddy toddlers and older children who can spot them from their windows. But most of the lights are hand-held. One volunteer group gathers near the top of a 28-story office building to flash their lights. The farthest signal comes from a church group blinking from a dark shoreline 2 miles downriver in East Providence.

Olivia's story

Olivia began her summer looking forward to lazy days at the beach and pool, but she collapsed the day after school got out, and her life turned upside down. Doctors diagnosed her with lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease. She was adjusting to a more complicated life - diet and lifestyle restrictions, medication that puffed up her face - when chest pains took her to the hospital again in August. Tests found big blood clots in her lungs.

She saw Good Night Lights for the first time after she was released from a five-day stay in a windowless intensive care unit. "It's so nice to see a genuine smile on her face, because it's been a while," said her mother, Beth Stephenson, who has spent the hospital visits sleeping on a chair by her daughter's side. "It's genius. It totally brightens the kids' spirits and it doesn't even really cost anything."

The idea began with the hospital's resident cartoonist, Steve Brosnihan, who has spent 26 years regaling sick kids with on-the-spot drawings and word games. Brosnihan, who gets to the hospital by bike or bus, noticed one day in 2010 that he could see his route home from inside the six-story hospital. Using his bike light and flashlights, he began sending simple messages tailored to individual kids. Late last year, he appealed to local businesses to send a joint message: Goodnight, Hasbro, using four flashes to represent each syllable.

The first business to participate was The Hot

Club, a waterfront nightclub and restaurant. Along with flashing its large neon sign, patrons gather on the deck each night, even in cold weather, to wave their flashlights and cell-phones. Following the nightclub were the tugboats of the Providence Steamboat Company. They shine their powerful searchlights at the hospital and occasionally blow their horns. A yacht club, restaurants and police officers have also joined in.

About two dozen kids who can range in age from 2 to 20 are in the hospital on any given night.

"The first time a kid sees this, when it happens, they're like, 'Are you kidding? That's for me?' There's a joyful surprise in it," Brosnihan said. The anonymity of the exchange is what Brosnihan finds most beautiful. "No one knows who's on the other side of the gesture," Brosnihan said. "People often say, 'I get goosebumps hearing about this.'"

Brosnihan said he dreams of what he calls the "minute of magic" catching on in other cities with children's hospitals. But he also notes that Providence's pediatric hospital is peculiarly suited to the phenomenon because it has an open view of a harbor and the city's downtown skyline. Once Olivia gets back to being a "regular girl" - she aims to return to her school in the town of Lincoln in January - she wants to help work with younger kids and expand the Good Night Lights ritual. "It's special. I'm not going to forget this experience," she said. —AP



NEW DELHI: In this Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 photo, patients receive treatment at a fever clinic especially set up to cater to those suffering from fever, one of the main symptoms of several mosquito-borne diseases, at Ram Manohar Lohia hospital.—AP

ZIKA TRAVEL ADVISORY ISSUED FOR 11 SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNTRIES

NEW YORK: US health officials are advising pregnant women to postpone travel to 11 countries in Southeast Asia because of Zika outbreaks in the region. The advisory issued Thursday targets travel to Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Zika has been in

some areas of Southeast Asia for years, and some residents may be immune. But a number of US travelers have become infected there in the last year, so there is a danger to visitors.

Most infected people suffer a mild and temporary illness, at worst. But infection during pregnancy can cause severe brain-related birth defects. The virus is spread primarily by bites from infected mosquitoes.—AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
مؤيد علي المخيزيم

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

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

AL MULTAQA ARABIC SHORT STORY PRIZE ANNOUNCED

The Al Multaqa Arabic Short Story Prize jury announced the ten shortlisted authors for the 2016 prize. Over the past few months, a jury comprised of accomplished writers, critics, and academicians reviewed 189 collections of short stories from published authors from 15 different countries; Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Iraq, Sudan, Oman, Kuwait, and Algeria. The ten Al Multaqa Prize nominees came as follows (listed in alphabetical order):



جائزة الملتقى ALMULTAQA PRIZE

Al Multaqa Jury Members are:

- Ahmed Al-Madeeni (Chair of the Jury)
- Ezzat Al-Qamhaway (Jury Member)
- Salma Saleh (Jury Member)
- Dr Fadya Al-Faqeer (Jury Member)
- Dr Ali Ajail Al-Anezi (Jury Member)

Chair of the Jury, Ahmed Al-Madeeni stated that the committee had evaluated the submitted works based on the fulfillment of certain criteria and technical elements necessary for short story writing. The committee also looked at the spirit of innovation, novelty, and consistency of form and content, as well as the presence of an integrated humanitarian aspect in the selected short story collections. The jury will continue its work to

ments necessary for short story writing. The committee also looked at the spirit of innovation, novelty, and consistency of form and content, as well as the presence of an integrated humanitarian aspect in the selected short story collections. The jury will continue its work to

	Author Name	Short Story Collection	Country	Publisher
1	Abdessamia Bensaber	Al Skabandu السكابندو	Morocco	Dar ALFarasha Publishing & Distribution
2	Ahmed Omar	Hudhud Fi Zujaja هدهد في زجاجة	Syria	Halab Publishing
3	Anis Arrafai	Masahat Al Dumi مساحة الدمي	Morocco	El Eain Publishing
4	Haider Abdulmohsen	Qetaf Aareya قطف عاريا	Iraq	Dar Imdaa
5	Issa Jabli	Ka'anandi Khal Juthati كان أنندي خلف جثتي	Tunisia	Dar Zayneb Publishing
6	Khadija Alnemer	Al Afkar Al Sabeha Bayn Al Sama' wal Ard الافكار السابعة بين الأرض والسماء	Saudi Arabia	Difaf Publishing
7	Lutf Alsarary	Al Raja' Adam Al Qasf الرجاء عدم القصف	Yemen	Arweqah Publishing
8	Mazen Maarouf	Nekat Al Misalaeen نكات للمسلسلين	Palestine	Riad El-Rayyes- Al- Kawkab
9	Mohamed Rafie	Asal Al Nun عسل النون	Egypt	Rawafed Publishing
10	Ziad Khadash	Asbab Rae'ale Buka' اسباب رائعة للبيضاء	Palestine	Al Ahliya Publishing

announce the five shortlisted authors in November, 2016. The 2016 winner will be announced in December, 2016 at a ceremony that is to be held at the American University of Kuwait that brings together the five shortlisted authors and well-known figures from the literary world.

The author of the winning short story will receive USD 20,000 (Twenty Thousand US dollars), a trophy and a certificate of recognition, as well as a grant towards the translation of the prize-winning short story into English. The winning writer or publisher will communicate with the translator and arrange for publishing the story with foreign publishers.

Al Multaqa Prize was launched in December, 2015 as a joint initiative by the Cultural Circle's Founder and Manager, Taleb Al-Rifae and the American University of Kuwait to promote and encourage writers to pursue and master the art of writing Arabic short stories.

SOMALI CULTURE, TRADITIONS

Join TIES to discover Somali culture, traditions, clothing and food. Enjoy live demonstrations, a dress-up photo booth and children's activities. This is an event you don't want to miss. Wednesday, October 5 @ 6pm

Greetings



Happy birthday Pastor Millicent. May God protect and guide you as you continue to be a blessing to your family and to the Church. Greetings from family, friends and well-wishers.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF STARWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS WORLDWIDE

Marriott International, Inc. has completed its acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., creating the world's largest and best hotel company. Marriott now offers the most comprehensive portfolio of brands including leading lifestyle brands, a significant global footprint, and leadership in the luxury and select-service tiers as well as the convention and resort segment. Beginning today, Marriott will match member status across Marriott Rewards - which includes The Ritz-Carlton Rewards - and Starwood Preferred Guest (SPG), enabling members to transfer points between the programs for travel and exclusive experiences when they link their accounts later today.

http://news.marriott.com/2016/09/marriott-international-expanded-loyalty-benefits/

"Throughout our nearly 90-year history we have never stopped searching for fresh ways to serve our guests. With the addition of Starwood's strong brands, great properties, and talented people, we have dramatically expanded our ability to provide the best experiences to our customers. We also welcome the tremendous responsibility as the world's largest hotel company to be a good global steward, providing new opportunities for our associates and building the economic strength of the communities we call home," said J.W. Marriott, Jr., Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Marriott International.

"We believe that Marriott now has the world's best portfolio of hotel brands, the most comprehensive global footprint, and the most extensive loyalty programs, providing an unparalleled guest experience. Combining Starwood's brands with ours better enables Marriott to reach our goal of having the right brand in the right place to serve our loyal guests and welcome new ones," said Arne Sorenson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International. "We can now provide a better range of choices for our guests, more opportunities for our associates, and greater financial benefits for our owners, franchisees, and shareholders."

The new company will operate or franchise more than 5,700 properties and 1.1 million rooms, representing 30 leading brands from the moderate-tier to luxury in over 110 countries. With the completion of this acquisition, Marriott's distribution has more than doubled in Asia and the Middle East.

Best-in-Class Loyalty Programs

Marriott Rewards - which includes the Ritz-Carlton Rewards - and SPG are the most recognized and awarded loyalty programs in hospitality. Together, these programs will offer members more benefits when they link their accounts, as well as new destinations such as Aruba, Tuscany's Serchio Valley and Kruger National Park in South Africa for SPG members and the Maldives, Bora Bora and Santorini, Greece for Marriott Rewards and The Ritz-Carlton Rewards members.

"Marriott will draw upon the very best each program



offers and we can't wait to show the loyal members of these programs the power and benefits of Marriott and Starwood coming together," said Stephanie Linnartz, Executive Vice President and Global Chief Commercial Officer.

Marriott will launch a microsite later today, www.members.marriott.com, for all members of the combined company's loyalty programs to learn more about the reciprocal benefits now available and to link accounts.

New Board Members and Shares Listing

Effective today, Marriott's Board of Directors has increased from 11 to 14 members, with the addition of Bruce Duncan, former Chairman of the Board of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and President, CEO and Director of First Industrial Real Estate Trust, Inc.; Eric Hippeau, Partner, LererHippeau Ventures; and Aylwin Lewis, Chairman and CEO of Potbelly Corporation. Messrs. Hippeau and Lewis are also former Starwood board members. Full biographies on each of the three new board members are available at www.marriott.com/investor.

Before market open today, Starwood's shares will cease trading on the New York Stock Exchange. As previously announced, Starwood shareholders will receive \$21.00 in cash and 0.80 shares of Marriott International, Inc. Class A common stock for each share of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. common stock.

Transaction Benefits

Marriott's acquisition of Starwood enables the combined company to expand the scope of its distribution and portfolio while deploying its larger scale to realize cost efficiencies in its corporate and property operations. As previously stated, Marriott is confident the company can achieve \$250 million in annual cost synergies. Other synergies should come in the form of leveraging operations and sharing best practices. Combined sales expertise and improved account coverage are expected to provide both enhanced efficiencies and increased revenue opportunities.

"These enhanced efficiencies and revenue opportunities should drive improved property-level profitability as well as greater owner and franchisee preference for the combined company's brands, which will encourage new hotel development," Sorenson said. "As new travel destinations emerge, Marriott can be counted on to be there."

One-time transaction costs for the merger are expected to total approximately \$140 million. Marriott intends to take the steps necessary to cause Starwood's outstanding public debt to be paripassu with the outstanding public debt of Marriott International by the end of 2016. Marriott remains committed to maintaining an investment grade credit rating and to continue managing the balance sheet prudently after the merger.

Arne Sorenson remains President and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International, and Marriott's headquarters continues to be located in Bethesda, Maryland.



ABK CONTINUES TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND YOUTH THROUGH ABK ACADEMY

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has been a longtime supporter of education and youth. With its ABK Academy, the bank has offered internship & training opportunities to senior students in local Universities and Colleges, as it focuses on training individuals

interested in joining the banking sector, developing their skills and equipping them to join the ABK team, while raising awareness of Kuwait's finance sector.

The Bank also recently concluded its Summer Student Development Program, with

the collaboration of Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC) and the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP). In this context, ABK recently hosted 45 high school students from the Indian Educational School at its Learning and Development Unit in

Hawally. The Bank's 'Learning and Development' team presented the students with an educational session which focused on the banking system, ABK's products and services and the use of marketing and communications tools within the bank. The students also

spent time witnessing firsthand, the day to day operations and customers' services, as part of the overall experience.

For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



TRAINING SEMINAR HELD ON HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Adding on to its illustrious pathways of educating and empowering its members, American Society of Safety Engineers, (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter conducted a training seminar on "HAZARD COMMUNICATION" on 23rd September at Kohinoor Banquet Hall, Fahaheel. The trainer for the session was Mr. Santhosh Kumar Shenoy. 30 members attended the event and got benefited from this program.

ASSE- Kuwait Chapter lead by Chairman Fadhel-Al Ali, is a non-profit organization which always strives to excel in providing

quality trainings and consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment all across different public and private sectors in Kuwait.

Sanjay Jaiswal, Chapter secretary welcomed all participants and congratulated them for their interest to learn and updating their knowledge. C Rama Krishna Chary, President of ASSE Kuwait chapter briefed about the significance of the training seminar and the importance of conducting such seminars for the benefit of ASSE members. Mr. Sony Thomas, Head of training committee briefed the chapter training activities and introduced

the trainer. Santhosh Kumar Shenoy. Santhosh Kumar, a Mechanical Engineer, has over 20 years of industrial experience in HSEQ Management System in various spectrum of industries in Middle East and India. Possessing the Lead Auditor & Lead Tutor certification in QMS, EMS and OHSMS; Santhosh has provided consultancy to more than 100 professional organizations in Gulf Countries to establish the Integrated Management System. Santhosh has the credit of training employees from over 100 organizations

The training seminar was meticulously car-

ried on by the trainer and effectively communicated citing relevant industrial scenarios and case studies. He elaborated the reference standards and EPA requirement, risk assessment and management, target organs and impact, transportation requirements, emergency response procedure and health surveillance programs with the aid of power point presentation and audio & visual demonstrations.

The program turned out to be very advantageous to all the members particularly to the safety Officers and Engineers from Oil and Petrochemical industries.

Sunil Sadanand, Chapter treasurer, thanked the speaker Santhosh Kumar Shenoy for this initiative. The session concluded with the distribution of Participation Certificates to the participants.

ASSE Kuwait Chapter would continue its strive to do their best for the progress of the society and its members in particular, by organizing such important and remarkable events in future too. Details about the future events would be available to the members and community members through email assekuwait@hotmail.com



MAGIC OF BRASS BAND

Kala Mogui Kuwait presents mega musical concert "LOVE YOU GOA" Swing to the spirit of Goa, featuring Goa's pop sensation "O'luv Rodrigues" and Goemcho Avaz fame "Divya Naik", also featuring Goa's numero uno comedy pair, Prince Jacob and Supremo Humbert.

Kala Mogui Kuwait, once again brings to you the magic of brass band with trumpet, saxophone and trombone with selected singers of the Konkani stage. The newly crowned Queen of political songs, Olga Vaz, the undisputed voice of Goa, Saby de Divar, and challenging character actor/singer, Anil Pednekar, Kala

Mogui's foursome will add more glamour to shoulder the responsibilities of singing beautiful songs, Olinda Fernandes, Simon Dias, Albino Lourenco and Cajie D'Costa, a special invitee from UAE will do the honors.

Above all for the first time an upcoming multitalented child artist will be seen performing in this mega musical concert "LOVE YOU GOA", a host of visiting dignitaries will be among the invitees who will grace the occasion. It will be held on Friday, October 14 at Dr Kamil Al Rayes Theatre - American International School Auditorium, Maidan, Hawally.

BASS KUWAIT TO HOLD 9-DAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bharatheya Sangeetha Sabha (BASS), Kuwait will hold a 9-fay classical music festival starting from October 3 to October 11, 2016. The main attraction of the 9-day festival will be a music concert titled 'Mega Indian Classical Music Night 2016' by great South Indian musician Sharreth Vasudevan on Friday, October 7, 2016 at Cambridge School Auditorium, Mangaf from 5 pm to 9 pm.

Sujith Vasudevan, better known by his stage name

Sharreth, is a well-known South Indian music director and singer. He predominantly composes film scores and songs for Malayalam films, but has gone on to compose for many Tamil, Telugu and Hindi films too. Known for his distinctive style and penetrating erudition, Sharreth has carved out a niche for himself among Indian music directors over the last two decades.

Sharreth will be accompanied on stage by a team of highly-accomplished musi-

cians from India. The concert led by Sharreth will be a grand feast for music lovers including distinguished guests, BASS family members and well-wishers.

BASS is a non-profitable and non-political socio-cultural organization registered with the Embassy of India, Kuwait. It is constituted with the objective of promoting Indian classical music in Kuwait. Over the last three years, BASS Kuwait has held more than 30 stage shows, including music workshops in order to create awareness about Indian classical music among the Indian expatriate community in Kuwait.



NSH OBSERVES WORLD HEART DAY



The group discussions among the young staff and poster presentations on Healthy Heart took place at the World Heart Day observed as part of the international campaign to spread awareness about heart disease and stroke prevention by NSH, known for its humanitarian and welfare programs. It has also launched a wider healthy heart awareness drive.

World Heart Day has been celebrated annually since 2000 on September 29 to inform people around the globe that heart disease and stroke are the world's leading causes of death, claiming 17.3

million lives each year.

It was explained about the evil substances like alcohol, tobacco and improper health that lead to the heart diseases.

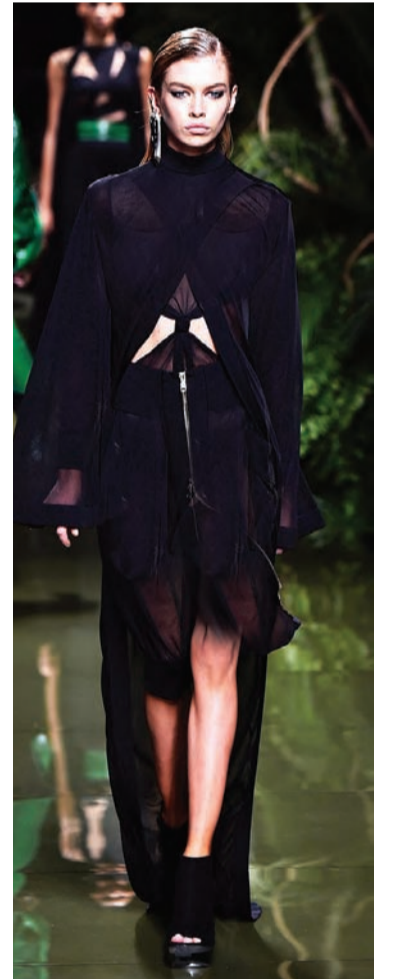
From this program it is learnt that those who were leading sedentary life style would be able to protect themselves from this 'killer disease'. The participants commented that NSH had been giving due attention for conducting awareness programs in the workplaces. The planning meeting was held earlier by the management team led by Sabu, Vice President. Cardio-vascular diseases are one of the major causes of death in the world.



Paris Fashion Week



BALMAIN



PARIS: Models present creations for Balmain during the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, on September 29, 2016. — AFP



PARIS: French fashion designer Olivier Rousteing for Balmain acknowledges the audience at the end of the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, on September 29, 2016. — AFP



CHRISTIAN DIOR



PARIS: Fashion designer for Christian Dior, Maria Grazia Chiuri (C) acknowledges the audience at the end of the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection Fashion show, on September 30, 2016. — AFP photos



PARIS: Models present creations for Christian Dior during the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, on September 30, 2016. — AFP



Chalayan



PARIS: Fashion designer Hussein Chalayan acknowledges the audience at the end of his 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, on Friday.





Veronique Leroy



PARIS: Belgian Fashion designer Veronique Leroy acknowledges the audience at the end of the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show yesterday.

Lifestyle

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PARIS: A young couple poses for a photographer, on the Bir-Hakeim bridge in front of the Eiffel Tower on Friday. — AFP

Man who got generations singing Oscar Mayer Wiener song dies

The man who got generations of hot dog lovers singing along to the Oscar Mayer Wiener song has died. Richard Trentlage died Sept. 21 in Libertyville, Illinois, at the age of 87, according to an obituary posted online by a northern Illinois funeral home.

With the words, "Oh, I wish I were an Oscar Mayer wiener," Trentlage helped solidify the company's hot dogs as a piece of Americana. The jingle he wrote appeared in a 1960s television commercial featuring cartoon children marching along and singing. The tune remained a fixture for the next half a century.

Trentlage was born in Chicago and began penning jingles as a high school student, starting with one about a fictional company he called Modern Plastic Brooms. The idea was to dream up a believable sponsor for a school talent show and sing the jingle during commercial breaks in a performance modeled after a radio program.

The Modern Plastic Broom jingle was evidently so memorable that his former classmates sang it during a 50th reunion. Trentlage transformed his living room into a makeshift recording studio, inviting his own children to sing on audition tapes. His children even recorded "on-air" sessions. "We were always getting out of school to hop a train and meet our dad at a Chicago recording studio," his daughter, Linda Bruun, recalled in the funeral home obituary. — AP



FOX RIVER GROVE, ILLINOIS: In this March 7, 2000 photo, Richard Trentlage, of Fox River Grove, who was the creator of the Oscar Mayer Wiener Jingle "I wish I was an Oscar Mayer Wiener" and other jingle songs, smiles. — AP

'BRANGELINA' REACH STOP-GAP DEAL OVER KIDS

Angelina Jolie has reached a temporary agreement with Brad Pitt giving her custody of their six children and granting him visiting rights, reports said on Friday. Several celebrity gossip outlets reported that the divorcing couple were persuaded to agree to the detente by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

Both will both get one-on-one counseling while Pitt has to undergo drug and alcohol testing, TMZ said, despite already voluntarily submitting to a test which came back negative. Jolie will have physical custody of the six children—three of whom are adopted—while Pitt gets a first visit under the supervision of a therapist who will decide how to proceed in the coming weeks. "This is a completely voluntary agreement, and it is not an order or a mandate of any kind, nor is it any determination of custody," entertainment website People quoted an unnamed source as saying.

It said the plan was effective up until October 20 and that the children would remain with Jolie at a rented LA house. Jolie, 41, filed for divorce on September 19 citing irreconcilable differences and seeking permanent custody of their children.

The A-listers—given the celebrity moniker "Brangelina"—wed in France in August two years ago, but had been a couple since 2004. The FBI has said it is gathering information before deciding whether to launch a federal probe into an alleged incident on a plane carrying Pitt and his children back from vacation in France.

It has not offered any details of the allegations but several US media outlets reported that Pitt had been involved in an angry outburst with at least one of his children. Multimedia celebrity news organization "Entertainment Tonight" said Thursday's team had brought in well-known crisis manager Judy Smith—who was the inspiration for Kerry Washington's character on "Scandal."

Pitt, meanwhile, hired a New York-based strategic communications firm, along with Beverly Hills divorce attorney Lance Spiegel, whose past clients include Eva Longoria, ET reported. Representatives for the couple as well as the Children and Family services department did not respond immediately to a request for comment. — AFP



BEVERLY HILLS: In this Jan. 15, 2007 file photo, Brad Pitt, and actress Angelina Jolie arrive for the 64th Annual Golden Globe Awards. — AP



ETHIOPIA: Hamar women dance before a bull jumping ceremony in Ethiopia's southern Omo Valley region near Turmi on September 19, 2016. — AFP