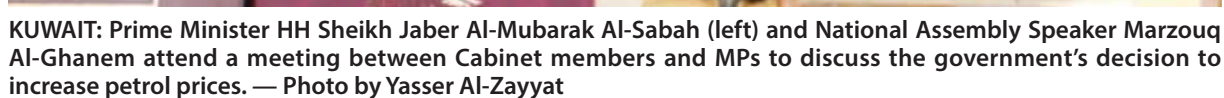


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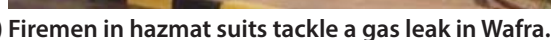

Min 19°
Max 37°
High Tide
 01:55 & 15:23
Low Tide
 08:57 & 20:55

Continued on Page 13



The speaker said the government's monthly assessment of petrol prices represents a "partial liberalization" of petrol prices, adding that the amount of free petrol given to citizens will vary monthly. This practically means that petrol prices will be changed every month, either raising or reducing them in accordance with international oil

Continued on Page 13



Burst pipe creates sinkhole
A large sinkhole opened up on the road near Anjefa beach in Salwa yesterday after an under-



Continued on Page 13

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KUNA CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday marked the 40th anniversary of founding the national media network, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), which has occupied a space on the media map - broadcasting a host of local, regional and international news, reports and analyses. Moreover, it has stayed abreast of latest innovation in the field, providing latest diverse modern services, namely SMS' and the website publicizing breaking news, features and photos.

KUNA saw the light upon issuing the Decree-into-Law 70/1976, stipulating in part that KUNA is entitled to broadcast factual and objective news and reports in face of "misleading propaganda," and for sake of "filling the vacuum in the news field in the region and transmit authentic news to the world." According to the Decree, Kuwait News Agency broadcasts commentaries, articles, researches, studies, statements on political, economic, social, cultural, financial and commercial affairs, to newspapers, magazines, radio, television stations, other media outlets, public and private authorities as well as individuals, in line with guidelines set by its board.

According to second Article of the decree, KUNA is headquartered in Kuwait City, the country's capital, and is entitled to establish branches and offices, with correspondents and reporters in and outside the State of Kuwait. In line with the decree and the set goals, KUNA in the early years employed a small number of staff, who were serving in other State sectors, with monthly payments, to help in the launching process-when there were no relevant regulations for the news organization.

In May 1977, KUNA coordinated with the Ministry of Communication and Information, setting up tele printers to receive news from Arab and foreign countries, as well as for transmission news and training editors. Officially, transmission began in March 1978, with a six-hour broadcast per day. In June the same year, it doubled the transmission hours. In October, the hours reached 15 and then shortly later 16. External transmission in Arabic kicked off in November 1978, at a three-hour per day rate, and gradually the transmission duration increased to 12 hours per day. In November 1979, KUNA started transmitting a special broadcast for Kuwaiti embassies abroad.

The missions were equipped with necessary devices to receive the service, in coordination with Foreign Ministry. Up to 38 embassies and consulates were given the service. In January 1980, it started broadcasting news in English, at four hours per day rate. In February 1981, KUNA doubled the local transmission hours to eight and increased the external English service time by three hours.

KUNA had continued expanding its services till the August 1990 Iraqi aggression, when the occupiers ransacked its equipment and archive, transferring them to Baghdad. However, KUNA's managers and staff succeeded in resuming the service from abroad within a short period of time. In October 1990, KUNA started broadcasting from London, where it succeeded in putting out up to 16,110 items till November 1991, when it returned to its headquarters in Kuwait post the liberation. Rebuilding the main offices and the facilities had proceeded till onset of 1992.

KUNA boasts announcing liberation of the State of Kuwait, simultaneously with international news networks. That is in addition to creating rich archive by its photographers that chronicle the massive destruction inflicted by the occupiers. KUNA, since its relaunch in 1992, re-activated its offices abroad, manning them with qualified nationals, where number of these bureaus increased to 32 in 2016. It set up a special training department to sharpen skills of its personnel and staff from other departments in Kuwait, as well as from other countries. In 1992, it decided to regularly proclaim personality of the year; a figure renowned for service of peace and humanity.

In 1994, it launched the telephone 120 service round the clock. In March 31, 1994, the late Minister of Information Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah inaugurated the new headquarters in Shuwaikh-representing the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Since its birth, KUNA has keenly sought to bond with other media networks, locally, regionally and internationally. At the Arab level, it had taken part and hosted meetings of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA). At the global level, KUNA joined the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA). It had also taken part in the news agencies' summit, hosted by Moscow in 2004. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Gulf waters splash onto a rocky shore. — KUNA

ELECTRICITY MINISTRY SIGNS KD 62 MILLION POWER DEAL

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY SEALS INFRASTRUCTURE DEALS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water yesterday signed a contract worth KD 62 million for work on a gas turbine cycle system in the Al-Zour Thermal Power Plant. Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar signed the deal with electric power construction firm SEPCOIII, with a time-frame of 68 months, a statement by the Ministry noted. Moreover, the project also aims to increase energy production capacity to 250 megawatts (Mw), while the environment-friendly gas turbine system will operate on 500 Mw. When completed, the project is expected to curb energy consumption by boosting electrical energy production.

KD 25 million infrastructure deals

Also, the Ministry of Public Works yesterday signed two contracts at a total cost of KD 25.7 million for infrastructure repairs in Sabah Al-Nasser and Granada areas and a sewer line linking Al-Surra and Al-Riggae.

The first contract deals with a project for infrastructure renovation in the areas of Granada and Sabah Al-Nasser, which is in its 15th phase. The project consists of work to form a 36,000-meter sewer line and replacement of damaged sewer

pipes, along with other infrastructure work at a cost of KD 13.8 million. Moreover, the second contract, worth KD 11.1 million, is for a project to establish an 8648- meter sewer line linking Al-Surra

and Al-Riggae areas, in addition to the fourth ring road. The project also includes work to repair several manholes and to fix sewer line leakages in these areas. — Agencies

KUWAIT EMBASSY CAUTIONS CITIZENS AFTER BOMB SCARE

BRUSSELS: Kuwait Embassy in Brussels advised Kuwaitis in Belgium to be cautious when using public transportations, most particularly trains and subway systems. This advisory followed a bomb scare at Brussels Nord station, One of Brussels' two major train stations. The false alarm forced security officers to evacuate travelers. Hence, the Kuwaiti embassy urged its citizens to remain in contact at the following numbers: Hotline: +32 47777 5801; Embassy No: +32 26477950; Embassy Fax: +32 26461298; Embassy Email: infoembassyofkuwait.be

Earlier yesterday, a bomb scare forced security

officers to evacuate travelers from Brussels Nord station. Security officials in the Belgian capital confirmed that the alert was a false alarm after carefully investigating the station. Brussels remains on high alert following a coordinated terror attacks at Zaventem airport and Maalbeek metro station in March, killing 32 people and injuring more than 300. The city was also home to several members of the cell that attacked Paris last year, with the attacks in Brussels following soon after the arrests of key suspects. Major transport points, like rail and metro stations, have been guarded by the military since the attacks. — KUNA

INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS MOI'S OPERATIONS UNIT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Deputy PM and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited Moi's operations unit's decision-making room on Tuesday to check preparations to secure husseiniyas during the month of Muharram. The minister was briefed on various security measures taken. He also visited a number of husseiniyas accompanied by Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd.

Inspection campaigns

Ahmadi security forces launched several inspection campaigns in the governorate's areas that resulted in arresting 88 people wanted for financial claims, expired residencies, begging and other charges, in addition to filing 48 traffic tickets and impounding four vehicles.

Smart parking project

With the presence of KFSD' deputy director for prevention affairs Brig Khaled Abdullah Fahd, the prevention team introduced the largest smart parking project in the world at the Jahra courts complex under the supervision of the Amiri Diwan. The project will include a three-level basement and 15 floors over an area of 5,000 sq m, including 11 floors with 2,400 smart automated parking spaces and 500 regular parking spaces.



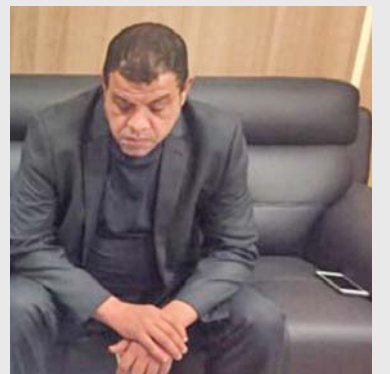
Money stolen

An Egyptian woman reported that KD 450 had been stolen from her bank account. In another development, an

Egyptian filed a report at Maidan Hawally police station, reporting that someone broke into his vehicle and stole a case containing KD 2,120.

Visa trafficking

Residency detectives arrested an Egyptian working as a manager of a weekly for visa trafficking. Security sources said the suspect had been recruiting expats, bringing them to Kuwait and abandoning them to work for others. The sources explained that the suspect had been using the paper, owned by a citizen, whose license was cancelled by the information ministry in February, to issue around 150 visas and sold them for KD 1,200 each.



E-VISA 'WILL REVIVE KUWAITI TOURISM'



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah hold talks with other top officials. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The implementation of an electronic visa system (e-visa) system will help revive the tourism industry in the country, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday. Sheikh Salman, who also heads the Higher Committee for Tourism, said that work is underway

to complete the legal procedures needed to form a special authority dealing with the tourism sector in Kuwait.

Moreover, he described this new body as a launchpad to increased employment opportunities for youth, which would in turn, diversify the nation's revenue pool. In efforts to usher in a potential tourism boom, the Minister

of Information revealed that a number of contracts have been signed to build three new airports in the country, efforts he described as an earnest desire for growth in the tourism industry. He also noted that Kuwait possesses all the tools needed for a robust tourism sector, calling for increased measures to lure more investments in tourism. — KUNA

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AMIR RECEIVES NEWLY-APPOINTED AMBASSADORS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received credentials of a number of newly-appointed ambassadors to Kuwait. The new ambassadors are US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Robert Silverman, Republic of Romania Ambassador Daniel Nicusor Tanase, and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden. The ceremony was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of Amiri Diwan Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Shatti, Director of the Office of His Highness the Amir Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Advisor at the office of His Highness the Amir Mohammad Abo Al-Hassan, Chief of Amiri Protocol Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister for the Protocol Affairs Ambassador Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran and Commander of the Amiri Guard Brigadier-General Fahad Al-Zaid. — KUNA

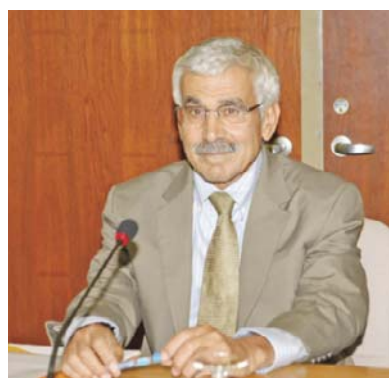


KFAS TO HOST KUWAIT-IMEC VISIONARY SEMINAR OCT 12

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) will host the Kuwait-Imec Visionary Seminar entitled "Reconnaissance technology for a sustainable future" at the Sheraton Hotel on Oct 12. "The seminar is a first-of-its-kind event which will allow scientists, businessmen, industrialists and everyone interested in the establishment and development of technology-based industries in Kuwait the chance to be exposed to research and development activities that will lead to futuristic technologies aiming towards sustainability," said Adnan Shihab, the Foundation's Director General.

Shihab, speaking during a press conference yesterday at KFAS' headquarters, added that the seminar will act as a platform to exchange ideas leading towards opportunities for fur-



Adnan Shihab, The Foundation's Director General of KFAS

ther research and investment partnerships. He revealed that KFAS has provided support for the research program of cooperation between Kuwait University and Imec in two phases in order to develop photovoltaic cells from crystalline silicon with high effi-

ciency and lower cost to be used in solar power generation.

He added that resident researchers from Kuwait University will collaborate closely with Imec researchers at Imec's facilities in Leuven, Belgium and in Kuwait, and they will contribute to the research program with their excellent technology-modeling and simulation expertise. "The joint research program between the Kuwait University and the Belgian institute includes two phases have been completed the first phase of it between (2015-2013) has been initiated with the second phase beginning in 2016, expires in 2018," he said.

Shihab explained that the institution called on local authorities and relevant bodies, including those in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to participate in the forum in order to spread the benefits, as well as private sector companies involved.

Director of Research at the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences Dr Essam Al-Sayed Omar said that the forum includes seven lectures of 25 minutes each offering the latest advances in digital technology applications, and will discuss aspects of the possible ways of cooperation and investment with the private sector. "The lectures will discuss a variety of topics such as intelligent systems and technology energy, semiconductor technology applications in the field of healthcare, removable electronic systems for wear, Internet of things, electronic flexible chips, photovoltaic energy and energy for smart cities," he explained.

Dr Yasser Abdul Rahim, head of the research program with Imec from Kuwait University and member of the organizing committee of the conference, said that the program has been a success. He noted that this project aims to develop research capacity within Kuwait University so that it becomes possible in the future to manufacture solar cells in Kuwait. As a result of this research collaboration, efficiency of solar cells that have been developed from silicon material has risen to over 23 percent and the cost of manufacturing is low.

Dina Al-Naqeeb, energy director of KFAS, said the number of those registered for the Imec forum has exceeded 160 people from local private and government institutions, in addition to telecommunications companies that are interested in medical applications and healthcare. She added that there is no entry fee, and those wishing to register in the forum should visit www.kfas.org/imec2016.

CABINET CONCERNED OVER JASTA

ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COUNCIL WARNS

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday the Cabinet is monitoring (with much interest and concern) US Congress' rejection of US President Barack Obama's veto against Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA). He said in a statement that the Cabinet sees that JASTA is a source of extreme worry to the international community, where the rules of relations among the States have been established by the laws that are based on the principles of equality and sovereign immunity.

He quoted the Cabinet as stressing that the adoption of laws that violate such principles in breach of international law would negatively affect all world countries, including the US, and undermine international efforts and cooperation against terrorism.

The Cabinet finally hoped that US Congress would rethink about this law in order to preclude its serious ramifications. JASTA was passed by US Congress last week. It creates an exception to the sovereign immunity law introduced in 1976, allowing Americans to sue foreign countries for acts of terrorism that kill Americans on US soil.

Meanwhile, Arab and International Relations Council has warned against the economic and political ramifications of a recently approved US bill which allows the families of 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia for damages. The Council said in a statement, at the conclusion of its 6th meeting Tuesday, that the 9/11 bill will create a judicial "mess" for the US Government and its people.

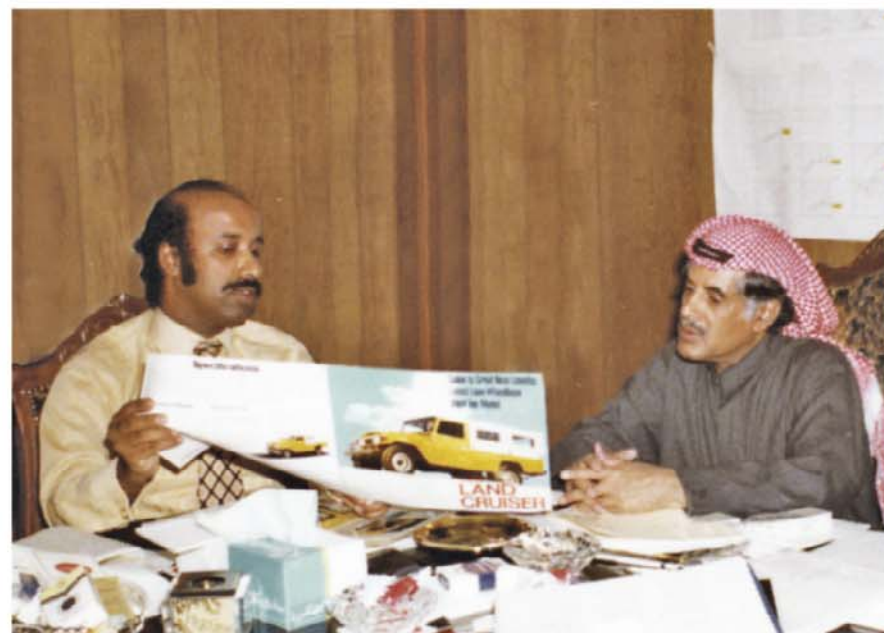
The bill overrides sovereign immunity law that protects nations from any civil suit or criminal prosecution. The Council called on the US Congress to rectify the bill which has been



Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah

challenged by many international blocs such as the European Union, Asean, the African Union and the Arab League. JASTA was passed by US Congress last week. It creates an exception to the sovereign immunity law introduced in 1976, allowing Americans to sue foreign countries for acts of terrorism that kill Americans on US soil. The Arab International Council was established in Kuwait in 2009 as an independent non-profit Arab organization. — Agencies

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and your family the very best.

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KUWAIT: Ministry of Education honors some teachers during the annual celebration marking 'World Teachers' Day' yesterday at the Ministry's theatre. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT MARKS 'WORLD TEACHERS' DAY



KUWAIT: Ministry of Education held its annual celebration marking 'World Teachers' Day' yesterday at the Ministry's theatre under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Higher Education Bader Al-Essa. In his speech, Minister Al-Essa congratulated teachers on the efforts made in skills' development of "our coming generations to face the future," stating the importance of revamping the educational system in order to develop the country to cope with the fact-developing technology around the world.

Minister Al-Essa added that Kuwait's first modern school (Al-Mubarakiya

School) was founded in the year 1911, where Yousef Bin Issa Al-Qenae was its first principal, noting that its establishment marked the beginning of the modern education in Kuwait. UNESCO and the International Labor Organization (ILO) have proclaimed the fifth of October in year 1994 to be World Teachers' Day and since then the world has been celebrating that day which witnessed the signing of an agreement to preserve teachers' rights between UNESCO and Education International (EI) (the global union federation which represents education professionals worldwide). — KUNA

KUWAIT: SYRIAN MASSACRE 'CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY'

CAIRO: Kuwait said that the massacres in Aleppo and other Syrian cities represent "a crime against humanity and a flagrant violation of international treaties, and international humanitarian law." The remarks were made in a speech by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Ahmad Abdulrahman Al-Bakur in the extraordinary session of League's Council on the level of permanent delegates, held at the request of Kuwait to discuss the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian city of Aleppo. The ambassador added that such massacres also represent a flagrant violation to all religions, values, principles, and norms, adding that "the continued silence of the international community, especially the Security Council which represent a blunt disappointment to the conscience of humanity and a failure to the existing international governing system."

Al-Bakur noted that the city of Aleppo witnessed the worst atrocities marked by the use of new types of heavy weapons which were forbidden to use against civilian and populated areas, adding that "such barbaric attacks did not spare anything, no schools, hospitals, rescue centers, or houses of worship were spared." The ambassador explained that such bombings "did not distinguish between armed combatants and civilians, elders, women and children in a hell of daily fire."

Al-Bakur pointed out that situation has deteriorated to the point of targeting UN humanitarian aid convoys, destruction and killing of their workers. The ambassador noted that this was the reason Kuwait has called upon this meeting. The ambassador called to "create and pressure the international community and humanitarian organizations to play more an effective and to address the responsibilities of moral and humanitarian role." Earlier, Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit called for a conclusive Arab stance toward the random killing, siege and starvation of civilians in Syria's city of Aleppo.

Kuwait assists Afghanistan

In another development, Kuwait has stressed its support for all international efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Afghani people and help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Addressing an international conference on Afghanistan in Brussels, Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium Jassem Al-Budaiwi listed Kuwait's contribution to these efforts through a multitude of channels. He noted that one of Kuwait's greatest contributions has been through the \$100 million Decent Life Fund - an initiative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah. This fund has already financed \$7 million worth of small-scale agricultural projects in Afghanistan.

Debt relief

A further \$93 million has been donated by Kuwait through a mixture of governmental organizations, NGOs, and private donations. Through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Kuwait successfully funded the construction of a highway at the cost of \$15 million between Kandahar and Spin Boldak. In addition, Kuwait has contributed to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund from the outset. In accordance with the Heavily Indebted Country Initiative (HIPC), Kuwait signed an agreement with the Government of Afghanistan on 31 August 2015 to provide debt relief.

This includes a repayment period of up to 40 years and an interest rate of only 0.5%, he noted. Al-Budaiwi said that Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world and continued improvement in healthcare, education, infrastructure, and economic development are still required. "The State of Kuwait firmly believes that the international community's support is crucial in helping the government and people of Afghanistan continue to build on the hard won gains of the last decade," he said.—Agencies



Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duweisan poses for a group photo with Arab ambassadors in UK. —KUNA

GCC URGED TO 'CLOSE RANKS' IN FACE OF REGIONAL DANGERS

UK 'CAN PLAY VITAL ROLE' TO END ARAB WORLD CONFLICTS

RIYADH: Saudi Minister of Justice Dr Walid Al-Samaani yesterday called on the GCC member states to 'close ranks and coordinate' in face of dangers coming from regional hot spots. In a statement inaugurating the 28th Justice Ministers' meeting, the minister said the agenda includes a host of issues namely convicts' extradition accord "which had been subjected to examination for a long period of time." He expressed hope that the agreement would be adopted this year, and hoped that the GCC countries would work out a special blog for justice personnel and common rules for combating human trades. The conferees, he added, would examine a proposal by the GCC General Secretariat regarding a joint law for combating terrorism and updating the agreement on verdicts' execution, libel suits and judicial announcements in the Council member countries.

British-Arab ties

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duweisan has hailed the strong British-Arab ties, noting that the UK can play a vital role in bringing peace and stability to the Arab World. Al-Duweisan's statement was made to KUNA and Kuwait TV late Tuesday, after a banquet held with Arab ambassadors in the UK, on the sidelines of a conference of the UK's Conservative Party. The party was represented by Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Boris Johnson and Secretary of State for Middle East and Africa Tobias Ellwood.

Arab states are optimistic about the UK's role in resolving security issues, as the region is facing the hardest time with wars and conflicts in Syria, Libya and other countries, he

said. In response to a question asked by KUNA on the effect of the Brexit vote on the British-Arab ties, the ambassador noted that senior British officials said this step will allow the UK to have more freedom in cooperation with the Arabs on different levels, without referring to the EU's terms. On his part, Bahraini Ambassador to the UK Sheikh Fawaz bin Mohammad Al Khalifa said the Brexit decision will not affect the strong relations between the Gulf States and the UK.

Directly after the Brexit vote, the Gulf States expressed their eagerness to further develop trade with the UK by signing a free trade agreement, he noted. He said that the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdullah Al-Zayani and the UK's Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox have recently discussed the terms of signing such an agreement during their meeting in London. Sheikh Fawaz added that Fox will take part in the upcoming meeting of GCC ministers of commerce to be held in Riyadh next month, where the two sides will discuss the agreement.

Bahrain praises Amir

In another development, Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa praised endeavors of His Highness Kuwait Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in international arena to serve peace and stability. During his reception of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, Al-Khalifa asserted the deep-rooted bilateral ties between his country and Kuwait in all domains.

Ambassador Azzam stressed the deep-rooted bilateral relations between the two countries and their rapid expansion under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Bahrain and Kuwait are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), founded in the early 80s to cement cooperation among the regional countries at various domains and in the face of external threats. The regional bloc includes Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Oman. Kuwait and Bahrain have maintained very close and solid bonds since many years ago. — Agencies



Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa holds talks with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA

News

In brief

Kuwait real estate loans reaches KD 12.8 million

KUWAIT: Total number of real estate loans in September was 430, amounting to KD 12.8 million, Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) announced yesterday. In a statement, KCB revealed that the total number of property loans in September 2016 was 20, amounting to KD 182,000. The government-owned property loans reached 66 with a value of KD 4.5 million, while the private property loans were 22 with a value of KD 1.2 million. Moreover, total number of residential property loans was 39 with a value of KD 2.8 million, property expansion loans stood at eight with a value of KD 182, 000 and total loans allocated for the handicapped was 194, with a value of KD 1.6 million.



Kuwaiti Ambassador in Tanzania Jassim Al-Najim handed over a letter from Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to his Tanzanian counterpart Hussein Ali Mwinyi. —KUNA

Kuwait and Tanzania to boost military ties

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Tanzania have expressed their keenness on boosting bilateral ties on the military front, Kuwaiti embassy in Tanzania said. The Embassy said in a statement that the Kuwaiti Ambassador in Tanzania Jassim Al-Najim handed over a letter from Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to his Tanzanian counterpart Hussein Ali Mwinyi that touched on enhancing ties. Mwinyi discussed extensively the notions of opening factories which would meet the military needs of providing tools, equipment and uniforms, as an initial stage of collaboration between the two countries; this collaboration would advance further to cover technological aspects. The Tanzanian Minister pointed out that his country would benefit from the high expertise at Kuwait Military Hospital. The Kuwaiti envoy looked forward to having the Tanzanian Minister to visit Kuwait in the future to discuss this cooperation first hand with his Kuwaiti counterpart.

Kuwait ensures welfare of persons with disabilities

NEW YORK: Kuwait has reaffirmed its commitment to provision of decent living for the persons with disabilities and integrating them into the society. The country's vision for 2035 is in keeping with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, said Hayam Khaled Al-Fasam, an economist and member of Kuwait's mission to the United Nations. She made the comments in a statement to a debate on the social conditions of youth, elderly and people with special needs. The discussion was held as part of the 71st session of Third Committee of the UN General Assembly dealing with the social, humanitarian and cultural issues. Al-Fasam recalled the first Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report, unveiled by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) here on July 19, 2016, and the outcomes of the HLPF released on the following day.



Kuwaiti biker Barrak Al-Jasmi

Kuwaiti biker grabs second position in US tournament

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti biker Barrak Al-Jasmi won the second place in the US' California state championship tournament for motorcycles race, concluded late on Tuesday. In a phone call yesterday, Al-Jasmi, who is representing Kuwait Quarter Mile Auto and Motorcycle Club at the event, said he participated in the 250 cc category where he won the second place. The Kuwaiti champion added that he also came third in the 450 cc and the second place in the above 25 yrs old category, in a matter of three days. Al-Jasmi is the first Kuwaiti to take part in an event organized by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA).

Kuwait to partake in 16th GCC oil undersecretaries meeting

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Ministry is scheduled to partake in the 16th meeting of the GCC Committee of Oil Undersecretaries, due in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Sunday. Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil Sheikh Talal Nasser Al-Athbi will head the delegation to the meeting, the Ministry said in a statement yesterday. The meeting will focus on outcomes of previous sessions that had been held at this level, free trade agreements in addition to tasks of the GCC committee of the mineral resources. Participants in the scheduled meeting will follow up on works of the United Nations committee on the climate changes and the Kyoto Protocol, the ministry said. They will be briefed about a note by the secretariat on regional emergency plan for petroleum products in the GCC countries and another one on cooperation between the GCC countries in renewable energy.

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Al-Anbaa

INVESTORS IN MUD

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

As Arabs and Muslims, we have been overdoing feeling sorry for our situations and comparing our deterioration with other nations that were once in our shoes, but managed to develop and become major financial and industrial powers. Our thinkers and intellectuals are still divided about the reasons that led to our deterioration and remaining at the tail of the world, while other nations became leading ones.

Some of them justify such deterioration by holding tight to Islam and forget that advanced countries managed to develop without even embracing Islam. Others say that the reason is totalitarian regimes that have dedicated the entire state to serve the ruler, which I think is partially true. Nonetheless, let us not forget the Soviet Union that was once ruled by a totalitarian regime, while at the same time was a major power everybody feared.

Thinkers have been discussing dozens of reasons for Arabs' shameful deterioration. However, I am not here to give the best answer to that question, but everybody is still free to try reaching a certain goal even if they eventually fail to do so. I tend to support the idea of justifying such retreat on restrictions on scientific research for religious reasons and claims that approaching certain researches is a religious taboo and a violation of our religion, which subjects wrongdoers to very strict punishment.

This is what both politicians and religious people believe to be true based on our retardation. They even invest well in such situations, making endless fortunes and gains that would vanish if the situation changes. The best proof of this is that the richest categories of Arabs are people belonging to these two groups - politicians and people of religion, who have twisted religious regulations to their own interests and justify their unreligious practices.

They lie in the name of religion, get bribes in the name of religion, kill in the name of religion, fight in the name of religion and reach truces in the name of religion, mainly relying on the spread of ignorance amongst the majority of Arab peoples who are fully controlled by politicians and clergymen. I know I did not suggest any solutions, but I have at least highlighted the facts.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

MUBARAKIYA SCHOOL

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

Around 1910, a group of people, including the late cleric Sheikh Mohammed bin Junaidel, gathered in a diwaniya during a celebration held to commemorate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Bin Junaidel was reading a poem of Al-Barzanji written in praise of the holy Prophet (PBUH), when the late cleric Sheikh Al-Tabtabaei arrived and inquired about what they were doing.

They all said that they were celebrating the Prophet's (PBUH) birthday. "This is not the way to celebrate such an occasion," he told them, noting that they should instead do so by following his instructions and avoiding the things he advised us to avoid. "This can only be done by teaching people their religion and this cannot be achieved except by opening schools for them," he added.

Those present at the diwaniya included Kuwait's top reformist, the late Sheikh Yousef bin Essa Al-Qenae. He liked the idea and immediately asked the permission of the late Sheikh Mubarak the Great to establish a school and name it after him - Al-Mubarakiya School. Donations were collected from merchants and benevolent people, and the school's most important requirements and construction materials were imported from India. The school was built and opened in the beginning of 1912 to mark the launch of Kuwait's regular educational system.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



‘INFINITI AL-BABTAIN’ LIGHTENS SHOWROOMS WITH PINK COLOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

KUWAIT: Every year during the month of October, many cities around the world wears pink color as this is the month of awareness for breast cancer - the killer disease that targets women. The medicine is trying hard to eliminate its impact on women through achieving new developments in early detection and treatment of this disease. Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the exclusive agent of Infiniti vehicles in Kuwait, believes in the importance of women's role in the community, which led the Company to support the patients of this disease, which kills 521 thousand women

around the world every year.

In addition Al-Babtain also supports the awareness campaigns on breast cancer to combat this disease. On the occasion of the 'Pink October' the showrooms of 'Infiniti Al Babtain' are casted with pink color through lightening the front for the second year in a row to highlight the importance of supporting breast cancer awareness, as this disease threatens about 12 percent of women in different stages of their lives.

Since its founding, the Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company is participating in develop-

ing the community, not only through proving best and most safe vehicles for drivers and their passengers, but also through its hard work to activate its role as an institution that aims to improve people's life. This initiative is part of the social responsibility of the Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co. that primary seeks to spread positive awareness of various issues that matter to community. During the 'Pink October' it focuses on raising awareness about early screening, which is the most important factor and the first step in preventing breast cancer, to live a long pink life.



NBK LAUNCHES NEW ITM

KUWAIT: Aiming to enhance its suite of services to meet customers' growing needs and expectations, National Bank of Kuwait launched the new generation of Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) that provides an exceptional banking services to customers who can interact with one of the bank's centrally-based tellers via video and audio in real time. This new addition translates the bank's vision to provide quality services and solutions that match the highest international standards, without compromising on customers' data confidentiality and security. ITM users can interact with the bank's tellers remotely to conduct their banking transactions conveniently, anytime and promptly.

Yaqoub Al Baker, Head of Call Center at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "We strive to stay updated with the latest technology to facilitate customers' transactions and provide them with a stress-free banking experience.

Through the new machine release, customers can communicate to our tellers remotely and get their assistance in a highly personalized two-way audio and video live interaction, even after working hours."

Al Baker added that the new ITM technology enables customers to conclude various transactions, like: withdrawals with dominations they want, cash deposit and withdrawal, checks cashing and deposit, inquire about accounts, loans and cards, in addition to conducting some transactions for free through the machine. On top of that, if the ATM card is lost, stolen or not available with the customer, he/she can use the Civil ID and they can get remote assistance from the teller on how to use the machine, if needed, through the colored screen who will guide the customer step by step to complete the required banking operation.

He pointed out by saying, "This innova-

tive ITM service will deliver human touch to our valued customers and conduct their transactions conveniently and safely without visiting the branch, where our qualified tellers will offer remote assistance and feedback." He affirmed that the ITM is located at The Avenues, next to IKEA, and the bank is planning to roll out more machines in other prime locations in the country in the near future.

It's worth mentioning that NBK is committed to upgrading its suite of pioneering services and products to new levels, aiming at meeting customers' demands and lifestyle. This in return proves the bank's leadership locally and regionally when it comes to innovation. Once again, NBK continues to position itself as one of the most innovative solution provider to customers, where the new ITM service joins its set of digital channels known for their ultimate safety and security, including NBK Mobile Banking and Online



Yaqoub Al Baker

Banking to conclude transactions anytime and anywhere, the SMS banking to notify customers of any changes made on their accounts or cards, the first-of-its-kind WhatsApp service that was introduced last summer to answer customers' queries, ATMs and CDMs and much more.

ZAIN LAUNCHES ITS NINTH BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, launched its ninth annual breast cancer awareness campaign in partnership with the Ministry of Health's National Mammography Screening Program and Al Seef Hospital. The campaign aims at spreading awareness about breast cancer during October of every year. Zain's annual

campaign coincides with the globally celebrated month of breast cancer during October, and strongly reflects the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy. The campaign mainly aims at spreading awareness about the goals set by the World Health Organization to prevent breast cancer, most impor-

tantly the significance of mammogram tests and early detection.

In collaboration with its partners, Zain will spread a number of informative messages through social media throughout the month of October to increase positive awareness about breast cancer prevention. The messages feature Head of the National Mammography Screening Program Dr. Hana Al Khuwari, Surgical oncologist and general surgeon at Al Seef Hospital Dr. Nuha Al Saleh, and Bariatric Nutritionist at Al Seef Hospital Sahar Nasser Eddine.

Zain will also engage its employees in the awareness campaign, through which it will organize informative seminars, spread awareness videos, and offer free mammogram tests for its employees and their families. Zain was keen on strategically partnering with leading healthcare providers, both public and private, such as the Ministry of Health's National Mammography Screening Program and Al Seef Hospital, to enrich its steps into informing the public through the expertise of these organizations' experts, specialists, and consultants.

Zain's solid Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For that reason, the company has maintained its support to all kinds of initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference. Zain has previously partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO), cooperated with the Ministry of Health, and partnered with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent for several awareness campaigns related to the health sector.

It is worth mentioning that Zain established Zain Hospital, specializing in ear, nose, and throat treatment. The hospital was constructed and equipped by the company to address the needs of the patients in the country, giving them the opportunity to head to a state-of-the-art health institution which is fully equipped with the latest medical equipment to serve their health issues. You can follow Zain's Breast Cancer Awareness campaign on #ZainGoesPink and #ZainCSR.

Crime

Report

Woman arrested for prostitution

KUWAIT: A Romanian woman was arrested in Bneid Al-Gar by a vice squad for prostitution, said security sources. The sources explained that the suspect arrived in Kuwait on a visit visa and was selling her services online, charging 'clients' KD 200 an hour. The suspect was detained pending deportation.

Citizen arrested for forgery

A citizen working at Salmi land border exit was arrested for forging entry and departure stamps on the passports of eight stateless people from the same family for over two years, so that his stateless relatives and the family's breadwinner could continue receiving their allowances while they were out of the country in Saudi Arabia.

Sexual harassment

An Egyptian working at a Fahaheel department store filed a complaint against her coworker, accusing him of sexual harassment. Meanwhile, a citizen reported that after damaging his vehicle in a collision in Saad Al-Abdullah, a female citizen insulted him before she fled the scene. A case was filed. Also, an Ethiopian filed a complaint against her Egyptian boyfriend, accusing him of assaulting her, said security sources.

Employee files complaint

An employee working at the Manpower Authority reported that a female citizen insulted him and his colleague while doing their jobs because she did not like to wait for her turn to be served. A case was filed.

2015 model car stolen

A citizen reported that his 2015 model car was stolen from his doorstep, said security sources, noting that the man parked the car late at night, and on going out the following morning to head to work, it was not there.

Case against mom

A female citizen filed a complaint against her mother, accusing her of taking over a car she had paid for and registered in her mother's name. The girl added that her mother refuses to transfer the registration to her name.

Inspection campaign

Farwaniya security recently launched an inspection campaign that resulted in filing 84 tickets for obstructing traffic, 30 tickets for taxis not running their meters, four for using mobile phones while driving and 12 for vehicle safety conditions. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

MINISTRY REVIEWS PREPARATIONS FOR ISLAMIC CULTURE CELEBRATION

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah on Tuesday chaired a meeting by the consultative committee on the celebrations of Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016. The meeting reviewed the preparations for the closing ceremony of the celebrations, due on December 22, and the plan to launch Kuwait fund for cultural development. Sheikh Salman discussed with the chairperson of the committee Sheikha Altaf Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and the committee members the agenda of cultural events, including the recital to mark the birthday of the Prophet (PBUH), slated for December 11.

Sheikha Altaf updated the meeting on the preparations for the religious recital and the closing ceremony of the celebrations marking Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture. She also briefed the meeting on the plan to launch Kuwait fund for cultural development, conceived by Dr Mashael Al-Hajeri, professor of law at Kuwait University, who attended the meeting. Dr Al-Hajeri said the idea to launch such a fund originated from the instructions of Sheikh Salman to lay out a vision for investing in culture and partnering the private sector in cultural development.

The Third Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, held by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Doha, on December 29-31, 2001, adopted a resolution on an annual program of the capitals of Islamic culture and invited the OIC Member States to nominate cities of which ISESCO shall select three capitals of Islamic culture, representing the Arab, Asian and African regions. The ISESCO program of Islamic culture capitals for 2016 designated the cities of Kuwait for the Arab Region, Male (Republic of Maldives) for the Asian Region, and Freetown (Republic of Sierra Leone) for the African Region. — KUNA





World court rejects epic Marshalls nuclear case



FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA: Republican vice-presidential nominee Gov. Mike Pence shakes hands with Democratic vice-presidential nominee Sen. Tim Kaine during the vice-presidential debate at Longwood University on Tuesday. — AP

STEADY PENCE PRAISED, BUT KAINE LANDS JABS

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

WASHINGTON: Republican Mike Pence won bipartisan plaudits for a calm and collected performance in the vice presidential debate. But Democrat Tim Kaine was claiming mission accomplished for forcing his opponent to confront - or not - Donald Trump's long list of provocative remarks.

Pressed by Kaine to defend his running mate throughout the 90-minute debate Tuesday, Pence mostly dodged, sidestepped or let the moment pass by. He vouched for the billionaire's tax history, but was less vocal when challenged about Trump's temperament or his inflammatory words about women and President Barack Obama.

"I can't imagine how Gov. Pence can defend the insult-driven, me-first style of Donald Trump," said Kaine, the Virginia senator and Hillary Clinton's No. 2. Still, even Clinton's team wasn't claiming that Kaine had come out on top, despite the chest-puffing that usually follows a political debate. Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said only that Kaine had succeeded in his "strategic mission" to challenge Pence to defend his controversial

running mate. "Gov. Pence was smooth, he seemed sort of likable, but he didn't get the job done," Podesta said Wednesday on MSNBC.

Willing to concede

Both sides appeared willing to concede that the only debate between the vice presidential candidates was unlikely to alter the trajectory of the race. After all, this year's rollicking presidential campaign has been all about the passionate emotions - positive and negative - that both candidates of the top of the ticket stir up for many American voters.

Yet for Republicans worried their voters won't show up at the polls, Pence's steady performance could help assuage concerns that this year's Republican ticket has veered away from the party's core beliefs. Pence, a former congressman and Indiana's governor, is widely trusted by the Republican establishment and the party's socially conservative base.

Like Pence, Kaine also found himself in the role of defender. He rebutted Pence's attacks on Clinton's family foundation, her emails and her struggles persuading voters that she's

trustworthy. Kaine said he and his wife trust Clinton "with the most important thing in our life" - their son, a Marine who would serve under Clinton if she wins.

Yet for the most part, Kaine was determined to make the showdown a referendum on Trump's character. Typically relaxed and easygoing, Pence adopted a pugilistic approach as he slammed Trump for having called women pigs and slobs, and condemned his praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Pence frequently avoided taking the bait - a shrewd move for a conservative darling who could have eyes on the Oval Office himself if Trump loses in November. Instead, he sought to defuse the line of attack by arguing preemptively that it was the Democrats - not Trump - waging an insult-filled campaign.

He didn't dispute reports that the businessman might not have paid any federal taxes for years as a result of suffering more than \$900 million in losses in 1995. But he likened Trump's situation to those of other Americans who have gone "through a very difficult time." "He used the tax code just the way it's supposed to

be used," Pence said. "And he did it brilliantly," Kellyann Conway, Trump's campaign manager, faulted Kaine for repeatedly interrupting Trump, and of "ignoring the female moderator," Elaine Quijano of CBS News. She took particular issue with how often the Democrat had brought up Trump's name. "It was like he had a tic," Conway said. She spoke Wednesday on Fox News and MSNBC.

Shift back

The campaign's focus shifts back now to the presidential nominees, who meet again Sunday for the second of three debates. For Trump, it could be a final opportunity to demonstrate the race isn't slipping out of his grasp. Five weeks from Election Day, the race appears to be tipping in Clinton's favor. Widely viewed as the loser of the first debate last week, Trump went into a multi-day tailspin over a decades-old tiff with a beauty queen. New public opinion polls show Clinton's standing on the rise in nearly all battleground states. Pence was markedly more prepared and more detailed in his answers than Trump

was on the debate stage last week. He was also more consistent in painting the Democratic ticket as career politicians unwilling to shake up Washington.

On national security, Kaine revived Trump's frequently flattering comments about Putin, the Russian president. "He loves dictators," Kaine said. "He's got like a personal Mount Rushmore: Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un, Moammar Gadhafi and Saddam Hussein."

Pence tried to flip the tables by accusing Kaine's running mate of stoking Russia's belligerence. "The weak and feckless foreign policy of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama has awakened an aggression in Russia that first appeared in Russia a few years ago," Pence said. "All the while, all we do is fold our arms and say we're not having talks anymore."

Pence stirred buzz on social media for saying, after Kaine's repeated criticism of Trump's comments on immigrants, "Senator, you've whipped out that Mexican thing again." Clinton's supporters seized on the remark. By Wednesday morning, visitors to ThatMexicanThing.com were being redirected to her campaign website. — AP

SYRIA ANNOUNCES SURPRISE EASING OF ALEPPO ASSAULT

DAMASCUS: Syria's military yesterday announced a surprise reduction in bombardment of rebel groups in devastated Aleppo, nearly two weeks after declaring an all-out assault to capture the city.

Aleppo city was once Syria's thriving commercial hub, but it now lies divided between rebels in the east and regime forces in the west. Syria's government announced a large-scale offensive to capture the whole city on September 22, ushering in a ferocious bombing campaign on opposition-held quarters.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 270 people, including 53 children, had been killed in air raids on the eastern districts since the assault began.

But yesterday, Syria's military said it would reduce the bombardment "after the success of our armed forces in Aleppo and cutting off all terrorist supply routes into the eastern districts." "The military command has decided to reduce

the number of air strikes and artillery on terrorist positions to allow civilians that want to leave to reach safe areas," the statement carried by news agency SANA said. It was not immediately clear what was behind the move, or if Russian air strikes would also be reduced.

Forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad have been waging their offensive in the city centre, the northern outskirts, and the southern edges of Aleppo with the backing of Russian air power. But the onslaught has come under fierce international scrutiny amid accusations the joint air strikes were destroying the east's civilian infrastructure.

On Monday, bombardment destroyed the largest hospital in rebel-held quarters, where an estimated 250,000 people live under government siege. Hours later, the US announced it would suspend bilateral efforts with Moscow at reviving a ceasefire, accusing Russia of trying to bomb Syrian civilians "into submission".

Moscow and Washington's top diplomats had been working together since early this year to reach a diplomatic solution to Syria's bloodshed, which has killed more than 300,000 people since 2011. An agreement in September had envisioned an end to hostilities, increased aid deliveries, and eventual coordination between the two world powers against jihadists-but it collapsed after a week. Since then, France has stepped into the diplomatic vacuum with a draft United Nations resolution on a ceasefire in Aleppo that it will submit to the Security Council this week.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault will travel to Moscow on Thursday and Washington on Friday to try to garner support for the draft, his office said. The resolution is aimed at "paving the way to a ceasefire in Aleppo and for the local population to gain access to the humanitarian aid it so needs," the foreign ministry said. — AFP



ALEPPO: Syrian civil defense volunteers, known as the White Helmets, pull the body of a man from the rubble of destroyed buildings following a government forces air strike on the rebel-held neighborhood of Bustan al-Basha on Tuesday. — AFP

IRAQ PRO-GOVT FIGHTERS ‘MOST LIKELY’ KILLED IN COALITION STRIKE

WASHINGTON: An air strike conducted by the US-led coalition in Iraq “most likely” killed around 20 pro-government Sunni tribal fighters south of Mosul on yesterday, a senior defense official told AFP. “This most likely was from a coalition air strike. Right now, we are still getting information,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the incident.

Earlier, an Iraqi commander and a minister said the strike had killed 21 fighters in the raid that happened around 1:00 am local time Wednesday (2200 GMT Tuesday) east of the town of Qayyarah, which

was recaptured from the Islamic State group in August, they said. The US defense official said the strike was probably “what we unfortunately call a blue-on-green incident,” meaning a case of mistaken identity where a coalition force inadvertently struck partners on the ground. “We are looking into it aggressively,” the official said. Sheikh Nazhan Sakhr al-Lihaybi, the commander of the fighters who were killed, said they had succeeded in repelling an attack by Islamic State jihadists in the area, and were bombed when they gathered after the end of the fighting.

Agriculture minister Falah Hassan Zaidan, whose tribe resides in the Qayyarah area, also said that 21 tribal fighters were killed and confirmed the timing of the strike. Lihaybi said the air raid also wounded five fighters, while Zaidan put the number at four. The US-led coalition has been carrying out strikes against IS in Iraq since 2014, and the country’s military also targets the jihadists with warplanes and helicopters.

The deadly strike comes as Iraqi forces prepare for a final push to retake Mosul, the last IS-held city in the country. The Mosul operation-which Western offi-

cials have indicated could start this month-will involve a heterogenous coalition of sometimes rival Iraqi forces including soldiers, police, Kurdish peshmerga fighters, and both Sunni and Shiite militiamen.

After it is launched, these forces will have to fight their way through IS-held territory-sometimes over distances of dozens of kilometers (miles) before surrounding the city and then launching an assault to retake it. The issue of which forces will actually enter the city is a contentious one, and there has been no public announcement of the roles the various forces will play. —AFP



LIBYA: Migrants are rescued from the Mediterranean sea by a member of Proactiva Open Arms NGO in the Mediterranean Sea, some 12 nautical miles north of Libya, on October 4, 2016. —AFP

DRAMATIC RESCUE IMAGES AS EU URGED TO CHANGE TACK ON MIGRANT CRISIS
A CLUSTER OF EMOTIONS

ABOARD THE ASTRAL: The horror, terror and joy felt during perilous rescues of migrant boats have been captured in powerful new images published yesterday, as the latest deadly episode in the Mediterranean fuelled calls for Europe to change tack on the crisis.

AFP photographer Aris Messinis was on board NGO boat The Astral as it battled to help a number of overcrowded rubber dinghies and a larger wooden vessel found in distress off the coast of Libya in a frantic oper-

ture the extreme range of emotions produced by the drama. Among the most striking is the hauntingly poignant respect shown by the survivors as they tiptoe over lifeless bodies on their own way to safety.

In the water, an African man clings desperately to a float thrown in by the rescuers and stretches his leg out as if he were trying to help a fellow passenger floundering helplessly a yard (meter) away from him. Or could he have been seeking to push him away?



AT SEA: Graphic content / Migrants step over dead bodies while being rescued by members of Proactiva Open Arms NGO in the Mediterranean Sea, some 12 nautical miles north of Libya, on October 4, 2016. —AFP

ation that lasted from dawn until after dusk on Tuesday.

Hundreds of mainly African migrants were hauled to safety but dozens died agonizing deaths from suffocation as a result of either toxic fumes or the panicked crush of too many bodies: 29 of them on one of the dinghies.

Messinis said a final count yesterday put the death toll at 32 and his photographs cap-

‘Policies not working’
Other images reveal that there were many small children on board the boats; one is crying, perhaps sensing the prevailing sense of fear, others seem totally carefree, oblivious to the panic, including one hoisted above the crush of the crowd. “There must have been about 1,000 people on board the (larger wooden) boat, spread over three levels,” Messinis said. “I went onboard

and there was total panic, there were people jumping into the water, people trying to get out (from below deck).”

William Lacy Swing, the head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said 3,500 migrant deaths in the Mediterranean this year showed Europe needed to do something different. “That is more than all of last year and last year was more than 2014, so clearly our policies are not working as they should be or you wouldn’t have that many people who are dying,” he told AFP.

Italy’s coastguard said it coordinated 33 different rescue operations on Tuesday and that 4,655 people had been saved, taking the total recovered alive to more than 10,000 in two days. Tuesday’s drama underlined how easily the life-saving capacities of the multinational search and rescue operation off Libya can become critically stretched.

Baby boom

The Astral, which is operated by Spanish NGO ProActiva Open Arms, was on its own for hours after it first came across the stricken boats. A relatively small converted yacht, it could not risk getting too close to any of the distressed vessels for fear that it could be capsized by the panicked migrants all trying to board it at once.

It was not until midday that an Italian navy vessel arrived to help. By then it may already have been too late for some of the victims, and it was after 10 pm when the operation was finally wrapped up.

Italy’s coastguard and the charity MSF (Doctors without Borders) reported Wednesday that four pregnant women who were among the rescued had given birth on their way to Italian ports.

The number of pregnant women boarding migrant boats in Libya has increased significantly this year and it is not uncommon for them to go into labor as soon as they reach the safety of a rescue boat. The 10,600 new arrivals will raise to more than 140,000 the total number of migrants or refugees to have landed in Italy since the start of this year.

The numbers are in line with the previous two years but Italy is now having to register and accommodate a bigger proportion of them under pressure from its EU partners, putting immense strain on its overcrowded reception centers and government coffers. —AFP

ISRAEL HITS HAMAS POSTS
AFTER ROCKET FIRE FROM GAZA

GAZA CITY: Israel’s military struck several Hamas positions in the Gaza Strip yesterday after a rocket launched from the Palestinian enclave hit a nearby Israeli city, with no casualties reported on either side.

The rocket hit Sderot, part of which lies less than a kilometer (less than a mile) northeast of the Gaza Strip, run by Islamist movement Hamas, the Israeli military said. The area was closed off and bomb disposal teams were working at the site, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

A small Salafist group-followers of an ultra-conservative brand of Sunni Islam who oppose Hamas-claimed responsibility for the attack. “Thanks to God, the so-called Sderot settlement was targeted by a home-made rocket,” the Ahfad al-Sahaba group said in a statement.

The same group has claimed responsibility for other recent attacks but Israel holds Hamas responsible for all such rocket fire. Shortly afterwards, Hamas security sources said Israeli tank fire struck a post run by its military wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, east of Beit Hanoun near the border with Israel.

Three air strikes also targeted other bases in the Khan Yunis area in the south of the enclave, the sources said, while two others hit Hamas posts near Gaza City, an AFP journalist reported. Israel’s military did not provide details on its strikes, saying only that it “targeted a number of Hamas posts”.

“Today’s attack, the second since the beginning of August in the city of Sderot, is the direct result of Hamas’s terror agenda in the Gaza Strip that encourages deliberate attacks against Israeli civilians,” military spokesman Peter Lerner said in a statement. As Israeli aircraft continued to carry out surveillance in the afternoon, Hamas denounced the strikes, calling them an

“escalation” and saying it would not be able to “remain with its arms folded if it continues”.

Islamic Jihad, which has a strong presence in Gaza, said “the resistance is not looking for an escalation but it is ready for any option to respond.”

Stronger response

The Israeli army and Palestinian militants in Gaza have fought three wars since 2008 and there are frequent flare-ups along the border. Israel often responds to rocket fire from Gaza with air and tank strikes, but recent responses have been stronger than in the past.

That has led some analysts to question whether the change is the result of a new policy by hardline Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who took office in May. In August, Israel carried out dozens of retaliatory strikes after a rocket hit Sderot, a far larger response than usual.

Israeli media reported that attack was the first time downtown Sderot had been struck by a rocket from Gaza since the last war in 2014. The 2014 conflict was the most devastating of the three, killing 2,251 Palestinians and leaving 100,000 homeless.

Seventy-three Israelis, most of them soldiers, died in the conflict. A delegation from the International Criminal Court is visiting Israel and the Palestinian territories this week, its chief prosecutor said Wednesday, against the backdrop of a probe into the last Gaza war. Gaza has been under an Israeli blockade for nearly a decade, with Israel seeking to prevent the entry of material it believes could be used for military purposes.

UN officials have called for the blockade to be lifted, saying conditions are deteriorating in the impoverished enclave of 1.9 million people. —AFP



TIFLET, MOROCCO: Supporters of Morocco’s Democratic Independence Party pass out campaign leaflets in the city of Tifelt, on the outskirts of the capital, Rabat yesterday. —AFP

MOROCCO VOTES AFTER FIVE YEARS UNDER ISLAMISTS

RABAT: Morocco will elect a parliament on Friday for the first time since an Islamist-led government took office following Arab Spring uprisings that toppled leaders across the region.

The Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) came to power in 2011 after swelling protests prompted concessions from King Mohammed VI, the scion of a monarchy that has ruled the North African country for 350 years.

A new constitution reduced some, though not all, of the king’s near-absolute powers as autocratic regimes fell in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane’s PJD says a second term would allow it to continue its limited economic and social reforms.

Heading a coalition that includes communists, liberals and conservatives, it retains considerable support among the urban middle classes that have largely abandoned the left in favour of Islamist parties. But it has been weakened by rising unemployment and what critics say is a failure to deal with corruption. The party has faced a string of scandals within its ranks including a major drugs bust, a dodgy land-grab deal and the suspension of two vice presidents found in a “sexual position” on a beach.

It also faces a resurgent liberal opposition Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), formed in 2008 by a close adviser to the king. The PAM has poured enormous resources into a campaign criticising the government’s record as “catastrophic” and pledging to roll back the “Islamisation” of society.

It pitches itself as the defender of women’s rights and liberal social mores, and aims to bring more women into parliament, where they hold just 67 out of 395 seats.

‘Exclusive decision maker’

The PJD accuses its rival of being the party of the palace, part of a shadowy “parallel state” controlling political life. If it holds on to power, the PJD will remain an essential part of Moroccan politics, “despite the feelings it rouses

at the palace and among the globalised bourgeoisie,” said Pierre Vermeren, a historian of the Maghreb region.

A victorious PJD would try to take the opportunity to gain more space from the monarchy for joint decision-making, he said. But the decisive clout in Morocco remains in the hands of King Mohammed VI regardless of who is in government.

“The king is de facto the exclusive decision maker on a series of long-term and strategic matters,” including foreign policy and big infrastructure projects, according to an analysis from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think tank.

At the same time the monarchy can present the successful inclusion of an Islamist party “as a sign of the ongoing process of democratisation following the adoption of the 2011 constitutional amendments,” it added.

Previously the monarch could choose his prime minister, but since the constitutional changes he must appoint someone from the party that wins the most seats in parliament.

Return of the Salafists

Friday’s poll also marks the return of Salafists, followers of an ultra-conservative brand of Sunni Islam, to the political arena. There are only a few dozen Salafists among the 7,000 candidates in Friday’s poll, but their re-emergence is a notable shift in a country where they were once pariahs.

They include Abdelwahab Rafiki, who was known as Abou Haf, a former preacher who was sentenced to 30 years in prison after jihadist attacks in Casablanca in 2003 that left 45 people dead.

He was pardoned in 2012 and is running for Istiqlal, a nationalist party. Rafiki is not alone. The Casablanca bombings prompted authorities to arrest some 8,000 people, many of them Salafists. But like him, many were pardoned following the turmoil of 2011, and have since gained a foothold in Moroccan politics. —AFP

INDIA TRIES TO HASTEN US DEFENSE DEALS AMID ELECTION UNCERTAINTY

NEW DELHI: India is trying to hasten a deal with the United States to buy Predator drone aircraft for military surveillance, one of several defence and nuclear projects the two sides are pursuing in the final months of the Obama administration.

India’s request for 22 Predator Guardian drones made in June is in an advanced stage of negotiations. The two sides hope to make enough progress so only administrative tasks remain by the time President Barack Obama leaves office, government officials in New Delhi said. “It is progressing well. The aim is to complete the main process in the next few months,” said one of the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has built personal ties with President Barack Obama, whose signature foreign policy move has been a strategic pivot to Asia from the Middle East. The United States has dislodged Russia as the top arms supplier to India. New Delhi is also on the cusp of sealing a US nuclear reactor deal worth billions of dollars.

In return, Washington has given New Delhi access to high-end military technology, such as a new system to launch planes off aircraft carriers, and leaned on other countries to give India membership in the Missile Technology Control Regime, which cleared the way for the sale of the unarmed Predator.

India’s military has also asked for the armed version of the Predator to help target suspected militant camps in Pakistan but US export control laws prohibit such a transfer. US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, who visited India in April, is expected to make a final trip there towards the end of the year.

“The administration is eager to get as much done as is humanly possible. They believe the conditions and the personnel in both capitals are uniquely favorable at the moment, and are eager to consolidate and institutionalize the progress,” said Jeff Smith, director of Asia Security Programs at the American Foreign Policy Council. —Reuters

EU SEES SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN PEACE TALKS AS NEW AID FLOWS IN

BRUSSELS: Regional powers agreed to try to revive Afghanistan's stalled peace process after almost 40 years of conflict, the EU's foreign policy chief said yesterday, as governments began to raise some \$13 billion to fund the country through 2020.

With the government in Kabul facing a resurgent Taliban 15 years after US forces helped oust the militants, more than 70 governments in Brussels promised further financial support. The European Union is leading the effort, partly with the aim of slowing Afghan migrant flows into Europe.

As well as funding, the EU focused on getting stalled peace negotiations back on track by bringing together the United States, China, India, and Pakistan at a dinner on Tuesday night. Federica Mogherini, who coordinates EU foreign policy, said there was an understanding "to work on a common basis for regional political support for the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan." "Yesterday night we found common ground to support this process with a

regional perspective and the European Union will try to facilitate this," Mogherini said.

There have been several attempts in recent years to broker a settlement between the Western-backed government in Kabul and the Taliban, but all have failed. Without the militants at the table, experts say it is hard to envisage a meaningful solution.

Hazaras stage protest

The EU and Afghanistan signed a political agreement this month to make it easier to return Afghans whose asylum requests fail. European governments, facing increasing opposition from voters to immigration at home, have pressed Afghanistan to accept more repatriations, saying that many parts of the country, including the capital Kabul, are safe.

That policy has faced sharp criticism from aid groups and others who point to the widening Taliban insurgency across the country and the frequent suicide attacks that hit Kabul.

Several hundred members of Afghanistan's mainly Shi'ite Hazara minority, which has been targeted by Taliban and Islamic State militants, protested outside the conference venue. "(President) Ashraf Ghani and his government is here for European and other countries' aid and assistance in return for accepting a deal to send us back to a war zone," said Ali Reza, holding a banner with the words: "We Will Not Go Back".

While the West wants more social, political and financial reforms from Afghanistan, EU migration aid is not linked to the Brussels conference, but was raised by European ministers including Hungary and Bulgaria. "I hope that the newly signed repatriation agreement with Afghanistan will be implemented in practice," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters.

Taleban peace talks?

Two people briefed on Mogherini's dinner, attended by US Secretary of

State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon among others, told Reuters that Chinese and Indian officials were willing to consider peace talks.

Pakistan continues to harbor Afghan Taliban, the United States says. India is unconvinced the militants have changed, judging by the way they rule the 10 percent of Afghan territory they control, one official said.

"There are several countries that actually can help come together, and I urge Russia, China, Pakistan, India and Iran to think about the special role that they could play in this region in order to make a major difference ... in reaching peace with the Taliban," Kerry told the donor conference.

But there remain divisions about if, or when, to include Taliban militants. Even if they were invited, it is unclear whether the movement would take part. Hope was briefly raised in 2015 when Taliban officials met the Afghan government in neighboring Pakistan, but that process was short lived, and the

Taliban insist that foreign forces must leave Afghanistan before peace talks can begin.

They are also on the offensive, and battlefield successes have exposed the defensive limits of Afghanistan's NATO-trained armed forces which are supposed to number 350,000 personnel but which have been heavily depleted by casualties and desertion.

Militants briefly reached the centre of the northern city of Kunduz on Monday, and they are testing the defenses of two other provincial capitals in the south of the country. Still, US and EU officials have been encouraged by a smaller peace agreement last month between the Afghan government and a local warlord.

Though largely symbolic, the deal grants amnesty to the warlord and his militants in return for an end to violence and respect for Afghanistan's constitution. "This a model for what might be possible ... I think the message from every person here would be to the Taliban: take note," Kerry said. —Reuters

KENYA'S ILLEGAL SAND MINERS DESTROY FARMS TO PLUNDER SCARCE RESOURCE

MACHAKOS, KENYA: Every day dozens of trucks roar into Kalingile village in south-west Kenya and moments later speed off down a dirt road laden with tons of sand ready to supply to construction markets, leaving acres of destroyed farmland in their wake.

As Kenya's booming construction industry has seen demand for sand soar to record levels, it has put pressure on agricultural land and other sources of sand nationwide, prompting sand harvesters to invade farms for the rare commodity, studies show.

Years of uncontrolled sand mining in riverbeds at a rate that outpaces natural replenishment have depleted sand deposits in the rivers of counties surrounding the capital, Nairobi. The scarcity has left sand miners with no option but to dredge for sand on farmland, an illegal business that has fuelled the construction industry but threatens the livelihoods of thousands of small-scale farmers whose land it destroys.

Kalingile village, in Mavoko constituency, 47 km (26 miles) east of Nairobi, is among many areas of Kenya that have been targeted by sand harvesters. The illegal activity has left hundreds of farmers scraping a living from tiny parcels of land.

Stephen Mulinge, a farmer who now works an acre of land in the area, said he had lost four acres to sand miners who left his land barren after invading his farm under cover of darkness. "When I refused to let them mine sand on my farm, they came at night, dredged and loaded to trucks," Mulinge, 42, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

He said illegal sand harvesting in the area had led to the destruction of vegetation, reduced fertile land and farm productivity and exposed the community to food insecurity. "Out of my five-acre farm, only an acre is under production the rest has been turned to pits and trenches and can't be put to agricultural use," Mulinge said.

The area is especially vulnerable to ille-

gal sand mining because it is near markets and located on a transport route that makes it cheap to move sand from the area, he said. As demand for sand continues to soar, the community fears the extraction of sand on their farms is not about to end soon, despite the enactment of the Machakos County Sand Harvesting Act in 2014, which sought to regulate the harvesting of sand.

Illegal sand sites

According to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), recent legislation on sand mining at the national and county levels have helped to regulate the industry. "We have issued restoration orders in several illegal sand sites and summoned some of the culprits to our offices," Titus Simiyu, NEMA Machakos County Director for Environment, said.

"The authority has to conduct environmental impact assessment report before awarding a license to sand harvesters," Simiyu added that new national guidelines in 2007 had also helped to regulate uncontrolled sand mining across Kenya. "It's unfortunate that some of these sand dealers are engaged in illegal sand harvesting despite the many awareness campaigns we have conducted in the area," Simiyu said.

However, despite new laws that are supposed to ensure sand is harvested and used sustainably, illegal sand mining has gone on unabated in Machakos, said Mulinge. "There is nothing we can do; we have complained to authorities without much help. Some of these cartels are so powerful and crooked they will use whatever means to get sand with or without our consent," Mulinge said.

The law restricts sand mining between 6am and 6pm, but farmers said illegal miners avoid arrest by harvesting at night. The Act states: "On-farm sand harvesting shall only be undertaken by open-cast harvesting method and no underground tunneling or extraction of sand shall be undertaken." —Reuters



NAIROBI: An activist demonstrates on September 3, 2016 in Nairobi against a proposed route for the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) that is set to cut across the Nairobi National Park once complete. —AFP

SENEGAL VILLAGES EMPTY FOR DREAMS OF EUROPE

NO COUNTRY FOR YOUNG MEN

GOUDIRY, Senegal: Slumped on a bench in a village in southeast Senegal - which is lifeless but for the occasional bleating of goats and splutter of old motorcycles - Aliou Thiam has only one thing on his mind. The 28-year-old is preparing to leave behind his wife, two children and the only life he has known in the pursuit of a goal shared by many young men across Senegal: Reaching Europe. "I don't have anything here. That is why I want to go, why I need to go," he said, glancing at several men lying nearby in the shade, snoozing through the still, sweltering afternoon. "The only thing we know is migration," Thiam told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Migration equals success."

Thousands of Senegalese men set off for Europe each year, risking their lives on treacherous journeys through the Sahara desert and across the Mediterranean sea. Most fail. Many die. Senegal is among the top 10 countries of origin for migrants arriving in Italy this year, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) says, along with countries like Eritrea, Mali and Nigeria, beset by conflict or concerns over rights abuses.

But Senegal's young men are not fleeing war. Deemed economic migrants, they are seeking a better life for themselves and their families, and see Europe as the only gateway to success. It is a belief entrenched over decades as generations of Senegalese moved to Europe - in particular to France, the former colonial master - and sent money home. But more and more young men are now trying their luck with discontent over joblessness and the slow pace of development simmering in the West African nation.

Despite being one of Africa's most stable and fastest-growing democracies, Senegal's average monthly income is less than \$100, and around one in eight people are unemployed. The surge in migrants has sparked debate globally about whether economic migrants should be treated differently to refugees fleeing conflict, and fuelled fears poverty will worsen and national stability come under threat if remittances dry up.

Uneducated, untrained and unemployed, Thiam and his peers in southeastern Tambacounda, one of Senegal's poorest regions, say they have been abandoned by the government - citing undeveloped land, few jobs, and a lack of vocational training schemes. "All over Senegal, but especially outside of Dakar, there is a view that you can't make it here, but can make it in Europe," said Jo-Lind Roberts, chief of mission for the IOM in Senegal. "There is a lack of hope about life in Senegal."

No Jobs, No Future

Tambacounda is one of Senegal's main points of departure for the thousands of young men who have headed for Europe via Libya since the North African country's 2011 uprising led to a vacuum of state authority. Two-thirds of Tambacounda's population of 700,000 live in poverty, compared to less than half on average across the nation of 15 million, according to data from Senegal's 2013 census. One in three people in Tambacounda, where the average age is 20, have no job to go to. "All these young people are lying around doing nothing," said El Hadji Sao, secretary general of Goudiry, one of Tambacounda's four departments. "It is enough to cause revolt."

In the heart of Goudiry, young men work tirelessly in wooden shacks, repairing motorbikes, welding steel

and sewing clothes. Yet very few jobs exist outside of the centre of Goudiry, with vast expanses of arid, unused land interrupted only by withered baobab trees and isolated villages. "To have a job with a salary here in Goudiry is impossible," said 35-year-old Yaya Diallo, who sees migrating to Europe as the only way to feed his wife and children. "I have to go."

Amid thatch-roof huts and mud-brick homes, the few newly-built health centres and schools, and the odd concrete house - some crowned with solar panels and satellite TV dishes - are a testament to the importance of remittances across the region. "Everything you see is from those who have migrated ... all the projects are financed by them," said Moussa Kebe, who returned to Senegal after almost two years in Libya and set up an association to appeal for development in the area. "If anyone is sick ... or needs clothes or food ... we have to call on the migrants. When someone passes away, or has to name a baby, we call the migrants - they are always solicited."

Relying on Remittances

Senegalese migrants sent home at least 930 billion CFA francs (\$1.6 billion) in 2015, eclipsing international aid for Senegal and accounting for more than 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), World Bank data shows. This figure may be far higher as it does not account for the cash-stuffed suitcases brought home by migrants, experts say. Yet remittances to Senegal could shrink as European nations tighten their borders and work becomes harder to find, said Marta Foresti of the UK-based Overseas Development Institute.

Aware of this, the government is working to create more jobs in agriculture, and educate migrants about the risks of migration, said foreign ministry official Serigne Gueye. "Migration is not the El Dorado people dream of - it is walking into the lion's den," he said in the capital Dakar. "We want migrants to understand that what interests us is not their lives abroad, but their successful return to Senegal."

The state also backs the Program for Support for Solidarity Initiatives for Development (PAISD), which helps migrants in France to pool their earnings and invest in projects back in Senegal, from solar power systems to mechanic training schools. "The migrants, with one foot in France and one foot in Senegal, are very important in terms of remittances - they are drivers of development," said Raphael Renault of the PAISD. But informing people of the risks of migration to persuade them to stay, while relying on remittances to spur development, is an unsustainable strategy, said the Roberts of the IOM. "Only 20-30 percent of remittances are invested in society, most go straight to families," she said. "You can't just trigger development over a few years - it doesn't work like that."

Generation Gap

The success of Goudiry's former migrants, who migrated to Europe several decades ago before returning home to retire, has inspired the younger generations to follow in their footsteps. Thousands of Senegalese headed to France in the 1960s and early 1970s when booming economic growth saw the country recruit workers from its former colonies for manual labor. Although France ended its labour migration policy in 1974, former migrants from Goudiry who entered the country illegally afterwards said their journeys

were affordable and safe.

But these now elderly trailblazers, most of whom found consistent work allowing them to club together money in order to finance schools, wells and water towers back home, fear that their achievements may have set a dangerous precedent. "Adventure is always difficult, but there were none of today's problems in our time," said 63-year-old Bocar Diallo, who went to Libya in the 1970s and flew to France, where he worked for Renault and an airport during his 33 years there.

But Goudiry's young men are not listening. Armed with smartphones and televisions - paid for mainly by remittances - they are plugged into social media and TV shows offering a taste of life in Europe too tantalizing to resist. Samba Sidibe, a softly-spoken man in his twenties, said his friends from Goudiry who made it to Europe often phoned him to boast about their new lives in France, Germany and Italy. "One friend would phone me, telling me that Europe is a thousand times better than Africa," Sidibe said. "I looked on Facebook, I saw the nice pictures - it drove me to go."

Sidibe is one of hundreds of young men in Goudiry who burned through their families' savings to reach Europe, but failed. More than 1,000 men have left Goudiry for Europe since 2013, said Kebe's Association of Repatriates from Libya. While half succeeded, at least 100 died on the journey and some 350 have been flown home by the IOM and governments of Senegal and Libya. Repatriated from Libya last year, Sidibe now finds himself worse off than he could have ever imagined. "I cannot sit here empty-handed," he said glumly, staring at the floor. "I must replace the money (some \$2,000) to help my parents get out of this ordeal. If I don't find work, I will be forced to migrate - to try my luck one last time."

Desert of Death

Starting from a bus station in Tambacounda, Goudiry's aspiring migrants take buses, mini-vans and cars through Mali and Burkina Faso to reach Niger's desert town of Agadez - the main transit point in the Sahara for those dreaming of Europe. For Senegal's young men, among the 300,000 migrants expected by the IOM to pass through Agadez this year, there begins the hellish 1,200 km journey to Sabha in southern Libya - a route prowled by bandits and baked by the fierce desert sun.

"The desert is much, much worse than the Mediterranean or Libya, because it is a place where you have no hope," said Ousmane Thiam, 24, who like Kebe, spent some two years in Libya and is spokesman for the Association of Repatriates from Libya. While images of dead migrants on European shores have caused a global outcry, Africans heading for Europe may be dying in greater numbers in the Sahara than the thousands who have died in the Mediterranean, according to migration tracking group 4mni.

Thiam and other men from Goudiry who crossed the Sahara recalled being wedged into cars with 20 other migrants, having so little water that they had to drink their urine, burying dead bodies along the way, and being beaten and robbed at gunpoint. "But I didn't have a choice," Thiam said. "If I had gone home, people would say I was scared - that I was not a man." Despite having endured the gruelling month-long journey from Senegal to Libya, the nightmare had just begun for Samba Thiam. —Reuters



LISBON: In this Oct. 1, 1995 file photo, Portuguese Socialist Party leader Antonio Guterres is cheered by supporters as he leaves a Lisbon hotel after his party won the Portuguese general elections, ending 10 years of Social Democratic rule. —AP

PORTUGAL'S GUTERRES POISED TO BE NEXT UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

UNITED NATIONS: Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres is poised to become the next secretary-general of the United Nations following a sixth straw poll by the Security Council, diplomats said yesterday. Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin emerged from the secret ballot along with the 14 other council ambassadors to declare that Guterres was the "clear favorite" to succeed Ban Ki-moon as the world's diplomat-in-chief.

Churkin announced that a formal vote by the council will take place on Thursday to confirm the choice of Guterres, adding that he expected the selection to be "by acclamation." "We wish Mister Guterres well in discharging his duties as the secretary general of the United Nations in the next five years," Churkin said.

During Wednesday's straw poll, veto-holders Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States used pink ballots to indicate for the first time whether they intended to block a candidate. Guterres, who was the UN's refugee chief for 10 years, received

13 positive votes including four from the five veto-holding council members, and two "no opinion" votes including one from a veto-holding member.

The 67-year-old, who served as prime minister from 1995 to 2002, had held the number-one spot in the previous five informal votes by the Security Council. Once he is formally endorsed by the Security Council, the Socialist politician will be formally presented to the General Assembly for it to approve his candidacy.

There were 10 candidates in the race to become the next secretary-general including EU budget commissioner Kristalina Georgieva from Bulgaria who faced two vetos after entering the fray just last week. Georgieva received eight negative votes including two from veto-holding members, five positive votes including two from the permanent council members and two "no opinion". One of those was from a veto-holder.

The new secretary-general will begin work on January 1. —AFP

WORLD COURT REJECTS EPIC MARSHALLS NUCLEAR CASE

THE HAGUE: The UN's highest court yesterday narrowly threw out landmark cases brought by the tiny Marshall Islands against India, Pakistan and Britain for allegedly failing to halt the nuclear arms race.

In majority and sharply divided decisions, a 16-judge bench at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled there was no evidence that Majuro had a prior dispute with any of the three nuclear giants or had sought negotiations on the issue. "The court upholds the objection to jurisdiction" raised by each of the countries, presiding judge Ronny Abraham said in separate rulings, and therefore the tribunal "cannot proceed to the merits of the case."

The tiny Pacific island nation, with a population of 55,000, was ground zero for a string of devastating nuclear tests on its pristine atolls between 1946-58, carried out by the United States as the Cold War arms race gathered pace. After the hearings, the Marshalls said it will now "study the ruling" which is final and without appeal. "Obviously it's very disappointing," Marshall Islands lawyer Phon van den Biesen told reporters. "It's a dispute that is clear to all of the world except for the judges here," he said, outside the courtroom in the

ICJ's historic headquarters in the Peace Palace in The Hague.

'Sky turned blood-red'

Initially in 2014, Majuro had accused nine countries of failing to comply with the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which seeks to inhibit the spread of atomic bombs. But the ICJ already refused to take up cases against the other countries-China, France, Israel, North Korea, Russia and the United States-as they have not recognized the court's jurisdiction.

Israel has also never formally admitted to having nuclear weapons. The Marshall Islands argued that by not stopping the nuclear arms race Britain, India and Pakistan had breached obligations under the treaty-even if New Delhi and Islamabad have not signed it. At a poignant March hearing, Majuro's lawyers painted a vivid picture of the horrors caused by 67 nuclear tests notably the atolls of Bikini and Eniwetok. "Several islands in my country were vaporized and others are estimated to remain uninhabitable for thousands of years," Tony deBrum, a former Marshall Islands foreign minister, told the court. "The entire sky turned blood-red," said deBrum, who was nine when he witnessed the blasts. — AFP



THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS: Judges, with presiding judge Ronny Abraham of France, second right, re-enter the World Court yesterday. — AP



STRASBOURG, BAS-RHIN, FRANCE: Member of the European Parliament and former leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) Nigel Farage takes part in a voting session at the European Parliament yesterday. — AFP

FARAGE RULES OUT UKIP RETURN AFTER SUCCESSOR QUILTS

BRITAIN'S PARTY PLUNGES INTO DISARRAY

LONDON: Nigel Farage ruled out returning to lead Britain's anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) yesterday after his successor unexpectedly stepped down just 18 days into the job.

Diane James's resignation plunges Britain's third biggest party into further disarray as it grapples with in-fighting and an existential crisis following the vote to leave the European Union.

Farage said he remains technically in charge of UKIP as the official papers recognizing James's election on September 16 had not yet been processed by the Electoral Commission. But the 52-year-old MEP, the public face of UKIP and one of the leaders of the Brexit campaign, said he had no intention of returning to the post he held for most of the past decade. "It is time for somebody else to do the job," Farage told Sky News, adding that he would not return to permanently lead UKIP, "not for \$10 million".

He quit the leadership following the June 23 vote to leave the EU, saying his life's ambition had been achieved, but his departure robbed UKIP of its one high-profile figure. The election of the little-known James, a 56-year-old mem-

ber of the European Parliament, and the fulfillment of the party's primary objective led some to question its future.

UKIP won 12.6 percent of the vote in the 2015 election, making it the third largest in terms of votes cast, but it only has one member of parliament (MP) under Britain's first-past-the-post system. Party chairman Paul Oakden said James's departure was "unfortunate" but said UKIP's National Executive Committee would meet on October 17 to begin choosing her successor.

"We are not a party dominated by individuals. We have the ability to move on, to move forward," he told Sky News. "I would be surprised if we did not have a new leader in place by the end of November."

Lacking party's support

James announced her resignation for "personal and professional reasons" late Tuesday, issuing a statement that laid bare the tensions within the party. "It has become clear that I do not have sufficient authority, nor the full support of all my MEP colleagues and party officers to implement changes I believe necessary and

upon which I based my campaign," she said.

Oakden said James had had "a difficult couple of weeks", saying she had been attacked at a railway station, an incident that reportedly involved her being spat at.

The Times newspaper said she was also reluctant to lead UKIP without assurances about the party's funding, while other reports said her husband was ill. "I didn't believe this was something that she particularly wanted to do, or had the passion to do," Lisa Duffy, the runner-up in the party leadership election, told BBC radio.

James only became favourite for the job after her main rival, Steven Woolfe, was dramatically ruled out of the contest after failing to submit his application in time.

Woolfe was supported by both Farage and Arron Banks, the party's main financial backer, who called the decision to exclude him a "coup".

They subsequently backed James. The turmoil in UKIP comes the day after Prime Minister Theresa May's ruling Conservatives made a pitch to the anti-EU party's voters at their annual conference with promises to cut immigration following the Brexit vote. — AFP

DUTERTE'S ENFORCER SAYS 'WE ARE AT WAR', HAS NO REGRETS ABOUT KILLINGS

LA UNION, Philippines: When Philippines police chief Ronald Dela Rosa gave a rousing speech to his men at a regional headquarters in Luzon, they rewarded him with a gift: a replica of the sword used by actor Mel Gibson in the movie *Braveheart*.

The barrel-chested police chief grinned and gave the weapon, which is almost as long as he is tall, a practice swing. A voice on the camp's loudspeaker declared him "the bravest of bravehearts". Dela Rosa acts as the enforcer for Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, whose war on drugs has led to more than 3,400 people being killed in just over three months.

Dela Rosa's tour of Luzon, the country's largest and most populous island, was the latest in a series of trips to stiffen the resolve of police officers at the campaign's bloody frontline. "I have to encourage them to do our job," he told a Reuters reporter who went on the trip last month. "We are at war." Police said on October 3 they had shot dead 1,375 people in operations since President Duterte took office on July 1. They also report a further 2,066 "deaths under investigation", many of which human rights activists attribute to vigilante killings. Reuters was unable to confirm the accuracy of these numbers or the extent to which the killings have been committed by vigilantes.

The campaign has sparked outrage abroad, but in the Philippines it has won praise from a crime-weary population and only muted criticism from civil society groups. In a country where the police are generally despised and feared because of their reputation for corruption and violence, Dela Rosa is popular. After only two months as police chief, the national media is already touting him as Duterte's possible successor, an idea that the president's spokesman Martin Andanan described as "speculative".

Duterte has often called for the killing of drug dealers. And Dela Rosa has echoed

the incendiary remarks. At a speech last month, he encouraged users and pushers to kill drug lords who had grown rich from exploiting the poor. "You know who are the drug lords here, go to their houses, pour gasoline, set it on fire, show them you are angry at them," he said.

Still, Dela Rosa's close operational knowledge of the drug war could make him a focus if there is ever an independent investigation into the killings, said Rose Trajano, secretary general of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, a nationwide coalition based in Manila. It is unclear, though, whether anyone will be in a position to hold such an investigation. "He is a good soldier of the president, but there will also be fear in him," she said.

Dela Rosa told Reuters he was confident that killings during police operations were legitimate, and that the "deaths under investigation" were mostly the work of drug syndicates. "They are killing each other," he said.

Feels the pressure

In person, Dela Rosa is intense but courteous, and says he is under pressure. "My worry is that I won't be able to deliver what is expected of me," he told Reuters. Duterte vowed on September 18 he would extend his anti-drug campaign for another six months, but Dela Rosa said he still felt pressed for time.

The biggest obstacles to the campaign, he said, were providing rehab services for the many users of crystal methamphetamine, a highly addictive drug known locally as shabu, and halting its influx from abroad, particularly the flow from China.

More than 700,000 drug users and pushers have registered with the authorities in a process termed "surrendering". But there are very few programs or facilities to help most of them, and local media have reported the killing of scores of people who have registered. — Reuters



MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures during his speech at the Beit Yaacov Synagogue, The Jewish Association of the Philippines in Makati, south of Manila on Tuesday. — AFP

UK JURY CONVICTS 'FAKE SHEIKH' OF EVIDENCE-TAMPERING

LONDON: Britain's notorious "fake sheikh" has been found guilty of trying to pervert the course of justice in a development that may put the brakes on a prominent journalistic career.

Reporter Mazher Mahmood, known as a master of journalistic "sting" operations often based on posing as a Middle Eastern tycoon, was convicted at the Old Bailey courthouse yesterday along with his driver Alan Smith.

The 53-year-old reporter was found guilty of tampering with evidence in the collapsed drug trial of pop star Tulisa Contostavlos and now faces possible jail time. The case against her was dismissed in 2014. It had been based on an elaborate sting operation Mahmood conducted for the Sun newspaper.

In the sting, Mahmood posed as a successful film producer and discussed a movie role for the singer in which she would share screen time with A-list star Leonardo DiCaprio. Prosecutors said he and Smith, 67, suppressed and manipulated evi-

dence during the trial. Contostavlos said after the charges against her were dismissed that she had been the victim of "a horrific and disgusting entrapment".

Detective Constable Jim Morrison said the case is "a reminder that perverting the course of justice is a very serious offense that goes to heart of our justice system. We will always take action where statements or other evidence has been tampered with."

The case has wider implications, as Mahmood has figured in the prosecutions of pedophiles, arms dealers and in the embarrassment of public figures, including Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, who is married to Prince Edward, youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Crown Prosecution Service is reviewing 25 past convictions linked to Mahmood and has dropped active criminal cases in which Mahmood was to be a witness. He also faces a number of civil cases that have been filed against him. Mahmood and Smith are set to be sentenced on Oct. 21. — AP

GEORGIA MP SURVIVES CAR BOMB ATTACK DAYS BEFORE VOTE

TBILISI: Georgia was investigating yesterday the attempted murder of an opposition lawmaker whose car exploded in central Tbilisi just days before a key parliamentary poll.

Givi Targamadze, who is running for office for the ex-Soviet republic's main opposition United National Movement (UNM) party, told journalists

that an explosive device planted in the back of his car detonated on Tuesday night.

Targamadze, who was sitting in the front of the vehicle, was unhurt. Four passers-by were rushed to hospital, one with serious but not life-threatening injuries, Health Minister David Sergegenko said in televised comments.



TBILISI: Supporters of Georgia's main opposition United National Movement (UNM) party march yesterday. — AFP

Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili on Wednesday condemned the blast as "sabotage against the state" committed by the country's "enemies" who "will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law". Police launched an investigation into what deputy interior minister Besik Amiranashvili called "attempted murder in aggravating circumstances".

UNM leader David Bakradze said that "no matter who was behind the car attack, the authorities are responsible for creating a climate of hatred in which opposition politicians are being attacked". The bombing was not the first violent incident to occur in the lead-up to the vote. On Sunday, unknown assailants fired shots during a campaign rally held by MP candidate Irakli Okruashvili in the central city of Gori, injuring two men.

'Moment of truth'

Saturday's knife-edge parliamentary election will see the UNM and the ruling Georgian Dream party clash in a bitter power struggle. The two pro-Western parties are neck and neck in opinion polls and have equal chances of forming Georgia's next government. Georgia's ex-president and UNM's founder Mikheil Saakashvili—who lives in exile in Ukraine-addressed via videolink tens of thousands of supporters who gathered in downtown Tbilisi for a campaign rally. — AFP

AFGHAN OFFICIALS: CLASHES WITH TALEBAN CONTINUE IN KUNDUZ

KABUL: With American helicopters providing air support, Afghan forces battled the Taleban in the northern city of Kunduz for the third straight day yesterday, following the multipronged attack launched by insurgents earlier this week.

The fighting in Kunduz, which fell briefly to the Taleban a year ago, came as Afghanistan's leaders and officials from over 70 nations gathered in Brussels, seeking to drum up billions of dollars for the cash-strapped Kabul government as it battles the Taleban insurgency and rampant corruption.

Afghan Gen. Qasim Jungalbagh, the provincial police chief, said Taleban gunmen launched fresh attacks in Kunduz from the south and east early yesterday. He said "clearance operations" had begun inside the city but that heavy clashes continued on the outskirts, "to the south and east of the city." Also Wednesday, the Taleban began forcing people from their homes in an effort to start an exodus from Kunduz, similar to what happened a year ago when half the population of around 300,000 fled the city. "People are leaving everything behind and fleeing to the nearest place they feel safe" said Mohammad Yousuf Ayubi, the head of the provincial council.

Since pushing into Kunduz on Monday and briefly hoisting their flag at a main intersection, the

Taleban were pushed back but their fighters remain hunkered down in residential homes, slowing the Afghan counter-offensive. The US military was providing air support to Afghan forces, US Army Brig. Gen. Charlie Cleveland said. However, he described the fighting as "sporadic," saying that since Tuesday night, "US forces have conducted two engagements from the air to defend friendly forces." He did not provide further details.

Jungalbagh said 42 insurgents have been killed and more than 25 others wounded in the battles. Earlier, the Defense Ministry said five Afghan security personnel were killed and 13 others wounded. Dr. Hamid Alam, Kunduz provincial department director, said that more than 160 civilians "wounded as a result of clashes" have been admitted to the city's public hospital in the past three days. He gave no further details. Mohammad Yusouf Ayubi, head of the Kunduz provincial council, said food prices have almost tripled since the attack began and that food, water and electricity are all in short supply. The Taleban said in a statement emailed to media that they have taken the Kunduz office of the national intelligence agency but the claim could not be immediately confirmed and the insurgents regularly exaggerate battlefield successes. — AP



KABUL: General Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghan defense ministry, speaks during a press conference on Tuesday. — AP



TOKYO: This photo taken on July 15, 2016 shows Japanese porn star-turned-novelist Mariko Kawana answering questions during an interview with Agence France-Presse. — AFP

TRICKED INTO PORN: JAPANESE ACTRESSES OUT OF THE SHADOWS

TOKYO: Young, pretty and hoping for stardom, Saki Kozai thought she had found her ticket to fame after an apparent model scout spotted her on a Tokyo street and offered her a job. Then just 24 years old, starstruck and excited, she quickly signed a deal with the agency he introduced her to, believing that she would soon star in promotion videos.

In fact, it was not a modeling agency, and on her first day Kozai discovered the job required her to have sex on camera. "I couldn't take off my clothes. All I could do was cry," she told AFP, adding that she saw no way out of her dire situation. "There were about 20 people around me, waiting. No woman could say 'no' when they're surrounded like that," she said.

Kozai, now 30, is among a growing number of women who are stepping out of the shadows to say they were forced to work in Japan's multi-billion-dollar porn industry. Adult films are widely available in Japan, which has a relatively liberal attitude toward pornography. But the industry's dark side is rarely discussed, nor are the rights of those who work in it.

Accusations that women were made to perform in sometimes brutal sex scenes, on film against their will, prompted the industry to issue an unprecedented apology and promise change. The surprise mea culpa followed the June arrest of three Tokyo talent agents accused of forcing a woman to appear in more than 100 pornographic videos.

Like Kozai, the unnamed woman also thought she would be modeling. Critics say porn recruiters trick young women-including minors — with promises of show business stardom. In other cases, girls have been lured by a lavish lifestyle before they are put to work in sex films to pay off the "debt". Agencies keep them stuck with threats, intimidation and fraudulent contracts.

'No choice'

Another woman AFP interviewed, who declined to be named, said she was tricked into porn by an agent who promised to help her become a singer. She signed a contract that she says did not make clear the nature of her real work. "The agency spent months trying to convince me. I had no choice" after signing the contract, the 26-year-old told AFP.

She resisted at first. But like Kozai and others, she succumbed to the pressure. "At first, I said I couldn't do it," she added. "But when I did, it really hurt. The production

team wouldn't stop though."

Japanese non-profit group Lighthouse, which works to stop human trafficking, said more than 60 actresses trying to escape the business contacted them in the first half of 2016 — well above previous years. "And we think this is just the tip of the iceberg," said Lighthouse spokeswoman Aiki Segawa. "Many victims feel guilty, thinking that what happened is their fault."

Most women are young-between 18 and 25 — with little knowledge of legal contracts and a tough case to prove in court. "They're not necessarily all abused or locked up...It's more like they are tricked into it," Segawa said.

Kozai got hooked on tranquilizers to deal with the anxiety and she was isolated after the agency convinced her to cut off contact with family to focus on her career. "I couldn't make rational decisions anymore," she said. Kozai eventually left the agency that she says brainwashed her. But she continues to act in adult films as a freelancer.

A report by Tokyo-based Human Rights Now details a list of dirty tricks used by porn recruiters. Among them, victims are sometimes threatened with exorbitant fines to get out of vaguely worded contracts or told they would never be able to find a job outside porn after appearing on film.

Scouts have also shown up at university campuses or a victim's home to demand huge fines from their parents if they refused to work, it said.

Depression, suicide

Last year, the Tokyo District Court threw out an agency's bid to extract a 24 million yen (\$240,000) penalty from a woman who refused to appear in porn films-a rare legal victory, critics say.

Japan releases some 30,000 adult films annually, according to industry figures. And it can be nearly impossible to get coerced pornography out of distribution in the internet age. One woman cited in the report had repeated plastic surgeries to escape her past, while another told an NGO she planned to hire a lawyer to stop the distribution of movies she appeared in. But she hanged herself before proceeding with the case, the report said.

Mariko Kawana, a pornstar-turned-novelist, started an organization this summer calling on the industry for uniform, transparent contracts. "Every adult movie company has its own rules-it should be unified to protect the rights of actresses," said Kawana, who says she worked in the business by choice. — AFP

AFGHAN LEADER VOWS TO FIGHT POVERTY AS DONORS GATHER

'WE ARE GOING TO BE RELENTLESS'

BRUSSELS: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani appealed yesterday for sustained international help for his insurgency-wracked country, promising international donors that the government would concentrate its future efforts on tackling rampant poverty.

"We are going to be relentlessly focused on reduction and elimination of poverty as our central task," Ghani told representatives from more than 70 nations and dozens of agencies and non-governmental organizations gathered in Brussels to try to drum up billions of dollars to keep the Afghan government afloat.

The Afghan government is estimated to only be capable of meeting 20 percent of its budget, and Ghani noted that 39 percent of the Afghan population lives on less than \$1.35 a day. But donor fatigue has grown over the 15 years of international efforts in Afghanistan since a US-led coalition ousted the Taleban for harboring former al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. The European Union, hosting the conference, has been struggling to raise around \$3 billion that Kabul will need each year. The last donor conference, in Tokyo in 2012, secured \$4 billion in annual subsidies for development.

The Taleban have proved tenacious, waging an increasingly powerful insurgency around the country. Afghan forces battled Taleban fighters in the northern city of Kunduz for the third straight day on Wednesday and American helicopters provided air support to troops on the ground in the wake of the multipronged attack on the city launched by insurgents this week.

Despite the setbacks, and rampant corruption, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that "it's important today that the international community sends a strong message of support." Afghanistan's leaders "have been making impressive reforms and development plans to change the lives of people that have been suffering too long," Ban said.

Acknowledging the many setbacks that Afghanistan has faced, US Secretary of State John Kerry said that he still has "an enormous sense of confidence about the future." "Year by year our shared effort, one of the largest international coalitions ever assembled, and maintained over a sustained period in time, is in fact yielding encouraging dividends," Kerry told the representatives.

The EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said the EU and its member states



BRUSSELS: European Council President Donald Tusk, right, shakes hands with Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah during a Conference on Afghanistan yesterday. — AP

will pledge 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) each year up until 2020 "and we would expect a similar level of engagement from our partners."

"We all need to commit to a new deal for Afghanistan," Mogherini said as she opened the meeting. But many participants at the conference have heard such rhetoric before, and some were underwhelmed by the promises being made. "The commitments to fighting corruption are very weak and we are disappointed," Ikram Afzali, from the anti-corruption civil society group Integrity Watch Afghanistan, told The Associated Press.

He said that some of the anti-corruption plans on the table are "just window-dressing for this conference." Other plans are to be drawn up for next year. "We don't have time," he said. In earlier comments to reporters, Mogherini denied reports the bloc is making aid conditional on Afghanistan taking back people who have fled to Europe, saying there is "never a link between our development aid and what we do on migration."

Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani said the Brussels conference would give his gov-

ernment an opportunity to present its reform blueprint. He stressed its commitment to fighting corruption and advancing women's rights. "Our achievements are many and Afghanistan is advancing on a positive trajectory," Rabbani said. "Yet our challenges remain formidable."

Afghanistan has been mired in conflict for decades. At the height of the 15-year US and NATO intervention, billions of dollars flowed into the country, creating a false economy with double-digit growth. But the drawdown of troops in 2014 led many aid workers and international agencies to depart or scale back their operations, causing the economy to all but collapse.

Officials estimate up to 50 percent unemployment. Deteriorating security deters foreign investment in key fields such as mining and infrastructure, and drives the country's youth onto the migrant trail to Europe in search of opportunities.

Outside EU headquarters in Brussels, hundreds of people from Afghanistan's Hazara community rallied to denounce discrimination against them. — AP

AFGHAN REFUGEES RETURN TO UNCERTAIN FUTURE IN ALIEN HOMELAND

TORKHAM: Mohammad Anwar arrived in Pakistan as a child more than 35 years ago but is leaving as a father, his family among the thousands of uprooted Afghan refugees "returning" to a war-torn homeland many of them have never seen.

Anwar, disbelieving and grief-stricken, has packed the bric-a-brac of a lifetime onto a truck wildly painted in baroque colors but says he is leaving his heart and soul in Peshawar, the city that sheltered him for decades. "We can't forget the time we passed here, we were treated like brothers," he tells AFP. "Insha'Allah, we will come here again, this time with passports." Pakistan has provided safe haven for decades for millions like Anwar, who fled Afghanistan with his family

when he was just seven years old, after the Soviet invasion of 1979.

But as the fight against the Soviets morphed into civil war, Taliban rule, the US invasion and the grinding conflict in Afghanistan today, even Pakistan's famed hospitality has run out. Pakistan hosts 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees, according to UNHCR, making it the third-largest refugee hosting nation in the world. A UNHCR official said the agency also estimates a further one million unregistered refugees are in the country.

Since 2009, Islamabad has repeatedly pushed back a deadline for them to return, but fears are growing that the latest cutoff date in March 2017 will be final. Meanwhile refugees are

increasingly worried about their future in Pakistan amid a security crackdown against undocumented foreigners. The anxiety, combined with a UN decision to double its cash grant for voluntary returnees from \$200 to \$400 per individual in June, has seen the flow of refugees over the border become a torrent. More than 200,000 have crossed this year, the vast majority since July-including nearly 98,000 in September alone, says UNHCR.

Tears, trucks at Torkham

Anwar fills out documents at a UNHCR centre outside Peshawar crammed with men in Afghan caps and turbans. Children lie on the floor as mothers in veils fan themselves in the steamy heat. They face an uncertain future in an Afghanistan still at war and already overwhelmed by so many people fleeing fighting that officials warn of a humanitarian crisis. But first they will pass the Torkham frontier, a mountainous outpost where until this year-border "controls" were more of a suggestion, and thousands crossed each day with impunity.

When AFP visited recently a gleaming new gate, constructed in June and reinforced by two kilometers of barbed wire, funneled travelers through customs queues and scanning machines. Pakistani pride in the new facilities contrasted with tearful Afghan refugees piling their trucks high not just with household goods, but cattle, tree trunks and scraps that could help build even a mud hut once they reach Afghanistan. "We spent our best time here," 45-year-old Khair Muhammad, returning after 36 years with 21 members of his family, told AFP tearfully. His truck was loaded with beds, fans, wood, utensils, and a cow and her calf. "We never thought, never even imagined that we would return in such circumstances," said 29-year-old Inamullah Khan. — AFP



TORKHAM, AFGHANISTAN: In this photograph taken on September 7, 2016, repatriated Afghan refugee children wave as they travel in a packed vehicle preparing to cross the border into Afghanistan, at the Torkham crossing point in Pakistan's tribal Khyber district. — AFP

UNDER-CONSTRUCTION BUILDING IN INDIA'S BENGALURU CITY COLLAPSES

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU: At least one person died and two were missing after a five-storey building in India's technology hub of Bengaluru collapsed on yesterday, local officials said.

The building, which was still under construction, is situated in the city's Bellandur neighborhood which is home to many upscale apartment blocks and offices of technology companies. The area, which surrounds a lake of the same name, has seen a construction boom in recent years.

Officials said a security guard had

been killed and three construction workers remained trapped. Rescuers with dogs were still at scene late Wednesday. Four people have been pulled out from under the debris. Adid Inamdar, a manager at a nearby hotel who reached the scene minutes after the collapse said the team had pulled out one person whose leg was stuck inside the debris. "We could only see the back of another person. We removed the concrete blocks above him and he was bleeding profusely. His head was severely damaged." — Reuters

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The formation of the DIU was a historic declaration of a new start of the Korean revolution, and a significant event that provided the Korean people with a radical turning-point in carving out their destiny.

The DIU was the first revolutionary organization President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) of Korea formed when the country was under the military occupation. At that time, he, realizing that the country's independence could not be achieved by the early communist movement and the nationalist movement which were affected by the scramble for power, factional strife, flunkeyism and dogmatism, made energetic efforts to find a new way for struggle. In the course of this, he organized the DIU with young revolutionaries of a new generation sharing idea and purpose.

The DIU set as its immediate task the destruction of some countries and achievement of Korea's liberation and independence, with the ultimate aim of building socialism and communism in Korea.

The history of the Korean revolution spanning nearly 90 years witnessed the victorious advance of the Korean people along the road of independence, the road of Songun and the road of socialism, pioneered by the DIU.

The principle of independence set out by the



DIU has become an invariable principle for the building of the Workers' Party of Korea and its activities.

The WPK has held fast to this principle develop-

ing the political, military, economic, cultural and other fields on its own judgment, at its own discretion and in its own way. In solving all the problems it has always rejected foreign domination and interference, and gave foremost consideration to the reality of the country and the interests of its people.

After the country's liberation (August 1945) it took the road of Korean-style democracy in the building of a new society; after the Korean war (1950-1953), it advanced an original line of economic construction on giving priority to heavy industry and developing light industry and agriculture in parallel. All those facts showed that the WPK has thoroughly observed the principle of independence.

It was thanks to this principle of independence that socialist Korea could advance straight along the road of socialism.

The idea and line of Songun-based revolution that trace their origins back to the DIU are the eternal path of the WPK.

Ever since its founding, the WPK directed primary efforts to building and developing the armed force. As it constantly implemented the idea and line of Songun, the DPRK which was less than two years after founding, and defend the freedom and sovereignty of the country with honor. The WPK

has consistently built and developed socialism, based on the gigantic ideal and goal of the DIU.

Under its leadership the DPRK has been built into a socialist state centered on the masses of the people, in which they are the masters of everything and everything serves them. It has liquidated exploitation and oppression of man by man for good, and everybody is equally well-off. All members of society are guaranteed political freedom and rights as well as the rights to work and relaxation. Universal free medical care and compulsory education are in force, all its citizens are provided by the State and society with necessary conditions for food, cloth and housing and thus lead an equal and stabilized life.

The WPK, having safeguarded socialism in the worst trials at the end of last century, is now rousing its people to the building of a thriving socialist nation, working world-startling miracles day by day. In recent years alone the world-level cultural establishments for the masses, such as Mirim Riding Club, Munsu Water Park and Masikryong Ski Resort, were built in the country, making the happy laughter of the people louder.

The WPK that advances unflinchingly along the road of independence, the road of Songun and the road of socialism pioneered by the DIU will always win victory and glory in the future.

JAPAN POLICE PROBE POISONING DEATHS AT HOSPITAL FOR ELDERLY

TOKYO: Authorities in Japan are investigating the poisoning deaths of two elderly patients at a Yokohama hospital specializing in terminal-stage care. Oguchi Hospital has had a higher death rate in recent months, sparking specula-

tion that the poisoning may have been systematic and more widespread.

The case surfaced Sept. 20 when the hospital informed police of a possible poisoning after an 88-year-old man died while receiving an intra-

venous injection. Police confirmed Nobuo Yamaki's IV solution had been contaminated with a disinfectant.

He turned out to be the second victim. Police rushed to get hold of the body of his former roommate, who had died two days earlier, before it was cremated. An autopsy showed he had been poisoned with the same chemical.

Investigators also reportedly found tiny puncture marks in 10 of about 50 unused intravenous bags stored at the nursing station on the fourth floor, which handles the terminally ill. The pinholes were on a protective seal covering each rubber cap where an IV tube connects.

Police confiscated the bags, along with syringes and other equipment, but have not released findings. A lawyer for the hospital, Yuki Uehara, told The Associated Press that 46 other patients had died on the same floor from July 1 to Sept. 20. The fourth floor can handle up to 42 patients at a time, and normally about half die while hospitalized, Uehara said. Including the two recent deaths, the 48 exceeded 60 percent, somewhat above average but not an abnormal spike, he said.

Hospital chief Yoichi Takahashi told reporters last month that "we see many people pass away due to the nature of this hospital, but I had an impression that the number of deaths was somewhat larger than usual."

He said his biggest concern was a massive infection but that possibility was ruled out after checking. When asked, he said he could not rule out criminal activity. He did not elaborate.

Uehara said the hospital has been admitting patients who are more seriously ill than usual, and that could also explain the higher death rate.

In July, Yokohama officials received an anonymous email about suspicious incidents at the hospital: nurses' aprons torn, a bottled drink laced with bleach and a patient's card missing. Tetsuo Hama, the manager of the city's medical affairs department, said officials had thought they were internal harassment cases. — AP



YOKOHAMA: In this Sept. 24, 2016 photo, Oguchi Hospital chief Yoichi Takahashi, third left, and hospital staff bow as they speak to media in front of the hospital. — AP



HONG KONG: Hong Kong democracy campaigner Joshua Wong (C) stands next to recently-elected lawmaker Nathan Law (R) as he holds up his expulsion order from Thai authorities during a press conference upon his arrival at the international airport in Hong Kong on October 5, 2016, after being deported from junta-run Thailand. — AP

HONG KONG ACTIVIST DEPORTED FROM THAILAND 'AT CHINA'S REQUEST'

HONG KONG: Hong Kong democracy campaigner Joshua Wong returned home yesterday after being deported from junta-run Thailand, where he was due at events commemorating a massacre of student activists, as supporters blamed China for his detention.

The bespectacled Wong, 19, famed for his galvanising role in the city's 2014 pro-democracy "umbrella movement", was held upon arrival at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport. "At around 1 am Hong Kong time, I arrived in Bangkok airport, around 20 police force and immigration department came and held my passport immediately," an exhausted Wong, who flew back Wednesday afternoon, told reporters waiting in the arrivals hall.

Wong said he was forced into a cell in Bangkok airport police station for around 12 hours, with Thai authorities refusing to let him contact family or lawyers. "When I asked them what is the reason for detaining me, they just say that we will not give you any explanation, and you have been blacklisted already," he added.

Political party Demosisto, co-founded by Wong this year, said it "strongly condemns the Thai government for unreasonably limiting Wong's freedom and right to entry". Speculation swirled that Thailand's military government was acting under pressure from regional superpower China—a key ally who has lavished investment and diplomatic support on a junta lacking international friends following its 2014 coup.

Thai student activist Netiwit Chotitapaisai, who invited Wong to speak in Thailand, said police had told him of a "written letter from the Chinese government to the Thai government concerning this person". An airport immigration official

confirmed there had been an "order" to detain Wong but declined to say who issued it.

But junta spokesman Lietenant General Sansern Kaewkamnerd said: "There had been no instruction or order given, pertaining to Mr Wong." "Mr Wong had been active in resistance movements against other foreign governments, and that if such actions were taken within Thailand, they could eventually affect Thailand's relations with other nations," the spokesman added. Netiwit later led a few dozen students wielding umbrellas-in a nod to Wong's movement in Hong Kong—in a protest at a Bangkok campus, shouting "Joshua Wong has the right to be here". Wong has been a perennial thorn in Beijing's side since emerging as an unlikely leader of protests against Chinese political domination of the city.

'Lucky' to return

Last year he was similarly barred from entering Malaysia, where officials sent him back to Hong Kong citing fears his planned talks would damage ties with Beijing. The Thai military has also busily suppressed its own student pro-democracy protests since its 2014 power grab.

But it would not be the first time the kingdom's junta has appeared to act under pressure from China. "The Thai military government has kowtowed to China in the past, to Thailand's own detriment," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a politics expert at Chulalongkorn University.

He cited Bangkok's deportation of more than 100 Uighurs who had fled China in 2015, a move that drew widespread condemnation from rights groups who say the Muslim minority are heavily repressed by Beijing. — AFP

CLINTON MORE LIKED THAN TRUMP IN CHINA, ACCORDING TO SURVEY

BEIJING: A survey released yesterday found that Hillary Clinton is better liked than Donald Trump in China, where the US presidential election - and the criticisms both candidates have made of Chinese policy - have generated intense attention.

Clinton was seen favorably by 37 percent of respondents in a survey in mainland China conducted by the Washington, DC-based Pew Research Center, while just 22 percent saw Trump favorably. At the same time, 35 percent of respondents saw Clinton unfavorably, while 40 percent had an unfavorable impression of Trump.

The survey found that Chinese interest in America comes with strong skepticism. More than 80 percent of respondents said they considered the US to be a threat to China. While the Pew survey has no bearing on the US election, it offers a rare glimpse of the opinions of ordinary Chinese, whose views can be hard to discern due to China's censorship of the media and social media channels. State-sanctioned newspapers often publish nationalistic commentaries that deride American policies, but the survey suggests the public has a more nuanced opinion of the US.

President Barack Obama was seen favorably by 52 percent of respondents, up from 31 percent in a similar survey in 2013 but still below 62 percent shortly after he took office in 2009.

The next president will have to work with China on several important fronts. On issues like climate change, both countries have found some common ground and jointly announced last month that they would join an international agreement to cut carbon emissions. On others, like the South China Sea and North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Beijing and Washington are deeply divided.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV provides selective and largely sporadic coverage of the US presidential election. But ever-growing numbers of Chinese tourists, immigrants and students are traveling to the US and seeking information about the country on the internet. Pirated versions of American political dramas such as Netflix's "House of Cards" are widely watched in China. Among the reported fans of

"House of Cards" is Wang Qishan, a member of China's highest decision-making body, the Politburo standing committee.

Pew's survey was conducted between April 6 and May 8 and included in-person interviews with more than 3,100 Chinese. Pew said it had a margin of error of 3.7 percentage points. Participants were asked how much confidence they had in Obama, Clinton and Trump to "do the right thing regarding world affairs."

Clinton has a longer history of engagement with China than Trump, dating back more than two decades to her famous 1995 speech in Beijing in which the then-first lady declared that "human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights." As secretary of state, Clinton oversaw the American "pivot" to the Pacific, a hallmark of Obama's foreign policy that's been derided by China.

Trump has made some of his signature cloth-

ing line in China and boasted during the campaign of his dealings with Chinese businessmen. But he has repeatedly blamed China for the loss of American jobs and accused China of cheating at global trade. His campaign website says he would use "every lawful presidential power" to punish China if it "does not stop its illegal activities, including its theft of American trade secrets."

While Chinese leaders have not publicly indicated their preference, the state-run Global Times newspaper, published by the Communist Party, has ripped both candidates, though Trump has generally received tougher criticism than Clinton. A September commentary on the first US presidential debate called Trump "seemingly unprepared and ill-informed," but dismissed Clinton for "her poor performance as secretary of state, let alone her credibility issues." — AP



BEIJING: In this Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016, file photo, Chinese students chat as they watch a live broadcast of the presidential debate between Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, at a cafe. — AP

TAIWAN APPOINTS PRO-CHINA POLITICIAN AS APEC ENVOY

TAIPEI: Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen yesterday appointed a pro-China politician to represent her at a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders next month, offering an olive branch to Beijing amid an impasse in relations.

Official communications between Taipei and Beijing have halted since Tsai, distrusted by China as the leader of a pro-independence party, took power in late May, and refused to stick to Beijing's principle that Taiwan is part of China.

James Soong, leader of the People First Party, a splinter group from the China-friendly opposition Nationalists, is to represent Tsai at a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping set for mid-November in Peru. "Soong's rich academic background, experience and contacts will enable him to precisely convey to the international community the all-round status of our development," the Presidential Office said in a statement.

APEC meetings have traditionally offered an opportunity for senior officials from Taiwan and China to meet, because the grouping categorizes

Taiwan as a member economy, not a nation. China views self-ruled Taiwan as a renegade province and forbids moves toward independence, never having renounced the use of force to take it back if necessary.

Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the island in 1949 following defeat in a civil war against the Communists. Soong, once the English interpreter for Chiang, is reviled by hardliners in Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which traditionally advocates an independent Taiwan, and who are a key support base for Tsai.

But Tsai is also seen as a shrewd negotiator who has remained unfazed by Beijing's cold shoulder, urging instead for talks to resume. Since coming to power, Tsai's approval rating in opinion polls has dipped as Taiwan's trade-reliant economy has struggled to recover momentum, hit partly by a fall-off in mainland Chinese tourists.

Last month a UN aviation agency snubbed Taiwan by not inviting it to a meeting in Canada, a sign of the pressure exerted by China. — Reuters



Somali schoolgirls play football during lunch break at the Howlwadag Primary School in Howlwadag District, south of Mogadishu, yesterday. — AFP

QATAR TRIMMING CULTURAL PLANS

Continued from Page 1

But few did. In July the St Regis announced it was ending its contract with Jazz at Lincoln Center and opening in its place a new venue offering “more musical genres” to a “wider audience.”

Officials say Qatar, a former backwater that is the world’s largest liquefied natural gas exporter, has paired sensible spending with awareness of local tastes as it has evolved into a cultural hub in the Middle East. “As a nation that’s growing very quickly and embracing global culture ... we’re trying to bring contemporary artists here to inspire young artists ... with complete respect to our tradition,” said Sheikha Al-Mayassa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar’s sister and one of the art world’s most powerful figures, when asked at a conference in Doha in March if she feared a backlash against Qatar’s art choices. “It doesn’t mean that we’re trying to create controversial moments. Not everybody can travel around the world, but we can organize exhibitions from the world.”

Since the mid 2000s, Qatar’s ruling monarchy has invested its immense energy wealth in education and the arts, opening museums, galleries and film festivals and staging international exhibitions by artists including Damien Hirst and Richard Serra in an effort to diversify its economy. The move to embrace art and culture has incorporated local tradition: Arab presenters host English-language radio stations funded by the government, European publishing houses translate Arabic novels into English; and a philharmonic orchestra founded in 2007 balances its European repertory with the Arabian of its resident composer, a prominent Lebanese oud player.

Yet it remains a tricky marriage. In a country where modern art and Western music are still relatively unappreciated and whose economy is under strain, some

Qataris complain the ventures are costly and not to local tastes. “People ask: who are these projects for?” said Isa Al-Mani, an engineering student at Qatar University. “A billion riyal opera house ... yes it’s a good development for the country but it is outsiders who attend, not Qataris.”

Since the oil slump in mid-2014, cultural projects in Qatar have been axed, including a partnership with British publisher Bloomsbury Publishing terminated in December and the closure in October of radio stations funded by the Qatar Foundation, a semi-private educational organization founded by the emir’s father but now facing budget cuts. Economic problems may have prompted some of the cost-cutting. But since he took power in 2014, Qatar’s emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has emerged as a risk-averse figure attuned to traditional forces that run deep in society, analysts and diplomats say. “He knows that projects which may have put Qatar on the map did not always jibe with the local population,” said a Western diplomat in Doha.

In 2013, a statue of French footballer Zinedine Zidane delivering a head-butt to an Italian player was removed from the Doha waterfront after being criticized for promoting violence. A year later a local newspaper published articles accusing officials from Qatar’s museums authority (QM) of abusing their power and of frequent “drinking and shamelessness,” a charge QM denies. Despite cuts to its budget, the museum authority is building two new institutions to complement Qatar’s existing museums of Islamic and modern art.

Among the projects going ahead is Qatar’s National Museum, designed by architect John Nouvel and shaped like a desert rose, which will open on Doha’s shoreline and stage exhibitions on the country’s natural history and tribal wars.— Reuters

KUWAITIS TO GET 75 LITERS OF FREE PETROL...

Continued from Page 1

prices, and that expatriate motorists could pay higher prices than the ones presently.

Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who attended the meeting, said the government works under the instructions of HH the Amir, adding that government decisions will not harm citizens. After the announcement of the deal, a number of lawmakers rejected it and vowed to take action. MP Saad Al-Khanfour said he cannot accept any decision that harms the interests of citizens, adding that he plans to grill some ministers, whom he did not name.

MP Majed Moussa said the deal was unacceptable to him and to a group of lawmakers who are currently preparing to take action. He did not explain the type of action. “Kuwaiti citizens are not beggars. Any measure that negatively affects citizens’ income is rejected,” Mousa said. It was not immediately clear how much strength opponents of the deal enjoy in the Assembly and whether they can take any effective action. The 75 liters’ value will be calculated on

the basis of normal or 91 octane petrol, whose price was raised from 60 fils to 85 fils per liter.

Kuwait’s lower court last week ruled that the increase of petrol prices was unlawful because of procedural flaws. The government has challenged the ruling before the appeals court defending its procedures.

In another astonishing decision for expatriates, the civil service commission yesterday decided to reduce housing allowance for expatriate teachers in the government from KD 150 monthly to KD 60. Until last year, public sector expatriate male teachers were being paid KD 150 in housing allowance, while female teachers were paid KD 60 monthly.

This continued until an expatriate female teacher won a court ruling ordering the education ministry to pay her KD 150 as housing allowance like her male counterparts, saying the different amounts paid was an act of discrimination. The ministry then raised the housing allowances of female teachers to KD 150. The ruling encouraged other female teachers to demand the difference in the housing allowance for about five years previously. The ministry has not yet paid anything.

FIRST FAME, THEN ARREST FOR SAUDI TEENAGE VLOGGER

DUBAI: When a teenager in Saudi Arabia began chatting up an American woman online, he first found fame and then notoriety before he was arrested over concerns that his clumsy cyber flirtation violated the kingdom’s conservative norms. The teenager, known only by his online name of ‘Abu Sin’, a reference to his crooked teeth, speaks almost no English. Christina Crockett, a 21-year-old vlogger from California, speaks no Arabic.

Even so, they managed to create goofy, light-hearted videos in which they appear fascinated by one another. The spectacle of the two trying to communicate attracted millions of viewers both inside the kingdom and abroad. As a result, Abu Sin shot to fame on the livestreaming site YouNow, receiving nearly 6.5 million views of his videos.

In one of their most-watched videos from YouNow, Abu Sin tells Crockett: “I am Saudi Arabia.” Wearing a low-cut tank top, she smiles and responds with a flick of her blonde hair: “That’s cool, I’m America.” Throughout the conversation, he periodically blurts out in Arabic, “what’s she saying!?” Appearing nervous and excited, he later offers her some of the few English words he knows, proclaiming: “I love you too. I love you too. I love you too.” She tells him: “Aw, I don’t even know what you’re saying, but I love you so much.”

Their exchanges took on extra significance in Saudi Arabia, where unrelated men and women seldom see one another. Almost all public spaces are gender segregated and most women cover their face, hair and bodies in billowing black cloth. While the conversations appear harmless, Saudi media outlets say the teen was detained late last month for “unethical behavior” due to the videos. Footage posted online on Sept. 25 purports to show his arrest, and Abu Sin’s YouNow site, on which he used to post almost daily, had not been updated for 13 days.

In Saudi Arabia, where the Internet has become the preferred forum for young Saudis to meet and express themselves, his arrest sparked mixed reactions. Abu Sin’s videos could constitute a violation of the country’s cybercrime law, which prohibits producing mate-

rial that harms public order, morals or religious values, according to lawyer Abdulrahman Al-Laheem. He may also be found in contempt of the kingdom’s sometimes unyielding interpretation of Islamic law. Lahem was quoted in the Saudi newspaper, Okaz, as saying the teenager could consequently face between one and three years in prison.

In comments to the Saudi Gazette daily, Riyadh Police spokesman Col Fawaz Al-Mayman said Crockett and Abu Sin made “enticing videos” that “became famous and received negative attention.” He said police had received requests from the Saudi public demanding Abu Sin be punished. After his arrest, the case was forwarded to the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, Mayman said. The Interior Ministry did not immediately respond to an AP request for further details on the case. Abu Sin’s real name has not been made public. Mayman said he is 19 years old.

The Saudi daily Arab News wrote that people in the kingdom argue the teenager deserves to be tried because his videos “made people laugh (at us).” In an op-ed for the pan-Arab Asharq al-Awsat newspaper, prominent Saudi commentator Mishari Al-Thaidy said the incident raised serious questions about how young people in the kingdom are being raised.

Yet in an editorial published Sunday, Arab News wrote that if Abu Sin was indeed arrested based on the demands of public opinion, then “let it be known that this published opinion believes Abu Sin should be released ... and given his own television show!” “When did being ‘silly’ ever become a crime?” the editorial continued.

Crockett released a video saying she doesn’t really understand the situation in Saudi Arabia, but that many people are blaming her as the reason for his arrest. “Obviously, I think this whole situation is totally crazy and unfair, but I don’t feel I should be getting any hate for this because I have no control over it,” she said. “It’s not my fault that it went viral. It’s not my fault that he got this fame from it or that I got it. Neither of us asked for it.” — AP

TRIO WINS CHEMISTRY NOBEL FOR MOLECULAR...

Continued from Page 1

Molecular machines will “most likely be used in the development of things such as new materials, sensors and energy storage systems,” it added. The three laureates will share the eight million Swedish kronor (around \$933,000) prize equally.

Feringa, a 65-year-old professor at the University of Groningen, told reporters at the Nobel press conference the prizewinning research offered great opportunities for the future. “I feel a little bit like the Wright brothers, who were flying 100 years ago for the first time. And then people were saying, ‘why do we need flying machines?’ And now we’ve got the Boeing 747 and the Airbus,” he said by video link. “We will build those smart materials in the future. That is a big opportunity - materials that will reconfigure, that will change, that will adapt themselves, that have properties that can change because they pick up a signal.”

The first step towards a molecular machine was taken by Sauvage in 1983, when he succeeded in linking together two ring-shaped molecules to form a chain. Normally, molecules are joined by strong bonds in which the atoms share electrons, but in the chain they were instead linked by a freer mechanical bond. “For a machine to be able to perform a task it must consist of parts that can move relative to each other. The two interlocked rings fulfilled exactly this requirement,” the Nobel jury said.

Sauvage, 71, told AFP he was “very surprised” and “felt enormously happy” to win the prize. He is the director of research emeritus at France’s National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). The second step was taken by Stoddart in 1991, when he threaded a molecular ring onto a thin molecular axle and demonstrated that the ring was able to move along the axle. “Among his developments... are a molecular lift, a molecular muscle and a molecule-based com-

puter chip,” the jury said.

Stoddart, 74, is a professor of chemistry at Northwestern University in the US. Growing up on a farm in Scotland without electricity or any modern-day conveniences, he occupied himself doing jigsaw puzzles, a pastime that helped him recognize shapes and see how they can be linked together. His fascination with shapes continued in his research: the ring-shaped molecule mechanically attached to an axle that he developed is called a “rotaxane.”

Honoured by Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II with the title of knight bachelor in 2006, Stoddart told AFP of his Nobel prize: “I’m surprised, I’m thrilled, I’m overjoyed.” He said he, Sauvage and Feringa were “the very closest of friends...” We’re almost what I would call scientific brothers.” Stoddart, whose wife died of breast cancer in the late 1990s, said their technology could be used to treat cancer in the future. “You can control a drug and not have it come all at once, so it can last much longer and be used much more efficiently with a smaller dose than the often hard-core cancer treatments, for example.”

Feringa was meanwhile the first person to develop a molecular motor - in 1999 he was able to make a molecular rotor blade to spin continually in the same direction. Using molecular motors, he has also designed a nanocar. Like Stoddart, Feringa was raised on a farm and was attracted to chemistry by its endless opportunities for creativity. When he produced the first molecular motor in 1999, he succeeded in getting it to spin in one direction.

Normally, molecules’ movements are governed by chance; on average, a spinning molecule moves as many times to the right as to the left. But Feringa was able to design a molecule that was mechanically constructed to spin in a particular direction. The work of the three laureates has created a molecular toolbox to build increasingly advanced creations, the jury said. — AFP

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Issues

PUTIN’S MIDDLE EAST GAMBLE IS PAYING DIVIDENDS

By Amir Handjani

Vladimir Putin has made an art of turning weakness into strength. As Russian and Syrian forces pound Aleppo in the biggest assault of Syria's five-year civil war, the Russian president clearly has emerged as a dominant force in the Middle East. Two years ago Russia had virtually no presence in the region, aside from a naval base in Syria. Today Moscow's fighter jets and missiles fly over Syrian, Iranian and Iraqi airspace. Over the last year, Putin has inserted Russia into the Syrian conflict and shored up the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad as it was on the verge of collapse. The Russian leader has forged a quasi-military alliance with Iran that has allowed him to project power in the Persian Gulf - something that has evaded Moscow since the end of World War Two.

If that wasn't enough, Putin's relationship with Turkey, which seemed to be on a collision course after Ankara downed a Russian fighter jet last year, has now warmed to the point where Putin and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan are about to restore full diplomatic relations. All the while Putin has maintained a close and productive relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

How is Putin able to maneuver the shifting sands of the Middle East so effectively and forge ties with countries that are seemingly at odds with each other? Why has Russia been more effective than the United States in leveraging Moscow's own agenda in the region? Putin is able to quickly identify Russia's foreign policy interest in a given conflict and commit resources to it - and then abruptly change course once Moscow's core interest has either been met or has changed.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, the United States has aligned its interest in the Persian Gulf with Sunni monarchies such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. In turn, these countries have invested heavily in the United States - from buying US debt, to investing in real estate and buying billions of dollars in American military hardware.

Arab states have also invested heavily in Washington, buying influence in the corridors of power, funding think tanks and hiring public relations firms to help spread a narrative about why their countries are essential to America's interest in the Middle East. The relationship between Riyadh and Washington remains particularly strong even as the American public questions the logic behind an alliance with a country whose actions often run counter to Washington's interests. These countries feel that Washington is obligated to share their view of the Middle East, which means backing them regardless of whether any conflict they engage in is against the interest of the United States. They have no such influence in Moscow. Even as Moscow backs Shiite powerhouse Iran and the Assad regime in Syria, Sunni Arab leaders continue to court Putin and look for ways to collaborate with him. Saudi Arabia, for example is currently trying to coordinate with Moscow on how best to stabilize oil markets and want Putin to pressure Iran to do the same.

Realism

Russia's partnerships are based on cold, hard realism. Putin's sole aim is to further Moscow's interest. He's unburdened by a legacy of alliances that do not serve Russia's strategic aims. He supports Damascus, Tehran and the Shiite government of Iraq because he views Sunni extremism as a long-term threat that has destabilized countries in the Middle East, and which he fears could wreak havoc in countries close to Russia's borders. Yet this coordination and collaboration with Shiite Iran doesn't preclude him from working with Sunni Arab states to promote trade for Russian industry and its atomic energy program.

Putin is doing all of this while remaining close to Netanyahu. Even though Putin is working with Syria and Iran - Israel's mortal enemies - he has convinced Netanyahu that these alliances are not meant to threaten Israel's existence, but rather serve a larger purpose of defeating Sunni extremism. Russia continues to cooperate with Israel in diverse fields such as energy, agriculture and arms. Russia and Israel also maintain close military contacts and Putin is careful not to transfer offensive weapons to Israel's foes.

Juxtapose this with how Netanyahu treated Obama and interferes in US domestic politics. In the run-up to the Iran deal, Netanyahu used the influence of AIPAC and other pro-Israel lobbying organizations to try and undermine a sitting president and scuttle his signature foreign policy achievement.

If Israel or another US ally tried to interfere or challenge Putin in such a manner, it's difficult to imagine that he would reward them with \$38 billion in aid for ten years, as Obama has done with Israel, or continue to support them militarily with advanced weapons and intelligence - as Washington has done with Saudi Arabia. Even though the United States is a far greater power and should have more influence on the policies of junior partners such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, the inverse happens: they often work to limit Washington's strategic options for fear of abandonment or for their own self-interest. As long as Russia has a more nimble and opportunistic approach to the region, Washington will have a hard time confronting it - and Moscow's influence will continue to grow. —Reuters

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ALEPPO WILL FALL, BUT SYRIAN WAR WILL GO ON

By Samia Nakhoul

It may take weeks or months, but Aleppo is likely to fall to Syrian government forces backed by Russian air power and the most lethal bombardment in nearly six years of war. Capturing the strategically important city, an economic and trading centre which is key to controlling Syria's northwest, would be an important military triumph for President Bashar al-Assad and his Russian and Iranian allies. It would be a crippling setback for the Western-backed Syrian rebels who, without quick reinforcements from their foreign backers, look set to be bombed out of their stronghold.

But the fall of Aleppo will not mean an end to the war, military and political analysts say. Instead it is likely to give way to a long-term Sunni guerrilla insurgency in which the remaining moderate rebel groups, backed by the West and the West's regional allies, are driven into the arms of militant jihadis. In a war with so many global and regional actors backing local clients, Assad will survive as leader of a shrunken, broken and fragmented country enduring the world's worst refugee crisis since World War Two.

"The Russians are doing in Aleppo and Syria what they did in Grozny - it is the same", said Robert Ford, the US ambassador to Syria in 2011-14, referring to the fierce bombardment that all but destroyed the capital of Russia's Chechnya region during Moscow's 1999-2000 war against Islamist separatists there. The opposition to Assad, he told Reuters, will "go from holding territory ... to being an insurgency, a guerrilla war, and that will continue a long time."

Syria's war began in 2011 after a popular uprising, against the Assad family's more than four-decade rule, that was inspired by the Arab Spring revolts across the Arab world. The war, pitting rebels mostly from Syria's Sunni majority against a minority rule rooted in Assad's Alawite community, has killed more than 300,000 people. Half the population has been displaced and much of urban Syria has become a wasteland.

There have been moments during the conflict when it looked like Assad might be toppled. Russia sent its air force to bolster Iran-backed militias a year ago when Moscow and Tehran feared Assad was on the point of succumbing to rebel offensives. The bombing of eastern Aleppo, with a pro-Assad force on the ground spearheaded by seasoned Iran-backed fighters such as Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's Revolutionary Guards, is meant to deal a decisive blow against the rebels.

Assad Lucky with Friends and Enemies

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iran's clerical leaders have not wavered in their support for Assad. But the backers of the rebellion - ranging from the United States to Turkey and the Gulf - have been wary of being sucked into a Levantine quagmire and unerved by concerns that Islamic State will fill the vacuum if Assad's rule implodes. Yet, despite the ferocity of the bombardment of eastern Aleppo, it may be too soon to count the rebels out.

Assad loyalist forces encircled the opposition enclave in July. But with manpower shortages, the Syrian army could not keep step on the ground with the Russian aerial assault. In August, rebels broke through government lines southwest of Aleppo, opening a corridor and briefly lifting the siege. As a harbinger of the future, the rebel counter-offensive was led by Nusra Front, the jihadi force that had just split from Al Qaeda and rebranded itself as the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, or Front for the (Islamic) Conquest of the Levant.

Even while negotiating the terms of a short-lived ceasefire with Washington, Russia kept bombing the corridor south of Aleppo. When the brief break in hostilities ended, the intensity of the bombing increased. The Russian and Syrian forces have been using much more powerful "bunker-buster" bombs, which residents of opposition-held areas say have the force to bring down entire buildings.

Western countries say Syria's government and its Russian allies are guilty of war crimes

for targeting civilians, aid deliveries and hospitals. Moscow and Damascus say they target only militants and deny they have hit hospitals. Despite the intensity of the bombing, the opposition are unlikely to stop fighting, not least because the Syrian establishment has left it nowhere else to go.

"Aleppo is not a turning point, not yet," said Ford, who is now a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington who has criticized US President Barack Obama for failing to arm the mainstream rebels. "It shows that the (Assad) regime is winning the war now but there will be no end to the war because the opposition will continue to fight," he said. "Aleppo will fall but it may not be quick, it may take one year but it will fall."

Rolf Holmboe, a former Danish ambassador to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan who is now a research fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, says Aleppo's fall would be devastating for the rebels, who have used it as a major hub throughout the war. "The rebels will be isolated in enclaves. The regime will continue attacking one after another without difficulty," he said. "If Aleppo falls, it will be a strategic loss for the rebels ... Now there is no getting around the fact you have to make peace with Assad - basically he would have won the war."

Holmboe considers it would be very difficult for the West or Turkey to resupply rebels in Aleppo - even supposing they wanted to - and that Russia and Assad have unleashed a two-pronged attack on eastern Aleppo. Like Ford, he drew comparisons with Russia's bombardment of Grozny.

Changing Dynamics

Crucial to the outcome of the war in Syria is the stance of external powers: How much they support their Syrian proxies and how they interpret their interests in a conflict with regional and global ramifications. Russia and Iran not only want to salvage Assad but also hope to establish themselves as regional or global powers, though such goals leave Moscow with little way out of a conflict that could be a huge financial burden.

Under Obama, whose presidency ends in January, the United States seems to have more limited goals - the main one being to drive Islamic State out of its strongholds in Iraq and Syria. Washington's attention is divided, with the US presidential election campaign nearing a climax and US forces also focusing on driving IS out of Mosul and Raqqa in Iraq. Gulf Arab countries, which supply weapons and funds to the Syrian opposition, have also been distracted - by a war in Yemen against Houthi rebels aligned to Iran, their regional foe.

Ford said some regional powers could have more influence in Syria but no longer had the stomach for the war. Jordan, he said, has all but shut down a supply route it ran for the so-called southern front of the rebel Free Syrian Army. Turkey, which backs the Syrian rebels, is now preoccupied with halting Syrian Kurdish advances near its border. It has diverted its proxies away from Aleppo to fight Kurdish militia crossing west of the Euphrates river at the Syrian city of Jarablus, a move seen by some Syrian rebels as ruinous.

But it remains important for Ankara that the rebels are not defeated, not least because this could increase the flow of refugees to Turkey, which is already sheltering 3 million people who have fled the conflict. Holmboe foresees the rebels becoming "isolated in various enclaves", with Assad in control of all big cities and "able to dictate a peace solution on his own terms". "Maybe it's going to take five years, maybe it will take 10 years ... (but) he (Assad) will be the leader of a broken country", Ford said.

Sarkis Naoum, a leading Arab commentator, predicted a protracted conflict and the de facto partitioning of the country. But he suggested countries in the region would opt to increase their arming of rebel groups. "The Gulf states are not pleased with the way things are going. They're willing to repeat the experience of Afghanistan," he said in reference to the 1980s when they supplied arms for the mujahideen to fight the Soviet Union. "For them this is the war of the century." —Reuters

OLD TOOLS, NEW REALITY STRUGGLE FOR BANKS

By Balazs Koranyi and Leika Kihara

Stefan Moeller's firm in Frankfurt, which makes baseball caps to the customer's own design, is an unlikely embodiment of a shift in spending trends that could tear up the monetary policy rule book for advanced economies. New technology means Moeller can immediately meet any customer order. That cuts downtime and adjustment costs, boosting the firm's margins. But now the equipment is in place, the business won't need further investment for years, a scenario that if repeated could frustrate central banks' efforts to fuel economic growth and inflation by slashing interest rates to zero or less.

"I can make just a single hat and switch design in a second, or make a thousand in a series," said Moeller, who reports that trade is brisk. "This is a new type of flexibility in the business and my product line has essentially become endless, so the only investment I have to make is in sales." Although super low rates have cut funding costs and all but wiped out incentives to save, borrowing by businesses and households in many places remains stubbornly low, with lending growth close to 2 percent in both Japan and the euro zone.

That suggests the monetary transmission mechanism has broken down, at least in part, and that the Bank of Japan and European Central Bank will not get the anticipated "bang" for the trillions of dollars they have spent buying assets. Signs that central banks' influence over inflation and growth is diminishing throw into question the viability of inflation targeting, the cornerstone of modern monetary policy.

The implications of this new reality will be among key topics discussed at the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting in Washington this week, where central bankers will continue to argue that monetary policy is overburdened and must be relieved by governments. Underlying the problem are a shift towards services-driven growth, technological leaps, and the ageing of populations in the developed world.

All those factors curb investment from businesses and households and push up savings, holding back growth and putting downward pressure on inflation just as central banks are trying desperately to push prices higher. As central banks spend more to hit an increasingly elusive inflation target, they also risk inflating property and stock market bubbles.

Paradigm Change

"The paradigm of central banking is changing. The transmission mechanism has changed and the instruments have changed ... we very much live in a different world and central banks have to respond," European Central Bank rate setter Bostjan Jazbec said. "The problems we face are lower productivity growth, slower population growth, increasing life expectancy, and these factors all affect the variables relevant for the central bank."

The Bank of Japan's move last month to target yield levels instead of asset-purchase volumes was tacit admission its aggressive money-printing was becoming unsustainable - a rare acknowledgement that policy was not working as hoped. "If people's inflation expectations are backward looking despite 3-1/2 years of aggressive easing, it shows that the problem isn't about a lack of monetary easing," former BOJ executive Kazuo Momma said. "I think there's already plenty of money."

Newly created money is instead going into savings as people prepare for a lengthy retirement. Life expectancy is over 80 in many advanced economies, having increased by 10-15 years over the past half century. After a steady rise in recent years, households now save a record 20 percent of their disposable income in Switzerland, 16 percent in Sweden, and 10 percent in Germany, data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shows.

Negative central bank interest rates in all three countries have not induced more spending as intended, instead prompting households to hoard even more of their money

even given the negligible returns on cash. "This challenges central banks' fundamental belief that inflation is a monetary phenomenon that they can have a direct grip on," said Nannette Hechler Fayd'Herbe, head of strategy, Wealth Management, at Credit Suisse. "They are realizing that yes, it's a monetary phenomenon, but it's also much more structural and could be a demographic phenomenon."

With working age populations declining across many advanced economies and life expectancy rising, nearly a fifth of rich countries' populations will soon be classified as elderly. The big exception is the United States, where population growth has left the Federal Reserve in an easier long-term position.

Productivity

Companies are also investing less, partly due to the shift towards services, where productivity growth is low because there are limits to human output. Limited productivity growth also holds back wages, a natural curb on inflation and consumption. Four out of five new jobs created in Europe since the debt crisis have been in services while productivity has stagnated at pre-crisis levels. The United States fares better, but productivity growth there has more than halved since 2009 and is pinned at around 0.4 percent a year, data shows.

Current spending trends could take as long as 10-15 years to shift, some economists suggest, well beyond the horizon of monetary policy, which typically looks a few years ahead. In the meantime, central banks risk upsetting financial stability by trying to hit relatively short-term inflation targets, so they need to either extend the time-frame or focus on financial stability indicators instead, economists say. They also need to moderate their use of extraordinary policy tools and admit that they have overextended their resources, and so force governments to shoulder more responsibility for growth and inflation. —Reuters

RANGERS' BARTON CHARGED FOR PLACING 44 BETS ON MATCHES

LONDON: Rangers midfielder Joey Barton has been charged with a breach of betting rules for placing 44 bets on football matches this year, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) said yesterday. Barton, who joined Rangers in the close season, has a history of disciplinary problems and is currently suspended by his club following a training-ground dispute with a team mate. SFA rules prevent players, coaches, club officials and referees in Scotland from betting on football anywhere in the world. The SFA said in a statement that Barton had been charged with placing the bets between July 1 and Sept. 15. He has until Oct. 12 to respond and his hearing will take place on Oct. 27. Barton, who has also played for Manchester City, Newcastle United, Queen's Park Rangers and Burnley, is no stranger to controversy having served bans for violent conduct on and off the pitch during his career. He broke a pedestrian's leg while driving his car in 2005 and was jailed for six months in 2008 after admitting assault and affray. The 34-year-old Englishman is due to return from a three-week suspension on Monday following a training-ground dispute with team mate Andy Halliday.— Reuters

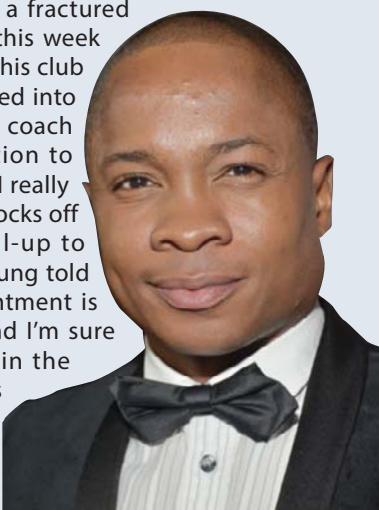


AUSTRIAN OLYMPIC CHAMPION CHARGED WITH CHILD SEX ABUSE

VIENNA: Austrian double Olympic judo champion Peter Seisenbacher has been charged with sexually abusing two young girls he was coaching, prosecutors said yesterday. Seisenbacher, 56, won Olympic middleweight gold in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Seoul in 1988 became the first judoka successfully to defend his title. Nina Bussek, a spokeswoman for public prosecutors in Vienna, said that both girls Seisenbacher is alleged to have abused "weren't even 14". One of them he is accused of abusing over several years from 1998 to 2001, starting when she was 11. He also allegedly attempted to abuse a third girl but she fought him off. Seisenbacher remains Austria's most successful athlete in the summer Olympics. Since retiring a month after the Seoul Olympics he coached in Austria, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Neither Seisenbacher nor his lawyer have commented publicly. Prosecutors began investigating in 2013 after his two alleged victims, now adults, came forward.—AFP

ENGLAND HOPEFUL JONES SUFFERS FRACTURED LEG

LONDON: Flanker Sam Jones sustained a fractured leg during an England training session this week and will miss the Autumn internationals, his club Wasps said yesterday. Jones, 24, was called into the England squad for the first time by coach Eddie Jones and had been in contention to make his test debut. "It's a big blow and I really feel for Sam because he has worked his socks off for Wasps and deservedly got his call-up to England," Wasps director of rugby Dai Young told the club website. "My biggest disappointment is for Sam as he's been playing so well and I'm sure would have made a good impression in the England camp." England, unbeaten this year, host South Africa at Twickenham on Nov. 12 before meeting Fiji, Argentina and Australia.— Reuters



SEPANG: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain walks from his car after an engine failure during the Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit in Sepang, Malaysia, last Sunday. — AP

FUMING HAMILTON SEEKS SOLACE IN JAPAN

TOKYO: Lewis Hamilton needs a quick fix of Zen-like mind control in Japan this weekend after a cruel engine fire left the world champion fuming in Malaysia.

Hamilton angrily demanded an explanation from his Mercedes team after his hopes of halting Nico Rosberg's surging momentum went up in smoke last Sunday, allowing Daniel Ricciardo to lead Red Bull's first one-two in nearly three years.

As Rosberg opened a 23-point advantage in the title standings with five races remaining following his third-place finish, Hamilton raged at his misfortune and threatened to ignite a row within the Mercedes team by raising the possibility of a conspiracy against him.

"My questions are to Mercedes," Hamilton demanded after Sepang, asking why of the eight cars on the grid fitted with Mercedes engines, only his have conked out this season.

"There are eight drivers and mine are the only ones who has failed. Someone has to give me some answers and it is not acceptable. Someone doesn't want me to win this year."

Hamilton has only a matter of days to dust himself down in a quick turnaround before Japan, but he can seek solace in the fact he has won in Japan three times and will be chasing a hat-trick of wins-and the 50th of his F1 career-in Suzuka on Sunday.

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff called

Hamilton's engine trouble "a freaky coincidence" and challenged Hamilton to bounce back in the title run-in. "Our guys will get to the bottom of what happened and learn from it," he promised. "But I want to focus on how Lewis responds in the aftermath. We let him down today and we are beating up ourselves about it."

TEST OF WILL

After composing himself, Hamilton said: "I honestly feel that it's a test of my will, my spirit and who I am as a person to get back in and keep fighting it head on. It's not how you fall, it's how you get back up." During a turbulent weekend in Malaysia, Hamilton had also

moaned about the "psychological effects" of breaking up his title-winning crew by switching five mechanics to Rosberg's side of the garage.

Wolff took a dim view of Hamilton's renewed criticism of a Mercedes decision taken at the start of the season.

"There is no Team Hamilton and no Team Rosberg," he said, using a football analogy to underline his point.

"No footballer would tell Jose Mourinho or Pep Guardiola who he'd like to play with. It's the manager's call to decide who is in the squad." After a year plagued by technical gremlins, time is running out for the 2014 and 2015 champion Hamilton to quash Rosberg's

attempt to dethrone him. The German, who had overhauled Hamilton in the title race after three straight wins, is in the form of his life and fought back to finish third in Malaysia following a first-corner collision with Sebastian Vettel's Ferrari. Ricciardo will be looking to build on his first victory in two years, insisting the Red Bulls can pose a threat in what is forecast to be a wet race in Japan.

"I actually think we will be more competitive at Suzuka," said the Australian, who came home ahead of 19-year-old team-mate Max Verstappen at Sepang.

"In the rain we could be very strong. If it rains I believe we can win the race. If it's dry, Mercedes would be favourites." —AFP

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH AT THE JAPANESE GP

TOKYO: Five talking points ahead of this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix:

PRESSURE ON HAMILTON

Lewis Hamilton's championship credentials, not to mention his temperament, will be severely tested this weekend after his Malaysian hopes went up in smoke. The Briton trails Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg by 23 points with five races left this season and will be desperate to stop the rot by completing a hat-trick of Suzuka victories, which would also mark the 50th win of his Formula One career. Hamilton's bizarre claim that there was a conspiracy against him will hardly have helped team morale, or his own cause. After his engine exploded in Sepang, Hamilton fumed: "It's not acceptable-someone doesn't want me to win this year." He has only a matter of days to get his head right, before it's too late.

FORCE IS STRONG WITH ROSBERG

Rosberg is in the form of his life, having won three straight races before a stirring fightback to finish third in Malaysia last weekend. The German will be looking to press home his 23-point lead in the standings as Hamilton battles his demons following an ill-advised outburst in Sepang. Rosberg won't be counting his chickens just yet, having thrown away a 43-point advantage earlier this year. But the momentum is unquestionably on his side and Hamilton has it all to do if he is to retain his world title.

LET IT RAIN, LET IT RAIN, LET IT RAIN

Red Bull could be forgiven for hoping it is a wet weekend in Suzuka as they look to build on a successful race in Malaysia, where Daniel Ricciardo led the team's first one-two in almost three years. Red Bull previously domi-

nated the Japanese Grand Prix, Sebastian Vettel winning four out of five from 2009 to 2013 before his move to Ferrari. But Ricciardo, who came home ahead of teenage team-mate Max Verstappen in Sepang, said they can pose a threat to the rampant Mercedes, especially with rain forecast for Sunday's race, telling AFP: "In the rain we could be very strong-if it rains, I believe we can win the race."

POT, VETTEL, BLACK

Spare a thought for Vettel: a four-time world champion being called "crazy" and an "idiot" by 19-year-old Verstappen. While there is an element of the pot calling the kettle black in the teenager's criticism, given his own aggressive driving, Vettel's recent troubles have been compounded by a three-place penalty for Suzuka after a first-corner crash in Sepang which prematurely ended his race. Languishing in fifth place in the championship standings, Vettel will be hoping for a dramatic reversal of fortune in Japan to help salvage a season to forget for him and Ferrari.

HIGH EMOTION AS BIANCHI REMEMBERED

Ricciardo dedicated his Malaysia win to Jules Bianchi, the Frenchman who died as a result of injuries suffered at the 2014 Japan race and will be on the minds of all drivers again this weekend. With the issue of Formula One safety again highlighted after Kevin Magnussen's Renault caught fire during practice in Malaysia, the Australian welcomed the 'halo' protection currently being developed to help improve driver safety, despite Magnussen's concern that it would have made it harder for him to escape his burning car. Ricciardo warned that the "pros have to completely outweigh the cons" but also paid tribute to Bianchi, saying: "It is a little bit emotional coming to Suzuka since then." — AFP

TIATIA PLEDGES TO IMPROVE JAPAN THROUGH SUNWOLVES

TOKYO: Filo Tiatia, the new head coach of Japan's Super Rugby franchise the Sunwolves, promised yesterday to shake up the team's performance following a disappointing maiden season, and as Japan rugby eyes a boost ahead of the 2019 World Cup.

But the former All Black, appointed last month on a two-year deal, asked fans for their patience as the inexperienced team face a daunting start to the new season with a

showdown against the 2016 champion Wellington Hurricanes in February.

"We are trying to improve a lot of areas," the Kiwi said in his first press conference as head coach, joined by the also recently-appointed boss of Japan's national team, Jamie Joseph.

"This (new season) is going to be our second year. So we have got a lot of learning to do. But we are going to continue to keep

improving as well," Tiatia said.

The Sunwolves joined an expanded 18-team Super Rugby competition this year following Japan's astonishing performance at last year's World Cup where the Brave Blossoms won three pool games, including a 34-32 shock upset over two-time champions South Africa.

But delays bringing in players and coaching staff sabotaged the team's preparations and as expected, they have struggled in the southern hemisphere's elite club competition, slumping to a record of one win, one draw and 13 defeats.

They hit rock bottom in a 92-17 humiliation by South Africa's Cheetahs in April, prompting criticism from former Japan national coach Eddie Jones, now in charge of England, who slammed the Sunwolves' lack of depth as "embarrassing". Joseph, another former All Black who began his Japanese assignment this year, emphasised "alignment" between the Brave Blossoms and the Sunwolves as a means to bolster the performance of Japanese players ahead of the looming World Cup to be hosted by Japan.

"(I will) help out anyway I can" to make the Sunwolves more competitive in the global arena and to please fans, Joseph said. Tiatia made clear that the speed and physical strength of players would be in focus as the team looks to improve on what they achieved last season. "We are trying to find players that can represent the country first and foremost," he said.

Japanese rugby chiefs have made no secret of their desire for the country's top players to turn out for the Sunwolves.

But despite bumper crowds supporting the team, several marquee Japan players snubbed the Sunwolves to sign for other clubs on more lucrative contracts, including Japan captain Michael Leitch and full-back Ayumu Goromaru. — AFP



SWANSEA: File photo shows Filo Tiatia (right) of Ospreys is tackled by Matthew Jones during the EDF Energy Cup match between Ospreys and Worcester Warriors at the Liberty Stadium on October 26, 2008 in Swansea, Wales.

RYDER CUP STAR PIETERS EYEING US TOUR CARD

ST ANDREWS: Ryder Cup rookie sensation Thomas Pieters wants to repeat his impressive showing at Hazeltine by pushing for full membership of the US PGA Tour early next year.

The 24-year-old Belgian will contest four events, including two on the regular PGA Tour, ahead of making his US Masters debut in April. Last week's Ryder Cup at Hazeltine saw Pieters become the first European rookie to win four points

on his first appearance, although the United States won the match 17-11.

Pieters will begin his tilt at earning full membership of the PGA Tour for 2017/18 in February's Genesis Open at the Riviera Club in suburban Los Angeles — the same course where as an amateur he won the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association title.

"I've played a lot of amateur golf in the US so I'm looking forward to going

back there at the start of the new year, and particularly Riviera, where I won before," said Pieters at St Andrews on Wednesday ahead of this week's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship on the Scottish course.

His management team indicated that all four events, plus the Masters, along with a number of other invitations throughout 2017 will count towards Pieters securing full 2017/18 Tour mem-

bership. Meanwhile the quietly spoken Pieters, now ranked 39 in the world, sought to play down his impressive Ryder Cup debut. "It's tough to talk about my individual performance when you lose on a team," he said. "You go there as a team, so you win or you lose as a team. "I did play great and I'm really happy to have earned four points. But three of those points were with Rory (McIlroy) so I don't see it as my four

points." Pieters is hopeful the experience of contesting a Ryder Cup will stand him in good stead. "I feel I can learn a lot from playing in the Ryder Cup and more than I think I would learn playing in the Majors," he said. Pieters joins fellow Hazeltine European team members Danny Willett, Lee Westwood, Matthew Fitzpatrick and Rafa Cabrera Bello at this week's \$5 million (£4 million, 4.4 million euros) tournament at St Andrews. — AFP



KUMASI: File photo shows sprinters run during Ghana's Fastest Human (GFH) competition in Kumasi, on September 10, 2016. On September 10, 160 runners from four qualifying competitions held across Ghana this year, converged to the country's second biggest city Kumasi, to participate in the race, set up by former Olympian Reks Brobby. In 2013, Brobby founded Ghana's Fastest Human (GFH), an annual 100-metre competition designed to unearth the country's best sprinting talent and hopes. — AFP



WAH: This file photograph taken on May 6, 2016, shows an Indian kabaddi player (L) as he attempts to tag a Pakistani opponent during their final match of the 3rd Asian Kabaddi Circle Style Championship 2016 in Wah some 45 kilometers from Islamabad. The 12-nation Kabaddi World Cup kicks off this week in India, with a row over a decision to bar arch-rivals Pakistan from competing threatening to overshadow the tag-wrestling sport's showcase event. — AFP

GHANA LOOKS TO REVIVE SPRINTING CULTURE

KUMASI: Joseph Paul Amoah was virtually unknown in Ghanaian athletic circles before he was crowned "Ghana's fastest human". Now he's the new face of sprinting in a country looking to transform its running culture.

"It's been an instant shot to fame," said the 19-year-old from the central Ashanti region, after reportedly clocking an impressive winning time of 10.08 sec in the 100m.

In early September, 160 runners from four qualifying competitions held across Ghana converged on the country's second city Kumasi to participate in the race, set up by former Olympian Reks Brobby. In 2013, Brobby founded Ghana's Fastest Human (GFH), an annual 100-metre competition designed to unearth the country's best sprinting talent with the hope of boosting future track success.

At stake was a one-year intensive training programme for the top two men and two women, sponsored by sportswear giant

Adidas and the state-run Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC).

On offer: supervision from a nutritionist, a sports psychologist, a muscle-trigger specialist and four premier sprinting coaches.

MAKE RUNNING 'SEXY'

Brobby, who competed for Ghana's 4x100m relay team at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, finishing fifth in their semi-final, hopes the programme will help put Ghana's sprinters back on the athletics map. Throughout the 1960s and 70s, Ghana had a consistent presence at international sprinting competitions throughout Africa with runners such as Michael Ahey, George Daniels, Hannah Afriye and Alice Annum, but the pool of talent began to stagnate. "I want to make (running) sexy again so that Ghanaians will start dominating the world by Tokyo 2020 and beyond," stated Brobby, rather ambitiously. But he

might not have to wait until the next Olympics to see results. The 2013 GFH winners, Emmanuel Dasor and Beatrice Gyaman, both ran in Rio in August (200m and 4x100m respectively). And even though they failed to secure any medals, it only took them three years to go from promising local talents to appearing on the international stage.

'EQUAL ATTENTION'

Brobby's ability to acquire big-name sponsors for his programme has defied the odds in a country often criticised for not giving enough funding to athletics.

The budget for the youth and sports ministry has been cut by more than 58 percent, from 54.2 million cedi in 2012 to 22.6 million cedi (\$5.7 million/5.1 million euros) this year.

Even with the funds that are currently allocated, critics say the government prioritises football to the detriment of other sports. In

July, Ghana's Youth and Sports Minister Edwin Nii Lantey Vanderpuye called for a more equitable distribution of resources. "It's sad to see all the attention given to football," he said. "We hardly spend on the other sports. I think we need to give every sport equal attention."

The lack of funds can be demoralising for some of Ghana's best runners, especially when their competitors in other countries benefit from more institutional support. But Olympic runner Gyaman is persistent, even if inadequate funding makes it difficult for her to attend international competitions outside Ghana. "It is difficult here but I will promise the Ghanaian people that if I get support, I'll bring home a medal one day," she said. Exposure to diverse global talent is critical for athletes at her level, said Ohene Karikari, a former Olympic sprinter and the chief coach for GFH. "You cannot run with your peers forever," he said.

'MR HOLLYWOOD'

Brobby, who used to be named "the fastest man in Africa", spent more than a decade in the United States before returning to Ghana full-time in 2003 to help revive local sprinting.

"I was Mr L.A. I was Mr Hollywood," Brobby recalled. "But I thought I needed to go back (to Ghana), where I didn't want to go, where there wasn't a McDonald's and the nice roads." The success of Brobby's movement ultimately depends on the will of the athletes.

But he hopes that one day he'll be watching a Ghanaian run for gold and feel his adrenaline kick in, just like it did with Usain Bolt during his last Olympic race in Rio de Janeiro in August. "It takes athletes about four to six years to peak," said Brobby. "They have to fall flat on their faces. They have to pull muscles. They have to go home and cry. "But that's what we're doing: finding athletes who in the next four to six years will be world champions." —AFP



MANCHESTER: British heavyweight boxer Tyson Fury reacts during a press conference to publicise his forthcoming world heavyweight title fight against Ukrainian heavyweight Wladimir Klitschko, at the Manchester Arena in Manchester, north-west England. — AFP

'SUICIDAL' TYSON FURY ADMITS COCAINE USE

LONDON: Troubled world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has admitted taking large amounts of cocaine, saying he is also suicidal and that "I hope someone kills me before I kill myself". Following the Briton's latest, disturbing comments, the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBoC) said Wednesday it would consider his case, and a possible decision to withdraw his licence to box, at an already scheduled October 12 meeting. The 28-year-old Fury, who has twice this year abruptly cancelled rematches with Wladimir Klitschko to defend his World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organization heavyweight belts, tweeted on Monday that he had retired, only to make a U-turn just hours later.

Last week reports emerged that Fury had failed a drug test for cocaine and he confirmed for the first time, to Rolling Stone magazine, that he had taken the class A drug as a way of self-medicating for severe depression. "Listen, I've done a lot of things in my life. I've done lots of cocaine. Lots of it," Fury told the magazine in a series of startling admissions. Explaining why his rematch with Klitschko had been called off for a second time, Fury said: "I've not been training. I've been going through depression. I just don't want to live any more, if you know what I'm saying. I've had total enough of it."

"So cocaine is a little minor thing compared to not wanting to live any more." He

added: "I don't know if I'm going to see the year out, to be honest... "They say I've got a version of bipolar. I'm a manic depressive. I just hope someone kills me before I kill myself."

Fury has courted controversy since sensationally defeating Klitschko last year to become world champion, making a series of comments about homosexuality and Jews and extolling the virtues of his extreme religious views. A member of the travelling community, Fury said he had been a victim of prejudice.

"It's been a witch-hunt ever since I won that world title," Fury told Rolling Stone. "Ever since I got a bit of fame for doing good there's been a witch-hunt on me because of my background, because of who I am and what I do."

TWICE CANCELLED

Fury, who said he had never taken performance-enhancing drugs, already risked losing his title belts because of inactivity.

In 2010 the BBBoC withdrew the inactive Ricky Hatton's boxer's licence amid allegations of cocaine use.

Asked how they would treat Fury, the board's general secretary Robert Smith told Britain's Press Association: "He is licensed by us. The sanctioning bodies, the WBO, WBA—they are not governing bodies—they can strip him, declare the titles vacant, or he can vacate them.—AFP

PAKISTAN BARRED FROM KABADDI WORLD CUP

NEW DELHI: The 12-nation Kabaddi World Cup kicks off this week in India, with a row over a decision to bar arch-rivals Pakistan from competing threatening to overshadow the tag-wrestling sport's showcase event.

Formidable Iran clash with newcomers the United States in Friday's opening round of the competition that also includes top sides from Australia, South Korea, England, Poland, Kenya and Argentina. With the World Cup last staged nine years ago, teams are relishing the chance to compete in the two-week event being held in India's western city of Ahmedabad.

But the traditional South Asian sport that mixes tag and wrestling and is growing in popularity has been hit with controversy over a decision to exclude highly fancied Pakistan.

International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) chief Deoraj Chaturvedi, who is from India, said Pakistan has been denied entry because of a spike in tensions between the two nuclear-armed nations.

"This is not the right time to engage with Pakistan," Chaturvedi told AFP. "Pakistan is a valuable member of the IKF but looking at the current scenario and in the best interest of both the nations, we decided that Pakistan must be refrained from the championship."

Pakistan accused the IKF of unfairly targeting the country, saying both rival nations should have been excluded if there were security concerns. "We have called a meeting to discuss this issue but let me tell you that a Kabaddi World Cup is no world cup without Pakistan," said Pakistan kabaddi federation secretary Rana Muhammad Sarwar.

"This is just like a football world cup without Brazil," Sarwar told AFP. Pakistan captain Nasir Ali said his players had been favourites to clinch the cup after defeating India at the six-nation Kabaddi Cup held in Pakistan in May and last month's Asian Beach Games in Vietnam.

"We were hoping to win the world cup in India by beating India," Ali told AFP, adding that fans were being denied matches between the top two sides. Hostilities between the nations have flared after India said last week it conducted military strikes inside Pakistan against militants, sparking fury from Islamabad.

The strikes came after gunmen staged the deadliest attack on an Indian army base in more than a decade, which an enraged New Delhi blamed on Pakistani-based militants.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE

The World Cup comes as the ancient game, played in sandy parks across India for generations and once tagged with a dowdy image, is



WAH: This file photograph taken on May 6, 2016, shows an Indian kabaddi player (L) as he attempts to tag a Pakistani opponent during their final match of the 3rd Asian Kabaddi Circle Style Championship 2016 in Wah some 45 kilometers from Islamabad. The 12-nation Kabaddi World Cup kicks off this week in India, with a row over a decision to bar arch-rivals Pakistan from competing threatening to overshadow the tag-wrestling sport's showcase event. — AFP

enjoying a new lease of life. The Pro Kabaddi League, launched in India in 2014 with live television coverage, corporate sponsors and brightly coloured lycra strips, has proved hugely popular and drawn players from Iran and South Korea.

Iran's skipper Meraj Sheykh, who has played in the league's last three editions, said his side had grown stronger by playing in India and oth-

er international tournaments. "We have more young players playing for us now and they have the experience of playing in India," Sheykh told the Times of India newspaper.

Kabaddi requires yoga-like breathing skills as two seven-member teams send a raider into their enemy's half of the court to tag an opponent before returning in just one breath. —AFP

TIGER WOODS NAMED AS ASSISTANT CAPTAIN FOR 2017 PRESIDENTS CUP

NEW JERSEY: Tiger Woods, who plans to make his PGA Tour return next week after more than a year on the sidelines, has been appointed as one of three vice-captains to US skipper Steve Stricker for next year's Presidents Cup in New Jersey. Woods will join Fred Couples and triumphant US Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III as assistants for the biennial team competition against the Internationals to be played at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City from Sept. 28-Oct. 1. "It's just a tremendous honour," Woods, who has paired up successfully with his longtime friend Stricker in the past at both the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, said in a statement on Wednesday after being formally appointed. "We've been friends for close to 20 years now, and we've been on teams together

... so for him to have the confidence in me, to be part of the crew and help him in any way I possibly can - I'm thrilled to be his assistant"

Former world number one Woods, who got his first taste as a vice-captain during last week's Ryder Cup in Minnesota where the United States beat Europe 17-11, could still play his way on to the U.S. Presidents Cup team.

"If that happens, replacing him as a captain's assistant will be a great problem for me to have," said Stricker. "But if he doesn't, I'm honoured he accepted this role for the first time in his impressive Presidents Cup career. "Tiger has been a great team mate and friend over the years, and I know the US guys will benefit from the experience and camaraderie that only Tiger can bring." — Reuters

REBEL FIRE KILLS SWIMMER WITH ‘BIG DREAMS’ IN SYRIA’S ALEPPO

ALEPPO: On the day she was killed, Syrian star swimmer Mireille Hindoyan had decided to skip her daily swim at an Aleppo pool to work a shift at her family's supermarket near the frontline.

Not long after she arrived, a rocket fired by rebels just across the frontline in the war-ravaged city slammed into the shop, killing the 20-year-old and her 12-year-old brother Arman.

At the family home, her mother Betty sat pale and drawn, dressed in mourning black and weeping as she looked at the makeshift memorial to the two of her children killed in the September 30 attack. "They went to God, maybe living with him is better than living in war," she said in tears, looking at a spread of Mireille's swimming medals and photos of the dark-haired girl and her brother.

Her middle child, 19-year-old Movses, survived the attack but was badly wounded.

An ambitious athlete and third-year university student, Mireille was a national short-distance swimming champion who dreamt of becoming a nutritionist. Her family, Armenian Syrians, live and work in a neighbourhood along the frontline that has divided Aleppo city between rebel control in the east and government control in the west since 2012. "Mireille usually goes to the pool every day around 11 am to swim, but on that day she came to our supermarket and told me she didn't feel like swim-

ming," said her mother, 42.

"I asked her to go home, but she refused," she added, her voice breaking.

CALLING FOR HER CHILDREN

Minutes after she tried to convince Mireille to leave, a huge blast shook the store, knocking out the lights and throwing Betty and her three children to the ground. Her son Movses screamed: "Mum, my hand is gone." Betty called out to Mireille and Arman "to stay close to me, thinking they were alive but just lying on the ground".

"As the dust began to settle, I looked around me and I saw Arman, my youngest son, on the floor. His intestines were lying outside his body. He was dead," she said in a trembling voice. Betty then called out for Mireille.

"I found her on the ground too, she was missing both her hands and legs. She was bleeding. I couldn't lift her because I was wounded and bleeding too, and I wasn't able to move."

Hundreds of people have been killed in western Aleppo city by rebel fire since the conflict began, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor, which has also recorded thousands of deaths in the rebel-held east in government air strikes, barrel bomb attacks and artillery fire. In recent weeks, the government has stepped up its assault on the east in a bid to recapture it, and rebels have increased the pace of

their crude rocket fire on western Aleppo. Rights groups have condemned both sides for indiscriminate fire that kills civilians. Syrian state news agency SANA said 13 people were killed in rebel fire on western Aleppo on the day Mireille and Arman died.

'MIREILLE GAVE US STRENGTH'

More than 300,000 people have been killed and over half Syria's population displaced by the conflict since it began with anti-government demonstrations in March 2011. Among those displaced are millions who have become refugees, some braving leaky boats to cross the Mediterranean like fellow Syrian swimmer Yusra Mardini. She gained international attention after surviving near-drowning and reaching Germany, and competed in this year's Rio Olympics as part of a refugee team.

Mireille had won medals in both Syria and Armenia and was coaching young female swimmers in Aleppo as well as training to swim in open-water long-distance competitions.

"She was very ambitious... She remained an athlete even after the war began," said coach Wanis Salahiyan, who had trained Mireille since she was five.

"Mireille was very ambitious and had big dreams... She always wanted to be the best at whatever she was doing, especially in sports," her mother added. Mireille's father Viken, 56, tried to



ALEPPO: A picture taken on Tuesday shows portraits of Syrian athlete Mireille Hindoyan, 20, (L) and her 12-year-old brother Arman, who were killed during shelling on the government controlled area of Aleppo on September 30, 2016. On the day she was killed, Syrian star swimmer Mireille Hindoyan had decided to skip her daily swim at an Aleppo pool to work a shift at her family's supermarket near the frontline. Not long after she arrived, a rocket fired by rebels just across the frontline in the war-ravaged city slammed into the shop, killing the 20-year-old and her 12-year-old brother Arman. — AFP

remain composed in front of his wife as they looked at pictures of her and Arman. "We've lost material things before, shops and warehouses. But this time our loss was huge, I've lost my son

and daughter," he said.

Both her parents described Mireille's unusual fortitude, depicting her as a rock for the family. "It was Mireille who gave us strength," Viken said. — AFP

ENCARNACION SMASHES WINNING HOMER, BLUE JAYS CLAW ORIOLES

TORONTO: Edwin Encarnacion smashed the winning home run as the Toronto Blue Jays downed the Baltimore Orioles 5-2 in an 11th-inning thriller to win their American League wildcard duel on Tuesday. Dominican star Encarnacion homered to left field off Ubaldo Jimenez for a three-run score to send Toronto into an American League Division Series against the Texas Rangers.

It was a dramatic end to a nerve-jangling game which erupted into controversy in the seventh inning when a fan threw a can onto the field as Baltimore outfielder Kim Hyun-Soo caught the final out.

The incident drew a furious response from Baltimore's players, with center fielder Adam Jones angrily gesticulating into the stands. Baltimore manager Buck Showalter also stormed out of the dugout to left field to voice his disgust with the umpiring crew before returning.

As the tension mounted, the final innings became a question of who would blink first. Baltimore left-hander Brian Duensing struck out Ezequiel Carrera to launch the bottom of the 11th before being replaced by Jimenez.

It was to be a nightmare performance for Jimenez however, who conceded singles to Devon Travis and Josh Donaldson to leave the Blue Jays with runners on the corners. With the home crowd roaring them

on, Encarnacion then settled a pulsating battle with his three-run homer to keep the Blue Jays' post-season alive.

"I had a good feeling all through the game even," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "It's a close ballgame. If they win that game, they deserve it, too. It was such a well-played game on both sides. Could have gone either way... Eddie came through for us."

Orioles manager Buck Showalter meanwhile defended his decision not to use closer Zach Britton in the 11th inning.

"Yeah, I considered a lot of things during the course of the game. But our guys did a good job getting us to that point. We just couldn't finish it off," Showalter said. "You can use Zach Britton in the seventh, the eighth and not have anybody to pitch the last inning. So there's a lot of risk taken every inning, every pitch. You take that one when you get in this format."

Earlier, Orioles starter Chris Tillman gave up four hits, one walk and two runs while striking out four in just over four innings.

Marcus Stroman for the Blue Jays allowed four hits and two runs with six strikeouts in six innings. Jose Bautista had hit a solo home run for Toronto while Baltimore's scoring came from a two-run homer by Mark Trumbo. The Blue Jays face Texas in game one of the division series today. —AFP



ABU DHABI: Pakistan's batsmen Babar Azam (L) and Sarfraz Ahmed run between the wickets during the 3rd ODI cricket match between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

TRIPLE-TON AZAM LEADS PAKISTAN TO SERIES ROUT OF WEST INDIES

ABU DHABI: Rising star Babar Azam hit his third successive hundred to anchor Pakistan's 3-0 clean-sweep of the West Indies with a comfortable 136-run win in the third and final one-day yesterday.

Azam smashed a 106-ball 117 while skipper Azhar Ali returned to form with a 109-ball 101 as Pakistan compiled 308-6 before restricting West Indies to 172 in 44 overs on a flat Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch.

It was another imperious show by Pakistan who won the first two matches by 111 and 59 runs respectively both in Sharjah. The rout also followed Pakistan's 3-0 whitewash in the preceding Twenty20 series.

The two sides will go on to contest a three-match Test series starting in Dubai from October 13. The 3-0 ODI whitewash also lifted Pakistan to number eight in the one-day rankings, displacing their opponents to nine.

Azam, 21, became the eighth batsmen to make three hundreds in successive one-day internationals and he was again sublime in achieving the milestone.

He also set a new record for most runs in a three-match one-day series with 360, beating the previous highest of 342 by South Africa's Quinton de Kock who set it at home in 2013.

"Three hundreds in a row doesn't come easy," said Ali. "Everyone fought like tigers, so it feels great." A disappointed West Indian captain Jason Holder called for improvement.

"We haven't been up to scratch in this series," said Holder. "We just really need to work on all aspects of the game." West Indies again lacked aggression and big partnerships in their innings, with Denesh Ramdin top scoring with 37 and Holder making 26.

They also lost their last five wickets for just 13 runs with left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz (3-40) and paceman Wahab Riaz taking 2-28. Riaz also reached 100 one-day wickets in his 75th match.

Kraig Brathwaite (32) and Evin Lewis (22) had given the West Indies a solid 45-run start but wickets tumbled at regular intervals, with Darren Bravo (17), Marlon Samuels (13) and Kieron Pollard (11) failing to shine.

Earlier Azam led Pakistan's batting, setting his team up for a big total with Ali.

Azam was finally bowled by Pollard in the 46th over after hitting eight boundaries and a six in another dominating exhibition of batting.

Ali, who failed in the first two games with a first-ball duck and nine, hit eight boundaries and a six. He and fellow opener Sharjeel Khan (38) put Pakistan on track for a big total with an 85-run start in 14.1 overs

Left-arm spinner Sulieman Benn gave the West Indies their first breakthrough, in his second over, when Sharjeel holed out at long-on after hitting five boundaries off 41 balls.

Ali and Azam added 147 for the second wicket before Ali was bowled by Holder in the 39th over. Sarfraz Ahmed made 24 not out as Pakistan managed 96 runs in the last 15 overs. Azam is only the third batsmen from Pakistan and eighth in the world to notch three hundreds in as many matches. Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara holds the record with four centuries in as many games.

Pakistan's Zaheer Abbas and Saeed Anwar, South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs, AB de Villiers and de Kock, and New Zealand's Ross Taylor are others to achieve the milestone.

West Indies play a day-night side game with a pink ball in Sharjah from Friday as a rehearsal for the first Test in Dubai, also a day-night match starting from October 13. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

ABU DHABI: Scoreboard of the third and final day-night international between Pakistan and West Indies at Sheikh Zayed Stadium yesterday.

Pakistan			
Azhar Ali b Holder	101	E. Lewis b Sohail	22
Sharjeel Khan c Joseph b Benn	38	D. Bravo c Ahmed b Riaz	17
Babar Azam b Pollard	117	M. Samuels run out	13
Shoaib Malik c Ramdin b Narine	5	D. Ramdin run out	37
Sarfraz Ahmed not out	24	K. Pollard c Malik b Nawaz	11
Mohammad Rizwan lbw b Joseph	4	J. Holder b Wasim	26
Imad Wasim c Bravo b Joseph	4	S. Narine st Ahmed b Nawaz	0
Mohammad Nawaz not out	4	S. Benn c Sohail b Nawaz	0
Extras: (lb7, nb1, w3)	11	A. Joseph c Malik b Riaz	2
Total: (for six wkts; 50 overs)	308	S. Gabriel not out	1
Did not bat: Wahab Riaz, Hasan Ali, Sohail Khan		Extras: (b1, lb4, w6)	11
Fall of wickets: 1-85 (Sharjeel), 2-232 (Ali), 3-239 (Malik), 4-280 (Azam), 5-285 (Rizwan), 6-303 (Wasim)		Total: (all out; 44 overs)	172
Bowling: Joseph 8-0-62-2 (1w), Gabriel 5-0-37-0 (1nb), Brathwaite 4-0-22-0, Holder 10-0-63-1 (2w), Narine 10-0-47-1, Benn 10-0-51-1, Pollard 3-0-19-1		Fall of wickets: 1-45 (Lewis), 2-75 (Brathwaite), 3-87 (Bravo), 4-93 (Samuels), 5-117 (Pollard), 6-159 (Holder), 7-161 (Narine), 8-161 (Benn), 9-170 (Joseph)	
		Bowling: Wasim 8-0-29-1, Sohail 7-0-34-1 (3w), Hasan 6-1-13-0, Malik 6-0-23-1 (1w), Nawaz 9-0-40-3, Riaz 8-0-28-2 (1w).	
		Result: Pakistan won by 136 runs, take series 3-0.	
West Indies			
K. Brathwaite lbw b Malik	32		



ABU DHABI: West Indies' Evin Lewis (left) misses the ball as Pakistan's wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed fields during the 3rd T20I cricket match between Pakistan and the West Indies at Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium yesterday. —AFP



BEIJING: Andy Murray of Britain serves against Andrey Kuznetsov of Russia during the men's single second round of the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing yesterday. Murray won 6-2 6-1. —AFP

NAPOLI OWNER SAYS AGENTS ARE A ‘CANCER’ FOR CLUBS

LONDON: Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentiis spoke out against the ‘cancer’ of soccer agents yesterday and questioned why clubs should have to pay them in transfer deals for players.

The flamboyant Italian told the Leaders Sports Business conference at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground that he also only signed players if he had complete control of their image rights and some deals had fallen through as a result. “You know, that's a cancer of our domain,”

the movie producer said of agents, in a discussion with West Ham United's vice chairman Karren Brady. “Not every agent. But I don't understand why you need an agent. “In Hollywood, the actor pays (the agent) himself. I don't pay the agent. In soccer, why must I pay? The agents became like a tax and sometimes they want to be paid up front. You make a contract for five years and they want to be paid in two and three years.

“Why? Because when they finally

receive all the money, they go shopping around and making your players crazy because they will say ‘I'm negotiating with West Ham, they will pay you two million more’. And so these poor guys start to play not in the appropriate way.” Napoli sold Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain, whose agent is his brother Nicolas, to Juventus for 90 million euros last July.

English Premier League clubs spent almost 130 million pounds (\$195.65 million) on agents fees between October

2014 and September 2015, an increase of 15 million pounds from the previous period, according to the league. The figures included payments made by clubs on behalf of players.

The role of agents, who negotiate with clubs and take a percentage of transfer deals, has been in the headlines after a newspaper sting operation that led to Sam Allardyce losing his job as England manager.

The Daily Telegraph also filmed soccer

agents boasting about how many managers they had paid off in transfer deals. De Laurentiis, who rescued Napoli from bankruptcy in 2004 and brought them back to Serie A from the third tier, said he would like to own clubs in China, the United States and England as well as Italy. “In England, I would like to start from the bottom and to try to come up little by little,” he said. In the United States, he said his interest would be probably for a club on the East Coast. —Reuters



LIMA: Argentina's Angel Di Maria, playing goalkeeper at right, tries to catch the ball during a training session of the national team in Lima, Peru, Tuesday. Argentina will face Peru in a World Cup qualifying soccer game in Lima, today. — AP

QATAR MUST STOP IN-FORM SON TO KEEP WORLD CUP HOPES ALIVE

SEOUL: For all the focus on the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, there's a much more immediate concern for football supporters in the wealthy gulf nation when it comes to the sport's marquee event.

Having lost its first two games in the final round of the Asian qualification series for the 2018 World Cup, Qatar desperately needs a win over South Korea today to boost its chances of qualifying for Russia. To achieve that, the Qataris must stop Son Heung-min, one of the hottest players in the game at the moment.

Son arrived in Seoul on Monday after scoring five goals so far this season for Tottenham - four in the Premier League and one at CSKA Moscow in the Champions League. The attacker, who has also recorded two assists, has been nominated for the Premier League's official player of the month award for September.

“I feel good,” Son said, dismissing local concerns that he may be tired after helping his London team to second spot in the Premier League standings. “I will be fine on the match day. There is no big difference from the last season, but it's true that my fitness is better than the last season.”

In Asian qualifying, only the countries placing first and second in each of the six-team groups will qualify automatically for Russia 2018. The South Koreans and Qatar are in Group A along with Iran, Uzbekistan, Syria and China.

South Korea, aiming to appear at a ninth successive World Cup, has four points from two games but was disappointed with a 1-1 draw against Syria on Sep. 6. There is pressure to defeat Qatar, particularly with a tough trip to Iran five days later.

“We dropped two points against Syria and we are now thinking only of Qatar,” Son said. “People think we should be able to score a lot against the opponents like Qatar at home. But they are also a good team and it's difficult to win matches like this.”

Another defeat would leave Qatar, one of the best performing nations in the previous round of Asian qualification and still aiming for a first World Cup appearance, stranded at the bottom of the group.

After losses to Iran and Uzbekistan, the Qatar federation fired Jose Daniel Carrero and appointed his fellow Uruguayan Jorge Fossati for his second spell in charge. The pressure is immediately on Fossati.

China is also aiming for a first win in this stage, with just one point from two games ahead of its home match against Syria in Xi'an. Group leader Uzbekistan has a perfect record with six points and hosts Iran in Tashkent. Iran coach Carlos Queiroz wants his team to set a new benchmark in this campaign. “History shows that despite boasting great players, coaches and presidents, Iran has never qualified for the World Cup finals twice in a row,” said Queiroz, a well-traveled coach who guided Iran to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. “My job, my goal, my mission and my dream is to make this happen.” The top two teams from Group B meet when Saudi Arabia hosts Australia in Jeddah. Both teams have six points from the opening two games. The Socceroos are back in west Asia after an impressive 1-0 win in United Arab Emirates in the previous round of games and determined to qualify for a fourth consecutive World Cup.

“We won't take a backward step,” Australia coach Ange Postecoglou said. “It's another game that if we can perform well and win, two wins from two away games - we know how hard that is to do in qualifying - it'll put us a long way toward qualifying.” The Saudis appeared in four consecutive World Cups from 1994 to 2006 and turned to former Netherlands boss Bert Van Marwijk to help them qualify for 2018. The team has struggled to two wins, defeating Thailand 1-0 and Iraq 2-1, courtesy of late penalties.

“I think they're going to be pretty desperate,” Postecoglou predicted. “I expect them to defend and try to at least get a point out of it because if they do they're in great shape for the games ahead.”

Japan hosts Iraq and is aiming to close the gap on the top two in the group. The Samurai Blue recovered from an opening game defeat at home to the UAE by beating Thailand 2-0 in Bangkok. Thailand now travels to Abu Dhabi to meet the UAE.

Japan's biggest stars such as Keisuke Honda and Shinji Kagawa have spent much of the season so far on the bench with respective teams AC Milan and Borussia Dortmund.

“We have two games coming up and I want to show what I can do,” Kagawa said. “There is a strong perception that not playing regularly is negative, so we have to prove ourselves in the game.” — AP

RIBERY TELLS BAYERN STARS TO WAKE UP

BERLIN: Having endured a few sleepless nights following the Champions League defeat last week in Madrid, Franck Ribery has issued his Bayern Munich team-mates with a wake-up call.

The French veteran sat out Saturday's lacklustre 1-1 draw at home to Cologne in Germany's top flight with tiredness after problems sleeping following last Wednesday's 1-0 defeat at Atletico Madrid.

It was Bayern's fourth straight away defeat to Spanish clubs and the Bavarian champions were then annoyed to drop their first Bundesliga points of the season in throwing away a 1-0 lead against Cologne. Despite their slight dip Bayern still hold a three-point gap at the top of the German league with 12 of their squad now on international duty.

But Ribery says they must buck their ideas up after the international break for their league game at Eintracht Frankfurt on October 15 and next Champions League match at home to PSV Eindhoven four days later.

“We have to play like a team and forget about the two bad results,” Ribery told the German daily Bild.

“We are a top team with a really good

squad. We have to work together again, fight for each other and we can do that well together.”

Germany captain Manuel Neuer has already said Bayern were punished for dropping their tempo against Cologne in their third straight below-par performance. Having previously been warned by senior Bayern figures about his pre-season criticism of ex-coach Pep Guardiola, Ribery was full of praise for boss Carlo Ancelotti.

“Carlo is simply a really good bloke,” added Ribery. “He often comes up to me, asks how things are going and he does it with intelligence.

“He talks a lot with us, rotates a lot and gives every player chances and lots of (playing) minutes.”

The final point is important for injury-prone wingers Ribery, 33, and Arjen Robben, 32, both of whom are out of contract at the end of the season.

“They have the experience and have been playing for years at the top level,” Bayern captain Philipp Lahm told broadcaster Sport1 of the veteran duo.

“I would definitely be pleased if they both played for an extra year with us. They both have winner's mentalities.” —AFP

CONCACAF SAYS WELL PLACED TO HANDLE 48-TEAM 2026 WORLD CUP

LONDON: Expanding the World Cup to 48 teams will enhance North America's credentials in the 2026 bidding contest, CONCACAF hopes. FIFA President Gianni Infantino earlier this week raised the prospect of adding another 16 teams which would reduce the pool of countries with sufficient infrastructure.

“From a 2026 perspective, pick a number (of finalists) and North American can handle it,” Victor Montagliani, president of the North and Central America and Caribbean soccer confederation, told The Associated Press. “A CONCACAF bid would be strong regardless of what number we finally set on.”

The World Cup was last staged in the CONCACAF region by the United States in 1994. The Americans are keen on another shot at hosting in 2026, potentially linking up with neighbors Canada and Mexico.

“Is there an opportunity to combine the three countries? Perhaps. We don't know that yet,” said Montagliani, a FIFA vice president. “There have been zero formal discussions. We are not there yet.” After the troubled bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, which sparked years of corruption investigations, FIFA will be hoping for a smoother 2026 vote. Originally earmarked for 2017, the decision by the FIFA membership is now not due until 2020.

With Africa, South America, Europe and Asia hosting the World Cups between 2010 and 2022, it had been widely accepted that it should be North America's turn for the first time since 1994.

FIFA's statutes currently prevent consecutive World Cups being staged on the same continent, but China could yet seek to follow 2022 host Qatar. Chinese conglomerate Wanda signed up as a top-tier FIFA sponsor in March saying it wanted to be “better placed” to help decide where future editions of the World Cup are awarded.

“There has to be some sort of rotation or else you look what is happening with the Olympics,” Montagliani said, referring to Tokyo hosting the 2020 Olympics between the 2018



MEXICO CITY: In this May 13, 2016, file photo, newly elected CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani smiles as he receives applause from fellow delegates during the 66th FIFA Congress in Mexico City. Corruption will never be eradicated from soccer and officials in the English-speaking world need to adopt a humble approach rather than sounding pompous lecturing on ethics, Montagliani said Tuesday. —AP

and 2022 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and Beijing.

“I don't think it's a good thing that it keeps on going to one area. It's not a World Cup that belongs in one region. So I think so sort of rotation needs to occur because the World Cup belongs to the world and we need to respect that.”

Montagliani applauded Infantino for “thinking outside the box” by floating the idea of a 48-team World Cup.

“There are traditionalists in the game who I think, if it was up to them, would still have a 16-team World Cup,” Montagliani said in an interview in London. “The reality is that the World Cup is not just an economic beast, but a product that inspires hope for countries. So if we can improve it, make it bigger without losing its romanticism - why not?”

Before FIFA settles on a new format, Montagliani is sure there will be an “exhaustive process of review and cost benefit analy-

sis.” The format and bidding process will begin to be discussed next week when Infantino chairs a FIFA Council meeting in Zurich.

In outlining one potential format earlier this week, Infantino said “You could have a tournament in which the 16 best teams advance to a group stage and the other 16 will come out of a ‘playoff’ ahead of the group stage, and the World Cup could end up with 48 teams.”

The more pressing issues for FIFA center on the 2018 World Cup with the spotlight increasingly on Russia over racism and doping in sport, and the involvement in the war in Syria. Montagliani sees no need to strip Russia of the World Cup.

“It's a very delicate situation because we are a sport,” he said. “You try to as much as possible stay out of the geopolitics of the world because it's a just a dangerous thing (to mix) and so it is a bit of walking a tightrope.” — AP

STONES GRATEFUL FOR SOUTHGATE'S PERSONAL TOUCH

LONDON: John Stones said yesterday that caretaker England manager Gareth Southgate had taken time to speak to players on an individual basis after being parachuted into the job following Sam Allardyce's shock exit.

Allardyce was forced to resign as England manager after just 67 days and one game in charge following his controversial comments to undercover newspaper reporters investigating football corruption. Now former England defender Southgate, promoted from his role as England Under-21 coach, has been put in temporary charge ahead of the World Cup qualifiers at home to Malta on Saturday and away to Slovenia on Tuesday. Manchester City defender Stones, who played under Southgate at Under-21 level, said Southgate's personal touch extended beyond the training field.

Asked if Southgate had spent time with each player, Stones told Sky Sports News: “He always does. At meal times, down time he's always making time to spend a few minutes, whatever amount of time it is, to see how you are, how you're doing with your club football and what he expects from you here.

“I think we all know what we expect from each other. It's good to have a one-on-one conversation with the manager and see what his thoughts are and where we are moving forward.” England are now on their third manager in just over three months after Allardyce replaced Roy Hodgson following the team's embarrassing European Championship exit at the hands of Iceland.

“(We) just keep playing football, I suppose. It's all we can do,” said Stones, 22.

“Getting called up for your country is the biggest honour you get as a player. You want to come here and work hard and get victories for us and for the nation. “The managers that we've had have always made a big impact straight away, including Gareth over the past few days.” Stones was in England's squad at the Euros but did not play. However, following his £47.5 million (\$61 million, 55 million euros) pre-season move to City, Allardyce picked him for England's opening World Cup qualifier away to Slovakia. England won that match 1-0, with Stones alongside Chelsea's Gary Cahill in central defence - a partnership he enjoyed. “Always playing with an experienced player is good, learning new things, with whoever I play with,” Stones said.

“Whether it's Jags (Phil Jagielka), Chris (Smalling), sometimes you're not going to play and watching from the sidelines, watching those guys, trying to improve off them I suppose. They've been here, got a lot of caps, played a lot of games for club as well.

“Whatever partnership plays for England is always a strong one because the training we do and how we work in training is always different combinations so we all know how each other play.” —AFP



BURTON: England soccer caretaker manager Gareth Southgate, left, with assistant Sammy Lee, during a training session at St George's Park, Burton, England, Tuesday. England play a Group F World Cup qualifying match versus Malta on Saturday. — AP

GUNDOGAN READY TO FILL SCHWEINSTEIGER'S GERMANY ROLE

BERLIN: Injury-prone Ilkay Gundogan says he is ready to fill Bastian Schweinsteiger's midfield role in world champion Germany's upcoming 2018 World Cup qualifiers.

Germany host the Czech Republic in Hamburg on Saturday and Northern Ireland next Tuesday in Hanover having opened their qualifying campaign last month with a 3-0 win in Norway.

With striker Mario Gomez out with a glute injury, the world champions will

have to rely on goals from Thomas Mueller, who netted twice against Norway, and Mario Goetze, but there will be a battle for places in the defensive midfield.

Schweinsteiger made his 121st and final appearance for Germany in August before retiring and Gundogan is a candidate to slot into his vacated number six role. But he will face a battle with Juventus' Sami Khedira to partner Real Madrid's Toni Kroos in the star-studded

defensive midfield. Gundogan is back after nearly a year's absence at international level and despite only a handful of appearances for Manchester City this season, he says he is ready to take responsibility in Germany's midfield.

"I would have backed myself to take over the role sooner," Gundogan told magazine Sport Bild. "That has nothing to do with Basti's retirement, we should all just be grateful that we had such a great player playing for us."

Gundogan last played for Germany in November 2015, in the 2-0 defeat to France in Paris during the night of the November 13 terror attacks.

The 25-year-old missed both the 2014 World Cup triumph and Germany's Euro 2016 campaign, where they reached the semi-finals, with injuries which have restricted him to just 16 international appearances.

A dislocated knee, caused by a freak accident in May while playing basket-

ball, ruled him out of June's European championships and says the injury happened because he was pushing himself too hard.

"In retrospect, I have to say that perhaps I just wanted it too much," he said. "I had already missed the 2014 World Cup and was perhaps too pre-occupied with the European championships.

"I believe the risk of injury is at it's greatest when you aren't completely focused on what you are doing." — AFP

GERMAN CLUBS TOP EUROPEAN SUPPORTERS LEAGUE

PARIS: It may have vast wealth and an enviable array of talent but England's Premier League plays second fiddle to Germany's Bundesliga when it comes to drawing the crowds, figures show.

The Bundesliga attracted an average of 42,685 fans per game in the 2014-2015 season, according to the figures compiled by Deloitte, the multinational consulting firm, placing it well ahead of the Premier League with 36,163 fans per match over the same season. The Bundesliga topped the European table of fan support with the Premier League next, followed by Spain's La Liga a distant third.

In France and Italy fans are staying away in droves, with an alarming drop in support for the game, notably in France, a World Cup winner in 1998 and host of Euro 2016.

Billions in broadcasting revenue has flooded the coffers of English Premier League clubs allowing the likes of Manchester United and others to splash out in total a record 1.165 billion pounds (\$1.54 billion/1.39 billion euros) to attract big names ahead of this season.

In overall terms, the Premier League is still number one in Europe with 13.7 million fans attending matches against 13 million for the German league.

But the Premier League has 20 clubs playing 380 matches a season against 306 for the Bundesliga, with its 18 clubs. The disparity translates into significantly higher attendance per match in Germany. For La Liga-still home to world football's biggest stars in Cristiano Ronaldo at Real Madrid and Lionel Messi at Barcelona— 9.8 million fans attended matches in the same season, at an average gate of 25,734. Last season, and for the first time in its history, Spanish football drew more than 10 million fans in

testimony to the health of the game.

SERIE A IN TROUBLE

The same cannot be said for France and Italy, both suffering declines in support for the sport. France's Ligue 1 clubs drew an average of 22,362 fans per game for a total of 8.5 million spectators in 2014-2015 and the trend has been downward ever since.

The following season the figure dropped to 20,894 and despite a campaign following the successful hosting of Euro 2016 to attract more fans into the stadiums, attendance is still falling, down more than five percent this season with eight matches played. Rising ticket prices and security fears following a string of attacks by extremist groups in France are among factors keeping fans away.

Didier Quillot, secretary general of Ligue 1, said the state of emergency still in effect following the extremist attacks is a key factor. "The whole leisure sector is down," he said. Marseille are emblematic of the French problems. The new Velodrome stadium has drawn average crowds of 30,290 this season against 53,130 in 2014-15.

Italy's Serie A lagged in fifth place, with 8.2 million fans turning out at an average of 21,586 per match. Ticket prices and televised coverage of games are cited as reasons but also the poor state of Italian stadiums, about half of which date back to before 1949. In contrast, Premier League clubs have been pouring fortunes into facilities and Arsenal, Leicester City, Hull, Manchester City, Southampton, Swansea and West Ham all boast stadiums built over the past 15 years. Liverpool recently greatly upgraded Anfield while Tottenham are building a new home and Chelsea are planning to do the same. — AFP



LONDON: This file photo taken on May 15, 2016 shows Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger waving to the fans following the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Aston Villa at the Emirates Stadium in London on May 15, 2016. Arsene Wenger would be an "ideal" manager for England but should remain with Arsenal beyond the end of this season, the club's former star Robert Pires told AFP yesterday. The Frenchman, 66, has been linked with the England manager's job following Sam Allardyce's departure, but Pires hopes he will stay at the Emirates Stadium a little longer. — AFP

ITALY EXPECT VENGEFUL, 'MORE MOTIVATED' SPAIN

MILAN: Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci expects a "more motivated" Spain to come seeking revenge for their early exit at Euro 2016 when the sides meet in a mouthwatering 2018 World Cup qualifier in Turin today.

Italy host 'La Roja' at Juventus Stadium in what is their first meeting since Spain's 2-0 last-16 defeat to the Azzurri at the Stade de France in June ended their hopes of a record third consecutive European Championship crown.

Both have since undergone coaching changes, Giampiero Ventura replacing Antonio Conte at the Italy helm and Julen Lopetegui stepping in for Vicente del Bosque.

While Spain put eight unanswered goals past minnows Liechtenstein in their opening Group G qualifier in Leon last month, 10-man Italy returned from Israel with the points from a battling 3-1 win in Haifa.

In his second competitive game in charge, after succeeding now-Chelsea manager Conte during the summer, Ventura is under pressure to deliver. And Bonucci warned: "We're expecting a different Spain side with respect to the one we faced at the Euros. They will have fresh motivation, they'll be in a new state of mind and looking to avenge their Euro 2016 defeat.

"We have to step up a gear with respect to how we played against Israel."

Asked if Spain were favourites, he added: "Totally, yes. And if we're to upset predictions we'll have to play like we did at the Euros, with pace, commitment and by being clinical in front of goal." Barcelona and Spain midfielder Sergio Busquets admitted Tuesday: "At the Euros we made a few slips but now it is time for revenge. Qualification for the World Cup is at stake here."

Expectations that Spain and Italy will stick to the form book and take maximum points from remaining home and away fixtures against Macedonia, Liechtenstein, Israel and Albania remain high.

With only the group winners progressing automatically to the finals in Russia, that means

Italy and Spain's direct encounters take on special importance.

And if Ventura ever needed reminding, Busquets added: "It's not a decisive match for either of us, but it is important to fight for the top spot, especially as we're the strongest sides in the group."

Ventura, who suffered a 3-1 friendly defeat to France on his maiden outing as Italy coach, is under no illusions as he prepares to face off against a coach who, he says, has given Spain fresh energy and conviction.

ROMAGNOLI SET TO START

"They're the strongest opponents in the group," he said. "Since Lopetegui took over they've changed the way they play, and their approach to games. He's given them an adrenaline boost, and conviction.

"It's a delicate game for us, an important test." After Spain, Italy face Macedonia away on Sunday in the midst of a hectic period for many members of his squad with their clubs.

Ventura complained: "I'm going to have players who will have played seven games in the space of 20 days."

He is expected to deploy Shandong Luneng striker Graziano Pelle and Eder of Inter Milan in attack in a preferred 3-5-2.

Ventura's all-Juventus 'BBC' defence will be without Giorgio Chiellini as he serves a suspension after seeing red against Israel, meaning Andrea Barzagli and Leonardo Bonucci should welcome AC Milan's Alessio Romagnoli into the back three. Despite the relative youthfulness of Italy, Spain coach Lopetegui suggested: "Italy are difficult opponents because they have top individual players but also a collective strength that's based on years of experience.

"They've had their own way of working for a long time now, I don't think the change of coach will affect them."

But Ventura countered: "I'm pretty convinced that to win, we'll need a special kind of perform-

ance. "It won't be enough to play well 60 percent of the time, it has to be 99 percent."

Real Sociedad defender Inigo Martinez and Manchester United's Ander Herrera have been added to the Spain squad in recent days, with Bayern Munich's Javi Martinez having withdrawn due to injury. — AFP



NATAL: Brazil's football team player Neymar takes part in a training session at the Arena Dunas stadium in Natal, Brazil on Tuesday. Brazil will face Bolivia in a FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 qualifier match today. — AFP

ROONEY TIRED OF DEBATE OVER HIS BEST POSITION

LONDON: Wayne Rooney has promised to accept whatever role England manager Gareth Southgate wants him to play after admitting he is tired of the debate about his best position.

Rooney has spent the best days of his glittering career as a striker, but he was deployed in midfield by then England boss Roy Hodgson at Euro 2016 after finishing last season with Manchester United in the same position.

Jose Mourinho's arrival at United to replace Louis van Gaal has seen Rooney shifted back to a more attacking berth. However, the England captain often positioned himself in a deep-lying role in last month's World Cup qualifier against Slovakia. That was the only match for England manager Sam Allardyce before his shock departure last week and, with interim boss Southgate preparing to name his side for Saturday's qualifier against Malta, Rooney has been quizzed about his preferred role once again.

"I don't know, it's a question for Gareth," a visibly annoyed Rooney told reporters on Tuesday. "The question of where I'm going to play... it's getting a bit tired the question of whether I'm going to play as a striker, in midfield or as a number 10. "I've answered that question many times and it's the same answer: I'll play wherever the manager wants me to play.

"I don't pick myself, I haven't picked myself ever and I will play to instructions.

"I'm sure the instructions from Gareth, whether it's to play or not to play, are instructions I will carry out to the best of my ability."

IRRITATION

Rooney's clear irritation at the constant questions compounds a difficult time for the 30-year-old at club level.

Named on the bench for United's last three matches, he arrives on England duty in the unusual position of looking for game time. "Of course you want to play as a footballer player but it is my job, I love football and I love being involved with the team," he said. "Obviously I'm not starting at the moment at Manchester United but I have to work hard to try to get back in the team and the starting line-up, which I'm doing, and when I get my chance I have to take it.

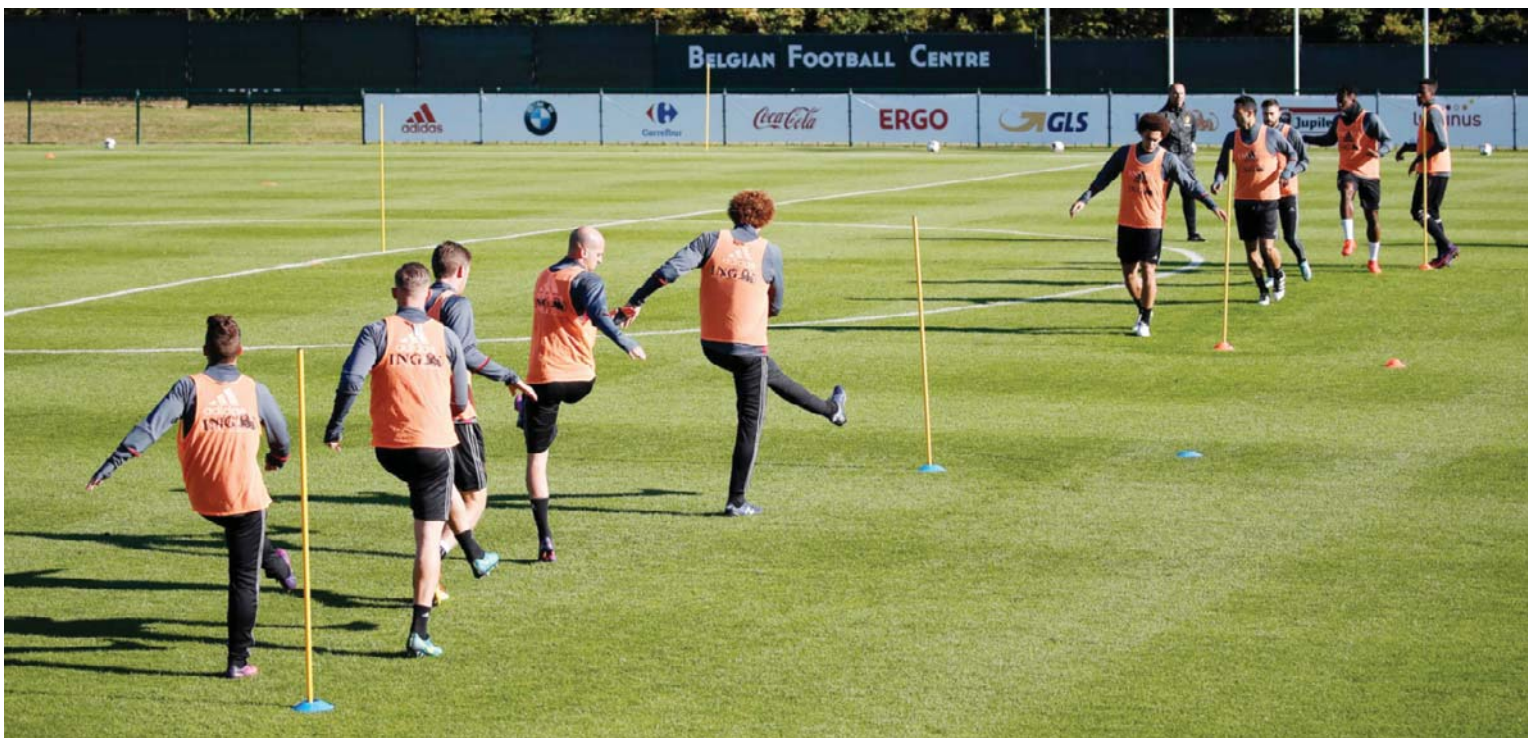
"But again I'm fully supportive of the team and the players, the manager and Manchester United.

"Of course I want to be involved but the most important thing is that we win."

Rooney's desire for team success is just the same at international level, where Southgate will be leaning on him to lead during this unstable period.

Understandably pleased to have been kept on as captain by his former international team-mate, Rooney hopes to repay the manager with strong performances against Malta and Slovenia over the next week. "Of course we have to come here and be prepared to do our job," Rooney said. "In terms of starting again, I'm not sure. We need to build on the three points we got in the last game.

"We have to concentrate on the football, which I'm sure we will have no problem doing and the other side of it is not our issue or anything for us to be concerned about." —AFP



TUBIZE: Belgium's players take part in a training session of Belgian national soccer team Red Devils, yesterday in Tubize ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying football matches against Bosnia and Herzegovina on tomorrow and Gibraltar on October 10.— AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
WORLD CUP 2018 EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS	
Italy V Spain	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 4 HD	
Turkey V Ukraine	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 5 HD	
Iceland V Finland	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 7 HD	
Ireland V Georgia	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 2 HD	
Kosovo V Croatia	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 6 HD	
WORLD CUP 2018 - ASIA CUP 2019 QUALIFYING	
Japan V Iraq	13:35
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
South Korea V Qatar	14:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
China V Syria	14:35
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Uzbekistan V Iran	16:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
UAE V Thailand	19:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Saudi Arabia V Australia	20:45
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

Sports

Ghana looks to
revive sprinting
culture

16

CONCACAF says
well placed to
handle 48-team
2026 World Cup

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

REBEL FIRE KILLS SWIMMER WITH ‘BIG DREAMS’ IN SYRIA’S ALEPPO

Page 17



OAKLAND: Los Angeles Clippers’ Blake Griffin (32) looks to pass away from Golden State Warriors’ Stephen Curry, left, during the first half of a pre-season NBA basketball game, Tuesday, in Oakland, Calif. — AP

EMBIID, SARIC DEBUT, 76ERS BEGIN WITHOUT SIMMONS

OAKLAND: The Philadelphia 76ers finally had some good news as they deal with the bad news of Ben Simmons’ injury. And Golden State fans got to see just how explosive their team looks with Kevin Durant in the lineup. Durant had 21 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and two blocked shots in an impressive first home game with Golden State, leading the Warriors to a 120-75 rout of the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night. Earlier, Joel Embiid and Dario Saric made successful NBA debuts in the 76ers’ 92-89 exhibition victory over the Boston Celtics in Amherst, Massachusetts. The 76ers waited more than two years to get the 2014 lottery selections in uniform and they both started Tuesday. Embiid, who had been sidelined by foot injuries since Philadelphia took him with the No. 3 selection, had six points in 13 minutes. Saric, who continued playing in Europe after he was selected by Orlando with the 12th pick and then dealt to Philadelphia, had 10 points and six rebounds in 18 minutes. Unfortunately for the 76ers, they don’t know when Simmons will be able to join them. The No. 1 overall pick had surgery to repair a broken bone in his right foot Tuesday and there is no timetable yet for his return.

76ers 92, CELTICS 89

Nerlens Noel, the other young big man in the 76ers’ frontcourt, had six points in 17 minutes off the bench. ... TJ McConnell scored 13 points. ... Brandon Paul led the 76ers with 15. ... Nik Stauskas missed all four shots, all from 3-point range. Al Horford had eight points and eight rebounds in his first game since leaving Atlanta for Boston. ... No. 3 pick Jaylen Brown finished with eight points. ... All-Star Isaiah Thomas, Avery Bradley and Jae Crowder all scored 11. Philadelphia (1-0) hosts Washington today. Boston (0-1) faces Charlotte today in Greensboro, North Carolina.

WARRIORS 120, CLIPPERS 75

Chris Paul, who along with Blake Griffin was lost early in the playoffs, had five fouls and one point in 13 minutes in the preseason opener. He missed his three shot attempts. Griffin had six points, six rebounds and five fouls. He was hit with a technical at the 8:44 mark of the third quarter. ... Former Warriors big man Marreese Speights received a special tribute of highlights on the main scoreboard and a “WELCOME BACK MO!” message. He pounded his chest and smiled in appreciation at the gesture. Speights was a bright spot, scoring 14 points off the bench. Durant hit a 3-pointer for the night’s first points. ... Klay Thompson scored 30 points with six 3s and two-time reigning NBA MVP Stephen Curry contributed 14 points and five assists. ... Thompson shot 10 for 14 and 6 of 9 from long range, playing 21-plus minutes. ... Coach Steve Kerr called for better rebounding and it was an improvement from Golden State’s four-point loss Saturday to Toronto in Vancouver during which the Warriors were outrebounded 58-42. Los Angeles (0-1) hosts Toronto and coach Doc Rivers said he prefers back-to-backs to clear out more time for practice. Golden State (1-1) takes on Sacramento today in San Jose.

ROCKETS 130, KNICKS 103

Derrick Rose had 16 points and five assists in his Knicks debut. He is now expected to leave the team and travel to Los Angeles, where his rape trial began earlier Tuesday. ... Kristaps Porzingis led the Knicks with 22 points. ... Carmelo Anthony scored 10 on 4-for-13 shooting. ... Joakim Noah sat out with a sore hamstring. James Harden had 28 points and 11 assists. ... Ryan Anderson went 7 for 13 from 3-point range, finishing with 26 points and seven rebounds. ... A game after scoring 72 points in the first half against the Shanghai Sharks, the Rockets shredded the Knicks for 68 by halftime. ... Houston was 20 for 42 from 3-point range. ... The Rockets were departing after the game for China, where they were scheduled to face New Orleans in two games. New York (0-1) hosts Brooklyn on Saturday. Houston (2-0) faces New Orleans on Sunday in Shanghai.

PACERS 113, PELICANS 96

Al Jefferson scored 14 points, Thaddeus

Young added 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeff Teague scored 10 points in their preseason debuts for Indiana. Teague started and played 26 minutes. Young and Jefferson both played 18 minutes. ... Paul George had 11 points and seven rebounds in 24 minutes. ... Joe Young scored 12 points in 20 minutes and fellow reserve Rodney Stuckey scored 11 in 21 minutes. ... Indiana outscored New Orleans 58-28 in the paint. Sixth overall draft choice Buddy Hield scored 18 points in 29 minutes off the bench after scoring 19 points in his preseason debut on Saturday. ... Anthony Davis scored 12 points and blocked two shots in 18 minutes but made only three of 13 shots while going 6 of 8 on free throws. ... Newly acquired forward Terrence Jones, who was Davis’ teammate on Kentucky’s 2012 national championship team, scored 10 points in 24 minutes. Indiana (1-0) hosts Chicago today. New Orleans (1-1) travels to China to play Houston in Shanghai on Sunday.

HEAT 106, WIZARDS 95

Hassan Whiteside had 20 points, 13 rebounds and three blocked shots. He had 16 points on 7-of-8 shooting in the first quarter and finished 9 for 12. ... Justise Winslow and Dion Waiters both scored 12 points. ... Luke Babbitt was 4 for 5 behind the arc and finished with 14 points. Kelly Oubre led

Washington with 16 points in its first game under Scott Brooks. ... Former Jazz guard Trey Burke had 14 points, starting at point guard while John Wall remains out while recovering from surgeries. ... Bradley Beal finished with 12 points on 5-of-9 shooting. Miami (1-0) faces Minnesota on Saturday in Kansas City, Missouri. Washington (0-1) visits Philadelphia today.

LAKERS 103, KINGS 84

No. 2 pick Brandon Ingram missed all five field goal attempts, four from 3-point range, and finished with two points in 27 minutes in Anaheim, California. ... The Lakers scored 39 points in the fourth quarter of their first game under Luke Walton. ... Lou Williams scored 15 points but fellow guard D’Angelo Russell had only four on 2-of-8 shooting. ... Former lottery pick Yi Jianlian of China played three minutes and missed his lone shot in his first game back in the NBA. Sacramento had only 32 points in the second half of its first game under Dave Joergel. ... DeMarcus Cousins had 11 points and six rebounds in just 15 minutes. ... Arron Afflalo, who spent last season with the Knicks, led Sacramento with 14 points. ... Rookie Skal Labissiere was scoreless on 0-for-4 shooting in 15 minutes. Los Angeles (1-0) hosts Denver tomorrow. Sacramento (0-1) faces Golden State in San Jose, California today. —AP

SHARAPOVA’S EX-BOYFRIEND SAYS SHE DESERVED BAN

BEIJING: Maria Sharapova’s ex-boyfriend Grigor Dimitrov yesterday suggested she deserved her ban from tennis for a doping offence, an incident that has sent shockwaves through the sport.

“I think tennis misses her,” the Bulgarian world number 20 said of the five-time Grand Slam champion, adding that he had “zero doubts” she would make a successful return.

“As a competitor she’s just going to come back and she’s going to be so hungry to play and excited and motivated,” said Dimitrov, who dated the Russian superstar for two years until they split in July 2015.

But he added: “If you do something, I mean obviously there are circumstances. And whoever does something deserves what he gets for sure.”

Dimitrov was responding to a question about an interview in which Sharapova accused the International Tennis Federation (ITF) of trying to make an example of her by giving her a 24-

month ban for testing positive for meldonium. The suspension was cut to 15 months on Tuesday after an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), meaning Sharapova can return to action next April.

Dimitrov cited the case of world number 1,857th Joshua Chetty, who was banned from tennis for life in September for match-fixing offences.

“It’s never up to me or ITF and all that,” Dimitrov said, referring to punishments of players. “I think throughout the years, these kind of things should have started earlier with examples and all of that.” World number two Andy Murray also said that Sharapova deserved to be suspended, echoing comments he made earlier in the year when the case was first made public.

“Maria competed at the Australian Open whilst using a banned drug, and then deserves a suspension. The time of the suspension, that’s not up to me,” Murray told reporters in Beijing.

The Scot had previously criticised the

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for how it handled the ban on meldonium, which has allowed athletes to escape suspensions.

“With everything that’s gone on this year with meldonium, obviously there were going to be some issues with that legally,” he added.

Sharapova has admitted to taking meldonium for 10 years for health reasons, but said she wasn’t aware it had been added to WADA’s list of banned substances in January.

The CAS judgment said Sharapova, one of the most marketable female athletes in any sport, was not an “intentional doper” but that she also “bore some degree of fault.”

Both Murray and Dimitrov are currently in Beijing for the China Open. Dimitrov booked his place in the second round on Wednesday by beating American Steve Johnson 7-5, 6-7 (7/9) 6-4, while Murray overpowered Andrey Kuznetsov in two sets to reach the quarter finals. — AFP



Maria Sharapova and ex-boyfriend Grigor Dimitrov (right).



CHINESE-BUILT RAILWAY LINKS ETHIOPIA TO SEA

Page 25



RIYADH: A Saudi salesman adjusts diamonds pendants at his jewelry shop in Tiba market. —AFP

ROUGH TIMES FOR SAUDI RETAIL

GOVERNMENT SPENDING CUTS HURTING ECONOMY

RIYADH: Diamonds glitter in the display cases of Saddam Al-Yafae's shop, but the business has lost its sparkle. He and other retailers in Saudi Arabia say sales were already down-along with the kingdom's oil revenues-and cuts to civil service benefits announced last week only add to their gloom. "In comparison to last year, this period is very weak," says Yafae, a salesman at Al-Abdoul Wahab for Jewellery in central Riyadh.

Sales used to come easily, he says, an array of silver and diamond creations behind him. But this morning there are no customers, and Yafae has time to chat. "There's a lot less work, especially with these decisions," he says, referring to the government spending cuts. "It's getting worse and worse." On September 26 the cabinet imposed a wage freeze on the civil service, which makes up the bulk of the kingdom's workforce. It eliminated their annual pay hike of three to five percent and capped overtime pay.

Other allowances including for hazardous work will be cancelled, amended or suspended. The highest ranks of government were not spared either as King Salman chopped the salaries of ministers by 20 percent, which the Saudi Gazette said amounts to 10,350 riyals (\$2,760) each per month. Top officials will no longer be given cars, and telephone expenditures will be curbed.

'A lot of pain'

The 150 members of the Shura Council, appointed to advise the cabinet, will see a 15-percent drop in their allowances for housing, furniture and vehicles. That amounts to almost 4,000 riyals monthly per member, Saudi Gazette said. Since 2014 global oil prices have collapsed by more than half, leaving Saudi Arabia with a record deficit last year.

The shortfall in the kingdom's main revenue source had already led to unprecedented

subsidy cuts and a slowdown in government projects as the administration tries to diversify the economy. Even before the cuts to civil service bonuses, economists had noted a slowdown in consumer spending and economic growth. "Fiscal austerity has inflicted a lot of pain on the economy," London-based analysts Capital Economics said in early September. "We are over-stocked because sales are down," says an expatriate rug seller, whose offerings hang from ceiling to floor with price tags of several hundred riyals.

Outside, a customer haggles over a small floor mat. He ends up paying 50 riyals. Next door, a South Asian rug dealer says business was much better three or four years ago. Further down Olaya Street a merchant selling phone cards, batteries, stereo speakers and cables said "the situation (is) very bad". He did not want to be named out of concern he could be forced from the country for speaking critically. Business is down almost 25 per-

cent over the past two years, he said, partly blaming the underground Metro transit line being built outside.

'No money'

Cuts to government bonuses are adding to the woes, as customers cite the latest austerity for their reluctance to buy. "No money, my friend," he said they have told him. Some government workers contacted by AFP declined to talk about the reduction in bonuses. Those who did said they accepted the cuts and would adapt. "I will redo the family budget," said Musa Mohammed, 41.

Khalid Al-Bishi, 35, another civil servant, said it's time to "stand with our country" and reduce spending at home. "We will make do with the basics," he said. Others see a lot of room for adjustment. "Saudi families weren't saving and leaned towards luxuries," Majdi Damanhori, 45, who works for a private company, said adding that the government has

taken a "bold decision".

Hadi Al-Osaimi, 39, a teacher, said Saudis should stop splurging on things like parties for weddings and newborn babies. "Let's not forget the extravagance of travelling overseas, and shopping at high-end outlets," he said. In a report Monday, the Saudi firm Jadwa Investment said ATM cash withdrawals and point-of-sale transactions "have shown signs of weakness in 2016, and public sector workers' allowance reductions will likely push down consumption patterns in coming months".

In July, food prices fell for the first time in six years and they are expected to continue downward, Jadwa said. Abdullah Al-Sadoun, a Shura Council member, said he and his fellow members are glad to be targeted by the cuts in a step to reforming the economy. "We've been addicted to oil for the last 50 years," he told AFP. "To spend it the way we've been doing is very bad." —AFP

TURKEY'S LOVE FOR RATING AGENCIES FACE FITCH TEST

ISTANBUL: Turkey's love affair with international credit agencies - if it ever existed - is already over and its banks may rein in lending yet more if the last of the big firms, Fitch, downgrades the country's rating to "junk". President Tayyip Erdogan has long criticized the agencies, most recently when Moody's followed Standard and Poor's last month in removing Turkey's investment grade rating. He will have another opportunity to vent his feelings if Fitch does the same when it reviews its BBB- sovereign rating in early 2017.

"I love rating agencies and they love me," Erdogan said with sarcasm last week, accusing Moody's of being political with its downgrade on Sept. 24, which followed a lowering of Turkey's outlook after a failed military in coup in July. "Put a few cents in their pockets and get the rating you want, this is how they work," he said. Fitch's influence remains high as the only one of the

three main agencies that still ranks the country investment grade. Turkish banks have used Fitch's rating as a benchmark to calculate their risk-weighted assets, used to determine whether they have set aside enough capital to withstand shocks.

The agency already has Turkey on a negative outlook and analysts think a downgrade from BBB-, the lowest investment grade, is possible. This would push up borrowing costs while prompting commercial banks to trim lending as they move to shore up their balance sheets, sending ripples through the banking and financial sectors. Turkey's economy weathered the Moody's downgrade without too many difficulties, but Prime Minister Binali Yildirim acknowledged on Tuesday that the failed coup had taken a toll, prompting the government to revise its year-end growth forecast to 3.2 percent from 4.5 percent. —Reuters

SAUDI GAINS AS CRUDE FIRMS BUT UAE, QATAR STUMBLE

MIDEAST STOCKS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's petrochemical stocks rallied yesterday after Brent crude oil firmed over \$51 a barrel, while Egypt climbed for a third straight session as investors anticipated approval of its International Monetary Fund loan program. Riyadh's stock index closed up 1.1 percent as the petrochemical sub-index rose 3.4 percent with all 14 listed producers advancing. Yanbu National Petrochemicals (Yansab) jumped 5.9 percent to 46.80 riyals and National Petrochemical surged 8.2 percent to 15.15 riyals.

Analysts at NCB Capital said in a note that Yansab was one of their top picks in the sector because of superior efficiency and low debt levels. They maintained an "overweight" rating on the stock with a price target of 50.40 riyals. Analysts at Bahrain's SICO said: "Yansab is in a strong position as it is now a 'cash cow' with no near-

term large capex requirements. Double-digit cash flow yield should support the high single-digit dividend yield." They rate the stock a "buy" with a target of 53.00 riyals.

NCB also upgraded National Petrochemical to "overweight" with a price target of 17.30 riyals, citing greater efficiency following a two-month shutdown and attractive valuations. SICO upgraded the stock too, to "buy" with a target of 19.00 riyals. Saudi Arabia's three top telecommunications stocks were mixed in a second straight session of heavy trade after the government said it would provide operators with "unified licenses" allowing them to offer a full range of services. Zain Saudi rose 4.7 percent, taking its gain over two days to 14.8 percent. Its chief competitor Saudi Telecom retreated 2.3 percent and Mobily fell 0.8 percent.

Builder Al Khodari jumped 4.0 percent in active trade after it said it had signed a contract with miner Maaden to construct an aluminum producing facility for 49 million riyals (\$13.1 million). In Egypt, the index of the 30 most valuable shares gained 2.1 percent, taking its rise for the week to 6.2 percent. Egyptian Resorts was the top gainer in the index, jumping 5.5 percent. Many investors think Egypt's \$12 billion IMF loan program may be finalized in the next few weeks. Egypt's deputy finance minister told Reuters yesterday the IMF would discuss Egypt's loan at a "future" executive board meeting, not at its annual meeting this week.

UAE underperforms

Dubai's index pulled back 1.3 percent to 3,362 points, its lowest close in 12 weeks. It turned technically bearish on Monday when it

broke technical support on the August and September lows of 3,430-3,442 points, which became immediate resistance. Losers outnumbered gainers 23 to three. Builder Drake and Scull dropped 3.8 percent and DXB Entertainments, which is due to open its theme parks in Dubai this month, lost 1.3 percent.

Banks weighed on Abu Dhabi's stock index, which closed 0.4 percent lower. Union National Bank retreated 3.7 percent and First Gulf Bank lost 0.9 percent. Qatar's index edged down 0.2 percent. Mobile operator Ooredoo led the falls, closing down 0.8 percent. Kuwait's National Investments Co jumped 5.7 percent after it said it was appointed to execute the purchase of a majority stake in Kuwait Food Co on behalf of one of its clients. Kuwait Food rose 0.8 percent, and the general market index edged up 0.04 percent. —Reuters

MARKAZ: GCC MARKETS FALL DESPITE RISING OIL PRICES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre “Markaz” recently released its Monthly Market Research report. In this report, Markaz examines and analyzes the performance of equity markets in the MENA region as well as the global equity markets for the month of September.

The report stated that GCC bourses continued to stumble in the month of September, despite the oil price touching USD 50 per barrel. Saudi’s TASI index shed 7.5%, followed by Qatar (5%) and Egypt (3.5%). Saudi Arabia’s stock market went deep into red over fears that the government could introduce more austerity measures to curb a big budget deficit caused by low oil prices. Despite addition of 22 stocks in the FTSE’s secondary emerging market index, across the board profit booking in Qatar and declining Producer’s Price Index (PPI), led to the index falling by 5% last month.

Speculation over possible further devaluation of the Egyptian pound, due to expected floatation of the currency in the market, led to increased volatility in the Egyptian markets, as the country’s main index declined 3.5% in September. Morocco was the top performing market in September, rising by 1.8%, while Kuwait indices had a mixed month, with the price index falling marginally by 0.4%, and the

weighted index rising by 1.3%. The S&P GCC also followed suit, declining by close to 4% in the month of September, and closing at 87 points.

The report added that although the oil price rose by over 4%, on the back of the OPEC agreement to limit crude output, Saudi index fell considerably after the Saudi government announced that it was reducing salaries and allowances for public sector employees. Many investors believe that additional austerity steps, such as new fees or taxes on the kingdom’s large workforce of foreigners, could also be approved soon. Middle East fund managers have turned negative towards Saudi Arabian equities for the next three months because of the anticipated austerity policies.

Blue Chips also had a negative month, with Saudi Electric Company (SEC) and Ezzan Holdings (Qatar) ending the month at the bottom of the pile, losing 12.5% and 10.6%, respectively. Zain (Kuwait) and Kuwait Food Co. witnessed a gain of 4.7% and 3.3%, respectively. SEC signed a USD 1.3bn Islamic loan in September, after having already secured loans worth USD 3.8bn earlier this year. The company claims that this new loan will be used towards supporting its projects’ capital expenditure needs. The murabaha loan was supplied by three local banks: Banque



Saudi Fransi, National Commercial Bank and Samba Financial Group. SEC also announced plans in August to privatize its assets by the end of the year, as part of a drive to increase efficiency in the kingdom’s utilities. A few of the large cap stocks in the Qatar index were included in the FTSE’s Russell emerging market index in August. Investors cashed in on the gains post inclusion as a few stocks’ values retreated, with Ezzan Holdings featuring among them. Anticipation of Zain’s first unified telecommunications license to operate in Saudi Arabia, led to increase in share price in the month of September.

Saudi cuts public sector wages

Saudi Arabia cut ministers’ salaries by 20%, and scaled back financial perks for public sector employees in one of the most drastic measures taken by the energy-rich kingdom to save money, at a time when oil prices are sub-par. The measures, effective from

October 2016, constitute the first pay cuts for government employees, who make up about two-thirds of working Saudi population. According to the announcement, housing and car allowances for members of the appointed Shoura Council will be cut by 15%. Overtime bonuses are to be curbed at between 25 and 50% of basic salaries, while annual leave may no longer exceed 30 days. Oman has launched a combined USD 1.5bn tap of its June 2021 and June 2026 bonds. The five-year tranche will raise USD 500mn at 230bps over Treasuries, while the 10-year note will be for USD 1bn at plus 315bps. Oman is rated Baa1 by Moody’s and BBB- by S&P.

Oil market review

Brent crude rose USD 2.02 per barrel in the month of September, after the OPEC members struck a deal to limit crude output. This is the first agreement to cut production, since 2008, and the deal will be finalized at its policy meeting in November. The group reached an agreement to limit its production within a range of 32.5m-33m million barrels per day (bpd) in talks held on the sidelines of the 26-28 September International Energy Forum in Algiers. At the month end, Brent crude had risen 4.3% to close at USD 49 per barrel, which represents a YTD increase of close of 32%.



SUNBURY: This file photo taken on April 22, 2015 shows a woman as she carries her purchases in plastic shopping bags outside a Tesco supermarket. — AFP

TESCO RINGS UP IMPROVING RESULTS AMID BRITISH SUPERMARKET WAR

IMPRESSED INVESTORS SEND SHARE PRICES SOARING

LONDON: Troubled British supermarket giant Tesco, the nation’s biggest retailer, rang up improving earnings yesterday in the face of fierce competition, particularly from German-owned discounters Aldi and Lidl. Tesco, which is recovering from an accounting scandal, revealed in a results statement that it had slashed net losses in the first half of its current financial year, and posted rising underlying earnings-and its third successive quarter of sales growth-after cutting prices.

Investors were impressed, sending Tesco’s share price soaring almost 10 percent in morning trade to top the risers’ board on London’s FTSE 100 index. The firm meanwhile repeated that it was cooperating with a British criminal probe after three former executives were charged last month with fraud and false accounting. In recent years, Aldi and its rival Lidl have boomed in Britain, grabbing valuable market share from traditional supermarkets Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury’s and Tesco, as customers tightened their belts to save money. Tesco said yesterday it had axed prices by six percent since September 2014, in a key turnaround plan spearheaded by chief executive Dave Lewis.

Turnaround gathers pace

Lewis was parachuted into Tesco-the world’s third-biggest supermarket chain after France’s Carrefour and global leader Walmart-in July 2014 in a bid to turn around its fortunes at the group,

which posted a record loss in 2014/2015. He has since launched a deep cost-cutting drive and sold a series of assets, and outlined fresh plans yesterday to slash costs by another £1.5 billion (\$1.9 billion, 1.7 billion euros) over the next three years.

“Tesco has invested heavily in reducing prices in the last two years, and has gradually reduced its customer exodus to the discounters Aldi and Lidl,” said CMC Markets analyst Jasper Lawler. “Both the German chains are still rapidly gaining market share but less of it is coming from Tesco, with Walmart-owned Asda notably falling out of favor.” At the same time, Tesco also faces a fast-changing landscape in Britain’s supermarket sector. Sainsbury’s completed its £1.4-billion purchase of Home Retail Group, owner of catalogue chain Argos, in early September. Morrisons has meanwhile forged a tie-up with Amazon to sell products on the US online giant’s Prime service, while they are also available from online delivery service Ocado alongside those from upmarket supermarket chain Waitrose.

“While Tesco continues to lose shopping trips to discounters such as Aldi and Lidl, it has managed to offset the decline by gaining share from other parts of the market, especially Asda,” noted Himanshu Pal, vice president at Kantar Retail. “However, despite the improved performance, Tesco continues to face strong headwinds as competitors ramp up their capabilities-for example Sainsbury’s acquisition and subsequent inte-

gration of Argos, and Morrisons’ partnerships with Amazon and Ocado.” For its part, Aldi had announced last week that it would ramp up its British expansion, unaffected by the shock Brexit referendum, with a £300-million investment to revamp stores.

‘Playing discounters at own game’

“Tesco is playing the discounters at their own game, cutting prices across much of their essentials range,” added Philip Benton, analyst at consultancy Euromonitor International. “The retailer is still dealing with the threat posed by discounters Aldi and Lidl that will continue to eat up market share, impacting not only Tesco but its supermarket rivals too, due to their rapid UK expansion.” Tesco added that net losses-or losses after taxation-narrowed sharply to £91 million in the 26 weeks to August 27, compared with £365 million a year earlier. Pre-tax profit however slid 28.3 percent to £71 million in the reporting period, hit partly by the impact of price cutbacks. In home market Britain, sales excluding petrol on a like-for-like basis-which strips out the impact of new floor space-surged 0.9 percent in the second quarter. That was the third straight quarterly expansion. Turning to Brexit, Tesco acknowledged there would be “risks and uncertainties” arising from Britain’s looming EU exit-but said there would not be a “material adverse impact on the group’s results” in the current financial year. — AFP

US BUSINESSES ADD FEWEST JOBS IN 5 MONTHS: SURVEY

WASHINGTON: US businesses added 154,000 jobs in September, the slowest pace of hiring since April, a private survey found. Payroll processor ADP said yesterday that manufacturers cut jobs for the eighth straight month and professional and business services, which includes high-paying jobs such as accountants and engineers, added the fewest jobs in five months.

The modest job gain adds to other recent evidence that hiring is slowing after several years of strong increases. Businesses added 175,000 jobs in August, ADP’s report said, and 196,000 in July. Recent economic data has painted a mixed picture of the economy. Consumer spending slipped in August to its lowest level since March, yet consumer confidence has jumped to a nine-year high.

US manufacturing expanded in September, after contracting in August, according to a survey by the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group. New orders and production jumped, but that survey also found that manufacturers are still cutting jobs. The ADP data cover only private businesses and often diverge from the official figures. Economists forecast

that the government’s jobs report, to be released Friday, will show a gain of 175,000 jobs, according to data provider FactSet. The unemployment rate is expected to remain 4.9 percent.

The government’s figures show that employers added an average of 229,000 jobs a month last year. Through the first eight months of this year, that has slowed to an average of 182,000. Still, gains at that pace are enough to lower the unemployment rate over time. Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody’s Analytics, which helps compile the ADP figures, says the slowdown has occurred mostly because the unemployment rate is low and employers have fewer people out of work to choose from.

Zandi expects the monthly gains will continue to slow, however, until they match the growth of the adult population, which is about 85,000 a month. The Federal Reserve is closely monitoring the job market as it considers whether to raise the short-term interest rate it controls for the first time this year. The job gains are healthy enough to justify a rate increase in December, Zandi said. — AP

EGYPT’S NON-OIL BUSINESS ACTIVITY SLOWDOWN STRETCHES TO ONE YEAR

CAIRO: Business activity in Egypt shrank for the 12th consecutive month in September, with output declining the most in five months and a weakening currency pushing up prices, a survey yesterday found. The Emirates NBD Egypt Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) for the non-oil private sector stood at 46.3 points, down from August’s 47.0 points and well below the 50 point mark that separates growth from contraction. “As well as marking a one-year downturn, the latest reading pointed to an accelerated contraction for the second straight month,” said Markit, which compiled the data.

Egypt has struggled to revive its economy since a popular uprising in 2011 drove away investors and tourists, hitting inflows of foreign currency it needs to import raw materials and jumpstart its domestic industries. The country reached a preliminary agreement with the International Monetary Fund in August for a three-year \$12 billion loan program aimed at plugging its financing gap and stabilizing its currency market.

Jean-Paul Pigat, senior economist at Emirates NBD said the weakening cur-

rency and a value-added tax adopted recently as part of economic reforms had combined to push up prices and weigh on growth. “While many of the economic reforms expected in Q4 will ultimately prove beneficial for long-term stability, in the near term they could result in a further deterioration in business conditions for the private sector,” he added.

Headline inflation jumped to 15.5 percent in August, its highest in nearly eight years. Egypt is widely expected to soon devalue its currency, which officially trades at 8.78 pounds to the dollar, to bring it into line with a black market rate that has hovered at around 14 pounds in recent days. Other expected reforms include cuts to the bloated civil service and further slashes to subsidies in petroleum and electricity. Weaker output and declines in new business continued to weigh on employment, which dropped for a 16th consecutive month in September, Markit said, adding: “The rate of job shedding was only marginally slower than August’s survey-record.” Egypt’s official unemployment rate was 12.5 percent in the second quarter. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.959
Indian Rupees	4.554
Pakistani Rupees	2.896
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.070
Nepali Rupees	2.851
Singapore Dollar	222.090
Hongkong Dollar	39.017
Bangladesh Taka	3.858
Philippine Peso	6.284
Thai Baht	8.765

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.736
Qatari Riyal	83.160
ani Riyal	786.383
Bahraini Dinar	804.040
UAE Dirham	82.430

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.023
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.215
Tunisian Dinar	137.860
Jordanian Dinar	426.950
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017
Syrian Lira	2.0158
Morocco Dirham	31.587

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.600
Euro	340.120
Sterling Pound	389.450

Canadian dollar	230.990
Turkish lira	1005.300
Swiss Franc	311.640
Australian Dollar	233.610
US Dollar Buying	301.400

GOLD

20 Gram	264.390
10 Gram	135.120
5 Gram	68.400

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.450
Canadian Dollar	229.805
Sterling Pound	392.985
Euro	340.530
Swiss Frank	294.247
Bahrain Dinar	799.545
UAE Dirhams	82.575
Qatari Riyals	83.785
Saudi Riyals	81.375
Jordanian Dinar	426.180
Egyptian Pound	33.962
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.071
Indian Rupees	4.527
Pakistani Rupees	2.881
Bangladesh Taka	3.848
Philippines Peso	6.270
Cyprus pound	159.409
Japanese Yen	3.985
Syrian Pound	2.410

Nepalese Rupees	3.830
Malaysian Ringgit	73.990
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.695
Thai Bhat	9.700
Turkish Lira	102.000

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY EURO	SELL
British Pound	0.385950	0.395950
Czech Korune	0.004555	0.016555
Danish Krone	0.041469	0.046469
Euro	0.0333735	0.0342735
Norwegian Krone	0.033267	0.038467
Romanian Leu	0.083750	0.083750
Slovakia	0.008997	0.018997
Swedish Krona	0.031355	0.036355
Swiss Franc	0.305467	0.316467
Turkish Lira	0.097808	0.108108
Australian Dollar	0.222798	0.234798
New Zealand Dollar	0.213191	0.222691
Canada Dollar	0.224365	0.233365
Georgina Lari	0.136487	0.136487
US Dollars	0.298100	0.302800
US Dollars Mint	0.298600	0.302800
Bangladesh Taka	0.003299	0.003883
Chinese Yuan	0.043770	0.047270

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036891	0.039641
Indian Rupee	0.004253	0.004642
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002916	0.003096
Kenyan Shilling	0.003108	0.003108
Korean Won	0.000264	0.000279
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070079	0.076079
Nepalese Rupee	0.002804	0.002974
Pakistan Rupee	0.002740	0.003030
Philippine Peso	0.006237	0.006537
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217526	0.227526
South African Rand	0.016285	0.024785
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001654	0.002234
Taiwan	0.009493	0.009673
Thai Baht	0.008374	0.008921

Bahraini Dinar	0.795023	0.803523
Egyptian Pound	0.024009	0.029127
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.422075	0.431075
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019737	0.043737
Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Omani Riyal	0.778515	0.784195
Qatar Riyal	0.082196	0.083645
Saudi Riyal	0.079500	0.080800
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.133780	0.141780
Turkish Lira	0.097808	0.108108
UAE Dirhams	0.080853	0.082553
Yemeni Riyal	0.001366	0.001446



—Photos by Joseph Shagra

ARABNET KUWAIT FORUM 2016 CONCLUDES

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The Kuwait market is 97 percent smartphone saturated, and social media is taking the nation by storm, Bilal Al-Mourad, Connect Director - Kuwait, Ipsos told Kuwait Times yesterday, the final day of the Arabnet conference. Ipsos is a global market research and consulting firm. Mourad presented the prospect of social media in Kuwait and how it is actually changing the attitude of many. According to Bilal, Kuwait is now known as a social media hub and that Kuwait has the highest penetration of social media activities among GCC countries compared to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"Social media in Kuwait has evolved tremendously and everyone is using the technology. According to our survey, it's close to 97 percent saturation. Kuwaitis love to use Instagram and Twitter, while non-Arab expats are more on Facebook. Almost everyone is using social media nowadays," he said. "Nearly everyone in Kuwait has smartphones too. We only saw one percent growth in 2016, the reason being that we have reached the saturation point. Social media is really taking everyone by storm, but technology is evolving quickly. Maybe in the next couple of years, it will also die out and another technology will emerge. Technology is really taking us to the next level rapidly," Mourad said.

IPSOS was founded in 1975 and has been publicly traded on the Paris Stock Exchange since July 1, 1999. A self-taught goal getter, Mourad's experience comes from the number one research agency in the region, excelling in all projects and products, powered by a professional team with great work ethics. "Do it with passion or not at all!" is his motto.

Careem: Carpooling tech

Another technology taking everyone by storm is carpooling apps, even as they continue to face regulatory challenges all over the Middle East. Abdulla Elyas, Careem Co-Founder, explained how the company is now being utilized as a means of transportation



Hassan Al-Mousawi

with lesser hassles and safety issues. Elyas has over 10 years of professional experience in managing and consulting of software projects, and advising customers like PepsiCo in the US, Vodafone in Malaysia and SABIC in Saudi Arabia.

He founded Enwani in 2012, internationally awarded by France's Sophia Business Angels as the Most Investable Company, which was acquired by Careem, where Elyas joined as cofounder in 2014. Elyas has also cofounded social tech startups islam.de and waymo.net. In 2016, Abdulla joined the Saudi Arabian SME Authority as a board member.

"I founded the company four years ago. It's a carpooling app. This is the fastest growing technology company now in the Middle East. In Kuwait we launched less than a year ago, but we are getting customers. We are already in 10 countries in the Middle East and have a presence in over 30 cities. We provide people transportation through the app. Wherever you

are in Kuwait or the Middle East, you will be located by our GPS. We will take you to the place where you want to go, with a safe and reliable transportation service. You do not need to think about any parking issues, and can use your mobile phone in the comfort of our cars," he said.

Careem accepts credit cards, cash and other payment methods. "We are growing monthly by 30 percent. Everyone is busy and wants to save time, and everyone needs transportation," Elyas said. The challenge, according to Elyas, is government regulators who are not yet ready to come up with better regulations for such apps. "This service is new to everyone. The main challenge mainly is to convince the government how they can better help us offer these services. The beauty of our service is that we are extremely efficient. The way we operate is not known to many yet, but we hope to be able overcome some hindrances," he added.



Bilal Al-Mourad

"When we look back all these years, we have served millions of people. In Saudi Arabia, women cannot drive, so the service is very popular - 80 to 85 percent of users are women. In Kuwait, it will help address the '3-5 cars' per family issue, because if you provide better services as we do, these car owners will maybe use Careem services instead," Elyas said. With Careem, all you need to do is choose the car type that best suits your needs, then select 'First, Business and Economy' class cars. Careem automatically locates customers' addresses using GPS.

Social media trend

Social media is changing the landscape of almost all sectors of mass media. Hassan Al-Mousawi, Head of Communications - Vice Chairman's Office, Zain, said people are bombarded left and right with adverts popping up on smartphones. "From 20 earlier to

300 ads now is something. This is how we are moving now in this world, bombarded with information. Kuwait's social media use is very specific to some subjects and specific to people's need and wants," he said. "Before, we had the top five people endorsing products or brands, but now every segment has its own people to look into social media depending on the products and industry. But we have to be cautious when endorsing products because it comes with responsibility. We have a responsibility to people who believe in our brands," he said.

From an accountant in the oil sector to founding and building one of the largest social media companies - 'Richter' - Mousawi has made quite an impact in the business world by understanding the essence of what makes products and services sell, as well as the psychology of trends, creating a bridge between the core values of a business and all its stakeholders.

Kaswara Al-Khatib, Chairman and CEO, UTURN, also capitalized on the social media trend using online technology. Khatib established 'Made in Saudi Films', a full-fledged production and postproduction house. In 2011, he founded UTURN, an online entertainment network that has grown to become the largest Arabic MPN with 50 channels under the network, 30 million followers and subscribers and 2.5 billion views.

"We capitalized on the growing trend online and we started with small productions. We were slowly being recognized, so we continued to create and innovate with new categories. We included various categories for kids, sports, adults and entertainment for families," he said. UTURN creates content through its own productions, but also accepts material from independent producers. "The company relies heavily on advertising and subscribers who are believers in our products," he said, adding that people in the Middle East in general are mature enough in selecting the best programs and entertainment they desire.



BREAKTHROUGH OFFERS, DISCOUNTS FOR CLIENTS ONLY ON KFHome

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers its clients vast array of offers and discounts on different shopping outlets accessible on its application KFHome through new innovative features; Outlets, Offers & Services as part of its ongoing efforts to offer best customer service, while providing seamless advantages to its customers in a truly high-end banking experience.

Those features enable customers to conveniently browse through their favorite brands by interest & category in a more visual and interactive oriented style, listing all the discounts and offers via KFH cards. Hence the best way to benefit from this feature is to access it prior to login into the app,

and simply browse all discounts before making a purchasing decision which would offer the customer the advantage and benefits of saving more.

Moreover, the 'Offers & Services' feature delivers the customer a more interactive experience, where they can view the latest weekly offers and monthly promotions presented from KFH. It doesn't stop there as this section is set up in a way to conveniently present videos of product reviews from multiple brands and the ability to deploy state-of-the-art interactive surveys that can be used to gather insights from customers about their favorite brands, products and even banking services in general.

GERMAN CAR SALES SEE BIG JUMP IN SEPTEMBER

FRANKFURT: German new car sales increased sharply in September for the second month in a row, official data showed yesterday. The KBA transport authority recorded 298,002 new cars on the road in September, an increase of 9.4 percent over the same month in 2015. September's figure follows a big increase of 8.3 percent reported by the KBA in August.

Scandal-hit manufacturer Volkswagen-

which in September 2015 admitted to installing software to cheat emissions tests on 11 million cars worldwide-retained the biggest share of the German market at 19.5 percent for its own-branded cars. That put this September's figure 1.7 percent higher than the same month in 2015, at 58,000 vehicles. But over the whole year to September VW's sales remained 1.0 percent lower than last year. —AFP

SELLING UNIFORMS: VENEZUELA OIL WORKERS FEEL THE PINCH

MARACAIBO: For decades, jobs at Venezuela's state-run oil giant PDVSA were coveted for above average salaries, generous benefits and cheap credit that brought home ownership and vacationing abroad within reach for many workers. Now, in Venezuela's asphyxiating economy, even PDVSA employees are struggling to pay for everything from food and bus rides to school fees as triple-digit inflation eats away incomes.

They are pawning goods, maxing out credit cards, taking side jobs, and even selling PDVSA uniforms to buy food, according to Reuters' interviews with two dozen workers, family members, and union leaders. "Every day a PDVSA worker comes to sell his overall," said Elmer, a hawk-er at the biggest market in the oil city of Maracaibo, as shoppers eyed pricey rice and flour imported from neighboring Colombia. "They also sell boots, trousers, gloves and masks."

The bulk of PDVSA's roughly 150,000 workers make from \$35 to \$150 a month plus some \$90 dollars in food tickets, as calculated at the black market exchange rate. It is still more than many Venezuelans, but not enough, employees say. "Sometimes we let the kids sleep in until noon to save on breakfast," said a maintenance worker who works on the shores of Maracaibo Lake, Venezuela's traditional oil-producing area near the Colombian border. He said he has lost five kilos (11 lb) this year because of scrimping on food.

The toll of the economic crisis is fueling worker disillusionment, absenteeism, and a brain drain and is hurting efficiency in the industry which produces more than 90 percent of Venezuela's export revenue. "Most of us aren't as productive as we used to be, because we're more focused on how to survive economically," said the maintenance worker, speaking on condition of anonymity as he said he feared reprisals. That adds to a wide array of problems caused by a cash shortfall - from underinvestment and part shortages to poor maintenance, theft and insufficient imports for blending.

As a result, the OPEC member's oil output tumbled this year, dealing another blow to the unpopular government of leftist President Nicolas Maduro, already under pressure due to low international oil prices. PDVSA, which did not respond to a request for comment for this story, says its employees are happy and state television regularly shows crowds of cheering PDVSA workers in red overalls. The company talks of a right-wing media campaign to discredit late leader Hugo Chavez's "21st century Socialism." "While PDVSA does not escape the (oil) price situation, its workforce remains intact and ready to generate initiatives to boost major projects," it said recently. —Reuters

Taiwan Trade Meeting in Kuwait

**One-on-One Trade Meeting with
10 Taiwanese Companies
October 9 (Sunday) 2016
7th Floor – 10:00 AM To 5:00PM
Golden Ballroom – Sheraton Hotel
Kuwait**

Auto Spare Parts	Electronics
Building Materials & Decoration	Hardware & Tools
Machines and Medical Parts	Fitness Equipments

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Organized by:
Bureau of Foreign Trade, MOEA, Taiwan Ad by: BOFT Taiwan Trade Center, Kuwait

ASIA STOCKS DOWN AS POLICY FEARS RETURN

HONG KONG: Expectations the US will hike interest rates and the EU will also tighten monetary policy dragged most Asian and European markets lower yesterday, but Tokyo chalked up a third-straight gain as a weaker yen helped exporters.

The dollar pushed on with this week's rally against global currencies, including hitting another three-decade high against the beleaguered pound.

Investors were given a weak lead by their US counterparts after comments from two top Federal Reserve officials fanned speculation it will lift borrowing costs before the end of the year. Talk of an increase returned after data last week showed US factory activity rebounded in

September, while trading floors gear up ahead of a crucial jobs report Friday.

On Tuesday Cleveland Fed president Loretta Mester said she saw a strong case for a rate hike in November. They were followed by Richmond Fed head Jeffrey Lacker, who said a rise was needed to avert a surge in inflation that could lead to sharp rate hikes later. "A December rate hike seems almost certain, and it sounds like that may be followed by two more rate hikes next year instead of one," Chihiro Ohta, a Tokyo-based senior strategist at SMBC Nikko Securities, told Bloomberg News.

Bloomberg also cited unnamed European Central Bank officials on Tuesday as saying

there was an "informal consensus" that it should gradually scale back its bond-buying program in steps of 10 billion euros. The news from Europe and the US comes as analysts warn the years of cheap cash are likely coming to an end, with the US economy picking up.

Dollar rallies

Talk of higher US rates has boosted the dollar this week and on Wednesday it toyed with 103 yen in the morning before dipping back to 102.90 yen, slightly up from its level in New York. The greenback also stormed higher against higher-yielding Asia-Pacific currencies, including the Australian dollar, South Korean

won, Indonesian rupiah and Malaysian ringgit.

Japan's exporters were lifted by the weaker yen, sending the Nikkei stock index to end up 0.5 percent, extending a rally to three-straight days. Hong Kong posted a third gain, adding 0.4 percent, with the Hang Seng buoyed by recent upbeat China data and the impending opening of a link-up with the Shenzhen stock exchange that could see fresh funds flood in. But most other Asian markets struggled. Sydney fell 0.6 percent, Seoul lost 0.1 percent, Manila tumbled 1.2 percent and Wellington was off 1.1 percent. Singapore was flat.

In early European trade London dipped 0.1 percent, Frankfurt slid 0.8 percent and Paris shed 0.9 percent. "We've been at an inflection

point in financial markets for a few weeks now, with market participants sensing a changing tide among central banks," Chris Weston, chief markets strategist at IG Ltd. in Melbourne, said in an e-mail to clients.

The pound tumbled briefly to a fresh 31-year low below \$1.27 after British Prime Minister Theresa May set out a timetable for leaving the European Union by 2019. It was also at three-year lows against the euro, with talk of tighter ECB policy adding to the pound's woes. The stronger dollar also sent gold tumbling almost \$39 Wednesday to \$1,270, its lowest levels since mid-June, before Britain's shock vote to leave the EU sent dealers rushing for safe haven investments. —AP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

جوابيل

Wednesday 05 October 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▲ 2.35	5,354.82	5,352.47	5,356.30	5,342.58
Weighted Index	▲ 1.98	349.85	347.87	349.85	347.49
KSX 15	▲ 8.69	812.88	804.19	812.88	805.01

Volume	76,261,852
Value (KWD)	10,742,289
Number of Trades	2,273

Security	High	Low	Trades					
			Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	—	0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	—	0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	—	0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	—	0.0
ENERGYH	44.5	44.5	4,000	178	2	44.5	▲	1.5
GPI	38.5	38.0	546,112	20,775	11	38.5	—	0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
Oil & Gas			550,112	20,953	13	744.20	▲	2.57
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	—	0.0
BPCC	480	480	191,469	91,905	4	480	—	0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	—	0.0
ALQURAIN	196	194	387,480	75,942	23	196	—	0.0
Basic Materials			578,949	167,847	27	914.11	—	0.00

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370	—	0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	0.0
CABLE	375	365	120,090	44,284	15	375	▲	10.0
SHIP	160	152	26,067	4,163	5	160	▲	4.0
PCEM	950	940	19,487	18,388	6	940	▼	-10.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	—	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	—	0.0
ACICO	285	285	40,000	11,400	3	285	—	0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	325	—	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	—	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	—	0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	—	0.0
EQUIPMENT	47.0	46.0	386,777	17,925	20	46.5	—	0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	—	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	—	0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	—	0.0
AGLTY	475	470	760,753	359,629	19	475	—	0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	—	0.0
CLEANING	39.5	38.5	306,893	11,984	10	38.5	▼	-1.0
KGL	46.5	45.0	415,700	18,977	20	46.5	▲	1.5
KCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	—	0.0
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,560	—	0.0
NAFAIS	180	180	175,000	31,500	1	180	—	0.0
SAFYAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0.0
GFC	30.5	29.0	1,001	29	3	30.5	▼	-1.0
MAYADEEN	29.0	28.5	958,150	27,307	26	29.0	—	0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	—	0.0
MTCC	57	52	844,600	44,966	33	53	▼	-2.0
UPAC	690	690	10,000	6,900	2	690	▼	-10.0
ALAFCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	212	—	0.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	53	—	0.0
LOGISTICS	77	75	145,000	10,960	12	75	—	0.0
SCEM	80	80	124,000	9,920	6	80	—	0.0
GCEM	75	75	240,195	18,015	3	75	—	0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
RCWM	79	79	100,000	7,900	1	79	—	0.0
RQWC	90	90	27,554	2,480	2	90	▼	-1.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	—	0.0
Industrials			4,701,267	646,756	187	1152.05	▼	-1.68

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	—	0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	—	0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	236	—	0.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	—	0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	—	0.0
FOOD	2,500	2,480	326,040	813,600	31	2,500	▲	20.0
Consumer Goods			326,040	813,600	31	1118.14	▲	3.35
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	—	0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	218	—	0
Health Care			0	0	0	1065.37	—	0.00

KCIN	940	940	1	1	1	940	—	0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	0
SULTAN	58	54	581,323	32,709	26	58	▲	4
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0	—	0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0
IFAUH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	—	0
OULAFUEL	112	110	336,733	37,705	25	110	▼	-2
MUNTAZAHAT	78	77	3,100	239	4	77	▼	-1
JAZEERA	820	820	148,168	121,498	9	820	▼	-10
SOOR	112	112	48,226	5,401	16	112	—	0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—	0
ALRAI	142	142	2,000	284	1	142	▼	-4
ZMAH	39.0	38.5	355,000	13,762	13	38.5	▼	-2
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	—	0
Mezzan	970	940	189,700	179,703	28	960	▲	10
Consumer Services			1,664,251	391,302	123	899.49	▼	-4.35

ZAIN	340	335	6,096,049	2,042,191	77	340	▲	5
OOREDOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,060	—	0
HITSTELEC	36.5	35.5	1,288,000	45,865	16	35.5	▼	-1
VIVA	870	860	88,965	77,277	50	870	—	0
Telecommunications			7,473,014	2,165,333	143	568.83	▼	-0.91
NBK	590	580	2,964,873	1,738,603	68	590	▲	10
GBK	232	228	91,383	20,961	14	232	▲	4
CBK	405	395	154,574	62,202	9	395	▼	-20
ABK	325	320	137,294	44,059	4	320	▼	-5
ALMUTAHEH	385	385	16,903	8,508	1	385	—	0
KIB	188	188	100,000	18,800	3	188	▲	2
BURG	325	320	846,108	274,330	17	325	—	0
KFIN	470	460	1,562,430	726,227	50	470	▲	10
BOUBRYAN	390	380	2,101,461	805,887	58	380	▼	-5
AUB	192	190	719,900	138,181	8	192	▲	2
ITHMR	36.0	35.0	436,432	15,275	7	36.0	▲	1
WARBABANK	166	164	212,357	34,849	52	166	▲	2
Banks			9,343,715	3,885,881	291	789.93	▲	3.92

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	240	—	0
GINS	700	670	63,650	42,980	5	680	—	0.0
AINS	455	455	3,475	1,581	3	455	—	0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	—	0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	—	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.0	—	0.0
WETHAQ	29.0	29.0	14,900	432	3	29.0	▼	-1.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			82,025	44,993	11	966.48	▼	-3.84

Security	High	Low	Trades					
			Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	
SOKOUK	29.5	29.0	313500	9,153	25	29.0	▼	-1.0
KRE	50	49.5	385,964	19,285	6	50	—	0.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	—	0.0
NRE	75	74	50,480	3,737	4	75	—	0.0
SRE	365	360	70,000	25,450	2	365	—	0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	540	—	0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	—	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	—	0.0
ARABREC	30.0	29.0	137,555	4,058	11	30.0	—	0.0
ERESCO	41.5	40.0	1,057,448	43,267	36	41.5	▲	2.0
MABANEE	810	800	327,651	262,221	19	810	▲	10.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	—	0.0
INVESTORS	21.0	20.5	820,100	16,813	11	21.0	—	0.0
IRC	26.0	26.0	20	1	1	26.0	▲	1.0
ALTJARIA	76	76	150,087	11,407	3	76	—	0.0
SANAM	29.0	28.5	14,000	404	3	29.0	▼	-1.5
AAYANRE	60	60	396,075	23,765	5	60	—	0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	—	0.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	—	0.0
MAZAYA	108	108	500,000	54,000	8	108	▼	-2.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	—	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
TJARIA	39.5	39.5	99,403	3,926	2	39.5	—	0.0
TAAMEER	20.0	20.0	50,000	1,000	1	20.0	▲	0.5
ARKAN	75	75	5,000	375	1	75	—	0.0
ARGAN	170	170	1,000	170	1	170	▲	2.0
ABYAR	20.5	20.0	2,505,994	50,125	34	20.0	—	0.0
MUNSHAAT	46.5	46.0	1,350,000	62,120	41	46.0	—	0.0
FIRSTDUBAI	57	57	693	40	2	57	—	0.0
KBT	37.5	36.0	159,100	5,821	11	37.0	—	0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	—	0.0
MENA	19.5	19.0	15,000	288	2	19.0	▼	-0.5
ALMUDON	29.0	27.5	3,235,739	91,280	58	28.5	▲	1.0
MARAKEZ	34.0	33.5	1,992	67	6	34.0	▲	0.5
REMAI	52	46.5	12,799,752	630,048	314	46.5	▼	-2.5
AWJ	57	56	71,182	3,992	5	57	—	0.0
Real Estate			24,517,735	1,322,809	612	809.42	▼	-0.29

KINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	—	0.0
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CONTROVERSIAL INDONESIA TAX AMNESTY PROVES DIVISIVE

JAKARTA: Indonesia has hailed a tax amnesty as a major success after it raised more than \$7 billion in its first few months, but criticism is mounting that the controversial scheme lets the super-rich off the hook. Authorities began the flagship policy with much fanfare in July, asking Indonesians to declare their hidden wealth in exchange for paying penalties far below regular tax rates.

President Joko Widodo is desperate for extra money to boost Southeast Asia's top economy after almost two years in power, during which his efforts to turn around slowing growth have met with little success. The government hopes the initiative will lure back tens of billions of dollars stashed abroad, particularly in neighboring city-state Singapore, and get more people to pay tax in a country where only about 10 percent are registered taxpayers.

The first phase of the amnesty—when people pay penalties as low as two percent on declared assets—closed last week with better-than-expected results after a late surge in interest. More than 350,000 people declared assets totaling 3,620 trillion rupiah (\$278 billion), which brought the government 97.2 trillion rupiah (\$7.46 billion) in revenue, according to finance ministry data. Widodo, known popularly as Jokowi, hailed the “trust from the people and the business community towards the government” while analysts welcomed the positive start to the amnesty, which runs until March.

But the initiative has been watched with increasing anger by activists and some sections of the public in recent weeks as a long list of the country's wealthiest tycoons have rushed to declare assets with no obligation to say where they came from. Tommy Suharto, the multimillionaire son of former dictator Suharto, and James Riady, boss of major conglomerate Lippo Group, are among those who signed up. The government has encouraged the participation of business chiefs in a bid to spur interest in the initiative after a sluggish start, with the super-rich rushed down VIP lanes in a blaze of publicity as they arrive at tax offices to sign up.

Anger on the streets

But such treatment amounts to holding the wealthy up as heroes when all they are doing is paying their taxes, said Firdaus Ilyas, an activist from NGO Indonesia Corruption Watch. “The image being built up is that people who take part in the tax amnesty are heroes helping develop the nation,” he told AFP. “But we know if they take part in (the amnesty), it means they didn't pay tax.” Among the small number of Indonesians who have regularly paid their taxes, there is disappointment at the treatment being given to the super-rich simply for paying up at a rate below normal.

Regular tax rates for individuals range from five percent to 30 percent depending on income while the corporate tax rate is 25 percent. In the first phase of the amnesty, participants pay penalties of between two and four percent on declared assets. “The tax amnesty is only good for the big people,” said Johni Yusuf, a businessmen in his mid-30s who runs a small shop selling household goods in Jakarta. “It's unfair, I always pay my taxes.”

Activists have challenged the amnesty in the Constitutional Court while the anger spilled out on to the streets last week when thousands protested against the scheme in Jakarta, with demonstrators saying the money could have come from corrupt activities.

Ken Dwijugasteadi, the government's top tax official, refused to be drawn on whether he was concerned about where the money came from, saying the tax office's job was just to collect the funds.

Despite the concerns, many analysts believe the positives outweigh the negatives. Indonesia needs the money to plug a budget deficit, and also desperately wants to get more people into its tax system—only about 30 million people are registered taxpayers out of a population of 255 million. “You have to look at the broader picture and consider whether at the end of this you've got more money taken out of the black economy and put into the real economy,” said Paul Rowland, a Jakarta-based independent political analyst. —AFP



JAKARTA: In this photograph taken on September 30, 2016, Indonesians report their tax figures on the last day of the tax amnesty first round program. —AFP

CHINA'S SOUTHERN MEGACITIES TO COOL PROPERTY MARKET

BEIJING: China's southern megacities of Guangzhou and Shenzhen are the latest centers to impose new measures to cool their overheated real estate markets, including higher mortgage down payments and home purchase restrictions. A property boom has given a welcome boost to China's economy this year, fuelling demand for everything from construction materials to furniture, but a growing buying frenzy is adding to worries about ever-rising debt and risks to the banking system. The new measures are the latest steps to tighten credit flowing into the property sector as the government tries to balance the need to prevent bubbles while stimulating economic growth.

Prices for new homes in the booming tech centre of Shenzhen rose 36.8 percent from a year ago in August, while Guangzhou's new home prices rose 21.1 percent over that period, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed.

Other cities including Chengdu, Jinan, Wuhan and Zhengzhou have already announced new restrictions on property purchases as the government tries to dampen prices stoked by property speculators in second- and third-tier cities across the country. The average new home price in 70 major cities climbed an annual 9.2 percent in August, up from 7.9 percent in July, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Nomura analysts said the new measures

were expected to help cool frothy prices in the biggest cities and should prevent the market frenzy from spilling over into smaller cities. “We also believe it unlikely that the latest tightening measures will cause the bubble to burst, sparking a collapse of home prices. We envision a more likely scenario to be a mild retreat or prolonged flattening of home prices in tier-1 cities,” they said in a note on Tuesday.

First-time home buyers in Shenzhen will face minimum down payments of 30 percent, but deposits for others will be raised to no less than 50 percent, state news agency Xinhua quoted a government document as saying. Down payments for second-home buyers in China's southern Guangdong province near Hong Kong will be increased to no less than 70 percent, Xinhua said without giving further details.

China's southern city of Guangzhou has limited local residents to purchasing a maximum of two properties, according to a statement posted late on Tuesday on the Guangzhou government's website.

Non-local residents will be allowed to buy one property, if they can prove they have paid appropriate levels of tax or social security. Separately, local media reported on Tuesday that Suzhou in China's eastern Jiangsu province had unveiled fresh measures steps, including higher down payment requirements, to cool the housing market. —Reuters

INDIAN POLICE DETAIN, QUESTION HUNDREDS OVER US TAX SCAM

MUMBAI: Indian police said yesterday they had detained and questioned more than 750 bogus call centre workers accused of stealing millions of dollars from American citizens by posing as United States tax officials. Some 200 officers raided seven premises masquerading as call centers in India's financial capital Mumbai in a massive operation on Tuesday night following a tip-off, a senior police official said.

“A total of 772 employees were detained. Out of this 70 were formally arrested and the others were released but investigations against them are ongoing,” said Sukhada Narkar, a spokesperson for police in the Thane suburb of Mumbai. Police allege that the accused would tele-

phone Americans and pretend to be officials from the Internal Revenue Service, the US government body responsible for collecting taxes. They would tell the person at the end of the phone that they had defaulted on their tax payments and owed money.

After duping the victims into revealing their bank details they would then withdraw money from their accounts, Narkar told AFP, adding that the fraud had been going on for over a year. She said police believe that the fraudsters were making around 10 million rupees (\$150,000) a day. “We have booked them under various sections of Indian penal code and action will be taken against these bogus call centers and their employees,” she added. —AFP



A picture shows the landscape seen from a train linking Addis Ababa to Djibouti. —AFP

CHINESE-BUILT RAILWAY LINKS ETHIOPIA TO SEA

A MAJOR BOOST TO BOTH ECONOMIES

ADDIS ABABA: With Chinese conductors at the helm, a fleet of shiny new trains will begin plying a new route from the Ethiopian capital to Djibouti, in a major boost to both economies. The 750 kilometer railway, built by two Chinese companies, will link Addis Ababa to the Red Sea port city of Djibouti in about 10 hours, a far cry from the current excruciating multi-day trip along a congested, pot-holed road.

“We're so excited! It takes two or three days for a truck to come from Djibouti. The driver doesn't answer his phone. We don't know where he is and that can be a bit of a nightmare, said Ethiopian importer Tingrit Worku. “The train could make a huge difference”. Some 1,500 trucks a day currently lumber along the road which carries 90 percent of imports and exports from landlocked Ethiopia to the port—a key trade hub to Asia, Europe and the rest of Africa. “This train is a game changer. Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. The connection to the ports (of Djibouti) will give a bounce and our economy will grow faster,” said Mekonnen Getachew, project manager of the Ethiopian Railways Corporation.

All Chinese staff

The Horn of Africa country was the world's fastest growing economy last year at 10.2 percent, however the International Monetary Fund estimates that the worst drought in 30 years is likely to see this plummet to 4.5 percent in 2016. Both countries benefit from economic integra-

tion, with Ethiopia gaining access to the sea and Djibouti gaining access to Ethiopia's emerging market of 95 million people.

“It is the first standard gauge electrified railroad on the continent built with Chinese standard and technology, and certainly it will not be the last. Many stand to benefit from it,” Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia La Yifan said in a statement. The new railway means the end of the historic French-built diesel line built in 1917, which fell into abandon in later decades, with frequent derailments. Yesterday's inauguration will be followed by a three-month test period, with no paying passengers and carrying only cargo.

However when the line is fully functional, uniformed Chinese controllers will welcome passengers to spotless platforms of newly built stations all along the route, while Chinese technicians and stationmasters will keep things running in the background. “We don't yet have the management experience yet. We have a management contract with Chinese staff for five years, with an Ethiopian counterpart in training,” said Getachew.

A first step

China has invested heavily in infrastructure in Ethiopia, funding sub-Saharan Africa's first modern tramway—which opened last year—as well as motorways and dams. The new \$3.4 billion (three billion euro) railway, with its red, yellow and green trains evoking the Ethiopian flag,

was 70 percent financed by China's Exim Bank and built by China Railway Group and China Civil Engineering Construction.

A high-level Chinese delegation, in Addis Ababa for the inauguration of the railway, on Tuesday signed further agreements worth \$100 million for the construction of roads, the state-controlled Fana Broadcasting Corporation reported. Natural resources from Africa have helped fuel China's economic boom, and it became the continent's largest trade partner in 2009.

Beijing even built the \$200 million African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa in 2012 as a gift expressing “friendship to the African people.” However direct investment in Africa slumped “more than 40 percent” last year, as growth slowed in the Asian giant. The railway is the first step in a vast network of 5,000 kilometers of rail which Ethiopia hopes to build by 2020.

“Our plan is to connect the train to Mekele (north), to Moyale (south), near Kenya, and to Gambella (west), near South Sudan. So we will be connected to Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan,” said Getachew. Djibouti, the smallest state in the Horn of Africa, sees the project as the start of a trans-African railway crossing the continent from the Red Sea to the Atlantic Ocean, a journey which takes three weeks by boat. However this dream appears far off, as the railway would have to pass through war-torn countries such as South Sudan or the Central African Republic. —AFP

PUERTO RICO OVERSIGHT BOARD'S SUCCESS MAY HINGE ON ELECTION

NEW YORK: A forthcoming financial turnaround plan for Puerto Rico, which the territory's oversight board wants on its desk in nine days, will probably change after the island's November election. For the board, it could be a welcome scenario. The bi-partisan board, created by the Puerto Rico rescue law known as PROMESA, set Oct 14 as a deadline for the territory's governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla to deliver a draft plan for how to boost island revenues and tackle its \$70 billion debt.

Garcia Padilla has unsettled Puerto Rico's creditors by insisting on deep debt cuts and defaulting on some payments, but he is not seeking a second term, so it will ultimately fall to his successor to work with the board to finalize the plan. Ricky Rossello, the leading candidate for his job, is seen as more likely to deliver a plan compatible with the philosophy of the board. Its members include bankruptcy experts and bankers - technocrats expected to push for long-term stability, not just a quick financial fix or a massive debt cut that might be appealing to Puerto Rican politicians.

The 37-year-old Rossello, a member of the opposition party, told Reuters in an interview he wanted to shrink the territory's government to avoid further debt defaults, and in contrast to Garcia Padilla, opposed cuts to principal on the island's most senior debt. “My view is general obligation debt should not take a haircut, but the good news is they have seemed willing to renegotiate terms - to refinance or extend,” he said, referring to the island's most senior debt and its holders.

The board is largely reviled in Puerto Rico, where locals feel it

infringes upon the US territory's self-governance. Rossello and his main opponent, ruling party member David Bernier, have both taken issue with the scope of the board's powers, but said they would cooperate with it. Daniel Hanson, a Height Securities analyst who closely follows Puerto Rico, said he expected the board's relationship

opposition. An ailing economy and a probe into the ruling party's alleged fundraising fraud have hurt its approval ratings and an August poll by Puerto Rico's top circulation newspaper, El Nuevo Dia, put Rossello 7 points ahead of his rival.

There is no shortage of problems a turnaround plan may address: Aside from its debt,

changes. “The plan is not static,” Jose Carrion, the board's chairman, told reporters. The board has wide powers, including approving Puerto Rico's annual budgets, reviewing the government's financial accounts and spending habits, and working with that government on projects to spur economic growth.

Rossello said his fiscal turnaround plan would replace a plethora of government employers with one, so workers could be shifted between public agencies. It would transfer several government agencies to private companies or nonprofits, and cut the overall budget by 10 percent, he said. The savings, coupled with moderate debt restructuring that would preserve principal for senior bondholders, would avoid defaults without government job cuts, Rossello said.

Bernier's turnaround plan would focus more on cutting debt and salvaging essential services, specifically pension payments, said Bernier's running mate, Hector Ferrer. Bernier was not made available for an interview. In both cases, candidates could have a hard time imposing their visions on debt restructuring, because under PROMESA, facilitating restructuring talks is the job of the board, not the governor.

Hanson was also skeptical Rossello can accomplish savings without shrinking government headcount. “It's hard to imagine how simply consolidating agencies can result in significant budgetary savings without layoffs,” he said. The governor could have more leeway with issues like privatization and consolidation, both among agencies and municipalities, Hanson added. —Reuters



SAN JUAN: In this July 29, 2015 file photo, a bronze statue of San Juan Bautista stands in front of Puerto Rico's capitol flanked by US and Puerto Rican flags. —AP

with the new governor to be “some combination of strained and pragmatic” regardless of who wins. Hanson added, though, that the board may find more common ground with Rossello than Bernier. “I think the board is going to find more in the Rossello policy that makes sense to them,” he said.

Abundant challenges

Puerto Ricans on Nov 8 will choose a new governor, both houses of the legislature, mayors and local officials in what polls suggest could be a clean sweep for the

Puerto Rico faces a \$45 billion hole in its pension system, a healthcare system nearing collapse and public schools falling short of federal standards. Nearly half of its 3.5 million residents live in poverty and the population is dwindling as locals, who are US citizens, flock to the mainland United States.

At its inaugural public meeting on Sept. 30, the board formally asked Garcia Padilla to deliver a draft plan within two weeks, but also acknowledged it could be revised as Puerto Rico's leadership

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES PROCEDURE FOR PROTECTION OF BANK'S CLIENTS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday that according to the instructions issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait on the protection of bank clients on receiving client complaints and resolving the issues, a special unit was created at the bank to receive individual client complaints in order to find suitable solutions to them and reply back within a given timeframe. Clients are to fill in the complaint form and present the complaint according to the below:

Client should attend in person to any of the bank's branches or the Client Complaints Unit at the bank's head office, 14th floor, Burgan Tower, Abdullah Al Ahmad Street, Sharq, or clients could present the complaint through the bank's website via e-mail. Still clients could chose the option of sending a postal mail on the following address: Client Complaints Unit, P.O. Box 5389, Safat 12170, State of Kuwait.

Second of all, after the client ends over the complaint, the bank representatives are

to study the complaint per the approved work mechanism for handling client complaints. Third and last step would be that the bank should reply to the complaint in writing within 30 business days from the date of receiving the complaint, and the bank is to deliver the response to the client in person or by registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt.

In the event of not being able to remove the cause of the complaint, the bank's esteemed clients may present a complaint to the Clients Protection Unit at the Central Bank of Kuwait.

For more information about the Client Complaint Unit at Burgan Bank, customers are urged to visit the nearest Burgan Bank branch or call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

STEPS TO FILE A COMPLAINT REGARDING A CBK REGULATED ENTITY



Finance Company



Investment Company

(Regarding Credit/Finance)



Bank

Please Follow these Steps:



1

File a written complaint to that entity on the designated form available in all of its branches.



2

The entity should respond to the complaint in writing within 30 working days of submission.



3

If the entity's response is not satisfactory, an appeal may be filed to the CBK attaching with it a copy of the entity's response and the other necessary documentation.



4

If the entity is an exchange company regulated by the CBK, please visit the CBK headquarters to file a complaint on the designated form available at the CBK's reception.



ABK OFFERS WEBSITE FEATURE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) took the lead in presenting a new feature on its website, www.eahli.com as the first local bank to present visually impaired customers with the option to have the bank's website content translated from text to audio, further enhancing services for clients with special needs. ABK's website content such as products and services, terms and conditions, security notes and customer protection information can all be translated from text to audio format and is available in both English and Arabic.

The Bank has played a pivotal role in supporting the banking needs of this seg-

ment by rolling out initiatives such as the provision of ATM machines that cater to the paraplegic community and the adoption of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research's (KISR) new banking system for the visually impaired, which allows all banking documents and transactions to be interpreted to braille. ABK has made these documents available for its customers, which can be collected at the Bank or delivered for free upon the customers' request. For more information on Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please contact an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

Services

ACCOUNTS CARDS LOANS SERVICES PACKAGES

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CUSTOMER PROTECTION

Listen

Rights and Duties of Customers

This page represents a cultural and information tool for ABK customers. It includes the key principles of customer protection, in addition to customer duties and responsibilities which, in turn, improve the level of customers' awareness about the nature of their relations with the bank.

Part I: Customers Rights to Be Provided By The Bank

Principle 1: Fair and Equal Treatment

The bank shall deal with all customers with fairness, equality, and integrity. They have to provide all services and products to all categories of society. They have to consider giving more attention and special care to customers with limited income or education, senior citizens, and those with special needs.

Principle 2: Disclosure and Transparency

The bank shall provide its customers with correct and detailed information related to services, products, fees, and commissions applied by the bank. The information shall be sufficient to enable customers to select the best solution suitable for their situation and financial objectives. The bank shall have an approved policy in this regard. It shall provide such information in all its branches and through other channels of the bank, such as online banking and telebanking services. The customer shall be provided with a copy of the general terms and conditions related to the banking services and products.

Principle 3: Financial Awareness and Culture

The bank is careful to develop and share financial and banking information to current and potential customers. It shall set forth the appropriate mechanisms to enable them to identify all aspects related to the banking services or products provided to them, thus helping them to make well-informed decisions. The website of the bank shall include a special page for financial awareness. This page shall include the Customer Protection Manual, method of submitting a complaint and frequently asked questions and answers.

Principle 4: Professional Behavior

The bank shall continually enrich the experience of its staff by providing the appropriate training and enhancing their personal capabilities, such as their integrity and being non-biased, to offer customers the best service when dealing with them. The bank shall comply with professional practices when providing banking services and products to customers.

FITCH AFFIRMS GFH RATING WITH REVISED OUTLOOK TO POSITIVE

MANAMA: GFH Financial Group (GFH) announced yesterday that FitchRatings, the international credit rating agency, has affirmed its Short-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B' and revised its outlook upward from stable to Positive with a Long-term IDR at 'B'.

The positive outlook confirmed by Fitch reflects the steps GFH's management have taken to strengthen its balance sheet by paying down debt, reshaping the business model with focus on income-generating investments, and consequent improvement of profitability. Fitch also considers Abu Dhabi Financial Group's acquisition of around 12% in GFH via its subsidiary, Integrated Capital PJSC as a positive step for GFH. Fitch ratings constraints are primarily that GFH business



Hisham Alrayes

environment remains volatile, until GFH builds a longer track record of sustainable business.

Commenting, Mr Hisham Alrayes, CEO of GFH said, "We are pleased with the affirmation of our rating by Fitch and, in particular, of their recognition of the positive future outlook for the Group. This upward revision of our outlook is the result of the strength of our new strategy

and our success in developing new recurring streams of income through income yielding investments as well as the continued progress we are making in maximizing the performance of our existing assets and projects. We are confident that future holds significant benefits for the Group, our investors and shareholders and will reflect in even further ratings improvements."



MIT ENTERPRISE FORUM PAN ARAB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'INNOVATE FOR REFUGEES' COMPETITION

AMMAN: Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, MIT Enterprise Forum (MIT EF) Pan Arab, in partnership with Zain Group and MBC Hope, announced the seven winners of the Innovate for Refugees competition at an award ceremony that took place at the King Hussein Business Park Main Theatre in Amman, Jordan on October 4.

The competition was initially set to reward five winners but given the caliber of the finalists, two additional prizes were offered: \$20,000 by Zain Group and \$20,000 by Samih Darwazah Foundation. The MIT EF Pan Arab Innovate for Refugees initiative was launched in June 2016 in partnership with Zain Group, a leading mobile telecommunications innovator across the Middle East and Africa, and MBC Hope, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of MBC, and is supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, Jusoor and Uber. There were also over 30 partners supporting the competition including TechFugees and the International Rescue Committee. The competition invited entrepreneurs and refugees from around the world to come up with tech-driven, innovative solutions to help address the global refugee crisis. Over 1,600 applications were received, with 21 finalists shortlisted to the final round.

Winners were selected based on the criteria of innovation, impact, scalability, team membership and financial sustainability. In addition to cash prizes, winners are set to receive mentorship and training by industry experts to help them through the execution of the projects.

"We thank Her Majesty Queen Rania for her patronage of the award ceremony. Jordan has been a gracious host to refugees, and we are very happy to be holding the final event here," said Hala Fadel, Founder and Chair of the MIT EF Pan Arab. "Technology's mission is to provide solutions to problems faced by millions of people and this is the logic behind the MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab Innovate for Refugees initiative. We want to get at the heart of the crucial and central purpose of today's technologies and innovations," she added.

Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "A heartfelt congratulations to the winners. We are very impressed by the passion and innovation that continues to be produced in this region, and are particularly moved by the refugee theme of this competition. Often, the best solutions for problems are homegrown, so we have every faith this competition and its winners through their endeavors, will foster a better



future for many refugees across the region and beyond."

Mazen Hayek, MBC Group's official spokesman commented: "As MBC, we see hope everywhere; we are thrilled to have partnered with the MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab for this competition which successfully found real solutions for some of the most pressing problems faced by refugees."

The award ceremony was attended by AdmirMasic, Assistant Professor at MIT and Education Lead at MIT Solve, Alexander Mars, Founder & CEO, Epic Foundation, Said Darwazah, Chairman and CEO of Hikma Pharmaceuticals, Scott Gegenheimer, CEO of Zain Group and Ahmad Al Hanandeh, CEO of Zain Jordan.

Applications for the competition were received from a wide range of countries and sectors, the majority of which hailed from Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. Basic needs, healthcare and education sectors were well represented within the applications. Women submitted 32% of all applications, and 15% of total entries were submitted by refugees.

Description of the winners:

Boloro and BanQ: Global Payments and Economic ID Network, based in Jordan, brings financial inclusion and economic opportunity solutions for refugees and extreme poverty populations through a partnership between BanQu, a leading blockchain economic identity platform company and Boloro Global Limited, a USA-

based global payments gateway platform.

Change Water Labs: Based in the US, consists of a revolutionary evaporative toilet that is low-cost, compact, stand-alone solution for off-grid and informal dwellings and which rapidly "flushes" away 85-90% of daily household sewage volumes. Evaptainers: Based in Morocco, are mobile and modular evaporative coolers that are ideal for low-income, off-grid areas and that can triple or quadruple the shelf-life of most produce.

LEDlife: Based in Switzerland, has developed a low cost, fun and easy to make DIY solar LED lamp kit; an educational tool for teaching about renewables, sustainability and recycle.

NaTakallam: Based in the US, consists of a platform that provides employment opportunities to Syrian refugees as Arabic conversation partners for Arabic students around the world.

OpenEmbassy: Based in the Netherlands, is an online helpdesk that enables status holders (refugees with a permit) to ask questions about their integration process and from their answers, Open Embassy develops an FAQ and a smart wiki and shares the lessons learnt with the key stakeholders like local government and NGOs, to help them develop smarter integration policies and products.

Recycle Beirut: Based in Lebanon, is a social business combining two problems, the refugee crisis and the waste crisis, into a solution. The company employs refugees at a living wage to pick up, sort, and process recyclables for the greater Beirut area.



Staff from Etihad Airways take part in an event to mark World Animal Day at the company's headquarters in Abu Dhabi.



Staff from Etihad Airways are seen using virtual reality kits to learn more about wildlife conservation efforts on World Animal Day.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS CELEBRATES WORLD ANIMAL DAY

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has launched a new Animal Welfare and Conservation Policy and an #Etihad4wildlife social media competition as part of the airline's ongoing efforts to promote wildlife conservation. The policy establishes best practice for excursions offered by Etihad Holidays involving animals, and also outlines new criteria for the carriage of endangered and threatened species, hunting trophies containing any animal parts, shark fins and live animals intended for use in scientific research, which will not be permitted on aircraft.

The policy also sets out commitments to the Declaration of the United for Wildlife International Taskforce on the Transportation of Illegal Wildlife Products, to which Etihad Airways became a signatory in March 2016 at an official ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Six equity partner airlines followed suit in April and June to support efforts to prevent the

growing trade in wildlife products.

To mark World Animal Day, Etihad Airways is running a social media competition until 6 October, to win a trip to Sri Lanka, including flights, hotels, tours and transfers. To be in with a chance of winning, entrants should share their best travel photos of animals in the wild using the #Etihad4wildlife hashtag on Instagram and Twitter.

Peter Baumgartner, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, said: "Our airline is committed to the welfare and protection of wildlife. Our new policy has been developed over several months to minimize our 'animal footprint' and will ensure that we continue to meet the highest standards of animal welfare. By hosting the #Etihad4Wildlife campaign online, we also hope to raise awareness among our guests of the important issue of wildlife conservation."

On 10 October, Etihad Airways will host a

discussion on wildlife within the airline industry with Will Travers OBE, President of the Born Free Foundation and internationally renowned wildlife expert. The Born Free Foundation has provided technical assistance in developing the airline's new policy by offering best practice criteria on holiday activities that involve viewing or interacting with animals. Etihad Holidays has reviewed its offerings in accordance with the Association of British Travel Agents' (ABTA) Global Welfare Guidance of Animals in Tourism. In addition, the airline is supporting the Born Free Foundation's Travelers' Animal Alert - an online tool that gives holiday-makers around the world an opportunity to raise concerns about any cases of animal suffering encountered on their trips. Guests who wish to support the charity in the air can purchase a bracelet, featuring a silver African lion charm, or donate their Etihad Guest Miles when on the ground.

EVEN WITH RISING WAGES, ROBOT REVOLUTION SKIPS RESTAURANTS

‘NO HUMAN INTERACTION. IT WILL KILL JOBS’

LOS ANGELES/SAN FRANCISCO: Clamshell grills are making burger flipping obsolete at McDonald's, Johnny Rockets and other burger chains. Digital kiosks, tabletop tablets and mobile phones are taking orders at eateries like Panera, Chili's Grill & Bar and Domino's. And at Silicon Valley start-up Zume, robots are being programmed to take over pizza assembly. Such labor-saving devices have been held out as counterweights to efforts to raise the wages of the lowest paid workers in the United States. But the early evidence suggests robots and other forms of automation are merely reshaping the work of people in food service. They are not - as they have in banks, on factory floors and in other sectors - replacing them.

In spite of improvements in technology, minimum wage hikes between 2000 and 2008 caused little immediate displacement of workers by technology, especially in kitchens, according to a study by economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and DePaul University. There were slightly more workers per restaurant in 2015 than in 2001, according to data compiled for Reuters by the National Restaurant Association, which opposes minimum wage hikes.

And the US Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected leisure industry jobs, a broad category that includes restaurants, will grow at 0.6 percent annually, keeping pace with the national average through 2024. Automation in the restaurant industry looms large in the heated campaign to raise entry level pay to \$15 an hour, more than double what US federal law now mandates. Restaurants employ more low-wage workers than any other industry, and their operators are among the

most vocal opponents of minimum wage hikes. Several executives have said major pay hikes would force the fast-food industry to ramp up automation, an investment that would cost thousands of jobs.

"The numbers just don't work for raising the minimum wage this dramatically," said Andrew Puzder, CEO of Carl's Jr parent CKE Restaurants Inc. "It will kill jobs." Robotics researchers, restaurant executives, industrial engineers, consultants and economists said, however, automation in the restaurant and fast-food sectors is not as simple as installing automatic tellers in banks or employing robots to assemble cars.

While any rise in the minimum wage puts pressure on restaurant operators, they said a robot revolution in the \$783 billion US restaurant industry is still years away. Sixteen US states have increased their minimum wages this year, and some, including California and New York, will move over several years to \$15 an hour. More states are considering such measures, and Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has vowed to increase the federal minimum wage. "It's not like we're at the precipice of a revolution where the minimum wage goes up, and all these jobs disappear," said Ken Goldberg, a professor of engineering and director of the People and Robots Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley.

Many kitchen jobs still are too complex for robots, which can't multitask and don't necessarily work safely with humans in cramped spaces, experts said. While robots excel at complex calculations and precise, repetitive tasks, they have difficulty doing some things that are easily mastered by

small children - such as stacking blocks and sensing objects in space. Moreover, most restaurants serve a range of menu items, each of which might need numerous specialized forms of automation. Sit-down restaurants have additional tasks that are hard to automate, including setting and clearing tables, refilling coffee cups and answering questions about what's on the menu.

Appetite for risk

Burger King attempted a potentially sweeping automation overhaul in the 1980s. It designed machines to take orders; broil, assemble and package hamburgers; cook and portion French fries; and serve drinks. But new management came in and shelved the project. It's not clear why. Among the questions at the time was whether the machines would be a "maintenance nightmare," but the system was never broadly tested, recalled Nelson Marchioli, who had a long career at Burger King before moving on to executive roles at El Pollo Loco and Denny's.

"It's nothing that money and time can't fix, but how much time and money do you want to invest?" Marchioli said. Maintenance of automated systems can be costly and, when they break down, bring operations to a screeching halt, alienating customers, restaurant operators said. In other industries, such as car plants, breakdowns can be costly, but delays do not immediately frustrate consumers, in the way a late pizza angers a hungry family. Thomas Willis, an industrial engineer who was part of Burger King's project, said many restaurant operators still don't have the appetite for the kind of

investment risks such efforts require.

"The fear of walking away from what works already is huge," he said. But Silicon Valley is nurturing an appetite for risk and experimentation in the kitchen. Momentum Machines has built a device to make gourmet burgers "with no human interaction" and city permit data show it plans to open a restaurant in San Francisco. Zume Pizza, a Silicon Valley delivery start-up that has raised \$5.7 million in venture capital, said robots will be building and baking pies by themselves within six months.

Already, a robot named Pepe squirts tomato sauce onto the dough, and it is spread by another called Marta. After people add cheese and toppings, robot Bruno gently moves the pizza from a conveyor belt to an oven. Co-founder Julia Collins said one of Zume's biggest challenges is maintaining the perseverance it takes to overcome technological difficulties. It took months, for instance, to get Marta to spread the tomato sauce with enough precision to keep it from splashing it off the pizza.

Zume's first robot workforce cost \$3 million to develop, and the company believes it will be able to start new locations for between \$750,000 and \$1 million. Once fully automated, Collins predicted, the pizzeria's labor costs will be about 14 percent of revenue, about half the competition. Domino's Pizza CEO Patrick Doyle said the worldwide chain won't embrace the Zume model any time soon. At \$250,000 to \$300,000, setting up a Domino's location is a fraction of Zume's estimated launch costs. And, he said, customers like seeing people in the kitchen. "I don't know that people want their food

out of a machine," Doyle said. "There is magic in a hand-crafted pizza." With states and municipalities moving to raise wages, restaurant owners and their suppliers may be more inclined to invest in automation, said Juan Martinez, principal of Profitality, an industrial engineering consulting firm for restaurants. But single-task robots may not be a better option than workers, he said.

"It is not 'if you build it, they will come,' since the return on investment is not there yet," Martinez said. And Johnny Rockets keeps a grill chef visible to customers, even though its high-end burger cooks do most of the work. Most of the movement toward technology in restaurants has been at the front end. Eatsa, an updated automat, offers its quinoa bowls at outlets that have largely eliminated front-of-the-restaurant staff. Customers order on tablets and pick up their food minutes later from small, frosted glass cubicles.

Several chains are using kiosks and other technology that allow orders to be placed more rapidly and efficiently. Such systems can pay off in two or three years, according to an analysis by Cornerstone Capital Group analyst Mike Shavel.

Domino's Pizza and Panera Bread Co, said their custom-built ordering and payment systems have removed bottlenecks at peak hours. But the changes have not eliminated jobs; rather, they have shifted them away from counters and into kitchens and delivery, operators said.

Digital ordering puts more pressure on the kitchen and delivery staffs, said Panera CEO Ron Shaich. "You better be able to deliver that food," he said. — Reuters

CISCO TO ADDRESS IMPORTANCE OF CLOUD SECURITY AT DU'S CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE 2016

DUBAI: Cisco today announced its sponsorship of the Du Cybersecurity Conference to be held in Dubai on October 9, 2016 at Madinat Jumeirah. Given the increasing transition of services and storage into the cloud and the prevalence for mobile services and applications, Cisco will use this platform to share insights and shed light on how public sector organizations can keep systems safe from intrusions while safeguarding information and privacy. The high-level event will bring together information security



DUBAI: Scott Manson, Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey, Cisco.

ty leaders from the government, security and financial sectors who will share their experiences and discuss the latest developments in the field of online security.

Cloud represents a significant opportunity for telcos and Communications Service Providers (CSPs) considering their huge customer base, customer care centers and billing systems, networks and their IT infrastructures based on data centers. Forrester forecasts that the global market for cloud computing will grow from \$40.7 billion in 2011 to more than \$241 billion in 2020. Yet, security is still the number one concern for enterprises that move parts of their IT into the cloud. "While multi-cloud environ-

ments are increasingly becoming the answer to IoT, cybersecurity is an incumbent urgency as the world gets more and more connected. Cloud computing is a disruptive technology model that is changing the way public sector organizations evolve their digital business models, consume information and technology, and deploy and deliver new services. As ICT systems are extended and merged, there is growing fear that sensitive data that is collected and held by public entities will be vulnerable to criminal hackers or other types of unauthorized disclosure. Public sector organizations and service providers are especially vulnerable because their operations are tied so closely to the public's trust," said Scott Manson, Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey, Cisco.

"Security must be integrated into the very fabric of an organisation, and it takes a security-conscious organization to ensure that every level of cyber protection is met. We are extremely proud of our association with Du and support their efforts to highlight the importance of security as a growth enabler and a competitive advantage," concluded Scott Manson.

According to Gartner Inc., the market for cloud-security services is expected to reach nearly \$4 billion in revenue in 2016, up from \$2.1 billion last year. As more businesses move to the cloud, it's essential that companies work with partners that understand best practices of cloud security and provide transparency when it comes to their solutions. At the Du Cybersecurity Conference, Cisco Cyber Security Expert, Naji Ukaily, will address issues related to digital transformation and how public sector can assess the security posture of specific cloud service implementations, whilst reducing the associated risks in a unique, scalable way. His keynote, titled "Cybersecurity in the Digital Economy", will be delivered on October 9, 2016 at 12:45 PM.



DUBAI: Canon team and local distributors at the EOS 5D Mark IV launch.

CANON CAPTIVATES REGIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH NEW EOS 5D MARK IV

DUBAI: Canon Middle East, world leader in imaging solutions, recently showcased the eagerly-anticipated EOS 5D Mark IV, the newest addition to the legendary EOS 5D family, at an exclusive distributor function held for UAE and the wider MENA region in Dubai. The launch, held in partnership with Canon's long-standing local distributor, National Stores and managed by Advanced Media, was attended by a gala audience of photographers and filmmakers, among others.

"Renowned for enabling people to tell the stories that need to be told, the EOS 5D series has captured many of the world's most significant moments in history. As successor to the EOS 5D Mark III, the 5D Mark IV has been designed using first-hand feedback from the photography community to create the most versatile EOS model yet. We are extremely excited to bring this technological revolution to the region and cannot wait to see the magic photo enthusiasts will create with it," said Hendrik

Verbrugghe, Marketing Director, Canon Middle East and Canon Central and North Africa.

Featuring a 30.4 megapixel CMOS sensor with wide exposure latitude, 7 frames per second (fps) high speed shooting, internal 4K movie recording and built-in Wi-Fi and GPS, the camera fuses speed and resolution with excellent low light capability and movie functionality. The EOS 5D Mark IV is also the first EOS camera to premiere the innovative Dual Pixel RAW file format, allowing photographers to fine-tune images in post-production by adjusting or correcting the point of sharpness, shifting the foreground bokeh or reducing image ghosting.

"With an ISO range of 100 to 32000, expandable from 50 up to 102400, images can be captured in an array of lighting environments. The enhanced noise processing algorithm further improves low light shooting, ideal for photographers and filmmakers who need to capture breaking stories no matter what lighting conditions they face," said Emmy nominated

Cinematographer and Photographer Beno Saradzic, who has been recently appointed as a brand ambassador by Canon Europe.

Speaking about the event, Kaveh Farnam, CEO, Advanced Media said: "Canon is a leader in the imaging and business solutions category in terms of technology, performance and range and we are extremely delighted to take this partnership a notch higher with the new EOS 5D Mark IV."

Packed with a range of new and refined features requested by Canon's professional community, the EOS 5D Mark IV provides unrivalled flexibility in connectivity. Apart from Wi-Fi and smart connect, the camera features GPS geotags that categorises each image in the EXIF data with automatic time updates helping to manage images and, for the first time, IPTC metadata, such as details of a shoot, is automatically embedded. Enhanced water and dust resistance makes the camera ideal for travel photographers or photo-journalists working in challenging terrain.

FISKER RELAUNCHES ELECTRIC CAR EFFORT

WASHINGTON: Former BMW designer Henrik Fisker announced plans Tuesday to relaunch his electric vehicle efforts three years after a bankruptcy with his venture that made high-priced cars popular with celebrities.

Fisker's effort aims to revive his rivalry with Tesla, promising a premium, all-electric successor to his 2012 Fisker Karma with "a patented battery that will deliver a significantly longer life and range than any battery currently on the market," a statement from the reconstituted company Fisker Inc. said. The relaunch comes after a high-profile bankruptcy by Fisker Automotive, which received \$192 million in US government loans and left \$139 million of that unpaid.

In the statement, Fisker said improved technology will make his task easier today. "Fisker Inc will spearhead a revolution in electric cars that will disrupt the electric vehicle market and change the world," said Fisker, who is chairman and chief executive of the new group. "Both the technology and the market are more mature now than when we first started out as pioneers in the electric vehicle industry, and our new vehicle will be the most innovative and cutting-edge electric car ever created." The first Fisker group was started in southern California in 2007 by Fisker a Danish designer who worked at Aston Martin, BMW and other auto firms-and his German business partner Bernhard Koehler.

The \$100,000 Fisker Karma released in

2012 attracted buyers including Justin Bieber, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ashton Kutcher. But that company filed for bankruptcy in 2013 and a year later its assets were sold to Chinese auto parts maker Wanxiang. The new group said it had no affiliation with Wanxiang, but did not disclose details of its financing. The new Fisker debut vehicle will include "dynamic, never-before-seen design features, combining advanced materials with the use of the latest optimization software," the statement said. In addition, Fisker is developing a "mass-market, affordable electric vehicle that will retail for less than its competitors, but will feature a longer electric range," it added.

The move comes with Tesla rapidly expanding its presence in the electric vehicle market at prices of \$70,000 or more and preparing a launch of a new electric car at roughly half that price. Other carmakers including General Motors are also moving into all-electric vehicles. "If the electric car is to succeed as a mass market vehicle, we need a radical new battery technology and battery pack integration-and our vehicles will have just that," Fisker said.

Fisker's bankruptcy sparked criticism of the US administration program offering loans to companies developing green energy.

Solar energy firm Solyndra, which was the recipient of a \$535 million government loan guarantee, also ended up filing for bankruptcy. — AFP

MIMECAST ANNOUNCES MIDDLE EAST EXPANSION PLANS

DUBAI: Mimecast Limited (NASDAQ: MIME), a leading email and data security company, announced its Middle East expansion plans in Dubai and has appointed two reputed security focused distributors to accelerate its growth and enhance customer experience in the region. This expansion is in response to the company's growing business, robust customer base and strong demand for its cloud security solutions in the Middle East.

"Over the last few years, Mimecast has seen a significant revenue growth and a strong demand for our cloud security solutions in the Middle East. Hence, expanding our operations made perfect strategic sense as we already have a robust customer base in the region. We are pleased to launch our new office in Dubai, which will act as our regional hub and help us scale up our operations and strengthen our ties with our existing customers and partners by offering them high-quality technical support and consulting services locally," says Brandon Bekker, Managing Director, Mimecast MEA. Mimecast has been making email safer for businesses across the Middle East since 2008. Through its security, archiving and continuity cloud services, the company delivers comprehensive email risk management in one fully-integrated service. Mimecast reduces the risk, complexity and cost traditionally associated with protecting email. Its best-of-breed services protect email for millions of users worldwide against targeted attacks, data leaks, malware and spam.

Demonstrating a continued commitment to the

region, Mimecast's local office will help the company to better serve the needs of its growing Middle East customer base. The company is investing in new talent and has recruited a strong team to drive sales and offer on ground technical support and services. In addition to this, the company is planning to invest in training programs for channel partners to enable them to sell and implement Mimecast's products better. Customers in the Middle East will now be able to access Mimecast's expert local technical and support teams, backed by Mimecast's industry leading continuity of service SLA (Service Level Agreement).

"A key part of our growth strategy in the Middle East is partner recruitment. We have recently appointed two established security focused distributors to drive our Middle East business through their strong channel network. We are looking forward to sharing the long term rewards of our channel program with our partners who are looking to build a long term, sustainable, profitable business on cloud services," Bekker adds. Mimecast's channel partners are assured of a channel focused model from the outset, supported by dedicated assistance developing profitable cloud businesses. The company's award winning channel program aims to develop trusted, profitable partnerships that deliver business growth for partners and the support to build long term recurring revenue streams with high margin opportunities. Mimecast also supports partners with educational tools, sales enablement training and marketing support.



DUBAI: Brandon Bekker, Managing Director of Mimecast MEA.

"Customer Experience is incredibly important to Mimecast and we support our customers and channel partners in a number of ways. Using a follow-the-sun model, Mimecast offers customer 24/7 support on a multitude of platforms. Dedicated customer management teams in the region will ensure that customers receive free product education, technical and account support and are measured with regular customer surveys against a Customer Experience Index score target," Bekker concludes. The Dubai office will help Mimecast strengthen its regional presence and act as a support services hub for its Middle East operations.

WHEN IS A COFFEE MUG A DONUT? TOPOLOGY EXPLAINS IT

PARIS: A topologist is a person who cannot tell the difference between a coffee mug and a donut-so goes a joke about a little-known scientific field crowned Tuesday with a Nobel Physics Prize. The quip describes it perfectly: topology explains how a material's shape can be completely deformed into new one without losing its core properties. In the metaphor, the mug and the donut are one and the same. If they were made out of rubber, one could be twisted and stretched into the shape of the other without changing its essence. The two are considered topologically equivalent as each has a hole-the ear of the mug and the centre of the donut.

"You can put your finger through the hole in a teacup handle, but you can't put it through a potato, so these are two different categories of topological objects," explained Manuel Asorey of the University of Zaragoza's department of theoretical physics. A strange universe of fundamental shapes

long existing only in mathematics, the field was introduced into the physics realm just a few decades ago. Indeed, in the mid-20th century theoretical physicist George Gamow said topology was one of two mathematical concepts, along with number theory, that would never apply to physics. Gamow was wrong.

Today, topology has burgeoned into a wide range of physics sub-fields promising a host of practical applications ranging from supercomputing to superconductors. By shaping materials into "topological states," scientists hope one day to transport energy or information farther and fastest than possible today. "Pioneers glimpsed that topology could have some relevance to physics," said Asorey. "But the real practical applications became apparent because of these three gentlemen,"-Nobel laureates David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz-who "realized that

topology was not something visible," he said. "Now people are generalizing these ideas to many other fields of physics."

Robustness is key

Sometimes referred to as "rubber sheet geometry", topology in physics remains in the theoretical and experimental realm for now. But its principles are widely expected to find practical and commercial application within a decade or two, particularly in the quantum sphere of electronics and computing. It is hoped, for example, that new materials emerging from this research will use much less electricity.

The key virtue of topological materials is that they "remain robust regardless of the deforming forces being applied to them," said David Carpentier, a physicist at France's CNRS research institute. "It is exactly this robustness in topology

that is being examined as a basis for constructing the quantum computers of the future."Quantum computers, still on the drawing board, promise superfast processing speeds using the properties of subatomic particles that exist in more than one state at once.

But they pose a high risk of overheating, which is where topological insulators with an inherent stability would come in very handy. "Two years ago, I would have said it would take at least two decades to see something on the supermarket shelf" resulting from topology research, Asorey said. "Today, I would say one decade, maybe less." For Nathan Goldman of the Free University of Brussels, "we are still a ways from technological applications" or a revolution in computing. "The next step will be to create these objects in the lab and try to manipulate them, performing very simple operations." — AFP



In this photo, a rhino grazes in the bush on the edge of Kruger National Park in South Africa. — AP

INVASIVE INSECTS CAUSE \$77 BILLION IN DAMAGE

RESEARCHERS LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF NON-NATIVE SPECIES

PARIS: Invasive insects cause at least \$77 billion (69 billion euros) in damage every year, according to a study released Tuesday that says this figure is "grossly underestimated" because it covers only a fraction of the globe. Climate change is on track to boost the area affected by nearly 20 percent before mid-century, the authors reported in the journal Nature Communications.

Canvassing more than 700 recent scientific studies, researchers looked at the impact of non-native species on goods and services, healthcare and agricultural output. Most of these studies applied to North America and Europe, which means the devastation wrought by crop-chomping and disease-carrying bugs from afar has not been adequately measured, the authors said.

The most destructive of the insects canvassed was the Formosan subterranean termite, which lives in huge colonies and feasts on wooden structures and living trees. It has infested large swathes of the United States and has proven impossible to eradicate. The diamond-back moth, which originated in the Mediterranean region, has also spread worldwide and is a voracious consumer of so-called cruciferous crops: broccoli, cauliflower, bok choy and especially cabbage.

Also in the rogues' gallery of invasive insects are the brown spruce longhorn beetle (which

ravages evergreen trees, especially in Canada), the gypsy moth (tree defoliation) and the Asian long-horned beetle (which attacks temperate forests). Insects are "probably the costliest animal group to human society," a team of researchers led by Franck Courchamp from France's National Centre for Scientific Research concluded. The global health bill attributable to invasive insects tops six billion dollars (5.4 billion euros), in large measure due to the impact of Dengue fever, a tropical disease spread by mosquitoes. The estimate does not include the impact of malaria, the Zika virus or economic losses in tourism or productivity, the researchers said.

Pesticides 'not the solution'

Global warming-which has seen average surface temperatures climb one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) in the last 150 years-has pushed plants and animals towards the poles, especially northward. "The distribution of many invasive species is today limited by temperature barriers, and climate change could allow them to invade regions that were inhospitable up to now," said Courchamp. There are some 2.5 million insect species in the world. Only a tiny percentage-some 2,200 - have colonized new territories, but they have managed to wreak havoc all the same. Only a tenth of insect species that wind

up in another part of the world become established, and only ten percent of these qualify as invasive, the study notes.

The best way to combat this growing threat-spread mainly through international commerce-is not more pesticides, said Courchamp. "We've seen how well that worked," he said. Nor is it genetic manipulation such as gene drive, a technology that makes it possible to engineer local extinctions by releasing males into the wild that produce only male offspring. "The solution is better 'bio-security'," said Courchamp. "This includes inspection of ship and air cargo from certain regions, legislation to ensure that high-risk imports must be treated and rapid eradication of new incursions."

All insects, including those in their native habitat, take a heavy toll on agriculture, consuming 30 to 40 percent of global harvests-enough to feed a billion people. Mosquito-borne diseases, especially malaria, claim hundreds of thousands of lives every year. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) maintains a database of invasive species with nearly 900 species currently listed, including plants, animals, bacteria and fungus. The UN Convention on Biodiversity has said that "priority" invasive species should be "controlled or eradicated" by 2020. — AFP

FROM DUPED HOUSEMAIDS TO RICE FARMERS, ASIANS LEADING THE WAY

BANGKOK: At all the peace talks Joji Felicitas Pantoja attended in the conflict-troubled Philippines island of Mindanao, coffee was served to put people at ease. But Pantoja soon realized talking about peace wasn't enough in communities unable to address basic needs like food and health, sparking an idea to use coffee as a vehicle for change. Setting up "Coffee for Peace", Pantoja worked with Mindanao farmers to revitalize an industry long abandoned for cash crops like rubber and bananas - and her farmers' earnings tripled. "Peace is not just the absence of war ... if we don't address the economic aspect, it's not complete," Pantoja, 56, a self-described peacebuilder, said by Skype from Mindanao.

Across Asia women like Pantoja are re-examining society's problems through a business lens, playing a more leading role than women in other regions in harnessing the power of markets to tackle poverty and social ills, according to the first experts' poll on the best countries for social entrepreneurs. The Thomson Reuters Foundation survey of the world's 45 biggest economies found the Philippines was the country where women fared best when taking into account representation in leadership roles in social enterprises and the gender pay gap.

In fact five other spots among the top 10 ranking in the poll of nearly 900 experts in social enterprise were in Asia - Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Thailand. Russia, Norway, and Canada rounded out the top 10, while Brazil came last and the United States fared badly in the perception poll due to concerns women are paid less than men. Women interviewed across Asia described a fairer playing field and higher drive to put compassion over valuation as the reason women are doing so well as social entrepreneurs.

Community focus

Overall the online poll, conducted between June 9 and July 15 in partnership with Deutsche Bank, the Global Social

Entrepreneurship Network (GSEN) and UnLtd, foundations for social entrepreneurs, found 68 percent of experts said women are well represented in leadership in social enterprises.

A study by Deloitte in 2015 showed that women hold only 12 percent of the world's board seats while data from the Inter-Parliamentary Union shows women account for about 23 percent of all national parliamentarians. However only 48 percent of experts said women in social enterprises were paid the same as men, with the United States particularly concerned on this issue. "Whereas men want to be like Mark Zuckerberg, women want to do well for the community," said Peetachai "Neil" Dejkrasak, who founded a rice social enterprise called Siam Organic with a female business school classmate.

"They are more compassionate and want a meaningful life ... Social entrepreneurs are inherently driven by improving people's lives, lifting people out of poverty. Women social entrepreneurs are better at doing this than their male counterparts." Neil and Pornthida "Palmy" Wongphatharakul began work on Siam Organic as business school students, not setting out with the aim of building a business seeking to improve society. "The social impact was tied into the business model - the better the business, the more impact for the farmer," said Palmy.

With Thai rice farmers earning about \$12 per month per acre, they decided to home in on the US market and innovations - mainly the organic purple "Jasberry" rice, high in antioxidants - to boost farmers' earnings and win health-conscious customers. The company now works with 1,000 farmers and sold about 100 tons of its specialty rice in 2015 to Thai and US buyers - and its farmers earn an average of \$180 per month per acre. "My objective has always been whatever you do, you always have to help the farmers you promised to help. When a decision comes along, you put the farmers first," said Palmy, 31. — Reuters



PUNJAB: Indian farmers Swaran Singh (left) and Babu work in their rice field near the India-Pakistan border fence at the village of Naushera Dhalla, about 45 kms from Amritsar. — AFP

A CLINTON GAFFE ON HEALTH CARE - AND TRUMP POUNCES

WASHINGTON: Bill Clinton created fresh problems for his presidential candidate wife when he criticized the way US health care works under Barack Obama's reforms as "crazy," prompting Republican Donald Trump to seize on the misstep Tuesday. The former president has a reputation for speaking in a more free-wheeling style than Democrat Hillary Clinton does on the campaign trail, and his remarks in Flint, Michigan created a hiccup for his wife at a critical phase in the White House race just five weeks from Election Day on November 8.

Bill Clinton had sought to explain the shortcomings of the complex US system of health care coverage under both public and private insurance. Obama's reforms, pushed through Congress in 2010, have enabled millions of people to obtain subsidized health coverage, including millions of previously uninsured Americans. But for some self-employed entrepreneurs or small-business owners whose income is just above the cut-off for subsidies, the price of insurance obtained through so-called "Obamacare" has increased due to unforeseen effects on insurance markets.

"The people that are getting killed in this deal are small-business people and individuals who make just a little too

much to get any of these subsidies," Clinton told a crowd in Flint late Monday. "You've got this crazy system where all of a sudden 25 million more people have health care, and then the people who are out there busting it, sometimes 60 hours a week, wind up with their premiums doubled and their coverage cut in half," he added. "It's the craziest thing in the world."

Thanks for 'being honest'

Clinton continued his argument by explaining that reforms proposed by Hillary would allow more Americans to join the Medicare public insurance plan for the elderly and the Medicaid plan for low-income individuals. "The insurance model doesn't work," Bill Clinton insisted, a criticism made at times by many Democrats who have called for a nationalized system. But Trump and Republicans, who have tried dozens of times to repeal all or parts of the Affordable Care Act in the six years since it was introduced, gleefully highlighted the criticism from a Democratic stalwart.

"He just said it was a crazy system where people end up with premiums doubled and coverage cut in half. He's right," Trump told supporters in Prescott Valley, Arizona. "I want to think him for being honest," he added. — AFP

CRITICAL TO MONITOR BABIES AFTER ZIKA, BUT HOW LONG?

WASHINGTON: More federal money finally is available to fight Zika, even as the news worsens. Babies who at first seem to have escaped the virus' devastating hallmark defect - an abnormally small head at birth - might not be out of the woods after all. Brazilian doctors have counted a small number of babies who at birth had a normal-sized head and only later were found to have problems. They have delayed neurodevel-

opment. At 5 months, one could use one hand but not the other. Later on, some even developed that defect, called microcephaly.

The brain and skull weren't growing properly after birth, instead of before. "Microcephaly is only the tip of the iceberg, only the thing we see when the baby is born," Dr Vanessa Van der Linden, a pediatric neurologist in Recife, Brazil, told a meeting at the National Institutes of

Health where she outlined a long list of Zika-related abnormalities. To children's health experts, the message is clear. Intense study is needed of babies born to Zika-infected mothers to learn the range of health problems they may face.

"It is just critical to evaluate the entire child. Even in the child who does not have microcephaly, that doesn't mean no evaluation is needed," said Dr. Catherine Spong of the NIH's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which despite budget constraints has begun research to better understand the full range of abnormalities they may face. "Some will be apparent at birth, but likely some will not be," Dr Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told reporters Monday. He called "the biggest unknown" what will happen to those babies who don't have an obvious abnormality at birth.

After months of partisan bickering, Congress last week passed a budget bill that includes \$1.1 billion to address the Zika crisis. It's just over half the total emergency money that President Barack Obama requested last February. That was well before cases in US states and territories rose to more than 25,000, and well before mosquitoes started spreading the virus in Florida's Miami-Dade County. Federal health officials said Monday they'd race the money to the researchers and state health departments that need it as soon as possible. — AP



MIAMI BEACH: People enjoy themselves along Lincoln Road, an open air shopping space, on the day officials released the locations of the sites where Zika virus was found in trapped mosquitoes. — AFP

DON'T 'EXPECT FITBITS TO IMPROVE HEALTH'

LONDON: Wearing a fitness tracker may help you keep tabs on how many steps you take, but the devices themselves - even with the lure of a cash reward - probably won't improve your health, according to the biggest study yet done on the trendy technology. Scientists say that although the activity trackers may boost the number of steps people take, it probably isn't enough to help them drop pounds or improve overall health. "These are basically measuring devices," said Eric Finkelstein, a professor at Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, who led the research. "Knowing how active you are doesn't translate into getting people to do more and the novelty of having that information wears off pretty quickly."

Finkelstein and colleagues tested the Fitbit Zip tracker in a group of 800 adults in Singapore, by dividing them into four groups. Of those people, more than half were overweight and obese and about one third were active. A control group got information about exercise but no tracker and a second group got the Fitbit Zip; everyone in those groups also got about \$2.92 a week. Participants in the last two groups got the tracker and about \$11 for every week they logged between 50,000 and 70,000 steps. One of the groups had the money donated to charity while the other kept the cash.

After six months, people with the Fitbit and who got the cash payment showed the biggest boost in physical activity. But after a year, 90 percent of participants had abandoned the device. The physical activity of the Fitbit wearers did not decline over the year as much as it did for those who were not given a tracker, but the higher activity level wasn't enough to produce any improvements in weight or blood pressure. "These trackers can encourage people to take more steps, but it still seems like these random extra steps aren't enough to really improve your health," Finkelstein said. He said

what's needed is more "active steps," or what would amount to brisk walking or more rigorous exercise.

The study was paid for by Singapore's ministry of health and published online Tuesday in the journal *Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*. The results seem to reinforce those of another recent study, published last month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In that study, conducted over two years, researchers found that adding wearable activity tracking devices to a diet and fitness program didn't result in more weight loss. Those who didn't wear devices lost about five pounds more than those who wore them, but both groups slimmed down and improved their eating habits, fitness and activity levels.

Fitbit, in a statement responding to the study published Tuesday, said: "We are confident in the positive results our millions of users have seen from using Fitbit products." The statement went on to say that it was in the process of improving its trackers. Finkelstein said that some of the newer fitness trackers have more advanced features, like prompts to exercise and ways to link to social media, but he still thinks it is unlikely people will radically change their exercise regimes without a more comprehensive approach.

Some experts said the results were disappointing, if not unsurprising. "We should not be so naive to believe that simply by giving a sleek-looking gadget to someone, they will change deeply-rooted lifestyle habits," said Emmanuel Stamatakis, a physical activity expert at the University of Sydney who was not part of the research. Others said the trackers might be more useful if they were aimed specifically at unhealthy people. "People who are active are already motivated so they don't need these devices," said Lars Bo Andersen, of Sogn and Fjordane University College in Norway. Fitbit shares have fallen by half since the beginning of the year, to just under \$15 a share. — AP



Brett Broviak, a manager of respiratory and sleep services at IU Health North Hospital, shows off his Fitbit fitness tracker for the camera on the hospital's campus in Carmel, Ind. — AP



SANAA: Yemeni female pupils attend a class on the first day of classes at a public school in the capital Sanaa. — AFP

NEW FAMINE FEARS LOOM IN WAR-RAVAGED YEMEN

EMACIATED CHILDREN CLING TO LIFE IN HOSPITAL WARDS

DUBAI: Intensive care wards in Yemen's hospitals are filled with emaciated children hooked up to monitors and drips - victims of food shortages that could get even worse due to a reorganization of the central bank that is worrying importers. With food ships finding it hard to get into Yemen's ports due to a virtual blockade by the Saudi-led coalition that has backed the government during an 18-month civil war, over half the country's 28 million people already do not have enough to eat, according to the United Nations.

Yemen's exiled president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, last month ordered the central bank's headquarters to be moved from the capital Sanaa, controlled by Houthi rebels in the north, to the southern port of Aden, which is held by the government. He also appointed a new governor, a member of his government who has said the bank has no money. Trade sources involved in importing food to the Arab peninsula's poorest country say this decision will leave them financially exposed and make it harder to bring in supplies. Diplomats and aid officials believe the crisis surrounding the central bank could adversely affect ordinary Yemenis.

"The politicization of the central bank and attempts by the parties in the conflict to use it as a tool to hurt one another ... threaten to push the poorest over the edge," said Richard Stanforth, humanitarian policy adviser with Oxfam. "Everything is stacked against the people on the brink of starvation in Yemen." The effects of food shortages can already be seen. At the children's emergency unit at the Thawra hospital in the port of Hodeida, tiny patients with skin sagging over their bones writhe in beds. Hallways and waiting rooms are crowded with parents seeking help for their hungry and dying children.

Salem Issa, 6, rests his stick-thin limbs on a hospital bed as his mother watches over him. "I have a sick child, I used to feed him biscuits, but he's sick, he won't eat," she said. A nurse said the ward began taking in around 10 to 20 cases in April, but now struggles with 120 patients per month. The World Food Program says half Yemen's children under five are stunted, mean-

ing they are too short for their age because of chronic malnutrition.

Importers struggling

In July, Reuters reported that importers were already struggling to buy food from abroad because \$260 million worth of their funds were frozen in Yemeni banks, while Western banks had cut credit lines. Since then, importers have guaranteed much of the risk of financing shipments themselves. The decision to move the central bank, seen as the last impartial bastion of the country's financial system which has helped keep the economy afloat in wartime, is viewed as a major blow for suppliers who are mistrustful of the decision and expect even more chaos ahead. Foreign exchange is already scarce and the sources do not have confidence in the new governor.

All of this will lead to further food disruptions and more hardship for Yemenis already facing impending famine, according to the trade sources. "We have begun to cancel our forward contracts - it's just impossible to trade when there is no financial system in place. There is no coverage from the central bank where we can trust them or know them," said one source. "This leaves anyone bringing in cargoes completely exposed," added the source, who declined to be identified due to the worsening security situation and fear of reprisals.

Shipping data showed at least nine vessels carrying supplies such as wheat and sugar were on the way to the Yemeni ports of Hodeida and Salif, but the source said there were worries for forward shipments for late October and November. A second trade source also active in Yemen confirmed the growing difficulties. "Western banks are not willing to process payments and the whole system is freezing up. It is an ever growing struggle to do anything commercial," the second source said. "Obtaining foreign exchange has to be done through currency smuggling. Yemen is like a country of smugglers now - this is unacceptable."

Dwindling reserves

The old central bank in the capital Sanaa used Yemen's dwindling foreign exchange

reserves to guarantee shipments into a country which imports 90 percent of its food. But Hadi disliked the bank paying salaries to his foes in the army and the Iran-aligned Houthi movement opposed to his internationally recognized government. Struggling to advance on the battlefield and keen to undermine the Houthis, Hadi dismissed the bank's governor, Mohamed Bin Humam, named Finance Minister Monasser Al Quaiti in his place and decreed the bank be moved to Aden. It was a sudden decision that aroused suspicion among traders. "The governor Humam enjoyed the confidence of all parties since he was clearly independent and working in the best interests of Yemen. To now appoint a minister of finance of the government is a retrograde step and none of the traders have any confidence in him or in the bank in Aden," the first trade source said.

The new governor of the central bank did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Quaiti told the Saudi-owned Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper on Thursday he had inherited a bank with no money, but he pledged to keep it independent. Ibrahim Mahmoud, of Yemen's Social Development Fund, said only an improvement in the country's financial system and an emergency aid effort could stop the spread of hunger. "If there is no direct and immediate intervention on behalf of the international community and state organizations, we could be threatened by famine and a humanitarian catastrophe."

Even though moving the central bank seemed to be aimed at hurting the Houthis, Yemeni economic officials and diplomats say the group has its own financial resources. Losing out on \$100 million in salaries to its fighters as suggested by the new bank governor may hurt the Houthis, but the bank's closure in Sanaa is likely to hurt ordinary people already suffering from a collapse in the economy due to the war. "It risks leaving the salaries of more than a million Yemenis unpaid. There may be a long-term effect on the Houthis, but the immediate effect will be on normal people trying to put food on the table," Yemeni economic analyst Amal Nasser said. — Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
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RAINBOW DAY EVENT IN EARLY YEARS AT KUWAIT NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL

The Early Years Department at Kuwait National English School was ablaze with color as the pupils and Staff celebrated Rainbow day. All the children arrived in school in an amazing range of colorful clothes and were really excited to take part in the wide range of activities planned for the day. These included science experiments to make Rainbows, Rainbow songs, Rainbow Fish stories and investigating colored toys objects through building, counting

and painting. Each child produced a Rainbow painting as they went from activity to activity and the day finished with all the children making a Rainbow in the playground with colorful sheets of paper. The children, from Kuwait National English School Early Years Department, were highly engaged and really produced fabulous work whilst at the same time having a wonderful time. Well done to everyone who took part.

KINDERGARTEN ON WHEELS



India International School (KG) was filled with excitement and energy on 28th September as "kindergarten on wheels" zoomed into life. This kg event which was organized with the intentions of introducing the various modes of transportation turned out to be a huge success. The task was undertaken by the KG department with sole purpose of pro-

viding well balanced educational experience and to stimulate the children's thinking which is one of the main motto of our school a colorful diorama showcasing air, water and land transportation was made by the team of KG staff under the guidance of KG head Mrs. Nilofar quiz children's excitement was evident on their face who participated in the event by dressing

up in vehicle inspired motifs and by bringing colorful toys and models for the display. "kudos to the parents for their cooperation". The team effort and creativity of kg staff was appreciated by our director Mr. Malayil Moosa Koya, principal Mr. F.M. Basheer Ahmed and vice principals who graced the occasion with their presence.



Hon. Member of Legislative Assembly of Kerala, Shri. R. John M. L.A., along with Abey Varicad, Managing Director presenting the Gold Gifts to the lucky winner of Orma Jewellery, Gold Gift scheme. Prize distribution was held at Orma Jewellery Salmiya showroom.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN GROUP'S CULTURAL SEASON

The International Women Group's advisor Narjis Al-Shatti announced launching its 2016-2017 cultural season at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 9th at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Farwaniya with a lecture to be delivered by South Africa ambassador to Kuwait.



PALPAK CELEBRATED PONNONAM-2016

Palakkad Pravasi Association of Kuwait celebrated Ponnonam-2016 on Friday, September 30th at Indian Central School, Abbasiya. Palpak president Aravindakshan chaired the inaugural session and poet Kureepuzha Sreekuimar inaugurat-

ed the event. General Secretary Sivadas Vazhayil, Supreme Council Member Dili, PN Kumar, ladies wing general convener Sreelekha Sasidharan, special guests Sam Pynammood and Sharaaffuddeen Kanneth addressed the audience.



WIN PRIZES EVERY TIME WITH THE 'PEEL AND WIN' SWEEPSTAKE PROMOTION BY MCDONALD'S



McDonald's Kuwait is making instant winners out of all its customers with the launch of its new "Peel and Win" campaign. With over six million prizes to be redeemed, customers will enjoy a guaranteed prize with every purchase of an extra value meal, ranging from Sony PlayStation4 or Apple Watches to a myriad of gift vouchers, starting from 1 October 2016.

For the duration of the campaign, McDonald's has included a special sticker on all of its extra value meals French Fries boxes, which customers can peel off to instantly win one of the many prizes in store for them. The promotion, which is running until 4 November 2016 is valid for all dine-in, drive-through and home delivery orders.

"We are thrilled to bring our customers this exciting and fun promo-

tion with the 'Peel and Win' sweepstake. As we celebrate our famous French Fries, we wanted to give back to our customers, thanking them for their interest in McDonald's restaurants and adding a smile to their day with the range of prizes we have lined up for them," said Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait. "When selecting the prizes we looked at bringing the best to our customers, so we turned to trusted and known names in the market, offering high-end electronics and experiences from all of Sony, Apple, Coca-Cola and Souq.com."

The prizes include: Sony PlayStation4, iPhone 6S, Apple iPad Mini, Apple Watch Sport, Apple iPod Shuffle, discount coupons worth US\$5 to \$250 from Souq.com, fun merchandises from Coca-Cola, as well as McDonald's vouchers.

McDonald's food prizes and Coca-Cola prizes can be redeemed instantly in-store by simply presenting the winning label to the McDonald's Staff. Souq.com vouchers can be redeemed by the Souq mobile App, whilst all other electronic prizes can be redeemed at the McDonald's head office.

McDonald's uses only 100% natural farm-harvested potatoes to make its world famous fries, and is committed to selecting suppliers who produce the highest quality potatoes. This is one of the main reasons that McDonald's fries, in their iconic red boxes, have become one of the most popular of the brand's products, beloved by customers around the world.

For more information about the "Peel and Win" promotion, please visit www.mcdonaldsarabia.com.



KT Managing Editor Jamie Etheridge and KT Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad pose with the students and parents.



SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO KUWAIT TIMES

Students from the International Schools Association in Kuwait visited the Kuwait Times newspaper in Industrial Shuwaikh yesterday for an educational field trip. The students, along with their parents, were given short lectures on journalism in Kuwait, newspaper marketing and finance and a tour of the premises including the opportunity to see the printing press in action. — Photos by Yasser Al Zayyat



LULU HYPERMARKET LAUNCHES USA FESTIVAL 2016

LuLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket in the region, kicked off its annual USA Festival 2016 with an inaugural ceremony on 5 October at its Egaila outlet. The promotion was jointly inaugurated by the US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Joey Hood and the Commercial Counselor Jeff Hamilton, in the presence of top

LuLu management and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers. The USA Festival 2016, which runs from 5 to 15 October, is being held simultaneously across all LuLu Hypermarket branches in Kuwait and offers a range of exciting discounts on US imported products. A hallmark of the promotion is cut-out displays of tradi-

tional monuments from various US states. During the promotion, shoppers can sample some of the best food products from the United States at special prices, including from popular brands such as Kraft, General Mills, Gerber, McCormick, Lite House, Califia Farms, RAG? and others. LuLu Hypermarket has gained a reputation for

organizing special promotions that appeal to the cosmopolitan customers in Kuwait. The hypermarket's close interaction with customers, along with competitive prices and the widest selection of products and popular brands from around the world provides shoppers with a rich and diverse shopping experience unlike any other.



OSN MOVIES HD

ACTION

00:15 Zombie Apocalypse
02:00 Seventh Son
04:00 First Response
06:00 The Expendables 3
08:15 The Berlin File
10:30 Dracula Untold
12:15 Hercules Reborn
14:00 The Expendables 3
16:15 The Berlin File
18:30 Dracula Untold
20:15 Into The Storm
22:00 Savages

OSN MOVIES

DRAMA+2

01:30 Maps To The Stars
03:30 Fading Gigolo
05:00 Fury
07:15 Every Thing Will Be Fine
09:15 Before I Disappear
11:00 A Stranger In Paradise
13:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine
15:00 Memorial Day
17:00 The Melancholy Fantastic
19:00 A Stranger In Paradise
21:00 Lords Of London
23:00 Lucky Them

OSN MOVIES

DRAMA

01:30 Fading Gigolo
03:00 Fury
05:15 Every Thing Will Be Fine
07:15 Before I Disappear
09:00 A Stranger In Paradise
11:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine
13:00 Memorial Day
15:00 The Melancholy Fantastic
17:00 A Stranger In Paradise
19:00 Lords Of London
21:00 Lucky Them
23:00 The Zero Theorem

OSN MOVIES HD

FAMILY

01:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
03:00 Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey
05:00 Wreck-It Ralph
07:00 Home
09:00 Black Beauty
11:00 Turner & Hooch
13:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame
15:00 Gulliver's Travels
17:00 Ernest Goes To Camp
19:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
21:30 Three Wishes
23:30 Gulliver's Travels

OSN MOVIES HD

00:15 The Night Before
02:15 The Babadook
04:15 The Lovers
06:15 The Duff
08:15 Far From The Madding Crowd
10:15 Selma
12:45 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
14:45 50 To 1
16:45 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
19:00 True Story
21:00 90 Minutes In Heaven
23:00 Unfinished Business

OSN MOVIES HD

COMEDY

00:00 The Babymakers
02:00 Sweet Home Alabama
04:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
06:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
08:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
10:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
12:00 Sweet Home Alabama
14:00 Green Card
16:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
18:00 Easy A
20:00 Scenes From A Mall
22:00 Army Of Darkness

OSN MOVIES HD

FESTIVAL

01:30 Veronica Guerin
03:15 Testament Of Youth
05:30 Listen To Me Marlon
07:15 Late Bloomers
09:00 Merchants Of Doubt
10:45 Veronica Guerin
12:30 Testament Of Youth
15:00 Philomena
17:00 Merchants Of Doubt
19:00 Dark Places
21:00 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
23:00 Heaven's Gate

OSN MOVIES HD

KIDS

01:00 Blackie And Kanuto
02:45 The Boxcar Children
04:30 The Heart Of The Oak
06:00 The Nutcracker Sweet
08:00 Miffy The Movie
09:45 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
11:30 The Flintstones & WWE: Stone Age Smackdown
13:00 The Boxcar Children
14:30 Bolts And Blip
16:00 Barnyard
18:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
20:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
22:00 Bolts And Blip
23:30 Barnyard

OSN MOVIES HD +2

00:00 The Stanford Prison Experiment
02:15 The Night Before
04:15 The Babadook
06:15 The Lovers
08:15 The Duff
10:15 Far From The Madding Crowd
12:15 Selma
14:45 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
16:45 50 To 1
18:45 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
20:00 True Story
22:00 90 Minutes In Heaven

OSN MOVIES HD

PREMIERE

00:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2
02:00 The Giver
04:00 Android Cop
06:00 Breathless
08:00 The Grand Seduction
10:00 Song For Marion
12:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
14:00 Rage
16:00 The Grand Seduction
18:00 Pompeii
20:00 Kidnapping Mr. Heineken
22:00 Mad Max: Fury Road

OSN MOVIES

PREMIERE +2

00:00 The Visit
02:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2
04:00 The Giver
06:00 Android Cop
08:00 Breathless
10:00 The Grand Seduction
12:00 Song For Marion
14:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
16:00 Rage
18:00 The Grand Seduction
20:00 Pompeii
22:00 Kidnapping Mr. Heineken



00:15 Love And Other Impossible Pursuits
02:00 Hurricane Season
04:00 Man To Man
06:30 Venom
08:15 Maleficent
10:00 Face Off
12:30 Nothing But The Truth
14:30 Half Light
16:30 Love And Other Impossible Pursuits
18:15 Hurricane Season
20:00 Stay
21:45 The Congress

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:00 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
00:50 South Park
01:15 Broad City
01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
02:05 Another Period
02:30 Broad City
03:00 Lip Sync Battle
03:25 Catch A Contractor
03:50 Ridiculousness
05:30 Impractical Jokers
06:20 Tosh.0
07:15 Hungry Investors
08:05 Ridiculousness
08:30 Ridiculousness
08:55 Impractical Jokers
09:20 Impractical Jokers
09:45 Key And Peele
10:10 Key And Peele
10:35 Ridiculousness
11:25 Hungry Investors
12:15 Key And Peele
12:40 Key And Peele
13:05 Impractical Jokers
13:35 Ridiculousness
14:45 Hungry Investors
15:35 Tosh.0
16:00 Tosh.0
16:30 Key And Peele
17:25 Workaholics
17:50 Impractical Jokers
18:39 Ridiculousness
19:27 Tattoo Disasters
19:50 Brotherhood
20:13 TUT
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
22:18 Broad City
22:42 Tosh.0
23:05 Brotherhood
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:00 Kids Baking Championships
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
02:30 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
05:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
10:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
11:00 Barefoot Contessa
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Guy's Grocery Games



THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

16:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
17:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
17:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
18:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts
19:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
20:00 BBQ Crawl
21:00 Man Fire Food
22:00 Mystery Diners
23:00 Cutthroat Kitchen

OSN FIRST HD

COMEDY

00:30 The Simpsons
01:00 The Simpsons
01:30 Saturday Night Live
02:30 Last Man Standing
03:00 The Mindy Project
04:00 Living With Fran
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 George Lopez
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
06:30 Suburgatory
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Living With Fran
08:30 George Lopez
09:00 The Mindy Project
09:30 Baby Daddy
10:00 Fresh Off The Boat
10:30 Suburgatory
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
12:30 Living With Fran
13:00 George Lopez
13:30 Suburgatory
14:00 The Mindy Project
14:30 Baby Daddy
15:00 Fresh Off The Boat
15:30 The Simpsons
16:00 The Simpsons
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Dr. Ken
18:30 Last Man Standing
19:00 Angie Tribeca
19:30 Fresh Off The Boat
20:00 Difficult People
20:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
21:30 The Simpsons
22:00 Web Therapy
22:30 Silicon Valley
23:00 Last Man Standing
23:30 Difficult People

OSN FIRST COMEDY+2

OSN First Comedy +2
00:00 Saturday Night Live
01:00 Last Man Standing
01:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
02:30 The Simpsons
03:00 The Simpsons
03:30 Saturday Night Live
04:30 Last Man Standing
05:00 The Mindy Project
05:30 The Mindy Project
06:30 Living With Fran
07:30 George Lopez
08:00 The Bernie Mac Show
08:30 Suburgatory
09:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
10:00 Living With Fran
10:30 George Lopez
11:00 The Mindy Project
11:30 Baby Daddy
12:00 Fresh Off The Boat
12:30 Suburgatory
13:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
14:00 The Bernie Mac Show
14:30 Living With Fran
15:00 George Lopez
15:30 Suburgatory
16:00 The Mindy Project
16:30 Baby Daddy
17:00 Fresh Off The Boat
17:30 The Simpsons
18:00 The Simpsons
18:30 The Bernie Mac Show
19:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
20:00 Dr. Ken

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 House Of Cards
01:00 The Blacklist
02:00 The Last Kingdom
03:00 Mad Dogs
04:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
05:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Amazing Race
07:00 C.S.I. Cyber
08:00 Stitches
09:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
10:00 The Amazing Race
11:00 C.S.I. Cyber
12:00 Stitches
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
15:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 The Blacklist
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Stitches
19:00 Containment
20:00 This Is Us
21:00 Notorious
22:00 How To Get Away With Murder
23:00 The X-Files

OSN FIRST HD

Home of HBO

00:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
01:00 Six Feet Under
02:00 Eastbound & Down
02:30 High Maintenance
03:00 Quarry
04:00 Angry Boys
04:30 Getting On
05:00 The Jack Bull
07:00 Taking Chance
08:45 61*
11:00 Walkout
13:00 Hysterical Blindness
15:00 Always Outnumbered
17:00 Walkout
19:00 It's Me, Hilary: The Man Who Drew Eloise Treme
20:00 Veep
21:30 Togetherness
22:00 Outsiders
23:00 Strip Search

OSN FIRST +2

00:00 The Last Kingdom
01:00 Mad Dogs
02:00 House Of Cards
03:00 The Blacklist
04:00 The Last Kingdom
05:00 Mad Dogs
06:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
07:00 Good Morning America
08:00 The Amazing Race
09:00 C.S.I. Cyber
10:00 Stitches
11:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
12:00 The Amazing Race
13:00 C.S.I. Cyber
14:00 Stitches
15:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
16:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
17:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 The Blacklist
19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
20:00 Stitches
21:00 Containment
22:00 This Is Us
23:00 Notorious



01:15 Stargate SG-1
05:15 Face Off
06:00 Stargate SG-1
06:45 Sanctuary
07:30 Eureka
08:15 Smallville
09:00 Dark Matter
09:45 Sanctuary
10:30 Stargate SG-1
11:20 Eureka
12:10 Smallville
13:00 Sanctuary
13:45 Waterworld
16:00 Dark Matter
16:50 Smallville
17:40 Sanctuary
18:30 Stargate SG-1
19:20 Eureka
20:10 Smallville
21:00 Face Off
21:50 Face Off
22:40 Pitch Black

00:00 Making Mr.Right
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 The Bridge
03:00 The Bridge
04:00 Project Accessory
05:00 Fit For Fashion
06:00 Fit For Fashion
07:00 Castle
08:00 Desperate Housewives
09:00 Desperate Housewives
10:00 The Bridge
11:00 The Bridge
12:00 Project Accessory
13:00 Fit For Fashion



14:00 Fashion Star
15:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
15:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
16:00 Grey's Anatomy
17:00 Grey's Anatomy
18:00 Da Vinci's Demons
19:00 Transporter: The Series
20:00 Style By Jury
20:30 Style By Jury
21:30 Low Winter Sun
22:00 American Idol
23:00 The Listener



00:20 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
01:10 90 Days To Wed
02:00 Holiday Hijack
02:50 The Undateables
03:35 Strange Love
04:00 Strange Love
04:20 Toddlers & Tiaras
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Super Soul Sunday
06:50 Holiday Hijack
07:40 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
08:30 Little People, Big World
08:55 Little People, Big World
09:20 Kate Plus 8
10:10 Love, Lust Or Run
10:35 Cake Boss
11:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
11:50 Super Soul Sunday
12:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:30 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
14:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:00 Little People, Big World
16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Kate Plus 8
17:40 Love, Lust Or Run
18:05 Cake Boss
18:30 Buddy's Family Vacation
18:55 Buddy's Family Vacation
19:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress
20:10 Super Soul Sunday
21:00 Cake Boss
21:25 Cake Boss
21:50 The Undateables
22:40 Secret Eskimo Escape
23:30 Cake Boss
23:55 Cake Boss



00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Jessie
06:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 Liv And Maddie
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Backstage
09:00 Alex & Co.
09:25 Girl Meets World
09:50 Austin & Ally
10:15 Bizaardvark
10:40 Ratatouille
12:30 The 7D
12:40 Star Darlings
12:45 Girl Meets World
14:25 Jessie
14:50 Jessie
15:15 Disney Cookabout
15:40 Dog With A Blog
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:35 Bizaardvark
17:00 Bizaardvark
17:25 Adventures In Babysitting
19:00 Star Darlings
19:05 Stuck In The Middle
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Best Friends Whenever
20:45 16 Wishes
22:15 The 7D
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:45 Gator Boys
01:40 Killer Ig: Lion vs Hyena
03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life
04:15 Africa's Trees Of Life
05:49 Hello World!
06:12 Hello World!
06:36 Village Vets
07:25 My Cat From Hell
08:15 Hunt For The Tasmanian Tiger
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Rugged Justice
11:55 Crocodile Hunter
12:50 Deadly Islands
13:45 Village Vets
14:10 Village Vets
14:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
15:35 The Lion Queen
16:30 Biggest And Baddest
17:25 Hello World!
17:50 Hello World!
18:20 Tanked

19:15 Penguins On A Plane: Great Animal Moves
20:10 Penguins On A Plane: Great Animal Moves
21:05 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
22:00 Tanked
22:55 Crocodile Hunter
23:50 Gator Boys



00:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
01:00 My Haunted House
02:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
03:00 Sex, Fame And Murder
04:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
05:00 My Haunted House
06:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
13:00 Ms. Murder
14:00 Monster In My Family
15:00 I Dated A Psycho
16:00 I Killed My BFF
18:00 Private Crimes
19:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
20:00 Gangs Of Britain...
21:00 Gangs Of Britain...
22:00 Born To Kill
23:00 It Takes A Killer



00:30 Science Of The Movies
02:10 Storm Chasers
03:50 Ultimate Survival
06:20 How It's Made
07:00 Doki
07:50 Adventure B: Zoo Games
08:40 How It's Made
12:50 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Science Of The Movies
18:40 Bear Grylls Survival School
19:30 How We Invented The World
20:20 Clash Of The Dinosaurs
21:10 Mystery Of The Lost Catacombs
22:00 Destroyed In Seconds



00:20 Chaos Caught On Camera
00:45 Mythbusters
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:50 Misfit Garage
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Gold Divers
09:20 Garage Gold
09:45 How Stuff Works
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Unearthed
11:25 Countdown To Collision
12:15 Fire In The Hole
13:05 How Stuff Works
13:30 Storage Hunters
13:55 Garage Gold
14:20 Gold Divers
15:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
16:00 Deadliest Catch
16:50 Fast N' Loud
17:40 Misfit Garage
18:30 How Stuff Works
18:55 How Do They Do It?
19:20 Gold Divers
20:10 Storage Hunters
20:35 Garage Gold
21:00 Diesel Brothers
21:50 Megastorm: World's Biggest Typhoon
22:40 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
23:30 Fast N' Loud



00:00 Ancient Aliens
03:40 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
05:20 Monster Quest
06:10 The Universe
07:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
08:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
12:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 Missing In Alaska
19:00 Ancient Aliens
20:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
21:00 WWII: Europe's Secret Army
22:00 Megaquake 10.0



00:30 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
01:20 Barbarians Rising
02:20 America's 9/11 Flag: Rise From The Ashes
03:10 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
04:00 Shipping Wars
04:30 Shipping Wars
05:00 Time Team
06:00 Shipping Wars
06:50 Swamp People
07:40 Ax Men
08:30 American Restoration
08:55 Counting Cars
09:20 Counting Cars
09:45 Counting Cars: Best Of
10:10 Car Hunters
10:35 Ice Road Truckers
11:25 Battle 360
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Fifth Gear
14:45 Alone
15:35 Shipping Wars



INTO THE STORM ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 , 2016



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e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/10/2016 TO 12/10/2016)					
KINEMA					
SHARQIA-1					
DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:45 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	2:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	3:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	3:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	5:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	7:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:15 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:15 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:05 AM
SHARQIA-2					
LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:15 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM
STORKS	11:30 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	2:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	2:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	1:45 PM	STORKS	5:15 PM	STORKS	4:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	4:00 PM	STORKS	7:15 PM	STORKS	6:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	9:15 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	8:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	8:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:30 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	10:45 PM			DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:45 AM
LAF WA DAWARAN	1:00 AM				
SHARQIA-3					
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:30 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	2:15 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	2:00 PM	SULLY	4:15 PM
STORKS	5:00 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	4:15 PM	OPPAM - Malayalam	6:30 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	7:00 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	7:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:45 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	9:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:45 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	12:30 AM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:05 AM		
MUHALAB-1					
LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM	FANAR-3	11:30 AM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	12:00 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:45 PM	TANK 432	1:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D-4DX	2:45 PM
STORKS	4:15 PM	MIRZYA - HINDI	3:30 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	5:15 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	6:15 PM	PREMAM - Telugu	3:30 PM	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1	8:00 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:00 PM	MIRZYA - HINDI	6:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D-4DX	11:00 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:45 PM	PREMAM - Telugu	6:30 PM		
MUHALAB-2					
DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:30 AM	TANK 432	9:30 PM	AVENUES-3	11:30 AM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	1:45 PM	PREMAM - Telugu	9:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	1:45 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:00 PM	TANK 432	12:15 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	4:00 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	4:00 PM			LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	6:45 PM			LAF WA DAWARAN	8:30 PM
NO FRI-MON				LAF WA DAWARAN	10:45 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	6:45 PM			LAF WA DAWARAN	1:00 AM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	9:30 PM			AVENUES-4	12:00 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	9:30 PM			LAF WA DAWARAN	2:15 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:15 AM			LAF WA DAWARAN	4:30 PM
				LAF WA DAWARAN	6:45 PM

Required

Leading Food Stuff Co. Secretary

- 2 – 3 years' Experience
- Transferable Visa (18)
- Good ability to work at MS Office
- Good abilities to use email & correspondence
- Fluent English

Please send CV

Fax: 2247 9555, e-mail: export@barakadates.com

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:25
Shorook	05:44
Duhr:	11:36
Asr:	14:58
Maghrib:	17:28
Isha:	18:45



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Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



Arrival Flights on Thursday 6/10/2016				Departure Flights on Thursday 6/10/2016											
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	672	Doha	14:05	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	FEG	932	Riyadh	13:20
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	178	Vienna	14:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	MSR	611	Alexandria	13:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	THY	767	Istanbul	14:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:40	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:50	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50	SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	KAC	177	Vienna	02:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	118	New York	17:00	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	FDB	8053	Dubai	17:45	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	RBG	552	Alexandria	04:45	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	1414	TXZ	05:05	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	AVV	654	Sohag	05:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	FEG	934	Sohag	06:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	KAC	563	Amman	19:00
BAW	157	London	06:40	JAV	621	Amman	18:45	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	JZR	240	Amman	06:55	JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	104	London	19:00	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
QTR	8511	Doha	07:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	BAW	156	London	08:25	JAV	622	Amman	19:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	KAC	173	Munich	08:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	QTR	8512	Doha	09:10	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	KAC	619	Doha	09:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	IRA	672	Ahwaz	09:35	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:45	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	174	Munich	20:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
SYR	341	Damascus	10:05	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:25	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	SYR	342	Damascus	11:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	KAC	561	Amman	11:20	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	THY	1401	ADB	22:25
AVV	651	Alexandria	12:05	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10	FDK	802	Damascus	12:45	NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	AVV	652	Asyut	13:05	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:55	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	JAD	301	Amman	23:45	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10				

CROSSWORD 1391

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
15					16							17			
18					19							20			
21				22			23				24				
		25				26			27	28					
29	30		31						32					33	34
35		36						37					38		
39			40		41		42				43	44			
45					46				47					48	
49					50					51		52			
53			54	55				56		57			58		
		59				60			61			62			
63	64				65			66			67			68	69
70					71			72		73		74			
75					76							77			
78					79							80			

ACROSS

1. By bad luck.
5. When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls.
11. Adopted in order to deceive.
15. (superlative of `good`) Having the most positive qualities.
16. Someone who leaves one country to settle in another.
17. City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
18. British artist and writer of nonsense verse (1812-1888).
19. Of or relating to apnea.
20. (usually followed by `to`) Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
21. Make a high-pitched, screeching noise, as of a door.
23. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
25. Old World woody vines.
27. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
29. A note appended to a letter after the signature.
31. A source of danger.
32. An Italian liqueur made with elderberries and flavored with licorice.
35. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
38. (computer science) Memory whose contents can be accessed and read but cannot be changed.
39. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
45. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
46. The language or speech of one individual at a particular period in life.
48. A heavy ductile magnetic metallic element.
49. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
50. Of or on or relating to the seashore.
51. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
53. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
54. The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
56. Having a dusky brownish gray color.
58. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
61. A soft whitish calcite.
63. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir.
67. Botswanan statesman who was the first president of Botswana (1921-1980).
70. (informal) Of the highest quality.
71. Not genuine.
74. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
75. A Chadid language spoken in northern Nigeria.
76. Genus of South and Central American heathlike evergreen shrubs.
77. A thrusting blow with a knife.
78. Used of a single unit or thing.
79. Having few if any teeth.
80. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

DOWN

1. A bachelor's degree in library science.

2. Plant having a large slender white bulb and flat overlapping dark green leaves.
3. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
4. United States film actress (born in 1949).
5. A jar made of glass or plastic.
6. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
7. In a straight unbroken line of descent from parent to child.
8. American novelist (1909-1955).
9. Marked by skill in deception.
10. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
11. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
12. A royal German family that provided rulers for several European states and wore the crown of the Holy Roman Empire from 1440 to 1806.
13. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
14. Dignified manner or conduct.
22. Chief port of Yemen.
24. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
26. Joint capital (with Mecca) of Saudi Arabia located in the central oasis.
28. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
30. Of or relating to a septum.
33. An informal conversation.
34. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
36. A Russian river.
37. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
40. The civil and religious leader of a Muslim state.
41. An alliance made up of states that had been Soviet Socialist Republics in the Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in Dec 1991.
42. All the plant and animal life of a particular region.
43. Make a high-pitched, screeching noise, as of a door.
44. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
47. Small genus of tropical evergreen trees or shrubs having pods like those of the acacia.
52. Capital and largest city of Indonesia.
55. A cadenced trot executed by the horse in one spot.
57. (chemistry) P(potential of) H(ydrogen).
59. Comb-plate or locomotor organ consisting of a row of strong cilia whose bases are fused.
60. Payment made to a person in a position of trust to corrupt his judgment.
62. The sacred city of Lamaism.
64. (computer science) A graphic symbol (usually a simple picture) that denotes a program or a command or a data file or a concept in a graphical user interface.
65. Having been read.
66. Any of various small biting flies.
68. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
69. A French abbot.
72. Strong liquor flavored with juniper berries.
73. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You may be asked to come to the rescue due to some difficult problem in the workplace at this time. Do not be surprised and know that you will be able to achieve a positive result. Your directional abilities are in high focus. You find that you can think things through and really use your mind to make clear choices. Work moves along smoothly in the afternoon once again and you may begin to think on ways you can improve your position. You could receive unexpected help from someone older or from authority figures. A person or teacher could appear. Perhaps you are learning the art of carpentry or the art of balance. Whatever the case, you enjoy diving in and tackling whatever is at hand.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a great time to review your nutritional needs. As we have all come to learn, a day with three good meals and a few high-protein snacks is the best answer for a healthy you. If you find it difficult to stay awake in the afternoon and you enjoy milk, you might think about eliminating products that have L-tryptophan in their content until evening: turkey, milk, etc. Positive results and personal achievements can be recognized. You attract money and although this is a busy day, it is a very good day for job-related events. There are opportunities to correct, change or improve on working situations. You may shine in your particular job. You have a lot of energy for improving your surroundings or life situation. You are very motivated to improve.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today is a good day to take off for a vacation or just take the time to relax. Time away from regular responsibilities gives you new insight and renewed appreciation of just where you are in life. Short trips into the country for materials to decorate with may boost the spirits. Your support system-family, home and those who give you nourishment-becomes more secure. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential and develop what is most basic and true in your environment. You encourage better support. Your mind could be quite clear and natural. Ideas are flowing and come with ease. If you are not vacationing at this time, it is good to be with others in most any environment. People seek you out to be a leader, at work or home.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You and a long-time friend may have words or may have gotten into the habit of arguing. Now is as good a time as any to change a negative to a positive. The mind simply cannot focus on misery when it is flooded with the desire to heal and make happy, even if the appearances and forms of misery remain. If you are in sales, this is the day you may have to work double-duty. All the energies seem to be in your favor for outstanding sales. This is another good day for requesting a loan or requesting that someone return a loan to you. There is an opportunity to attend a social event this evening. If you decide you want to attend this event, you will be at your most elegant. Your communication skills are at their best.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

If professional advice is needed, today is the best time to seek that advice. This could be a challenging day. There is an open door to success, however. In business, your secret for success seems to be that you always have another plan or project ready to lift off the ground. When you do things for others you actually help yourself and as usual, you look for ways to be helpful. Serving those who cannot help themselves and getting such help if you need it are essential lessons. Watching how people with difficulties make changes in their lives may encourage you to be more appreciative of your life and of those around you. If change is needed in your life, this is a good time to instigate a change. Change is the easiest thing to do. Let it flow and let it go.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Independence and the urge to try new and different things may be on your mind today. Someone says something or an advertisement in the paper for some new adventure has your mind in a swirl. Wouldn't it be nice to do this or to do that you say. Well, you can do anything you want; make your plans. Take a 305 card catalog box and start keeping track of all the information that you would need to reach that goal; before you know it, you have the time, the money and the plans for exactly what you want to accomplish. You enjoy unusual or unconventional behaviors and have an interest in the exotic or in eccentric friends. In other words, you do not mind creating a situation where others will question an outcome.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You search for insight and understanding as you would for lost money or hidden treasure. Obstacles and challenges will have easy solutions today. Think of your attitude as it is at this moment and listen to yourself deal with the situations as they come up. You do very well, particularly today when you feel so good and want to get through any complication quickly. Feel the energy and remember how you feel so that you can duplicate that feeling on another day that may be more difficult. Use the wonderful energies that you have now for every day. This is the start of a new birth year cycle. There could be a window in time that opens, making insights possible. Take a look. Smile; people enjoy your company.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Increased confidence and a more outgoing manner may be the keys that open many a new door in your career. With you, dreams and ideals have become a way of life. You seek to bring them down to earth and make them real. You will never let your dreams fade. You may find an old interest in music, mysticism and the arts has returned and now would be a good time to drag that old instrument out or to join a musical group. If you are involved in a technical job, your hobby will become a main attraction-you could be working to support your hobby for a while. You may discover a new you through creativity and self-expression. A kind of romantic wistfulness characterizes your approach to life. This could mean a longing for a soul mate.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A need to be respected is an emotionally charged issue at this time. You show your talent today for organizing things and people, as a sense of ambition and practicality will certainly be noticed. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste and emotion. You may even have a little opportunity to show off a bit-perhaps a master of ceremonies or with some performing arts. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love. A sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may not appreciate the emotional energy of someone you meet today but with patience, you will do fine. It is not necessary for you to point the behavior out to anyone-this could be a political situation of which higher-ups are aware. Your comments may not be beneficial to your position and you will want to remember that others may take note of your professional behavior. You are good at making practical decisions concerning important issues. You always seem to have a different slant on situations and can bring simple solutions when others go a step too far in finding solutions. You usually have a natural sense of what the public wants. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and taking a break from your hard work.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a prime time to complete unfinished tasks and to work in a team. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job, especially if you complain. You are willing to lend a helping hand to a co-worker today. You may be moved to appreciate many things this afternoon as you shop, perhaps a new store. You seem to be echoing the words, "ah, wouldn't that be lovely here," or "ah, wouldn't that be lovely there," careful. Be wise not to overspend or indulge too much just now-enjoy feeding the ducks or flying a kite. You can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you today. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others; the lines of communication are open.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You feel a love of order and law-an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Problems are valued for the lessons they represent, rather than perceived as obstacles. Others may find you especially witty and eccentric today. You may have insights or breakthroughs concerning your living situation or life circumstances. People value you for your independence and unique qualities. You may enjoy spending time with a favorite pet this afternoon. You enjoy teaching your animal friend new tricks and showing off to others. Children mimic your behavior and your patience. You may find yourself reflecting on your own youth or some event in the past. Communication with those around you, especially young people, may be quite wonderful today.

Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 4

Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.

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

ADIA	DISARM	LATELY	SAY IT
ALRIGHT	EVERLONG	LOUNGIN	SLIDE
ANGEL	EVERYTHING	MASTERPIECE	SUKIYAKI
ANYTHING	FINALLY	MISSING	TELL ME
ANYWHERE	FOOLISH GAMES	MR. JONES	TIME
BIG POPPA	HERO	NO DIGGITY	TOO CLOSE
BLACK CAT	I KNOW	NO RAIN	TWO PRINCES
CRAZY	I SWEAR	NOBODY KNOWS	UNBELIEVABLE
CREEP	INFORMER	NOT TONIGHT	WANNABE
DEAR MAMA	JUMP AROUND	RUN-AROUND	WHO DAT
DECEMBER	JUMPER	RUNAWAY TRAIN	WITHOUT YOU
DISAPPEAR	LAST KISS	SAVE TONIGHT	YOU'LL SEE

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

Las Vegas

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

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlās Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 05/10/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 37 °C

By Day : Hot with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

SFC. CHART

Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	hot	hot	hot	hot
Min Temp °C	20	20	20	20
Max Temp °C	37	38	38	38
Wind Direction	north westerly to northerly	north westerly to light variable	variable	variable
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	06 - 28	06 - 20	08 - 18

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	28		39	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	19		37	
ABDULY	21		37	
BUBYAN	19		35	
JAHRA	24		38	
FAILAKA ISLAND	22		37	
SALMIYAH	28		36	
AHMADE	28		34	
JAL ALIYAH	21		37	
QAROH ISLAND	29		34	
UMM AL-MARADEM	28		33	
NUWAISIB	21		38	
WAFRA	21		38	
MANAGISH	21		36	
SALMIY	20		35	
MUTRIBA	21		39	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	37
Min Temp (°C)	19
Max Rel Hum (%)	29
Min Rel Hum (%)	09
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:25
Sunrise	05:44
Zuhr	11:37
Asr	14:59
Sunset	17:30
Isha	18:46

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Plastic Surgeons Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 Family Doctor Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 Psychiatrists Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 Gynaecologists & Obstetricians DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr.Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 General Surgeons Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 Internists, Chest & Heart Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Paediatricians Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 Dentists Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 Neurologists Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 Gastrologists Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali 22633135	Endocrinologist Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 Physiotherapists & VD Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 Rheumatologists: Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 Internist, Chest & Heart DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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Snoop Dogg shares good vibes at rap awards

Snoop Dogg declared himself upbeat about life and the future of rap as the veteran star was recognized for career achievement at the BET Hip-Hop Awards on Tuesday. In an industry infamous for bitter beefs between rappers, the 44-year-old Snoop Dogg instead took an inspirational approach as he was presented the "I Am Hip-Hop" award at a televised ceremony in Atlanta. "I'm content. I love who I've been through my whole journey," said Snoop Dogg, who emerged from California's gangsta rap scene before creating his own more mellow sound.

"I'm just thankful to have been given a position to speak to people, to mentor people, to become Uncle Snoop, to not become some bitter old rapper who's mad because the young

MCs is happening. That's not me," he said. Snoop Dogg advised younger rappers to "stay original," describing music as having a universal power. "I'm loving where hip-hop is going, I'm loving how you're taking it across the world, and how you're all uniting people," he said. Politics was also in full display at the awards, one of the biggest annual events on the hip-hop calendar which is broadcast on BET, or Black Entertainment Television.

The rapper T.I. performed his new song "We Will Not," which voices solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement against police abuses. As T.I. rapped, his dancers took the stage as if protesters holding up signs. One by one they were knocked down by two actors playing club-wielding white

police officers. When the police tried to strike T.I., the officers instead tumbled to the ground and the rapper ascended stairs, closing the song with the line, "They can't kill us all."

Kendrick Lamar, one of the rappers most identified with Black Lives Matter, won the award for Lyricist of the Year. A fellow West Coast rapper, Lamar presented the career award to Snoop Dogg. Toronto rapper Drake won for Album of the Year with "Views," which is so far the top-selling album released this year in the United States across all genres. He beat major names in hip-hop including Kanye West and Dr Dre. — AFP



Snoop Dogg



Rapper Kid Cudi

Rapper Kid Cudi reveals depression struggle, seeks help

Kid Cudi, the rapper who has won an avid fan base for his versatility and sensitivity, has entered treatment after revealing a long struggle with depression and suicidal thoughts. Writing late Tuesday on Facebook, Kid Cudi said he felt ashamed before fans who looked up to him but could not hide the "ragin' violent storm inside my heart at all times." On Monday "I checked myself into rehab for depression and suicidal urges. I am not at peace. I haven't been since you've known me," he said. "If I didn't come here, I would've done something to myself. I simply am a damaged human swimming in a pool of emotions everyday of my life," he wrote.

His disclosure quickly became a major topic on social media, with the overwhelming majority of people voicing compassion for the rapper whose real name is Scott Mescudi. Kid Cudi said that his upcoming album, "Passion, Pain & Demon Slayin'," was still on track to come out this month but that he would step back from promotion of it. The rapper said he hoped to return to public in time to perform on November 5-6 at ComplexCon, a new cultural festival in California whose designers include leading Japanese pop artist Takashi Murakami and star songwriter Pharrell Williams.

Kid Cudi had his start in the late 2000s as his underground, introspective style of hip-hop gained the attention of rap superstar Kanye West, who became his mentor and later credited Kid Cudi with influencing his own work. With a vocal delivery that swings from rapping to expressive singing, Kid Cudi has won a passionate following among young people and especially among stoners, although he has recently stepped back from his earlier identification with the marijuana lifestyle. The 32-year-old rapper has also increasingly pursued side careers as a fashion model and actor in films and television series. — AFP



Hugh Jackman arrives at MPTF's 95th Anniversary Celebration 'Hollywood's Night Under The Stars' on Saturday in Woodland Hills, Calif. — AP

Hugh Jackman reveals title of upcoming Wolverine film

The claws are out. Hugh Jackman posted on Twitter yesterday to announce the title of his upcoming Wolverine film, previously known as "Wolverine 3." The film is the threequel to "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" (2009) and "The Wolverine" (2013). It is the tenth installment in the X-Men film series. "LOGAN," Jackman tweeted in all caps with a picture of a billboard which was unveiled on the corner of Bleecker and Lafayette streets in the NoHo district of Manhattan. The title refers for Wolverine's given name.

The film's director, James Mangold, also tweeted out an official poster. The day before releasing the poster and announcing the film's title, Mangold had teased the film by tweeting out the second page of its screenplay. "Logan" will be distributed by 20th Century Fox. It's produced by Marvel and the Donners' Company. Apart from Jackman, the cast includes Patrick Stewart, Boyd Holbrook, Richard E. Grant, Stephen Merchant, Eriq La Salle, Elise Neal and Elizabeth Rodriguez. "Logan" is scheduled for release on March 3, 2017. — Reuters

The songs' lyrics are as basic as they get, but also the most universal. Singer Sophia Brous is weaving together lullabies from some 25 cultures, exploring the deeper meaning in how to communicate with infants through music. "In a funny way, lullabies are the most successful pop songs ever to have existed," the Melbourne-born musician said. "They perpetuate themselves through generations because they're infinitely repeatable, memorable and you absorb them." To create "Lullaby Movement," Brous learned cradle songs in local languages directly from mothers or others in more than 25 communities, including asylum-seekers in the wave of migration from the war-torn Middle East.

The song cycle, set to a flowing backdrop that goes from soothing ambient sounds to bouncy synthesized bass, is dramatized through a loose story line as Brous plays a sleep-deprived girl seeking security as she stands on a pebble beach. Brous showcased "Lullaby Movement" on Saturday at National Sawdust, a year-old New York music venue with a focus on the avant-garde where the Australian has been named an artist-in-residence. Brous, who has collaborated with artists including David Byrne of Talking Heads fame and indie pop singer Kimbra, was drawn to lullabies after speaking to an 80-year-old former ballerina from Latvia who poured emotion when relating a children's song.

"The more that I began to consider them like a repertoire, the more fascinated I became," said Brous, who remembers lullabies from her own parents. Brous spent time with refugees including in the Calais "Jungle" camp in France. While stressing



Australian composer Sophia Brous poses after an interview with AFP in New York. — AP

that she has done little to address the crisis, Brous found she could quickly relate to migrant children through lullabies in Arabic, Farsi and other languages. "It is a grounder and a leveler and a connector, and I think sometimes it can be very powerful to let music play that role," she said.

Are lullabies universal?

"Lullaby Movement" indirectly touches on one of the foundational questions of linguistics: Is language universal at its root?

Brous found much in common from lullabies around the world, which so often use fragmented, made-up sounds to soothe children. "Roo, roo, 'Zhooh, zhooh, or 'aaah, aaah'-I was just so fascinated by the idea of imparted love and expressive love through words that may not have a literal meaning," she said. "What has been so interesting is that I've never once had a comment of people feeling that they are not understanding it, or feeling a disconnect from the expressive power of the music," she said about



British singers Matt Goss (left) and Luke Goss, from the British band Bros, pose together during a photo-call at the Yam Yard Hotel in central London yesterday. — AFP

1980s pop twins Bros reunite for one-off show

British 1980s pop duo Bros, twin brothers Matt and Luke Goss, announced yesterday they will reunite for a one-off concert next year, their first joint performance in 27 years. The 48-year-olds, who garnered a huge teenage fanbase in with hits such as "When Will I Be Famous?", will play London's 20,000-capacity O2 Arena on August 19. "Last year, I can honestly say I didn't think it was going to happen. I thought the moment had genuinely passed," lead singer Matt told a surprise press conference in London. "I met Luke one day for a beer and said: 'it's time'."

With Luke on drums, Bros burst onto the pop scene in 1987 with their single "When Will I Be Famous?", which hit number two in the British charts. Follow-up single "Drop The Boy" did likewise, while "I Owe You Nothing" reached number one in 1988. They last performed together before 77,000 fans at London's Wembley Stadium on August 19, 1989, before going their separate ways in 1992 after their third album.

The brothers are now based in the United States. Matt continued as a solo singer and has enjoyed a seven-year residency at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

Luke is a Hollywood actor, appearing in "Blade II" (2002), "Tekken" (2010) and "Interview with a Hitman" (2012). "I've got to learn to play drums at a level that I'm happy with again. I can't wait to go through the pain and the blisters," he said. "By the time we get there, we'll be so prepared." He said the band would play their familiar songs in a contemporary way, rather than introduce new material.

"It is a 2017 show," he said. Matt added: "Nothing has ever compared to having my brother on stage with me. "We're perfectionists. We both want it to be a spectacle. This is going to be the best show that Bros has ever done." Tickets go on general sale on Friday.—AFP

'Girl on the Train' doesn't stay on the rails

Tate Taylor's "The Girl on the Train" may be technically set in the Westchester suburb of Ardsley-on-Hudson, but its cocktail of commuter trains, marital infidelity and alcoholism make its proper setting Cheever Country. The unhappy, martini-stained lives of New York suburbanites have long been a rich vein for writers like John Cheever, Richard Yates and Paula Fox. "The Girl on the Train" is the trashier, paperback version. Its old-school title may suggest Hitchcock or maybe Fincher (who himself is remaking Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train"). But Taylor's film, disappointingly, is nowhere near the league of either. Instead, it's closer to the kind of early '90s psychological thriller where bad things happen in slow motion and deadly instruments are drawn from kitchen drawers.

It's adapted from Paula Hawkins' popular London-set novel, the success of which was predicated on comparisons to Gillian Flynn's "Gone Girl," a trio of unreliable narrators, all women, and the way it cleverly untwisted female clichés of domestic life: the bitter divorcee (Rachel, played by Emily Blunt), the sexy 'other woman' (Megan, Haley Bennett) and the unwitting wife (Anna, Rebecca Ferguson). They are each introduced in their own chapter, but our central figure is Blunt's boozy, devastated Rachel, the so-dubbed "girl" who by all appearances is suspiciously like a woman. She spends her days riding the Metro North into and out of New York, cursing the suburban "baby factory" while mini liquor bottles fall off her lap. From the tracks, she obsessively gazes at a house where she spies who she believes is the perfect, impossibly handsome couple (Bennett, Luke Evans). "I just know they know love," she says.

Plotting a getaway

From the train she sees hints of an affair or possibly a crime, and begins involving herself like a drunk Jimmy Stewart, on the rails instead of confined to a wheelchair. But the tale adds another layer - an incredulous one - to her voyeurism. As it hap-

performing the piece. But the structure of lullabies varies widely between cultures. Brous was surprised that lullabies she learned from Eritrea, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda not only had deep African rhythms, but that mothers were able to dance to them.

Other lullabies, such as those from China and Croatia, struck Brous by the darkness of the imagery, such as references to anthropomorphic animals lost in the wilderness. Brous, whose piece was first commissioned by Urban Theatre Projects in Sydney, plans an international premiere and tour of "Lullaby Movement" in the 2017-18 season. She composed the piece with Leo Abrahams, a guitarist who has played with Brian Eno and Pulp, and David Coulter, a musical saw virtuoso formerly in The Pogues celtic punk band.

Brous will spend the year working on "Lullaby Movement" and other works at National Sawdust, an intimate venue in Brooklyn whose advisory board includes leading names in classical and experimental music such as Philip Glass and Laurie Anderson. Paola Prestini, the executive and creative director of National Sawdust, said Brous "fits in very clearly" in the mission of the venue with her virtuosity and sense for a musician's role in society. "She's an artist who defies boundaries and an artist the whole world should know but doesn't yet," Prestini said. — AFP

Review



Models present creations for Louis Vuitton during the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, yesterday in Paris. — AFP photos

Vuitton gives star-filled happy ending to dark Paris season

The Louis Vuitton red carpet was rolled out at the historic Place Vendome yesterday for a much-needed happy ending to a dark Paris Fashion Week season, marred by the multimillion-dollar heist of Kim Kardashian West's jewelry. A roll call of actresses including Alicia Vikander, Jennifer Connelly, Michelle Williams, Sophie Turner and a heavily pregnant Lea Seydoux joined tennis star Roger Federer in the front row - posing with Vuitton's lauded designer Nicolas Ghesquiere. And what a show it was. Here are the highlights of yesterday's ready-to-wear collections, capping the spring-summer 2017 season.

Louis Vuitton: The clothes

In Ghesquiere's finest collection since restyling the house in 2013, the French designer exposed his passion for the '80s and riffed on science fiction. Big hair, big shoulders, big sparkle, big prints, big eyes: that was the mantra for spring-summer. Bold sunset-shaped eye make-up that stretched from ear to ear setting the fashion dial firmly to the age of Glam Rock. That era was also known for its obsession with sci-fi films, referenced by Ghesquiere in three-dimensional stereo-sound in this 45-piece show.

Styles that evoked Star Wars were seen in lozenge patches over the bust, curved asymmetrical forms on shirts with metallic sheer overlay, tunic-like gowns with boots, and armor-like white shoulder pads that looked like they might have been snipped from the back of a Darth Vader paratrooper. But the beauty of this collection was in its remarkable stylish silhouettes and the deftness of the cuts that made it a more grown-up display that we've become used to. A loose gray jacket with structured, mushroom-shaped oversize sleeves produced a stylish silhouette as it gently curved out at the bottom - in almost deconstructed patches. The designer, who revitalized Balenciaga during his tenure there from 1997 to 2012, seems to be doing the same at Louis Vuitton.

US ambassador bids farewell

Ever since Jane D Hartley became US ambassador to France in October 2014, the well-groomed diplomat has been a regular face on the front rows of major shows such as Christian Dior and Louis Vuitton. But her appear-

ance at Louis Vuitton's spring-summer show in their new store in the Place Vendome will be her last. The 66-year-old, who sat in the front row next to LVMH's Bernard and Delphine Arnault, and spoke to the AP on her passion for fashion and her sadness to bid farewell to the spectacular Paris shows.

"Oh, I will definitely miss (the Paris shows). For sure," she said, wearing a black Vuitton T-shirt with silver zig-zags. "It's wonderful being in Paris and being at these shows and the beauty and the style. I'm lucky," she said. "I think it's such an important industry here, but it's an important industry back in the US too. It's beautiful, it's creative - but we really can't forget it's a job creator on both sides of the Atlantic and I'm hugely supportive of this industry. I've also seen what fashion can do to revitalize a city and give a city life," she added. The ambassador, the second woman to serve in this position after Pamela Harriman (1993-1997) and will leave her post following November's US presidential election.

Moncler Gamme Rouge

A barren desert and rugged boulders provided a sort of fashion assault-course for Moncler Gamme Rouge's battle-tested models in the French military-inspired yesterday show. Hybrids of the hard, round shiny-tipped hats worn by the French Foreign Legion were the opener. And in case there was any doubt about the French army theme, designer Giambattista Valli began to use sashes with the French tricolor flag across round-collar tops - with the famed red, white and blue color combination repeated on Velcro straps on sneakers.

Straps, for perhaps a parachute, structured a '60s-style, sporty mini-dress in stone. And even when the signature flowers finally appeared (Valli famously loves his blooms), even then, they were imagined as a print on an X-shaped dress that evoked the military through its stiffness and shoulder epaulettes. It was an interesting and focused display. — AP



Colombian street artists graffiti for peace

Spray-paint cans in hand, a generation of street artists is covering Colombia's run-down walls with rifles that shoot heart-shaped bullets and rainbow-colored pleas for peace. After half a century of conflict, the end of which remains just beyond reach, war and peace have become central themes in Colombia's graffiti art. On the streets of Bogota, corncobs that look like grenades and gun barrels sprouting carnations have provided the backdrop as the government and the leftist rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) worked for nearly four years to conclude a historic peace agreement. The peace process suffered a shock setback Sunday when voters rejected the resulting accord in a referendum, apparently resentful of the blood shed by the Marxist guerrillas and the lenient punishment the deal meted out for their crimes. But that only fueled the creative fire for people like DJLu, a

graffiti artist known for dotting central Bogota with black-and-white messages of peace. "I prefer a twisted peace to a perfect war," said the secretive artist. DJLu, who prefers not to use his real name, doubles as an art professor at Catholic University of Colombia when he isn't out spray-painting public spaces as a self-described "servant of peace." "I wanted to send a message that would open people's minds," he told AFP of his turn to politically charged graffiti a decade ago.

"I'm simply human, and as a human I think the conflict is absurd." The prospect of turning the page on more than half a century stained by violence is increasingly fueling street artists' creativity in Bogota, where graffiti is surging as an artistic medium. The city's mayor from 2012 to 2015, former guerrilla fighter Gustavo Petro, actively promoted graffiti as a public art form. That stance helped counter the stigma of graffiti as vandalism,

and giant murals sprouted up in iconic spots throughout the city.

'Political act'

Today, visitors and fans can even take a graffiti tour, created by Australian expatriate Christian Petersen. Not everyone is embracing the trend. "Peace is in vogue... on the tourist stage that Colombia is becoming," said the street artist Stinkfish. But Toxicomano ("Addict"), a graffiti artist known for works protesting atrocities committed by the Colombian army during the war, said the medium is well-suited to politically engaged art. "The mere fact of painting in the street is a political act," said the artist, who painted a large, colorful mural urging Colombians to vote "yes to peace" in the run-up to Sunday's referendum.

The Colombian conflict has killed more than 260,000 people

and forced nearly seven million to flee their homes. Another 45,000 are missing. The government and the FARC began a ceasefire on August 29, and both sides appear committed to ending their fighting despite voters' rejection of the accord negotiated in the Cuban capital. Seeking to save the peace process, President Juan Manuel Santos has dispatched his foreign minister, defense minister and chief peace negotiator to hold talks with the opposition. They will be tasked with finding a compromise acceptable to both the FARC and the hardliners who led the campaign to vote against the Havana deal. If they need inspiration, they can turn to the colorful messages of peace spray-painted on the nation's streets. — AFP



This file photo shows a man riding his bike past a graffiti with a sentence that reads 'Peace is ours' in Bogota.



This file photo shows a graffiti with a sentence that reads 'Peace for the people' in Cali, Colombia. — AFP photos

Home remedies to lighten dark spots



Our skin reflects on how we feel, how healthy we are and also reflects on how much we care for it and maintain it. You can easily tell the difference between someone who's suffering from emotional trauma from someone who has acne, and from someone who has trouble sleeping and is dehydrated from someone who regularly gets facials, uses moisturizers and is hydrated. It's a package that we, with time, care for more and more as with age we notice changes within our skin and how "higher" maintenance it can be, especially with young girls and women, changes in hormones, sun exposure and environmental pollution can leave a huge mark on our skin in the long run, if not taken care of.

Living in the Middle East, or geographically in an area or country where you're exposed to extreme heat, weather changes, dehydration and sun can eventually take a toll on your skin and even skin color. You start to notice darker spots around your face and even around your body, in areas such as the chin, around your lips, forehead, elbows and knees. What's even worse is that with time these areas tend to darken even more when not treated, some people even go as far as peels and lasers to either lighten or remove these areas. However, if your case isn't as severe and extreme as to those who go for peels and lasers, I've come up with a few home recipes that you can try out to

- lighten these dark spots, and keep in mind any allergies you have as well as that these remedies tend to take time to show results, and are not medical or chemical for you to see results on spot or shortly after, natural ingredients take time but also are very useful for your skin and body as a whole.
- 1. Yoghurt**
You can always use yoghurt mask or apply it to certain areas to lighten darker spots as yoghurt contains lactic acid which is known for its bleaching properties. Try adding a table spoon of honey as well as some lemon juice to make this mask a bit harsher. Keep the mask on for 10 to 15 minutes, and you can repeat this daily.
 - 2. Oranges**
The most important ingredient in skincare is Vitamin C, as it's known to bleach your skin tone as well as improve the overall texture of your skin. This recipe is done by grinding dried orange peels to powder and adding a pinch of turmeric powder along with one table spoon of yoghurt. You can do this twice a week maximum, and leave it on for 15 to 20 minutes each time.
 - 3. Aloe Vera**
Hyperpigmentation takes place when you have uneven skin tone and aloe vera restores your skin

making it even and glowing. The cooling effect it has rebuilds damaged tissue as well as regenerates new cells. All you have to do is cut an aloe vera leaf in half, squeezing the gel-like substance from inside, or simply use aloe vera gel from any pharmacy, and apply it on your skin or darkened area for about 30 minutes then wash off. You can repeat this twice daily, and up to two weeks.

4. Potatoes
If you ever suffer from dark under eyes or notice that you're getting dark circles due to exhaustion or lack of sleep, always go for a potato! Slice it up, you can even mash it, apply it to your under eye area for a few minutes (5-10 minutes) then wash off. The starch absorbs the hyperpigmentation and restores your skin tone as well as triggers the production of new skin cells.

It's essential to maintain your skin for a more youthful and healthy glow, it's something that'll always make you stand out, because no amount of make up or products can cover up unhealthy and damaged skin, but always go for what works best for you and not everyone else.

Introducing the new AW16 collection from 'Yours London'

Yours clothing is proud to introduce the chic Autumn/Winter 2016 collection, taking inspiration from key trends found on this season's catwalks and adapting them for the plus size market.

This season we have introduced an easy to wear transitional trend - Scarlett Woman. Dropping a splash of red into black casual wear, formal wear and tailoring, the trend combines 'black' attire which is elegant enough to wear for all occasions, and adds a pop of red, to create an on-trend, seasonal wardrobe that perfectly merges classy and classic. Be bold and effortlessly stylish this season and shop the striking Scarlet Woman collection.

Artisan is a secondary AW16 collection consisting of rich, deep autumnal colours that have been heavily influenced by scenic woodland forests. Decadent, warm hues including woodland browns, moss greens and paradise blues offer comfort and when combined with flawless tailoring will help to create a flattering, wearable wardrobe.

Deeper in the AW16 season, just in time for the festive months, expect to see a colour palette that includes glamorous golds and reds, shimmering gunmetals and soft pinks all intertwined with an elegant black foundation, to contrast perfectly with the Yours London formal and casual wear collections which includes rich hues such as burgundy and blush.

Yours London, which has a fantastic range of clothing in sizes from 16 till 32, is designed to perfectly flatter your silhouette while including the latest trends in evening and daywear, all at highly competitive prices. The brand is committed to offering a range of plus size clothing to customers that is both stylish and great value.

The new AW16 collection will be available in the recently opened flagship store at Al-Sharqiya Mall, Khaitan.



Brigitte Khoury Beauty Lounge grand opening

Wonderful lounge beauty, great staff, talented and great customer service. Courteous, professional and always on time- outstanding beauty technique and artistic touch, both are top notch! BRIGITTE KHOURY Beauty Lounge is a true gem.

Since 1996 we have prided ourselves in our high standards, updating our beauty therapy skills with the latest treatments and products available, and keeping a professional but relaxed atmosphere.

A nationwide network with an award-winning network in Kuwait, a dedication through years of experience to express inner beauty outwardly. BRIGITTE Beauty Lounge aims to transform the way our customers look and feel each and every day, making sure clients leave our place feeling like winning million.

The famous artist, the queen of stage "Myriam Fares" is Khoury's true gem. An outstanding artistic touch.

Whether you are cutting, coloring or having a hair treatment, Brigitte Beauty Lounge & Spa experts get to the heart of what it is clients want to achieve. The result: They walk out of our Beauty



Lounge feeling more confident, more beautiful and thanks to our top tips and best in the business hair and skincare products, more able to recreate their special look and feeling day after day, at home.

Our team of caring and professional beauty therapists will make you feel at ease as they combine their knowledge and skills with beautiful products. In our hands you will enjoy personal and

luxurious treatments. Whether your visit is for beauty maintenance, relaxation or just self-indulgence the results will leave you feeling and looking amazing.

Our team is dedicated to nurture your body with an amazing treatments and wellness care.

Exude the season's hottest trends with New Look's highly anticipated AW16 collection

As the days get shorter and the weather slightly cooler, those of us living in the Middle East breathe a sigh of relief as the sweltering summer starts to fade away. This transition signals an upcoming season of more bearable autumn-winter months and gives us a new excuse to fill our wardrobes with New Look's key trendy pieces straight from the catwalks.

Sports luxe is one of the biggest trends for AW16 and now entirely appropriate worn outside of the gym. Colour block patterns inspired by retro ski wear are key, as are stirrup leggings, tracksuit pants - the new must-have trouser - and logo hoodies which are perfect for layering.

Animal print is another big trend of the season and can be found across pleated skirts, V neck jumpers and structured coats. Velvet also makes a return in forest greens, navy and burgundy and looks luxurious mixed with lace and satin.

The roll neck becomes an outfit staple, worn under dresses, hoodies, sweatshirts and jackets. Meanwhile, pyjama dressing continues with soft patterned jumpsuits that can be reworked from day to night.

The party dress is transformed with jacquard fabric and metallic sheens. Outerwear steps up its game with ginger faux fur coats and embroidered bombers that ooze attitude worn with tartan skirts.

Completing the look is New Look's extensive autumn-winter accessories collection channelling the early 90s. This season, shoes are clean and contemporary especially classic, androgynous styles which get an update

with metallic finishes and chunky heels.

Boots are given a sense of drama with embroidered detailing, luxe velvet and feature heels. Ankle boots take inspiration from the catwalk, finishing higher up the leg and worn with lurex socks for a street style edge.

Earrings steal the spotlight with oversized hoops, clean orbs and chandelier styles. 90s chokers are still on trend, while plain or printed neck scarves feel fresh for autumn.

Strap details are key on bags and the chain shoulder bag is a sure favorite. Metallics, animal prints and velvet are all important in terms of fabric and quilting and frills are must-have details.

In terms of headwear, beanies with pom-pom detailing are the ultimate accessory and sporty caps are more stylish than ever.

Two distinct looks dominate New Look's lingerie collection for autumn-winter: luxury and sportswear.

Velvet and satin come to life in rich jewel tones like midnight blue and berry, while delicate eyelash lace in neutral colours adds timeless glamour. Longer line bralets and bodies are key pieces, with touches of metallic and pleated mesh giving them an AW16 update. Less luxurious and more sports luxe, the 90s trend shows its influence with athletic-inspired underwear, especially bodies and casual sets with striped trims.

While the 90s trend is sweeping across female fashion, menswear has taken a more decidedly elegant approach, absorbing inspiration for the AW16 lines from the counterculture of the 1960s. New Look Men

implements key seasonal trends into its AW16 Collection to create a line that is shimmering with masculine appeal

Statement checks and stripes, a tan-dominated palette and retro shapes which, include high necks are key. Layering gives the look a modern update, particularly in the form of oversized jerseys, military-inspired rib knits and black suede jackets while Outerwear pieces feature herringbone or dogtooth patterning are the perfect finish to a modern smart silhouette. Bomber jackets are back this season but are given an interesting update in new fabrics such as silk and suede.

Casualwear has a utility influence with plenty of neutral tones, while pops of red trim and unique collar detailing add an autumnal twist. Sportswear is a huge trend for the AW16 season overall and spills heavily into menswear. Track pants have become the season's essential trouser and are perfectly paired with longline textured coats while traditional workwear has been fused with trending sportswear to create a collection that provides stylish options for the modern man, offering an improved fit using premium fabrics and performance stretch pieces.

The Autumn Winter Collection is available at all New Look stores throughout Kuwait at The Avenues, Al-Bairaq Mall, Al-Salam Mall and Promenade Mall.

Disposing of hot Kardashian gems puts robbers in a bind

Pulling off a \$10 million dollar jewel heist is one thing-but finding a buyer is another, say experts, predicting that the robbers who targeted Kim Kardashian would struggle to dispose of their loot. Kardashian, the world's highest paid reality television star, was held up at gunpoint in a luxury Paris apartment in the early hours of Monday.

The robbers made off with a ring worth four million euros (\$4.5 million) and a case of jewelry with a value of five million euros (\$5.6 million). Sandrine Marcot, acting president of the French union of jewelers and watchmakers, said the value of the haul would "crash" due to the media hype around the heist and the recognisability of the stolen goods. "Everyone knows that ring. It won't be easy to get rid of it," a police source said.

Last week, Kardashian had posted a Twitter photograph of her left hand sporting a huge diamond sparkler-reportedly a 20-carat ring by Lorraine Schwartz given to her by her husband, rap superstar Kanye West. "These are not everyday jewels. These are unique pieces," Marcot told AFP, predicting the spoils of the raid would be cut into smaller gems to conceal their origin.

Laser tracing
Precious stones often come stamped with a laser mark, making them "extremely easy to trace", Marcot said. Some laser marks are so deep they are impossible to cover up but others can be concealed by savvy polishing, making the stone "difficult to identify, unlike, for example, a stolen painting," the police source said. In most cases, the robbers work with several intermediaries, including a shady jeweler in charge of whittling down the gem into less conspicuous stones.—AFP





Indian participants bid for items at an auction in New Delhi. — AFP photos

India's home auctioneers raise gavel on unwanted goods

On a scorching rooftop in a smart neighborhood in the Indian capital, 40 Delhiites with an eye for a bargain peer over auction tables creaking with used, broken and half-eaten items, the front line of a thriving second-hand economy. The auctioneer's voice rises to a frenzied pitch as the numbers soar higher, each item wielded to a rapid bidding war — 200 rupees (\$3), 300, 700 as sheaves of Gandhi-emblazoned notes change hands in a flurry of shouts, winks and the occasional scuffle.

Mobile phones missing chargers, American shaving foam cans that have lost their pressure and expired food packets are all on display, together with a vacuum cleaner, outdated Apple laptops and knock-off designer sunglasses-labeled coyly as "local". "Everything will go," says Ashok Sood, a professional home sale organizer who arranges weekly auctions at homes or embassies in New Delhi, mostly for well-off Indians or expatriates who are moving on. "There is nothing we can-

not sell," he adds proudly. "The only question is price."

Delhi's second-hand circuit goes far beyond a humble car boot or garage sale, attended by hundreds of full-time dealers who buy to sell on and savvy middle-class Indians scouting bargains. "In India people recycle more than anywhere in the world. Labour is cheap and brains are sharp. Out of three things that are not working, they make two work," Sood says.

A grocer by trade, he spotted the niche at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi when he saw foreigners being offered money for their Nike trainers and Sony Walkmans, rarities at the time. "Back then we were selling VCRs, landline phones, tennis rackets. Things that otherwise only came in through smuggling," he says. Since India's economy started opening up in 1991 foreign brands have become more visible, but are often much costlier than in other markets because of high import duties. These days electronics are the most sought-after items, Sood says, followed by furniture. Some can be refurbished, but even

those beyond repair hold value—a broken smartphone can be sold for parts for a hefty margin.

Ikea's exotic allure

Delhi-based dealer Abishek Chowdhury specializes in "upright pianos, golf clubs and imported furniture, like Ikea". The Swedish homeware brand so popular in Europe and other parts of Asia has yet to open its doors in India—although it will next year—giving its flatpack designs an exotic allure. "Some of it I sell it from my warehouse at my home, some of it I sell online," Chowdhury explains. Rural dealers who have travelled to the city to buy furniture raise their margins by telling customers in their villages that the goods were purchased from the home of a diplomat, an unassailable hallmark of quality.

One couple exits dragging a large air conditioner that once cooled a factory, happy to have paid 11,000 rupees for an appliance that costs around 39,000 rupees new. It looks heavi-

ly used, but they seem unconcerned—auctioneers do not guarantee the condition of goods. "If it is broken we will get it fixed," the husband shrugs. Despite still holding multiple sales each week, Sood and dealers say business has declined in recent years. Many now prefer ready-furnished flats, especially in the satellite city of Gurgaon, curtailing the circulation of white goods and leading the average value of goods traded at auction to slide from around 200,000 rupees to 100,000.

Yet in India as elsewhere, there will always be those drawn by the thrill of a bargain. Auction regular Samir Mahmud has so much stuff his flat is running out of space but could not resist purchasing a hammock after prevailing in a fierce contest with another bidder. "It's like an addiction, everybody says this," he laughs. "It's dangerous, I'm really suffering. I have all this stuff, but I don't want to sell it." — AFP



Photo shows Santiago Lyon makes his way up a climb during the 2016 Haute Route Pyrenees timed cycling event in France.



Photo shows cyclists make their way up the Cap de Long climb during the 2016 Haute Route Pyrenees timed cycling event in France.

Amateur cyclists tackle the Pyrenees in a grueling race

For many people, vacation means lying pool-side or beachside, reading and relaxing. But for me, it meant biking through the French Pyrenees in a week-long race, taking in the famous climbs of the Tour de France with 400 others. It was agonizingly difficult, one steep, grueling mountain road after another. But it was also wonderful. The event was part of the Haute Route series, billed as "the highest, toughest and most prestigious amateur cycling events in the world." The events take place annually in the French Pyrenees, French Alps and Italian Dolomites. A US event is planned for the Rocky Mountains in June 2017.

Haute Route events attract cycling-crazy folks from around the world of all ages and abilities. At

climbing. Each day we'd burn 4,000 to 5,000 calories.

Heavy fog

The event began in Anglet in rainy weather. Then we hit the first major uphill of the day, the Col d'Ahusquy, a steep 8-mile (13-kilometer) ascent. I'd never been on a climb this long and difficult before and found myself breathless and exhausted halfway up, wondering what I'd gotten myself into. A quick pause and it was down the other side toward the day's second and final climb, the Pierre St Martin, a 10-mile (16-kilometer) climb through heavy fog, with visibility dropping to about 20 meters (65 feet), a blessing because you couldn't

Massive mountains

Some might call it suffering, but for me it was cleansing, liberating, nothing but effort and the road ahead. The mind? Circling the wheel, wondering what was to come. And then I passed a one-legged, one-handed man on his bike, also making his way up. He's Christian Haettich, a regular, who lost his leg and hand in a traffic accident as an adolescent and yet he's chugging away on some of the toughest climbs in Europe. At the top, the landscape was astonishing, massive mountains upholstered in green grass and trees like giant sleeping ogres.

The Pyrenees, where Iberia smashes slowly into France. Dropping down like a marble, through tunnels bored through the rock, we descended into the valley. Cows lay nonchalantly by the roadside, big metal bells around their necks, a few pigs too and some sheep, guarded by large mountain dogs. We were warned not to approach the sheep lest the dogs mistake us for wolves and attack, as had apparently happened in previous years.

'Broom wagon'

And then to the base of the day's final climb, the Col de Spandelles, just 6 miles (10 kilometers) long but with steeply graded ramps. Small groups of curious bystanders would form by the road, some clapping, some cheering us on. We went through the legendary Tourmalet climb, scene of epic battles in Tour de France races. Drink, drink, sweat, sweat and drink some more. More switchbacks, focus, OK, half a mile (1 kilometer) to go, pushing a bit harder and onwards, up and then down through majestic scenery, but always keeping an eye on the clock.

Each day had a time cut off and if you didn't make it, you'd be eliminated from the timed event and escorted to the "broom wagon" for a ride to the finish. The next day you could continue at your own pace, no longer timed. The final day was a mere 105 miles (169 kilometers), just one major climb and then mostly downhill through rolling farmland into Toulouse. And then it was over. We got our participant medals, then celebrated with pizza, soft drinks and later in Toulouse, a beer or two. Reflecting on the week, each day had seemed as punishing as the next, my whole body a slippery sinew of muscle turning and turning. But I'd gradually adjusted to the effort, the fitness kicking in. What seemed like misery in the moment felt like triumph looking back. But would I trade a beach vacation for a week of pushing uphill again? Absolutely. — AP



Photo shows cyclists make their way up the Col d'Ahusquy during the first day of the 2016 Haute Route Pyrenees timed cycling event in France.

the sharp end of the stick are aspiring or retired professionals, in the middle are fit cycling enthusiasts like me and at the bottom are people who signed up on a whim and may be regretting it. Some brave souls do all three European events, back to back, the so-called "triple crown."

My August trip to southwestern France was a 50th birthday present from my wife. I met up for the race with a friend, Paul O'Donnell, also turning 50. Both of us race bikes regularly in the New York area and are, for our ages, very fit. This was to be a stiff test of our abilities: 500 miles (800 kilometers) with 65,000-plus feet (20,000-plus meters) of

see the long series of switchbacks coming.

It was quiet for long stretches but for the whirring of bikes and the riders' breathing, with cowbells softly tinkling in the distance. A car or motorcycle engine would come and go and then you could focus on your own engine again - heart, lungs, legs. Day two saw four climbs, all hard and long, with the Col D'Aubisque the killer, on and on (and then on some more) for 10 miles (17 kilometers). Exhausted, rationing water, stuffing down energy gels, controlling the breathing, I tried to focus. Sweat dripped into my eyes, stinging me onto another pedal stroke, and then another.

Prince's Paisley Park to open, but only for some

Prince's closely-guarded studio complex in Minnesota has delayed plans to welcome legions of fans, with officials granting only temporary permits on three dates starting today. The late "Purple Rain" star's state-of-the-art studio was set to open with tours this week, but local officials in Chanhassen, a suburb of Minneapolis, delayed their approval for turning the complex into a museum.

In a meeting that lasted more than three hours on Tuesday, some local residents said they were concerned that the estimated 600,000 fans expected to visit the studio-turned-museum each year would create traffic jams and congestion in the town of 24,000. "That's something we need to talk about as a community: do we want to be a tourist town?" said Chanhassen City Councilwoman Bethany Tjornhom. Members of the council asked the Bremer Trust, which controls Paisley Park on behalf of Prince's estate, to come up with a more detailed plan for addressing the impact of a major tourism draw.

The trust announced a compromise with the council for fans who had been looking forward to entering the complex this week. The studio will now open on Thursday, Saturday and the following Friday, October 14. Ticket-holders scheduled for tours on dates up to October 15 were encouraged to come on the three available days instead, or receive a refund. "Paisley Park is also in discussions with the Mall of America to host an exhibition of Prince artifacts and wardrobe, which we anticipate opening by early next week. This exhibition will be available to all ticket holders," a statement said, referring to the large shopping complex near Minneapolis.

Prince's studio has held a mythical status for fans, who have had only limited access to parts of it during the pop legend's life. A lucky few hundred are said to have toured it. Prince died on April 21 from an overdose of painkillers. He was 57.

'Our generation's Graceland'

The changes this week are sure to frustrate fans who made travel arrangements and bought \$40 or \$100 tickets for tours. "It's our generation's Graceland," said fan Sabrina Miller, 48, of Chicago, speaking of Elvis Presley's expansive estate in Memphis, Tennessee. She plans on being one of the lucky ones making it inside Paisley Park. "For me, it will be a way for me to once again pay my respects to him," she said. For Minneapolis-area locals, Paisley Park has also been the subject of great speculation and folklore—among them, that Prince kept live doves in the atrium of the complex. At the Depot, a Minneapolis bar attached to the club where much of Prince's famed "Purple Rain" movie was filmed, bartender Steve Beavers had been looking forward to entering the complex to learn if some of that folklore was true. Now, he's not sure he will get in.

"Like with everything else it seems with Prince, everything is always very tentative," he said. "That was part of his mystique." The 55,000-square-foot (5,100-square-meter) complex will open one week before fans descend on Prince's Minnesota hometown for a memorial tribute concert. — AFP



Prince's star is seen on a wall outside First Avenue in downtown Minneapolis, the club featured in Prince's famed 'Purple Rain' film yesterday. — AFP

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

India's home auctioneers
raise gavel on
unwanted goods

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Indian folk dancers perform during the full dress rehearsal on the eve of Vibrant Navratri Mahotsav at the GMDC ground. Folk dancers from across India are participating in the Vibrant Navratri Mahotsav as the Hindu 'Navratri' - the 'Dance Festival of Nine Nights' - began on October 1. — AFP



This picture shows artworks created from articles found during a beach treasure hunt organized by Dutch environmentalist and artist Ralph Groenheijde in Scheveningen.



Dutch environmentalist and artist Ralph Groenheijde (second left) speaks to participants at one of his beach treasure hunts in Scheveningen.



This picture shows artworks created from articles found during a beach treasure hunt.

Dutch clean-up 'heroes' turn beach rubbish into art

Every parent has watched bemused as excited kids toss aside gifts to play with the boxes instead. But what about when they ignore the shells on a tropical beach in favor of plastic bottle tops? That was the puzzle for Ralph Groenheijde when he and his family visited Costa Rica a few years ago—a trip that was to spark a passionate crusade to clean up the beaches back home in the Netherlands.

His then two-year-old son paid little heed to the shells, collecting instead dozens of brightly coloured bottle tops. Eventually they used them to create a giant sun mosaic on the sand, before depositing them in a bin. It was to trigger Groenheijde's scheme not to just clean up the wide, sandy beaches skirting the coast of The Hague, but also to turn an unwanted "treasure trove" of trash into wacky works of art.

In a play on words, this summer's creations have been gathered in the new TrashUre Museum, where lost balls and multi-coloured plastic spades dangle like decorations from the ceiling. Candy wrappers artfully adorn a rakish top hat tied with blue string, and a cascade of flipflops makes a rainbow floor sculpture. A blue fisherman's net is hooped and hung as a dress on a dummy, while hundreds of cigarette butts spill from a giant box, offering a silent rebuke.

Heroes and pirates

Harnessing the power of social media, Groenheijde organized his first trash hunt in the Netherlands some three years ago and built a pirate ship in the sand with the finds. "The moment that it was finished the kids came and started playing with it," Groenheijde, 44, a trained therapist and counselor, told AFP. "From that moment on I began calling the trash can a treasure chest, and from now on we are treasure hunters. We are pirates. We are saving animals. We are heroes because of that." When a friend offered him the free use of a building on the Scheveningen seafloor, Groenheijde hit on the idea of a museum for the artworks.

Now he guides groups of adults and children daily on sorties, motivating them to clean up the environment, to get out and exercise and stretch their muscles as well as their imaginations. This summer he set locals a 90-day challenge to scour the sands every day. Since the end of June he calculates they have scooped up some 40 tons of garbage—including 42 dirty nappies, 64 sanitary pads and 18 tampons, all of which are disposed of in bins. These finds come despite efforts by local authorities. A 15-strong council crew heads out nightly using tractors and beach cleaners "digging and raking the waste from the sand" for 10 hours from the 11-kilometre (seven-mile) stretch of beach.

Annually 1.9 million euros (\$2.1 million) are spent by The Hague to keep the beaches clean, and on a single busy day they can collect up to 100 square meters (about 1,000 square feet) of trash from over 400 large bins and



Dutch environmentalist and artist Ralph Groenheijde (left) speaks to participants at one of his beach treasure hunts in Scheveningen. — AFP photos

the shoreline, a spokesman for the city said. That's equivalent to 20 king-size beds. The dirtiest finds are also why Groenheijde calls his TrashUre hunters heroes for "daring to take care of the toilet"—no-one wants to clean the toilet at home, but someone has to.

Bags overflowing

"I never expected to collect so much rubbish in 15 or 20 minutes. I was very surprised," said Jawad El-Woustati, who was among 20 young trainees from The Hague municipality sent to join Groenheijde on one expedition. Giggling, the group initially turned up their noses at the task. But as Groenheijde divided them into groups and made it a challenge, bafflement gave way to enthusiasm. Soon they were pouncing on every bit of offending detritus and soon had three huge overflowing bags. "Now I've seen what's on the beach, from now on I'm going to take a bag and collect everything to put in the bin," Woustati said.

The piece de resistance in the museum is a perfectly executed map of the world—the continents are formed from some 30,000 cigarette butts and the seas dotted with bottle tops—to represent all the plastics floating in the oceans. "Unfortunately, there are so many people who don't use the rubbish bins," said Sophie Hermans, one of the group taking part that day. "It's a very simple idea, and it would be so easy to do this around the world." — AFP

Ancient Japan 'more cosmopolitan' than thought

Ancient Japan may have been far more cosmopolitan than previously thought, archaeologists said yesterday, pointing to fresh evidence of a Persian official working in the former capital Nara more than 1,000 years ago. Present-day Iran and Japan were known to have had direct trade links since at least the 7th century, but new testing on a piece of wood-first discovered in the sixties-suggest broader ties, the researchers said.

Infrared imaging revealed previously unreadable characters on the wood—a standard writing surface in Japan before paper—that named a Persian official living in the country. The official worked at an academy where government officials were trained, said Akihiro Watanabe, a researcher at the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. The official may have been teaching mathematics, Watanabe added, pointing to ancient Iran's expertise in the subject.

"Although earlier studies have suggested there were exchanges with Persia as early as the 7th century, this is the first time a person as far away as Persia was known to have worked in Japan (during the period)," he said. "And this suggests Nara was a cosmopolitan city where foreigners were treated equally." Nara was the capital of Japan from around 710 AD to around 784 AD before it was moved to Kyoto and later present-day Tokyo. The discovery comes after another team of researchers last month unearthed ancient Roman coins at the ruins of an old castle in Okinawa in southern Japan. It was the first time coins from the once mighty empire have been discovered in Japan, thousands of kilometers from where they were likely minted. — AFP



This undated handout picture released by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties yesterday shows a wood strip - discovered in the 1960s and dated to be over 1,000 years old - that was excavated from Heijokyo trace, in the former capital Nara. — AFP