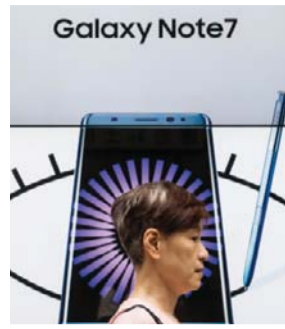


Alghanim Industries to open Wendy's in Kuwait



Samsung scraps Galaxy Note 7 over fire concerns



Iran players say hijab no reason for world chess boycott



Iran football fans banned from celebrating on holy day



ASSEMBLY WILL LIKELY BE DISSOLVED 'WITHIN DAYS'

FORMER MP SAWWAGH DIES IN HOSPITAL, MOH OPENS PROBE



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OBABDI'S BRAVE DECISION OPENS WAY FOR YOUNG HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Dr Ali Al-Obaidi

IN OUR VIEW
This week, Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi took a few courageous steps to bring fresh blood into the health ministry. He issued a series of decisions that included the forced retirement of several long-serving officials and reshuffled several other positions. The decisions are within the rules set down by the Civil Service Commission, which allows the government to retire anyone who has served more than 30 years. Dr Obaidi even went an extra mile, retiring those with more than 35 years of service and ensuring retirees' health benefits were secured in an earlier decision.

Though unpopular with some, the moves are intended to shake up the Health Ministry and help it modernize. The healthcare professionals who will be taking up the newly-vacated leadership roles are all mid-career experts in their field who will help introduce new and necessary changes to Kuwait's healthcare system.

Dr Obaidi's brave decision is an important and much needed step to revitalize and modernize Kuwait's healthcare sector. Thousands of dedicated and hardworking professionals contribute to making Kuwait's healthcare sector function every day, but outdated systems, antiquated ways of doing things and, in some instances, resistance to change are holding back what needs to happen to bring Kuwait's healthcare roaring successfully into the 21st century.

As our country grows and develops, we need to make way for younger generations who have dedicated years to study and to becoming experts in their chosen fields. These younger mid-career professionals are now ready to begin taking over the reins of leadership and to contributing their expertise, insight, experience and modern ways of doing things to shaping the future of Kuwait.

We applaud Dr Obaidi's extensive efforts at reforming the country's healthcare sector and opening up roles to younger medical professionals who can help steer us toward a healthier, brighter tomorrow.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah meets HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. Sheikh Sabah is the first Kuwaiti Amir to officially visit Brunei since the country gained independence in 1984. — Amiri Diwan (See Page 5)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly will most likely be dissolved "within days", veteran MP Khalaf Dumaitheer said yesterday, as a number of lawmakers and parliamentary sources said an Amiri decree could be issued to dissolve the house on Sunday. "There are strong indications that the National Assembly will be dissolved very soon," the pro-government Dumaitheer told reporters as he came out of the speaker's office. "I think the decision will be issued within days. I have already taken away some of my belongings from my office," he said. "The next supper of the two authorities - Assembly and government - will be the last one," the lawmaker added.

Dumaitheer's statements came following threats by a large number of lawmakers to file requests to grill ministers, mainly the finance minister, over the decision to hike petrol prices. After MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi filed a request to grill justice minister Yacoub Al-Sane over the delay in issuing bylaws of the Anti-Corruption Authority, a number of MPs have vowed to submit more grillings.

MPs Ali Al-Khamees, Abdullah Al-Turajji and Ahmad Al-Azemi, who said they plan to grill Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, are expected to file their request tomorrow. MP Faisal Al-Kandari also plans to file his grilling request against the finance minister soon. MP Jamal Al-Omar was said to be preparing a third grilling against Saleh, with MPs Saleh Ashour and Hamdan Al-Azemi. The lawmaker said there will be a big surprise at the Assembly, without providing further details. All the grillings center on the issue of petrol prices, which were hiked from the start of September by between 40 percent and 80 percent, sparking angry reactions from lawmakers.



Falah Al-Sawwagh

Continued on Page 13

RUSSIA RENEWS HEAVY BOMBING OF ALEPPO

ALEPPO: Regime ally Russia carried out its heaviest strikes in days on Syria's Aleppo yesterday, as at least five children were killed in rebel fire on a school in the war-torn country's south. The raids killed 16 civilians, a monitor said, and caused massive damage in several residential areas of the city's rebel-held east. Russian President Vladimir Putin meanwhile cancelled a planned trip to Paris in a row over the violence in Syria, where Moscow is helping President Bashar Al-Assad's forces in an operation to recapture all of Aleppo.

Syria's army announced a bid last month to retake the city, which has been divided since mid-2012. The assault began after the collapse of a short-lived truce negotiated by Washington and Moscow, and has seen the besieged east of the city come under fierce aerial assault. The army said last Wednesday it would reduce its bombardment, after days of bombing that killed hundreds and destroyed the largest remaining hospital in the rebel-held east.

But an AFP correspondent and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported renewed heavy bombing yesterday. "This is the heaviest Russian bombardment since the Syrian regime announced it would reduce the bombardment" last week, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said. The 16 dead, among them four children, were killed in raids in the

Bustan al-Qasr and Fardos neighborhoods, the Observatory said.

An AFP correspondent in Bustan al-Qasr saw a multi-storey residential building that had been destroyed, its facade sheared off in the air attack. Members of the White Helmets rescue force pulled two lifeless toddlers from the building and wrapped them in white sheets. Footage by the Aleppo Media Centre activist group showed a toddler, blood smeared across her face, lying on a hospital bed. An older man near her is wailing in pain as a team of medics bends over him, calling out instructions to the nurses.

The Britain-based Observatory - which relies on a network of sources - inside Syria for its information - says it determines what planes carried out raids according to their type, location, flight patterns and the munitions involved. Backed by Russian air raids, government forces have been advancing street by street into rebel-held parts of Aleppo.

At least 290 people, mostly civilians, have been killed by government or Russian fire since the operation began, according to the Observatory. Rebel forces were also firing on western government-held districts of Aleppo yesterday, with state news agency SANA reporting four dead and 14 wounded in rebel bombing of Hamdaniyeh district.

Continued on Page 13



ALEPPO: Jameel Mustafa Habboush, a young Syrian boy, looks at a member of the civil defense volunteers, known as the White Helmets, as they rescue him from under the rubble of a building following Russian air strikes on the rebel-held Fardos neighborhood of this embattled Syrian city yesterday. — AFP

EMBATTLED TRUMP SLAMS 'DISLOYAL' REPUBLICANS

WASHINGTON: Embattled White House hopeful Donald Trump lashed out at "disloyal" Republicans in a ranting tweetstorm yesterday, saying they are to blame if his faltering campaign comes up short. Declaring himself unchained from party strictures, the bombastic real estate mogul publicly berated party bigwig Paul Ryan - the speaker of the House of Representatives - as a "weak and ineffective leader". "It is so nice that the shackles have been taken off me and I can now fight for America the way I want to," Trump tweeted.

Relations between the Trump campaign and party leaders have always been difficult, but they have soured considerably since Democrat Hillary Clinton began to pull away in the polls two weeks ago. The final straw for many elected Republicans was the emergence



Paul Ryan

Donald Trump

of a video in which Trump bragged about groping women. That prompted a string of disavowals and endorsement withdrawals. Trump further alienated allies by bringing up unproven abuse allegations against former president Bill Clinton in a Sunday debate watched by tens of millions of Americans.

Continued on Page 13

ERDOGAN TO ABADI: 'KNOW YOUR PLACE'

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday snubbed Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's criticism of the presence of Turkish troops in Iraq ahead of a planned operation to retake Mosul city, urging him to "know your place". "He is insulting me personally. You are not my interlocutor, you are not at my level," Erdogan told a meeting in Istanbul, in comments addressed to Abadi. "It's not important at all how you shout from Iraq. You should know that we will do what we want to do," he added. "Who's that? The Iraqi prime minister. First you know your place!"

Turkey has said its troops would remain in Iraq despite Baghdad's grow-

ing anger ahead of a planned operation to recapture Mosul from the Islamic State (IS) group. Ankara maintains an estimated 2,000 troops in Iraq - around 500 of them in the Bashiqa camp in northern Iraq training local fighters who will join the battle to recapture Mosul, according to Turkish media reports.

The Iraqi premier's spokesman later yesterday said Erdogan was "pouring oil on the fire" with his remarks and showed Ankara was not serious about resolving the dispute. Turkey's responses had made an issue of law and security into a "problem of a personal nature", Saad Al-Hadithi told AFP.

Continued on Page 13

News

in brief

British woman found hanging

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 48-year-old British woman was found hanging in her house in Salwa. Security sources said the woman had not shown up for work for two days, so her colleagues went to check on her and asked the janitor to open her apartment.

Abu Dhabi Hindu temple to be ready by end 2017

ABU DHABI: The first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi will be ready to welcome worshippers by the end of 2017, a businessman overseeing the project said yesterday. The temple is being built on land donated by the government of Muslim Abu Dhabi. The government announced it was allocating land to build the temple during a visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Hundreds of thousands of Indian Hindus live in Abu Dhabi. Indian billionaire businessman B R Shetty, who is chairman of the Temple Coordination Committee, said: "The UAE is a great example of religious tolerance with people of different nationalities living in harmony here."

Egypt seeks alternatives as Saudis halt fuel deliveries

CAIRO: Egypt has invited tenders to meet its refined oil products needs for October after Saudi Aramco halted the expected delivery of 700,000 tonnes for this month, the petroleum ministry said yesterday. The move by the Saudi oil giant was a surprise as Riyadh has been one of the main regional backers of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and had agreed to finance Egyptian imports from Aramco for five years in a \$23 billion deal reached in April. "The Saudi Aramco company verbally informed the General Petroleum Corporation earlier this month that it would halt its supplies for October, without offering any reasons," ministry spokesman Hamdy Abdel Aziz said. Egypt angered its ally on Saturday by voting in favor of a Russian-drafted resolution on the conflict in Syria which Saudi Arabia had strongly opposed. But

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Camels are pictured in this file photo during the Kuwait's Fifth Heritage Festival. Camel is an integral part of Arab heritage and pride. — KUNA

KUWAIT URGES UN ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN, GIRLS

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday urged the UN to carry on with its support on countries' efforts to counter trafficking of women and girls. This is likely to secure positive results, said Kuwait's statement to the 71st UN General Assembly's 3rd Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee. Delivering the statement, economic researcher Hayam Khalid Al-Fassam added that achieving development in a society

relies on equality between men and women, as partners.

Kuwait's Constitution provides that all people are "peers in human dignity and have, in the eyes of the Law, equal public rights and obligations," Al-Fassam stated. She also added that in line with recommendations of the UN Secretary General, Kuwait has made a multitude of arrangements to promote women's

status and to reserve their rights.

Al-Fassam cited Kuwaiti legislations that guarantee the right to equal wages between men and women in both the public and the private sector. In addition, women have also been recruited to military and judiciary posts. Moreover, Kuwait's 2019-2020 development plan comprises goals on empowering women and boosting their capabilities, through

reviewing relevant legislations by a joint panel, she told the UN meeting. Kuwait is also encouraging education for women, she said, noting that girls constitute 52 percent and 66 percent of students in education and higher education respectively.

She also highlighted the amount of attention paid to Kuwaiti women's health. Kuwait is a signatory of a host of agreements and proto-

cols on women: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which is related to trafficking of persons, particularly women and children. — KUNA



GCC's ministers and top officials pose for a group photo after the 22nd Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting of culture ministers yesterday. — KUNA

GCC STATES DETERMINED TO SAFEGUARD CULTURAL ASSET



RIYADH: Saudi Acting Minister of Culture and Information Majed Al-Qasabi said yesterday that the GCC countries are determined to safeguard their cultural asset as one of the key tools that contribute to further consolidating their fraternal bonds. In a keynote speech during the 22nd meeting of the GCC Ministers of Culture held in Riyadh, the Saudi official stressed cooperation and brotherliness among the GCC people. He also vowed that the GCC members would remain resolutely steadfast against all attempts to undermine their security and stability.

For his part, GCC Secretary General Abdul-Latif Al-Zayani said in his speech that the GCC leaders are eager to develop the cultural sector and further promote and bolster communication and cooperation among the GCC cultural authorities. He added that the current circumstances the region is going through require more vigilance and earnest work to address various political, social and cultural challenges and problems. The meeting addressed a number of issues and subjects aiming at strengthening the Gulf national identity with its cultural diversity and common history and civilization.

Kuwait impressed

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said that he is impressed with the outcome of the 22nd Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting. In a statement to the press after the meeting, Sheikh Salman, who is also Chairman of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), said that the meeting was fruitful and tackled a myriad of issues relevant to collective GCC cultural work.

Moreover, he added that several significant decisions have been made, chiefly, the development of a GCC cultural strategy, which will be the focal point of a forthcoming lecture due in Kuwait. On other matters discussed during the meeting, Sheikh Salman noted that the agenda for the years 2017/2018 has been set.

On a related note, a bevy of standouts in the GCC cultural realm were feted in a ceremony at the conclusion of the meeting, a gesture of gratitude for their contributions to the worlds of art and literature. — Agencies

ARAB PARLIAMENT SPEAKER URGES UNITY TO COUNTER REGION PERILS

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: The Arab Parliament (AP) Speaker Ahmed Al-Jarwan yesterday called for a reassessment of the dangers threatening the peace and security of the Arab world. Al-Jarwan made the call at the opening meeting of the first session of the AP's second legislative term held in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. Al-Jarwan noted that the Palestinian issue would remain the Arabs' "pivotal cause," and stressed the necessity that the Palestinian people must restore their internationally-acknowledged rights, and establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. He reiterated the AP's support to the Saudi-led coalition and the Operation Restoring Hope seeking to achieve security, stability and reconstruction in Yemen.

Support for Iraq

In the meantime, the AP Speaker renewed support for the Iraqi people in the war against terror, and stressed the importance of Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as unity among all components of the Iraqi people. He called for resolving the crisis of displaced Iraqis, estimated at 3 million people. Freezing winter is approaching while millions of Arabs, displaced and refugees, live in tents that protect them from neither severe cold nor rain, especially Syrians, he told the session. Al-Jarwan emphasized the fact that the legal and humanitarian responsibility makes it inevitable for the international community to urgently and immediately intervene to rescue besieged Syrians, who are starving and exposed to death or forced migration. The massacres on a daily basis in Syria's Aleppo

raise questions about the "world's conscience," he said, urging the international community to assume their ethical and humanitarian responsibility toward Syrians. On Libya, the AP speaker reiterated support to the Libyan people in their efforts for dialogue, reconciliation and dissolution of the crisis to restore security and stability.

Meanwhile, Al-Jarwan urged Iran to end its occupation of the UAE's three islands, Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. He called upon Tehran to respond to the UAE's call to settle the issue through negotiations or to refer it to the International Court of Justice. In addition, the Speaker called for stronger ties with Africa referring to the joint session held in Sharm El-Sheikh Monday between the AP and the Pan African Parliament. — KUNA

MP THREATENS TO GRILL MINISTER OF EDUCATION

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Oudah Al-Rowaei announced his intention to grill Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa over scholarships, appointments, certificate accreditation and the failure of the ministry's educational plan.

Ministry of Awqaf denies report

Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs strongly denied that the Egyptian IS-related suspect who was arrested for ramming his truck into a pickup carrying US soldiers ever worked as an imam in any of its mosques. The ministry's official spokesperson Ahmed Rashid Al-Qarawi urged the media to be more accurate.

Policeman sentenced to death

The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced a policeman accused of murdering his 74-year-old father-in-law in Sabah Al-Nasser to death.

Poultry ban lifted

PAAAFR yesterday issued a decision lifting a ban that had been previously imposed on importing all poultry products from Lebanon over fears of avian flu (H5N1).

Green Line's cooperation

The head of the Green Line Environmental Group Khaled Al-Hajri said he met EPA Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah to discuss Green Line's cooperation with EPA. He added that both sides agreed to use email systems in communicating with EPA in order to save time and effort.

Inspection tour

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's consumer protection inspection teams toured a number of food supply and catering companies and warehouses in Ardiya. The tour resulted in filing various citations including for forgery, inedible food, expired foodstuff and not pricing services. In another development, the Public Authority for Manpower urged the Ministry of Commerce and Industry not to issue any new commercial licenses unless applicants provided a clearance from it concerning sponsored labor.



OOREDOO RECEIVES PARALYMPIC CHAMPION AHMED AL-MUTAIRI

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait received the gold medal champion in the 10-meter race at the Rio 2016 Paralympics, Kuwaiti athlete Ahmed Al-Mutairi. The champion was received by the general manager and CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani. Commenting on the victory, the CEO reiterated his pride in Al-Mutairi's achievement, stressing the company's overall interest in celebrating local achievements and endorsing talented individuals in all fields.

This interest stems from the company's overall strategy which is based on caring,

connecting and challenging, and is implemented through the company's corporate social responsibility strategy. Al-Mutairi was awarded a special line with unlimited calls and a smartphone. On his part, Kuwaiti champion Ahmed Al-Mutairi said: "I would like to thank Ooredoo for their generosity and their ongoing interest in supporting talented people, and in sharing the celebratory spirit with the people around Kuwait." This is the first time for para-athlete Al-Mutairi to participate in the summer Paralympics games.

KEPS LAUNCHES PROJECT TO CURB WATER CONSUMPTION

KUWAIT: Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) yesterday said that the start of the second phase of the project is to reduce water consumption - an endeavor buoyed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). A similar project has just been completed in Jordan, while the one currently underway in Kuwait is being carried out by an environmental center affiliated with the Ministry of Education, KEPS Chairperson Wejdan Al-Oqab said.

Moreover, she noted that the previous phase was implemented in seven Arab nations and encompassed several lectures and workshops that espoused efforts to keep water consumption in check. Speaking on the second phase of the project, Al-Oqab said it deals with water conservation related to ablutions in mosques as well as domestic consumption, as she pointed out that reli-



Kuwait Environment Protection Society Chairperson Wejdan Al-Oqab

gious faith can help induce good deeds. She also noted that water preservation is a cause embraced by numerous faiths and educational edifices. — KUNA



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ARAB AND AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS AFFIRM NATIONS' RIGHT TO DETERMINE DESTINY

'DECLARATION OF SHARM EL-SHEIKH'

KUWAIT: The Arab Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament yesterday affirmed that nations enjoy the right to determine their destiny and live peacefully according to international laws and resolutions. The two parliaments, in their jointly released, "declaration of Sharm El-Sheikh," following their first common session, urged governments of Arab and African states to invigorate Arab-African cooperation to face various challenges and problems, such as comprehensive develop-

ment and social justice. The statement affirmed that the common conference would be regularly held every three years, recommended on establishing a common friendship body and holding a joint forum on sidelines of regional, continental and international events as well as conferences.

The joint declaration noted necessity of combating organized crime, illegal guns' trafficking, abduction, extortion, corruption-related crimes, money laundering and drugs. The

conferees in the statement called for revising legislations and treaties on terrorism to cope with the expansion of terrorism, urged for taking action to achieve Arab-African economic merger, boosting investments, trade between the two regions, limiting poverty, achieve optimum utilization of resources and narrowing the nutrition gulf. They praised the impact of the Kuwait-hosted summit at this level, held in 2013, on bolstering cooperation between the two regions. —KUNA



'GCC SECURITY1' POLICE FORCE



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Mol Undersecretary Lit General Suleiman Al-Fahad recently received the police force taking part in the deployment drill due to be held in Bahrain next month under the title of 'GCC Security1' with participation of all GCC interior ministries. Al-Fahad urged participants to show their efficiency and reflect the development of Kuwait's police.

A brutal attack
A citizen in his fifties was rushed to Jahra

Hospital in critical condition after he was brutally beaten up by others, said security sources, explaining that the assaulter and his family found the man carrying fresh fish and standing in the middle of their front yard. The sources added that the house owner and his family charged at him, causing him a brain hemorrhage.

3 arrested with drugs
Three citizens were arrested by a husseiniya guarding force with hashish and illicit drugs. Separately, an Asian was arrested for reusing revenue stamps, said security sources.



BOHRA COMMUNITY URGED TO ADHERE TO ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES



KUWAIT: A condolence session was held yesterday morning in the Burhani Center for Bohras Islamic Community in Kuwait. The program was attended by thousands of Bohra people in Kuwait. The uncle of His Holiness Sultan Al-Bohra, His Eminence Ali Asgher Kalimuddin delivered a speech where he inaugurated the session by extending his thanks to Allah and praying upon his Prophet (PBUH), the noblest messenger and his noble family.

He recited the virtues of the Prophet (PBUH), his fragrant biography, noble manners and his grace to all humans. Thereafter, he mentioned the great sacrifices of Imam Al-Hussein for the sake of upholding Islam - stressing that he

spared no efforts in keeping the Sharia of his grandfather, the last Prophet (PBUH).

He advised the Bohra community to adhere to the Islamic Sharia, respect the laws of the country where they live and to be loyal to Kuwait. It is worth mentioning that His Holiness Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Sultan Al-Bohra held a condolence session in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. In conclusion, His Eminence extended his best regards and wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister. He prayed for security, stability and prosperity in Kuwait.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF KUWAIT HONORED

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently took part in the Social responsibility Towards Sustainable Development Forum held in Abu Dhabi. The program was attended by the president of the Growth and Development Center for Administrative Consultancies (GDCAC) Dr Fahad Al-Mekrad. CBK had been invited because of its efforts in social responsibility. During the forum, CBK's Assistant Manager for PR and advertising Amani Al-Wer'a talked about the concept of social responsibility and the banks' activities in this regard over the past twenty-five years. Al-Mekrad honored Al-Wer'a in appreciation for her participation and contribution in the forum.



KUWAIT REITERATES STANCE ON ISSUE OF DISARMAMENT

NEW YORK: Kuwait yesterday reaffirmed its unwavering stance on the issues of disarmament and international peace and security, in line with the country's strategy based on respect of international conventions. This was a major point of the country's statement to the 71st UN General Assembly's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), delivered by the Third Secretary of the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegation to the UN Ibrahim Faisal Al-Da'i.

Al-Da'i stressed the significance of the international treaties and pacts the country had previously signed, saying they limit the hazards of weapons proliferation. These are topped with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), a base for multi-party action on disarmament and international security. He also underlined the necessity of the

balanced handling of the three-pillar system, especially what is relevant to the right to peacefully use nuclear technology.

In addition, Kuwait stressed the need to convene the World Disarmament Conference and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, and getting out of the stalemate the relevant UN mechanisms have been suffering from for a second decade, he said. The diplomat noted that Israel had continued failure to implement commitments provided for in the resolutions of the 1995 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Al-Da'i called for developing the political will, and doubling efforts to realize full removal of nuclear weapons, and making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. — KUNA

OBAIDI RESHUFFLES TOP MOH OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi has issued a number of ministerial decisions concerning transferring, commissioning and referring some ministry officials to retirement. Obaidi's decisions included referring nursing services manager Latifa Abdullah Al-Mansour to retirement effective Oct 27 and commissioning Hayat Mohammed Al-Mulla to do her duties.

The decisions also transferred medical licenses manager Dr Marzouq Al-Bader to work as an advisor at the office of the assistant undersecretary for private medical services affairs and named the maternity hospital manager Dr Mubarak Al-

Ajmi as medical licenses manager. Obaidi also decided transferring pharmaceutical medical warehouses manager Hind Al-Obaid to work as an advisor at the office of the assistant undersecretary for medicine and medical equipment and named pharmacist Oqab Ali Oqab to Obaidi's former position.

In addition, the decisions included transferring medical supplies manager Mona Al-Mansour to work at the office of the assistant undersecretary for medical supplies affairs as an advisor and naming pharmacist Hameed Al-Rasheedi to fill Mansour's former position. —Al-Anbaa

KUWAIT DISTRIBUTES 1,200 FOOD BASKETS IN IRAQ'S KURDISTAN

IRBIL: Kuwait distributed 1,200 food baskets to the displaced people in Iraq's Kurdistan region - part of the country's efforts to alleviate their suffering and meeting their urgent needs. The food baskets have been distributed to the displaced persons and needy in the Dukan County in the city of Sulaimaniya, Dr Omar Al-Kandari, Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil said.

The baskets were handed over to people displaced from Ramadi and Fallujah, as well as locals in Dukan, he explained. The delivery of aid, he said, was upon instructions from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah "who is always keen on helping the brothers in Iraq and standing by their side until end of current crisis, and to see return of all displaced to their homes." Al-Kandari said the consulate in Irbil was keen on helping as many displaced as possible, either in camps or populated areas.

Sheikh Abduljabbar Mohammad, Al-Mahadah tribe leader, said the delivery of food baskets reflected Kuwait's interest to help the displaced in Iraq's Kurdistan province. Aso Baker Mustafa, governor of Dukan, said the country was hosting around 1,250 families displaced

from Ramadi and its counties. He thanked Kuwait for helping the displaced in Dukan. He said he and Al-Kandari discussed means of helping the Iraqi displaced persons. Mustafa said around 50 families displaced from Fallujah have returned to their homes following the liberation of their areas from so-called Islamic State (IS). Kuwait launched last year a campaign to help the displaced Iraqis, distributing some 130,000 food baskets in Kurdish areas so far.

Iraqi FM receives invite

Meanwhile, Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has invited his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim Al-Jaafari to visit Kuwait. Kuwait's Ambassador to Baghdad Salem Al-Zamanan handed the invitation to the Iraqi Foreign Minister on Monday. After meeting with Al-Jaafari, the Kuwaiti Ambassador said that he conveyed to him Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's greetings and well wishes to Iraq. The meeting tackled issues of mutual concern between both nations, in addition to plans to hold new meetings of the joint Kuwaiti-Iraqi higher committee in December. — Agencies



Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel seen during his speech at the Global Islamic Economy Summit (GIES). — KUNA

SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT GOALS REMAINS MAJOR CHALLENGE

DUBAI: Funding sustained development goals continues to be a perennial challenge, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel said yesterday. In a speech at the Global Islamic Economy Summit (GIES), Al-Hashel noted that despite ample global liquidity available, only a scant amount of it is earmarked for sustained development goals. Moreover, he said that this issue has both quantitative and qualitative dimensions, adding that the sum needed to fund global development goals is "a very large one." Al-Hashel estimated that an amount of USD 3.5 to 5 trillion is needed every year to make desirable progress.

Speaking on this estimated figure, the CBK Governor said, "it will be adequate to cover the financial needs of sustained development goals for two years," as he underscored the need to "narrow the gap

between financial demand and supply." Meanwhile, he drew a line between Islamic economies and traditional ones, saying that one key distinction of Islamic economies is the ability to transform credit payment into viable investment opportunities, which would in turn, result in a more robust economy.

Al-Hashel also extolled the virtues of an Islamic economic system, "which by nature, requires individuals to be as considerate about the needs of their fellow human beings as they are for themselves." On a related note, he spoke of crucial Islamic economic tools, such as "Sukuk", which can help foster growth and generate employment through addressing injustice and reducing inequalities. GIES, in the span of two days, features discussions over major challenges facing the global economy as well as methods to overcome these hurdles. —KUNA



Photos show His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and other top officials after the signing of MoUs yesterday. —KUNA photos

KUWAIT, BRUNEI INK ACCORD AND MOUS

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: The Sultanate of Brunei and the State of Kuwait yesterday signed four memorandums of understanding, one accord, and a protocol related to cooperation in education, tourism, and diplomacy. The signing ceremony was attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, who earlier held official talks on boosting bilateral ties and issues of mutual concern, at Istana Nurul Iman presidential palace.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and his Bruneian counterpart, Lim Jock Seng, signed MoUs on cooperation in higher education and scientific research, tourism coordination, training of staff of the two countries' foreign

ministries and establishing a joint cooperation commission. The two sides also signed a single agreement on exempting holders of diplomatic passports from the two countries from entry visas and a protocol modifying the previously inked agreement on averting double taxation and evading tax liabilities. Kuwait Ambassador to Brunei Dr Fahad Meshari Al-Dhafiri, held a luncheon in honor of His Highness the Amir and his accompanying delegation.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit (ACD). This summit was distinguished with "wisdom and efficiency and substantial success," His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad said in a cable he addressed to Thai Prime Minister General

Prayut Chan-o-cha, following His Highness' address to the Asian summit and on his visit to the nation.

Fruits of the summit will contribute to bolstering the existing cooperation among the Asian States and achieve further "merger" among them in various spheres for service of common goals, His Highness the Amir said in the cable to the Thai premier. Extending gratitude to the Thai authorities for the warm hospitality, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad also expressed satisfaction on the good order and preparation for the convention. He also expressed good wishes to the friendly people of Thailand, hoping to see further elevation of the distinguished ties between Kuwait and Thailand. His Highness the Amir, shortly earlier, wrapped up his visit to Thailand during which he addressed the Asian summit. — Agencies



SACGC SHOWCASES KUWAITI INVENTIONS

KUWAIT: Supported by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), the Sabah Al-Ahmed

Center for Giftedness & Creativity (SACGC) took part in the 3rd Kuwaiti Industries Union Exhibition which was held at the Sheraton Hotel, Kuwait from 9th to 11th of October. SACGC displayed a number of registered and patented Kuwaiti inventions made accordingly to the international standard specifications and ready to be marketed. SACGC's manager Abdullah Al-Jed'an said that the center's participation provided inventors with investment opportunities by meeting with various local and international investors taking part in the exhibition.

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القبول

Annahar

WHY TARGET EXPAT TEACHERS? FOR REVENGE OR HUMILIATION?

By Faihan Al-Azmi

Expat teachers are a basic pillar of Kuwait's educational system. They have taken up the responsibility of educational development in Kuwait for long decades. Nobody can deny their role except an ungrateful person. Nobody can deny their rights except people with no vision. Recognizing and appreciating the role played by them is an integral part of the Kuwaiti society's values, because Kuwaitis will never forget someone who lent a hand in times of distress.

Nevertheless, on the eve of celebrating World Teachers Day, Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh and the Civil Service Commission crushed teachers' aspirations and spirits with the excuse of the economic problems Kuwait is going through. A decision was made mercilessly and without due studies of possible social, economic and psychological impact on both expat and Kuwaiti teachers. Has the finance minister ever considered the devastating consequences of such a decision?

Psychologically speaking, how do we expect an expat teacher to be creative while deeply in thought of how he/she would make it through till the end of the month without borrowing? Socially speaking, how can you, oh, finance minister, make such a hasty decision that would disperse expat teachers' families, because most of them would have to send their families back home. Economically speaking, what will be the fate of hundreds of buildings that will remain vacant after being deserted by expat teachers' families, and what about many other services they use in Kuwait?

Accordingly, I would like the minister to clearly answer the following questions:

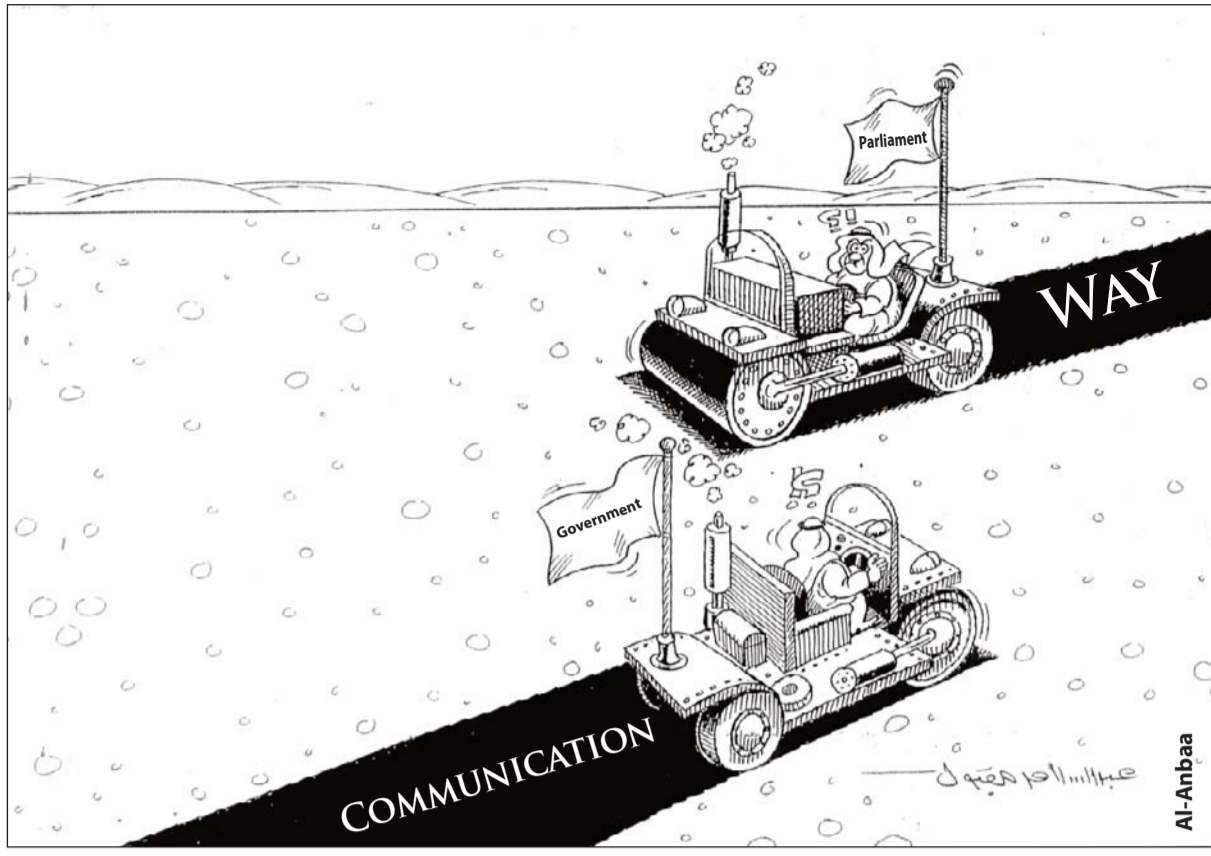
1. Will the deduction you made from expat teachers' salaries solve the budget deficit?
2. Did you actually study the possible social and psychological impact of your decision on those teachers?
3. Have considered the humane factor in your hasty decision?
4. Why only teachers among all expats receiving rent allowances in other ministries? Is it because they are taking care of our kids and you are not concerned with the educational process? Or is it because they will not find someone to defend them, neither in the Cabinet nor in parliament, where no lawmaker is expected to say a single word about them? In addition, the Kuwait Teachers Society acts as if it is only responsible for and concerned with Kuwaiti, GCC and bedoon teachers alone, while those of other nationalities are always considered the weakest who will not dare respond.
5. Is this a retaliatory decision because a female teacher dared to sue the ministry demanding her right over rent allowance and thus you decided to penalize other teachers to scare other expats in various ministries? It seems that you are after destroying education in Kuwait!

Another note to the Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa: You have urged expat teachers to be considerate of the current circumstances in Kuwait. Why have you and all MoE officials not done so yourselves by rationalizing and conserving expenses? Have you ever thought about their circumstances? Have you thought how could a family live on KD 500 in Kuwait? Instead of defending and consoling them, you only made your sufferings worse. Have you no care for prayers of the oppressed?

You and all senior officials have to work on solving the problem of vacancies in your ministry because various educational areas and schools are understaffed despite your repeated promises to solve this problem. Many supervisors are doing extra tasks already. Why wait? Do you think that deducting from expats' salaries is your only achievement?

Oh dear ministers of education, finance and CSC, remember that we are in a humanity center led by the humanitarian leader, where humanity cannot be humiliated!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT'S AMBASSADOR PRAISES KFH PARTICIPATION IN IMF, WB MEETINGS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, praised Kuwait Finance House KFH's participation in the IMF/World Bank Annual meetings in Washington, DC, USA, indicating the significance of this participation in stressing the importance of the Kuwait's private sector role in the international economic events. The ambassador's statement was made during a reception ceremony for Kuwait's delegations participating in the IMF/World Bank meetings at the embassy of the State of Kuwait in Washington, DC. The delegations included KFH's CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh, KFH-Turkey CEO and a number of the bank's Chiefs, in addition to officials

from the Kuwait Investment Authority, and a number of Ministers and dignitaries from high-profile institutions.

"KFH's participation in the IMF/World Bank meetings comes as part of its efforts to be present at international economic forums that contribute in boosting economic ties between the countries, yet comprises a launchpad for dialogue, exchanging experience and discussing the latest banking, investment and economic developments while addressing the world issues in this regard. Such meetings are a platform for underlining the role of the Islamic finance industry and its importance as an integral part of the global economy. The Islamic banking is gaining more momentum

and witnessing considerable turnout and KFH is a pioneer in this industry" said Al-Nahedh.

He added that KFH has taken part in several meetings and conferences on the sideline of the IMF meetings while discussed opportunities for collaboration with different parties. It is worth noting that during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings, Global Finance Magazine has awarded KFH top 3 awards; the "Best Islamic Financial Institution in GCC 2016", "Best Islamic Project Finance Provider 2016" awards, and "Best Islamic Financial Institution in Turkey 2016" for KFH-Turkey as part of the Magazine's awards for the World's Best Islamic Financial Institutions in 2016.



ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES TO OPEN WENDY'S IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries and The Wendy's Company, which last year formed a strategic collaboration to expand the hamburger company across the MENA region yesterday, announced plans to open their first Wendy's restaurant in Kuwait. The restaurant will open by mid-December on Blajat Street in Salmiya. It will be a stand-alone location, able to seat up to 68 inside and 60 outside, open daily from 7am till 3am, with a drive-through and delivery service.

While this will be Alghanim Industries' first Wendy's store in Kuwait, the brand is well established in the UAE, with 17 restaurants in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. In June, Alghanim Industries also announced plans to expand the brand into Saudi Arabia in 2017. The Wendy's-Alghanim Industries collaboration has already been an active one, with investment in existing restaurants, new products and policy changes. Alghanim Industries has refurbished four locations and opened three new ones, all in the UAE.

Wendy's has launched new products, conducted intensive staff training and has improved the quality of food and ingredients used, including a move to 100 percent Angus beef for all its burgers. The signature Wendy's burger, Dave's Hot N Juicy will be renamed to Dave's Single, Double or Triple depending on size. Finally, Alghanim has increased maternity leave benefits, with an eye to attracting more women to the workplace and making Wendy's - and Alghanim Industries - a more competitive company.

"After more than a year's partnership with Wendy's, this much is clear: people in the MENA region love this restaurant," said Omar Kutayba Alghanim, CEO of Alghanim Industries. "Our first location in Kuwait - and our broader expansion plans - should be taken as a sign of our commitment to bringing Wendy's to as many people in Kuwait and across the region as possible. Our customers are clamoring for more restaurant locations, and we are excited to provide them."

Bob Wright, Executive Vice President, Chief Operations Officer and International for The Wendy's Company, said: "We are delighted that the Wendy's brand will now be in the home country of Alghanim Industries in Kuwait. We look forward to working closely with the team in Kuwait to grow the Wendy's brand, bring new jobs to the country and continue to build on our growth in the region."

Phil Broad, VP of Food and Beverage at Alghanim Industries, said: "We are hugely excited to be opening in Kuwait and enabling our customers to enjoy the great tasting, high quality food and welcoming environment for which Wendy's is famous. As with all Wendy's restaurants our Kuwait operation will use the freshest ingredients and food made to order providing a quality customer experience from start to finish."

The Wendy's Company is a key part of Alghanim Industries' Food and Beverage portfolio, which launched in 2013 with the acquisition of Costa Coffee in Kuwait.



Bob Wright, Executive Vice President, Chief Operations Officer and International for The Wendy's Company

Outside F&B, Alghanim partners with many leading global brands, including American Express, British Petroleum,



Omar Kutayba Alghanim, CEO of Alghanim Industries

Colgate-Palmolive, General Motors, Honda, Mars, Mondelez, Philips, Toshiba, Hitachi, and Whirlpool.



القبول

Al-Anbaa

TRUFFLES AND LOWLY PEOPLE

By Saad Al-Motesh

Nobody is perfect because perfection is a trait of Almighty Allah alone. However, we have some outstanding things in our life that we tend to consider sort of perfect, such as houses, vehicles or any other manmade thing. Some people are surely perfect in a negative way. For example, some are extremely rude and impudent. They are unrivaled in this regard. Others mainly depend on whatever they possess to attract others hanging around to make use of whatever they have.

Perfection is relative and all people are entitled to consider themselves perfect whenever they believe that opponents are less competent. Such lowly persons always want to attract attention because of their own imperfection, even if the only way to do so is by offending others. Lowly people always unleash their rudeness towards others because they lack many good traits that cannot be bought with money or gained through political or financial status.

So, to all those who have been offended and criticized by lowly people, I beg your pardon. We do know your origins as well as theirs. We know how they had been brought to Kuwait. We know their family trees and how they grew here in Kuwait. We also know that nobody in Kuwait grew like truffles or mushrooms!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

'Suspects' to be freed

KUWAIT: Informed security sources said the Interior Ministry will release two Iranians who were arrested while taking photos around some Hawally husseiniyas, after they turned out to have valid residency visas and work at Riggae nurseries.

Filipina IS suspect

The Criminal Court refused releasing a Filipina IS member and adjourned hearing her case till Nov 14, said security sources. Notably, the suspect is facing charges of joining a terrorist organization, after detectives found proof on her laptop that she had been in contact with IS through her Somali husband, who is fighting with IS.

Deliveryman assaulted

A deliveryman working for a seafood restaurant reported that on delivering a meal to a house in Qossour, a well-built citizen opened the door angrily and assaulted him for knocking on his door.

Maid rushed to hospital

An Ethiopian housemaid was rushed to Farwaniya Hospital with serious burns she sustained when cooking oil spilt on her while cooking dinner.

Suspects arrested

A citizen who had been wanted for 20 cases and over KD 80,000 in financial claims was arrested during an inspection campaign by Capital police. Separately, Jahra detectives arrested an African for stealing sheep from Abdaly farms.

'Cat inside the engine'

A citizen called the police reporting the presence of a cat inside his vehicle's engine. The man said he could neither get the cat out nor start the engine, until firemen arrived and dealt with the situation.

Housemaid possessed

A citizen called the police reporting that his housemaid was possessed by jinn and was behaving hysterically. The maid was taken to hospital to be mentally examined. In another development, a Syrian reported that his housemaid had stolen KD 380 from the house and vanished.

Bedoon seriously injured

A bedoon was seriously injured and rushed to Jahra Hospital in critical condition after he was run over by a speeding vehicle. A citizen also reported that a driver working for the family had stolen KD 150 and fled to his country.

KD 20,000 financial claim

A citizen wanted for a KD 20,000 financial claim was arrested following a dramatic pursuit by police in Mahboula. Security sources said the suspect refused to pull over as instructed and drove into an open yard, where he swerved his vehicle several times, creating a smokescreen. Security sources said that the suspect was later arrested while hiding inside a cafe.

Diabetes stroke

A citizen fainted from a diabetes stroke while driving and ended up colliding his vehicle into Rumaithiya police station's parking canopy.

Kuwaiti arrested on arrival

A citizen was arrested on arrival from Amsterdam with two bars of hashish hidden in his luggage.

Asian arrested for forgery

An Asian wanted for forgery was arrested in Salmiya, said security sources, noting that policemen also found that the suspect's residency visa had expired six months ago.

Construction worker killed

A Pakistani construction worker was instantly killed when he fell from an under-construction building in Mahboula.

Ex-mother-in-law reported

A female citizen reported that her ex-mother-in-law has been calling and insulting her on the phone ever since she divorced her son. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Duterte to visit China

MERKEL VISITING ETHIOPIA AS STATE OF EMERGENCY UNFOLDS

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CLINTON DRAWS RECORD CROWD

TRUMP TEETERING ON THE PRECIPICE AFTER VIDEO LEAK

COLUMBUS: An invigorated Hillary Clinton commanded a record crowd of more than 10,000 supporters Monday, leaving Donald Trump floundering as America's top elected Republican all but conceded the White House.

The former secretary of state looking to make history as America's first woman commander-in-chief held an evening rally at Ohio State University ahead of the state's deadline to register to vote. The turnout marked a record for her campaign, with Trump teetering on the precipice after damaging revelations of his lewd comments about women. The Clinton camp estimated the size of the crowd at 18,500, including 5,000 outside the perimeter. An AFP reporter said the number at more than 10,000. The Democrat tried repeatedly to get under her Republican opponent's skin, mocking his television career.

"On the day that I was in the Situation Room watching the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice, he was hosting 'Celebrity Apprentice,'" she said, a day after the two candidates held their second presidential debate watched by an estimated 66.5 million people. "So if you want to talk about we've been doing the last 30 years: Bring. It. On," added Clinton. The Democrat, who has struggled to energize young voters, focused her speech on youth turnout, repeatedly stressing the stakes of the November 8 election, just four weeks away. "This is turning the clock back not just a few years but centuries. The only way to rebuke this is to vote," she repeated. Her rival's candidacy suffered a crippling blow after the 2005 tape was released Friday in which he claimed he could grab women by the crotch with impunity because, as a celebrity, "you can do anything."

Limping to finish line

The fallout saw a wave of Republican law-

makers abandon him, including some who have urged him to step aside. A new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, conducted after the video was released but before Sunday's debate, showed Clinton with an 11-point lead in a four-way election — 46 percent to 35 percent and a 14-point lead in a head-to-head matchup.

"I may be limping across that finish line, but we're going to get across," conceded Trump at a rally in Wilkes-Barre in the crunch state of Pennsylvania, for once conceding the scale of the fight before him. He promised to make six campaign stops a day in the final week before the election, insisting there was still a path to victory and urging his core supporters to come out and vote on November 8. "We have to make sure this election is stolen from us and not taken away from us," he said.

It was the customary rock-star reception for the Republican nominee at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre, which has a maximum capacity of 10,000 and which was close to-but not entirely-full. "Without the media, Hillary Clinton couldn't be elected dog catcher," said Trump, calling US television network CNN "a disgrace." CNN host Anderson Cooper was one of the two moderators at Sunday's debate. At one point, Trump picked up a toddler dressed as a mini-Trump in a grey suit, red tie and white shirt, with blond hair. "Trump," replied the child into the microphone to laughs when the Republican candidate asked whether the boy wanted to go back to his parents or stay with the nominee, before he handed him back over.

Trump threatens Clintons

But as he promised to bring back jobs, end illegal immigration, renegotiate trade deals and reduce taxes, one man shouted "how are you going to do it?" and turned his head away in disgust. Faced with the tape scandal, House



OHIO: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton arrives on stage during a rally at Ohio State University in Columbus. — AFP

Speaker Paul Ryan told fellow Republican lawmakers that he could no longer "defend" Trump, and that the priority now was maintaining the party's control of Congress. "You all need to do what's best for you in your district," he said, effectively giving cover to lawmakers considering severing ties with the controversial GOP flagbearer.

Sunday's town hall-style debate was a

study in heated personal attacks and a stark reminder of the divisiveness of the 2016 race. In a room that included Bill Clinton and three women who have accused the former president of sexual misconduct, Trump threatened to jail his rival and lobbed incendiary allegations against her husband.

The 70-year-old real estate mogul apologized for "locker room talk," but accused Bill

Clinton of being "abusive to women." On Monday, Trump doubled down on a pledge to investigate his rival if he wins, despite the suggestion being roundly denounced. "Special prosecutor here we come," Trump sneered at a rally in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, branding Bill Clinton a "predator." "If they want to release more tapes... we'll continue to talk about Bill and Hillary doing inappropriate things." — AFP



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UK'S JOHNSON URGES ANTI-WAR PROTESTS AT RUSSIAN EMBASSY

LONDON: British foreign minister Boris Johnson yesterday called for anti-war campaigners to protest outside the Russian embassy in London, during a parliamentary debate on the bombing of Aleppo in Syria. "I'd certainly like to see demonstrations outside the Russian embassy," Johnson told MPs in parliament. Johnson, a former mayor of London known for his many public gaffes, said the "wells of outrage are growing exhausted" and anti-war groups were not expressing sufficient outrage at the conflict in Aleppo.

"Where is the Stop the War Coalition at the moment? Where are they?" he said.

The Stop the War group was co-founded by current opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn to protest against the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It brought millions of Britons into the streets to protest against the build-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. During yesterday's debate in parliament, several lawmakers accused Russia of committing war crimes in Syria. Johnson was responding to a question from Labour MP Ann Clwyd, who called for

protests by millions of people outside Russian embassies worldwide.

"I would therefore call once again on everyone who cares about the plight of Syrian civilians to picket the Russian embassy in London and in capitals around the world from today," she said. "Two million, three million, four million people. It can be done. It has been done in the past." Andrew Mitchell, a former international development minister, said British aircraft could help enforce a no-fly zone to prevent Russian bombing raids.

"The international community has an avowed responsibility to protect and that protection must be exerted," the MP from Prime Minister Theresa May's governing Conservative Party said. "If that means confronting Russian airpower defensively, on behalf of the innocent people on the ground who we are trying to protect, then we should do that." Mitchell compared Russia's actions to those of Nazi forces during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s.

Russia has been waging a punishing aerial bombing campaign in Syria for

more than a year in support of President Bashar Al-Assad's forces, part of a multi-front war that has claimed some 300,000 lives and seen Moscow further estranged from the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday cancelled a visit to France in a furious row over Moscow's role in the Syrian conflict. The announcement from the Kremlin came a day after French President Francois Hollande said Syrian forces had committed a "war crime" in the battered city of Aleppo with the support of Russian air strikes. — AFP



BASRA: Shiite Muslim pilgrims make their way through southern city of Basra on October 11, 2016, as they reenact the battle of Karbala. — AFP

IRAQI FORCES DEPLOY TO GUARD SHIITE PILGRIMS

SECT UNDER FREQUENT ATTACK BY SUNNI EXTREMISTS

KARBALA: Thousands of Iraqi security personnel guarded areas in and around Karbala yesterday to protect hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims flocking to the shrine city for annual mourning rituals. Shiites in Iraq have come under frequent attack by Sunni extremists of the Islamic State group who regard them as heretics and who still control some territory in Anbar province, to the west of Karbala, though attacks in the city itself are rare.

Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed, is buried in Karbala, and Shiite pilgrims pack the city each year for Ashura commemorations, which mark his death in the 7th century. "Our forces from the army and local and federal police took strict security measures culminating today to protect pilgrims in and around Karbala," police spokesman Colonel Alaa al-Ghanimi told AFP. "Forces from the Hashed al-Shaabi have implemented security measures to control areas in the west of Karbala province," Ghanimi said, referring to an umbrella organisation for pro-government militiamen.

According to Ghanimi, some 30,000 security personnel are taking part in efforts to guard the city and its surroundings. Yesterday, pilgrims sang songs about the story of Imam Hussein's

death, some beating their chests with their hands or their backs with chains in mourning. Black banners were draped around the city, and pilgrims, most of them black-clad, packed the streets around the shrines of Imam Hussein and his brother Abbas. The number of pilgrims participating in the Ashura commemorations is expected to be huge, with Karbala deputy governor Ali al-Mayali saying it was expected to reach three million. Some 250,000 pilgrims have arrived over the past two days, Mayali said. Ghanimi said there had been no security breaches so far, and while IS frequently targets Shiites in Baghdad and elsewhere, Karbala is usually much more secure.

1,300 years of mourning

IS claimed a Sunday bombing in Baghdad that hit a tent where Shiites were distributing refreshments on the occasion of the commemorations for Imam Hussein, killing at least five people. Imam Hussein was killed in 680 AD by forces of the Caliph Yazid, and his death is marked every year on the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, which is known as Ashura. Imam Hussein's death was part of a dispute over who should succeed the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH),

which eventually developed into a bitter schism between the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam.

Some Muslims, who became known as Shiites, believed that a blood relative of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) should succeed him as the spiritual and temporal leader of Muslims, and backed his cousin and son-in-law Ali-Hussein's father-as successor. Others, now known as Sunnis, insisted that relationship to the prophet by blood was not required-a position that carried the day for his three immediate successors before Imam Ali became the fourth. Muawiyah, who founded the Umayyad dynasty, took power as caliph on Ali's death, and, according to Shiite tradition, named his son as successor in violation of an agreement under which Imam Hussein should have succeeded. According to Shiite belief, Imam Hussein went knowingly to his death at the hands of Yazid's forces in what is now Iraq in a bid to expose the corruption and irreligiosity of his rule. This ideal of self-sacrifice is a key tenet of Shiite Islam to this day, inspiring followers to give their lives for causes, including the war against IS. Iraqi forces are currently preparing for a final push on Mosul, the last city in Iraq held by IS, which has lost much of the ground it seized in 2014. — AFP

ISRAEL BEEFS UP SECURITY FOR YOM KIPPUR HOLIDAY

JERUSALEM: Israel boosted security and barred Palestinians from entering from the occupied West Bank or the Gaza Strip ahead of the solemn Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur that began yesterday evening. Thousands of Jews visit the Western Wall in east Jerusalem's Old City around Yom Kippur, or Day of Atonement, which ends today evening. The same occurred for last week's Rosh Hashanah holiday and will take place again for next week's Sukkot festival. Last year's holiday period led to clashes and marked the start of an upsurge in Palestinian gun, knife and car-rammings attacks. Israeli security forces are on especially high alert after a Palestinian gunman killed two people in Jerusalem on Sunday.

More than 3,000 police are being deployed in the city for Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said roadblocks had been mounted. On Monday night, tens of thousands of Jews crowded into the square around the Western Wall, Rosenfeld said. Prayers led by Israel's two chief rabbis began shortly after midnight and continued until sunrise for some worshippers, in one of the largest Jewish ceremonies of the year. Moshe Cohen, a 19-year-old from Jerusalem, said the ceremony was among the most important days in the Jewish calendar. "You pray and you get free (of) all the bad things you do," he said. "You feel connected to God."

Shooting rampage

Cohen said he felt the number of faithful was roughly similar to last year. Rosenfeld did not provide a specific figure. Many Palestinian shops in the Old City were closed. Near the Lions' Gate entry to the Old City, used by many Palestinians, Israeli forces erected a temporary barrier stopping cars from going further. Closures of the Palestinian territories are often put in place for major Jewish holidays. This week's lockdown applies only to Palestinians and not the roughly 400,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

Gaza is always under an Israeli blockade, though some crossings are usually allowed for work or medical purposes. Humanitarian and urgent medical cases will be allowed through during the holiday, the army said. Beyond visits to the Western Wall, the holidays also see more Jews visit the adjacent Al-Aqsa mosque compound. The site is holy to both Muslims and Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount. It is central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with Palestinians fearing Israel may one day seek to assert further control over it.

On Sunday, a 39-year-old Palestinian who saw himself as an Al-Aqsa protector went on a shooting rampage in Jerusalem, killing two Israelis. The attacker, Misbah Abu Sbeih, who was reportedly scheduled to begin a prison term on the same day, was killed by police after he fled into an east Jerusalem neighborhood. — AFP

AFTER THE COUP, WHAT KIND OF TURKEY DOES ERDOGAN WANT?

ISTANBUL: Looking across Istanbul's skyline, it is impossible not to be struck by the array of red-and-white, star-and-crescent flags fluttering from buildings, monuments, bridges and flagpoles. Patriotism in Turkey has always been strong, but in the wake of July's failed coup by members of the military, President Tayyip Erdogan has tapped freely into the populist, banner-draped fervor to remold the nation in his image. The questions are, what sort of Turkey does Erdogan want, and what steps will this powerful and sometimes unpredictable leader take to achieve his vision?

Global role

The answers could have far-reaching implications for the global role played by the Muslim-majority NATO member, whose assistance is seen in the West as vital in the war against Islamic State and in tackling the migrant crisis. At one level, diplomats and analysts say, Erdogan has made his aims perfectly clear. In the three months since the coup attempt, authorities have suspended or dismissed 100,000 civil servants, judges, lecturers, military personnel and police - purging some of the most established pillars of society.

Anyone with suspected links to US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Erdogan accuses of masterminding the putsch, is a possible target. Gulen has denied plotting against the state and any involvement in the coup. More than 30,000 people have been arrested. Five percent of the entire police force has been removed from duty. Whole ministerial departments have been shut down. Some Western allies fear creeping authoritarianism and a shift towards a political model built around a strong leader and dominant single party but lacking checks and balances in Turkey, whose size, military power and location between Europe, the Middle East and Asia give it significant strategic clout.

"He wants a Turkey where he is the undisputed, unchallenged decider without the constraints of a normal democratic system," said James Jeffrey, a former U.S. ambassador to Ankara and a senior fellow at the Washington Institute. "He won't overturn the constitution or get rid of democracy, but he wants to render the opposition incapable of challenging him and to exercise clear power over them," he told Reuters. By contrast, Erdogan's loyal supporters see him as the champion of the pious masses, forging a proud and independent nation that will not be dictated to by outside powers. The president and his aides bristle at the notion he is dictatorial. They point to his succession of election victories, first as leader of the ruling AK Party, and then in Turkey's first popular presidential election in 2014.

Ottoman pride

But Erdogan's ambitions likely go further than taking back control and projecting authority. While the 62-year-old may have no desire to recreate the Ottoman empire, political analysts and diplomats say he wants to draw on that sense of greatness to craft a Turkey that bestrides the world, respected and perhaps a little feared by neighbors and peers.

In speeches and comments before and since the failed putsch, Erdogan has frequently referenced the Ottoman period, when Turkey's forefathers held territory stretching from southeast Europe to the Caucasus, North Africa and Iraq. He often laments the concessions made by Turkish leaders after World War One, with the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne that brought modern Turkey into being in 1923, as if to suggest only he can restore the nation's illustrious past.

"What you're witnessing in Turkey is tied up with an almost constant desire to reclaim the heritage of the Ottoman empire, which was of course a polyglot, multi-ethnic entity," said Bulent Aliriza, director of the Turkey project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "In almost every one of Erdogan's speeches there are these themes: You can be proud you are a Turk, proud that you are a Muslim, we have influence in our region and beyond. The expression 'Great Turkey' is used almost all the time."

In August, with great symbolism and fanfare, Erdogan inaugurated a new bridge over the Bosphorus between Europe and Asia. The span, the third over the strait, was named after a 16th-century Ottoman ruler, Yavuz Sultan Selim. "Be proud of your power, Turkey," announced adverts on television.

At the UN General Assembly in September, the most high-profile speech Erdogan has made abroad since the failed coup, he expanded on two of his favourite themes: how Turkey helps the oppressed and serves as a role model in the Muslim world, and how power at the United Nations is too narrowly held. "The world is greater than five," he said, referring to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. "A Security Council that does not represent the entire world can never serve to re-establish peace and justice around the world."

Critical juncture

Since coming to power in 2003, first as prime minister and then as president, Erdogan has overseen a period of rapid economic growth and increased regional influence. While he may have no territorial ambitions, Turkey does have troops in northern Syria, is training militias in Iraq - to the growing concern of the government in Baghdad - and has hopes of turning itself into a regional energy hub, a crossroads between Russia, Iran and the East Mediterranean. "He's trying to exercise influence in the region by dint of Turkey's large and powerful economy and its claim to be an Islamic power," said Jeffrey. "There is a bit of going back to Ottoman times and going back to Turkish dominance of the region - he wants a more Islamic alternative to the West." It appears a popular formula. A poll in late July, two weeks after the coup attempt, showed Erdogan with two-thirds approval among Turkey's 78 million people, his highest rating ever. Yet in striving for that more self-confident and perhaps more feared Turkey, Erdogan has at times walked a thin line, straining ties with the European Union and the wider West, which are wary of what they see as his creeping authoritarianism. — AFP

EGYPT'S 'MILESTONE' GOV'T CRITICIZED AS RUBBER STAMP

CAIRO: When Egypt's parliament passed a hard-fought civil service law last week, it was seen as a rare outbreak of resistance to President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. The final, amended draft made it harder to fire members of the country's bloated bureaucracy, which Sisi has suggested should be trimmed down. But such defiance has been an exception to what critics call the rubber-stamp role parliament has assumed since its election in 2015.

"The parliament spent most of its time approving legislation by the government in the form that the government wants," said Ahmed al-Tantawi, a member of the "25-30" grouping of lawmakers that has opposed several bills. Its election, following a referendum on the constitution and a presidential vote, was hailed by Sisi as the third milestone in a democratic roadmap after the military, led by Sisi himself, toppled Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

The 2014 constitution granted parliament extensive powers, including impeaching the president and a confidence vote on the prime minister. It was an uneasy arrangement for Sisi, who has tolerated little dissent, saying the country needs to get back on its feet after years of unrest pummeled the economy. As it turned out, he has been able to count on parliament's support.

When a lawmaker inquired in late July about whether pensions were still going to retired military officers who assumed senior positions in industry and state institutions, parliament speaker Ali Abdel Aal shouted him down. "This talk is over," Abdel Aal yelled at the parliamentarian, Mohamed Anwar Sadat, saying such mention of the military was inappropriate.

From the start, experts had warned the parliament's structure would produce a weak and divided legislature. The vast majority of elected members of the 596-seat parliament were independent candidates, with only 20 percent from coalition lists. The legislature is dominated by a coalition of pro-government individuals and parties while the main opposition, Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, has been banned.

With Egypt running without a legislature since June 2012, parliament, elected in October last year, had to review more than 300 laws issued by Sisi and Adly Mansour, the interim president after Morsi. Many parliamentarians "believe that if you oppose the regime, then you oppose the state," said Amr Hashem Rabie, a political researcher at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

'Agree on everything'

The only coalition in the parliament, of which Abdel Aal is a member, is the pro-government "Support Egypt" bloc. "The government got everything it wanted from the parliament," Mohamed Zakareya Mohyeldin, an independent lawmaker, told AFP. "The majority of Support Egypt agree on everything." When it came to discussing the annual budget, "the parliament

was more than just a rubber stamp... It also offered excuses," says Salma Hussein, a researcher with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights.

EIPR says the budget ending July 2017 did not meet constitutional spending requirements on education, health, and scientific research, totaling 10 percent of gross national product. Spending on these areas was estimated to be 97.4 billion pounds (\$11 billion) less than required by the constitution, EIPR said in July. The Planning and Budget committee had said the requirements were met when they included in their calculations the servicing of loans previously spent on those sectors. The budget "was an opportunity because the constitution obligates you with it, so you should have held on to the constitution and told the government to abide by it. So it's a lost opportunity." — AFP



CAIRO: A general view taken on October 11, 2016 shows Egypt's Nile river and the University bridge in the capital. — AFP

TRUMP'S LEWD 'GRAB 'EM' COMMENT UNLEASHES NATIONAL CONVERSATION

NEW YORK: On Facebook and Twitter, on the phone and on the job, from living rooms to hair salons, Donald Trump's "Grab 'em by the p****" comment has unleashed a tsunami of stories from women sharing painful memories of sexual assaults.

Many of these women were grabbed by the genitals - exactly as Trump described doing - by men who fled or melted into a crowd. Some women were molested as children on a playground or school bus. Others were groped on a train or dance floor. They've told of attacks getting out of taxicabs, harassment in the workplace and rapes on college campuses. Many shared their experiences for the first time in the days since the video of Trump's comments aired, while others have been exorcising their demons for a long time on blogs or in therapy.

Whatever the forum, whatever their experience, one thing is for sure: A presidential candidate's boastful description of manhandling women's bodies has become a national conversation about sexual assault. Thousands of women have stood up to say, publicly and first-hand, "This happened to me!" Jennifer McGraw, 35, of Cleveland, wrote a blog post Sunday about being molested as a child called "My Disposable Body" that began with these words: "It all started with a grab of the p****"

McGraw, who is also a rape survivor, said social media conversations about sex assaults "have blown up" because Trump's comments about groping made speaking out more urgent than ever. "This is somebody who could be our president," she told The Associated Press. "I can't not talk about it at this point. There's too much at stake. I feel strong enough at this point in my life to share my story and share my truth. That's the only way people will heal."

Breaking new (poisonous) grounds

From presidential candidate Gary Hart's sexual relationship with Donna Rice in the 1980s and Bill Clinton's affairs a decade later to Anthony Weiner's more recent sexting scandal, the sex lives of politicians have been in headlines. But never before has a US candidate for president made comments boasting of sexually accosting women, characterized by Trump as "locker room talk." When asked by CNN's Anderson Cooper during Sunday's debate if he'd sexually assaulted women, Trump said

he had not. The national conversation about sexual assault is "a powerful thing," said Delilah Rumburg, CEO of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. "We saw this in the last year with campus sexual assaults when many young women started coming forward and speaking their truths. This is a way for them to feel like they have some power back when they can tell those stories, to hold not only those who commit these crimes accountable but the systems as well. I know those survivors' voices can do much more than I ever could as an advocate."

Edith Bluhm, 48, of Nashville, Tennessee, says her friends' Facebook threads have been filled with harrowing stories of everything from date-rape to child molestation. "I have had the experience of going into a crowd and someone has their hand inside my shirt," she said. "Or you're on a dance floor and some guy is grinding against you. Or I'm on a train and felt a hand up my skirt. It's not just about rape. There's all these things that women have endured, these violations of our bodies, that Trump says you can get away with. "Somehow it's dismissed because it's fleeting," Bluhm added. "It's a hand and then it's gone. ...If I say, angrily, "Some guy over there was just rubbing up against me, you might say, 'Oh gross,' and move on. But later why do I feel like I want to crawl out of my skin? ...It's completely wrong."

Alicia McCauley, 30, blogged about her experiences with sexual assault, from being grabbed between the legs as a child to being raped. Just recently, a New York City cab driver pinned and groped her as she got out of his taxi. She filed a complaint against him and discovered four other women had filed similar reports against the same driver. "Hearing Trump say you can do anything you want, you can grab them by the p**** - I hate using the word 'triggering' but it felt very reminiscent of all the traumas I have experienced," she said. McCauley said she told relatives that "if they voted for Trump, I would see it as personal, saying it's OK to do these things to women. They are agreeing with rape culture and agreeing with male entitlement." McCauley said "the stories have always been there," but they're "pouring out now" because the outrage over Trump's comments "has created a space where people are finally agreeing with assault survivors." — AP

RYAN STUMPS FOR GOP BUT ABANDONS TRUMP

HOUSE SPEAKER REFUSES TO BE SEEN WITH CHOSEN NOMINEE

CHESTER SPRINGS: For Paul Ryan, October is now all about protecting the Republican majority of the House - and his own job as speaker. The Wisconsin Republican can't ignore Donald Trump, his party's bull-in-a-china-shop presidential candidate. Nor can he offend Trump's millions of voters, whom many House GOP candidates need to survive next month's elections. Yet amid the remarkable spectacle of the party's White House nominee and its highest elected official practically at war, Ryan says he's not going to lift a finger for Trump or even be seen with him. Instead, Ryan will focus "his entire energy making sure that Hillary Clinton does not get a blank check" with a Democratic Congress if she's elected president. He made that comment during a conference call with House GOP lawmakers Monday, according to someone on the call.

A day before last Friday's release of a 2005 video showing Trump making vulgar boasts about forcing himself on women, Ryan made two campaign stops in eastern Pennsylvania in which he never spoke the words "Donald Trump." That dramatized how Ryan is trying to guide House candidates through rocky political waters Trump has roiled with regularity.

"We see ourselves in the House as offering ideas and solutions, kind of adding a rudder and a keel to our party," Ryan said standing alongside the local GOP congressman at J-Tech USA, all but suggesting that such substance and stability was lacking atop the ticket. The company services trucks for highway crews. Ryan was scheduled to spend this week tending to political events in his home state. He then resumes a feverish coast-to-coast effort to defend GOP control of the House, a tour that was scheduled to cover at least 17 states and 42 cities and might grow.

Republicans have been favored to retain House control in November's voting, with Democrats needing to gain 30 seats to take charge of the 435-member chamber. But Democratic hopes have grown - and GOP nerves have been frazzled - after two weeks of politically seismic setbacks for Trump, capped by the Trump video.

In Monday's conference call, jumpy House Republicans heard Oregon Rep. Greg Walden, who heads their campaign organization, say the political situation was deteriorating for the GOP, especially among women, according to two people on the call. Walden urged them to poll frequently and warned that the path to victory for candidates in tight races resembled landing a plane in the fog with a hurricane blowing. On that same call, Ryan said he would not defend Trump or campaign with him and would focus



PENNSYLVANIA: Republican Presidential nominee Donald J Trump delivers remarks during a rally at Mohegan Sun Arena. — AP

on protecting the House GOP majority, two listeners said. One said Ryan told Republicans to do what "you think is right personally, and what you need to do politically."

Twitter storm

Trump fired back Tuesday on Twitter. In one tweet, Trump called Ryan a "very weak and ineffective leader" and accused him of "disloyalty." In another, Trump complained, "It is hard to do well when Paul Ryan and others give zero support!" The two men have clashed for months, with Ryan repeatedly criticizing Trump's comments about Muslims and others and each belatedly endorsing the other's election bid. After the Trump tape was released, Ryan said he was "sickened" and withdrew his invitation for Trump to attend a Wisconsin political event, which would have been their first joint appearance of the campaign. Ryan's comments Monday upset some of his own colleagues - a potential danger sign for Ryan.

Some conservatives criticized Ryan during the call, listeners said. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher of California denounced Ryan's approach as "cowardly" and demanded that party leaders stop their "Trump can't win defeatism," said three Republicans familiar with the call. Some law-

makers said party leaders should help Trump because down-ballot candidates like them would fare better if Trump lost narrowly to Democrat Hillary Clinton than if he was beaten resoundingly.

"I never doubted he should be speaker," Rohrabacher said of Ryan in an interview Monday. "However, if he can't prevent himself from panicking and helping the enemy in a situation like this, well, then we'll find out." Ryan is expected to seek re-election as speaker if Republicans retain the majority and may run for president in 2020, and in each case needs conservative support. Many Republicans have begun viewing Trump as a problem for their own careers, especially since last Friday's release of the tape. Dozens of House and Senate Republicans have rescinded past endorsements of Trump or called for him to end his candidacy.

Rep Ryan Costello, R-Pa - whose district Ryan visited last week - also never mentioned Trump's name during their joint appearance. The closest either lawmaker came was when Costello said, "We're running to make this country an even greater place to live and work and raise a family" - paraphrasing Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again." — AP

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BOLD OR BATTY? RISKING IT ALL ON A REFERENDUM

ROME: Who's afraid of a referendum? Italy faces one in December, France's Nicolas Sarkozy has promised two if he wins the presidential election next year, but as the recent shock votes in Britain, Colombia and Hungary show, the risks are high. In London, ex-prime minister David Cameron hoped to use a popular vote on whether Britain should remain in the European Union to rein in a belligerent anti-EU wing of his own Conservative Party-but it spectacularly backfired. "He will be remembered as the man who accidentally took us out of Europe," former Conservative party minister Ken Clarke said after the June vote and Cameron's resignation.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos had no better luck, calling a referendum this month on a historic peace deal between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), only to see it rejected by voters. "Politicians do not know how to draw lessons from history. If we look at the recent referendums, they were all miscalculated,"

Professor Iain Begg, a research fellow at LSE's European Institute, told AFP. "Very few referendums go the way forecast" by those in power, he said.

'Quickly go wrong'

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban also bet and lost: his anti-migrant referendum was declared invalid after failing to obtain the necessary turnout. But with more than 98 percent of those who did cast their ballots saying "No" to an EU migrant quota plan, he could spin it as a victory of sorts. "It may be normal in Switzerland, but it is rare for the British, Italians and French to face referendums and they can quickly go wrong," Begg said. "Even if there are good reasons to put the vote to the people, the fact is it's a 'yes' or 'no' vote, there is no in-between."

Switzerland seems to be exception that proves the rule, with its citizens voting every three months on popular initiatives, presented by parties or citizen groups, and referendums put forward by the State.

"There is a great voting tradition, which means the elites have learned what is necessary to inform, persuade and prepare public opinion," Swiss political scientist Pascal Sciarini told AFP.

'Emotionally charged'

As his counterpart at Lausanne University, Oscar Mazzoleni, points out: in cases like Italy, referendums are a seized as a chance for a protest vote. "They are emotionally charged, it's an opportunity for people to vent," Sarkozy has been accused of hoping to exploit that fact to revive his flagging campaign by cashing in on the emotionally-charged issues of immigration and Islam with his proposed referendums.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is well aware of the dangers he faces with his December 4 ballot on constitutional reform, aimed at streamlining the political system and increasing government stability. Having said months ago that he would resign if vot-

ers reject the reform, he is now scrambling to insist it is not a personality contest. "I know I'm not the most likeable person in the world," he admitted in a television interview last weekend. "But voters who cast their ballots based on likeability clearly have little interest in the good of the country." It may be too little, too late.

"Renzi is running a risk. He was counting on using the referendum to consolidate his political power, but his wavering-presenting it as a vote on his fate, then back-peddling-is harming him," said Domenico Fracchiolla from Rome's Luiss University. There are few referendums in which voters actually answer the question posed, and Italy is no exception, commentators say. "The December 4 vote is not about constitutional reform, an issue most Italians know nothing about," La Stampa daily said. "The real question, the one they'll be answering 'yes' or 'no' to, is: 'Do you still have more faith in Renzi than in his opponents?'" —AFP



ADDIS ABABA: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C) speaks with African Union Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, (4R) next to Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn (2R) upon arrival to the newly built Peace and Security building, funded by the German Government, at the African Union Headquarters premises. — AFP

MERKEL VISITING ETHIOPIA AS STATE OF EMERGENCY UNFOLDS

VISIT HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL MIGRATION CRISIS, SECURITY ISSUES

ADDIS ABABA: German Chancellor Angela Merkel signaled support for protesters demanding wider freedoms in Ethiopia during a visit to the country yesterday, saying "a vibrant civil society is part and parcel of a developing country." Merkel's meeting with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn had been expected to focus on the country's newly declared state of emergency and other issues including migration.

Merkel also said Germany has offered to train policemen in Ethiopia to deal with the demonstrations that have caused this East African country, one of Africa's best-performing economies, to declare its first state of emergency in 25 years. "We are already working in Oromia to de-escalate the situation there by offering mediation between groups," she said. "I would always argue for allowing people of a different political opinion ... to engage with them and allow them to express their views because, after all, a democratic experience shows that out of these discussions good solutions usually come," Merkel said.

The Ethiopian prime minister responded to Merkel by suggesting his government may increase dialogue. "We have shortcomings in our fledgling democracy, so we want to go further in

opening up the political space and engagement with different groups of the society," he said. Merkel also said the German business community has criticized the business climate in Ethiopia and added she hopes the Ethiopian government will discuss the criticism openly.

Global host of refugees

Merkel's African tour, with stops earlier this week in Mali and Niger, highlights the global migration crisis and security issues. Ethiopia is one of the world's largest hosts of refugees, with hundreds of thousands arriving from nearby Somalia, South Sudan and elsewhere. The Ethiopian leader appealed for German support to help the refugees. "Ethiopia is one of the global hosts of refugees ... the first in Africa, with 780,000 refugees here. I think Germany can support us on this," Hailemariam said.

Merkel also inaugurated the new African Union Peace and Security Council building that was constructed with German funding of 27 million euros. The head of the continental body's Peace and Security Council, Ismael Chergui, said during the inauguration ceremony in Addis Ababa that the new building will provide a base for the operation of a continental early warning system and the coordination of peacekeeping

missions. The Ethiopian government declared a state of emergency Sunday, faced with widespread anti-government protests. More than 50 people died last week in a stampede after police tried to disperse protesters. The incident set off a week of demonstrations in other parts of the country. One American was killed in a rock attack. At least 400 people have been killed in anti-government protests over the past year, according to human rights groups and opposition activists.

The protesters demand more freedoms from the government accused of being increasingly authoritarian. On Monday, a day after the government declared the six-month state of emergency, Ethiopia's president announced during a Parliament session that the country's election law would be amended to accommodate more political parties and opposing views. But the country's internet service continues to be largely blocked out after last week's unrest, which included the targeting and burning of both foreign and local businesses over suspected ties to the government. The United States and others have called on the government to use restraint against protesters, and the UN human rights office has asked for access to allow independent observers into the troubled Oromia region. —AP

PUTIN POSTPONES FRANCE VISIT AMID DIPLOMATIC TENSIONS

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has indefinitely postponed a trip to France after Paris had revised its program for the visit and said it would talk about nothing else but the Syrian crisis. French President Francois Hollande said yesterday that Putin put off his visit set for next week after Hollande let him know he wouldn't take part in the opening of a new Russian Orthodox church and was only interested in talks about Syria.

Over the weekend, Russia blocked a UN Security Council resolution proposed by France and Spain on ending the hostilities in the war-torn country, blaming Paris for the refusal to discuss a compromise version. And on Monday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault called on the International Criminal Court to investigate Russia for possible war crimes in Syria.

"France has a major disagreement with Russia over Syria," Hollande said. "And the Russian veto to the French resolution at the UN council has prevented the cessation of the bombings, as well as the proclamation of a cease-fire." At the same time, he added that he believes that a dialogue with Russia is essential for ending the massacre. "The main victims are the civilians who live and die under the bombs," Hollande said. "That's the reason why I consider that a dialogue with Russia is necessary. But it should be firm and open. Otherwise ... it's a mockery."

Growing international isolation

Putin's trip to Paris, which was planned for next Tuesday, was due to take in the opening of a new Orthodox church next to the Eiffel Tower along with a Russian cultural center and an exhibition, but the French side had revised the program, Putin's

spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "Regrettably, those events dropped out of the program," Peskov said, saying it's up to the French side to explain the reason. Peskov said that Putin could visit France at a later date which would be "comfortable" for Hollande.

He denied that the cancellation of Putin's visit to France reflected a growing international isolation of Moscow over its actions in Syria, where Russian warplanes have supported the Syrian army offensive on Aleppo. "Russia and its president aren't facing anything of the kind," Peskov said. Ayrault's statement Monday followed US Secretary of State John Kerry's call for a war crimes investigation into Russian and Syrian airstrikes in Syria, an appeal Russia has angrily rejected.

Hollande said he was ready to meet the Russian leader at any moment if it helps bring peace to Syria. Asked about a possible meeting of Russian, French, German and Ukrainian leaders in Berlin on Oct. 19 to discuss the Ukrainian crisis, Peskov said that "preliminary preparation for such a meeting has been underway," but stopped short of announcing it. Hollande said that the progress on implementing a 2015 peace deal for eastern Ukraine has been too slow. The Minsk agreement, which was brokered by France and Germany, helped end large-scale battles, but smaller clashes have continued to claim lives and a political settlement has stalled. "We need to progress on the political and security conditions that will enable elections in eastern Ukraine as soon as possible, as the Minsk deals stipulate it," Hollande said, adding that he and German Chancellor Angela Merkel were both willing to have the four-way meeting. — AP



MOSCOW: In this Thursday, Nov 26, 2015 file photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, shakes hands with his French counterpart Francois Hollande during their meeting. — AP

RACISM AND PRIVILEGE STOKES AFRICA STUDENT PROTESTS

JOHANNESBURG: Weeks of protests at South African universities have targeted tuition fees-but students say they are also about racism and inequality in a society still plagued by the legacy of apartheid. The demonstrations have tapped into deep problems in the country, where many black people are unable to get decent education, jobs or housing despite white minority rule ending more than 20 years ago.

At a meeting at the prestigious Wits University in Johannesburg last week, Mcebisi Dlamini, one of the student leaders, was greeted with thunderous applause when he tackled the touchstone subject of race. "We are eager to restore the dignity of black children," he told the audience of about 1,000, which included only a handful of white people. "We want a free and decolonized education. We are not equal in this university," he said. Over the last three weeks, campuses across South Africa have been gripped by the protests against tuition fees, which could rise by up to eight percent next year. The protesters have demanded free education, saying that poorer black students are being denied access to universities and good careers. With several universities forced to close for weeks, the demonstrations have often developed into violent running battles as students hurl rocks, and police fire rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades.

"Free education is a way to achieve equality, to repair what people had to go through in the past," Tauriq, a student protester, told AFP. "It is about challenging the norms of society, challenging what people consider as normal. If you are not black, you cannot associate with this problem. They (white people) don't understand what it feels like to be in a mall and stand in a corner, and people assume you are going to steal."

Government support

Tauriq's mother, who is single, has four children and earns \$450 (400 euros) a month.

Without a grant that covers his tuition fees, he would not be able to attend university-but many others don't have the same support. The African National Congress (ANC) government has vowed to provide further financial help for all students from poor backgrounds, and said its aim is to provide free university education in the long term. But it has also warned that public funds are desperately needed elsewhere, and has condemned students who have forced campuses to shut down or been involved in violence.

The protests "should be expected in a society where everything was designed in a way to support and legitimise white supremacy," Mcebisi Ndletyana, a political science professor at the University of Johannesburg, told AFP. An internet poll conducted by Wits University suggested most students wanted classes to resume, while a

small number of mainly white students have launched a "Keep Wits Open" campaign. "We agree with the movement but are unhappy with intimidation and the bullying from some of the protesters to stop students entering campus and being chased out of lectures," said its leader Stuart Young in a video message. "We are speaking not for the privileged but for students who are trying to graduate this year."

On Monday, Wits again tried to resume lectures but vicious clashes erupted amid clouds of teargas and a hail of rocks on the steps of the colonnaded Great Hall auditorium. The government has set up a commission to investigate funding of higher education, but South Africa's campuses look set for further turmoil before it delivers recommendations sometime next year. —AFP



JOHANNESBURG: Riot police fire rubber bullets at protesting students, at the University of the Witwatersrand. — AP

EU PRISONS A BREEDING GROUND FOR JIHADISTS

LONDON: Prisons in Europe are becoming "breeding grounds" for jihadist groups, with some criminals seeing violent extremism as a form of redemption for their crimes, a report by a British think tank published yesterday said. Jihadist and criminal groups are recruiting from the same pool of people, while their social networks are also converging, the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence (ICSR) found, in what it dubbed a "new crime-terror nexus".

The emergence of the Islamic State group (IS) has strengthened the link between crime and terrorism, according to the report which examined the profiles of European jihadists recruited since 2011. Rather than looking to universities or religious establishments, IS increasingly turns to "ghettos", prisons and "underclasses" to recruit individuals with a history of criminal behavior, it said. Prisons provide a ready supply of "angry young men" who are "ripe" for radicalization, according to the study, entitled "Criminal Pasts, Terrorist Futures: European Jihadists and the New Crime-Terror Nexus". ICSR director Peter Neumann, one of the report's authors, said the lines between crime and jihadist groups were becoming "increasingly blurred". "Prison is becoming important as a place where a lot of networking happens," he said. "Given the recent surge in terrorism-related arrests and convictions... we are convinced that prisons will become more-rather than less-significant as breeding grounds for the jihadist movement."

becoming faster because "a lot of these people have already been convicted of violent crime, so the jump to being a violent extremist is not so big." Recruiting in prisons allows jihadist groups to tap "transferable skills"; the study found, including familiarity with weapons and self-financing through crime. Researchers from the ICSR, based at King's College London, compiled profiles of 79 European jihadists with criminal pasts, from Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

All had either travelled abroad to fight or been involved in terrorist plots in Europe. Over the past five years an estimated 5,000 Western Europeans have travelled to the Middle East to join jihadist groups such as IS and the Syrian Fateh Al-Sham Front, a former Al-Qaeda affiliate, the report said. Of those studied, 57 percent had been incarcerated before being radicalized and at least 27 percent of those who spent time in prison were radicalized behind bars. For some, jihadism offered a form of "redemption" for their crimes, researchers said. Ali Almansaf, a British-Syrian from London who fought in Syria after serving a jail term for violent assault, was cited in the report as saying: "I want to do something good for once. I want to do something pure." According to Neumann, the findings point to a shift if the way IS operates. "We think IS no longer aspires to be a very theological organization. It embodies the brutality, strength and power that these young people who were often members of gangs are looking for," he said. "It basically tells them 'you can continue to do all the things you did before, but now you can get into heaven.'" — AFP

Criminals seeking 'redemption'

Neumann said radicalization was

NO FORGIVENESS FOR BROTHER WHO KILLED PAKISTANI STAR

ISLAMABAD: The father of murdered Pakistani social media star Qandeel Baloch has vowed no forgiveness for his son, who killed his daughter on the pretext of "honor", after her death cast a global spotlight on the practice. Pakistan last week passed long-awaited legislation aimed at closing loopholes which allowed murderers like Baloch's brother Waseem to walk free, with hundreds of women killed in defence of the family "honor" in the conservative country each year. Rights activists, who for years called for tougher laws to tackle violence against women, have praised the move as a step forward though lawyers criticized the amendments for not going far enough.

"There is no pardon from our side," Baloch's father Muhammad Azeem told AFP this weekend, calling for his son and the three men accused with him to be punished "at the earliest. They should get life imprisonment or death-I will feel happy." He and his wife, Baloch's mother Anwar Mai, said they had been unaware of the change in the law, which came three months after their daughter's death sparked revulsion in Pakistan and abroad.

Their son, Mai said, had not understood the repercussions the murder would have. The death of Baloch, judged by many in the country as infamous for selfies and videos that by Western standards would appear tame, reignited polarizing calls for action after her brother admitted killing her. "I am not embarrassed at all over what I did," he told media at a defiant press conference in July, calling his sister's behavior "intolerable".

High-profile case

His mother said this weekend that he had thought his parents would become the only complainants in the case, which under previous legislation would have allowed him to escape punishment if his family had forgiven him. Waseem thought he would be imprisoned for just "two to three months and then after he will be free, he was not aware that this would become a high-profile case," Mai told AFP. Lawyers told AFP the wording of the legislation, aimed at mandating a life sentence for honor killings, still leaves too much up to a judge's discretion.

"There is a danger that it can be interpreted to mean that this only applies in cases when there is a disagreement over pardon of the offender," said criminal law professor Abira Ashfaq. "Unfortunately, the lawmakers have not made it an unconditionally uncompoundable offence. They have only made the penalties heavier." "If the lawmakers wanted to make life imprisonment compulsory for honor killing, all they had to do was to state the same," said senior lawyer Anees Jilani. In practice, Ashfaq added, most such cases are settled by police before they even reach court. "We need to change the culture ... It would take a few high-profile prosecutions covered by media." The language must also be changed, Ashfaq said. "We should call it something negative-patriarchal/misogynist crime, rather than 'honor' killing, which associates a positive value with this type of crime." — AFP



SITTWE: In this photograph taken on October 9, 2016, a man suspected of being one of the attackers in recent border raids is taken to a police station. — AFP

MYANMAR BURIES SLAIN POLICE IN RAKHINE AS TROOPS POUR IN

MOBS ARMED WITH KNIVES AND HOMEMADE WEAPONS

YANGON: Myanmar's border guard yesterday buried nine officers killed in mysterious raids in the western state of Rakhine, as the military tightened control over a region long scarred by violence between Buddhists and Muslims. Uniformed officers carried the wooden coffins draped with national flags through rain and thick mud before laying them to rest in a cemetery in the town of Maungdaw.

Troops have poured into the town and surrounding area close to the Bangladesh border since the three coordinated attacks on Sunday by what authorities have described as mobs armed with knives and homemade weapons. Most people in the area are Muslim Rohingya, a stateless minority whom Buddhist nationalists vilify as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh—even though many have lived in Myanmar for generations.

The unrest has fuelled fears of a repeat of 2012, when more than 100 people were killed in waves of sectarian violence that drove tens of thousands of Rohingya into displacement camps. At least four people were killed in clashes with soldiers on Monday as troops hunted for the

attackers, police said. Locals put the toll at seven and said they were unarmed residents. "People are frustrated, people are under stress, people are hopeless here," one Rohingya resident from Maungdaw, who asked not be named for his safety, told AFP.

Residents have been hiding in their houses for fear of the troops patrolling the streets, he said, warning of impending food shortages. "We cannot go from one village to another village," he said. "Because movement is restricted and people cannot go here and there and the market is virtually closed, (food) will be a big problem for us."

'We dare not go out'

Authorities have sought to calm the situation, extending a regional curfew to between 7pm and 6am, and closing some 400 schools around the area for the next two weeks. Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has appealed for calm and several ministers and army top brass flew to Rakhine's capital Sittwe yesterday to try to ease tensions in nearby displacement camps. Rumors of killings and mass arrests around Maungdaw

have spread like wildfire on social media, stoking fear, but details have proved difficult to confirm in the remote and tightly controlled area.

Yesterday residents reported sporadic gunfire in some villages to the north of Maungdaw. One local teacher, who did not give her name, said she had been hiding in a house along with some 20 other school staff and students, too scared to come out because of the sound of gunfire. "We haven't eaten for two days. The situation is not so good," she told AFP from Ngakhura, 42 kilometers from Maungdaw. "We heard fighting here and there. We do not dare to go out." Authorities have released few details about the attackers or their motives, eight of whom were killed during Sunday's raids. Two were captured.

Pictures sent to AFP by a photographer in the area showed one of them, bedraggled and topless, being interrogated by intelligence officers in Sittwe. Some officials have pointed the finger at the Rohingya, including a long-silent armed group called the Rohingya Solidarity Organization, while others have blamed Bangladeshis and drug-traffickers. — AFP



LAHORE: This file photo taken on June 28, 2016 shows Pakistani social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch arriving for a press conference. — AFP



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AUSTRALIA'S SAME-SEX MARRIAGE VOTE IN DOUBT

SYDNEY: Australia's plan to hold a national vote on same-sex marriage appeared doomed yesterday after the opposition Labor Party vowed to block the poll it said would spark divisive debate. Debate on gay marriage in Australia has gone on for more than a decade and conservative Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull planned to resolve the issue via a plebiscite on February 11. But Labor leader Bill Shorten said not only was the proposed plebiscite of 15 million voters expensive and divisive, but could be harmful to those in same-sex relationships and their families by exposing them to questions

over the "integrity" of their unions.

"This country does not have the right in a plebiscite to pass judgment on the marriages and relationships of some of our fellow Australians," Shorten told a news conference in Canberra. "It is not what Australia is about. We could make marriage equality a reality today by having a free vote in the parliament and that is what should be done." Despite strong popular support for marriage equality, Australia is seen as lagging behind other nations which allow homosexual couples the right to wed. Same-sex couples can have civil unions or regis-

ter their relationships in most states across Australia, but the government does not consider them married under national law. Shorten said gay Australians should not be subjected to a different law-making process than other Australians. "Why should a couple in a committed relationship have to metaphorically knock on the doors of 15 million of their fellow Australians and see if they agree with it?" he asked.

Turnbull, a long-time supporter of gay marriage, had argued that a plebiscite, costing some Aus\$170 million (US\$128.8 million), would allow all

Australians to express their view. He has insisted that if the vote was carried parliament would ensure that gay marriage was legislated even though the plebiscite would not be binding on parliament. But in announcing the proposed date last month, he admitted the vote could be blocked by opponents in the Senate, where the government does not hold an outright majority. Australian Marriage Equality's Alex Greenwich said in a Facebook message that his organization would be urging the Senate to deny the plebiscite and work towards changing the law via a parliamentary vote. — AFP



MANILA: Philippines' marines Brigadier General Maximo Ballesteros (R) leads his US marines counterpart Brigadier General Jan Jansen before the closing ceremony of the joint amphibious landing exercise at a military camp. — AFP

DUTERTE TO VISIT CHINA

'CHINA HAS REPEATEDLY INVITED ME AND I HAVE ACCEPTED'

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he would soon visit China and hoped also to travel to Russia, as he again criticized longtime ally the United States for "arrogance". The mission to China will be Duterte's first outside of Southeast Asia since assuming the presidency on June 30, in a symbolic move highlighting the importance he places on improving ties with Beijing that soured over competing claims to the South China Sea.

"China has repeatedly invited me. I have accepted the offer," Duterte said in a speech at the presidential palace. He gave no specific dates for the visit, but said it would take place before he went to Japan from October 25 to 27. Duterte said he had originally planned to visit Japan, the Philippines' biggest source of foreign aid, ahead of China.

However he explained that Japan offered a "definite" date, then China told Duterte there was a "vacancy" earlier and so he accepted. Duterte also said that, after Japan, "probably I will go to Russia". Duterte has looked to build closer ties with China and Russia, while launching repeated tirades against the United States, the Philippines' former colonial ruler and defense ally.

His tirades have been largely in response to US criticism of Duterte's war on crime, which has claimed more than 3,300 lives and raised fears

about extrajudicial killings. Duterte has cancelled joint patrols with the United States in the South China Sea, said he may scrap a defense pact that allows thousands of US troops to rotate through the Philippines, and threatened to eventually cut ties completely. Duterte has also branded US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore" for expressing concern about human rights in the drug war. In contrast, he has described Chinese leader Xi Jinping as "a great president", and praised China and Russia for showing respect in not criticizing his crime crackdown.

'Arrogant' allies

Duterte on Tuesday gave another lengthy critique of the United States, branding the nation as "arrogant" and powerless to stop Russia's seizure of Crimea from Ukraine. He also said the Philippines gained nothing from holding military exercises with the United States, which have been a mainstay of the defense relationship. "What's the point? They are the only ones benefiting. We are not," he said, as the allies wrapped up a week of war games involving about 2,000 troops in the Philippines.

Duterte had said they were to be the last of his six-year term, putting on ice the 28 exercises they hold annually. The Philippines had long been regarded as one of Washington's most loy-

al allies in Asia, with the two nations bound by a mutual defense pact signed in 1951. Duterte's predecessor Benigno Aquino sought to draw the United States even closer in a bid to counter Chinese efforts to take control of the South China Sea.

China claims nearly all of the sea, even waters close to the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations, and has in recent years built artificial islands capable of hosting military bases in disputed areas. The 2014 defense agreement and the joint patrols were key to Aquino's strategy to contain China. Aquino further angered China by filing a case with an UN-backed tribunal in 2013 against Beijing's claims to most of the sea.

In July, shortly after Duterte took office, the tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippines, saying China's claims had no legal basis and its construction of artificial islands in disputed waters was illegal. But Duterte vowed not to "taunt or flaunt" the verdict and to seek a "soft landing" with China on the issue. He has launched negotiations with China over the dispute, a tactic rejected by Aquino. China has welcomed Duterte's overtures. "The clouds are fading away. The sun is rising over the horizon and will shine beautifully on the new chapter of bilateral relations," Chinese ambassador to Manila Zhao Jianhua said this month. — AFP

THAI JUNTA APPEALS FOR CALM AFTER CAR BOMB PLOT ALERT

BANGKOK: Thailand's junta chief appealed for calm yesterday after police warned of a plot to target Bangkok with car bombs, sparking a security alert across the capital including at airports. An unusually detailed police memo was handed to reporters on Monday warning that an unidentified group was planning to target Bangkok between October 25-30.

The memo said "areas such as malls, car parks and tourist attractions" were at risk and ordered police to be extra-vigilant. In the last year Thailand has been rocked by blasts hitting its crucial tourist sector, a rare bright spot in an otherwise lackluster economy. The junta has refused to label the assaults terrorist attacks and has played down suggestions tourists are being deliberately targeted. "Let officials carry out their jobs and please be confident in their work," Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who seized power in 2014, told reporters.

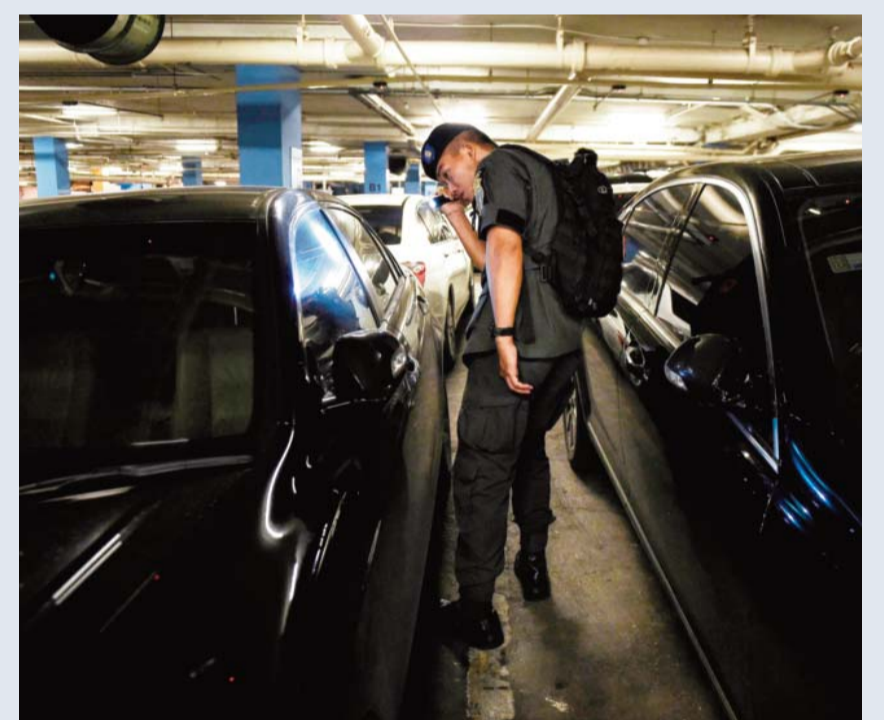
He said the bomb plot was an "ongoing warning" and an investigation was underway but told people not to panic. Security was stepped up at Bangkok's main airport yesterday and police were deployed to search cars parked in some of the capital's luxury malls. For more than a decade Thailand has had a notoriously turbulent domestic political scene and a festering Muslim Malay insurgency in its far south. Until recently foreigners had largely avoided being caught up in the violence. But in early August coordinated blasts struck multiple places in Thailand's tourist-popular south, killing four Thais and wounding dozens including foreign visitors.

Shadowy militants

A year earlier a bomb tore through a Bangkok shrine popular with Chinese visitors, killing 20 and wounding more than 100. Most of the victims were ethnic Chinese overseas visitors. Both attacks were followed by confusing and contradictory statements from authorities, with military leaders initially keen to blame domestic political opponents. But police now believe the multiple bomb attacks in August this year were carried out by Muslims from the "Deep South".

Shadowy militants have waged a 12-year fight there for more autonomy but rarely attack targets outside of the three southern Malay-speaking provinces. Monday's police memo did not say who might be behind the bomb plot, though the southern insurgents have used car bombs in previous attacks. October 25 is also the anniversary of 2004's "Tak Bai incident," when more than 80 people in the deep south died, most of them protesters crushed to death in overloaded vans after they were arrested.

The deaths lit the fuse of the current southern rebellion. According to Thai police, last year's shrine bombing was the work of two Chinese Uighurs who are currently on trial for the attack. Most analysts believe the bombing was revenge for Thailand's forcible deportation of 109 Uighurs back to China, where rights groups say they face significant repression. Thai authorities maintain the attack was not political and was carried out by a passport forgery gang angry at a policing crackdown. — AFP



BANGKOK: A policeman from the Crime Suppression Division unit searches a car in the parking lot of a shopping mall. — AFP

JAILED CHINESE ACTIVIST WINS TOP RIGHTS PRIZE

GENEVA: A jailed scholar defending China's mostly-Muslim Uighur minority was awarded a leading honor for human rights yesterday, a move swiftly condemned by Beijing. Ilham Tohti, who was handed a life sentence in 2014, won the Martin Ennals award for his outspoken criticism of Beijing's policies towards Uighurs.

"Ilham Tohti has worked for two decades to foster dialogue and understanding between Uighurs and Han Chinese," the award foundation said in a statement. "He has rejected separatism and violence, and sought reconciliation based on a respect for Uighur culture, which has been subject to religious, cultural and political repression in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region."

Xinjiang, in western China, has seen a security crackdown in recent years, prompted by clashes that left hundreds dead. The university professor began writing about abuses in Xinjiang in 1994, leading Beijing to target him with official surveillance. Chinese authorities later prohibited him from teaching or publishing, prompting Ilham Tohti to launch a blog in 2006. Uyghurbiz.net ultimately triggered a tough reaction from Beijing.

After Ilham Tohti posted details of Uighurs who had been arrested and killed he was confined to house arrest and hit with a travel ban. In 2014, he was sentenced to life in prison for "separatism". During his trials, Ilham Tohti rejected accusations that he was advocating for an independent Uighur state,

insisting that his only goal was to safeguard his people's basic rights. "The real shame of this situation is that by eliminating the moderate voice of Ilham Tohti the Chinese government is in fact laying the groundwork for the very extremism it says it wants to prevent," Martin Ennals Foundation chairman Dick Oosting said in a statement.

'Root cause of hatred'

The foundation is named after the first secretary general of Amnesty International and the prize is judged by the London-based rights group, along with Human Rights Watch and other leading organisations. China's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang slammed the decision, saying "there is clear evidence of Ilham Tohti's wrongdoings." "In his class, he hailed suspects who launched terrorist attacks as 'heroes,'" Geng said in a statement. "He has been convicted by Chinese justice for separatism. His case has nothing to do with human rights." The World Uyghur Congress, an exile group, said Ilham Tohti's award would provide "encouragement" to their victimized people while also urging Beijing to reconsider its conduct.

The prize is "a reminder to the Chinese government, that suppressing those who uphold universal values is absolutely wrong and is the root cause of hatred and conflict," the group's spokesman Dilxat Raxit said in an email to AFP. — AFP

1K PROTESTERS STAND BEFORE CHINESE DEFENSE MINISTRY

BEIJING: More than 1,000 protesters walked and chanted in front of China's defense ministry yesterday, the latest apparent demonstration by soldiers as the world's largest standing military modernizes and downsizes. The protesters stood for several hours in front of the Bayi building in central Beijing, home of the Chinese Ministry of National Defense. Many wore green fatigues bearing the hammer-and-sickle logo of China's ruling Communist Party.

The purpose of their demonstration was

unclear. Protesters approached by The Associated Press declined to be interviewed, and censors blocked searches on social media about retired soldiers or the Chinese defense ministry. Hundreds of police and plainclothes security officers surrounded the protesters, hemming them in with buses and police vehicles.

While Chinese authorities routinely suppress discussions about the military and soldiers' issues, one human-rights activist, Huang Qi, told the AP that veterans have staged more than 50

protests this year alone. However, demonstrations on such a large scale are extremely rare in the center of the heavily policed capital. Two demonstrators told AP they were veterans who wanted the government to address military pensions, but they didn't want to discuss the issue with foreign media. The protesters declined to give their names.

Liu Feiyue, editor of the website Minsheng Guanqia, which monitors civil rights issues, said he was told by retired soldiers that other ex-soldiers were present. "They protested because they don't have a job now after serving a long period of time in the army, some for a dozen years," Liu said. "They are asking for employment." China's armed forces are undergoing a large-scale modernization to become a nimble organization that can better handle conflicts at sea and in the air.

Those measures have gained pace as China builds up its presence in the South China and East China Seas amid territorial disputes and as relations have soured with self-governing Taiwan - which China claims as its own territory to be unified with by force if necessary. President Xi Jinping announced last year that the 2.3-million-member People's Liberation Army would cut 300,000 personnel but little has been said about the cost or where the surplus troops would go.

Veterans have staged sit-ins and protests for several years over low or absent pensions and an inability to find work outside the military. It wasn't clear if anyone had been arrested yesterday. Local police did not respond to faxed questions, and no one answered the phone at the press office of the defense ministry. — AP



BEIJING: Hundreds of protesters in green fatigues gather outside the Chinese Ministry of National Defense to protest. — AP



Fighters from the Free Syrian Army take part in a battle against the Islamic State (IS) group militants in the northern Syrian village of Yahmoul in the Marj Dabiq area north of the embattled city of Aleppo on Monday. — AFP

EMBATTLED TRUMP SLAMS 'DISLOYAL' REPUBLICANS

Continued from Page 1

Trump's angry response seems to have been prompted by Ryan suggesting fellow Republicans stop defending the party nominee and focus on limiting electoral losses in Congress. In a conference call on Monday, Ryan told congressional Republicans "you all need to do what's best for you in your district," according to one person who listened in. Trump began the two hour cyber outburst by claiming "polls" had shown him to be the winner of the debate.

In fact, most scientific polls showed voters believed Hillary Clinton to be the clear winner. "Despite winning the second debate in a landslide (every poll), it is hard to do well when Paul Ryan and others give zero support!" Trump tweeted. He followed up by saying: "Our very weak and ineffective leader, Paul Ryan, had a bad conference call where his members went wild at his disloyalty." Democrats "have always proven to be far more loyal to each other than the Republicans."

In an ominous sign for Republicans who are worried about losing control of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the survival of the party, Trump sounded a belligerent note. "Disloyal R's are far more difficult than Crooked Hillary. They come at you from all sides. They don't know how to win - I will teach them!" The latest Real Clear Politics polling average has Clinton ahead by 6.5 points across the country, and the latest polls show her ahead in a slew of must-win states for Trump.

Trump's campaign has long had a no holds barred quality - he has accused Mexican immigrants of being rapists and Muslims of being a terror threat. But the break with Republicans and the embrace of Bill Clinton's women accusers - who he invited to attend Sunday's

debate - may signal the start of an even more vitriolic and personal campaign. An unsparing Trump campaign ad released Monday showed Hillary Clinton when she had pneumonia last month, coughing at the dais and stumbling as she tried to get into her motorcade after a 9/11 anniversary ceremony.

"Hillary Clinton doesn't have the fortitude, strength or stamina to lead in our world," the narrator says. Also Monday, Trump suggested to a mostly white audience in Philadelphia, which has a large African-American population, that the election may be "stolen" by "other communities".

Clinton's campaign will be eager to tether the whole Republican Party to Trump's harsh message - which is popular with the party base but appears to have little appeal with the wider public. "Somewhat of a civil war is breaking out in the Republican Party," said Clinton communications director Jen Palmieri. "But I think that Donald Trump didn't become the nominee of his party on his own." She accused elected Republicans of helping to "legitimize him," adding "I think they have a lot to answer for and the voters I imagine will hold them accountable (in) House and Senate races."

Clinton herself will revive the Clinton-Gore 1992 White House ticket on Tuesday, campaigning in Miami with her husband's vice president Al Gore. Gore has been largely absent from politics since he lost the 2000 race in Florida to George W Bush. His comeback in the Sunshine State is likely to focus on the "high stakes of November's election" and climate change, which Gore has spent his post White House years working on. Clinton had another potent surrogate out on the campaign trail yesterday as President Barack Obama traveled to Greensboro, North Carolina. — AFP

TAX SUGARY DRINKS: WHO

GENEVA: Governments should tax sugary drinks to fight the global epidemics of obesity and diabetes, the World Health Organization said yesterday. A 20 percent price increase could reduce consumption of sweet drinks by the same proportion, the WHO said in "Fiscal Policies for Diet and Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases", a report issued on World Obesity Day. Drinking fewer calorific sweet drinks is the best way to curb excessive weight and prevent chronic diseases such as diabetes, although fat and salt in processed foods are also at fault, WHO officials said.

"We are now in a place where we can say there is enough evidence to move on this and we encourage countries to implement effective tax on sugar-sweetened beverages to prevent obesity," Temo Waqanivalu, of WHO's department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Health Promotion, told a briefing. Obesity more than doubled worldwide between 1980 and 2014, with 11 percent of men and 15 percent of women classified as obese - more than 500 million people, the report said.

"Smart policies can help to turn the tides on this deadly epidemic, especially those aimed at reducing consumption of sugary drinks, which is fuelling obesity rates," former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, a WHO ambassador for non-communicable diseases, said in a statement. An estimated 42 million children under age 5 were overweight or obese in 2015, said Francesco Branca, director of WHO's nutrition and health department, an increase of about 11 million over 15 years.

The United States has the most obesity per capita, but China has similar absolute numbers, Branca said, voicing fears that the epidemic could spread to sub-Saharan Africa. The WHO said there was increasing evidence that taxes and subsidies influence purchasing behavior and could be used to curb consumption of sweet drinks. "This is tax on sugary drinks which is really by definition all types of beverages containing free sugars and this includes soft drinks, fruit drinks, sachet mixes, cordials, energy and sports drinks, flavoured milks, breakfast drinks, even 100 percent fruit juices," Waqanivalu said. — Reuters

RUSSIA RENEWS HEAVY BOMBING OF ALEPPO

Continued from Page 1

SANA also reported an unidentified number of injuries in a mortar shell attack near the famous Umayyad mosque in the Old City of Damascus yesterday. An AFP correspondent in Damascus said later that there was intense mortar fire raining down on several neighborhoods of the capital.

Elsewhere in Syria, state media said five children were among six people killed in rebel rocket fire on a primary

school in the southern city of Daraa. The Observatory also reported the deaths, saying at least 25 people were wounded and the death toll could rise because a number of the wounded were in critical condition. Rebel forces hold most of Daraa province, but the provincial capital is largely controlled by the government. The assault on Aleppo has sparked international condemnation, with fears for the fate of more than 250,000 civilians trapped inside the east of the city since the government imposed a siege in mid-July. — AFP

ASSEMBLY WILL LIKELY BE DISSOLVED 'WITHIN DAYS'

Continued from Page 1

A deal reached between the government and a number of MPs to grant every Kuwaiti 75 liters of free petrol every month failed to contain popular and parliamentary anger against the government.

The mood at the Assembly appeared to anticipate the end of the road for the Assembly that was elected in July 2013 after adopting for the second time the controversial one-vote electoral system that led the opposition to boycott the second parliamentary election in a row. The Assembly completes its normal four-year term in July. If HH the Amir dissolves the Assembly as expected, fresh elections must be held within 60 days and the new Assembly must hold its first session within two weeks after the election results. Some of the opposition groups, especially the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), have decided to end their boycott to the polls and are expected to field candidates.

Meanwhile, former Islamist opposition MP Falah Al-Sawwagh died yesterday after undergoing surgery at a local hospital, after which he felt severe cardiac pain. His condition deteriorated after a liposuction at the Babtain hospital for burns and plastic surgeries, and Sawwagh breathed his last in the ICU. He was 56. The Ministry of Health has opened an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Sawwagh, it said in a statement. The statement urged people not to speculate on the cause of the former MP's death until the investigation is completed, and conveyed deepest condolences to his family.

Sawwagh was elected to the National Assembly for the first time in 2009 and was reelected in Feb 2012. But he boycotted as part of the opposition the following two polls in protest against the change in the voting system. Sawwagh previously worked for the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), amongst other institutions.

ERDOGAN TO ABADI: 'KNOW YOUR PLACE'

Continued from Page 1

Baghdad has repeatedly called on Ankara to pull out its troops, with Abadi warning the Turkish deployment risked a regional war. The dispute between Ankara and Baghdad flared up after the Turkish parliament extended a government mandate by one year, allowing its troops to remain on both Iraqi and Syrian soil. The Iraqi parliament has labelled the Turkish troops an "occupying force".

Speaking to Muslim religious leaders from the Balkans and Central Asia, Erdogan said objections from Iraq wouldn't stop Turkey from participating in any operation to free Mosul and rejected the Iraqi premier's demand for a withdrawal. "The army of the Turkish republic has not lost its quality to a degree to receive instructions from you," he said.

The Turkish-Iraqi tensions risk complicating plans for an operation to save Mosul, which was captured by IS

jihadists in 2014. The Turkish president has expressed his country's willingness to join the battle under a similar understanding it had reached for the recapture of Jarabulus in Syria. Turkey's army has launched an ambitious operation in Syria, backing opposition fighters who recaptured the town of Jarabulus near the Turkish border from IS jihadists in September.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, meanwhile, again warned that any operation to free Mosul shouldn't lead to any demographic change. Turkish is worried that once Mosul is liberated from IS, Kurds or Shiite groups may take Mosul over and push out Sunni Arabs or ethnic Turkmens. "We have explained to all of our friends that the operation planned for Mosul should be limited to removing Daesh," Yildirim said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "If you, after removing Daesh, attempt to change Mosul's demographic structure, you will light the fire of a very big civil war, of a sectarian war. This is our warning." — Agencies

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Issues

TRUMP WOES
MAY DEPRESS
DEM TURNOUT

By James Oliphant

Hillary Clinton's campaign is confronting an emerging risk to her presidential ambitions - if Donald Trump continues to trail her in opinion polls many Democrats may simply stay at home on Election Day. Without enough popular support, Clinton would enter the White House lacking the political capital she would need to drive through her agenda. In the worst-case scenario it could cost her the presidency if Republicans turn out in big numbers on Nov 8.

Clinton, the Democratic nominee, has spent much of her campaign sounding the alarm over the prospect of a President Trump. She has struggled to lay out a compelling vision for her presidency and has failed to excite key constituencies, including millennials, minority voters and liberal Democrats. Opinion polls show that many voters are backing Clinton primarily to stop Trump, the Republican nominee, from getting into the White House. If they believe he has no hope of winning, then what would their motivation be to turn up at the polls?

In a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll about half of all Clinton supporters said they were backing her to keep Trump from winning. By contrast, just 36.5 percent said it was because of Clinton's policies and just 12.6 percent said it was because they like her personally. "Turnout is correlated with levels of competition," said Michael McDonald, an elections expert at the University of Florida. "The higher the competition, the higher the turnout."

The young Americans, blacks, Latinos, and low-income voters who make up much of the Democratic base often need to feel motivated by a particular candidate or issue to turn out, McDonald said, as was the case with President Barack Obama's candidacy in 2008. Clinton's campaign has long worried about voter complacency and has at every turn pushed the notion that the race is close and that Trump is unfit to be president. With her lead growing, that task grows more difficult.

A Reuters/Ipsos 50-state survey (carried out before Friday's release of a video tape in which Trump makes vulgar remarks about women) gave the Democratic nominee a 95 percent chance of winning the election. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll on Monday showed Clinton with an 11-point lead nationally over Trump. Low Democratic voter turnout could leave Trump an opening in swing states. And should Clinton win the election, a slim margin of victory could compound the challenge she will face in trying to govern a deeply divided nation. Clinton's campaign, however, will be able to rely on an extensive and well-funded voter mobilization effort, one that is expected to give her an edge over Trump's smaller organization.

Moving Past Trump

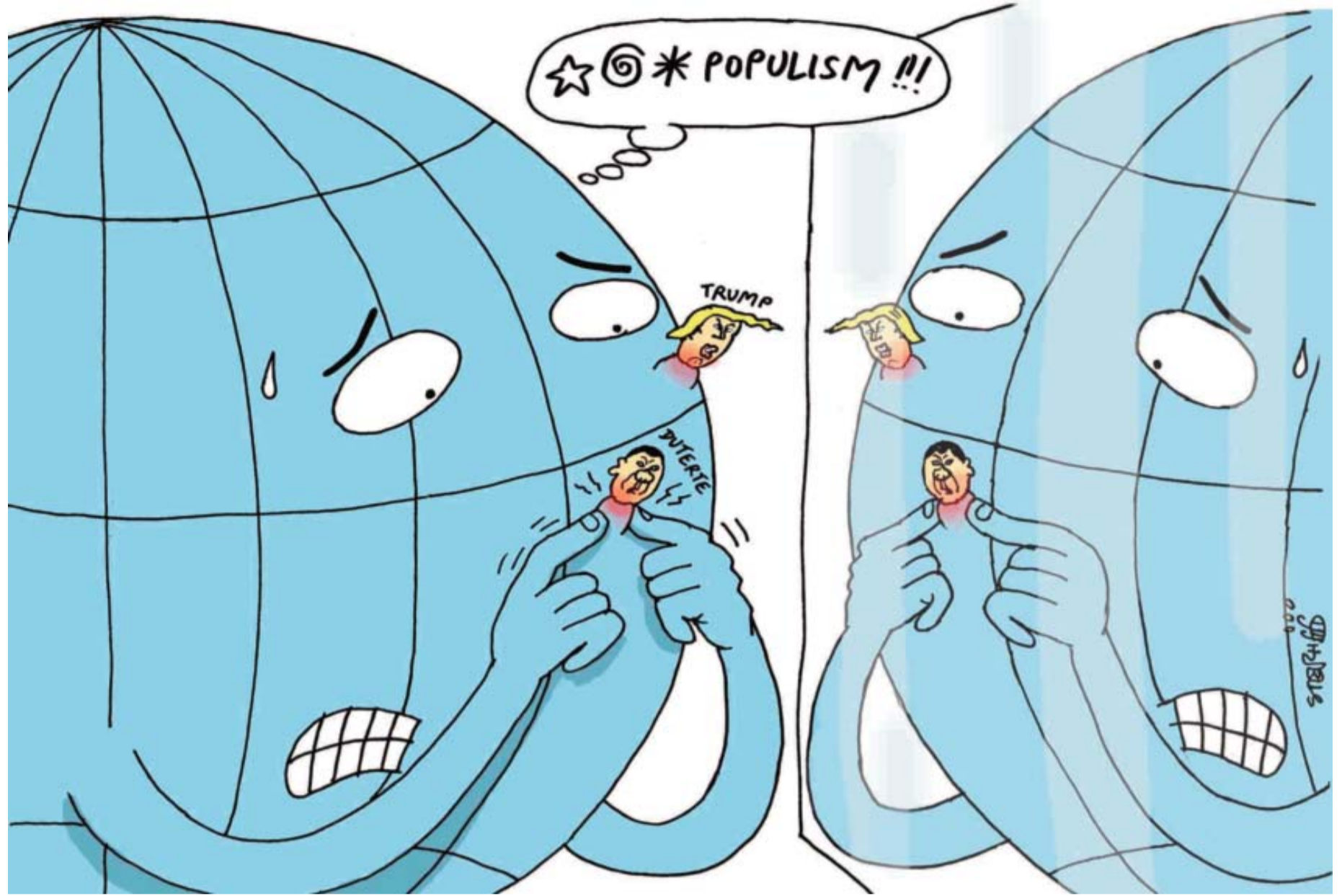
The Clinton campaign insisted on Monday the race will remain tight. It sent out a new fundraising pitch to supporters, contending that Trump is "an authoritarian threat" for saying at Sunday's presidential debate that she would be in jail if he was president. Clinton must also contend with anger among liberal Democrats over leaked excerpts of paid speeches she made to banks and big business. The excerpts appeared to confirm their fears about her support for global trade and tendency to cozy up to Wall Street.

Some liberals have also been waiting for Clinton to make a more positive case for her own presidency. "This election cannot be just a referendum on Donald Trump," said Arun Chaudhury, creative director of Revolution Messaging, a left-leaning consulting firm that oversaw the online media operation of former Clinton rival, Senator Bernie Sanders. Clinton's central message, he said, has been that "everyone has to step up and stop Donald Trump from being president, not step up and make Hillary Clinton president." "The best campaign messages are comparative in nature," said Ben Turchin, a Democratic pollster who worked for Sanders' campaign. "She can win by a bigger margin by giving a little more of an affirmative case for her presidency."

While Clinton frequently goes on the attack against Trump, calling him racist, sexist and dangerous, her campaign insists it has been trying to get a positive, policy-oriented message out. "It is hard in this campaign when you're running against him and he generates so much controversy and therefore headlines," Jennifer Palmieri, Clinton's communications director, told Reuters. "It's hard to break through on any one day, and that's why we just have to keep at it."

The two candidates' central campaign slogans reflect their differing appeals to the electorate. Where Trump's is the change-oriented "Make America Great Again," Clinton's is a more stolid "Stronger Together," which speaks to rallying existing Democratic voters around her candidacy - and is a harder sell. — Reuters

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TRUMP STILL ALIVE, BUT GOP IN TATTERS

By Jerome Cartillier

After nearly 18 months of vitriolic presidential debates, it is clear that the 2016 race for the White House is truly like no other. The release of a 2005 video containing lewd and sexist comments made by Republican nominee Donald Trump has further roiled his party, which was already in tatters and without a path forward. Now, many party stalwarts have abandoned their own candidate. Here are the key lessons learned so far with four weeks to go before Americans go to the polls on November 8 for an election that will end with either Trump, 70, or Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, 68, succeeding Barack Obama as US president.

1. Trump on the ropes but no KO (yet)

Team Trump breathed a relative sigh of relief Monday after the second debate between the White House hopefuls. On Saturday, one day after the bombshell release of the video showing Trump making aggressively sexual remarks about groping and forcing himself on women, it looked like the real estate mogul was one step away from political oblivion. A cascade of repudiation from fellow Republicans flooded Twitter: one by one, party heavyweights including Senator John McCain, the 2008 presidential nominee, said they could no longer back Trump.

2. Debate the issues? Nah

"When she hit me at the end with the women, I was going to hit her with her husband's women, and I decided I shouldn't do it because her daughter was in the room," Trump said just two weeks ago after the first debate. At that time, it looked like the billionaire wanted to maintain some sense of the high ground.

But on Sunday, with Chelsea Clinton again in the room, a defiant Trump changed his tune.

By unearthing decades-old claims of sexual harassment and rape against Bill Clinton, and by appearing hours before the debate with his alleged victims, Trump took the campaign into uncharted territory. The women were then invited to the debate, and Trump reportedly even tried to seat them in his family box, so the former president would have to face them when he entered the room. The level of animosity and rancor between the two candidates is now so elevated that it seems impossible to think that at their third and last debate on October 19 in Las Vegas, they will actually tackle the political and diplomatic issues at hand.

3. Republicans in crisis

Since Trump first announced his candidacy on June 16, 2015, the Grand Old Party has performed a delicate - and uncomfortable - balancing act. In recent days, that balancing act has morphed into a full-on circus. By attacking Clinton on issues that fueled his success in the primaries - such as her use of a private email server while serving as secretary of state, the Benghazi controversy and her "basket of deplorables" gaffe - Trump ably energized his core supporters in the party.

But the party's top players are fleeing from him, with House Speaker Paul Ryan

saying he will focus on down-ballot contests to try to preserve the Republican majority in Congress. "There has always been more resistance to Trump among the party leadership than the rank and file," veteran political analyst Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia said in his post-debate review. "The vast majority of self-identified Republicans will vote for Trump, and they may be angered by the party leaders who have retracted their endorsements."

On Nov 8, voters will not only choose a new president, but also a third of the 100-member Senate, and all of their representatives in the House. With the Senate seemingly in reach, some Democrats are even dreaming that the GOP implosion could put the House within their grasp. "You all need to do what's best for you in your district," Ryan told Republican lawmakers, saying he would not defend Trump or campaign for him - and effectively giving them his blessing to sever ties with the White House nominee.

Trump retorted on Twitter: "Paul Ryan should spend more time on balancing the budget, jobs and illegal immigration and not waste his time on fighting Republican nominee." The split was music to the ears of Team Clinton. "Somewhat of a civil war is breaking out in the Republican Party," her communications director Jennifer Palmieri said Monday. — AFP

UPSTART MEXICAN CARTEL'S PATH TO TOP

By Dave Graham

In barely four years, a little-known criminal gang has grown to challenge the world's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, for domination of the Mexican underworld, unleashing a new tide of violence. Once minions of Guzman's Sinaloa Cartel, traffickers of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) have turned on their former masters, seizing territory and buying off thousands of corrupt police. Led by former policeman Nemesio Oseguera, aka "El Mencho", the gang soon carved out an empire at the expense of weaker rivals.

The speed of its ascent shows how quickly power can shift in Mexico's multi-billion-dollar drugs trade. Juggling interests from China to North Africa and eastern Europe, the CJNG's bloody advance has pushed murders to their highest levels under President Enrique Pena Nieto, who vowed to restore law and order when he took office in late 2012. All but four in a 2009 list of Mexico's 37 most wanted capos are now dead or in jail, and Pena Nieto did initially succeed in reducing violence.

But a resurgence that led to 3,800 murders between July and August highlights the government's failure to beat down cartels without new ones springing up in their place. Pena Nieto recently sought to allay security concerns by announcing a plan to step up crime prevention in the worst-hit areas. He did not set out the details of his plan, but urged states to speed up efforts to put local police under unified statewide command.

Intimidating, paying off or eliminating police, CJNG leaders have ruthlessly applied lessons learned during their apprenticeship under Guzman's cartel to muscle in on battered rivals and snatch trafficking routes, security experts say. Interviews by Reuters with over a dozen serving and former officials underlined

how collusion between gang members and law enforcement in the CJNG's stronghold, the western state of Jalisco, laid the foundation for the gang's advance. "People stopped trusting the police. People believed the police in the state were working for a criminal gang," said Jalisco's attorney general Eduardo Almaguer.

Bearing the brunt of the chaos are the ports, trafficking centers and border crossings that light up the multi-billion dollar trail of crystal methamphetamine from Mexico to the United States, the CJNG's main source of revenue. Both savage - one gang hitman videoed blowing up victims he had strapped with dynamite - and shrewd, the CJNG is flanked by a white collar financial arm known as "Los Cuinis". "They're the entrepreneurs. They've made big investments in property, in restaurants, car leasing," said Almaguer. "They're the ones who know how to do business and corrupt authorities."

Almaguer has fired dozens of state officials suspected of corruption since becoming attorney general in July 2015. But it is municipal police that pose the biggest liability in Jalisco, the home of Mexico's second biggest city, Guadalajara. Roughly one in five actively collaborate with gangs and about 70 percent "do not act" against them, Almaguer said. As of September, 1,733 serving police in Jalisco, or nearly 16 percent of the municipal force, had failed evaluations known as "loyalty tests" aimed at rooting out corruption, according to data compiled by Causa e Comun, a transparency group. The worst performer was Sinaloa, home state of the now captured Guzman, where half the active police flunked the test.

Police in Cartel's Pocket

A captured CJNG gang member claimed it had over half of Jalisco's munic-

ipal police on its payroll, said a former official from the state government who interviewed him. Depending on their role, the police were paid between 1,000 pesos and 50,000 pesos a month or more by the CJNG, the official said, requesting anonymity: "Otherwise they would kill me." Mexican police earn as little as \$500 a month in some areas, meaning many are tempted to take the traffickers' money.

CJNG suspicions that local police were buckling to pressure from the Sinaloa Cartel to betray them and change sides was one of the reasons the gang lashed out against security forces in 2015, four current and former Jalisco officials said. In six weeks, the CJNG killed over two dozen police in an onslaught culminating in the shooting down of an army helicopter on May 1, 2015 during a botched attempt to capture Oseguera.

Since Oct 2015, when the leftist opposition took control of the Guadalajara municipality, around 10 percent of its 2,600-strong police force have been or are in the process of being dismissed, said Salvador Caro, the police chief. Most were suspected of having links to organized crime, and of those, most for ties to the CJNG, Caro said. It is not the only gang with the law on its payroll.

Documents recovered by local officials and reviewed by Reuters showed the Knights Templar gang, once the main local rival of the CJNG, got copies of intelligence files to compile dossiers on suspected CJNG members, including police. The dossiers included addresses, car license details, tax and social security data, voter registrations and phone numbers. The data could only have leaked from law enforcement sources, a federal security official said.

Police are not the only problem, said Jalisco attorney general Almaguer, who also wants to make judges in the state take loyalty tests to stop collusion with gangsters. "We've had rulings where it's

obvious some bad members of the justice system tried to protect gang members," he said. A spokeswoman for Jalisco's Supreme Court declined to comment.

Crystal Superpower

The CJNG steadily became more independent from the Sinaloa Cartel after the 2010 death of Ignacio Coronel, Guzman's top lieutenant in Jalisco. Still, a US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) map in Jan 2012 showing the territorial influence of Mexico's main cartels did not feature the gang at all. It was not until after Guzman's capture in Feb 2014 - he would break out of prison in July 2015 and was recaptured this January - that the split degenerated into war.

By April 2015, another DEA map showed the CJNG dominant in most or parts of 10 states, with a growing or significant presence in four others. Since then, the CJNG surge has sparked record murder levels around the Pacific ports that feed the gang's demand for precursor chemicals from China used to make crystal meth. The gang's power grab has also fueled violence in the port of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico, the main gateway for crystal meth exports to Europe and North Africa, and Tijuana, a major border crossing into the lucrative US market.

Some experts believe the CJNG is already the main supplier of crystal meth to the United States. Mike Vigil, a former DEA chief of international operations, believes the split is still about 60-40 in favor of the Sinaloa Cartel in a market the two utterly dominate. Estimating sales of the drug were worth about 25-30 percent of a \$60 billion US illegal narcotics trade, Vigil said the CJNG's power base and absorption of local expertise meant it had the potential to become the new "superpower" in crystal meth. "They have a PhD in drug trafficking thanks to the education provided by the Sinaloa Cartel and other cartels," he said. — Reuters

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CROSBY CONCUSSION CASTS SHADOW ON PENGUINS' CUP REPEAT BID

NEW YORK: With captain Sidney Crosby sidelined indefinitely over the latest in a series of concussions, Pittsburgh's bid to repeat as National Hockey League champions is off to a rocky start.

Not since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and 1998 has a team won the Stanley Cup two seasons in a row. The Penguins, who beat San Jose last June to capture their first Stanley Cup since 2009, rely upon Crosby for leadership and spark alongside talented scorers Evgeni Malkin and Phil Kessel.

"Frustration at this point is a useless emotion," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "He's obviously an important player for us, but our team has dealt with injuries in the past to some of our key players. It provides opportunities for others to step up."

It's a major step. The 29-year-old center was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the World Cup of Hockey after leading Canada to the title just two weeks ago, scoring three goals and setting up seven others.

Last season, Crosby was the Stanley Cup playoffs MVP in claiming his second NHL crown with the Penguins. Pittsburgh was the reigning NHL champion in 2010 when Crosby scored the gold medal-winning goal in the Vancouver Olympic final victory over the United States.

Crosby was hurt by a Friday practice hit, Sullivan said, with team general manager Jim Rutherford saying there was no timetable for Crosby's return. The NHL season opens Wednesday with St. Louis at Chicago, Los Angeles at San Jose, Calgary at Edmonton and Toronto at Ottawa while the Penguins raise their title banner Thursday in their home opener against Washington, a game that could see some extra tension and emotion.

It was a collision in the 2011 NHL Winter Classic against visiting

Washington that left Crosby struggling over two seasons to fully recover. He missed 101 games from that night and the end of the 2011-12 season.

Crosby, with 338 goals and 600 assists in 707 career games, has become the face of the NHL and his absence for even a short time casts a pall over the NHL's celebration of the 100th anniversary of its founding and the 50th anniversary of its expansion from six to 12 teams, which included adding the Penguins.

"At nearly 100 we have never been stronger, better, younger and never been faster and have never had a brighter, more diverse future," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said.

"The great game of hockey, NHL hockey, has grown and strengthened and represents a truly global presence." There's still no deal for NHL players to compete at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea although talks continue with the International Olympic Committee, the NHL and the players union involved. Players want to go but the NHL wants to stop paying \$15 million for housing, transportation and insurance for NHL personnel.

There will be a fair share of rivals in hot pursuit of the Penguins should they falter with or without Crosby. Washington will contend again behind Russian Alex Ovechkin, the NHL's top goal scorer each of the past four seasons. He netted 50 last season but the Capitals' campaign ended with a playoff loss to Pittsburgh.

Tampa Bay, powered by Steven Stamkos, lost last year's Stanley Cup final to Chicago but have the speed to stay with the Penguins. And Chicago, upset by St. Louis in the first round of last season's playoffs, is going for a third Stanley Cup in five seasons and fourth in eight campaigns. —AFP



ROME: The president of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), Giovanni Malago (L), speaks next to Diana Bianchedi, director of Rome's bid and Luca Pancalli (C), president of the Italian paralympics committee during a press conference yesterday in Rome. Malago put a definitive end to Rome's bid to host the 2024 Olympic Games after the city's newly elected mayor refused to support the project. "I wrote to the International Olympic Committee today to withdraw Rome-2024 from the running," Malago told a specially convened press conference. —AFP

ITALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SUSPENDS ROME'S 2024 BID

ROME: The Italian Olympic Committee is suspending Rome's bid for the 2024 Games for the time being, while leaving open the possibility for a revival of the candidacy if there is a change in city government.

CONI president Giovanni Malago said he wrote a letter to the International Olympic Committee yesterday to "interrupt the candidacy." The move comes after Rome's city council voted last month to withdraw support of the bid on the recommendation of Mayor Virginia Raggi.

Rome's withdrawal would leave only Los Angeles, Paris, and Budapest, Hungary, in the running for the 2024 Games. The IOC will select the host city in September 2017.

It would also mark the second time in four years that a Rome bid has been withdrawn or interrupted. In 2012, then-premier Mario Monti scrapped the city's bid for the 2020 Olympics because of financial concerns.

Raggi, who represents the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, said that taking on the costs of an Olympic bid is "irresponsible" for a city struggling to emerge from years of corruption and poor public services.

While Raggi wrote a letter to the IOC last month, IOC rules state that only the national Olympic committee can withdraw a candidacy. "Anybody can write to the IOC but the only letter that counts is the one from the president of the Olympic committee," Malago said at a news conference.

Since being elected in June as Rome's first female mayor, Raggi has had a rough first few months in office. Her administration was thrown into chaos after she dismissed her Cabinet chief and four other officials resigned.

Malago compared Rome's situation to Vancouver's withdrawal six months before the 1980 Winter Games were awarded to Lake Placid in 1976. Vancouver had to wait 30 years to host the 2010 Winter Games.

"While it's true that Canada had two games in the intervening years - Montreal (1976) and Calgary (1988) - I think Vancouver paid a big price for that decision," Malago said. "Rome and Italy find themselves in a similar situation today." Hoping to regain the trust of the IOC, Malago said that he was offering up Milan as host of the IOC session in 2019. "This is the first step of Italy's rehabilita-

tion after this unacceptable interruption," Malago said. "The other evening I had a chance to discuss this possibility with (IOC President) Thomas Bach and IOC general director Christophe De Kepper and there is ample support for this idea." This is a way to turn the page and move on," Malago added. Still, the "interruption" of the bid is another signal that the IOC still has work to do to convince cities that hosting the games is a boon and not a burden.

Last month, a city government panel in

Tokyo warned that the cost of the 2020 Olympics could exceed \$30 billion, more than four times the initial estimates. Voters in Hamburg rejected the German city's 2024 bid in a referendum, and Boston dropped out last year amid a lack of public and political support and was replaced as the U.S. candidate by Los Angeles. Four cities withdrew during the bidding for the 2022 Winter Games, leaving only two candidates in the field. Beijing, hardly known as a winter sports destination, defeated Almaty, Kazakhstan. —AP

'WOODS MAY NEVER MAKE SUCCESSFUL COMEBACK'

NORTH CAROLINA: Tiger Woods' decision to postpone his tournament golf comeback has raised more questions about his future with some former players wondering if he will ever successfully return to regular competition.

Former PGA Tour winner Brandel Chamblee greeted Monday's news of Woods' withdrawal from this week's Safeway Open by comparing the player's plight with the late-career struggles of Spanish five-times major winner Seve Ballesteros. Twice major champion Johnny Miller said Woods was "not ever going to be the old Tiger," although stopping short of writing off the 40-year-old completely.

Chamblee described a "perfect storm" of issues that have simultaneously beset 14-times major champion Woods.

"What has happened to Tiger Woods is really the perfect storm of destruction for an athlete," Chamblee said on Golf Channel. "We've seen Tiger Woods' golf swing decay, his body decay and then his chipping decay."

"Once you've been visited upon by the yips, when you're chipping it just never goes away. There's nothing more exciting in golf, maybe in sports, than watching Tiger Woods, but there are too many hurdles to overcome. I just don't see (Woods) overcoming the yips."

SEVE PARALLELS

Chamblee also explained his comparison of Woods to the late Ballesteros, who was a pale shadow of his former self

once his confidence ebbed.

"On many levels, there are parallels to Seve. Seve Ballesteros was a genius, an artist. "That's what golf is, it's more of an abstract game, and Seve tried to make it later in his career a linear game, and every single person that I've seen in professional golf who tried to make it a linear game, either becomes so frustrated they no longer can play or sooner or later they quit." Woods was scheduled to play at the PGA Tour event in Napa, California, starting on Thursday, returning from a 14-month break after back surgeries.

But his decision to pull out, three days after confirming his participation, was puzzling. Woods, who announced his withdrawal on his website (www.tigerwoods.com), has not revealed what happened over the weekend that prompted a change of mind. Safeway Open tournament host Miller was crestfallen at the news, and acknowledged that Woods' glory days were probably long behind him. "I know there's a lot of pressure on Tiger after being away from professional golf for 14 months," said Miller. "Everyone expects him to come back and play like the year 2000, but that's just not going to happen. "He's not ever going to be the old Tiger (but) I still think he can win, if he has the desire. I just hope he can find a bit of joy in the game again."

Woods will not play at next month's European Tour Turkish Airlines Open event but plans to turn out at his foundation's Hero World Challenge in Albany, Bahamas in December. —Reuters

SERGIO PARISSÉ LEADS TRIO OF RETURNING VETERANS FOR ITALY

ROME: Italy captain Sergio Parisse has been recalled to the Italy squad for November tests against New Zealand, South Africa and Tonga. Coach Conor O'Shea has also recalled another pair of veterans in hooker Leonardo Ghiraldini and back row forward Alessandro Zanni.

The trio, who between them are one short of 300 caps for the Azzurri, were left out of Italy's June Tour to North and South America, when O'Shea took charge of the team for the first time.

Should he play, Stade Francais No.8 Parisse, 33, will take sole possession of the national caps record he shares with prop Martin Castrogiovanni, 34, who has not played since being suspended by his club Racing 92 for disciplinary reasons.

The Argentine-born pair share the record of 119 caps while Treviso's Zanni, 32, has played for his country 99 times and Ghiraldini, 31, of Toulouse has won 81 caps.

O'Shea has also named three uncapped Treviso players in his squad: prop Simone Ferrari, wing Andrea Buondonno and scrum-half Giorgio Bronzini.

"Twenty of the 30 selected players played in the summer Tour and that will give us solidity," said O'Shea in a statement released by the Italian Rugby Federation (FIR) yesterday.

"But we'll also rediscover some big names who will give us energy. "These are

three big challenges awaiting us in November and we live for moments like these. "I know this team has the right qualities to make Italian rugby proud." Italy host the All Blacks in Rome on November 12, then play South Africa in Florence a week later before entertaining Tonga in Padova on November 26.

Squad

Forwards: Pietro Ceccarelli (Zebre), Lorenzo Cittadini (Bayonne/FRA), Simone Ferrari (Treviso), Andrea Lovotti (Zebre), Sami Panico (Pataro Calvisano), Ornel Gega (Treviso), Leonardo Ghiraldini (Toulouse/FRA), George Fabio Biagi (Zebre), Joshua Furno (Zebre), Marco Fuser (Treviso), Quintin Geldenhuys (Zebre), Simone Favaro (Glasgow Warriors/SCO), Maxime Mata Mbanda (Zebre), Francesco Minto (Treviso), Sergio Parisse (Stade Francais/FRA), Andries Van Schalkwyk (Zebre), Alessandro Zanni (Treviso).

Backs: Giorgio Bronzini (Treviso), Edoardo Gori (Treviso), Marcello Violi (Zebre), Tommaso Allan (Treviso), Carlo Canna (Zebre), Tommaso Benvenuti (Treviso), Tommaso Boni (Zebre), Andrea Buondonno (Treviso), Michele Campagnaro (Exeter Chiefs/ENG), Angelo Esposito (Treviso), Luke McLean (Treviso), Edoardo Padovani (Zebre), Leonardo Sarto (Glasgow Warriors/SCO). — AFP



SAUDIS WIN TO CLAIM SPOT IN XEROX CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE FINAL

RIYADH: The Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge's 10th qualifier, held at the Dirab Golf & Country Club on October 1, saw two Saudi Nationals, Faisal Salhab and Abdulrahman Al Mansour of team 'Saudi National', claim their well-earned spots in the competition's final, to be held later this year in the UAE.

Faisal Salhab, who plays off scratch, and Abdulrahman Al Mansour, with a handicap

of 3, took first place with a score of 48 points. Second place was earned by Richard Davis and Jonathan Wood of team Pin Seekers with 48 points (countback), and third place was taken by Dong Kang and C.H. Lee of team Arirang Kang, with 48 points (countback).

Ihab Wahba, General Manager of Operations from Saudi Xerox, said: "The tenth qualifying round was successfully exe-

cutted, and we thank Dirab Golf & Country Club for their support in making this a success. Our team was in full zeal, engaging with the players during the event, who found it very encouraging and supportive."

The tournament was also attended by representatives of the management of Saudi Xerox including Marc E. Eversdijk, Finance Director, Ahmed Kasaby, Director of Operations, Zamil A. Kasim, Marketing

Manager, Ali Al Qahtani, Riyadh Branch Manager, Ayah Al Habeeb, Marketing Executive and Ziad Traboulsi, Sales Manager.

On-course Nearest to the Pin competitions were won by Rusty Sibug (4th hole - sponsored by Chrysler); Eddie O'Reilly (7th hole - sponsored by Devere Acuma), and Faisal Salhab (11th hole - sponsored by Select Property).

King of the Course Par 3s was earned by Dong Kang and C.H. Lee with 16 points; Par 4s was taken by Clark and Amy Windross (43 points), and Par 5s was taken by Julian Bennett and Arshad Mahmood (23 points). King of the Course winners are teams that perform best on Pars 3, 4, and 5, with prize rewards as well as entry into the 'Golden Ticket' draw that offers a wildcard entry into the 2016 Grand Final.

IOC: PYEONGCHANG'S BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS PROMOTING THE GAMES

PYEONGCHANG: Pyeongchang's preparations for the 2018 Winter Olympics are on course but South Korean organizers must step up efforts to promote the games worldwide, the head of the IOC's inspection team said. Gunilla Lindberg, head of the International Olympic Committee's coordination commission for the games, said her team was satisfied with the progress they saw in their latest three-day inspection visit.

According to Pyeongchang organizers, construction is on schedule for a series of 26 test events scheduled from November to April. They said six new competition venues for the games are now 90 percent complete.

"We saw firsthand the progress of the construction projects," Lindberg said at a

news conference. "There is no doubt that the venues will be ready for the upcoming test events." "My colleagues and I leave here more confident than ever that Pyeongchang 2018 will deliver great games," she added. The first test event will be a World Cup snowboard big air competition from Nov. 23-26.

Snowboard big air will make its Olympic debut at the Pyeongchang Games. A new high-speed rail line - designed to link the country's main gateway of Incheon airport with Pyeongchang in less than two hours - will be completed in June and start operations in January 2018.

Lindberg said that the biggest challenge left for Pyeongchang is promoting the Olympics across the world.

Pyeongchang, a sleepy ski resort town in South Korea's mountainous east, is a much smaller destination than Tokyo, which will host the 2020 Summer Olympics, and Beijing, which will host the 2022 Winter Games.

"The biggest challenge at the moment is ... how to promote the games over the world, because this is a small place. It's not Rio de Janeiro and it's not London," said Lindberg, who added that the upcoming test events, which will be televised internationally, will be an important opportunity to promote the games and showcase the level of preparation. Another critical issue for Pyeongchang is securing the participation of National Hockey League players. IOC negotiations with the NHL have

stalled over the IOC's decision not to pay for NHL players' travel and insurance as it has in the past.

NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly recently told The Associated Press he felt "negative" about the chances the league's players will appear for a sixth straight Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Christophe Dubi, the IOC's executive director of the Olympic Games, said NHL representatives have agreed to pay an inspection visit to Pyeongchang later this month, which he described as a "very positive step."

Dubi didn't offer a firm answer on whether the IOC would consider allowing the NHL to skip the Pyeongchang Games before returning for Beijing in 2022. "We definitely always try to have

the participation of the best athletes. It is reassuring that NHL is coming to Pyeongchang and especially look at the operations in Gangneung," he said.

"When it comes to the final participation ... there is a date set at Jan. 15 to find an agreement," Dubi said. "Until then it will be work between all parties involved to make sure that we get the participation of the very best, and that's for both Pyeongchang and Beijing."

The ice hockey tournament during the Pyeongchang Olympics will take place at a stadium in the nearby city of Gangneung. Lee Hee-beom, head of the local organizing committee, said ticket sales will be launched in conjunction with the 1-year-to-go countdown in February. —AP

NEW-LOOK NOVAK GIVES UP ON FED SLAMS RECORD

SHANGHAI: A new-look Novak Djokovic said he had given up on chasing Roger Federer's record 17 Grand Slam titles as he made a winning return to the tennis circuit yesterday. Djokovic, the formerly indomitable Serb who has bullied his rivals over the past two seasons, said he had undergone a radical rethink after his travails of recent months.

The 29-year-old said he no longer saw protecting his world number one ranking, now under threat from Andy Murray, as his priority, or breaking Federer's all-time record. The 12-time Grand Slam-winner beat Fabio Fognini 6-3, 6-3 at the Shanghai Masters in his first match back after skipping last week's China Open with an elbow injury. "Right now, no," he said, when asked if surpassing Federer's 17 major titles was still one of his goals. "I don't think about that at all. I don't think about any trophies or number ones in the world, rankings, anything like that. It's completely different."

"It is there, because I play partly because I enjoy being successful and seeing the results of my work. But on the other hand that comes second."

Djokovic has been in a funk since completing a career Grand Slam-and a run of four straight major titles-at the French Open in June.

The Serb, who has admitted having "private issues", lost in Wimbledon's third round, and then failed to win a match at the Rio Olympics before finishing runner-up at the US Open.

'WANTED IT TOO MUCH'

He said he had had a complete change of heart about his approach to tennis because the "must-win mindset... is not working for me any more."

"I try to be in this moment and take things slowly, and, you know, I'm not rushing anywhere. I'm not in a need, you know, to achieve anything," he said.

"I feel like I have overcome that step. Right now it's about just, you know, following my gut, following my instinct, whatever I feel like doing."

He added: "Just before I arrived to Olympic Games, things were looking great, I was in great shape. I won Toronto. You know, I was, as I can say, the peak of my abilities. I was extremely motivated to do

well there, but I lost that equilibrium. I lost that balance, because I exaggerated with the way I pushed myself in that kind of preparation and I really, you know, wanted it too much maybe."

The mental revamp is astonishing from a player who has long pushed himself to the limit in pursuit of perfection-but who didn't have to stretch himself against Italy's Fognini. A lone break of serve was enough for Djokovic to win the first set and Fognini matched the Serb with strong baseline play until 3-3 in the second set.

But Fognini's serve deserted him as he double-faulted to hand over a break, and then again for three match points, before sealing his fate with his seventh and final double. Djokovic gave the Italian a wry smile of sympathy as they shook hands. The defending champion will play Grigor Dimitrov or Vasek Pospisil in the third round.

TOMIC INJURY

Earlier outspoken Australian Nick Kyrgios said he had to stifle yawns as he dispatched Sam Querrey 6-4, 6-4 to tot up his sixth win in a row.

Kyrgios said he was "bored" and tired after last week's exertions at the Japan Open, where he lifted the third trophy of his season and career on Sunday. "I was just a little bit bored at times," he said, when asked why he wasn't his usual vocal self on court. "I was feeling very tired today." Juan Martin del Potro has also been in strong form but his tournament was quickly over when he was dumped out by Belgian seed David Goffin 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in 2hr 18min. Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov beat French seed Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-4 as he bounced back quickly from losing Sunday's China Open final to Andy Murray.

And Australia's Bernard Tomic said his season might be over after he retired with an abdominal problem while 3-6, 3-0 down against Roberto Bautista.

Tomic said he had been struggling with the undiagnosed injury during last week's run to the China Open doubles final with his partner Jack Sock.

"I've just got to look at this and if it's something I have to stop a little bit, I have to, and if it means for the rest of the year it means that," he said. — AFP



DOHA: US cyclist Amber Neben poses on the podium after winning the gold medal in the women's elite individual time trial event as part of the 2016 UCI Road World Championships yesterday, in the Qatari capital Doha. — AFP

NEBEN WINS SECOND WORLD TIME-TRIAL TITLE

DOHA: America's Amber Neben won the women's time-trial title in Qatar yesterday, the second time she has been crowned world champion at the event.

In an exciting and close race she posted a time of 36 mins 37.04, beating Ellen van Dijk of the Netherlands into second by six seconds, and Australia's Katrin Garfoot who was a further two seconds behind.

Neben previously won the title in 2008, in Varese, Italy. At 41, she becomes the second oldest woman ever to win the event after France's Jeannie Longo won aged 42 in 2001. Her victory completes a stellar year for American cycling over time-trials, after Kristin Armstrong won gold at the Rio Olympics.

Neben went out in the middle of the race in a 41-strong field and had an agonising wait to see if her time would be beaten.

"I was so nervous," said Neben afterwards. "It was so hard watching but at the time so exciting to have won. I feel for Ellen but am so excited for myself."

She added: "This one was more special because of everything that has happened between 2008 and now." She averaged more than 47 kilometres per hour along the 28.9 kilometre course in the Qatari capital, Doha.

Although van Dijk and Garfoot came close, the expected challenges from pre-race favourites Anna van der Breggen of the Netherlands and Germany's Lisa Brennauer never materialised.

Van der Breggen finished 13th, more than two minutes behind, while Brennauer was sixth, almost a minute off the pace set by Neben.

At one stage it looked as if Annemiek Van

Vleuten might complete a fairytale win after her horrific crash in Rio which left her with concussion and three cracked vertebrae.

But despite being an early leader she tailed off to finish fifth and later took to Twitter to say that she had been too "conservative" on her first lap. Riders completed two laps of the Pearl Qatar course, an artificial island in Doha, estimated to have cost \$15 billion (13.5 billion euros) to build, and home to some 12,000 people. They set off in 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit), but despite previous complaints about the heat from riders, the relatively short distance meant that the race length was not altered. Disappointingly for organisers, crowds for the event were sparse with large parts of the course without any spectators, despite it being the first time the event has been held in the Middle East. — AFP



SHANGHAI: Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return against Fabio Fognini of Italy during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament yesterday. — AFP

36 OLYMPIC BOXING JUDGES, REFEREES BARRED FROM EVENTS

LAUSANNE: Three dozen boxing referees and judges who officiated at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics have been barred from working at further world-level events until an investigation is completed.

The international boxing association said the 36 referees and judges should be ineligible to officiate at events it organizes. AIBA's youth world championships will be held next month in St. Petersburg, Russia, but the association has no senior world championships scheduled in the next year.

The integrity of AIBA, its officials and scoring system were questioned in Rio. During the games, AIBA president C.K. Wu responded to the criticism by reassigning his executive director to other duties.

AIBA has not detailed how many Olympic officials were sent home over "less than a handful" of unsatisfactory fight decisions. Disputed bouts included fighters from Ireland, Kazakhstan and the United

States losing to opponents from Russia and Uzbekistan.

However, some judges at those bouts continued to work in Rio. After the Olympics, AIBA said it sent cases of some officials and member federations to its disciplinary commission. No details were given of how many referees and judges were affected, or a timetable for possible sanctions. On Thursday, AIBA said it was looking to disband its system of certifying referees and judges for top championships.

In a further proposed change, AIBA will look to "instill greater transparency" by picking referees and judges for bouts in an automated draw instead of selection by a three-member draw commission.

Current AIBA rules have five judges scoring each fight, but a computer randomly throws out two of the scores. An open and transparent five-judge system is now being considered. — AP

SHARAPOVA RETURNS TO COURT IN LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS: Maria Sharapova returned to the tennis court for two exhibition matches on Monday, her first appearance since testing positive for the banned substance melonidolium at the Australian Open in January.

The Russian former world number one played at the World Team Tennis "Smash Hits" event in Las Vegas, which raises money for the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Sharapova, who has slipped to 93rd in the world rankings, partnered American Taylor Johnson and lost her first match to Martina Navratilova and Liezel Huber. "It's very special to be back on the court," she told reporters before the match.

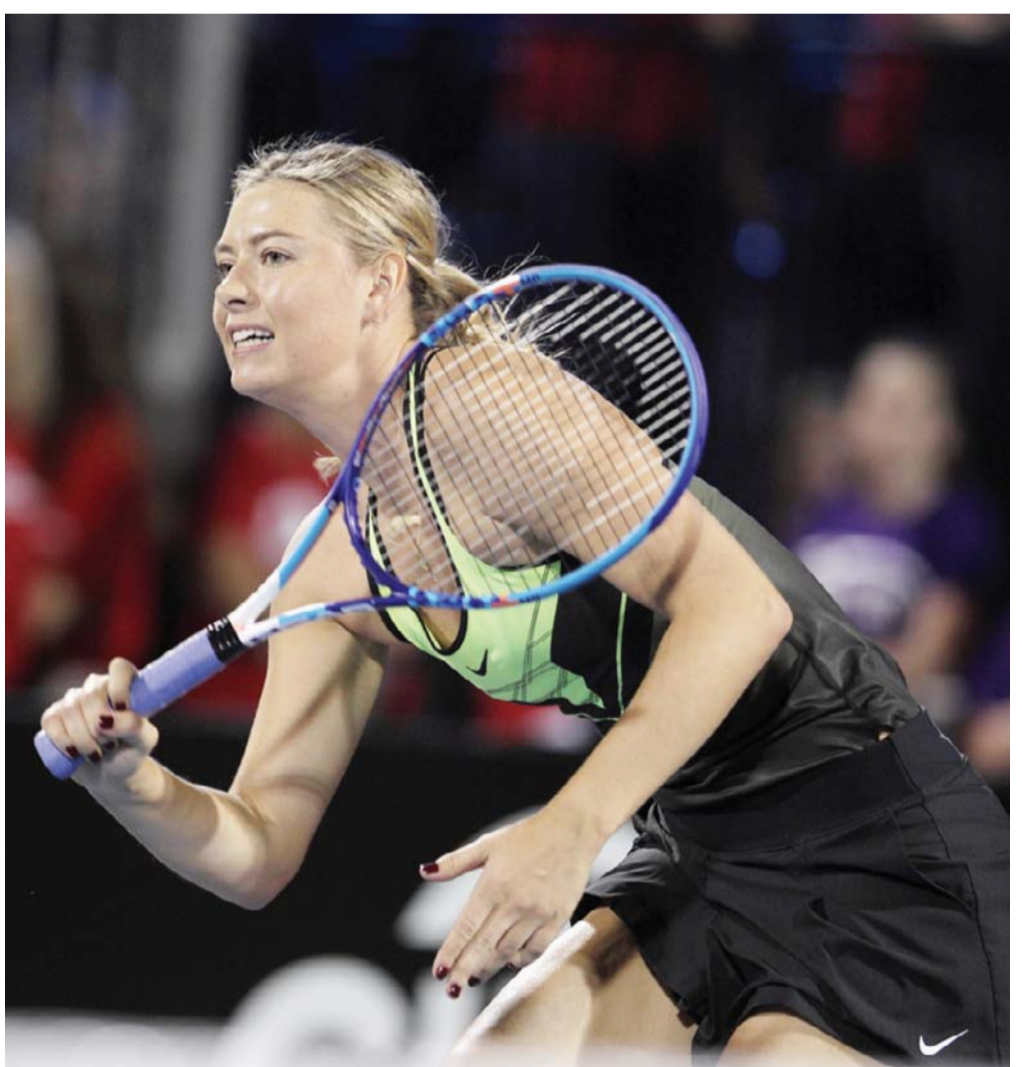
"It's been about seven months since I've played in front of spectators and played in a stadium environment. Obviously, very thankful for the invitation, happy to be part of this cause."

"It's been around for 24 years and it's my first attendance. Thrilled to be part of it." Sharapova, whose ban was cut from two years to 15 months by the Court of Arbitration last week, can return to competition in April, one month before the French Open.

The 29-year-old, who teamed up with John McEnroe to beat Navratilova and Andy Roddick in her second match, acknowledged that the journey back would be a tough one.

"Yeah, I will look to play maybe a couple of exhibition events leading up to my first tournament in April," she added.

"I don't know what those will be, but I think that's one of the things that will be really important because match play, you can never really replicate it. You can practise as much as you want but there's nothing really like it." — Reuters



LAS VEGAS: Tennis player Maria Sharapova competes in the World Team Tennis Smash Hits charity tennis event benefiting the Elton John AIDS Foundation at Caesars Palace on Monday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

KOHLI RECEIVES MACE AFTER INDIA TOPS TEST RANKINGS

INDORE: Skipper Virat Kohli was yesterday presented with the ICC Test Championship mace as India were officially crowned the number one side after their 3-0 thrashing of New Zealand.

India, who had reclaimed the top spot in the world Test rankings after taking an unassailable 2-0 series lead in Kolkata, won the third and final Test by 321 runs yesterday to consolidate their

position. Batting legend and ICC Hall of Famer Sunil Gavaskar presented Kohli with the mace on behalf of the International Cricket Council at Indore's Holkar Stadium.

Kohli was only the second India captain after Mahendra Singh Dhoni and the 10th overall to receive the mace since its introduction in 2001. The others are Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Michael

Clarke, Steve Smith (Australia), Andrew Strauss (England), Graeme Smith, Hashim Amla (South Africa) and Misbah-ul-Haq (Pakistan).

India are now four points in the ratings above arch-rivals Pakistan, who enjoyed the top spot only briefly after Misbah received the mace last month in Lahore.

"I've got a few Man of the Match

awards, so have the boys. This is much more special. The last time India got the mace, I was watching on TV," said a delighted Kohli.

"The key right now is maintaining our game. We're working really hard on the areas needing improvement and we've been able to correct the wrongs quickly and we'd like to continue that and give the people what they want to see."

India had replaced Australia at the top of the rankings after their series win against the West Indies in August, only to be leapfrogged by Pakistan later.

"The number-one ranking has changed hands three times in as many months, indicative of the current competitiveness of Test cricket," ICC chief executive Dave Richardson was quoted as saying in a release. —AFP

BUTTLER BUST-UP WILL FIRE UP SERIES DECIDER

CHITTAGONG: The on-pitch bust-up between England's Jos Buttler and Bangladeshi fielders during the second one-day international will fire up both teams for the series decider, visiting batsman Moeen Ali said yesterday.

England face Bangladesh in the third and final match of the series in the port city of Chittagong today, hoping to end the hosts' unbeaten run in their last six home ODI series.

The series, currently level at 1-1, hit the headlines when Buttler reacted angrily to celebrations upon his dismissal in Sunday's match, which his side lost by 34 runs.

The International Cricket Council cautioned Buttler for his reaction and docked 20 percent of Mashrafe Mortaza and Sabbir Rahman's match fees for their part in the incident. "Now both teams will be wanting to win more than before," Ali told reporters during a news conference in Chittagong.

Buttler's dismissal was pivotal on Sunday, with England starting badly while chasing Bangladesh's total of 238-8. The visiting skipper was threatening to turn the match with a run-a-ball innings of 57 that ended controversially.

On-field umpire Sharfuddoula Saikat had initially turned down pacer Taskin Ahmed's lbw appeal against Buttler. Bangladesh then sought a television review, which confirmed the ball that hit Buttler's back foot would strike the middle-stump, and the skipper trudged back to the pavilion to leave England on 123-7. The verdict triggered high spirits in the Bangladesh camp and several players exchanged words with Buttler, forcing the umpires to immediately intervene.

"Hopefully both teams will behave well and we can look back at the series and say this was a very good cricketing series," Ali said. He hoped Bangladesh's recent home record - losing four matches out of 22 since November 2014 - would inspire England.

"Bangladesh are good at home anyway, any ground at home. It just eggs us on to score big runs and win," he said.

"It's going to be a tough game for us, we know that, they should have probably won the first game, they let us off a little bit. We still have our best to come."

Bangladesh lost Friday's opening encounter by 21 runs, seeing six wickets fall for 17 runs and being dismissed for 288 in reply to England's 308-9. —AFP



INDORE: India's Test cricket team poses with the ICC Number 1 Test cricket team trophy, after winning the three Test cricket match series against New Zealand at The Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore yesterday. —AFP

PUJARA, ASHWIN LEAD INDIA TO SERIES SWEEP

INDORE: Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed seven wickets to lead India's whitewash of New Zealand as the hosts romped to a 321-run victory on day four of the third and final Test yesterday. Ashwin with career-best match figures of 13-140 helped India skittle out the visitors, who were chasing a daunting 475-run target, for 153 in under two sessions of play at Indore.

Ashwin, the highest wicket-taker in the three Tests with 27 scalps, was named both man of the match and player of the series.

India, who climbed to the top of the world Test rankings after their series-clinching win in Kolkata, remain in number one position ahead of Pakistan.

New Zealand, whitewashed in India for the second successive time after their 2-0 loss in 2012, suffered an early blow when Umesh Yadav trapped opener Tom Latham lbw for six. The visitors took tea on 38 for one but lost nine more wickets in the final session of play.

"The bowlers have responded beautifully every time we've been in pressure. Someone has always put up their hand," said Indian skipper Virat Kohli. "And that's the difference: this team is up, we get wickets in bunches. We have that attitude and we do get the results."

Ashwin, who registered his 21st five-wicket haul in Tests, took charge in the evening session to remove skipper Kane Williamson for 27.

It was the fourth time in a row that he had dismissed the Black Caps' star batsman, who missed the second Test due to a viral infection. Ross Taylor showed some aggressive intent with 32 off 25 balls including five fours and a six, but did not last long before he was bowled by another Ashwin turner.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja soon joined forces with Ashwin to dash New Zealand's hopes of surviving the day after getting the all-important wickets of Martin Guptill and James Neesham.

Ashwin then disposed of the tail as the hosts celebrated their 3-0 series triumph.

PUJARA HEROIC

Earlier in the day, a century by Cheteshwar Pujara had put the hosts on course to set New Zealand a daunting victory target at India's newest Test venue, Indore's Holkar Stadium.

Pujara struck an unbeaten 101 as India, who started the day on 18 without loss, declared their second innings on 216 for three in the afternoon session.

Pujara, who recorded his eight Test hundred, put on 76 for the second wicket with Gautam Gambhir (50).

"If you see Pujara hitting a fast bowler back over his head, it is the best example of express-

ing yourself. This is a proper team series win. It wasn't just one individual," said Kohli.

India had already gained the upper hand after bowling out New Zealand for 299 in response to their massive first innings score of 557 for five declared.

Kohli's second Test double-century paved the way for India's dominance as he registered his career-best score of 211.

The star batsman put on a record 365-run fourth-wicket partnership with Ajinkya Rahane (188) to keep the New Zealand bowlers on the field for close to six sessions.

"We wanted to show better cricket than we did, but full credit to India. They outplayed us in all areas and we have to weather these wounds," said a disappointed Williamson. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDORE, India: Final scoreboard of the third and final Test between India and New Zealand in Indore yesterday:

India 1st innings: 557 for five declared (V. Kohli 211, A. Rahane 188, R. Sharma 51 not out)	New Zealand 2nd innings:	
	T. Latham lbw b Yadav	6
	M. Guptill lbw b Jadeja	29
New Zealand 1st innings: 299 (M. Guptill 72, J. Neesham 71; R. Ashwin 6-81)	K. Williamson lbw b Ashwin	27
	R. Taylor b Ashwin	32
India 2nd innings: overnight 18/0 (M. Vijay not out 11, C. Pujara 1 not out)	L. Ronchi b Ashwin	15
M. Vijay run out	J. Neesham c Kohli b Jadeja	0
G. Gambhir c Guptill b Patel	B.J. Watling not out	23
C. Pujara not out	M. Santner b Ashwin	14
V. Kohli lbw b Patel	J. Patel b Ashwin	0
A. Rahane not out	M. Henry c Shami b Ashwin	0
Extras (b4, lb1, w1)	T. Boult c & b Ashwin	4
Total (3 wickets dec; 49 overs)	Extras (b2, nb1)	3
Fall of wickets: 0-11* (Gambhir, retired not out, 2.5 overs), 1-34 (Vijay), 2-110 (Gambhir), 3-158 (Kohli)	Total (all out; 44.5 overs)	153
Bowling: Boult 7-0-35-0, Patel 14-0-56-2, Santner 17-1-71-0, Henry 7-1-22-0 (1w), Neesham 4-0-27-0	Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Latham), 2-42 (Williamson), 3-80 (Taylor), 4-102 (Ronchi), 5-103 (Neesham), 6-112 (Guptill), 7-136 (Santner), 8-138 (Patel), 9-138 (Henry), 10-153 (Boult)	
Did not bat: R. Sharma, R. Ashwin, W. Saha, R. Jadeja, M. Shami, U. Yadav	Bowling: Shami 7-0-34-0, Yadav 8-4-13-1, Ashwin 13.5-2-59-7, Jadeja 16-3-45-2	
	Result: India win by 321 runs, take series 3-0.	

ZIMBABWE APPOINT STREAK AS COACH

HARARE: Former Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak has been appointed national cricket head coach to replace Dav Whatmore who was dismissed in June.

"Zimbabwe Cricket has named former captain Heath Streak as the new national head coach," Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) said in a statement yesterday. The 42-year-old was unveiled at a press conference in Zimbabwe's second largest city Bulawayo after accepting a two-year contract. "For me, having captained this

country, to be offered the post of head coach is a great honour and I know with it comes responsibility not just to the players but to the fans and supporters of Zimbabwe cricket as well," Streak said.

"My promise is, I will leave no stone unturned in terms of our endeavour and our quest to improve the team's performances. I believe that we have the resources here in Zimbabwe to do just that and planning is obviously going to be a major factor." Streak previously coached a local cricket team and had stints as bowling coach for Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

He takes over as Zimbabwe bid to qualify for the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup. His immediate assignments are a two-match Test series at home to Sri Lanka, and a one-day international tri-series involving West Indies. "I feel that with the upcoming series and the latter half of next year we have some really good cricket coming up so we can really work towards improving," he said.

"I do see a strong future. Obviously things don't just happen overnight. It's a process but I know that process can happen quickly and for me that will be a big goal to facilitate that," he said. Streak replaces caretaker coach Makhaya Ntini with the South African returning to his role as bowling coach. —AFP



Heath Streak

IRAN FOOTBALL FANS BANNED FROM CELEBRATING ON HOLY DAY

TEHRAN: Iranian football fans faced a tricky balancing act yesterday as they watched their team win against South Korea during a religious holiday in which they were banned from expressing joy. Many took part in mourning processions as they gathered at the 75,000-capacity Azadi ("freedom") stadium in Tehran to mark the eve of Ashura, one of the holiest days in the Iranian calendar. For Shiite Muslims, Ashura marks the death of Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) grandson Imam Hussein in the seventh century, and is traditionally a day of sombre processions through the streets, in which black-clad men beat their chests and heads in anger and despair.

So it proved controversial with religious leaders when the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) match against South Korea was scheduled for the day before. "Bear in mind that if football is going to be played on the eve of the Ashura, the atmosphere of this match must be 100 percent in line with Ashura," warned Friday prayer leader Ayatollah Ali Mousavi last week, according to the ISNA news agency.

"The entire stadium must be covered in black and shouts of Hussein must be heard constantly from the crowd. Instead of the clapping in these games, all should shout 'Ya Hussein,'" he said.

The game, broadcast live on state television, showed a solemn black stadium packed with

subdued spectators wearing black. Iran beat South Korea 1-0 with Sardar Azmoun's goal 24 minutes into the first half.

Two big signs installed in the Azadi complex read in English "Hussein, the ark of salvation" and "Hussein, the everlasting voice of justice". Between the two halves, religious singers came on the field and performed solemn religious

songs about Imam Hussein.

Two enormous black flags with Hussein's name were unfurled inside the stadium. "Spectators and players of both countries have been briefed to observe religious codes," General Alireza Adeli, the interior ministry's police chief, told the Tasnim news agency before the match. —AFP



TEHRAN: Iran's supporters celebrate their opening goal during the 2018 World Cup qualifying football match between Iran and South Korea at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran yesterday. —AFP

FLA-FLU RIO DERBY - THE ETERNAL BATTLE

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rio de Janeiro was mighty different 104 years ago except for one vital constant: the passionate shouts of fans at the Flamengo v Fluminense football derby.

Tomorrow, more than a century and some 300 games later, the two teams face off again in the latest episode of Brazil's most romantic football series.

It's not the most consequential game, although Flamengo is fighting near the top of the Brazilian championship and Fluminense is eyeing a berth in the South American Copa Libertadores.

Instead of being held in the usual Maracana stadium, which is the scene of the most memorable encounters but is undergoing post-Olympics maintenance, the next Fla-Flu encounter will

take place two hours from Rio at the Volta Redonda club.

But fans and players have bigger things to worry about than stadiums. "Fla-Flu has no beginning. Fla-Flu has no end. Fla-Flu began 40 minutes before time. And then the masses awoke," wrote the famed mid-20th century writer Nelson Rodrigues in typically mystical terms. To find the seeds of this struggle for supremacy between working class Flamengo and upper crust Fluminense you have to look back to a curious incident in 1911. Fluminense was pushing to become Rio champion when nine of its players rebelled against the board, defecting to nearby Flamengo which had been created in 1895 as a rowing club with no footballing interest.

That July 7 some 800 people showed up at a football field in the Laranjeiras, which remains the Fluminense headquarters, and witnessed the first battle. Fla 3 - Flu 2: the endless cycle of revenge was on.

BROTHERLY RIVALRY

Rio residents, or Cariocas, call this footballing fixture "charmoso," or the charmer.

"Fla-Flu has become a synonym for rivalry but it's not like other rivalries. It's not something warlike. Flamengo was born out of Fluminense, so it's more like rivalry between two brothers who know each other very well," said Renato Terra, who directed a documentary on the derby. Beyond the stadiums, the rivalry has

leaked into literary culture and the radio, which contributed to "converting Fla-Flu into a more important derby in the popular imagination" across Brazil, said journalist Roberto Assaf, co-author of the book "Fla-Flu, Game of the Century."

The legendary peak of this great contest was arguably on December 15, 1963, when 177,000 people were registered as having crammed into the Maracana-more than double current capacity-for the final of the Rio championship. Unofficial estimates were that as many as 193,000 attended, with Flamengo taking the title.

In that human tide was a 10 year old called Arthur Antunes Coimbra, otherwise known as Zico, and who would grow up to be one of Brazil's greatest

players-and virtually a saint to his club Flamengo.

"Fla-Flu became my favorite 'clasico.' I loved coming onto the pitch and looking up into the stands and seeing the colors. It was a great sight," Zico told Globoesporte channel in 2012.

Leading Flamengo to its sole Copa Libertadores title and Intercontinental championship in 1981, Zico wracked up 19 goals in 44 games, still the club record. Other Flamengo stars included Rivellino, Assis, Zagallo, Bebeto, and Romario. Ronaldinho who would play for both clubs.

Fla-Flu, wrote Rodrigues, "was a game for all times. It was not a game for a century. A century was very little for the thirst and hunger of Fla-Flu." —AFP

ANDRE SILVA'S HAT-TRICK HELPS PORTUGAL ROUT FAEROE ISLANDS

GENEVA: Cristiano Ronaldo may have finally found a worthy goalscoring partner in Portugal's 6-0 rout the Faeroe Islands in World Cup qualifying on Monday.

Andre Silva, the 20-year-old Porto prospect, scored a first-half hat-trick before Ronaldo added a fourth midway through the second half in a comfortable visit to the North Atlantic for the European champion. In stoppage time, goals from Joao Moutinho and Joao Cancelo completed Portugal's second six-goal shutout in four days. After Ronaldo scored four in a 6-0 win over Andorra on Friday, Silva stepped up to ensure Portugal took maximum points from the traditional minnows in Group B.

Portugal rose to second place in the standings over the previously unbeaten Faeroese, who had yet to concede a goal in two qualifiers.

Still, Portugal trails three points behind Switzerland, which hung on for a 2-1 victory at Andorra to extend its winning streak to three matches. Portugal lags behind because it lost 2-0 in Switzerland in the opener last month without Ronaldo or Silva in the starting lineup. Ronaldo was left out due to the knee injury he sustained in the European Championship final and Portugal led its attack with Eder, whose extra-time goal decided the Euro 2016 final against France. Silva has stayed in the team since Portugal coach Fernando Santos sent him on for Eder when trailing the Swiss by two goals at halftime.

His first Portugal goal came last Friday and his international record is now four in four games.

Ronaldo's goal tally is 66 for a Portugal

team that has mostly lacked a penalty-area predator to complement his all-around threat. Silva scored opportunistic goals in the 12th, 22nd and 37th minutes, mostly taking advantage of slack play in the Faeroe Islands defense.

Ronaldo struck with a rising left-foot shot from the edge of the penalty area.

ANDORRA 1, SWITZERLAND 2

Switzerland has its own prolific scorer in defender Fabian Schaer. The Hoffenheim center back took his goal record to seven in 27 international matches by scoring a 19th-minute penalty. It was awarded for a trip by Andorra captain Idefonso Lima on Admir Mehmedi who appeared to have lost control of the ball.

Mehmedi extended the lead in the 77th for the Swiss by connecting on a close-range header from Xherdan Shaqiri's cross on the left side of the penalty area.

Andorra scored its first goal in World Cup qualification since September 2009 in the 90th minute. Alex Martinez fired in a shot from distance to the top left-hand corner of the Swiss goal.

LATVIA 0, HUNGARY 2

Hungary rose to third in the standings with its first win of the campaign. Winger Adam Gyurcsó scored in the 10th and forward Adam Szalai sealed the win in the 77th. Szalai also scored twice in a 3-2 home loss against Switzerland on Friday.

Hungary has four points and a better goal difference than the Faeroe Islands which is fourth. Latvia has three points and last-place Andorra has zero. —AP



AMSTERDAM: France's Kevin Gameiro, center, falls after colliding with Netherlands' Jeffrey Bruma, right, during the World Cup Group A qualifying soccer match in the ArenA stadium in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday. — AP

POGBA'S SWIRLING SHOT HANDS FRANCE VICTORY OVER DUTCH

AMSTERDAM: France lived up to its billing as favorite in World Cup qualifying Group A by beating the Netherlands 1-0 Monday, thanks to a long-range strike by midfielder Paul Pogba and a late save by Hugo Lloris.

Sweden, meanwhile, continued to show it can play without retired superstar Zlatan Ibrahimovic, going level on points at the top of the group by registering its second victory in qualifying for the 2018 tournament in Russia, beating Bulgaria 3-0.

European Championship runner-up France looked dangerous throughout the match at the Amsterdam Arena, with Pogba bossing the midfield and the searing pace of right back Djibril Sidibe and powerful runs of Moussa Sissoko and Kevin Gameiro proving a menace.

While Netherlands goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg looked like he could have kept out Pogba's goal, his good saves kept the score down in the second half.

Both teams were coming off 4-1 victories on Friday, the Netherlands' attack making up for the team's continuing defensive frailties against Belarus while France easily overcame Bulgaria as Gameiro scored his first international goals in more than five years.

But the Dutch, already missing experienced stars Wesley Sneijder and Arjen Robben to

injuries, suffered an early setback when Quincy Promes, who scored twice on Friday, limped off and was replaced by Memphis Depay just 16 minutes in. Without Promes' pace, the Dutch rarely looked likely to break down the experienced France defense and already looks to be struggling to reach the World Cup with just one team automatically qualifying from each group.

NETHERLANDS 0, FRANCE 1

In Amsterdam, France underscored its pedigree with an early assault on the Dutch goal, but after weathering that storm the Netherlands exerted pressure of its own, looking a far more confident team since its 4-1 victory over Belarus.

But the Dutch defense's curse of giving away the ball in dangerous positions struck again in the 31st when Jeffrey Bruma's loose pass was intercepted by Laurent Koscielny who quickly fed Pogba. Netherlands captain Kevin Strootman gave the Manchester United star far too much time and space and Pogba unleashed a powerful drive from 30 meters that Stekelenburg could only deflect on its way into the back of the net.

Ten minutes later, the Netherlands looked to have a very strong case for a penalty that could have cancelled out Pogba's strike. Tottenham Hotspur striker Vincent Janssen twisted and turned in the penalty area before firing a low

shot that Arsenal defender Koscielny slid to block, sending the ball bouncing onto his arm. Dutch players appealed in vain as referee Damir Skomina refused to give a spot kick.

As the Netherlands pressed forward in search of an equalizer in the second half, it was France who carved out the best chances.

Gameiro should have doubled France's lead in the 55th minute, skillfully controlling a long pass by Pogba, but seeing Stekelenburg block his shot. Stekelenburg then denied Pogba his second of the night, saving well after Pogba powerfully headed a Dimitri Payet corner.

Hugo Lloris made a great reflex save in the 89th minute to deny Depay and the Netherlands a late equalizer and condemn the Netherlands to its first home defeat in a World Cup qualifier in 16 years.

SWEDEN 3, BULGARIA 0

In Solna, Ola Toivonen and Oscar Hiljemark both scored late in the first half and Victor Lindelof made it 3-0 in the 58th as Bulgaria lurched to its second straight defeat.

The win means France and Sweden remain the only unbeaten sides in Group A.

In the night's other group match, Belarus took the lead in the 80th and Luxembourg equalized five minutes later in a 1-1 draw.

QATAR EDGE SYRIA TO KEEP WC DREAM ALIVE

DOHA: Qatar salvaged some hope of reaching the 2018 World Cup finals with a narrow and desperately needed victory against Syria in a crucial Group A Asian qualifier yesterday.

The 1-0 victory, secured by a first half Hasan Al-Haydos penalty, brought to an end a run of three consecutive group defeats. The three points also lifted the ambitious Gulf nation off the bottom of the group above China and four points behind South Korea in the third-placed play-off position after four games.

They are six points behind second-placed Uzbekistan, who occupy one of the automatic qualification positions, and it still remains likely that the first ever World Cup finals game Qatar play will be when they host the competition in 2022.

The defeat leaves Syria in fourth, one place above Qatar, on four points. Yesterday's victory was hard-fought yet deserved and it was fitting that the only goal was scored by Al-Haydos, in the 37th minute, who proved a constant threat to Syria's defence. Indeed it was his jinking run which forced the penalty.

The playmaker turned past one defender before being tripped by Mouaiad Al-Midani. He slotted home the penalty him-

self. Qatar should have doubled the lead seven minutes later when Sebastian Soria was clean through but his weak shot was cleared by a covering defender.

Soria had another chance in the 50th minute when again he was put clean through, this time by Qatar's La Liga-playing teenage star Akram Afif, but again the Uruguayan-born star fluffed his chance.

Then Al-Haydos had two chances in three minutes.

He forced a fine save from goalkeeper Ibrahim Alma in the 69th minute before having a shot blocked in the 72nd minute. Qatar, who have a habit of letting in late goals in qualifiers, were made to sweat for their victory.

Jorge Fossati's team anxiously saw out the final 10 minutes when Syria, roared on by a vocal number of fans in the 9,940 crowd, went close to scoring twice.

In the 80th minute Mahmoud Almarwas fired narrowly wide before Qatar goalkeeper Saad Al-Sheeb made a spectacular save from a long-range free kick. Qatar hung on and will have a chance to build on this victory when they travel to China for their next qualifier in November. Syria play group leaders Iran in their next game. — AFP

JAPAN HOLD AUSTRALIA IN QUALIFYING MATCH

MELBOURNE: Genki Haraguchi scored an early goal but gave away a second-half penalty as Japan drew 1-1 with Australia in a pulsating World Cup qualifier in Melbourne yesterday.

Haraguchi got Japan off to a flying start by scoring in the fifth minute at Docklands stadium but the visitors' celebrations were tempered when the midfielder made a clumsy challenge on forward Tomi Juric shortly after the break.

Socceroos captain Mile Jedinak slotted home the spot-kick in the 52nd minute to salvage a point for the hosts but both the Asian heavyweights were left frustrated after chances went begging in a high-tempo second half.

The result left each team with their World Cup destiny in their hands, but Japan will leave more satisfied after shrugging off fatigue and injury concerns to hold the Asian Cup champions. "My feeling after this game is not regret, maybe some frustration," Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic told reporters. "We had a tactical preparation based on our physical condition. The players did a good job, especially defensively." Australia coach Ange Postecoglou started Juric up front, with veteran forward Tim Cahill playing the last 20 minutes off the bench.

Talisman Cahill, the match-winner against Japan at the 2006 World Cup, was loudly cheered by the crowd of 48,000 when he came on but was unable to influence the game.

Australia paid the price for an early mistake by defender Trent Sainsbury. Keisuke Honda laid off a superb pass for Haraguchi to run on to and he finished with a deft left-foot shot that slid

beneath keeper Mat Ryan's outstretched leg.

Rattled, Australia lifted their work-rate but were devoid of ideas going forward in a sluggish first half. They were lucky not to be 2-0 down in the 28th minute when Honda, afforded space at the edge of the area, fired straight at the keeper.

A more enterprising Socceroos team emerged after the break, and were rewarded when Haraguchi fouled into Juric in the box.

Jedinak hammered his spot kick straight

down the centre. A brilliant, diving save by Ryan denied Yu Kobayashi in the 74th minute, the keeper's right glove stopping the midfielder's header. Japan also endured a nerve-jangling finish, with defender Matthew Spiranovic latching on to a free kick from Massimo Luongo but sending the header over shortly before stoppage time. "We were very poor in the first half," Postecoglou said. "That's a major disappointment for me." — Reuters



MELBOURNE: Japan's Yu Kobayashi heads the ball towards the goal during the World Cup 2018 football qualification match between Australia and Japan in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

World Cup qualifying tables - European zone

PARIS: 2018 World Cup qualifying European zone tables after Monday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
Group A	France	3	2	1	0	5	1	7	
	Sweden	3	2	1	0	5	1	7	
	Netherlands	3	1	1	1	5	3	4	
	Bulgaria	3	1	0	2	5	10	3	
	Belarus	3	0	2	1	2	5	2	
	Luxembourg	3	0	1	2	4	6	1	
Group B	Switzerland	3	3	0	0	7	3	9	
	Portugal	3	2	0	1	12	2	6	
	Hungary	3	1	1	1	4	3	4	
	Faeroes	3	1	1	1	2	6	4	
	Latvia	3	1	0	2	1	4	3	
	Andorra	3	0	0	3	1	9	0	
Group C	Germany	2	2	0	0	6	0	6	
	Azerbaijan	2	2	0	0	2	0	6	
	Northern Ireland	2	1	1	0	4	0	4	
	Czech Republic	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	
	Norway	2	0	0	2	0	4	0	
	San Marino	2	0	0	2	0	5	0	
Group D	Serbia	3	2	1	0	8	4	7	
	Ireland	3	2	1	0	6	3	7	
	Wales	3	1	2	0	7	3	5	
	Austria	3	1	1	1	6	6	4	
	Georgia	3	0	1	2	2	4	1	
	Moldova	3	0	0	3	1	10	0	
Group E	Montenegro	2	1	1	0	6	1	4	
	Romania	2	1	1	0	6	1	4	
	Poland	2	1	1	0	5	4	4	
	Denmark	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	
	Kazakhstan		2	0	1	1	2	7	1
		Armenia	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Group F		England	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
	Scotland	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	
	Slovenia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4	
	Lithuania	2	0	2	0	3	2	2	
	Slovakia	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	
	Malta	2	0	0	2	1	7	0	
Group G	Spain	3	2	1	0	11	1	7	
	Italy	3	2	1	0	7	4	7	
	Albania	3	2	0	1	4	3	6	
	Israel	3	2	0	1	5	5	6	
	Macedonia	3	0	0	3	4	7	0	
	Liechtenstein	3	0	0	3	1	12	0	
Group H	Belgium	3	3	0	0	13	0	9	
	Greece	3	3	0	0	8	1	9	
	Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	2	0	1	7	4	6	
	Estonia	3	1	0	2	4	7	3	
	Cyprus	3	0	0	3	0	7	0	
	Gibraltar	3	0	0	3	1	14	0	
Group I	Croatia	3	2	1	0	8	1	7	
	Iceland	3	2	1	0	6	3	7	
	Ukraine	3	1	2	0	6	3	5	
	Turkey	3	0	2	1	3	5	2	
	Finland	3	0	1	2	3	5	1	
	Kosovo	3	0	1	2	1	10	1	

Note: Nine group winners in Europe qualify for the 2018 finals in Russia; eight best runners-up play-off with four winners qualifying for the finals.

Sports

Italian Olympic Committee suspends Rome's 2024 bid



Pujara, Ashwin lead India to series sweep



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JAPAN HOLD AUSTRALIA IN LIVELY QUALIFYING MATCH

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SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco Giants' Brandon Crawford, right, hits a run-scoring single in front of Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras during the eighth inning of Game 3 of baseball's National League Division Series in San Francisco, Monday. — AP

GIANTS AND NATS WIN, INDIANS SWEEP RED SOX

SAN FRANCISCO: They piled on Joe Panik at home plate in celebration, and just as has been the case so many times before with everything on the line in October, San Francisco's baseball season was extended another day. Panik doubled off the wall in right-center field to drive in Brandon Crawford with the winning run in the 13th inning, and the Giants staved off elimination by outlasting the Chicago Cubs 6-5 on Monday night in Game 3 of their National League Division Series.

Further down the west coast, Washington turned Japanese pitcher Kenta Maeda's post-season debut into a nightmare en route to an 8-3 win which gave them a 2-1 lead over the Los Angeles Dodgers in their NLDS.

And the Cleveland Indians, perhaps inspired by their city's breakthrough NBA triumph this year, scored a 4-3 win for a 3-0 clean sweep of Boston in their American League Division Series, sending cult figure David Ortiz into retirement on a losing note.

The wild-card Giants forced Tuesday night's Game 4 back at their raucous, sold-out ballpark, postponing a potential Cubs clinch party. Chicago leads the best-of-five playoff 2-1 and will send John Lackey to the mound

opposite lefty Matt Moore.

San Francisco won its 10th straight game when facing postseason elimination. "There's a sense of calmness," Panik said. "It's like we've been there before." Panik came through on the 57th pitch from Mike Montgomery, who was working his fifth inning of relief. His big hit ended a 5-hour, 4-minute game that was only 29 minutes shy of the total time taken to play the first two series games combined last week at Wrigley Field. On a night when the focus was the marquee pitching matchup between Madison Bumgarner and Jake Arrieta, the bullpen decided this one hours later. Arrieta's three-run homer in the second held up for most of the night.

Kris Bryant hit a tying, two-run homer off closer Sergio Romo in the ninth inning after San Francisco rallied for three runs to take the lead in the bottom of the eighth against Aroldis Chapman.

Rookie left-hander Ty Blach was the winner, escaping a 13th-inning jam when pinch-hitter David Ross bounced into a double play.

In Los Angeles, Anthony Rendon and Jayson Werth

homered as the Nationals moved within one victory of winning a postseason series for the first time.

Four Washington relievers combined for 4 2/3 shutout innings at Dodger Stadium, putting the Nationals in position to wrap up the NLDS there tonight. Playing 23 hours after the Nationals tied the series at home in a rain-postponed Game 2, Rendon hit a two-run homer in a four-run third that haunted Maeda. Werth added a solo shot off closer

Kenley Jansen in a breakaway four-run ninth. Maeda, who won a team-leading 16 games, gave up four runs and five hits in three innings, struck out four and walked two in his first career start against Washington. He found immediate trouble when he loaded the bases in a 28-pitch first inning on consecutive two-out walks as the Nats got on top. Maeda retired the side in the second before wilting in the third, opening that inning by conceding four hits in five batters.

"Kenta was missing and getting behind," LA manager Dave Roberts said. "His fastball leaked back behind the plate and they made him pay."

In Boston, rookie Tyler Naquin delivered a two-run

single in the fourth, Coco Crisp hit a two-run homer in the sixth and closer Cody Allen got four outs and the Indians advanced to the AL Championship Series for the first time since 2007. Josh Tomlin pitched five strong innings for Cleveland, which will open the ALCS at home against Toronto on Friday.

To advance, the Indians had to shut down the most prolific offense in the major leagues and weather the emotional farewell to Ortiz. The Red Sox designated hitter went 1 for 9 in the series, collecting a sacrifice fly in Game 3 before walking on four pitches in his final plate appearance. After walking on four pitches in the eighth, Ortiz stood on first and waved his arms at the fans. They rose to cheer for him and stayed there as Hanley Ramirez singled to make it 4-3.

With Allen pitching in the bottom of the ninth, Jackie Bradley Jr. singled with two out and Dustin Pedroia drew a walk on a 3-2 pitch. Travis Shaw worked the count full but then popped up to end it.

"Nobody in this clubhouse doubts what we're what capable of," Cleveland reliever Andrew Miller said as corks popped in the visitors' clubhouse. — AP

BUCS BEAT PANTHERS ON LAST-SECOND FIELD GOAL

CHARLOTTE: Roberto Aguayo's shaky rookie season got a big lift Monday night. The rookie made up for missing two earlier field goals by converting a 38-yard field goal as time expired to lift the Tampa Bay Buccaneers over the Carolina Panthers 17-14 on Monday night.

Aguayo, the most accurate kicker in NCAA history, had clanked a 33-yard field goal attempt off the right upright and missed wide left from 46 yards that would have given the Bucs the lead with 3:38 left in the game. He was just 3 of 7 on the season before the winning kick.

"Obviously you get a little angry when you miss them," Aguayo said. "You can't dwell on it or you won be ready for the next one." When asked how comfortable he was with the field position on the final kick, Bucs coach Dirk Koetter replied, "I wasn't comfortable. We couldn't get close enough."

Jameis Winston was 18 of 30 for 219 yards and threw a TD pass to Mike Evans. He also led a 66-yard drive to get the Buccaneers (2-3) into field goal range. A costly 15-yard facemask penalty on Kony Ealy hurt the Panthers along the way.

Jacquizz Rodgers ran for 101 yards on 30 carries in place of the injured Doug Martin. The Panthers turned the ball over four times, three of those by Derek Anderson, who was filling in for the concussed Cam Newton.

"We moved the ball when we wanted to and had a lot of good things happen, but we had bad plays at the wrong times," Anderson said. The most costly turnover came late in the fourth quarter with the game tied at 14 and the Panthers having a first-and-goal at the Tampa Bay 2. Anderson inexplicably threw into double coverage in the right corner of the end zone and was intercepted by Brent Grimes.

"If I had it back I would have thrown it away," Anderson said. "That was a difference maker." The Panthers ruined a memorable night from Greg Olsen, who had a career-high 181 yards receiving on nine catches. Cameron Artis-Payne ran for two touchdowns for the Panthers. Carolina is now 1-4 after reaching the Super Bowl last season.

The Panthers, who have won three straight NFC South titles, are now three full games behind the Atlanta Falcons.

"We've got a laundry list of things that didn't go our way," Olsen said. "The reality is, in this league, you make your own luck. You make your own fate. You can't sit around and hope the ball bounced your way. Right now, it's not, but that's just the nature of this league. It goes in flows. There's times where it seems like everything you do is right, the ball bounces your way, but that's not the case right now for us. We've got to make our own luck, because nobody's feeling sorry for us. That's just the reality right now." — AP



CHARLOTTE: Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Roberto Aguayo (19) kicks the game-winning field goal against the Carolina Panthers in the final seconds of the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday. — AP



CANON BOOSTS OPERATIONS AND PRESENCE IN NIGERIA



ISTANBUL: Amin Al-Nasser (right), president of state oil giant Saudi Aramco, speaks next to US journalist John Deferrios (left) yesterday during the 23rd World Energy Congress in Istanbul. — AFP

IEA PUTS ONUS ON OPEC FOR OIL GLUT

SAUDI TO SKIP MEETINGS BETWEEN OPEC, NON-OPEC COUNTRIES

PARIS: A massive oil glut may weigh on world markets deep into next year unless the OPEC producer cartel makes good on its promise to cut output, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said yesterday.

The oil price has recovered steadily since OPEC said last month that it would reduce production, with details to be hammered out at the cartel's November meeting, and such a deal would "speed up the process" of working off global oil inventories, the IEA said in its monthly report. "Even with tentative signs that bulging inventories are starting to decline, our supply-demand outlook suggests that the market-if left to its own devices-may remain in oversupply through the first half of next year," the IEA said. "If OPEC sticks to its new target, the market's rebalancing could come faster," it said.

Initially greeted with skepticism among analysts, OPEC's agreement to cut output has gained traction in the oil market, with the IEA noting that the oil price has risen by 15 percent since the cartel's announcement on September 28. Oil prices rose to their highest level in several months after Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that his country, not a member of the cartel, was ready to align with OPEC's push to limit oil output.

In morning European trade Tuesday, both WTI and Brent held well above the key \$50 (45 euro) level per barrel, at \$50.90 and \$52.89, respectively. "The waiting game is over," the IEA said. "OPEC has effectively abandoned its free market policy set in train nearly two years ago."

'Free-wheeling' no more?
OPEC members, led by kingpin Saudi

Arabia, have been pumping oil at record levels to gain market share over higher-cost rivals, in what the IEA Tuesday called a "free-wheeling strategy". The Paris-based agency said that crude supply from OPEC's 14 members stood at an all-time high in September.

The cost has been a dramatic fall in the oil price since 2014, causing acute financial pain

for all producers, "even those with hefty financial reserves, such as Saudi Arabia", the IEA said. Producers lacking such deep pockets, like Nigeria, have been plunged into budgetary and foreign exchange crises. But OPEC may finally be turning the page.

"Now with the market share war coming closer to an end, we can say that the worst for

oil is behind us," said Hussein Sayed, chief market strategist at FXTM, a brokerage. At its September meeting, OPEC said it had agreed to cut its supply by up to 750,000 barrels per day to between 32.5 and 33 million barrels per day. While the IEA did not make any predictions on the chances of OPEC following through on its pledge, its report implied that all oil price bets are off should OPEC fail to deliver.

Demand growth stalls

With record OPEC production outweighing some output declines, notably in the US, "the net result is a massive oil inventory that is keeping the market under pressure," it said.

Stagnating global oil demand growth is not helping the oil price, either. The IEA yesterday cut its forecast for 2016 demand growth to 1.2 million barrels per day from the 1.3 mb/d it predicted last month, and forecast the same increase for next year as many economies slow down. Economic growth is "vanishing" in the OECD area of developed countries, and decelerating in China, the IEA said. Indian oil demand growth had, however, "returned with a vengeance", helped by road transport projects, while demand in Russia showed a "surprising uptick" despite an ongoing recession there. In a further sign that a re-balancing of the oil market may be underway, the IEA noted that the pace of global oil stock build-ups has been slowing. In the OECD area, commercial inventories even fell in August, for the first time since March, as stocks dropped in the US, Japan and South Korea. Early indications are that the drawdown trend continued into September, the IEA said.

Balancing act

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih will not attend meetings today between OPEC and non-OPEC countries in Istanbul but told Reuters he saw signs that countries outside OPEC were willing to contribute to balancing the oil market.

"Tomorrow's meeting is a very informal consultative meeting between the countries that happened to be here," Falih told Reuters at the World Energy Congress in Istanbul. "Unfortunately due to prior commitments I am leaving now so I will not be in the meeting but I will be following it from afar and I will be getting indications about what countries have agreed to," he said.

OPEC officials are embarking on a flurry of meetings to nail down details of an agreement reached in Algiers last month on modest oil output cuts, the first such deal since 2008. Falih said he had met with Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak in Istanbul, and described the energy conference in the Turkish city as a "great step forward".

"From the meetings I have had on the sidelines of this conference today and yesterday ... it is quite clear that many countries are not only supportive of the OPEC decision in Algiers but are enthusiastically willing to join," he said. "We are not talking about support, we are talking about contribution in the direction we are seeking which is basically that we are going to attempt to speed up the balancing process that is already underway." Falih said those efforts were not about the oil price itself, but about sending a signal to the oil industry to start investing again. — Agencies

ARAMCO EYES 2018 FOR LISTING, SAYS CEO

ISTANBUL: Saudi Aramco is targeting 2018 for what could be the world's largest public listing as it expects oil prices and market conditions to improve in the coming years, its chief executive Amin Nasser said yesterday.

Speaking at the World Energy Congress in Istanbul, Nasser said that all markets were still being considered for the initial public offering (IPO) of up to 5 percent of Aramco, though the exact size of the offering will be determined by the Saudi Supreme Council. "We are optimistic that the market started to recover and we expect it to recover even more in 2017 and I think the time in 2018 will be almost right," Nasser said. "When we talk about 2018 we feel comfortable to be able to meet all the requirements in the different markets if we decide to go to certain markets." He said Aramco has yet to finalize the location of the listing and is currently reviewing several markets including New York, London, Hong Kong and Japan.

Saudi's Deputy Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, unveiled ambitious plans earlier this year aimed at ending the country's "addiction" to oil and transforming it into a global investment power. The listing of less than 5 percent of state-run Aramco is a centerpiece of that effort.

Nasser said that Aramco, whose exact size has yet to be publicly disclosed, is ready to share financial information with investors. "We have a very good governance model and we would be more than happy to share our financials with investors when we go public," he said. Aramco has increased its oil production to record levels in recent months as oil producing companies vied for global market share in a struggle that has led to a more than halving of oil prices since June 2014. Although revenues have dropped, Nasser said the company plans to invest \$300 billion over the next decade, with the focus on gas. — Reuters

STERLING DROPS BELOW \$1.23

LONDON: Sterling dropped to trade just below \$1.23 yesterday as senior officials and investors pointed to the potential for more falls in a market still trying to recover from Friday's 10 percent flash crash.

The past four days were the pound's worst since the aftermath of the vote to leave the European Union in June, and Bank of England policymaker Michael Saunders warned a "bumpy" Brexit could sharply reduce British economic growth. "Given the scale and persistence of the UK's current account deficit, I would not be surprised if sterling falls further, but I am fairly agnostic as to whether any further depreciation is likely," Saunders told lawmakers in a written submission. Like other Bank of England officials, he also sounded sanguine on how the Bank would react to further declines in the pound, saying it was likely to look through any impact on inflation. Former Governor Mervyn King told Sky News on Monday that the fall in the pound was a "welcome change".

The pound was little moved by the comments. Traders said it was the conviction that the government is headed for a "hard Brexit" in which Britain leaves the EU single market that was keeping investors away. The pound was down 0.8 percent at \$1.2265, having fallen to \$1.2250 earlier in the day. It was also weaker against the euro at 90.35 pence. All of that kept the trade-weighted sterling index at nearly-eight-year lows. "We still see further downside risk to sterling, particularly

versus the dollar, but we are very conscious that this will not be a straight-line move in the currency," said Thushka Maharaj, global strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management. "With reasonably strong recent economic data but a weaker long-term outlook picture, markets are expecting the BoE will now hold off on any further rate cuts this year," adding that they remained negative towards the currency over the long term while positioning for a short-term bounce.

Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest and a major owner of British shares and government bonds, told Reuters that Friday's flash crash was a correct move that reflected the expectations for Britain's economy.

The major banks have stuck to forecasts of around \$1.20-1.25 for sterling, but Friday's apparently computer-trader-driven 10-minute slide to a 31-year low of \$1.1491 has some wondering if a drop closer towards parity is likely. They wonder if Britain can continue to draw in the large net flows of capital it needs to fund its current account gap, equivalent to 6 percent of gross domestic product, if the economy suffers a downturn and companies relocate to Europe.

If it can't, the pound may need to fall much further to slow imports and improve the competitiveness of exporters. Worried by the outlook for capital flows, Deutsche Bank strategist George Saravelos has been predicting a drop in sterling to \$1.15 since last year, and he said the pound might now get there faster. — Reuters

GULF UP ON OIL PRICE, EGYPT FALLS ON SAUDI PRODUCT HALT

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most major bourses in the Gulf rose yesterday as oil prices held near one-year highs, while Egypt retreated after news that Saudi Arabia had suspended oil product supplies to the country this month. Riyadh's stock index gained 1.5 percent, trimming its loss over the last four weeks to 8.4 percent. All 14 listed petrochemical producers advanced after Brent oil futures surged as much as 3 percent on Monday. Saudi Basic Industries, which has not yet reported its third-quarter results, added 0.6 percent.

The positive mood spilled into other sectors with rebounds in some shares that had been beaten down over the last several weeks by the government's spending cuts. Retailer Fawaz Alhokair jumped 3.9 percent and supermarket operator Al-Othaim added 3.4 percent.

But Riyadh Bank, the first Saudi bank to report third-quarter earnings, dropped 2.1 percent after it posted an 18.9 percent fall in net profit as costs rose. It made 729 million riyals (\$194.4 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, down from 899 million riyals in the same period of 2015. Analysts polled by Reuters had on average forecast 1.05 billion riyals.

In Qatar the main index closed up 0.3 percent as Qatar National Bank, the largest listed share, gained 0.5 percent after it reported a 10.2 percent increase in third-quarter net profit to 3.45 billion riyals (\$947.5 million). Analysts had forecast 3.26 billion riyals.

Dubai's main index rose 1.0 percent as nineteenth of traded stocks advanced. Drake & Scull, the most heavily traded stock, jumped 4.2 percent; the builder had surged 7.0 percent on Monday after appointing a new chief operating officer, Wael Allan, replacing Khalid Tabari, a major shareholder.

Emaar Properties climbed 0.6 percent. On Monday the developer started building what it said would be the world's tallest tower, another record for a company that built the highest skyscraper, Burj Khalifa.

Blue-chips helped lift Kuwait's general index 1.1 percent. National Bank of Kuwait, the largest Kuwaiti lender, rose 1.7 percent and telecommunications operator Zain added 1.5 percent. But Abu Dhabi's index lagged, dipping 0.3 percent. Large-cap banks were the main drag with First Gulf Bank dropping 1.7 percent.

EGYPT

Egypt's main index retreated 1.6 percent to 8,233 points with investment firm Qalaa Holdings tumbling 5.3 percent, taking its loss over the last three days to nearly 20 percent after it reported a sharply wider quarterly net loss. All but three of the traded shares in the index declined. The largest lender, Commercial International Bank, fell 1.5 percent. Saudi Aramco informed the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, Egypt's state oil company, in early October that it would halt the supply of refined oil products to Egypt, a government official told Reuters on Monday. "The market reacted negatively to the news about Aramco stopping its supply of petroleum products, and this, coupled with the fact that the index failed to break the resistance barrier of 8,500 points, led to profit-taking," said Ibrahim Nimr, head of technical analysis at Cairo-based Naem Brokerage. Wafik Dawood, portfolio manager at Cairo's Compass Capital, said of Saudi Aramco's decision: "The uncertainty about whether this is a one-off event or will be the new status quo is what is creating volatility in the market." — Reuters

The All-New 2017 CHEVROLET MALIBU

Exceeds All Your Expectations



Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to launch the all-new 2017 Chevrolet Malibu at its showrooms in Rai, Shuweikh, Sharq, Fahaheel and Ahmadi, for customers to test drive and purchase. Now, the quintessential midsize sedan boldly steps into the future with an all-new

Considered the most luxurious, connected and technologically advanced Malibu ever, the 2017 edition packs a number of features tailored around customers' needs and desires such as an all-new 2.5L engine with best-in-class horsepower (186hp) and fuel efficiency (14.3km/l), Apple Carplay, Push Start Engine and Keyless Entry.

Additional vehicle highlights:

- Agile, sophisticated and sleek exterior design incorporates details that advance Chevrolet's signature cues
- Standard preventive safety technologies include 4 standard air bags and Rear Parking Assist
- New Chevrolet MyLink with Apple CarPlay compatibility

Sleeker design with lighter, stronger body structure:

With a wheelbase stretching 3.6 inches (91 mm) longer than the current Malibu, along with a -2.3inch (58 mm) longer overall length and the same overall width, the 2017 Malibu strikes a sleeker-looking proportion. The added wheelbase helps provide better in-cabin comfort and functionality.



With styling influenced by the 2014 Impala, the all-new Malibu advances Chevrolet's global design language with features such as slim, sweeping headlamps and a progressive take on the brand's characteristic dual-port grille. Three body-side creases also add drama to the design and help distinguish the Malibu as a contemporary Chevy.

The hood and the cowl – the area where the windshield meets the hood – are lower than the current model and contribute to the Malibu's greater aerodynamic performance.

Premium design cues are incorporated on all models, with



contemporary lighting technology featured across the lineup, including light-emitting diode (LED) daytime running lamps.

Beneath the new Malibu's athletic-looking skin is a stronger, lighter body structure that contributes to its efficiency and driving dynamics. Greater use of high-strength steels enables engineers to design the body structure with thinner components

in some areas, delivering comparable crash performance with lower weight. The all-new body structure accounts for more than one-third of the Malibu's nearly -300pound weight reduction.

Roomier, with a more comfortable and connected interior:
The longer wheelbase allows a

2017 model that is completely restyled and engineered to offer more efficiency and connectivity.

The new Malibu also offers more interior space. Its wheelbase has been stretched close to four inches (101 mm), and it is nearly 300 pounds (136 kg) lighter than the previous model.

more open execution of Chevrolet's signature dual-cockpit interior. Rear legroom improves by 1.3 inches (33 mm).

The cabin's open, expansive feel is reinforced with a greater emphasis on comfort, convenience and connectivity, allowing the Malibu



Apple CarPlay compatibility: Malibu's MyLink infotainment system gives owners a smart and simple way to access Apple CarPlay.

Apple CarPlay takes the iPhone features customers want to access while driving and puts them on the vehicle's display in a smart, simple manner. That allows drivers to make calls, send and receive messages and listen to music right from the touchscreen or by voice via Siri. Apple CarPlay supported apps include Phone, Messages, Maps, Music and compatible third-party apps. A full list of those apps is at Apple.com/ios/carplay.

Many features can be controlled via voice commands through a button on the steering wheel, helping drivers spend more time with eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

Chevrolet Care:

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.



KFH BAGS TOP THREE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

GLOBAL FINANCE MAGAZINE RECOGNITION AT IMF/WORLD BANK MEETINGS



Al-Nahedh receiving KFH awards.

KUWAIT: Global Finance Magazine has awarded Kuwait Finance House (KFH) the "Best Islamic Financial Institution in GCC 2016", "Best Islamic Project Finance Provider 2016" awards, and "Best Islamic Financial Institution in Turkey 2016" for KFH-Turkey as part of the prestigious magazine's awards for the World's Best Islamic Financial Institutions in 2016. KFH has been honored at an awards ceremony conducted during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, USA.

The magazine stated in its report that the awarded financial institutions contributed to the growth of Islamic financing and successfully met their customers' needs for Sharia-compliant products, while creating the foundation for continued growth and safety in the future, with modern and efficient delivery channels.

All selections were made by the highly professional team of Global Finance, after exten-

sive consultations with bankers, corporate finance executives and analysts throughout the world. The stringent criteria of giving the award included growth in assets, profitability, geographic reach, strategic relationships, new business development and innovation in products. Also, among the criteria considered were reputation, customer satisfaction, and the opinions of analysts and others involved in the industry.

Meanwhile, KFH-Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh said in a press statement on the sidelines of the award ceremony held in the USA, Washington during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings, that receiving such prestigious awards from Global Finance Magazine affirms customers' confidence in the bank, and reiterates its leadership in the Islamic Finance industry at a global level, indicating the three awards culminate KFH's achievements and

efforts in offering clients the best banking and financial services in the countries where it operates, saying "wherever we operate, we are and remain committed to be the Best".

Moreover, he remarked that KFH is assuming significant national role in the participation in financing major development projects, not to mention its contribution in bridging the country's budget deficit by issuing Tawarruq. KFH is highly experienced, since it has financed major developmental projects in the field of infrastructure in the region, such as the oil, gas, mega construction projects, and other sectors.

With regards to KFH-Turkey, Al-Nahedh boasted that it is an asset for the Turkish economy, noting that the reason behind the Bank's success is its customer oriented and ethical based approach. KFH-Turkey sets long-term relations with its customers by putting high-level service quality in the center.

"In addition to its value-driven banking approach, KFH-Turkey provides a wide range of innovative and tailor-made products in all segments in order to best meet the developing needs of its diverse client base. The bank makes extensive use of the latest technology to offer innovative products and service. KFH-Turkey, as one of the major players in the national finance industry, has always supported the actors of the real economy" added Al-Nahedh.

It is worth noting that a high-level delegation of KFH is currently participating in the IMF/World Bank meeting, including Group CEO, Mazin Al-Nahedh, Group Chief Strategy Officer Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem, Group Chief Treasury Officer Abdulwahhab Alroshood, Group Chief Wholesale Banking Officer, Ahmed Alkharji, CEO- KFH-Turkey Ufuk Uyan and CEO-KFH Capital Abdulaziz Almarzouq.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

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

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

AIRBUS LIFTS LID ON HELICOPTER TALKS AFTER POLAND SCRAPS DEAL

PARIS/WARSAW: Airbus Helicopters hit back yesterday at Poland's decision to cancel a multi-billion-dollar military helicopter deal, deepening a defence procurement row that has soured relations between France and its eastern European NATO ally. In an open letter to the country's prime minister, Europe's largest aerospace group accused the Warsaw government of shifting the goalposts as Airbus competed with US and Italian rivals and attempting to contravene European Union regulations.

Airbus Group Chief Executive Tom Enders accused Poland of misleading the company during negotiations and threatened further action, without giving details. "Never have we been treated by any government customer the way this government has treated us," Enders said in a separate emailed statement. "The controversial and contradictory declarations of the Polish government over the course of this procurement proceedings created the impression of unprecedented confusion," he said. Poland's previous centrist government, which was beaten by rightist Law and Justice (PiS) party in elections last October, had provisionally agreed with Airbus to buy 50 of its Caracal multi-role helicopters in April 2015 as part of efforts to modernize its military at a time of tensions with Russia. But on Oct. 4 the new government said it was scrapping the contract.

France reacted angrily, saying Paris would review defense cooperation with Poland and cancelling a presidential visit to Warsaw. Industry sources estimated the cost to Airbus of running the helicopter sales campaign at several tens of millions of euros. Polish government officials said Airbus had had ample notice to adjust its offer, which they said was not satisfactory. "The ending of negotiations with Airbus is

fuelling an emotional reaction, that's understandable," Radoslaw Domagalski-Labedzki, a deputy economy minister, told reporters. "I would like to explain the government hasn't broken the negotiations but ended them when we became certain continuing them made no sense. These negotiations lasted a year, long enough to ensure that there was no further room for compromise."

JOB, OFFSET

The Polish government appears to have dismissed Airbus Helicopters Chief Executive Guillaume Faury's argument that the deal would have led to the creation of 3,800 local jobs and generated more value for Poland than for Airbus itself. Speaking at a news conference in a helicopter repair factory in the city of Lodz, Prime Minister Beata Szydlo said her government wanted the army to be equipped by Polish-made kit. "We are doing what is being done by all other countries which protect national interests," Szydlo said. "For Poland, it is important we buy equipment here, in Poland." Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz said Warsaw planned to obtain two helicopters from the Polish factory of Sikorsky Aircraft Corp, a unit of US Lockheed Martin Corp, this year and eight next year. "The Polish army needs helicopters as quickly as possible," Macierewicz told a joint news conference with Szydlo, adding the helicopters would be serviced in Lodz, in a plant which was meant to be developed with Airbus under the scrapped deal. Lifting the lid on the typical secrecy surrounding defence contracts and the economic trade-offs or "offsets" that typically go with them, Faury said the decision to cancel the deal came a day after Airbus had offered new concessions. — Reuters



Black Hawk helicopters landing at a military base in Barrancominas, Guania. Poland announced yesterday the coming acquisition of at least 21 Black Hawk helicopters to equip its special forces after the abandonment of negotiations with Airbus on Caracal helicopters. —AFP

SAUDI SQUEEZES HEDGE FUNDS WITH BEARISH BETS ON OIL

LONDON: Saudi Arabia successfully confounded hedge funds with bearish views on oil by reaching an unexpected production deal with OPEC members in Algiers on Sept. 28, sending prices soaring in a short-covering rally.

Hedge funds and other money managers increased their net long position in the three main Brent and WTI futures and options contracts by a record 142 million barrels over the seven days ending on Oct. 4. Hedge funds' net position surged from 471 million barrels on the eve of the OPEC meeting to 612 million barrels seven days later. Short positions were cut by 69 million barrels while an extra 73 million of long positions were added, according to an

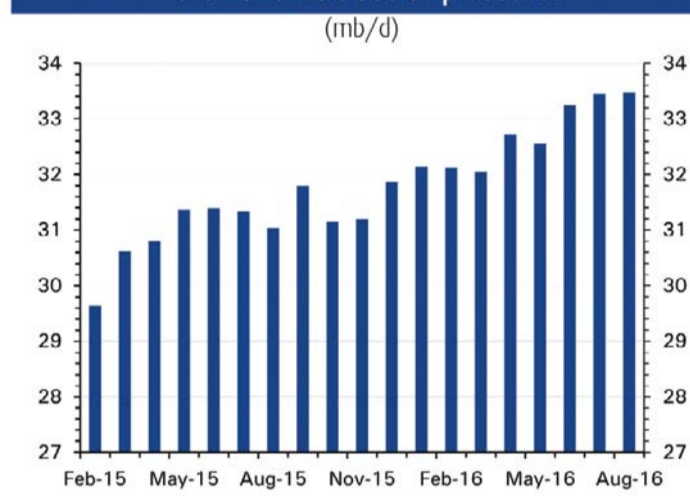
analysis of data from regulators and exchanges. The surprise agreement sent front-month Brent prices climbing by \$5-6 per barrel as hedge funds scrambled to close out losing short positions and add longs to capitalise on the rally's momentum. The Algiers agreement marked a sharp turning point in market sentiment towards oil which had been deteriorating over the previous month. Between late August and mid-September, hedge funds had cut their net long position in Brent and WTI by 178 million barrels (from 628 million to 449 million). The Algiers agreement almost exactly reversed this shift and has more or less returned the oil market to the position that prevailed in late August. — Reuters

Chart 1: Crude oil prices



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

Chart 5: OPEC crude oil production



Source: IEA

OPEC OPTS TO RETURN TO SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: In a move that caught the oil markets by surprise, OPEC announced on 28 September that it would in principle look to curb production to accelerate the unwinding of the global supply glut. Target output is expected to be within the range of 32.5-33.0 million barrels per day (mb/d), which would imply a cut of between 0.5-1.0 mb/d (up to 3 percent) from current levels. This would be sufficient to eliminate the global supply overhang.

News of the OPEC deal, which potentially signifies a reversal of the 2-year long Saudi-led policy of holding off on supply intervention and allowing the markets to establish an equilibrium price by themselves, sent oil prices and global oil and commodity stocks initially surging by up to 6 percent. ICE Brent, the international benchmark, rose 5.9 percent on the day to \$48.7 per barrel (\$/bbl) before closing at September's end at \$49.1/bbl; West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the US marker, closed the month at \$48.3/bbl.

The last time OPEC cut output to arrest a decline in prices was in 2008, at the height of the financial crisis, when the global economy fell into recession and crude demand imploded. So this latest turn, in the midst of a supply glut, is potentially significant. However, while OPEC's return to active supply management may have delivered something of a riposte to the naysayers, who had long written off the group as an ineffectual talking shop, the agreement is preliminary, pending crucial details being finalized between now and the next official OPEC conference in November. Who will take on board the production cuts, to what extent will they pull back on output and for how long are critical yet contentious points that are still to be determined. Saudi Arabia's position since 2014 is that it will not unilaterally bear the brunt of OPEC's output cuts only to see other producers both

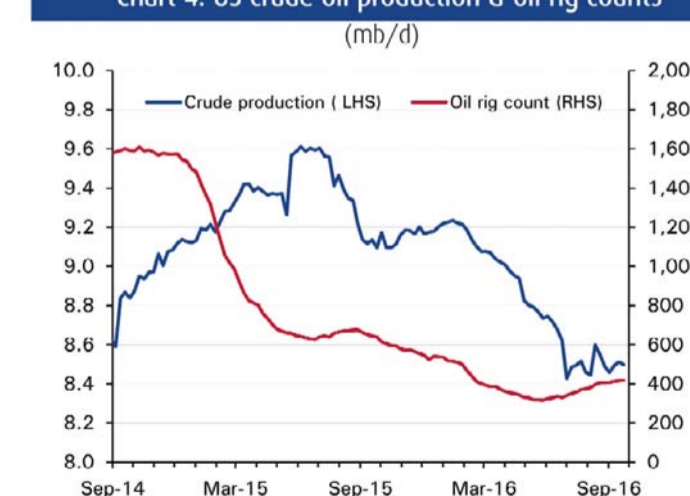
within and outside the organization increase their own supplies and capture market share at the kingdom's expense. And then there is regional rival Iran, whose steadfast refusal to countenance freezing or cutting its output until it reaches its pre-sanctions production target of more than 4 mb/d, was the deal-breaker for the Saudis the last time negotiations about an output freeze took place, last April in Doha. It is also still not clear what accommodation will be made to others, such as Nigeria and Libya. Those, due to supply outages resulting from sabotage or civil war, are producing at far below capacity.

Should a final agreement come to pass in November, then this is likely to involve the return of individual member production quotas. But individual quotas would also necessitate a more robust system to monitor and ensure compliance. Members' routine failure to adhere to their individual quotas led the system to be finally abandoned in 2011.

Moreover, the deal is also contingent on Russia, the largest non-OPEC producer, agreeing to freeze or reduce its output accordingly. The Russians, hoping to avoid a repeat of the failed Doha talks, of which they were major sponsors, have indicated that they will only negotiate once OPEC members have agreed amongst themselves. Like Saudi Arabia, Russia's crude supply is close to an all-time high.

This time around, however, there may be more cause for optimism. Saudi Arabia is believed to have softened its stance towards Iran, perhaps in the belief that the Islamic Republic is already struggling to reach its 4 mb/d capacity target in the absence of major investment. Also, the group has reportedly agreed to exempt Libya, Nigeria and perhaps even Venezuela, whose own production is down 11 percent year-on-year (y/y) due to underinvest-

Chart 4: US crude oil production & oil rig counts



Source: US Energy Information Administration (EIA), Baker Hughes

ment. In the end, though, the Saudis and their GCC partners are currently producing at or near historical highs, so any supply cut will still leave the producers with enough room to manoeuvre before fiscal and market share considerations come into play that could preclude a deal.

Global crude stocks rise

OECD crude stocks reached another high in July, rising by 32.5 mb to 3.11 billion barrels, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). (Chart 2.) The inventory rise was twice the usual build for the summer period, with crude stocks in particular, resisting the usual July refinery draws. The rise in crude and petroleum product stocks, though slowing, continues to put a lid on oil price rises. Furthermore, the global demand picture is also continuing to weaken. The IEA has noted that world demand growth (y/y) has been easing through every quarter this year, having peaked at 2.3 mb/d in 3Q15, growth is expected to slow to an estimated 0.8 mb/d in 3Q16 due to decelerating crude demand growth in China, India and Europe. Coupled with an

expected increase in OPEC supply for 3Q16 compared to the previous quarter, the global surplus of supply over demand is expected to widen from 2Q16's low of 0.1 mb/d to at least 0.3 mb/d and possibly more in 3Q16. (Chart 3.)

Crude production

OPEC output continued to surge in August, reaching 33.47 mb/d, according to the IEA. (Charts 5 & 6.) Supply is 930 kb/d higher y/y. Notable gains were recorded in Kuwait and the UAE, which both pumped at a historic high of 2.91 mb/d and 3.07 mb/d, respectively. Iraq put in another respectable performance, pushing output by further 30 kb/d in August to reach 4.35 mb/d. Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, saw a slight dip in production, of 50 kb/d, from July's record of 10.65 mb/d. Iranian production, meanwhile, edged up to 3.64 mb/d, a modest rise of 10 kb/d on July. With output rising by only 40 kb/d since May, sizeable gains are becoming more difficult for the Iranians to attain, suggesting that production capacity is most likely at its limit with the country's current investment model.



SEOUL: A screen shows Samsung Electronics share price at the Korea Exchange in Seoul yesterday. Asian shares were mostly higher yesterday while South Korea's benchmark fell following reports of fresh problems with Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 phone. The letters read "Samsung Electronics." — AP

SAMSUNG SHARES SLUMP WHILE LONDON HITS HIGHS

POUND CONTINUES TO DROP, DOLLAR SOARS

LONDON: Shares in Samsung Electronics tumbled yesterday after the company junked its Note 7 smartphone, while the anaemic pound helped push Britain's stock market to a record high. The weak pound, flailing in the wake of Britain's June vote to quit the European Union, helped push London's FTSE 100 index of top blue-chip companies to 7,129.83 points, beating the previous record high set on April 27, 2015. "There's been two key factors driving the FTSE to record highs," Oanda analyst Craig Erlam told AFP.

The dollar powered to a near two-month high yesterday, leaving other major currencies for dust but cheering Europe's stock markets as the latest slump in the pound sent London's FTSE to a record high. The dollar was on the rise again as growing expectations of a US rate hike before the end of the year pushed up Treasury yields - the benchmark for the world's borrowing costs - to the highest since early June. Europe's bonds managed to resist the selling though oil prices could not as they slipped back from their highest level of the year amid lingering skepticism about OPEC's plans to cut production.

"The first is the dramatic depreciation of the pound, as a large proportion of FTSE 100 company profits are generated abroad. The weak pound therefore boosts earnings in sterling terms."

The pound has lost nearly 18 percent since British voters narrowly approved the Brexit referendum. XTB's David Cheetham noted that with over 80 percent of revenues of FTSE 100 companies generated in currencies other than sterling "a depreciation of the pound gives the index a de facto boost."

The other factor was Monday's rebound in oil prices which helped buoy FTSE 100 index which is heavy in energy related companies. "A rise in the price of oil is obviously beneficial for these companies as it increases their profitability," said Erlam.

As London soared, elsewhere Samsung's woes dominated. Stock in the world's biggest smartphone maker tumbled eight percent, sending Seoul stocks sliding 1.2 percent after the tech giant told customers to stop using their Galaxy Note 7 devices and called a halt to worldwide sales as US officials warned the handsets could blow up.

The group halted production yesterday and then announced it was scrapping the model, once markets had shut in Asia. Samsung advised consumers with Note 7s to power down and stop using them. The announcement came a little over a month after Samsung announced a recall of 2.5 million Note 7s in 10 markets following complaints that its lithium-ion battery exploded while charging.

"The group's flagship handset has turned out to be worse than a dud-it is a dangerous fire risk," City Index analyst Ken Odeluga told AFP. "This incendiary effect has spread to Samsung's shares."

Odeluga added that Samsung had a big impact on sentiment because of its huge market capitalization of more than \$200 billion (179 billion euros). "If Samsung catches a cold, so do the region's equities." The crisis has turned into a PR disaster for the company and the situation only worsened when reports emerged a week ago of replacement phones also catching fire.

Analysts noted fierce rivals like US giant Apple-the second biggest smartphone maker-and challengers such as China's Huawei would benefit in the short term.

Apple shares jumped 2.1 percent at the open on Wall Street. "Samsung shares have fallen sharply today, but the company is still trading not too far off a record high, which shows that despite problems with its smartphone design, this is only one line in its gigantic electronics empire," said Laith Khalaf at stockbroker

Hargreaves Lansdown. Global markets hold up in face of Samsung woes

The dollar powered to a near two-month high yesterday, leaving other major currencies for dust but cheering Europe's stock markets as the latest slump in the pound sent London's FTSE to a record high. The dollar was on the rise again as growing expectations of a US rate hike before the end of the year pushed up Treasury yields - the benchmark for the world's borrowing costs - to the highest since early June. Europe's bonds managed to resist the selling though oil prices could not as they slipped back from their highest level of the year amid lingering skepticism about OPEC's plans to cut production.

Sterling was back under \$1.23 and 90 pence per euro while the dollar muscled its way to an 11-week high as the rising rate hike bets came alongside waning support for Donald Trump in the US election race. Saxo Bank's head of FX strategy, John Hardy, said the dollar's push and the pound's woes both looked set in for now. On the pound he added: "The whole Brexit scenario is providing the tailwinds here. Real money and real flows have to get out of their exposures to sterling."

Sterling was not the worst performer for once, however. South Africa's rand slumped 3 percent and its bonds tumbled as prosecutors issued Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan with a formal summons in relation to a tax department investigation.

China's CSI 300 index advanced 0.2 percent and the Shanghai Composite rallied 0.4 percent, after Beijing unveiled guidelines to cut some of the massive amounts of corporate debt at state-owned companies. The yuan hit another six-year low meanwhile as the dollar stood tall and market speculation of depreciation grew after the Chinese central bank set a weaker official guidance rate for the currency. — Agencies

OIL PRICE FALLS BACK FROM ONE-YEAR HIGHS

LONDON: Oil fell back from one-year highs yesterday, knocked by concerns that a production cut by the world's largest exporters might not be enough to erode a two-year old global surplus of unwanted crude oil. Oil prices jumped as much as 3 percent on Monday, after Russia and Saudi Arabia both said a deal between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC members like Russia in curbing crude output was possible.

December Brent crude oil futures were down 42 cents at \$52.72 a barrel by 1100 GMT, below Monday's one-year high at \$53.73, but off an intraday low at \$52.51, while US futures were down 43 cents at \$50.92 a barrel. Global oil supply could fall into line more quickly with demand if OPEC and Russia agree to a steep enough cut in production, but it is unclear how rapidly this might happen, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.

"The word I look at is 'if,'" Saxo Bank senior manager Ole Hansen said. "OPEC's compliance (track record) with its own limits is not good. "What it all adds up to is an increased belief that a firm bottom has been established, but as the market moves higher the risk of self-defeat rises as it opens the door right open for the return of production

growth among high-cost producers," he said.

Igor Sechin, Russia's most influential oil executive and the head of the Kremlin's industry champion Rosneft, said his company will not cut or freeze oil production as part of a possible agreement with OPEC. "Underlying skepticism that global oil producers will succeed in taking coordinated action to support prices is therefore alive and well," PVM Oil Associates analyst Stephen Brennock said in a note.

"Meanwhile, of those that do see a chance of a genuine output deal, they still need convincing that the proposed cuts will go far enough to address the supply imbalance."

Goldman Sachs said in a note to clients yesterday that despite a production cut becoming a "greater possibility", markets were unlikely to rebalance in 2017. "Higher production from Libya, Nigeria and Iraq are reducing the odds of such a deal rebalancing the oil market in 2017," the US bank said, and added that even if OPEC producers and Russia implemented strict cuts, higher prices would allow US shale drillers to raise output.

Adding to the drag on oil, the dollar rallied to its highest in 11 weeks, lifted by rising expectations that the Federal Reserve could raise US interest rates by the end of the year. — Reuters

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report									
At 02:00 PM Previous Day									
Global Stock Indices									
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %				
Dow Jones	18,240.49	18,329.04	88.55	▲	0.49	3.19			
NASDAQ	5,292.41	5,328.67	36.26	▲	0.69	6.42			
S&P 500	2,153.74	2,163.66	9.92	▲	0.46	5.86			
Financial Times	7,097.50	7,120.29	22.79	▲	0.32	14.06			
DAX	10,624.08	10,664.96	40.88	▲	0.38	-0.73			
CAC 40	4,497.26	4,512.02	14.76	▲	0.33	-2.70			
Swiss	8,172.22	8,175.40	3.18	▲	0.04	7.29			
Nikkei 225	16,860.09	17,024.76	164.67	▲	0.98	-10.55			
Topix	1,350.61	1,356.35	5.74	▲	0.42	-12.34			
Hang Seng	23,851.82	23,549.52	-302.30	▼	-1.27	7.46			
Straits Times	2,870.24	2,856.13	-14.11	▼	-0.49	-0.92			
MENA Stock Indices									
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %				
Kuwait	5,294.95	5,350.37	55.42	▲	1.05	-6.05			
Saudi Arabia	5,742.22	5,665.59	91.37	▲	1.64	-19.35			
Dubai	3,358.57	3,390.56	31.99	▲	0.95	6.59			
Abu Dhabi	4,387.34	4,373.88	-13.46	▼	-0.31	1.86			
Bahrain	1,131.38	1,130.27	-1.11	▼	-0.10	-6.95			
Qatar	10,405.20	10,431.25	26.05	▲	0.25	-0.23			
Oman	5,686.55	5,703.65	17.10	▲	0.30	5.19			
Lebanon	1,162.94	1,163.61	0.67	▲	0.06	0.56			
Jordan	2,104.99	2,103.63	-1.36	▼	-0.06	-1.47			
Egypt	8,364.00	8,217.97	-151.03	▼	-1.81	19.38			
Morocco	10,262.03	10,313.67	51.64	▲	0.50	14.97			
Tunisia	5,422.16	5,398.82	-23.34	▼	-0.43	7.54			
Global Currencies Exchange Rate									
Currency	Kuwait Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar	
Kuwait Dinar		12.2906	3.2906	2.9698	2.6844	3.2491	341.56	4.3624	
Saudi Riyal	0.08136		0.2677	0.2416	0.2184	0.2644	27.79	0.3549	
US Dollar	0.30390	3.7351		0.9025	0.8158	0.9874	103.80	1.3257	
Euro	0.33672	4.1385	1.1080		0.9045	1.0946	115.02	1.4692	
Sterling Pound	0.37252	4.5785	1.2258	1.1056		1.2107	127.27	1.6255	
Swiss Franc	0.30778	3.7028	1.0120	0.9136	0.8260		105.12	1.3426	
Japanese Yen	0.00293	0.0360	0.0096	0.0087	0.0079	0.0095		0.0128	
Australian Dollar	0.22923	2.8174	0.7543	0.6806	0.6152	0.7418	78.30		
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate									
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound	
US Dollar		0.30390	3.7351	0.3741	3.6269	0.3833	3.6574	8.7700	
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2906		12.2906	1.2309	11.9345	1.2611	12.0349	28.8582	
Saudi Riyal	0.2677	0.08136		0.1002	0.9710	0.1026	0.9792	2.3480	
Bahraini Dinar	2.6732	0.81239	9.9848		9.6955	1.0245	9.7771	23.4442	
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08379	1.0298	0.1031		0.1057	1.0084	2.4180	
Omani Riyal	2.6093	0.79295	9.7459	0.9761	9.4635		9.5431	22.8832	
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08309	1.0212	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048		2.3979	
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03465	0.4259	0.0427	0.4136	0.0437	0.4170		
Global Interest Rates									
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year				
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94				
US Dollar	0.45	0.53	0.87	1.26	1.59				
Euro	-0.38	-0.37	-0.32	-0.21	-0.07				
Sterling Pound	0.24	0.26	0.39	0.55	0.78				
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.78	-0.73	-0.64	-0.48				
Australian Dollar	1.57	1.63	1.59	1.59	1.59				
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.11				
Global Bond Yields									
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year					
United States	0.86	1.30	1.76	2.49					
Europe	-0.68	-0.49	0.03	0.65					
United Kingdom	0.17	0.36	0.97	1.65					
Commodities									
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %				
Kuwait Oil	48.15	48.17	0.02	▲	0.04	40.29			
Brent	51.05	50.33	-0.72	▼	-1.41	26.37			
West Texas	49.81	49.71	-0.10	▼	-0.20	25.46			
Gold	1259.36	1253.66	-5.70	▼	-0.45	15.73			
Silver	17.63	17.45	-0.18	▼	-1.00	21.42			

LEGAL THREATS, NOT WARS SCARE MINERS IN COLOMBIA

BOGOTA: Gold mining companies have invested hundreds of millions of dollars but not extracted a gram. Palm farmers are told their land belongs to someone else. Some communities are voting to ban mining in areas already awarded for exploration.

Whether or not President Juan Manuel Santos can salvage a peace deal with Marxist rebels that was rejected by voters on Oct 2, legal roadblocks and high taxes are a major deterrent for companies looking to invest in Colombia. Santos says ending Latin America's longest-running conflict would open up vast areas of land to development, reduce corporate security costs and bring additional growth of up to 1.5 percent a year.

Since voters narrowly rejected the deal, Santos has scrambled to extend a ceasefire with the rebels and meet with opposition figures in a bid to find common ground and resurrect hopes of a negotiated end to the 52-year war. But even companies eager to explore former conflict zones say other worries are more pressing.

Many are wary of recent court decisions banning exploration on land already awarded in concessions and giving local authorities greater power to reject mining projects. For others, high corporate taxes are a damper.

"It's useless to have a post-conflict window of opportunity if our neighbors have half the tax rate we do and if 30-year contracts are signed and then the conditions change," said Santiago Angel, head of Colombia's mining association. Analysts calculate many businesses in Colombia pay over 50 percent tax, compared with 27 percent in Peru and 25 percent in Chile.

Canadian gold miner EcoOro, which has spent \$240 million on exploration in Colombia, lost 50 percent of a concession in Santander province after a constitutional court ruling halted mining exploration to protect wetlands.

"Changes in laws and legislation make project development impossible," chief executive Mark Moseley told Reuters. The company is hoping it can reach a compromise with the government under Colombia's free trade agreement with Canada. Despite security improvements in recent years, industry insiders say companies may reconsider expansion plans or simply not move to Colombia altogether due to the legal uncertainties.

Of some 150 miners that arrived in Colombia during a gold price boom in 2009, only 30 remain.

Experts estimate half of Colombia's territory has been starved of investment because of the war and Santos hopes peace would triple foreign direct investment to \$36 billion a year over the next decade with companies exploring deposits of gold, coltan, copper, rare earths, emeralds, tungsten, potassium and coal.

ANTI-MINING VOTES

Still, mining firms complain that tighter regulation and political pressures are hurting the industry. South Africa's AngloGold Ashanti is facing a public vote that could stymie its plans to extract gold at its flagship La Colosa project in Tolima province.

Mining at the site - a \$2 billion potential investment which could yield 28 million ounces of gold - would be banned if Cajamarca municipality follows the lead of nearby Piedras, whose residents voted to ban extraction amid water quality fears. Under current law, companies must get approval from local ethnic groups before beginning projects, but do not typically consult the broader community. Some areas are using referendums to change that.

Both Cajamarca and the city of Ibague have pending votes. If passed, AngloGold, which has

invested close to \$900 million in Colombia since 2006, would be forced to abandon the project.

"Tell me what the rules of the game are, I'll analyze them and take a decision about whether to invest in the country or not. But don't tell me in the middle something isn't constitutional," said AngloGold executive Juan Camilo Narino. For Ibague mayor Guillermo Jaramillo, there are clear health and environmental reasons to banish mining.

"They are going for gold. We are defending our land," he said from his office overlooking the city's colonial square.

AngloGold says it follows all regulations and mining at La Colosa would not affect ground water. Whatever the rights and wrongs of each side, the panorama of uncertainty is a deterrent to investment. The government says it understands challenges facing companies and will try to adapt. "We have to keep working on a series of institutional fixes that will give much more clarity on mining and energy development," deputy mining minister Carlos Cante said.

He said solutions include better defining what areas can be explored and improving company relations with communities. Potential new investors from Australia, Canada and Asia have expressed interest in Colombia, he added.

'NIGHTMARE'

The government hopes agriculture would benefit particularly from peace, since part of the accord reached with rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is focused on investment in rural infrastructure. But here too producers say they face hurdles beyond the conflict. Programs to return land to displaced war victims are roiling property holdings and could prevent expansions into fertile areas once controlled by rebels. — Reuters

THE 2017 CADILLAC CT6 – LARGEST IN ITS SEGMENT

THE NEW FORMULA OF LUXURY AND PRESTIGE



KKUWAIT — Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, prides itself on the first-ever 2017 Cadillac CT6, the prestige sedan that elevates the top of its range through a rich integration of new technologies developed to achieve dynamic performance, efficiency and agility previously unseen in large luxury cars.

Perfectly positioned as the premier luxury sedan in Kuwait, the Cadillac CT6 incorporates elegant luxury accommodations and exhilarating drive typical of performance sedans, all while boasting three pillars that coalesce to deliver an exceptional dynamic experience—agility, connectivity and indulgence—as well as higher levels of presence, elegance and technological innovation.

Agility

- All-new Cadillac-exclusive architecture features 13 high-pressure aluminum castings in the body structure, creating a lighter, stiffer structure that also enables CT6 to be the quietest Cadillac ever produced
- All-new Cadillac 3.0L Twin Turbo engine offer an estimated 400 horsepower (298 kW) and 400 lb.-ft. of torque (543 Nm), making it among the most power-dense V6 engines in the segment, at 133 horsepower (99 kW) per liter
- New 3.6L V6—naturally aspirated engines, each with a new eight-speed automatic transmission
- Auto Vehicle Hold—a driver-selectable feature that prevents forward/rearward vehicle creep when the driver's foot is off the brake. It reduces fatigue during heavy stop-and-go traffic and improves vehicle control on steep grades

Connectivity

- Industry-first Triggered Video Recording system that can record front and rear views while driving and 360 degrees of recording if the vehicle's security system is activated
- Enhanced Night Vision
- Rear Camera Mirror is the industry's first application of full-display technology, combining camera technology with the conventional inside mirror to project an unobstructed view in the mirror, increasing rear visibility by more than 200%
- New Advanced Park Assist integrates automatic braking into automatic parking
- New Pedestrian Collision Mitigation technology provides pedestrian detection indications, alerts and automatic braking to avoid collisions
- Large, 10.2-inch-diagonal CUE interface screen with 1280x720 HD resolution and console-mounted touchpad. The capacitive-touch screen reacts faster when scrolling and recognizes handwriting for address/points of interest search. The touchpad allows control of CUE features while resting an arm on the center console rather than touching the screen
- Wireless phone charging and OnStar 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot

Indulgence

- Elevated modern craftsmanship with curated environments that are rich, expressive and spacious, combining luxurious leathers, exotic



Rear Seat Massage

woods and carbon fiber in unprecedented ways



Vast Interior and CUE System

- Extended comfort seats offer a refined, luxurious appearance. Features include premium Opus leather, five massage programs, reclining rear seats and Cadillac's first application of woven-in-seat heating elements
- All-new Rear Seat package offers new thresholds for comfort and luxury, with approximately 3.3 inches (83 mm) of adjustable seat travel, lumbar adjustment, tilting cushions, massage feature, heating/cooling features and armrest with media controls, including HDMI and USB ports
- Comprehensive rear seat infotainment system with articulating 10-inch-diagonal screens that retract into the front seatbacks, along with connectivity for brought-in devices
- Quadzone climate system, which employs a secondary full-HVAC system that allows passengers to personalize temperature and airflow for each seating position, along with ionizing air purification



34 Speaker Bose Panaray System

- Cadillac-first Bose® Panaray® audio system features 34 strategically placed speakers for exceptional dynamic range and clarity, including the first automotive application of design and technology elements from Bose home entertainment and professional audio products
- Concierge welcome lighting that illuminates the outside of the car as the owner



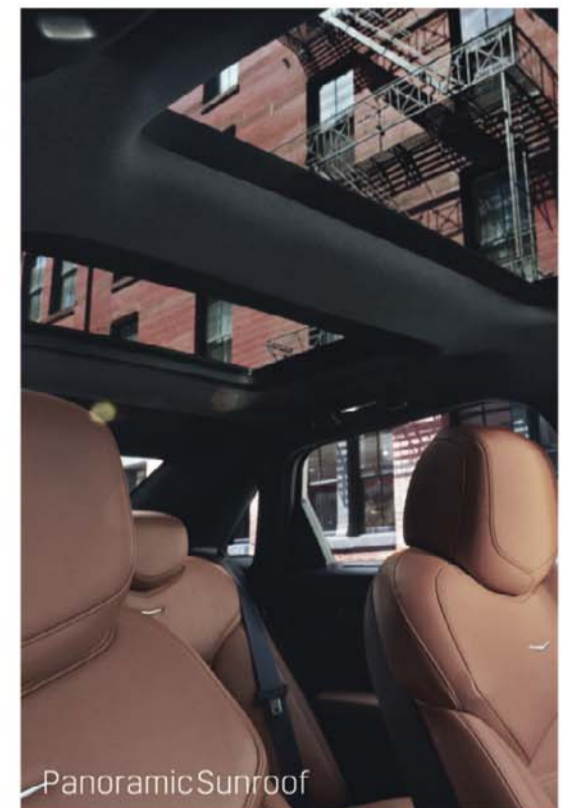
Rear Entertainment Screen

evolves the brand portfolio and reinforces the agility enabled by the lightweight architecture.

The CT6 is designed for passionate drivers; it's low, wide and sleek, which is just what fans expect in a lightweight performance sedan. There is a great dash-to-axle proportion that reinforces the dynamics of the rear-wheel-drive architecture.

Proportion, craftsmanship and technology also define the CT6's cabin. Cadillac designers aimed to deliver a bold, elegant and spacious interior. That elegance is expressed in curated environments and in surface sculpture featuring authentic materials, exquisite details and elevated executions of the brand's signature cut-and-sew interiors. The CT6 uses state-of-the-art technology to reward its occupants with high levels of comfort, connectivity and safety.

Indeed, never before has such craftsmanship and technology been so seamlessly interwoven. The CT6 boldly represents Cadillac's next step in the continuing evolution of the Cadillac brand portfolio.



Panoramic Sunroof

Premium Care Program

Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive furthers Cadillac's superiority by showcasing the company's commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience by offering customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for four years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited miles) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.

Customers are invited to discover and enjoy an engaging test-drive experience of the first-ever Cadillac CT6 by visiting the Cadillac showroom at Safat Alghanim in Al Rai today, located on the 4th Ring Road. For more information, please call 24969000.

- approaches, based on the signal from the passive entry fob
- Hands-free power decklid operation
- Generous rear-seat legroom—40.4 inches (1027 mm)



Wireless Charging Pad

Chassis

The CT6's rigid, lightweight architecture is the foundation for its segment-challenging agility, enhanced by active-on-demand all-wheel drive, active rear steering and Magnetic Ride Control on the available Active Chassis System.

The chassis system also balances responsiveness with segment-best isolation for exceptional refinement. In the front, the CT6 features a lightweight, aluminum-intensive high-arm multilink short-long arm front suspension. At the rear is a five-link independent suspension that uses multiple outer ball joints and cross braces for optimal handling and steering precision.

Active-on-demand all-wheel drive is also part of the Active Chassis System, making the most of handling and stability in all weather conditions. Its lightweight, compact design and two-gear transfer case enable greater fuel economy than conventional fixed-torque all-wheel drive systems. All-wheel drive is standard on all CT6 six-cylinder models.

Exterior and Interior Design

A bold proportion dominated by a long hood and sleek upper body distinguishes the CT6,

RSM ALBAZIE & CO HOLDS IFRS SEMINAR IN KUWAIT

IFRS 9 TO HAVE GREATEST IMPACT ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

KUWAIT: RSM Albazie & Co, a member of the sixth largest network of independent audit, tax and consulting firms 'RSM International', recently hosted an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) seminar for its key clients at Marriott Courtyard. The intensive two-day seminar was conducted by Peter Thatcher, a UK-based specialist in IFRS training courses and Chandra Sekaran, partner at RSM Kuwait who has more than 25 years of experience delivering IFRS training programs across the world.

understand the changes and modifications in the IFRS framework which witnessed updates in the following sections:

- * IFRS 9 - Financial Instruments
- * IFRS 13 - Fair Value Measurement
- * IFRS 15 - Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- * IFRS 16 - Leases

During the seminar, Peter Thatcher, the main speaker, highlighted the major practical challenges that companies in Kuwait may face when they implement



Participants of the IFRS seminar.



Dr Shuaib Shuaib

Accounting professionals from corporate entities such as Commercial Bank of Kuwait, KFH Capital Investment Co, Kuwait Business Town Real Estate, KCPC, Oula Fuel Marketing, Al-Mazaya Holding Co, KIPCO, KAMCO, Securities Group Co along with key personnel from RSM Albazie & Co were able to discover and



Peter Thatcher

these new IFRS in 2018 and 2019. In particular, IFRS 9 is likely to have the greatest impact on financial institutions. These companies were advised to consider carefully the classification of their investments, which may need to be valued on a different basis, and the impact on their annual profits, which may

become more volatile year on year. Annual profits of financial institutions may also be affected by the new approach to recognizing the risk of their loan assets not being collected as expected. IFRS 15 may impact the timing of revenue recognition in companies' income statements which may, in turn, affect reported profits.

Companies operating in the construction and software development industries are among those most likely to be affected.

The new IFRS 16 will affect all companies who lease assets as it will require those companies to recognize assets and

liabilities that have previously remained 'off-balance sheet'.

Both speakers highlighted the importance of companies getting ready for the practical and financial reporting consequences of these changes as early as possible and to engage with their stakeholders through normal communication channels.

As per the ministerial decree of Kuwait, IFRS needs to be followed by all the companies incorporated in Kuwait. Commenting on this occasion, Dr Shuaib Shuaib, Managing Partner at RSM Albazie & Co said: "The International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) is

both globally and locally the most accepted accounting framework today. It is imperative that our clients and our key personnel at RSM are up-to-date with the new developments within the framework."

RSM Albazie & Co has worked with clients from various industries which include, Banks Construction and Real Estate, Hospitality, Aviation, Oil and Gas, Banking and Financial Services and Healthcare amongst others. Established in 1963, RSM Albazie & Co is considered to be among the oldest accounting and advisory firms in Kuwait, with more than 50 years of experience.

KHALED AL-FAILAKAWI HEAD OF KIB'S DISCLOSURE UNIT

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the appointment of Khaled Eissa Al-Failakawi as head of the Disclosure Unit at the Bank. Al-Failakawi will be leading the unit in its mission to implement the highest standards of transparency, as per the best practices and standards in corporate governance.



Khaled Eissa Al-Failakawi

In accordance with the regulations on corporate governance issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait on 19th June 2012, pertaining to the rules and systems of governance in Kuwaiti banks, KIB established the Disclosure and Transparency Unit with the mandate to manage and oversee the disclosure of all essential information, in line with all disclosure and transparency policies and any relevant rules and regulations.

KIB's Disclosure Unit adheres to an immediate disclosure policy, ensuring that all essential information is updated as soon

as any changes occur, after which the Unit ensures these updates are published in a timely manner. This policy is implemented for all important and essential information related to the Bank, including financial position, performance, businesses results, changes in ownership or management and any other issues that the laws may require.

In its announcement, KIB praised Al-Failakawi's expertise and acumen within the banking sector, particularly in the areas of board management and disclosure.

The Bank's statement further added that Al-Failakawi will be joining a highly experienced and extensively qualified management team. This newest appointment comes in line with KIB's strategy to attract the best local talents in order to help elevate the Bank's performance, enhance its position and help KIB achieve its objectives and goals.

CANON BOOSTS OPERATIONS AND PRESENCE IN NIGERIA

KUWAIT: Canon sets another significant milestone in its overall growth strategy with the launch of its operations in Nigeria with the goal of enhancing its business in the African continent and strengthening its in-country presence and focus.

The dedicated entity in Nigeria has been set up to further reinforce the company's 'closer to customer' strategy in West Africa region. Canon Nigeria Imaging Solutions Limited will provide value added on-ground marketing and sales support to new and existing partners and customers meeting their demand in the rapidly evolving Nigeria market.

The presence in Nigeria will also provide Canon the opportunity to gain in-depth reach across Africa, and to better understand the changing market dynamics and customer demand.

The newly set up entity will be under the directives of Canon Central and North Africa's office in Dubai and will include two Country Managers who will oversee the provision of on-ground support to Tier 1 distributors across the country. This is in addition to a dedicated Sales planning manager, based out of the Canon office in Dubai, who will be responsible for all Tier 1 operations across West African markets. CCNA also intends to appoint five Channel Account Managers in the country in 2017 to support its Tier 2 Dealer network, and enhance the brand presence and visibility in the market.

Roman Troedthandl, Managing Director of CCNA, said: "Strengthening our operations in Nigeria is a testament to our commitment to invest in African markets and provide the best possible services to our customers and partners in the region. We will further enhance our network of distributors and partners in Nigeria and across West Africa. The market has seen substantial growth in the past, and has tremendous potential for further growth. "Nigeria, with the largest population of over 180 million within Africa and the high MASH growth potential, is a key market for Canon. It is an



important hub in Industrial & Production Printing segment, and has a thriving film industry - all of which Canon can support through our value added services. Our goal is to extend our services to the largest number of customers possible by being closer to them."

To cultivate strategic business partnerships Canon has strengthened its regional network and presence by partnering with Tenau Africa Ltd to open its dedicated showroom for B2B solutions in Nigeria.

Canon also has a long standing partnership with MFI International group for the distribution of Canon products, after sales services and MPS solutions across Sub Saharan Africa.

With Canon's global document imaging solu-

tions, Tenau and MFI's local expertise, clients from the Nigeria market will benefit from maximization of resources, improved delivery and acceleration in productivity. Canon has also partnered with Jamaica Trading, IT World and Technology Distribution for CE & IT Channel; Taichi Holdings as Selphy Specialist partner; C2S as Pro Video Specialist Sales and Service Partner; MACET Ind. for Retail Channel and Ensure as B2C Service partner.

These partnerships reflect Canon's focus on the growing market in Nigeria. Over the years, Nigeria has pursued economic reforms to enhance the management of public finance and make business regulations more efficient. With GDP (PPP) of around \$1.0 trillion, the economy recorded a compound annual growth of 6.2 percent.

S AFRICAN FINANCE MINISTER TO BE PROSECUTED FOR FRAUD

JOHANNESBURG: South African Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan will be prosecuted for fraud, officials said yesterday, in a move that sent the rand tumbling over concerns about political rivalry and the country's fragile economy.

Gordhan, an internationally-respected technocrat, was appointed only last year to calm panicked investors after President Jacob Zuma sacked two finance ministers within four days. Since then, Gordhan has regularly clashed with Zuma loyalists after vowing to battle poor governance and graft in a government that has been engulfed by regular corruption scandals.

Shaun Abrahams, head of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), told reporters that Gordhan would be prosecuted over alleged misconduct when he was previously chief of the South African Revenue Service (SARS) tax collection department. Gordhan and two others "must be prosecuted and arraigned" for fraud," Abrahams said. Abrahams repeatedly denied that the NPA was being politically influenced, and he lashed out at criticism that it was not independent. "The days of non-account-

ability and not holding senior government officials accountable are over," he said.

The NPA said the case focused on allegations that Gordhan illegally authorised an early retirement package for a senior colleague at SARS, which Gordhan headed between 1999 and 2009.

Power struggle

Gordhan, who also served as finance minister from 2009 to 2014, is widely seen as engaged in a months-long battle within the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party over control of the treasury.

He has often clashed with Zuma and senior ministers over alleged excessive spending, particularly at cash-bleeding state-run entities such as South African Airways. "I received a phone call from my family that someone had come to my house to issue the summons this morning," Gordhan, 67, told an economics forum in Johannesburg, according to local media. "South Africans must ask who the Hawks (police) are really serving?" he added, pointing to suggestions of political interference. — AFP

CHINA ECONOMY IMPROVING, DEBT RISKS UNDER CONTROL

BEIJING: China's economy performed better than expected in the third quarter and the country's debt risks are under control, Premier Li Keqiang said yesterday.

"China's economy in the third quarter not only extended growth momentum in the first half but showed many positive changes," Li said in the speech in Macau that was broadcast live on state television. Key indicators such as factory output, company profits and investment have rebounded, he said, ahead of China's release of third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data on Oct. 19.

More than 10 million new urban jobs were created in the first nine months, with the survey-based jobless rate falling below 5 percent in September, he said, while acknowledging that the economy still faces downward pressure.

China will be able to achieve its main economic targets this year and maintain medium- to high-speed growth, he said.

The government is aiming for annual economic growth of 6.5-7 percent in 2016, compared with 6.9 percent in 2015, the slowest expansion in a quarter of a century. Despite a rocky start to the year and stubbornly weak exports, China's economy

grew 6.7 percent in the first half, buoyed by higher government infrastructure spending and a housing market frenzy which is beginning to raise fears of overheating. HSBC expects a similar rate of expansion in third quarter.

Li said the government will take effective measures to ensure the stable and healthy development of the property market, and will encourage cities to set their own real estate policies depending on local conditions. More than a dozen cities and districts have tightened restrictions on property purchases in recent weeks to cool red-hot prices.

Li also said China's debt risks are under control, but added the government will take steps to reduce high debt levels of non-financial firms to help ward off financial risks. Non-performing loans are rising but the banking sector will be cushioned by ample liquidity and sufficient bad-loan provisions, he said.

S&P Global said yesterday that rising debt levels will worsen the credit profiles of China's top 200 companies this year, requiring the country's banks to raise as much as \$1.7 trillion in capital by 2020 to cover a likely surge in bad loans. — Reuters

SINGAPORE SHUTS SECOND SWISS BANK AS 1MDB PROBE WIDENS

PRIVATE BANKING GIANT UBS FINED

SINGAPORE: Singapore's central bank shut down a second Swiss bank yesterday and fined private banking giant UBS and a local lender in a widening crackdown on money-laundering linked to Malaysian state fund 1MDB.

Zurich-based Falcon Private Bank was ordered to cease operations in the city-state because of "serious failures in anti-money-laundering controls and improper conduct" by senior management both at the head office in Switzerland and the local branch, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said in a statement.

Separately in Switzerland, financial regulators ordered Falcon to hand over some 2.5 million Swiss francs (\$2.54 million) of what they described as illegal profits, and launched "enforcement proceedings" against two unnamed former executives with the bank. Singaporean authorities arrested the bank's Singapore branch manager, Jens Sturzenegger, October 5, MAS said, adding that Falcon has been fined Sg\$4.3 million (US\$3.1 million) for 14 anti-money laundering breaches. MAS also fined local bank DBS and Swiss lender UBS for breaches of anti-money laundering requirements.

Allegations of misappropriations of billions of dollars from 1MDB have triggered a corruption scandal in neighboring Malaysia that has embroiled Prime Minister Najib Razak. Both Najib and 1MDB have strongly denied any wrongdoing.

Singapore, a regional financial hub, last year launched a probe into alleged illicit fund flows linked to a 1MDB. Switzerland and the United States are also conducting their own investigations into 1MDB, with US Justice Department filing lawsuits to recover billions in assets it said were purchased by Najib relatives and associates with money stolen from 1MDB.

Banks 'blatantly misused'

"The issues surrounding 1MDB form one of the largest cases of suspected corruption in recent



SINGAPORE: A view shows the Centennial Tower where the Falcon bank office is located, in Singapore yesterday. Singapore's central bank yesterday shut down a second Swiss bank under investigation for alleged money laundering activities linked to Malaysian state fund 1MDB as it vowed strong action against potential violators. — AFP

times," Mark Branson, chief executive of the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA, said in a statement. "The global financial system has been blatantly misused. Suspect financial flows in the billions have been shifted through banks of multiple nationalities and financial centres on three continents, and warning signals ignored."

Singapore's regulator in May kicked out Swiss bank BSI for similar violations linked to the 1MDB probe, the first time it ordered a bank to shut in 32 years. Swiss financial regulators later dissolved the Lugano-based BSI Bank. At least three former BSI private bankers have been charged in Singapore in relation to the investigations.

In July, Singapore authorities said they had

seized nearly \$180 million in assets in their 1MDB probe-half of which is linked to Low Taek Jho, a jet-setting Malaysian financier. Better known as Jho Low, the 34-year-old-a close Najib family friend, who has denied any wrongdoing-helped set up 1MDB and played a key role in its financial decisions. Swiss financial regulator FINMA said Falcon had not checked how one of its clients, described as a "young Malaysian businessman with links to individuals in Malaysian government circles," managed to acquire assets of \$135 million "in an extremely short period of time".

FINMA also said Falcon had not verified why \$1.2 billion was later transferred to the account of the same client-who they did not name. — AFP

IN MUMBAI, DHARAVI'S THRIVING INFORMAL ECONOMY DEFIES THE LABEL

MUMBAI: Malik Abdullah's plastic recycling business in Dharavi, the sprawling slum in Mumbai that is among the largest in Asia, has survived fire, building collapses, and the criminal underworld for decades. Now, it is threatened by development.

For 35 years, Abdullah has carried on the business built by his father, pulverizing used plastic cans and bottles into pellets, then selling them to

factories to refashion. Thousands of small businesses like his thrive in Dharavi, creating an informal economy with an annual turnover of \$1 billion by some estimates.

Now, plans to replace the ramshackle workshops and decrepit homes with office blocks and high-rise apartments threaten the businesses that employ thousands of its 1 million residents.

"The city doesn't care about the businesses here, which are our livelihood," said Abdullah, 52, standing in an alley crammed with towering stacks of plastic containers. "This is where we live, this is where we work. Where will we go if they only build flats and offices?" he said.

During the past two decades, there have been several attempts to develop Dharavi, which sprawls over 240 hectares (590 acres). However, residents have opposed many of them, saying they do not consider their interests. Real estate in Mumbai, India's financial hub, is among the most expensive in the world. The contrast between rich and poor is stark, and about 60 percent of the city's population of more than 18 million lives in slums.

Dharavi has always been a magnet for migrants from across India. Many have lived there for decades, their one-room tenements and low-rise homes dwarfed by the gleaming glass and chrome office towers and luxury hotels that dot the city.

Amid Dharavi's narrow alleys, open drains and canopies of electric cables, migrants who came in search of better economic opportunities have created a community of schools, temples, mosques, restaurants, tailors and mobile phone shops.

Tens of thousands work as potters, leather tanners, weavers, soap makers, and in Dharavi's massive recycling industry. Most homes double up as work spaces, the whirr of sewing machines, the

clang of metal and the pungent odor of spices mingling with the call for prayer and the putrid smell of trash.

"People think of slums as places of static despair as depicted in films such as 'Slumdog Millionaire,'" said Sanjeev Sanyal, an economist and writer, referring to the Academy Award-winning movie that exposed the gritty underbelly of Dharavi.

"If one looks past the open drains and plastic sheets, one will see that slums are ecosystems buzzing with activity... Creating neat low-income housing estates will not work unless they allow for many of the messy economic and social activities that thrive in slums," he said.

ROOFTOPS

Once a small fishing village, Dharavi was notorious as a den of crime in the 1970s and '80s. Following a massive crackdown, violent crime is rare and Dharavi has featured in movies, art projects and a Harvard Business School case study. Fed by two suburban railway lines and perilously close to the Mumbai airport, Dharavi has lured developers, too.

Recent plans by city officials envisaged private developers clearing the area and building high-rise flats in which each eligible family gets a free 225 sq ft (21 sq metres) unit. The developer in turn gets rights to build commercial space to rent. — Reuters



MUMBAI: Sprawling over 240 hectares (590 acres), Dharavi one of Asia's largest slums, has always been a magnet for migrants from across India.

BP SCRAPS PLAN TO DRILL OFF AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH COAST

MELBOURNE/LONDON: Oil major BP has scrapped plans to drill for oil and gas off the southern coast of Australia because it is too expensive in the face of low oil prices that have prompted heavy cost-cutting across the sector. The Great Australian Bight project has been condemned by environmental groups who say it would damage whale and sea lion breeding grounds, but BP's withdrawal can only be viewed as a partial victory for campaigners because the company and a number of others still hold exploration permits for the area.

BP said the project, in which it is partnered by Norway's Statoil, would not be able to compete for capital investment with other opportunities in its global portfolio for the foreseeable future.

"This decision isn't a result of a change in our view of the prospectivity of the region, nor of the ongoing regulatory process," BP's head of exploration and production in Australia, Claire Fitzpatrick, said in a statement. "It is an outcome of our strategy and the relative competitiveness of this project in our portfolio."

BP has cut its investment budget drastically this year to less than \$17 billion, compared with \$23 billion two years ago. Exploration activities have been hit particularly hard and a reshuffling of operations led to the departure of its exploration chief four months ago.

Analysts at RBC Capital Markets estimate that BP's exploration spending will fall to \$1 billion this year, compared with about \$5 billion in 2013.

"This decision continues the trend in the sector, with the majors moving away from frontier drilling and towards lower-risk,

nearer-return prospects," RBC Capital Markets analyst Biraj Borkhataria said.

BP did not disclose how much the project would have cost or what oil price it needs to make the project viable. Benchmark Brent crude prices were trading at less than \$53 a barrel yesterday, compared with more than \$90 two years ago.

Shares in BP were virtually unchanged at 1055 GMT, slightly outperforming a 0.1 percent decline for the sector index. BP was forced to revise its Bight plans late last year and was awaiting decisions by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority on two wells this month and a broader environmental plan by the end of the year.

MULTIPLE PERMITS

The agency said yesterday that it had yet to receive a request from BP to withdraw its application.

The Wilderness Society, which has long fought to stop drilling in the Great Australian Bight area that also contains a protected marine park, yesterday urged the federal government to terminate BP's leases and cancel all exploration permits in the basin. "We should not be expanding the fossil fuel industry into pristine treacherous seas where the risk of spills is far greater than we've seen before," the society's national director, Lyndon Schneiders, said in a statement.

Others with exploration permits include Chevron Corp, Karoon Gas Australia and Murphy Oil in conjunction with Santos. Karoon, which won an exploration permit only last week, described the Bight as Australia's "most active and prospective frontier oil exploration province". — Reuters



DUBLIN: Irish Finance Minister, Michael Noonan, (center) arrives at government buildings in Dublin, Ireland yesterday before announcing the 2017 budget. — AFP

IRELAND CUTS TAXES, UPS SPENDING IN BUDGET

MEASURES INTRODUCED TO HELP SECTORS REELING FROM BREXIT

DUBLIN: Ireland sought yesterday to further boost a strong economic recovery by cutting taxes and increasing spending by 1.3 billion euros in its budget for 2017, which included measures to "Brex-proof" the economy. Ireland's economy is set to grow faster than any other in the European Union for the third successive year but is the most vulnerable to Britain's decision to leave the EU, which has already led to a cut in Irish growth forecasts in 2016 and 2017.

Among the so-called "Brex-proofing" measures, a lower VAT rate for the tourism sector was retained to help guard against a slowdown in British visitors, Ireland's biggest market. Farmers dependent on the UK export market will be offered lower cost loans and other tax relief to assist cashflow. "The UK's decision to exit the European Union represents a real risk to our

economy," Finance Minister Michael Noonan told parliament.

"The best and most immediate policy under our own control to mitigate this risk is to control the public finances. We must also put in place economic shock absorbers to reduce or eliminate the impact of future economic shocks."

With over two-thirds of the package going towards services still suffering from years of spending cuts during the financial crisis, Noonan introduced modest income tax cuts for low- and middle-income earners for the third year in a row.

He also unveiled details of a grant of up to 20,000 euros for first-time buyers of new homes struggling to save deposits required under new central bank lending rules, though some worry it will just boost house prices. Even though gross domestic product ballooned by 26 per-

cent in 2015 on a technical revision, improving Ireland's debt dynamics at the stroke of a pen, Noonan committed to cutting the national debt faster than required under EU rules.

He set a new target to reach a debt-to-GDP ratio of 45 percent, lower than the 60 percent EU limit, to be reached by the mid-2020s or later depending on economic growth.

The minority government made up of Noonan's Fine Gael and a group of independent lawmakers are reliant on an agreement with the main opposition party, Fianna Fail, to abstain on key votes to pass the budget, which began later and continue in the coming weeks.

Fianna Fail's finance spokesman Michael McGrath, whom Noonan negotiated with when framing the budget, told Reuters last week he was confident the budget would pass. — Reuters



ISTANBUL: Bob Dudley, BP Chief Executive of BP delivers a speech yesterday during the 23rd World Energy Congress in Istanbul. World Energy Congress in Istanbul brings together players across the energy sector to discuss a transformation of the sector. — AFP

GLOBAL STEEL SECTOR CRISIS FADING, DEMAND SET TO GROW

DUBAI: The global steel sector crisis that prompted high profile plant closures and job losses last year is easing, with demand set to grow this year and next, the World Steel Association (Worldsteel) told its conference in Dubai yesterday.

In 2017, it expects global steel demand to grow 0.5 percent year on year to 1.510 billion tons while this year, Worldsteel sees demand up 0.2 percent to 1.501 billion tons. In April it had forecast demand would fall 0.8 percent this year. "Global steel demand is through the bottom of this cycle," said Worldsteel, citing a better than expected outlook for China and Russia and strong growth in emerging Asian economies excluding China.

Global steel demand contracted 0.3 percent last year to 1.499 billion tonnes, while prices fell to their lowest since 2004, according to steel consultancy MEPS. They have since recovered by about 30 percent. "The forecast ... does suggest steel prices will be better off in 2017," said Alistair Ramsay, research director at Metal Bulletin Research.

But "our big point to watch is how much of that additional demand will be secured by Chinese suppliers. If China

takes all of it, prices will remain under pressure," Ramsay said.

China produces and consumes about half the world's steel, and has an estimated over-capacity of 300 million tons. Faced with global criticism over cheap Chinese steel exports, Beijing pledged to cut steel capacity by 45 million tons this year, and had achieved 47 percent of this target by the end of July. Despite the cuts, China's crude steel output rose for a sixth straight month in August and its exports are on track to beat last year's record 112 million tons. Worldsteel had forecast in April that China's steel demand would fall 4 percent this year, but the association said yesterday it now expects demand in China to fall only 1 percent to 665.6 million tons.

Next year, it sees Chinese demand falling 2 percent to 652.3 million tons. Worldsteel said the global steel industry, seen as a gauge of economic health and worth about \$900 billion a year, remains vulnerable to geopolitical and economic uncertainties. "Downside risks come from the high corporate debt and real estate market situation in China ... (and) Brexit uncertainties," said T V Narendran, chairman of the Worldsteel economics committee. — Reuters

NEW YORK: Insurance mergers and acquisitions rarely raise red flags with US national security watchdogs. China's Fosun International Ltd took that history to heart last year when it paid \$1.84 billion for the remaining 80 percent stake of US property and casualty insurer Ironshore Inc that it did not already own.

But in December 2015, one month after Fosun completed the acquisition, it was approached by officials at the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), a government panel that scrutinizes deals over national security concerns, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified because these details are not public.

CFIUS was concerned about how Fosun would operate Ironshore's Wright & Co, a provider of professional liability coverage to US government employees such as law enforcement personnel and national security officials, including the Central Intelligence Agency, according to these sources.

Fosun, Ironshore and CFIUS all declined to comment on the process. CFIUS operates a voluntary filing system for companies engaged in a deal. Such an instance of the panel approaching companies after they complete a deal is rare.

But the recent US scrutiny of Fosun—which did not seek CFIUS approval for the Ironshore deal—is just one example of a new impetus by CFIUS to target what it refers to as "non-notified transactions"—or deals that did not seek CFIUS approval in advance. In the last twelve months CFIUS has

stepped up its pursuit of these non-filers over concerns that some deals were falling through the cracks, according to sources with direct knowledge of the panel's inner workings. This previously unreported push by CFIUS has the potential to delay some deals and raises the risk of them being thwarted altogether.

While Wright accounted for a tiny fraction of Ironshore's business, the inquiry has forced Fosun to delay its initial public offering of Ironshore, which has been registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission since June, until CFIUS clears the original acquisition. Fosun will now likely miss a window for IPOs due to the expected market volatility around the Nov 8 US presidential election, according to the sources. Chinese companies have been treated with suspicion by CFIUS because of the ties many of them have to the country's communist regime, reflecting the complicated diplomatic and commercial ties between China and the United States.

This has not stopped Premier Li Keqiang's "going out" policy, which encourages Chinese companies to buy foreign trophy assets. The push-aided by CFIUS's history of rarely shooting down deals altogether—contributed to Chinese M&A activity in the United States reaching a record high of \$32 billion so far this year.

To be sure, CFIUS has approached companies in the past as well, and does not limit its review to only Chinese deals. In 2010, CFIUS contacted Russian internet company CMail.ru and AOL Inc

over the latter's \$188 million divestment of messaging service ICQ to CMail.ru, which had already been completed. The CFIUS review in that instance did not require the deal to be unraveled.

On rare occasions, the panel has also vetoed deals, such as the \$3.3 billion sale of Koninklijke Philips NV's lighting business to a consortium of Chinese investors, which it blocked last January.

But Ironshore and similar cases this year show that the US watchdog is flexing its muscles in a more subtle, albeit disruptive, fashion. "Companies may assume that there is no chance that CFIUS would have an interest in their transaction, but that runs the risk of possible miscalculation," said Eric Dinallo, a partner at law firm Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.

RISING SCRUTINY

CFIUS, an agency made up of eight US government departments and chaired by the Treasury Secretary, does not publicize the reasons for its decisions. The majority of transactions involve private companies with no SEC filings. Recent regulatory filings and statements by publicly listed companies, however, offer glimpses of CFIUS catching some companies off guard. US electronics distributor Ingram Micro Inc said in July it would seek CFIUS approval for its acquisition by Chinese shipping company Tianjin Tianhai Investment, despite saying in February it did not need to, following "consultation" with CFIUS. — Reuters

DRIVERLESS CARS HIT BRITISH STREETS IN LANDMARK TRIAL

MILTON KEYNES, United Kingdom: Driverless vehicles carrying passengers took to Britain's streets for the first time yesterday in a landmark trial which could pave the way for their introduction across the country. The compact two-seater cars trundled along a pedestrianized zone in Milton Keynes, north of London, in a trial by Transport Systems Catapult (TSC) which plans to roll out 40 vehicles in the city. Neil Fulton, program director at TSC, said it represented a "major milestone" for autonomous vehicles in Britain.

"The special thing about today is that this is the first time that a self-driving vehicle has been tested in a public place" in Britain, he said.

Although the system is currently only being trialled on pedestrianized streets

at speeds of around five miles per hour, self-driving cars on British roads "are not that far away", he added. The "Selenium" autonomy software running the vehicle, developed by Oxford University's Oxford Robotics Institute and its spinoff company Oxbotica, uses data from cameras and lasers to navigate the route.

Unlike existing systems, the technology does not rely on GPS. "On the face of it, it is another autonomous car, but under the hood, how it does what it does is very different from what others are doing," said Ingmar Posner who leads the Oxford Robotics Institute along with Paul Newman. "The way it works is that the vehicle experiences its environment and interprets what it sees around it in the context of what it has seen before." He said the system

could be integrated into "anything that moves", from cars and buses to forklift trucks, golf-carts and disability vehicles. "The cameras peer out at the world," explained Newman, a professor at Oxford University's department of engineering. "They take pictures of the world and the software compares those pictures with what it knows it should look like," he said. The technology will also be piloted in London's Greenwich borough to run eight vehicles around pedestrianized areas next year.

Britain's Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark hailed yesterday's trial as "a ground-breaking moment". "The research that underpins the technology and software will have applications way beyond autonomous vehicles," he said. — AFP



MILTON KEYNES: People look towards an autonomous self-driving vehicle as it is tested in a pedestrianized zone during a media event yesterday. — AFP



LONDON: Nicola Mendelsohn, Vice President of EMEA at Facebook, speaks during an event to launch the social media company's latest product "Workplace" on Monday. — AFP

FACEBOOK LAUNCHES NEW 'WORKPLACE' NETWORK

LONDON: Social network giant Facebook on Monday launched new global product Workplace, a platform that it hopes will replace intranet, mailbox and other internal communication tools used by businesses worldwide. The platform allows employees to collaborate in real-time and is intended to compete with similar office communication products including Microsoft's Yammer, Salesforce's Chatter and Slack. The Silicon Valley company developed the concept, hitherto called "Facebook at Work", two years ago in its London office and has since tested the product on 1,000 companies worldwide.

It is the first Facebook product launched outside the United States. "We combined the things that already exist into a single tool that will allow employees to display a wall of information, like on their private profiles," Julien Codorniou, director of Workplace, told AFP. Workplace was developed outside of the Facebook ecosystem and remains completely separate from the social network - even using grey as the dominant colour, rather than Facebook's distinct blue.

It is accessible on a computer or phone without a Facebook account and employees can

access the platform using their work email address. The service will only enable the transfer of intra-office data, which will remain fully owned by the business. "We've brought the best of Facebook to the workplace - whether it's basic infrastructure such as News Feed, or the ability to create and share in Groups or via chat, or useful features such as Live, Reactions, Search and Trending posts," said the company. "This means you can chat with a colleague across the world in real time, host a virtual brainstorm in a Group, or follow along with your CEO's presentation on Facebook Live."

Subscribers will pay between one to three euros (\$1.10-\$3.30) per connected employee, depending on the size of the business, while NGOs and educational establishments will receive the service for free. "At the moment we have 1,000 companies that have already switched to Workplace before the worldwide launch, creating 100,000 groups," said Codorniou. Early adopters include multinationals Danone and Booking.com, financial institutions such as the Royal Bank of Scotland and NGOs including Oxfam and Save the Children, said Facebook.

Mobile-First Business

Danone, which has seen 5,000 employees test the platform over 15 months, aims to move its workforce of 100,000 onto the service by the end of the first quarter next year, said company executive Francisco Camacho. For Camacho, the key benefit is the mobile-first approach. "People are more mobile now, so when they have the platform in their hands, they are being able to connect with each other faster, to share ideas faster and react faster," he told AFP.

Craig Le Clair, an analyst at research company Forrester, said Facebook will need to shift cultural perceptions of the company in order for Workplace to be a success. "Facebook has never been about getting work done but quite the opposite. How do I enrich my life through better connection to friends and relatives," he said. The top five countries using Workplace so far are Britain, France, India, Norway and the US. "There is a potential worldwide market of 2.5 billion employees, who have no similar product to choose from," said Codorniou. "Our ambition is to connect the world, which has to happen through the world of business," he added. — AFP

SHARED WORKSPACES HIT INDIAN STARTUP SCENE

NEW DELHI: Every weekend, the parties flood into a New Delhi restaurant and dance club called Social, a three-storey destination on the edge of Hauz Khas Village, one of the city's most popular nightlife neighborhoods. After nightfall, the bar is busy and the dance floor is full. The lines regularly stretch out into the street. The dancing goes on until 1 am. But just a few hours later, the watering hole will be clean, the tables will be cleared of silverware and plates and the nightclub will have been transformed into a cozy office where no one gets fired for drinking at work.

Everyone shares desks at Social: photographers, designers, journalists, software programmers. They bounce ideas off one another, hire one another and collaborate to expand their businesses. Everyone is either a freelancer or working for a small startup. As India emerges as one of the biggest markets in the world for tech-based startups, workspaces are transforming from traditional and hierarchical to relaxed and bar-like. "It's the millennial personality," says 29-year-old Dinsa Sachan, a freelance journalist who works out of Social. "People don't want to bow down to random bosses in their offices. They are seeking more meaningful work. So, I think co-working spaces are like a melting pot for individuals like these."

The first co-working offices began springing up in India about three years ago. Today, there are at least a dozen in New Delhi - though Social is the only one that also functions as a restaurant - with similar numbers in Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad, where most Indian startups are based. With more than 4,200 new technology companies, mostly phone apps or websites, by the end of last year, India now has the third-largest startup industry in the world, behind the United States and United Kingdom, according to The National Association of Software and Services Companies, or NASSCOM, an Indian industry research company.

Foreign-based investors are opening their coffers, and now comprise most of the money being pumped into Indian startups, NASSCOM says. Funding for Indian startups is growing at more than 125 percent a year, with an additional \$700 million estimated to be invested before Feb 2017, according

to a 2016 report by InnoVen Capital, an Asian venture capital firm. Riyaaz Amlani, the owner of Social and a powerful force in the changing Indian restaurant scene, said he noticed a demand for cheap office space in prime New Delhi locations and decided on a fluid concept for his restaurants. There are now 14 Social outlets across India, all of them also co-working spaces.

"Increasingly, offices started becoming more like cafes, right? Google, Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter," the 41-year-old says. "If you get into a traditional office environment, you know, it's all very cut-and-dried. It's all very hierarchal. Your importance is measured by the amount of square-foot" your office has. The co-working spaces are also very young places. Most Indian startups are created by people under age 28 who often cannot afford skyrocketing rents in big-city office districts.

Membership fees at most Indian shared offices are usually less than \$100 per month. They also come with free access to networking events, investors' conferences and even parties. At Social, members also get lockers, free Internet and can redeem their monthly fees for food and drinks. Rishi Jalan, a 25-year-old who started a sports management company for student athletes two years ago, said the free flow of ideas and inspiration is one of the top reasons people choose to work at a shared office space.

"I know so many of my friends who actually went to a co-working space and found their co-founders," says the Cornell University graduate. "Everyone, I feel, in these kind of co-working spaces in Delhi, is a guy who's motivated. Firstly, because you have to do that if you're an entrepreneur. And secondly, they're all ready to share their ideas." Like Jalan, many young Indians are moving away from traditional low-paying, entry-level jobs and want to do something of their own. "In my day, we didn't have this opportunity available to us," says Amlani, the Social owner. "Our heroes were rebels and rock-and-rollers, and the millennials' heroes are people like Mark Zuckerberg, and Elon Musk, and people who want to change the world with an app," he said. "They're blazing their own trail. And that's amazing. And we're just happy to facilitate it in a very small way."



NEW DELHI: In this Aug 19, 2016 photo, young Indian entrepreneurs and freelancers work inside Innov8, a lax co-working space. — AP

NOTE 7 NIGHTMARE PUTS SAMSUNG BRAND ON TRIAL

SEOUL: Samsung's new smartphone was launched with the expectation of scaling new heights in a highly competitive, rarified market. Instead it has left the company staring into the abyss. What initially seemed to be a technical glitch in a few devices swiftly turned into a full-blown crisis that looks set to inflict incalculable damage on the South Korean electronics powerhouse in a market where brand confidence and loyalty are paramount.

So serious did the problem become with the Galaxy Note 7 and its exploding batteries that Samsung finally bit the bullet yesterday and announced it was scrapping the model entirely. The move could have devastating consequences given that the large-sized Note series, along with the Galaxy S smartphones, are Samsung's flagship bearers in the fierce battle with arch-rival Apple's iPhones for supremacy in the high-end handset market.

The world's largest smartphone maker announced a global recall of 2.5 million Note 7s on Sept 2 - a decisive move that initially seemed to have limited the damaging fallout. But the wheels came off the whole recall process as reports emerged of replacement phones also catching fire, prompting a number of major global distributors to halt all sales and exchanges of the device.

'Worst-Case Scenario'

"This is the worst-case scenario for Samsung," said Jan Dawson, chief analyst at Jackdaw Research. "To paraphrase Oscar Wilde: To lose

one version of a product to a battery issue may be considered misfortune; to lose two begins to look like carelessness," Dawson said. Analysts have suggested the recall disaster could end up costing Samsung more than \$10 billion, but the larger concern will be the long-term impact on its overall brand.

Samsung Electronics' mobile division may have driven its global rise, but the vast company is extremely diverse with a product line ranging from memory chips and display panels to washing machines, TVs and fridges. Its success has been built, in large part, on its ability to marry cutting-edge technology with large-scale output to produce reliable, high-quality goods across a wide price range.

The initial recall of the Note 7 alone was always bound to have some brand impact, but it would have been limited if the problem was perceived as an exception.

Damaging Pattern

But analysts said the issue with the replacement devices hinted at a pattern rather than a one-off - a far more damaging problem from a brand perspective. "To be in a situation where you claim to have identified the issue and solved it, only for the exact same issue to pop up again, is not a good look for a company of Samsung's size," Dawson said. "The perceptions that flow from this may well spill over into other parts of their product portfolio," he said.

The crisis has raised questions over Samsung's management and decision-making abilities at a time when the family-run conglomerate is negotiating a delicate generational change of leadership. Lee Kun-Hee, the head of Samsung Electronics as well as the parent Samsung Group, has been bedridden since suffering a heart attack in 2014. So the pressure and the spotlight are very much on the 48-year-old vice chairman and heir apparent J.Y. Lee, son of the older Lee, who was nominated to the Samsung Electronics board just days after the initial Note 7 recall was announced.

Apple Pressure

Greg Roh, an analyst at HMC Investment Securities, said the management - with all eyes on the imminent launch of Apple's iPhone 7 - may have miscalculated in offering replacements with the recall. "I think Samsung rushed into handing out new phones when it should have taken more time for a thorough investigation," Roh said. "It was under too much pressure to dominate the market before the launch of iPhone 7," he added. The nightmare scenario for Samsung now, Roh said, would be Note 7 owners taking the refund offered by Samsung and swapping to the iconic Apple handset. "The reason consumers prefer brands like Samsung and Apple is because of product reliability. The impact of the Note 7 will carry on to Samsung's next smartphone model. Overall, brand damage is inevitable and it will be costly for Samsung to turn that around again," he said. — AFP



HONG KONG: A pedestrian smokes a cigarette as he walks past a poster for Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 outside a Samsung shop yesterday. — AFP



HAITI: A resident walks amidst damaged buildings and debris in a seaside fishing neighborhood almost completely destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, in Port Salut, Haiti. —AP

HEALTH CONDITIONS WORSEN AS AID TRICKLES INTO REMOTE HAITI

DAME MARIE, Haiti: In this most western tip of Haiti, 300 patients with festering wounds lay silently on beds at the main hospital in the seaside village of Dame Marie waiting for medicine a week after Hurricane Matthew hit the remote peninsula. Among the injured was Beauvoir Luckner, a cobbler and farmer who walked 12 kilometers (7 miles) in three days after a tree crushed his leg and killed his mother when it fell on their house. His leg might have to be amputated, but all doctors can do is clean his wounds because the hospital has run out of everything, including pain killers. "There's no water, no antibiotics," Dr Herby Jean told The Associated Press. "Everything is depleted ... We hear helicopters flying overhead, but we're not getting anything."

There was also no power and frustration grew on Tuesday as food, medicine and fresh water kept arriving at the main city in Haiti's southwest peninsula but was slow to reach increasingly desperate communities like Dame Marie. Meanwhile, Luckner lay on a mattress with no sheets and a bandage around his left leg. "It took a lot of misery to get here and now that I'm here, there's still misery," he said. Meanwhile, at a cramped police station serving as a makeshift clinic in the nearby town of Marfranc, Darline Derosier fastened IV drips to jail cell bars, wiped the brows of cholera patients and tended to the wounds of those injured in the storm.

Assistance and protection

She was the only health worker helping about 40 patients inside the station bereft of police as she waited for help to arrive. Among the patients was an elderly woman lying unconscious on a jail cell floor with a leg bandaged in an old rag and a man with gashes around his neck, his eyes fluttering. "People will die soon if we don't get some aid," an overwhelmed Derosier told the AP. The UN humanitarian agency in Geneva has made an emergency appeal for nearly \$120 million in aid, saying about 750,000 people in southwest Haiti alone will need "life-saving assistance and protection" in the next three months. UN officials said earlier that at least 1.4 million people across the region need assistance and that 2.1 million overall have been affected by the hurricane. Some 175,000 people remain

in shelters.

Electricity was still out, water and food were scarce, and officials said young men in villages along the road between the hard-hit cities of Les Cayes and Jeremie were building blockades of rocks and broken branches to halt relief convoys. The National Civil Protection headquarters in Port-au-Prince raised the official nationwide death toll to 372, which included at least 198 deaths in Grand-Anse. But local officials have said the toll in Grand-Anse alone tops 500.

Still-isolated areas

The UN also said the hurricane has increased the risk of a "renewed spike" in the number of cholera cases. A cholera outbreak since 2010 has already killed roughly 10,000 people and sickened more than 800,000. Roosevelt Zamos of the Civil Protection Agency said there were 40 cases of cholera in Jeremie alone. He said eight people have died of cholera in Grand-Anse since the storm. It can take from 12 hours to five days for cholera symptoms to appear after ingesting contaminated food or water, according to the World Health Organization. The open-air cholera treatment center at Jeremie's main hospital had no running water Monday, and at least a dozen of the new patients were under age 10. Dr Thierry Francois, lead doctor for the Ministry of Health at the cholera center, said he didn't know how many new cases had been caused by the storm nationwide. "Certainly there are cases we don't know anything about," he said, referring to still-isolated areas. People in the southern seaside community of Les Anglais and surrounding areas said little to no aid had reached them.

An aid group tried to distribute food and other emergency supplies by boat on Sunday, but it was forced to leave after a large crowd gathered and began to fight. An estimated 158 people died in Les Anglais, said two police officers who declined to give their names because they were not authorized to talk to the media. Francis Jean, a 42-year-old farmer and taxi driver, was awaiting help after he, his wife and three daughters survived the storm but lost their roof and all their belongings. "You can't even explain what happened here. I've never seen anything like this in my life," he said. "This town doesn't exist anymore. There's nothing." —AP

AS BABIES STRICKEN BY ZIKA TURN ONE, HEALTH PROBLEMS MOUNT

'IT HURTS ME TO SEE HIM LIKE THIS. I DIDN'T WANT THIS FOR HIM'

RECIFE, Brazil: Two weeks shy of his first birthday, doctors began feeding Jose Wesley Campos through a nose tube because swallowing problems had left him dangerously underweight. Learning how to feed is the baby's latest struggle as medical problems mount for him and many other infants born with small heads to mothers infected with the Zika virus in Brazil. "It hurts me to see him like this. I didn't want this for him," said Jose's mother, Solange Ferreira, breaking into tears as she cradled her son.

A year after a spike in the number of newborns with the defect known as microcephaly, doctors and researchers have seen many of the babies develop swallowing difficulties, epileptic seizures and vision and hearing problems. While more study is needed, Zika-caused microcephaly appears to be causing more severe problems in these infants than in patients born with small heads because of the other infections known to cause microcephaly, such as German measles and herpes. The problems are so particular that doctors are now calling the condition congenital Zika syndrome.

"We are seeing a lot of seizures. And now they are having many problems eating, so a lot of these children start using feeding tubes," said Dr Vanessa Van der Linden, a pediatric neurologist in Recife who was one of the first doctors to suspect that Zika caused microcephaly. Zika, mainly transmitted by mosquito, was not known to cause birth defects until a large outbreak swept through northeastern states in Latin America's largest nation, setting off alarm worldwide. Numerous studies confirmed the link.

Arm and leg deformities

Seven percent of the babies with microcephaly that Van der Linden and her team have treated were also born with arm and leg deformities that had not previously been linked to other causes of microcephaly, she said. To complicate matters, there are babies whose heads were normal at birth but stopped growing proportionally months later. Other infants infected with the virus in the womb did not have microcephaly but developed different problems, such as a patient of Van der Linden's who started having difficulties moving his left hand.

"We may not even know about the ones with slight problems out there," Van der Linden said. "We are writing the history of this disease." On a recent day, Jose laid on a blue mat wearing just brown moccasins and a diaper, his bony chest pressed by a respiratory therapist helping him clear congested airways. Jose, who has been visited by The Associated Press three times in the last year, is like a newborn. He is slow to follow objects with his crossed eyes. His head is unsteady when he tries to hold it up, and he

weighs less than 13 pounds, far below the 22 pounds that is average for a baby his age.

Breathing problems make his cries sound like gargling, and his legs stiffen when he is picked up. To see, he must wear tiny blue-rimmed glasses, which makes him fussy. Arthur Conceicao, who recently turned 1, has seizures every day despite taking medication for epilepsy. He also started taking high-calorie formula through a tube after he appeared to choke during meals. "It's every mom's dream to see their child open his mouth and eat well," said his mother, Rozilene Ferreira, adding that each day seems to bring new problems. Studies are underway to determine if the timing of the infection during pregnancy affects the severity of the abnormal-

in maternity wards in her hometown of Caruaru, a small city 80 miles west of Recife.

But Bernardo cried nonstop. The pediatrician told Ferreira that her baby was likely colicky and would get better by the third month. Instead, the crying got worse, so Ferreira took him to a government-funded event where neurologists were seeing patients with suspected brain damage. "At the end of the second month, beginning of the third, his head stopped growing," Ferreira said. "Bernardo was afflicted by the Zika virus after all. I was in despair." In Brazil, the government has reported 2,001 cases of microcephaly or other brain malformations in the last year. So far, only 343 have been confirmed by tests to have been caused by Zika, but the Health



BRAZIL: In this file photo, Helena Melo, who was born with microcephaly, balances on a ball during a physical therapy session at the AACD rehabilitation center in Recife, Brazil. —AP

ties, said Ricardo Ximenes, a researcher at the Fiocruz Institute in Recife.

'I was in despair'

Also, three groups of babies whose mothers were infected with Zika are being followed for a study funded by the US National Institutes of Health. The groups include infants born with microcephaly, some born with normal-sized heads found to have brain damage or other physical problems and babies who have not had any symptoms or developmental delays. At birth, Bernardo Oliveira's head measured more than 13 inches, well within the average range. His mother, Barbara Ferreira, thought her child was spared from the virus that had infected her during pregnancy and stricken many newborns

Ministry argues that the rest are most likely caused by the virus.

Health Minister Ricardo Barros said there was a drop of 85 percent in microcephaly cases in August and September compared to those months last year, when the first births started worrying pediatricians. He credited growing awareness of the virus and government attempts to combat mosquitoes through spraying campaigns. Despite all the problems, some infants with the syndrome are showing signs of progress. On a recent evening, 11-month-old Joao Miguel Silva Nunes pulled himself up in his playpen and played peek-a-boo with his mother, Rosileide da Silva. "He is my source of pride," Silva said. "He makes me feel that things are working out." —AP

WHO SENDING ONE MILLION CHOLERA VACCINE DOSES TO HAITI

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) is sending 1 million doses of cholera vaccine to Haiti, where more than 200 cases of the killer disease have been reported since Hurricane Matthew. The campaign is aimed at quashing new outbreaks before the peak transmission of cholera in the Caribbean country which is from November to January, during the rainy season. "The top priority clearly for those people affected by the hurricane is to give them access to safe water. That's the only way we can control cholera," Dominique Legros, WHO cholera expert, told a news briefing yesterday before travelling to Port-au-Prince.

Those already infected with cholera need treatment, but a quarter of the health centers in Haiti's hard-hit southern area have been

destroyed or seriously damaged, he said. The powerful hurricane slammed into Haiti last week, killing at least 1,000 people according to a tally of numbers from local officials. Cholera causes severe diarrhoea and can kill within hours if untreated. It is spread through contaminated water and has a short incubation period, which leads to rapid outbreaks. Some 150 suspected cholera cases have been reported in Grande-Anse department and 50 in South department since the hurricane struck, Legros said, calling it a "sharp increase compared to usual figures".

He had no death figures. A further 28 cholera cases have been reported in Artibonite and six cases in North West, the WHO said. Cholera was introduced to Haiti accidentally by

UN peacekeepers who dumped sewage into a river after the 2010 earthquake. The outbreak has since infected hundreds of thousands of people - including an annual average of about 800 since 2014 - and killed more than 9,000.

WHO, which has deployed 80 staff to Haiti, was considering giving people a single dose of the vaccine rather than the classic double dose, to cover more people, albeit it with a shorter protection period, Legros said. "So far we have one experience of a large-scale campaign with a single dose, it was done in Bangladesh two years ago. It proved effective for six months," Legros said. "After six months, you still have about 60 to 70 percent efficacy (of the vaccine) for severe cases of cholera, those are the ones we're interested in." —Reuters

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Kuwait Times
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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
مؤيد علي المخيزيم



استشاري أطفال
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OMD OPENS ITS DOORS IN KUWAIT



As part of its regional expansion plan, OMD has opened its newest office in the Sharq district of the Kuwaiti capital. This will enable the marketing performance company to better meet the growing needs of current and future clients in Kuwait and strengthen its relationships with its local stakeholders further. As well as several regional advertisers, OMD manages a growing portfolio of Kuwaiti clients, including the recent addition of Al Batain Group, whose businesses include the Nissan and Infiniti dealerships.

The new office provides all of OMD's services, from insights to planning, from buying to performance marketing and from content marketing to advanced analytics, across the full spectrum of brand communications. The new office is headed by Tro Taslakian, a 15-year veteran of the media

industry. A long-term resident in Kuwait, he has progressed from assistant planner in 2001 to acting GM of a leading media agency in Kuwait, working on both local and international brands in a wide range of sectors. These include automotive, confectionery, casual dining and food products. Taslakian reports to Wissam Najjar, OMD's regional managing director for the Lower Gulf, Levant and Emerging Markets.

"Tro has an impeccable track-record that combines technical expertise with local fluency. He is ideally placed to ensure OMD's product blends international best practice and local relevance, two key contributors to performance," explained Wissam Najjar. "Kuwait is not a new market to us as such and we believe that it does and will continue to offer exciting opportunities, both for local adver-

tisers and beyond. This direct presence ensures that our team in Kuwait is fully empowered to stimulate growth for its clients' brands. After our opening in Qatar a couple of years ago, this is the latest step in a broader expansion plan for the OMD network in the Middle East."

"Kuwait has a lot of ambition and companies here have long demonstrated their talent in achieving success at home and abroad. We're designed to support them in these endeavors and play a significant part in their growth," Taslakian commented. "As clients' needs and market dynamics evolve, our agility and responsiveness make us the ideal partners for ambitious brands. OMD's cutting-edge approach and expertise will be a great addition to the market."



HILTON KUWAIT RESORT CELEBRATES OKTOBERFEST WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR

To celebrate this year's Oktoberfest - the popular German festival celebrated by millions of people around the world - Hilton Kuwait Resort hosted over 160 guests, including the German Ambassador to Kuwait HE Karlfried Bergner, in a traditional celebration at the hotel's Palm Court Terrace. Adorned in festive decorations, the terrace was bustling with families and friends, as children swayed to the live music and shouts of glee could be heard as guests won dining vouchers as part of a raffle.

Attendees arrived in style, dressed in traditional German lederhosen's and dirndl's, ready to celebrate the occasion with live cooking stations serving an array of sumptuous traditional German delights, including pretzels and Bratwurst and good-cheer. With thousands of Europeans living in Kuwait, Oktoberfest is celebrated by the local expat community each year and this year Hilton Kuwait Resort welcomed guests to celebrate Oktoberfest with gusto. Florian Gruhl, Director of Operations at Hilton Kuwait Resort said: "We love to celebrate occasions such as Oktoberfest with the local community. This year's event built on the success of the two previous years and we look forward to hosting Karlfried Bergner and the German community at future celebrations."



AL MULLA EXCHANGE INTRODUCES INSTANT CREDIT WITH HIMALAYAN BANK

Al Mulla Exchange, a leading global money transfer in Kuwait, has tied up with Himalayan Bank - Nepal, to offer remittance services in real time. Now Nepalese, living outside their homeland and who have an account in Himalayan Bank, can avail API online web service (Server to Server) to send money real time to their loved ones. This facility offers real time credit to all Himalayan Bank (HBL) accounts, immediate cash pick up service across all HBL branches and also expeditious processing of third party bank transfer transactions and also intimate both sender and receiver through SMS on account credit.

HimalRemit has the largest payment network covering all cities, towns and villages of the country and is capable of paying at more than two thousand locations across Nepal which is in ever growing trend as per the demand of local customers and service providers. In Nepal, other than Himalayan Bank, Sunrise bank limited and are the other banks, which have partnered with Al Mulla Exchange. Al Mulla Exchange continually endeavors to surpass customer expectations, by bringing them newer products and better services, all of which

have resulted in an overall improved offering to the customer, which is an aim we share with Himalayan Bank. Customers get a sense of satisfaction and security, when their money is transferred real time. This new convenience will further enhance their happiness."

Al Mulla Exchange goes beyond the ordinary norms of remittance. With their motto 'Beating customer expectations, not just meeting them' Al Mulla Exchange has kept customer always in the center of their technological innovation and improvements with regards to the remittances. Al Mulla Exchange also has a loyalty point system which is quite unique.

Apart from getting loyalty points for every transactions being done, there are loyalty points being awarded for doing transactions early, referring a friend, association loyalty points etc. A customer of Al Mulla Exchange not only gets his transaction credited within split seconds but also has value added benefits like loyalty points, free insurance coverage, free events etc which add to their overall experience, we are trying also to connect with our customers at deeper level by fulfilling not just their remittance needs but also their aspiration and interests

Greetings



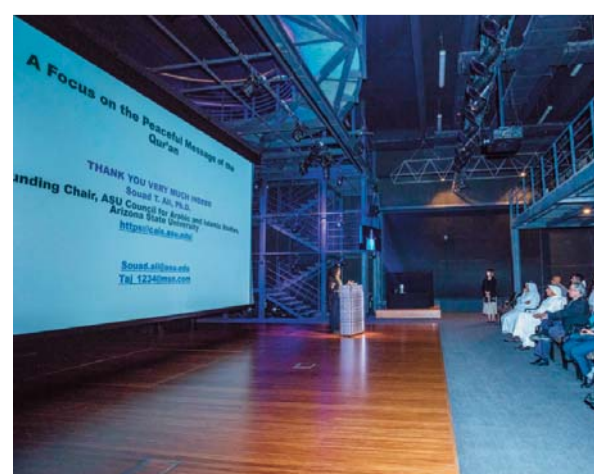
Happy birthday to our dearest Michelle! May God guide and protect you as you continue to be a blessing to our family. Greetings from dad, mom, brother, friends and well-wishers.

'FOCUS ON THE PEACEFUL MESSAGE OF THE QURAN'



Dr Souad T Ali, a Fulbright Scholar, is the Founding Chair of the Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies at Arizona State University (ASU); and served as Head of Classics and Middle East Studies. On October 10, 2016, she gave a lecture entitled 'A Focus on the Peaceful Message of the Quran: Engendering Peace through Female Roles'. The lecture encompassed the role women can play using their knowledge of peace in Islam to help members of

their communities negotiate and practice peaceful coexistence. In addition, it focused on the East African country Sudan and the West African country Nigeria and the role Muslim women play in engendering peace. The model discussed can open greater avenues for women from around the world to direct their education towards emphasizing a culture of peace, and to share experiences on how to move from conflict and war to reconciliation and peace





The first Red Bull Bar Bahr took place in 2014

REDBULL BAR BAHR RETURNS TO KUWAIT

After the huge success two years ago, when two motor sports disciplines were combined in a unique event that Kuwait has never witnessed anything similar to before, Red Bull Bar Bahr returns to mark the calendars of speed and adventure enthusiasts on 11th November at Marina Beach, Salmiya. The atmosphere will offer a completely new experience for racers to enjoy the full performance of their craft in a safe and controlled environment. The first race will take place on the land and will continue on a parallel water track. The qualifying round will be held on Thursday November 10th with a maximum of 36 teams, out of which 24 will be selected to compete the next day Friday, November 11 that 2:30 pm.

The two tracks will be the battlefield for the 24 teams, all coveting the victory of winning Red Bull Bar Bahr's competition. Each team will consist of two athletes: A Quad Bike racer and a Jet Ski racer. The race will kickoff on the land track at the beach and will end on the water track. As soon as the first Quad Bike racer finish his race, he gets off his bike and runs towards his teammate to hand him the keys so that he can begin his race on his JetSki.

The competitors will be required to negotiate a challenging quad track of manufactured obstacles such as ramps, mud, bumps and curves. The water-track, on the other hand, will consist of obstacles



Kuwaiti Motocross Red Bull Athlete
Mohammad Jaffar



Kuwaiti Jet Ski Red Bull Athlete
Mohammad Burbayea



Emirati Motocross Red Bull Athlete
Mohammad Al Balooshi



Red Bull Bar Bahr

will require the racers to perform certain maneuvers, including double or triple turnovers which will drive the race to more exciting levels. Quad Bikers wishing to take part in this event must have a driving license and own their quad bikes while participants of the JetSki must possess a driving

license from the Marine Sports Club of Kuwait. Red Bull Bar Bahr was held for the first time in 2014 and the event announced Mohammad AlKulaifi (Quad) and Mohammad Burbayea (JetSki) the winners. This year, Mohammad Burbayea will not participate in the event as a racer, rather, he will supervise the Jet Ski race. Meanwhile, Emirati Quad Champion Mohammad Al Blooshi will be supervising the Quad race.

Motorsports Stars Supervising the Race

The event officials' mission is to monitor the function of the competitions, ensuring the racers' commitment to the rules and regulations during the relay race between the Quad Bike racers and the Jet Ski racers. Each according to his sports discipline, the three professional athletes will contribute in supervising the overall event logistics and the development of land and water tracks.

Mohammad Balooshi - Motocross and Desert Rally Champion

Mohammed Balooshi always knew he was destined for something great. Although he started riding at the late age of 20 (the average age to start riding is seven), Balooshi was determined to train twice as hard in order to reach his goals. It took him three years of intensive practice to be able to enter his first competition. It took him three years of intensive practice to be able to enter his first competition. In Balooshi's own words, 2009 was his

year of success, and was a big step closer to his dream of riding with the world's greatest motocross riders. "I am extremely excited to be part of Red Bull Bar Bahr. This year I will introduce a different track layout that will be more technical and challenging for the participants. I believe the level of the riders has developed too. I look forward to the participants' feedback on the track design this year," said Al Balooshi.

Mohammad Jaffar - The Motocross Champion

Mohammed Jaffar is a Kuwaiti motocross rider who started his racing career in 2007, and soon the sport became a big part of his life and something more serious when he won his first regional championship in UAE 2011, and now he is one of the best racers in the Middle East and working his way to the international. "It is a great honor to be part of Red Bull Bar Bahr supervising committee this year. I truly believe that Kuwait is in deep need for such events as the two disciplines are very popular in Kuwait. I think my role as a supervisor will be tough since the competition is high among Kuwaiti Quad Bikers and Jet Skiers," said Mohammad Jaffar about his mission during Red Bull Bar Bahr. "Nothing is impossible with hard work and continuous trying" is his motto and advice to athletes in general and Red Bull Bar Bahr racers in particular. Besides supervising the race, the Motocross champion "BouHamad" as his friends call him, is involved in the preparation of Quad Bike racing track.

Mohammad Burbayea - The Jet Ski Champion

The committee cannot be complete without Mohammad Burbayea - the Kuwaiti Jet Ski champion who is experienced in the event and knows all the competition details, mainly because he won the prize of Red Bull Bar Bahr for the Jet Ski discipline in 2014, and thus he will be supervising the Jet Ski category. "It feels awesome to be at the same event, 2 years later, on a different mission. I am very excited to supervise the Jet Skiers and give them tips on how to challenge themselves and the obstacles and to know who is going to be the winner this time".

The 27 year old champion, who was announced Kuwait's best athlete in 2015, encourages the competitors on the day of the event to follow the saying by the famous racer Dale Earnhardt: "Finishing races is important, but racing is more important", which reflects the importance of enjoying a friendly kind of competitions as the victory will be a result of hard work and intensive training. The event will be organized by Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motor sport Club and in partnership with Public Authority of Sport, Nissan Al Babtain, Kawasaki, GoPro, Acqua Eva, MarinaMall, AlAnbaa Newspaper, Kuwait Times Newspaper and STU-DENTALK Magazine. To register in Red Bull Bar Bahr competition, visit www.redbull.com/barbahr or call: 67765544



Quad Bike and Jet Ski racing on Marina Beach



The water track for Red Bull Bar Bahr race



04:25 Wildest Africa
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Killer Hornets From Hell
06:49 My Wild Affair: The Seal Who Came Home
07:36 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
08:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
08:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
09:15 My Wild Affair: The Seal Who Came Home
10:10 Killer Hornets From Hell
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 My Wild Affair: The Seal Who Came Home
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Killer Hornets From Hell
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Wildest Africa
18:25 River Monsters
19:20 The Vet Life
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Wildest Africa
22:05 The Vet Life
23:00 Lair Of The Killer Crocs
23:55 Gator Boys
00:50 River Monsters
01:45 Lair Of The Killer Crocs
02:40 The Vet Life
03:35 Tanked



04:40 Fast N' Loud
05:30 Garage Gold
06:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
06:30 How Do They Do It?
07:00 Deadliest Catch
07:50 For The Love Of Cars
08:40 Fast N' Loud
09:30 Garage Gold
10:20 Garage Gold
10:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
11:10 How Do They Do It?
11:35 Survive That!
12:25 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
13:15 Driving Wild
14:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
14:30 Storage Hunters
14:55 Garage Gold
15:20 Gold Divers
16:10 Alaskan Bush People
17:00 Deadliest Catch
17:50 Fast N' Loud
18:40 For The Love Of Cars
19:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
19:55 How Do They Do It?
20:20 Gold Divers
21:10 Storage Hunters
21:35 Garage Gold
22:00 You Have Been Warned
22:50 X-Ray Mega Airport
23:40 Magic Of Science
00:05 Magic Of Science
00:30 Fast N' Loud
01:20 For The Love Of Cars
02:10 You Have Been Warned
03:00 X-Ray Mega Airport



04:20 Orphan Black
05:10 Doctors
06:10 Stella
07:00 Doctors
08:00 Holly City
09:00 New Tricks
09:55 Doctor Who
10:45 Stella
11:35 Doctors
12:05 Doctors
12:40 New Tricks
13:35 Doctor Who
14:25 Stella
15:15 Doctors
15:45 Doctors
16:20 New Tricks
17:15 Doctor Who
18:10 Stella
19:00 Doctors
19:30 Eastenders
20:05 New Tricks
21:00 Death In Paradise
22:00 Last Tango In Halifax
22:55 Silent Witness
23:50 Orphan Black
00:40 Doctors
01:10 Eastenders
01:40 Death In Paradise
02:35 Last Tango In Halifax
03:30 Silent Witness

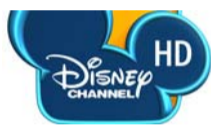


04:00 Workaholics
04:25 Catch A Contractor
04:50 Ridiculousness
05:15 Key And Peele
05:40 Ridiculousness
06:00 Ridiculousness
06:30 Impractical Jokers
06:55 Impractical Jokers
07:20 Tosh.0
07:50 Tosh.0
08:15 Urban Tarzan
08:40 Urban Tarzan

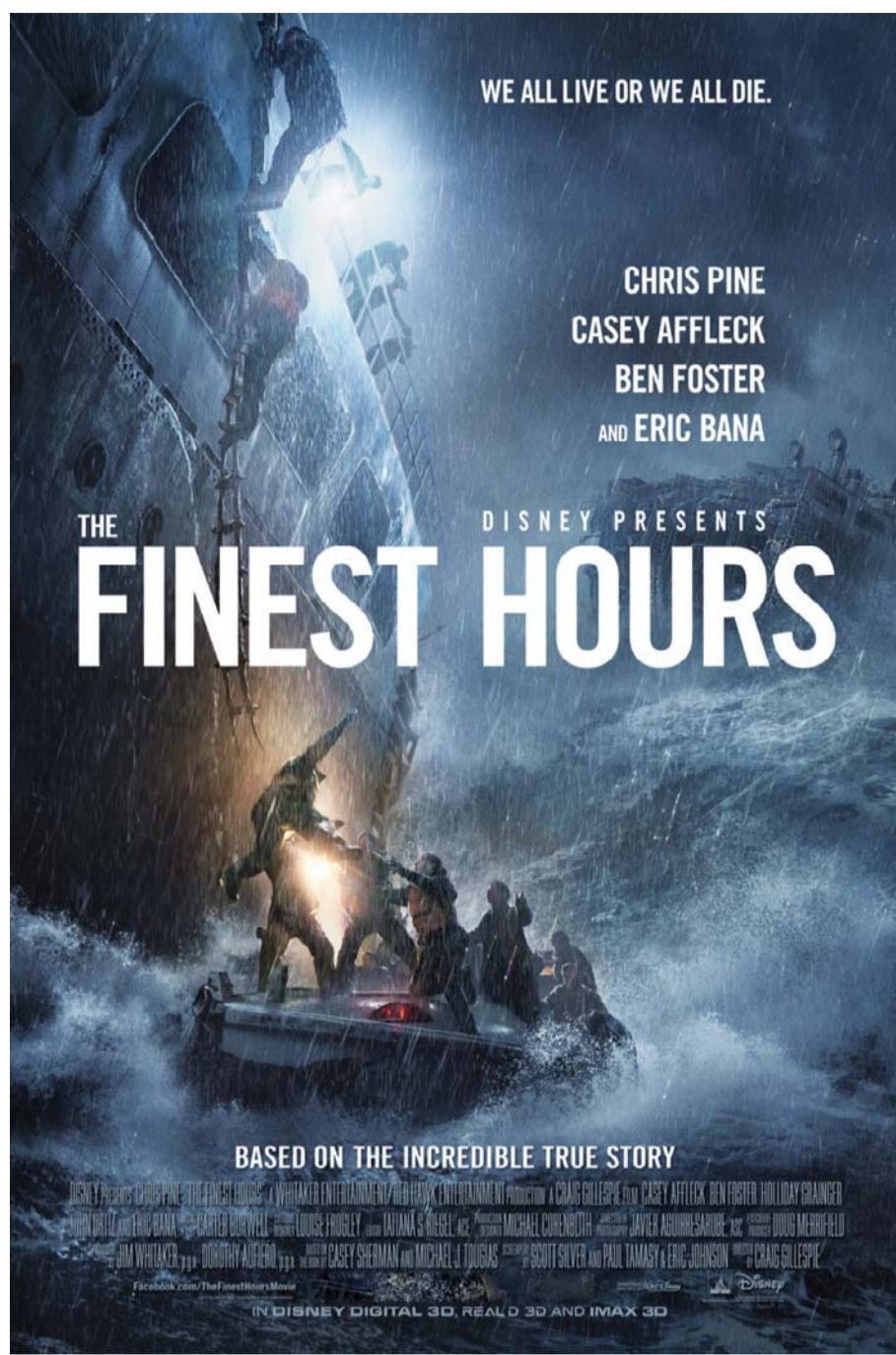


04:00 What Happened Next?
04:25 What Happened Next?
04:50 Ultimate Survival
05:40 Stella
06:05 How It's Made
06:30 Storm Chasers
07:20 Mythbusters
08:00 Kenny The Shark
08:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
08:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
09:40 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made
10:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
11:20 Mythbusters
12:10 K9 Cops
13:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
13:50 Ultimate Survival
14:40 How It's Made
15:05 How It's Made
15:30 Storm Chasers
16:20 Mythbusters
17:10 Kenny The Shark
17:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
18:00 Bear Grylls Survival School
18:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
18:50 Wild Family Rescue
19:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
20:30 How It's Made
20:55 How It's Made
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 Bear Grylls Survival School
22:35 Bear Grylls Survival School
23:00 Wild Family Rescue
23:50 What Happened Next?
00:15 What Happened Next?
00:40 Ultimate Survival
01:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
02:20 Bear Grylls Survival School
02:45 Bear Grylls Survival School
03:10 Wild Family Rescue

05:36 Space Voyages
06:24 Close Encounters
06:48 Close Encounters
07:12 How Do They Do It?
07:36 Food Factory
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Prototype This
09:14 Close Encounters
09:38 Close Encounters
10:02 Redesign My Brain
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 Space Voyages
12:26 Prototype This
13:14 Close Encounters
13:38 Close Encounters
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 Redesign My Brain
15:38 Space Voyages
16:26 Prototype This
17:14 Close Encounters
17:38 Close Encounters
18:02 Redesign My Brain
18:50 Prototype This
19:40 Close Encounters
20:05 Close Encounters
20:30 Sport Science
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 Mind Control Freaks
22:35 Mind Control Freaks
23:00 Sport Science
23:50 Close Encounters
00:15 Close Encounters
00:40 Prototype This
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 Sport Science
03:10 Close Encounters
03:35 Close Encounters
Discovery World
04:00 Discovery World
10:00 Discovery World
16:00 Discovery World
22:00 Discovery World



04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Violetta
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Mouk
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Jessie
07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
08:20 Liv And Maddie
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Austin & Ally
09:35 Shake It Up
10:00 A.N.T. Farm
10:25 A.N.T. Farm
10:50 That's So Raven
11:15 That's So Raven
11:40 Good Luck Charlie
12:05 Good Luck Charlie
12:30 Jessie
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 The 7D
13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:40 Hank Zipzer
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Austin & Ally
15:00 Liv And Maddie
15:25 Liv And Maddie
15:50 Dog With A Blog
16:15 Jessie
16:40 Bunk'd



THE FINEST HOURS ON OSN MOVIES HD

05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopedidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopedidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 The Hive
08:10 Zou
08:25 Loopedidoo
08:40 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 PJ Masks
09:40 Goldie & Bear
09:55 Doc McStuffins
10:10 Jake And The Neverland
10:20 PJ Masks
10:35 Miles From Tomorrow
10:45 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
08:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
08:25 K.C. Undercover
08:50 The 7D
09:00 Phineas And Ferb
09:15 Danger Mouse
09:40 Counterfeit Cat
10:05 Star Wars The Resistance Rises
10:10 Gravity Falls
10:35 Lab Rats
11:00 Supa Strikas
11:50 Danger Mouse
12:20 Annedroids
12:45 Annedroids
13:10 Counterfeit Cat
13:35 K.C. Undercover
14:00 K.C. Undercover
14:30 Gravity Falls
14:55 Lab Rats
15:20 Lab Rats
15:45 Phineas And Ferb
16:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:15 Supa Strikas
16:40 Supa Strikas
17:05 Lab Rats
17:30 Danger Mouse
17:55 Kirby Buckets
18:25 K.C. Undercover
18:50 Annedroids
19:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:40 K.C. Undercover
20:05 Counterfeit Cat
20:10 Gravity Falls
20:35 Counterfeit Cat
21:00 Lab Rats
21:25 Supa Strikas
21:55 K.C. Undercover
22:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
23:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
23:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

22:50 Ice Road Truckers
23:40 Time Team
00:30 Counting Cars
00:55 Counting Cars
01:20 Ice Road Truckers
02:10 Leepu And Pitbull
03:00 Sean Bean On Waterloo
03:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters



04:25 Victoria
05:20 Royal Stories
05:45 Catchphrase
06:15 Murdoch Mysteries
07:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
08:05 The Chase
09:00 Victoria
10:00 Royal Stories
10:30 Catchphrase
11:00 Murdoch Mysteries
11:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
12:50 The Chase
13:45 Emmerdale
14:15 Coronation Street
14:45 Coronation Street
15:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:10 The Chase
17:00 Granchester
17:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
18:50 Murdoch Mysteries
19:45 Emmerdale
20:15 Coronation Street
20:45 Coronation Street
21:10 The Chase
22:00 Granchester
22:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
23:50 Emmerdale
00:15 Coronation Street
00:40 Coronation Street
01:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
02:00 Emmerdale
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 The Chase



04:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
04:55 Maximum Foodie
05:20 Poh & Co
05:45 Poh & Co
06:10 Andy And Ben Eat The World
06:35 Access 360 World Heritage
07:25 Glamour Puds
07:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
08:15 Warrior Road Trip
09:05 Eat Street
09:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
10:20 Tales From The Bush Larder
10:45 Maximum Foodie
11:10 Poh & Co
11:35 Poh & Co
12:00 Andy And Ben Eat The World
12:25 Access 360 World Heritage
13:15 Glamour Puds
13:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
14:05 Warrior Road Trip
15:00 Eat Street
15:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
16:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
16:50 Maximum Foodie
17:20 Poh & Co
17:45 Poh & Co
18:15 One Man & His Campervan
18:40 Access 360 World Heritage
19:35 The Shelbourne
20:05 Croatia's Finest
20:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
21:00 Maximum Foodie
21:25 Poh & Co
21:50 Poh & Co
22:15 One Man & His Campervan
22:40 Access 360 World Heritage
23:30 The Shelbourne
23:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
00:20 Warrior Road Trip
01:10 Eat Street
01:35 The Food Files
02:00 A Model Adventure
02:50 Great Escapes
03:15 Eat Street
03:40 American Food Battle



04:45 Animals Gone Wild
05:40 Hunter Hunted
06:35 The Great Serengeti
07:30 Animal Mega Moves
08:25 Animals Gone Wild
09:20 Hunter Hunted
10:15 Animal Fight Club
11:10 Leopard Queen
12:05 World's Deadliest Animals
13:00 Shocking Sharks
13:55 Super Predators
14:50 Animal Mega Moves
15:45 Animals Gone Wild
16:40 Hunter Hunted
17:35 Super Pride
18:30 Super Predators
19:25 World's Deadliest Animals
20:20 Animals Gone Wild
21:10 Hunter Hunted
22:00 Super Pride
22:50 Super Predators
23:40 World's Deadliest Animals
00:30 Shocking Sharks
01:20 Super Predators
02:10 Animal Mega Moves
03:00 World's Deadliest Snakes
03:50 Built For The Kill



04:50 Monster Fish
05:45 World's Toughest Fixes
06:40 Perfect Storms
07:35 In Search Of The Straits
08:30 Born
08:30 Mega Factories
09:25 4 Babies A Second
10:20 Expedition Wild
11:15 Innovation Nation
11:40 Innovation Nation
12:10 Nazi World War Weird
13:05 World's Most Extreme
14:00 4 Babies A Second
15:00 Wild Swamplands
16:00 Among The Great Apes
17:00 Innovation Nation
17:30 Innovation Nation
18:00 Nazi World War Weird
19:00 Facing...
20:00 Among The Great Apes
21:00 Innovation Nation
21:25 Innovation Nation
21:50 Nazi World War Weird
22:40 Facing...
23:30 Among The Great Apes
00:20 Perfect Storms

01:10 Innovation Nation
01:35 Innovation Nation
02:00 Nazi World War Weird
03:00 Facing...
03:55 Among The Great Apes



05:00 Good Morning America
08:00 Suits
09:00 Rosewood
10:00 The Voice
12:00 Suits
13:00 Rosewood
14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
15:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 Pitch
18:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
19:00 Rosewood
20:00 The Voice
21:00 The Flash
22:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
23:00 Scream Queens
00:00 Bates Motel
01:00 Prison Break



05:00 Close Range
07:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
09:00 Ladder 49
11:15 Brick Mansions
13:15 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem
15:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
17:15 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
20:00 Brick Mansions
22:00 Faster
00:00 The Expendables 3
02:15 Mockingbird



05:00 Vampire Dog
07:00 Coneheads
09:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
11:15 Take Care
13:00 Vampire Dog
14:45 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
16:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey
19:00 Bringing Down The House
21:00 The Brass Teapot
23:00 Joe Dirt 2: Beautiful Loser
01:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything
03:00 Bringing Down The House



04:45 Begin Again
06:30 Philomena
08:15 Listen To Me Marlon
10:00 Stone Markers
11:30 Tracks
13:30 Mood Indigo
16:00 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
18:30 Stone Markers
20:00 Nixon
23:30 The Guardian
02:00 I Origins



05:45 The Second Best Exotic
Margold Hotel
08:00 Barely Lethal
10:00 Zootropolis
12:00 The 5th Wave
14:00 Madoff Part 1
15:30 Madoff Part 2
17:00 Goosebumps
19:00 The Finest Hours
21:00 Paper Towns
23:00 The Diary Of A Teenage Girl
01:00 Unfriended
03:00 Mortdecai



05:30 Snow Queen
07:00 The Boxcar Children
08:45 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
10:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
12:00 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
13:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
15:15 Blackie And Kanuto
17:00 Gladiators Of Rome
19:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote



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

09:05 Ridiculousness
09:30 Ridiculousness
09:55 Impractical Jokers
10:20 Impractical Jokers
10:45 Workaholics
11:10 Workaholics
11:35 Ridiculousness
12:00 Catch A Contractor
12:25 Coaching Bad
13:15 Workaholics
13:40 Workaholics
14:05 Impractical Jokers
14:30 Impractical Jokers
14:55 Ridiculousness
15:20 Ridiculousness
15:45 Urban Tarzan
16:10 Urban Tarzan
16:35 Tosh.0
17:00 Tosh.0
17:30 Workaholics
17:55 Workaholics
18:25 Workaholics
18:50 MLE Chdown: Wedges And Wings
19:39 Ridiculousness
20:03 Ridiculousness
20:27 Impractical Jokers
20:50 Impractical Jokers
21:13 Lip Sync Battle
21:37 Lip Sync Battle
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
22:30 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
22:54 idolstter
23:18 Chappelle's Show
23:42 South Park
00:05 Tosh.0
00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:00 Lip Sync Battle
01:25 Lip Sync Battle
01:50 Jo Koy: Lights Out
02:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:05 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
03:30 South Park



04:00 Jonbenet: An American Murder Mystery
04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
05:36 On The Case With Paula Zahn
06:24 Deadly Affairs
07:12 I'd Kill For You
08:00 Nightmare Next Door
08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:40 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:30 Deadly Affairs
11:20 I'd Kill For You
12:10 I Almost Got Away With It
13:00 Nightmare Next Door
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 On The Case With Paula Zahn
15:30 Deadly Affairs
16:20 I'd Kill For You
17:10 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
17:35 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
18:00 Nightmare Next Door
18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
19:40 On The Case With Paula Zahn
20:30 Deadly Affairs
21:20 I'd Kill For You
22:10 Evil Stepmothers
23:00 Betrayed
23:50 I Almost Got Away With It
00:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
01:30 Surviving Evil
02:20 Betrayed

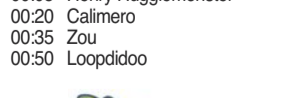


04:00 Redesign My Brain
04:48 Prototype This

17:05 Star Darlings
17:10 Gravity Falls
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:00 Backstage
18:25 Descendants Wicked World
18:30 Alex & Co.
18:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:00 Girl Meets World
19:25 Star Darlings
19:30 Dog With A Blog
19:55 Descendants Wicked World
20:00 Best Friends Whenever
20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts
20:30 Jessie
20:55 Liv And Maddie
21:20 Austin & Ally
21:45 Backstage
22:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:35 H2O: Just Add Water
23:00 Binny And The Ghost
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipzer
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Violetta



04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopedidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster



07:00 Booster
07:10 Super Matrak
07:35 Super Matrak

04:40 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
05:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
06:30 Celebrity Style Story
07:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:55 El News
08:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
09:10 El News
10:10 Rob & Chyna
11:10 Rob & Chyna
12:05 Rob & Chyna
13:00 El News
13:15 Rob & Chyna
14:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
15:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
16:00 El News
16:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
17:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
20:00 El News
21:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
22:00 Catching Kelce
22:30 Catching Kelce
00:00 El News
00:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
01:05 El NYC
01:55 El NYC
02:50 El News
03:50 WAGS



04:00 Ultimate Wheels
05:00 Counting Cars
05:30 Pawn Stars
06:00 Barbarians Rising
07:00 Shipping Wars
07:25 Shipping Wars
07:50 American Pickers
08:40 Ax Men
09:30 American Restoration
09:55 Counting Cars
10:20 Counting Cars
10:45 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
11:10 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
11:35 American Restoration
12:25 Time Team
13:15 Mountain Men
14:05 The Curse Of Oak Island
14:55 Ax Men
15:45 Storage Wars Texas
16:10 Storage Wars Texas
16:35 Shipping Wars
17:00 Ax Men
17:50 Storage Wars Miami
18:15 Storage Wars Texas
18:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
19:30 Time Team
20:20 American Pickers
21:10 Pawn Stars
21:35 Pawn Stars
22:00 Counting Cars
22:25 Counting Cars



SNOW QUEEN ON OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

CLASSIFIEDS



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016

Kuwait Times

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/10/2016 TO 12/10/2016)

Area	Programme	Time	Area	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1	DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:30 PM	SHARQIA-2	LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	2:45 PM		STORKS	11:30 AM
	LAF WA DAWARAN	5:00 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	1:45 PM
	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	7:30 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	4:00 PM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:00 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:15 AM		LAF WA DAWARAN	8:30 PM
				LAF WA DAWARAN	10:45 PM
				LAF WA DAWARAN	1:00 AM
SHARQIA-3	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM	MUHALAB-1	LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM
	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	2:15 PM		USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:45 PM
	STORKS	5:00 PM		STORKS	4:15 PM
	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	7:00 PM		USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	6:15 PM
	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:45 PM		USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:00 PM
	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	12:30 AM		USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:45 PM
MUHALAB-2	DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:30 AM	MUHALAB-3	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:45 PM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	1:45 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	3:00 PM
	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:00 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM
	PREMAM - Telugu	4:00 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM
	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	6:45 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM
	NO FRI+MON			LAF WA DAWARAN	12:15 AM
	PREMAM - Telugu	6:45 PM			
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	9:30 PM			
	PREMAM - Telugu	9:30 PM			
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:15 AM			
FANAR-1	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:15 PM	FANAR-2	DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM
	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	2:30 PM			
	STORKS	5:15 PM			
	STORKS	7:15 PM			
	LAF WA DAWARAN	9:15 PM			
	LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 PM			
DEEPWATER HORIZON	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	2:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	LAF WA DAWARAN	8:30 PM
	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:15 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	10:45 PM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	7:00 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	1:00 AM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	9:45 PM			
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:05 AM			
FANAR-3	TANK 432	11:30 AM	360-1	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	12:30 PM
	TANK 432	1:30 PM		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	3:15 PM
	MIRZYA - HINDI	3:30 PM		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	6:00 PM
	PREMAM - Telugu	3:30 PM		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	8:45 PM
	MIRZYA - HINDI	6:30 PM		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	11:30 PM
	PREMAM - Telugu	6:30 PM			
TANK 432	PREMAM - Telugu	9:30 PM	360-2	THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	12:00 PM
	TANK 432	9:30 PM		THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	2:00 PM
		12:15 AM		THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	4:00 PM
				SULLY	6:15 PM
				SULLY	8:30 PM
				THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	10:45 PM
				THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	1:00 AM
MARINA-1	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:15 PM	360-3	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:00 PM
	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:30 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:45 PM
	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:00 PM		NO FRI+SAT	3:45 PM
	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	6:45 PM		OPPAM - Malayalam	6:45 PM
	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:30 PM		FRI+SAT	9:45 PM
	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	12:15 AM		OPPAM - Malayalam	12:30 AM
				THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	
				THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	
MARINA-2	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:45 PM	AL-KOUT.1	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:30 PM
	LAF WA DAWARAN	3:00 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	2:45 PM
	LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM
	LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM
	LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM
	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:05 AM		LAF WA DAWARAN	12:05 AM
MARINA-3	DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM	AL-KOUT.2	DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM
	LAF WA DAWARAN	2:00 PM		DEEPWATER HORIZON	2:00 PM
	STORKS	4:15 PM		STORKS	4:15 PM
	STORKS	6:15 PM		LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	8:15 PM		DEEPWATER HORIZON	8:30 PM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:30 PM		DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:45 PM
	DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:45 AM		DEEPWATER HORIZON	1:00 AM
AVENUES-1	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:30 PM	AL-KOUT.3	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM
	SULLY	4:15 PM		USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	2:00 PM
	OPPAM - Malayalam	6:30 PM		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:30 PM
	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	7:00 PM
	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:45 PM		USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:30 PM
				USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	12:15 AM
AVENUES-2	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	12:00 PM			
	DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D-4DX	2:45 PM			
	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	5:15 PM			
	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1	8:00 PM			
	DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D-4DX	11:00 PM			
AVENUES-3	LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM			
	LAF WA DAWARAN	1:45 PM			
	LAF WA DAWARAN	4:00 PM			
	LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM			

VACANCY

An Interior Design & Contracting Company in Kuwait has vacancy for the following positions:

- Secretary / Receptionist / Admin
- Interior Architect
- Draftsman
- Quantity Surveyor / Estimator
- Site Forman
- Part time driver

University or Diploma Degree, Fluent in English, Transferable Visa # 18, Dedicated, Punctual, Honest and Hard worker

Forward CV to : apply@dfineline.com

Job Vacancy

We are a chocolate and pastry factory looking for Male/Female employee with good experience in chocolate and pastry making and chocolate wrapping Drivers (manual cars) with a delivery experience in Kuwait

For full time and part time job, please email us on: info@lamande.co or call: 9973 1821 - 99079339



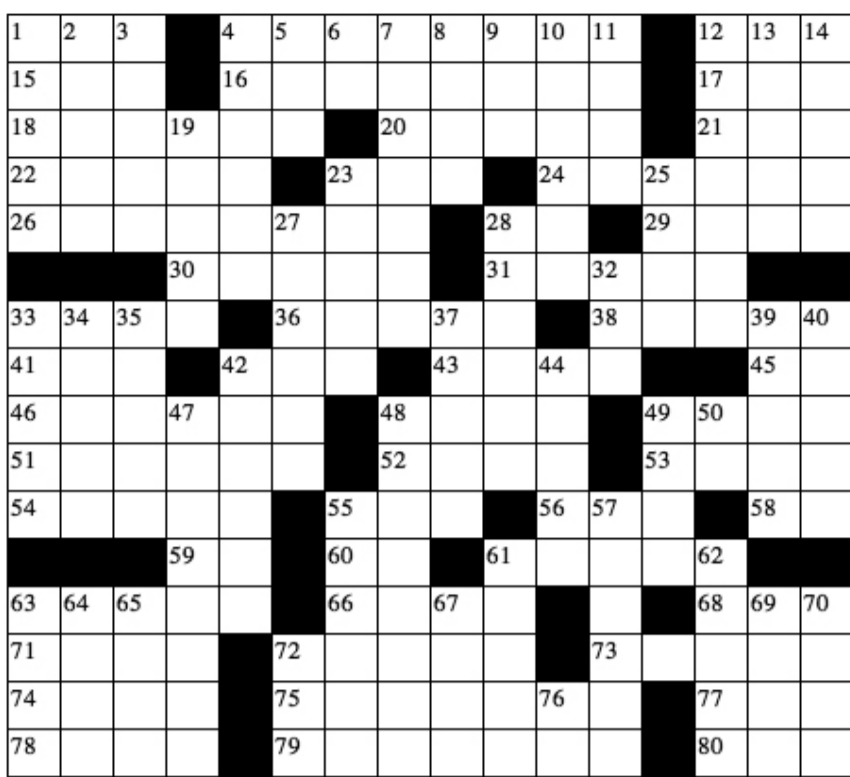
Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 12/10/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 12/10/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	SVA	2501	Jeddah	14:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
PGT	4860	Istanbul	02:15	IRC	6512	ABD	15:30
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	RJD	136	Abu Dhabi	16:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
FEG	961	Sohag	05:00	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
BAW	157	London	06:40	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
AAG	143	Sharjah	07:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	JZR	258	Amman	17:45
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	552	Alexandria	18:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	SYR	342	Damascus	19:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
IRC	6511	ABD	09:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	KAC	551	Kochi	21:00
MSR	502	Cairo	11:00	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
AVV	655	Asyut	11:30	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
IRM	1186	Tehran	11:50	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	JAD	300	Amman	22:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
SVA	9303	Jeddah	13:25	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
AAG	144	XQC	14:00	KAC	205		

CROSSWORD 1397



- ACROSS**
1. A tight-fitting headdress.
 4. A city in northwestern Somalia.
 12. The rate at which energy is drawn from a source that produces a flow of electricity in a circuit.
 15. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
 16. An electrical load that exceeds the available electrical power.
 17. Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
 18. East Indian tree whose leaves are used for fodder.
 20. Scale-like structure between the base of the wing and the halter of a two-winged fly.
 21. A tool with a flat blade attached at right angles to a long handle.
 22. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
 24. Feel admiration for.
 26. Hard yellowish to brownish wax from leaves of the carnauba palm used especially in floor waxes and polishes.
 29. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
 30. Written on a typewriter.
 31. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
 33. Same in identity.
 36. A cloth having a crisscross design.
 38. Tufted evergreen perennial herb having spikes of tiny white flowers and glossy green round to heart-shaped leaves that become coppery to maroon or purplish in fall.
 41. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
 43. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
 45. A state in east central United States.
 46. Commemorates Saint Peter's miraculous deliverance from prison.
 51. Deliver a sermon.
 52. The act of drawing or hauling something.
 53. A French abbot.
 54. (archaic) Utterly cast down.
 56. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
 58. Before noon.
 59. Minor or subordinate.
 60. The square of a body of any size of type.
 63. Be going to.
 66. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
 68. Inquire about.
 71. A Loloish language.
 73. Joint capital (with Riyadh) of Saudi Arabia.
 74. A visual representation of an object or scene or person produced on a surface.
 75. Argentinian carisma.
 77. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
 78. Small beads made from polished shells and formerly used as money by native Americans.
 79. Disgraceful gossip about the private lives of other people.
 80. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- DOWN**
1. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
 - (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
 3. A person who habitually pretends to be something he is not.
 4. A victory cheer.
 5. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
 6. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
 7. A city in southeastern Spain.
 8. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
 9. An informal debt instrument.
 10. A deep bow.
 - (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
 12. Of or relating to the philosophical study of ethics.
 13. The Oceanic language spoken by the Maori people in New Zealand.
 14. Freed from bondage.
 19. 100 sente equal 1 loti.
 23. A poplar that is widely cultivated in the United States.
 25. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
 27. Used colloquially of one who is overly conceited or arrogant.
 28. A member of an aboriginal people living in the hills in southeastern India.
 32. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
 34. Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
 35. A rotary duplicator that uses a stencil through which ink is pressed (trade mark Roneo).
 37. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
 39. Jordan's port.
 40. The woody part of plants.
 42. A metrical unit with stressed-unstressed-unstressed syllables.
 44. A rule made by a local authority to regulate its own affairs.
 47. The intermixture of fat and lean in a cut of meat.
 - (Greek mythology) Fire-breathing she-monster with a lion's head and a goat's body and a serpent's tail.
 49. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
 50. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
 55. Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
 57. Of or relating to a cuticle or cuticula.
 61. Marked by features of the immediate and usually discounted past.
 62. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
 64. The lean flesh of a fish similar to cod.
 65. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
 67. A quantity that is added.
 69. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
 70. God of love and erotic desire.
 72. Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.
 76. Informal terms for a mother.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If people who need people are the luckiest people in the world, this just might be your most fortuitous day, Aries! Today's disconnect between the moon in your friendship zone and Venus in your intimate eighth house could challenge some of your core beliefs about interpersonal relationships. But before you cut anyone off or unfriend them, try a different tact. Let them know you're having "a moment" and want to talk on a deep level. Then, open your heart and share something that's been troubling you. This could bring you the two of you closer together than ever.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There are challenges, without challenges we never would know our scope of capabilities. You could be tempted by a pretty face or pretty words-caution is the best path to take for now. Not perhaps a good time for you to try out new things or break away from an old routine. If you want to be remembered well when you leave this place of business, you need to continue on the path you are on and dutifully carry out the plans that others make. Someday you will be able to rise above your present job by an accomplishment of your own making. You will begin soon to think on how to help your company prosper. Read books or watch when others make a presentation. Formulate a plan with paper and use overheads. Success will be yours.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Rewarding days make up for all the stress that comes with those challenging days. This is a rewarding day in which you can grab the attention or enjoy the benefits. You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others. You have an objective and reasonable point of view in many subjects. You may be the one that is asked to travel to a foreign country and sway the audience to purchase what your company sells. If you have been thinking about a new deal, system or project, it is important to speak up about it now-before you are asked to travel. A package on your doorstep this evening may have gotten lost or misguiding. You will know just what to do and may even find a pleasant surprise at the end of your search.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

While it would be easy to get into positions that would encourage long conversations, you will push to finish any projects for now. If you do not want to work overtime this evening, it might be wise to enjoy several short breaks so as to meet a particular deadline, instead of the usual long lunch. You may find that you have developed a knack for being in the right place at the right time, at least for today. You may overhear some very good news that will mean more business. Much is accomplished and you may even win over the admiration of others for your determination and focus. You may be the cook tonight. Consider a light meal, perhaps fish. Pleasant company and amusing stories put a pleasant end to this very busy day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is an open door to success and your willingness to travel just may be the ticket. Connections with people on a grand scale, for example, play a big part in your life now. This grand scale may mean that you are headed for a convention, out-of-state or out-of-town. Perhaps you are teaching an unusually large class via the internet. Whatever the case, you enjoy involving yourself with the changes that have taken place this year. A rollercoaster year may mean things will settle down a bit for next year and they may do just that. This evening you may want to look over your goals and the schedule you have made for yourself that shows what you have earned and the goals you have met. You will be pleased at your progress!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Learn techniques that will relieve stress and you will be helping yourself to live longer and feel more at ease. Responsibilities and outside pressures are just a part of life but moving forward and knowing when to accept change will aid you in maintaining a sense of well-being. Your positive outlook is a plus! At home you will have the opportunity to weed out the things that do not serve you well. This may include the things you have held onto, thinking you will use them one day. Consider having a garage sale this next weekend... There is plenty of time to cull through your closets and cabinets and prepare a price for your items. It is always a good time to pull in a little extra money. You may even get some cooperation from your family members.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

As you have probably noticed, any partnership issues have been peacefully resolved. You are able to concentrate on work issues today, like never before. Much can be accomplished. A celebration or two will not even slow you down as you concentrate on getting business issues accomplished. Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life and you like that feeling. You may be pleased by the antics of a young person later today. This afternoon there is a lot of talk about some fun interaction between friends and relatives. Everything seems to magically reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations this evening. This is a great time to be with your loved ones! Make a wish!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Perhaps there is a sense of challenge or blockage just now. You may not find the support you would really like. Take into account that this blockage or challenge is temporary. Just as a gardener needs to clear the field and fertilize the crops our mind needs rest and enrichment as well. Times of difficulties in our life can be changed to success with a positive, creative and stick-to-itiveness attitude. The family scene may also be in something of a state of change this evening. You might use the scene at the gardeners for your family as well. Perhaps a review and refreshment of routine and habits would be good for all. For example, fresh water, exercising together and a change in food may be needed. Guide yourself by priorities tonight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The power of organization on a social scale regarding business or perhaps politics seems to take on a lot of attention as you enter into a new cycle. You could be working for a charity organization and your creative input is remarkable. During a meeting to find a new slant or some attention magnet for obtaining contributions, you sketch a few ideas and people respond in positive ways. Remember, this could also be in politics so you will be more informed than most and can represent or speak for your delegate. Remember that tiny causes can lead to big effects. Profound changes are happening on the personal level-psychological and perhaps physical as well. It is as though you are transforming yourself into a popular and influential person.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Healthy communications today create opportunities to open up to new ideas or thoughts. Now is a good time to rethink the path to your goals or perhaps to revise your goals. This could only be a need to fine-tune the end result that you want to achieve. You may find that your ideas and thoughts run counter to what is going on around you, resulting in a lack of support. There could be changes that require young people to take a part in developing the end results. Mental patterns and communication skills play a major role in your life. They can change things forever-so make sure you develop your highest potential in these areas. A neighbor or sibling could undergo some kind of transformation or your neighborhood may be in a redevelopment phase.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Professional advice can bring you some interesting insights. This is a time during which you are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing and, in general, your efforts are successful in reaching new heights of originality. This is a good day, with lots of energy and ambition. This is the day to start new projects or push forward with those already in motion. If you are looking for a new home, consider an old one to remake like you want it. You will find lots of areas for storage and wonderful tall rooms for the plants that are so necessary in re-supplying us with fresh oxygen after a day at work. Think about how a four-poster bed would look-opportunity arises.



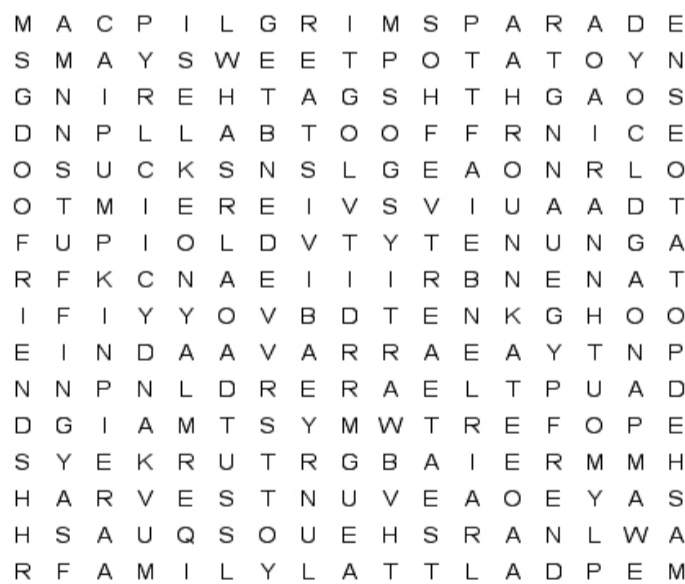
Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A little dieting is usually all you need. Today and tomorrow there are energies present that are working in your favor toward good health. A relationship problem can be solved through some new insight you receive before you begin your workday. You may decide to set aside some time this next weekend for just you and your sweetheart. It can be a wonderfully romantic sort of time. Your workday is successful. Some sort of investigative work, journalism or detective work clears away a lot of old questions that the company you work for may need to know. Not everyone does the detective sort of job, but the energies are available for anyone wanting to uncover the truth or to discover just how some important equipment or program works.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Thanksgiving (U.S.)

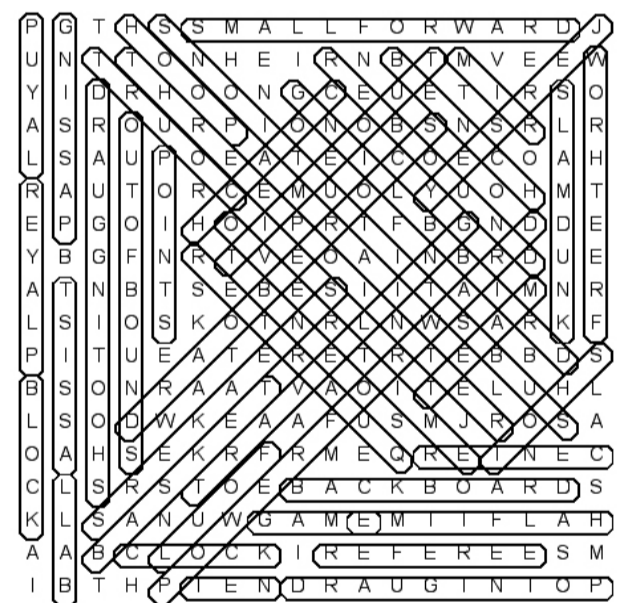
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a popular Thanksgiving Day event



- ANNUAL
- AUTUMN
- CELEBRATION
- CORN
- CRANBERRY
- FAMILY
- FEAST
- FESTIVAL
- FOOD
- FOOTBALL
- FRIENDS
- GATHERING
- GRAVY
- HARVEST
- HOLIDAY
- LONG WEEKEND
- MASHED POTATOES
- MEAL
- NOVEMBER
- PARADE
- PILGRIMS
- PLYMOUTH
- PUMPKIN PIE
- RELATIVES
- REUNION
- SQUASH
- STUFFING
- SWEET POTATO
- THURSDAY
- TRADITION
- TRAVEL
- TURKEY
- WAMPANOAG
- YAMS

Yesterday's Solution

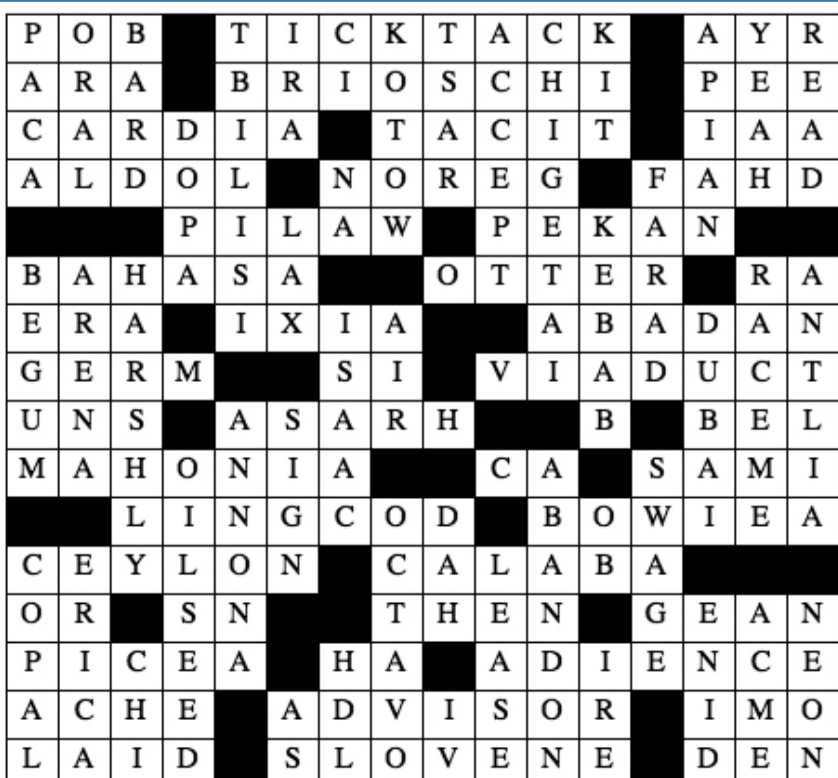
Basketball



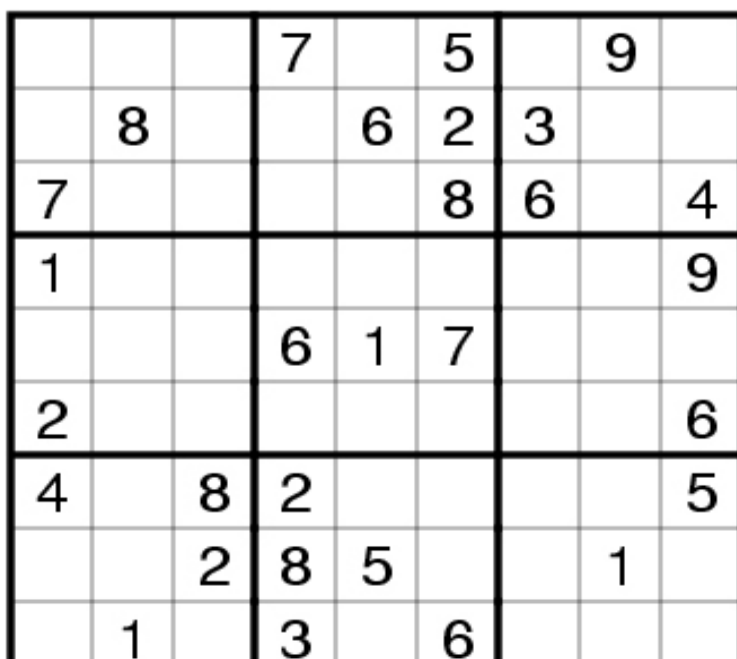
- ASSIST
- BACKBOARD
- BALL
- BASKET
- BENCH
- BLOCK
- CENTER
- CLOCK
- COACH
- COURT
- DRIBBLING
- FOUL
- FREE THROW
- GAME
- HALF-TIME
- HOOP
- JERSEY
- LAY-UP
- NET
- OUT OF BOUNDS
- OVERTIME
- PASSING
- PLAYER
- POINT GUARD
- POINTS
- POWER FORWARD
- QUARTER
- REBOUND
- REFEREE
- RIM
- SCOREBOARD
- SHOOTING GUARD
- SHOT
- SLAM DUNK
- SMALL FORWARD
- SNEAKERS
- SUBSTITUTIONS
- TEAM
- THREE POINTER
- TIME-OUT
- TRAVELING

The hidden message is: THE INVENTOR OF BASKETBALL WAS JAMES NAISMITH

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



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
Khalidiya	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 Ikhlas 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



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

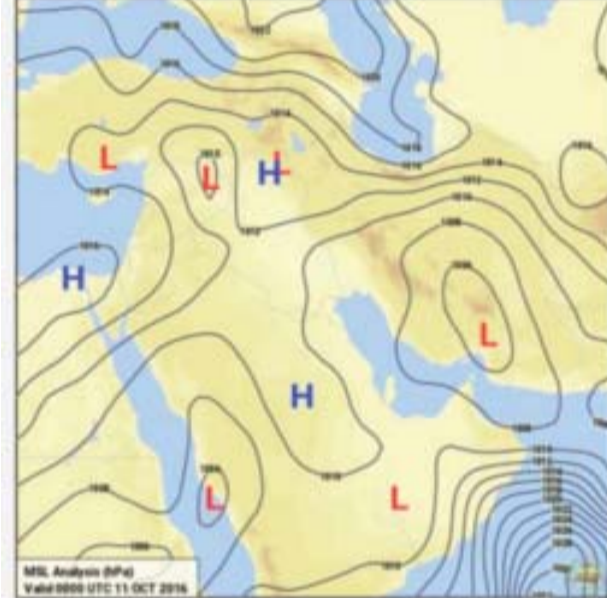
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 11/10/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 38 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	hot + scattered clouds	hot	hot	hot
Min Temp °C	19	19	20	19
Max Temp °C	38	38	37	38
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	north westerly	north westerly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 26	10 - 30	10 - 30	06 - 26

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	20		38	
ABDULY	21		40	
BUBYAN	21		38	
JAHRA	25		41	
FAILAKA ISLAND	24		38	
SALMIYAH	30		35	
AHMADI	29		36	
JAL ALIYAH	22		40	
QARDH ISLAND	29		35	
UMH AL-MARADEM	30		34	
NUWAISIB	24		39	
WAFRA	21		40	
MANAGISH	22		40	
SALHY	20		40	
NUTRIBA	20		42	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	40
Min Temp (°C)	18
Max Rel Hum (%)	43
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 SW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:28
Sunrise	05:47
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:54
Sunset	17:23
Isha	18:39

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
Antigua	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. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

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	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	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. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah 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. Foaid Abdallah 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	2455050 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	



Photo placards and mementos with the phrase 'Remember Pearl Harbor' are on display as part of an exhibit at The Museum of World War II, Boston, in Natick, Mass. — AP photos



A pair of binoculars once belonging to the battleship USS Arizona are on display as part of an exhibit at The Museum of World War II, Boston, in Natick, Mass.



A World War II-era portrait of husband and wife Tom and Ruth Kasai rests near medals, including a purple heart, center, as part of the exhibit.

Display of rare items marks 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor

President Franklin D Roosevelt declared it a "date which will live in infamy" - and three-quarters of a century later, relics from that audacious attack still conjure strong emotions. A new exhibition commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack that drew the United States into World War II is opening at a private, nonprofit museum west of Boston that's open to the public by appointment. The Natick-based Museum of World War II's "Why We Still Remember" display chronicles the mood in the US and Japan leading up to and after the Dec 7, 1941, attack by Japan.

Museum founder Kenneth Rendell suggests the themes - including the rising nationalism in Japan and the complacency in the US to the growing threat in a part of the world few Americans understood - should resonate today in the times of the Islamic State group and other foes.

"We underestimated the Japanese terribly. Everyone was paying attention to Europe, no one was paying attention to Asia," he says. "It explains a lot about why we were caught flat-footed. That's the importance of learning from history. It's having respect for the enemy." The

exhibition, which opened Saturday and runs through Jan 7, 2017, features artifacts evoking the imperialistic ambitions of Japan in the years leading up to the attack, when Japanese news accounts and propaganda celebrated victories over China in the two nations' battles in the 1930s.

Those pieces are contrasted with the island paradise of hula girls and sandy beaches captured in photographs taken by US servicemen stationed at Pearl Harbor, which is located just west of Honolulu, Hawaii, and is the headquarters of the Pacific Fleet. Then there is the attack itself. It involved more than 300 Japanese fighter planes and bombers and killed more than 2,000 Americans, wounded more than 1,000 others, and destroyed or damaged scores of US warships and aircraft. A glass display holds a small piece of a Japanese plane shot down in the battle, as well as a copy of the first hastily typed distress message sent out from the naval base. "AIR-RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NO DRILL," it reads.

Other items on display include a large pair of binoculars from the bridge of the USS Arizona. The badly bombed battleship sank in the attack,

killing more than 1,000 officers and crew members. On the exhibition walls, the outrage and sorrow of US newspaper headlines is contrasted with the euphoria and exultation expressed in Japanese postcards, photos and newspapers at the time. The exhibition also reflects on the heightened fear and anger over Japanese living in America, and the experiences of Japanese families forced into internment camps.

Through photos, letters and other personal effects, it spotlights the story of Tom Kasai, a Los Angeles-area resident who served in the US Army while his wife and parents were relocated to a camp in Arizona. Kasai was wounded serving in France and awarded the Purple Heart, which is included in the display along with his uniform and other medals. As visitors complete the exhibition, they're confronted with an assortment of buttons, pins, stamps and other keepsakes produced in the wake of the attack. All bear the national rallying cry: "Remember Pearl Harbor." — AP



A wire transmission of a historic Dec 7, 1941 Associated Press photo showing the battleship USS Arizona in flames after being bombed by Japanese aircraft, rests next to medals as part of the exhibit.

Shia LaBeouf live streams his Elvis-themed Vegas wedding

"Transformers" actor Shia LaBeouf, known for quirky stunts in the name of art, on Monday live streamed his wedding to actress Mia Goth in a ceremony officiated by an Elvis Presley impersonator. The unconventional wedding was live streamed by celebrity website TMZ, which reported that it was performed at the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, which hosts Elvis-themed weddings. Representatives for both actors did not respond to Reuters for comment. British actress Goth, 23, who met

LaBeouf, 30, while they filmed Lars Von Trier's 2013 film "Nymphomaniac," wore a simple white dress with a veil. LaBeouf opted for a suit paired with sneakers.

An Elvis impersonator wearing a black rhinestone-studded jumpsuit and sunglasses officiated the short ceremony, quipping "This is a great trip to Vegas" as the pair exchanged rings and vows. "Mia, Shia, do you both agree to be each other's hound dogs? Not to wear your blue suede shoes in the rain, to always be each other's teddy bear and to give each other a hunk, a hunk of burning love?" the impersonator asked, using lyrics from some of Presley's most famous songs.

The ceremony ended with the couple's first kiss as newlyweds while Bruce Springsteen's "Hungry Heart" played in the background. LaBeouf, who rose to fame as a fast-talking child star in the Disney Channel comedy "Even Stevens" and became a franchise leading man with the "Transformers" films, has transitioned into more artistic fare, such as this year's indie film "American Honey." — Reuters



Shia LaBeouf



Michiyuki Kawashima

Japan techno duo Boom Boom Satellites' Kawashima dies

The vocalist of Japanese electronic duo Boom Boom Satellites has died after a battle with brain cancer, the band said yesterday. Michiyuki Kawashima, 47, who was also the group's guitarist, passed away early Sunday, according to the duo's official website. "It is our sad duty to inform you that Michiyuki Kawashima of BOOM BOOM SATELLITES passed away," it said. His partner Masayuki Nakano, a bassist and programmer, hailed his longtime musical partner who had been left paralyzed by repeated operations for brain tumors.

"I imagine he is soaring around the world, finally freed from the restrictions of his body," Nakano said on the website. The duo debuted in 1997 with Belgium label R&S, building a niche but firm fan base in Europe. They also grew in popularity at home, with their European techno-influenced songs imported back to Japan. Throughout the group's career, however, Kawashima had suffered recurring brain tumors with the last one, his fifth, discovered in August last year. In May, they announced an end to the band's nearly two decades in music due to Kawashima's poor health. Boom Boom Satellites, who performed at major music festivals such as Glastonbury in Britain and Fuji Rock in Japan, are best known for early singles "Dub Me Crazy" and "4 a Moment of Silence." — AFP

Africans tuning into more local TV programs

Raised on the backstabbing intrigue of 1980s American soaps "Dallas" and "Dynasty," and later, the heady drama of South American telenovelas, Africans are enjoying a surge in local TV content they can finally identify with. It took a while, but in the past decade local programming has soared in sub-Saharan Africa's key economies, a rise driven by both foreign satellite networks and television stations on the continent.

This growth has delivered up local shows such as Kenya's comedic "Real Househelps of Kawangware" - a play on the US "Real Housewives" series - along with talk shows, political satire and continent-wide reality TV such as "Big Brother Africa" and "Project Fame". And demand is set to grow with the number of households owning a television expected to double to more than 150 million in the next 10 years, according to TV market research firm Dataxis. To Olivier

Laouchez, head of French music network Trace, offering local content is simply "common sense".

"When you want to enter into people's lives, you need to speak their language. Emotion is stronger when you speak to them in their language and with content they can identify with," said Laouchez, who has launched eight channels on the continent. The group has dedicated channels in Nigeria, in Swahili-speaking nations such as Kenya and Tanzania, and in Portuguese-language countries Angola and Mozambique, all with local programs.

And because the channels are often available to subscribers in the same package, Nigerian music lovers can see what is happening on the Kenyan scene or elsewhere. Many channels are going even deeper, with programs targeting specific regions and ethnic groups in local languages. — AFP



In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Ben Affleck appears in a scene from 'The Accountant'. — AP

Affleck plays hero bookkeeper in 'The Accountant'

Ben Affleck walked the red carpet at the premiere of his latest movie "The Accountant" in Los Angeles on Monday. The American actor plays Christian Wolff, a small town accountant who secretly keeps the books for some of the world's most dangerous criminal organizations.

"This is a great movie. It's very original, very fresh. I loved the concept and the character, so the whole thing was a lot of fun," Affleck told Reuters at the premiere. Affleck's co-stars include Anna Kendrick, John

Lithgow, JK Simmons and Cynthia Addai-Robinson. Addai-Robinson said Affleck's role showed that "somebody that's comfortable with numbers can also be sexy and own their profession. You've got to give a movie for the accountants out there so they can have their hero moments as well." The film is scheduled for release on Friday. — Reuters

Be at the centre stage of fashion with Centrepoin's A/W 2016 collection

Centrepoin has the latest in fashion inspiration for this fall. As the days turn darker and colours take on a soft muted glow, Centrepoin turns up the style quotient with a collection designed to woo the region's trendsetters.

Autumn in the Middle East heralds the start of the festive season and Centrepoin's womenswear collections will leave you looking for occasions to step out in style. Splash's silhouettes and textures for the season are reflective of the free-spirited gypsy-vibe of the 70s influenced by artisanal craftsmanship using spice shades of cinnamon, saffron and mustard blend. Midseason the colour palette becomes much richer using the jewel tones of deep burgundy, bright crimson, emerald, teal and celestial blue. Moving into peak Winter the colour palette is offset by pale par-fait pink, subdued grey and soft winter white. Taking inspiration from the season's runways, the brand's womenswear offers knitted capes, pleated skirts with cold shoulder detailing. Fringe details, eyelets and ruffled sleeves make its way in to the collection giving it a romantic Victorian vibe. Our glamorous evening wear dresses form an integral part of the range. The women's footwear range from Shoe Mart includes stylish trends in 'Rag and Bone Girl', 'Radical Rustic' and 'Royal Goth' that are here to wow you with an array of must-have silhouettes for the new season. From ankle-length boots and high-heeled sandals in earth tones, athleisure sneakers and chunky platforms to complement rugged styling; to slip-ons, ballerinas, and heels in rich fabrics and patterns, the collection will make you rule the season. Lifestyle's range of colour cosmetics takes inspiration from the season's beauty trends, highlighting the matt-effect, deep intense colouring and raw natural feel of Fall.

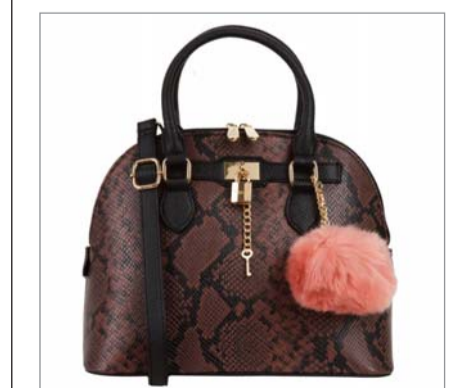
Splash's menswear range is dominated by the fall trends of Bespoke Tech with unstructured blazers and technical joggers being the key pieces followed by Future Folklore which combines a mix of traditional country influences and modern workwear. The Grunge Core trend is all about the muted tones with torn elements, androgynous cardigans and Parkas being the core pieces. For the ultimate masculine appeal the Minimal Military makes a strong comeback which promotes clean lines, understated military elements and boxer silhouettes. Key pieces you can own are Cargo Joggers, aviator bomber Jacket and slim biker pants. The colour palette comprises

the trusted olives, tans, rusty reds, greys and black. Men put their best foot forward this season with Shoe Mart's sophisticated silhouettes in Blue and Brown offering durable and practical options that don't compromise on aesthetics. Perfectly tailored brogues, super-comfortable lace-ups in easy-wipe materials, and high-energy sneakers are the highlights of a range that is perfect for autumn dressing.

Babyshop's stylish range turns little girls into fashionistas with a fall line featuring an eclectic blend of trends, the winter collection is packed with colours, shapes, designs and patterns to lift spirits and beat cold chills. Deep winter shades of hot pinks and dark hued blues & greens, reds & maroons are complemented by warm pale hues such as softer blues, pinks and greys, olive greens are part of the season's trends. The defining winter fabrics for this collection feature winter-infused textures such as knitwear, quilted, suede and faux fur that allows dressing up for winter comfort without leaving behind style. Contemporary dresses, trendy 'sportswear' with fashionable t-shirts and jogging suits enhanced with intricate details along with cardigans and ponchos complete the winter feel.

For dapper little boys, the collection features a sporty street style, dynamic yet conventional look combined with colour block and intense prints with fun patterns. Cartoon and Superheroes character merchandise plays a prominent role and the range is characterized by strong and richly coloured palettes of bright blues, darker greens and burgundy along with subtle shades of greys and yellows. A selection of heavy fabrics and knitwear across jog pants, hoodies, sweat tops, T-shirts and jackets are on showcase for the season.

Get your hands on the seasonal collection at Centrepoin stores located in Al-Rai, Avenues, Hawally, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaeel, Sulaibikhat, Kuwait City and Khaitan.



MUSIC & MOVIES

Bruno Mars to present new song at MTV Europe awards

Bruno Mars will return to the global concert stage when he performs his fun-loving new song at the MTV European Music Awards, the network announced yesterday. The funk-pop singer, who scored a string of hits before taking a hiatus, will sing his "24K Magic" at the EMAs, which will be broadcast live on November 6 from Rotterdam. The youth network said that Mars was the first in a series of performers it would announce for the televised spectacle geared toward MTV's international audience. "24K Magic," a party anthem with synthesizers and funk beats reminiscent of early Janet Jackson, came out last week as the first single off Mars's album of the same name that will come out on November 18.

The 31-year-old multi-instrumentalist from Hawaii became a fixture on Top 40 radio with pop tracks from his last album, 2012's "Unorthodox Jukebox." Mars had been comparatively silent as he prepared his new album but played the Super Bowl halftime show in February and on Saturday will appear on "Saturday Night Live," both major draws on US television. Beyonce, who triumphed in MTV's signature Video Music Awards in New York in August, is tied with Justin Bieber for the most nominations at the European show. — AFP



Bruno Mars



Kevin Hart strides into Hollywood Walk of Fame

American comedian and actor Kevin Hart received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Monday in a ceremony attended by Oscar-winning actress Halle Berry and rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube.

The 37-year-old former shoe salesman from Philadelphia was named the highest

paid comedian by Forbes in July, surpassing Jerry Seinfeld with earnings of \$87.5 million for the 12 months up to June. The "Ride Along" and "The Secret Life of Pets" actor's star is fittingly situated next to a shoe store on Hollywood Boulevard. — Reuters

'I'm not afraid to return to Bataclan', says Marianne Faithfull

Marianne Faithfull knows why some musicians are reluctant to return to play at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, where jihadist gunmen massacred 90 people last year. But one of rock's great survivors, whose voice and body carry the scars of battling through cancer, heroin and alcohol addictions, will not be put off. She will perform there next month, a week after a concert by another reborn British star Pete Doherty reopens the refurbished venue. His sold-out gig will be just three days after the first anniversary of the November 13 attacks.

"I understand that it's frightening. And I don't blame them," Faithfull, 69, told AFP. "But there is no point in being afraid. 'I don't think it will happen again,' she adds of another terror attack. "And if it does, it does. What can you do?" The icon of the "Swinging Sixties" said she was "not going to say anything" about the fateful night when she takes the Bataclan stage on November 25. Instead Faithfull, who lives between Paris and Ireland, will sing "They Come at Night", a song she wrote in the days after gunmen burst into a concert by the US band Eagles of Death Metal.



This file photo shows English singer Marianne Faithfull performing on stage during the 23rd edition of the Cognac Blues Passion festival in Cognac. — AFP

"The fact that I am doing the concert and that I wrote the song speaks for itself," said the singer who was Rolling Stone Mick Jagger's one-time partner and muse. Writing the song, which only her band and her manager have heard, was "the only thing I could do," she said as she lit a cigarette. "Everybody was completely traumatized by the whole thing. It was just so terrible." She explained that she had not put herself forward to play at the resurrected Bataclan. Instead, "they asked me... It seemed very natural."

'Music can be healing'

The concert, she insisted, will be a homage not just to the dead but those left injured and traumatized by what they saw. Faithfull is convinced that music can help reclaim the venue from the horror. "I think that music makes people happy... and it can be very healing, which is why (reopening) the Bataclan is a very good thing. And if I can help do that, I am glad." Two days after Doherty's concert, the Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour and his Super Etoile de Dakar band are billed to appear in what is also likely to be a highly emotional night.

The Muslim musician, who sees himself as an ambassador of peace and tolerance, will play the Bataclan for two nights. Faithfull, who played her show of Kurt Weill cabaret songs there in the past, says, "I love the Bataclan." And she adds the French capital is a resilient place. "Paris has been marked by many terrible events. And this is one of them."

Independent spirit

Most of the songs she will sing at the Bataclan will be from the newly released live album from that tour, "No Exit". The woman who would go on to record the classic album "Broken English" was first spotted aged just 17 in 1964 by the Rolling Stones' manager. Jagger and Keith Richard wrote her first hit "As Tears Go By" and she began a tumultuous four-year relationship with the frontman. Faithfull was much too independent a spirit to be restricted to the role of rock star girlfriend. A descendant of the Austro-Hungarian writer Leopold Ritter von Sacher-Masoch, who wrote "Venus in Furs", and from whose name the word masochism was taken, she had her own ideas.

"I was thinking of going back to school" at the time she met Jagger, she told AFP. "Then I got caught up in it, and I was successful. I discovered I love performing. And I love music. It wasn't how I planned my life, not at all." After years as a drug addict on the streets of London after her bruising break-up with Jagger who got custody of their son she returned to the spotlight with the punkish, post-reggae album "Broken English" in 1979.

Over the past two years Faithfull has faced personal challenges—she broke her hip during a tour to mark her half century in the business, and was then laid low by an infection in the bone. Despite such health problems, which now limit her touring to Europe, she is hoping to release a new album "Negative Capability", with possible collaborations in the offing with Nick Cave and Damon Albarn. But she hates the word "survivor... A survivor is somebody who got through Auschwitz," she said. "I've had a wonderful life." — AFP



In this file photo, Drake performs in concert as part of the Summer Sixteen Tour at Madison Square Garden in New York. — AP

Drake cancels remaining tour dates because of ankle injury

Drake is canceling the rest of his summer tour because of an ongoing ankle injury. A spokeswoman for the rapper-actor says doctors have advised him to nix the three remaining dates of his Summer Sixteen Tour "to allow him time to recuperate his ankle injury." The newly canceled stops include Toronto on Oct 9, Philadelphia on Oct 13 and Newark, New Jersey, on Oct 16.

The "Hotline Bling" singer previously postponed three concerts in New York and New Jersey because of the injury. Drake announced earlier Monday that his 26-show The Boy Meets World Tour is set for January through March 2017 in Europe. — AP

Johansson fights for Planned Parenthood and women's health

Planned Parenthood has come under attack during the presidential election, as pro-life Republicans attempt to cut funding for the organization that provides abortions and an array of other medical services for women. "It's pretty terrifying," says Scarlett Johansson. "Somehow, a woman's right to choose has become a subject that's on the Republican platform. I don't really know what it has to do with politics at all. It seems to be a deeply personal issue."

Growing up in New York, the actress relied on Planned Parenthood for regular checkups, she says. "I used them to screen me for STDs or take care of my reproductive health, as did all my girlfriends. When I was asked to represent their initiative, it was a no-brainer." Planned Parenthood turns 100 this year, with 650 health centers across the US that see 2.5 million patients a year for cancer screenings, birth control, STD testing, and breast exams. Johansson is a major advocate of such services. In 2012, she made Planned Parenthood and women's health central themes of her speech at the Democratic National Convention. Two years later, she helped design T-shirts to boost voting in the midterm elections, and she has recorded an audio message that encourages listeners to enroll in less-expensive insurance options available through the Affordable Care Act.

Her high-profile efforts on behalf of the nonprofit don't stop there, according to Caren Spruch, Planned Parenthood's director of arts and entertainment engagement. Related Helen Mirren Helps Empower Children Who Stutter "She even filmed a video about the impact that Congressional assaults would have on millions of women who rely on Planned Parenthood when she was on location shooting a film," Spruch says. Johansson is enhancing her efforts by publicly backing Hillary Clinton, who has vowed to support Planned Parenthood if elected president. "Hillary is the right candidate for right now," Johansson says. "I think she's got a lot of integrity. She's got a lot of stamina. She's a very clever politician, and that's actually important to me. Maybe it's because I have a daughter now." — Reuters

Helen Mirren helps empower children who stutter

Imagine it: You're standing in front of 850 people, and you can't get your words out. The moment might provoke awkwardness or discomfort in a lot of audiences, but not the one that gathers together every year in support of SAY, the Stuttering Assn. for the Young. "There's something very magical about an audience full of people just sitting, without any embarrassment, and waiting for the person onstage to say what they have to say," says Helen Mirren of the annual gala. "It's beautiful."

Mirren got involved with SAY after learning about the New York-based nonprofit from Broadway actress Kelli O'Hara. The two knew each other from the theater scene—they both won Tony Awards in 2015 — and O'Hara invited Mirren and her husband, director Taylor Hackford, to the organization's fundraising gala. "I absolutely was blown away by it," Mirren recalls. SAY runs after-school and weekend programs, as well as speech therapy, for young people who stutter. But its fastest-growing initiative is Camp SAY, the annual two-week sleep-away retreat for 8- to 18-year-olds. Drawing some 125 participants to its North Carolina facility, the camp offers traditional summer activities, as well as programs aimed at empowering young people who stutter.

"It's about making a space to be who you are, and be free and be accepted," Mirren says. With a full-time staff of just eight, SAY sustains itself through funds raised by the gala as well as by annual bowling nights hosted by board member Paul Rudd (in New York) and Houston Astros player George Springer (in Houston). That money also helps bolster a financial-aid fund that allows kids from all socioeconomic backgrounds to attend the camp. No child has ever been turned away from the camp because a family can't afford it.

Despite a busy acting schedule that includes upcoming tentpole film "Fast 8" and "Collateral Beauty," the December Warner Bros. release in which she plays a woman who is the personification of Death, Mirren supports not only SAY but a wide range of other charitable organizations, including international body Oxfam and the UK's Refuge. As she notes, "It is a responsibility." — Reuters



Helen Mirren



Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus stands up for homeless youth

Miley Cyrus was at a turning point in her life after a performance as a gyrating teddy bear at the 2013 Video Music Awards generated mockery and endless media coverage. "It seemed wrong that I had so much attention, and there were so many people in the country that didn't have a place to call home," Cyrus says. "I wanted to bring attention to what was really important."

The next year, she attended the VMAs with a 22-year-old homeless man named Jessie Helt, who went onstage to accept Cyrus' Video of the Year award, delivering a speech about homelessness in front of 13.7 million viewers. The gesture was inspired by the 1973 Oscars, at which Marlon Brando sent Native American activist Sacheen Littlefeather to decline his award. Warwick Saint for Variety "I thought it was the best thing I'd ever seen," Cyrus says. "Finally, someone made it not about them." Enter the Happy Hippie Foundation, which Cyrus founded in 2014 as a nonprofit to provide basic needs and support to homeless youth, the LGBTQ community, and other vulnerable populations. The group, working with the Los Angeles-based My Friend's Place, has donated

40,000 meals, 20,000 snacks, and 40,000 pairs of underwear and socks to homeless kids over the past two years.

Happy Hippie has partnered with Gender Spectrum to create support groups for 1,300 transgender and gender-expansive youth and their families; MAC AIDS Fund, to help transgender people living with HIV in LA and San Francisco find medical care and housing; and the Zebra Coalition, which offered immediate counseling and support in the aftermath of last summer's Orlando nightclub shooting. Cyrus has been the organization's voice and embodies its spirit; this includes handing out bottles of water and graham crackers to homeless people she passes on the street.

"I just think I found a purpose to do things," says Cyrus, who serves as a mentor on NBC's "The Voice" and recently released an album of 23 songs-free-of-charge. "That's what I wanted to do. That's what made me happy. And that's what Happy Hippie is about: doing what you do, being happy, and not hurting anyone. It gave me meaning in everything." — Reuters

Arab Fashion Week

closes with Warhol-inspired designs



French-Lebanese designer Ingie Chalhoub has closed a busy Arab Fashion Week with a collection inspired by American pop art icon Andy Warhol. Her models strutted down the catwalk in pleated skirts and blouses and disco-style dresses and jackets, all in a mix of bright red, fuchsia, blue and black. "My design is all about the Parisian chic woman who is travelling all over the world," Chalhoub told AFP after the show late Monday at a luxurious Dubai hotel.

This "woman is very feminine and glamorous," said the blonde designer, wearing a long black-and-blue skirt with a black top. "This collection was mostly inspired by an exhibition I saw in Paris from Andy Warhol and as I'm very fond of him I wanted to take back his drawings and his paintings and to make out of them some fabrics and some designs," she said. Chalhoub says she designs the prints she wants on her fabrics "very carefully".

"I play a lot with the fabrics and I play also on the print," she said, adding that among her favorite combinations is matte crepe with the contrasting brilliance of satin. Palestinian designer Jamal Tasiaq's show preceded the closing act, featuring gowns in traditional Palestinian patterns as models walked out to the music of Lebanese composer and oud player Marcel Khalife. Italian designer Giada Curti also presented a colourful Spring-Summer 2017 collection with floral prints and stripes.

In its third edition, the fashion week presented more than 20 collections from more than 10 countries. The show shed light on designs by Gulf women, such as Lamya Abedin from the United Arab Emirates, Alanoud Al-Attia from Qatar who refused to appear on stage or camera, and Jeans Couture by a Saudi mother and daughter duo. It also presented the first ever Emirati model, Rafeea al-Hajsi.

'Very different'

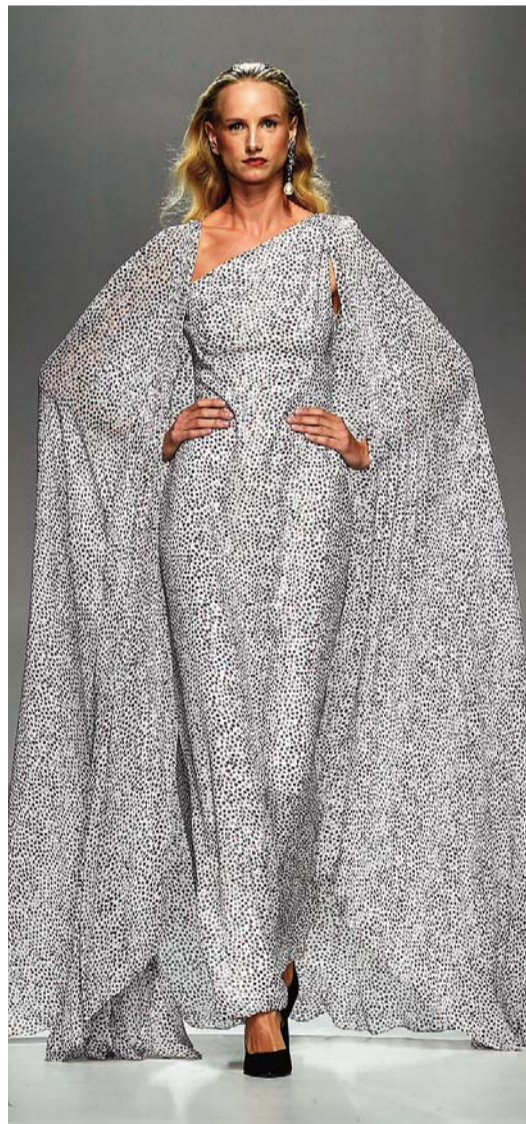
Organized by the Arab Fashion Council, which represents the 22 countries of the Arab League, the week aims to attract fashion-conscious women from the Gulf, as well as luxury buyers from Russia and China. Alina Cocci, who came from Milan to attend the week, told AFP after Chalhoub's show that she found the Arab designers "amazing". "They're very particular. They have this oriental touch that we Europeans don't have, so this is something interesting," said the Italian, who works in the fashion industry.

She did however criticize the "organization" of the event, with shows being delayed for at least an hour-and-a-half every day, adding that unlike in Paris and Milan, Arab Fashion Week has attracted a limited audience. Russian artist and fashion illustrator Alena Ogden said that "it's very different from other countries," with more evening gowns on display.



French-Lebanese designer Ingie Chalhoub waves at the end of her show during the Arab Fashion Week.

Designers showcasing their pieces at the Dubai show "know their clients very well, the Arab women, so that's why it's all... gowns (that are) so bright, shiny, and extravagant but not much street fashion." Asked if she had Arab customers in mind when designing her collection, Chalhoub insisted that "today there is no such fashion that is only for the Middle East or only for Paris." "With the internet... fashion is becoming more and more global!" — AFP



Models present creations by French-Lebanese designer Ingie Chalhoub during the Arab Fashion Week in the United Arab Emirate of Dubai.—AFP photos



Models present creations by Palestinian designer Jamal Taslaq during the Arab Fashion Week.



Models present creations by Italian designer Giada Curti.

Models present creations by Italian designer Giada Curti (right) during the Arab Fashion Week.

Models present creations by Palestinian designer Jamal Taslaq (left) during the Arab Fashion Week.



Dancers of the Szeged Contemporary Dance Company perform on the stage of the Arts' Palace in Budapest during their rehearsal of the play 'ARTH' choreographed by Hungarian Tamas Juronics for Polish composer Henryk Gorecki's 4th Symphony. The premiere will be held on October 10. — AFP

Iran players say hijab no reason for world chess boycott

Female Iranian chess players have hit back at calls by opponents of the country's Islamic dress code for a boycott of February's world championships in Tehran, saying the campaign hurts Iranian women. Since the Islamic revolution of 1979, Iran has required women to wear the Islamic headscarf in public places and US chess champion Nazi Paikidze-Barnes has said she will boycott the Tehran championships because she refuses to wear the hijab.

"This campaign against the tournament is against Iranian women and it doesn't help at all," Sara Khademalsharieh, a 19-year-old international master, told AFP. "It's the first time we are hosting a world championship, not only in chess but (in any) sport, and I think it's very important for Iranian women to have this chance to hold such major events." Her comments were echoed by teammate Mitra Hejazipour, a 23-year-old grandmaster. "The hijab is not oppression. We are used to it and it's one of Iran's laws and we accept it," she said.

The US champion has launched a petition calling for the tournament to be moved. "I think it's unacceptable to host a Women's World Championship in a place where women do not have basic fundamental rights and are treated as second-class citizens," the 22-year-old Georgian-American wrote on Instagram. Her petition has been backed by some leading figures in chess, including Nigel Short, the British coach who once trained Iran's national team. Under Iranian law, women can only show their face, hands and feet in public and are supposed to wear only modest colours.

Over the years, women have pushed back the boundaries of the law, with many, particularly in the capital, wearing loose, brightly coloured headscarves far back on their heads. But they still risk fines and even lashings from "morality police" if they go too far. The head of Iran's chess federation, Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, said the calls for a boycott were unreasonable.



Iranian chess players Mitra Hejazipour (left) and Sara Khademalsharieh play at the Chess Federation in the capital Tehran. — AFP photos



"Everywhere in the world, there are rules on how to cover your body. There is no place in the world where people can wear nothing in public," he told AFP. The head of the World Chess Federation (FIDE), Geoffrey Borg, expressed surprise at the boycott campaign, saying federation members had not expressed "the slightest objection" when Iran was selected as host. "Chess players should respect the laws of countries," Borg told a Tehran press conference last week. "The only objections have been on personal pages, for which FIDE is not responsible," Iranian media quoted him as saying.

'Don't isolate Iran'
Khademalsharieh and Hejazipour said the interests of Iranian women were better served by engagement with the world than by boycotts. She pointed to the example of karate, in which women were previously banned from competing in the hijab. "Now (women wearing the hijab) are allowed and they are getting some medals and I think this helps Iranian women more than isolating the country," said Khademalsharieh. The chess world championship in Tehran is due to feature 64 players from 26 countries, including three from Iran, with the winner receiving \$60,000. So far, Paikidze-Barnes is the only selected player to

announce a boycott. "I am not anti-Islam or any other religion," the US champion wrote on Instagram. "I'm protesting... not because of Iran's religion or people, but for the government's laws that are restricting my rights as a woman." Pahlevanzadeh said the Iranian chess federation had never faced any problem hosting previous tournaments-including the women's Grand Prix held in Iran earlier this year. "We have organized many tournaments for women before. Many women from Nazi's own country Georgia have joined the tournaments," he said. "I'm sure after visiting Iran, she'll change her mind." — AFP