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NO: 17026 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

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grabs medals**

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KUWAITI WOMEN JOIN NA RACE



KUWAIT: (Clockwise) Kuwaiti former MP Safaa Al-Hashem, Farah Sadiq, Dr Ghadeer Aseeri and Abeer Jumaa register to run as candidates for the upcoming parliamentary election in Kuwait City yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Local Spotlight

FAKE MEDICS IN JLEEB



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

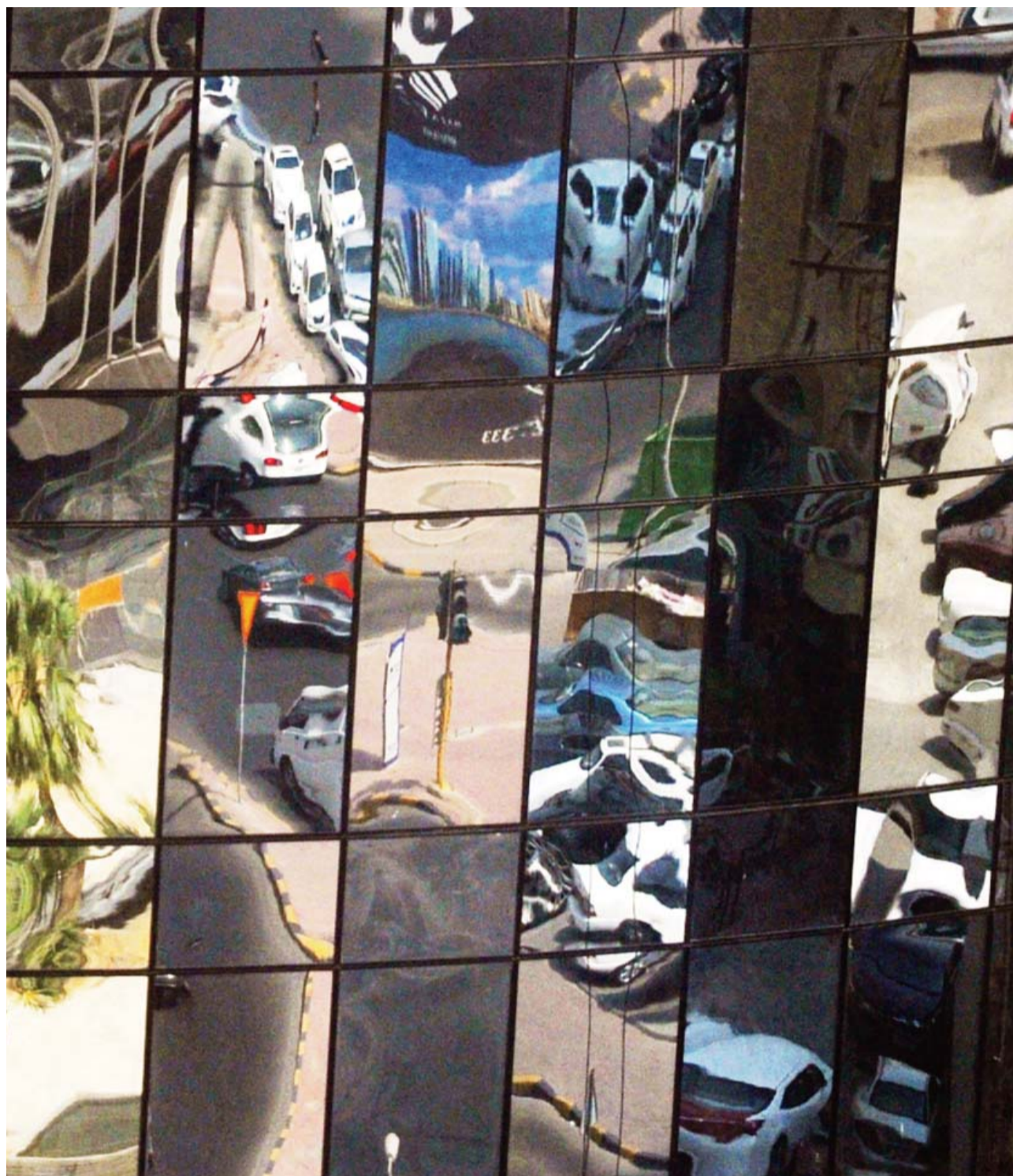
Recently, police arrested two Asians for illegally practicing medicine in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. One of these men claimed to be a doctor, while the other pretended to be a pharmacist. I would assume that since a large number of residents in this area are mostly of limited income, many living illegally without residency and unemployed, it's no surprise anyone can call himself a doctor there.

Do we have a problem with this area? The fact is that we have abandoned an area in Kuwait with no supervision or decent services, so when someone falls sick, he accepts the devil to treat him as long as he stops the pain, even if it's only a toothache. This is the truth, I believe. If you were about to die of pain and have no money for medical treatment and of course no civil ID, would you care to check a person's certificates? No you won't. Let's keep in mind that people with no legal documents can't use public clinics in the area, because they have nothing to prove their legal residency in the country. It is too much of a risk for them.

They probably know that these men are not certified from a reputed medical school, but they have no choice. The worst thing is that these fake doctors had a third party that supplied them with medications. The suspects were arrested with a large quantity of Ministry of Health medicines, and they confessed that a cleaner who works at a public hospital was their supplier. He stole these medicines and passed it to them. I would assume that he was making money out of it.

I believe the cleaner's hands are no less dirty than these two fake medics, because he benefited from our carelessness and lack of supervision of an official department such as a pharmacy that belongs to the Ministry of Health. So he kept stealing the medicines and gave it to those crooks. The problem doesn't end with arresting these three men and sending them to jail, as they may continue their quackery with prisoners too. A new gang can replace them, and it could only be a matter of time.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



The front glass of a building reflects the surrounding Kuwait City. — Photo by Jaber Abdulkhaleq/KUNA

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Artist Mohammed Al-Hemd

ARTIST EXPLORES THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

Understand the past to comprehend the present

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

History tells us war crimes committed in the name of religion are not confined to one belief. An artist from Kuwait has attempted to compare in a semi-otic manner crimes committed during the Dark Ages to current issues. Mohammed Al-Hemd also visually explains why crimes are continuing to be executed against the human race every day.

Hemd was born and raised in Kuwait. He got a bachelor's degree in engineering, followed by a second in graphic design, because he realized that he needed to focus on his artistic career. His works have been featured at various regional exhibitions since 2014. Recently, he wrapped up 'Indulgences: Reborn', a solo exhibition at the Contemporary Art Platform of Kuwait (CAP).

According to Hemd, as history tends to repeat itself, no matter what we do, our world is stuck in a vortex. "Time is not to blame. We should strive to learn from our mistakes as well as from the many lessons that are scattered throughout history. The past gave us free lessons, and we must avoid repeating the same mistakes that our ancestors made. We have to learn more about the past and its nuances - the present has always mirrored the past but in a different style," Hemd told Kuwait Times.

Indulgences: Reborn, an installation project, was shaped by the bombing of the Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque in 2015. Hemd realized

that there is no simple truth and he had to learn and investigate. "I couldn't believe such horror was happening in Kuwait. As a matter of fact, the entire nation was in shock. How could a human being carry out such an evil act and harm innocent people as well as himself? While thinking over this tragedy, the concept of the installation started to build up, piece by piece. The video is primarily inspired by the investigator's reports, where they highlighted the last hour of the suicide bomber's life," noted Hemd.

Terrorism has no faith, nationality or gender, although it speaks with one language - the language of weapons and destruction. On the other hand, accommodating radical ideology differs from one country to another. Therefore, targeting two groups of audiences can be a very thorny and slippery matter.

"My installation bridges the gap of understanding between non-Muslims and Muslims, as well as cautions Muslims about the peril of the extremists' agenda. With that in mind, it was not difficult to create an artwork that speaks to both audiences. Moreover, I understand some of the cultural backdrop that created the viewpoints that both groups see the world through. In addition, I tried to balance the perspective of both these worlds, so that everyone feels that the artworks speak to them directly," Hemd explained.

The installation tackled three taboos in media and art - politics, sex and religion,

and there is no doubt that it may be judged by these criteria. "The key word is respect. I took into consideration other people's feelings and avoided offending anyone. I did not want to produce provocative pieces without a purpose. In fact, there are rewards in censorship - it unleashed my

creativity to proclaim my message in spite of restrictions," concluded Hemd.

Hemd is now working on touring with his work around the world after the positive feedback he got from critics and connoisseurs, hoping for success in his mission.

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Local weightlifter wins medals in international competition

'Steroid use common in Kuwait'

By Nawara Fattahova

Captain Ahmad Ashkanani won the silver medal at the international bodybuilding competition Mr Olympia held in September in the US, and is bursting with pride. This professional men's bodybuilding contest at Joe Weider's Olympia Fitness and Performance Weekend is organized annually by the International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness (IFBB).

The 31-year-old Kuwaiti is satisfied with his accomplishment. "This title is a pride for Kuwait and Arab nations, as I was the only Arab winner in this contest. I ranked second in the 212 pounds category, and this is a great achievement. Participants only qualify for this competition after winning local contests, so it's not just registering and participating - it's a competition for professionals," Ashkanani told Kuwait Times.

Work hard, train hard

Ashkanani is a sports teacher at a public school and also works as a personal trainer at a private gym. He trains six days a week for about two hours daily, divided into two periods - morning and evening. When preparing for a championship, he changes his method of training, but not the duration. "I'm the second Arab national and the first Kuwaiti to participate in this contest. Unfortunately, many people here are jealous of my success, while they should be proud," he lamented.

Nutrition is also important to remain in top shape. "I eat special food the entire year. This food is free of sugar and fats, while rich in carbohydrates," Ashkanani said. Grace and symmetry are the main aspects for evaluating competitors. "Some participants have overbuilt muscles and bodies, which are not very appealing, and the judging committee decides. They see participants from four angles in normal positions to see the shape of the body in general. They also judge the level of body dehydration. This is the reason behind seeing lines on the face of most bodybuilders, as they are mostly dehydrated for the last 10 or 12 hours before the contest by not consuming water. Bodybuilders are now using Botox and fillers to beautify their faces," he explained.

Ashkanani started training and bodybuilding when he was only 16. "My first local participation in a bodybuilding championship was in 2002, when I was 18 years old. In 2010, I participated for the first time in an international contest. I have

won various titles and medals, but the latest one at Mr Olympia is my most important medal. In the beginning, my family was against this activity, but after I got married and had a baby, they considered I was old enough to make such decisions!" he exclaimed.

Steroid use in Kuwait

Using steroids is very popular among most bodybuilders. According to Ashkanani, using steroids in a proper way and dose is not harmful, but admits steroids are not allowed to be used at the gym. "I advise young men who aim to build strong muscles to use food supplements under the supervision of specialists. Many youths take steroids in the wrong way, which may harm their health. They should always consult a doctor or at least a trainer before consuming anything. I even addressed a symposium at one of the boys' schools to make students aware of this wrong usage and the danger it may cause to their bodies," he noted.

Using steroids in the wrong way may cause many health complications. "It may cause hypotension, kidney failure, liver complications and heart enlargement or inflammation, as this is an alien material and may cause deformation of muscles. I can't provide more info on this issue as I'm not a certified doctor or specialist in hormones," stressed Ashkanani.

He also gives training advice and posts videos on social media. "I have various groups on WhatsApp to which I send training instructions and videos in the morning, so when they come in the afternoon, they are prepared, and I only correct some moves. I even have groups outside Kuwait and I send them training videos. I only train men, and don't advise practicing bodybuilding before the age of 16. In this gym, those who are under 18 cannot even enter," Ashkanani told Kuwait Times.

Ashkanani called upon the government to support this sport. "The government is not paying attention to bodybuilders. Although Kuwaiti players in this sport have reached top positions internationally, they are not respected or supported by the government. When I was participating in Mr Olympia, they didn't even give me sports leave from my work to travel to the US, so I had to deduct it from my annual leave. Also, we don't get any financial support and have to buy all our stuff ourselves. This includes the supplements, gym membership, special food, etc. I really hope the government supports us," he concluded.





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German Business Council visits NBK Museum



A delegation of members from the German Business Council in Kuwait toured the historic museum of the National Bank of Kuwait in Sharq this week.

The delegation included a number of ambassadors, businessmen and representatives of various local and international institutions, as part of the bank's strategy aiming to strengthen relations with the business community.

Salah Al Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Kuwait, and a number of the bank's top executives led the delegation on a tour. The German Business Council delegation also included a group of diplomats from other European countries including Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden as well as representatives from the Embassy of the United States of America. Business leaders and officials from various sectors includ-

ing trade, industry, health and education, Kuwait Investment Authority, Kuwait Industries Company, Mercedes, Siemens, Merrill Lynch, Equate Petrochemical Industries, KDD, Jarallah Clinics, Taiba Clinic, The Australian College of Kuwait, and Kuwait Airways were also in attendance.

National Bank of Kuwait serves Kuwait through building strategic relations and cementing a culture of constructive partnerships with different sectors across the country, as well as providing all possible support for Kuwait's development in order to promote the national economy.

The visit included a tour of various sections of the museum to highlight the history and heritage of Kuwait. The visitors were also briefed on the historic evolution of NBK.

The museum utilizes interactive audio-visual presentation technologies in featuring a wide range of rare historical documents and unique collectibles, which identifies Kuwait's history and the stages of the National Bank's establishment and its emergence as the first local bank and the first shareholding company in Kuwait and the Gulf region.

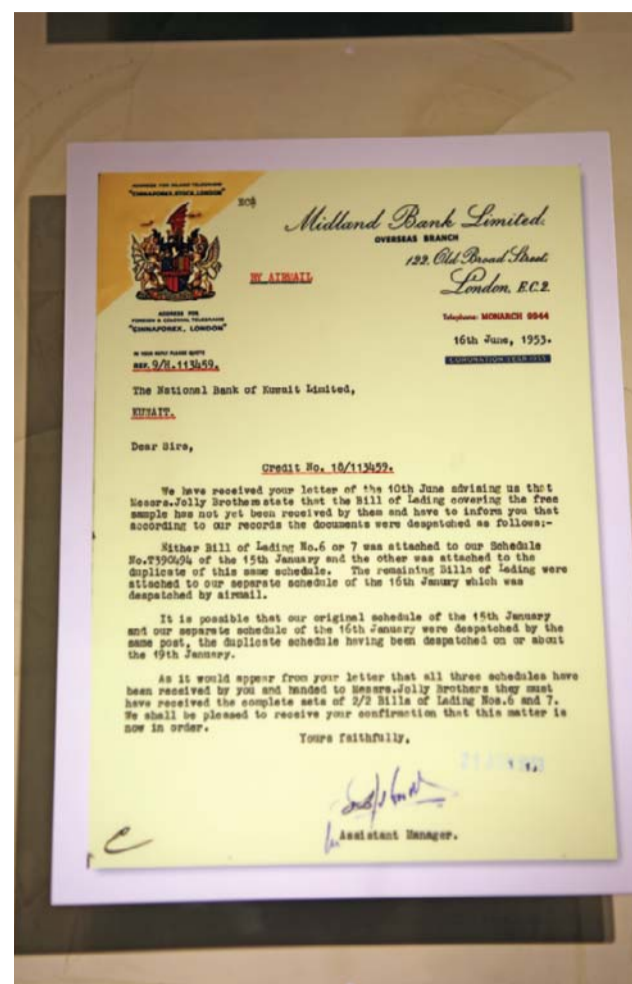
The German Business Council in Kuwait consists of a consortium of non-governmental and non-profit companies representing various German, Austrian, Swiss companies operating in Kuwait. The Council also includes businessmen and experts working in local companies. The Council aims to promote and strengthen trade relations between Germany and Kuwait, through the creation of a platform that allows businessmen from both the German and Kuwaiti sides to exchange views and ideas.





Salah Al Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Kuwait, speaking to a delegation from the German Business Council during the tour of the historic NBK museum in Kuwait City this week.

— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and National Bank of Kuwait



KUWAIT ONE OF THE TOP NATIONS EMPLOYING WOMEN 'YOUNG ARAB WOMEN LEADERS'

KUWAIT: Kuwait is one of the top countries in the region that employ women, Chairwoman of Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) Haifa Al-Kaylani said yesterday. Al-Kaylani made the statement during a speech at the 8th AIWF Conference "Young Arab Women Leaders", adding that Kuwait ranked first amongst Arab countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2014. The one-day event, which is held in collaboration with Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, discussed contributions of both the private and public sectors to aiding women and youth in business and projects

development, she noted.

She indicated that the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs has made several successes in supporting women and youth. "The ministry backed 250 projects and initiatives to help the Kuwaiti youth enhance their capabilities," she stated. Al-Kaylani said that the young Arab women leadership has been a milestone in the mission of AIWF over the past 15 years in terms of promoting education and training on leadership, and building capabilities as well as strengthening relations between women and youth in all sectors.

Youth unemployment is a major challenge facing the region, she stressed, calling for overcoming these issues so as to avoid social disorders in some countries. She pointed out that studies show that the rates of employment of young women is much lower than that of youth men in most regions across the globe. She said the labor laws in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states make largely balance between the rates of employment of women and men, noting that the rates of women in workforce are the highest in the region.

The Kuwaiti women have been an outstanding mark in business for a long time, she said, adding that there are many examples of women who made success in many fields in the country.

Up to 70 percent of the Kuwaiti women are university graduates, she stated. The Kuwaiti women make up at least 30 percent of the total number of lawyers, she said, indicating that the women in 2005 were appointed as ministers for the first time, and occupied seats at the National Assembly and governmental posts. — KUNA

Crime

Report

FEMALE STUDENTS INJURED IN COLLEGE CAMPUS FIGHT

KUWAIT: Four female students were injured during a fight at the Basic Education College in which miscreants used perfume bottles to attack their rivals. Students used water to break up the fight. One of the injured was taken to hospital while the remaining three were treated at the college. The fight started during a discussion over results of students' elections. As police are not allowed to enter the campus, they waited outside while students inside sprayed water on the fighters and broke up the fight.

Ex-cop steals delivery car

A former policeman stole a delivery car and drove it to a cafe to get a shisha. According to a complaint, an Asian who was delivering an order to Salmiya was stopped by a person who beat him up and drove off with his car. The Asian told police about what happened. The detectives found the car parked in front of a Jahra cafe and they waited to see who will drive it. The detectives saw a man who got into the car and they caught him after a violent resistance.

Indian run over

An Indian was run over and killed in Jahra while the female driver was sent to police station. The Indian's body was recovered by the coroner.

Firearm for protection!

A Saudi said the firearm found with him when he entered the country was for his protection from criminals. He also had KD 8,000 cash before his attempt was foiled by customs officials. The Saudi was sent to concerned authorities.

Expat beats wife

An Egyptian vented his anger at his wife by beating her and she lodged a complaint against him. The woman submitted a medical report from Farwaniya hospital stating that she sustained cuts and bruises from the attack. According to her, the husband returned home angry and when she asked what was wrong he swore at her and beat her up.

Strange license plate

A citizen who went to Mubarak Al-Abdallah cooperative was surprised to see a car that bore a strange license plate on it. The citizen called Bayan police and a patrol was dispatched to the scene. The car was checked before referring the issue to concerned authorities. The license plates belonged to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Case of felony

A citizen deliberately hurt his neighbor by unleashing his dog on the neighbor. The victim said in his complaint that the hurt was not only from the bites but he was affected emotionally also. According to the report, he was haunted by the incident and could not sleep. The case was filed as a crime of felony by Ahmadi prosecutor.

MANDOUB ARRESTED FOR ISSUING WORK PERMITS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested a mandoub named Nabaeel Talaat Ahmad, an Egyptian on forgery charges. A citizen complained to police that 35 work permits were registered in the name of his company without his knowledge.

Following investigations, it was found out that the Egyptian mandoub carried out the transactions and that he was charging KD 550 per transaction to

obtain a residency permit.

Bogus office

The department also arrested 37 Asians for running a bogus domestic help office in Mahboula.



ILLEGAL PLASTIC SURGERIES

Three Asians were arrested for performing illegal plastic surgeries on both male and female customers. They had an Instagram account to advertise and promote their illegal activities.

KUWAIT, NATO DISCUSS BOOSTING MILITARY TIES

BRUSSELS: Kuwait Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khoder and Chief of Staff of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) General Werner Freers discussed military cooperation, including Kuwait's participation in upcoming military drills late Wednesday. In a statement to KUNA yesterday, Al-Khoder hailed the role played by NATO to protect international peace and security, adding that the NATO was an important part of liberating Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation in 1991. The Kuwaiti delegation visited the headquarters of SHAPE at the city of Mons, 70 klm south of Brussels. The first-ever visit of senior Kuwaiti army officials is set from October 19 to 22 by an invitation from the NATO.

Efforts against terror

In another development, Kuwait Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday Kuwait supports efforts to strengthen the international coalition against terrorism and current challenges in the Gulf region. Sheikh Azzam was

speaking on margins of a news conference, where the Commander of Bahrain's Royal Guard Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa announced organizing Bahrain International Defense Exhibition and Conference. The planned conference, Sheikh Azzam has noted, reflects the continuous efforts to fight terrorism. Sheikh Nasser said it will be organized in October next year. Patronized by the King, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the convention will tackle regional issues, namely terrorism.

Kuwait lauds UN efforts

Meanwhile, Kuwait has extolled unrelenting efforts by the United Nations in translating the charter of international cooperation to address economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues. This came yesterday during a speech delivered by Mariam Al-Zaid, a member of Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the UN, before the meetings of the commissions held on the sidelines of the 71st session of UN General Assembly aiming to discuss situations facing some countries.

The UN takes into consideration the right of each country to develop its resources and capabilities which go harmony with its conditions and priorities so as to achieve sustainable development, she said. She urged development partners to assume their responsibilities and provide aid to the under-developed countries.

She expressed appreciation of Kuwait to the UN efforts aiming to overcome challenges hindering countries suffering from special situations through generalizing the principles of Vienna Program of Action and Istanbul Program of Action in terms of national strategies of these countries towards achieving development aspirations. Al-Zaid stressed the necessity of enhancing the principles of peace and security as they are part and parcel of development, and harnessing technology, science and innovation to achieve the aspired development goals. She stated that Kuwait, since its establishment, has been working on promoting international cooperation in the area of development.—Agencies

KUWAIT: The Instagram account

GULF GROWTH FORECASTS CUT FURTHER

MUCH BIGGER DEFICIT SEEN FOR KUWAIT AS AUSTERITY STALLS

DUBAI: Analysts are continuing to cut economic growth forecasts for big Gulf Arab economies despite rebounding oil prices, suggesting they do not expect oil above \$50 a barrel to let governments ease austerity policies, a quarterly Reuters poll found. Oil has bounced above \$50 in recent weeks from around \$30 early this year, after Saudi Arabia changed course and decided to support output cuts by OPEC. Yesterday's poll of 18 private sector economists, conducted in the past couple of weeks, showed they expect dearer oil to benefit Saudi state finances; their median forecast for Saudi Arabia's fiscal deficit is now 12.1 percent of gross domestic product this year and 7.8 percent next year.

Those numbers are still very high by inter-

national standards but an improvement from the July poll, when analysts predicted a deficit of 13.5 percent this year and 9.4 percent in 2017. Nevertheless, growth forecasts for Saudi Arabia have not risen. The analysts now expect gross domestic product to expand 1.1 percent this year, against 1.2 percent in the last poll, and 1.4 percent next year compared to 1.7 percent. Spending cuts designed to bring the budget deficit under control are weighing on consumer spending, and a senior International Monetary Fund official told Reuters this week Riyadh had little room to slow its austerity drive.

The performance of Saudi Arabia's economy "will be determined by the fiscal consolidation and the ongoing monetary squeeze as

weak deposit growth and high government borrowing keep monetary conditions tight," said Simon Williams, regional chief economist for HSBC. "With external demand likely to remain subdued, we expect these weak drivers to cap growth at around 1.5 percent. This pace of expansion will stand some three to four percentage points below the oil-boom average, and is likely to see unemployment in the overwhelmingly young country rise."

A separate poll of energy analysts in a Reuters poll earlier this month were not convinced OPEC's proposal to cut output for the first time since 2008 would result in much higher prices. Elsewhere in the Gulf, analysts cut their GDP growth forecasts for the United Arab Emirates, the region's second biggest

Arab economy, to 2.3 percent from 2.5 percent for this year, and to 2.5 percent from 2.7 percent for next year. Predictions were also lowered for Qatar for both years.

The median forecast for the UAE's fiscal deficit was lowered to 5.4 percent of GDP this year from 6.4 percent. But Qatar, Oman and Bahrain are expected to run larger deficits this year than previously forecast. Kuwait is now expected to run a 12.8 percent deficit this year instead of 5.3 percent, and 3.0 percent next year instead of 1.5 percent. Domestic political tensions have delayed austerity measures planned by the cabinet, and parliamentary elections called for Nov. 26 may cause some steps to be watered down, at least temporarily.—Reuters

News

In brief

KBA quashes media reports on loans without invoices

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) yesterday quashed media reports on the possibility of receiving loans from local banks without offering invoices on how they are spent. In a press statement, the association termed the reports as groundless, and run counter to instructions of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the banking policies on consumer and installment loans. It urged the media to be accurate and coordinate with concerned bodies to get true and correct data, so as to avoid publishing untrue news that negatively affect financial positions of country's banks and economic institutions. It called on citizens and residents who have transactions with banks not to follow such incorrect news regarding bank loans.

Foreign Minister, French counterpart hold talks

PARIS: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks with French counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault in Paris yesterday. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Ayrault discussed means of boosting bilateral ties in all fields, besides regional and international developments of common concern. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Mohammad Al-Sulaiman, Assistant Foreign Minister for Follow-up and Coordination Affairs Ambassador Nasser Al-Sabeeh and a host of the foreign ministry's senior officials. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled is leading a Kuwaiti delegation to an international ministerial-level meeting on restoring stability in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul that opened in Paris today.

GCC handicrafts forum for disabled women kicks off

DOHA: The first GCC handicrafts forum for disabled women kicked off on Wednesday in the Qatari capital with participation of a number of ministries, state authorities, civil community bodies, and private sectors in Gulf countries. The two-day event aims at raising public awareness on the rights of handicapped women, including the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, bolstering communication, backing Gulf women's handicraft skills, highlighting the positive aspects of disabled women, and empowering disabled women to fully integrate in their society, Mona Al-Nuaimi, head of the forum's organizing committee, said in her opening speech. GCC countries are committed to provide social, health, legal, rehabilitation, cultural, and arts care programs for the disabled to empower them to be active members in their society, and secure a decent life for them, Al-Nuaimi added.

FOUR WOMEN AMONG 61 NEW CANDIDATES

EX-MPS URGE OPPOSITION TO TAKE PART IN FULL FORCE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Four women were among 61 new candidates who filed nomination papers yesterday for the national election in the second day of registration, raising the total number of hopefuls to 132. Prominent among yesterday's candidates was former MP Safaa Al-Hashem, the only female member in the dissolved Assembly, who resigned along with four other MPs in protest against the unfavorable situation in the Assembly. Others include; Abeer Jumaa, Farah Sadiq and Ghadeer Aseeri.

Hashem blamed the government of failing to handle the economic issue, saying that the budget deficit is unreal and the government had all the means to maintain the welfare services in the country. She said that voters should be convinced to take part in the election in order to make the change, adding that the previous assembly created problems. Hashem's brother, Salah, made an interesting move by filing his nomination in the second constituency while she will contest in the third. MP Mousa said he believes that 30 percent to 40 percent of the Assembly members will be changed.

Yesterday's candidates included eight members from the dissolved house and four former lawmakers including two figures from the opposition who decided to take part. Registration of candidates will end on October 28 after which withdrawals door will remain open until four days before the November 26 general polls. Prominent among new candidates were Saleh Ashour, Khalil Al-Saleh, Askar Al-Enezi, Ali Al-Khamees, Majed Mousa, Hamdan Al-Azemi, Kamel Al-Awadhi and Hamad Al-Harashani - all were members in the dissolved Assembly. Former opposition MPs Ali Al-Deqbasi and Adel Al-Damkhi, both key figures in the opposition groups who decided to end the four-year boycott of the election. The two urged other opposition figures to



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti former MP Safaa Al-Hashem registers to run as a candidate for the upcoming parliamentary election yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

return to help rescue the country from corruption.

Damkhi said that it was time for all the opposition to end their boycott and contest the election in order to put an end to deteriorating political and legislative situation. Deqbasi, who last month resigned from the nationalist Popular Action Movement in order to contest the election, also made a passionate call for the opposition. He said the attacks against opposition figures at present is aimed at preventing them from contesting the polls and thus keep them away from the National Assembly.

Deqbasi strongly defended the decision of the opposition to boycott the

election in 2012 in protest against the government's unilateral amendment of the voting system. He said that if the time comes again, he would take the same move. Deqbasi lashed out at the existing voting and voter distribution systems, saying they are unfair and do not achieve justice among citizens. The former lawmaker also vowed to continue to cooperate and coordinate with the opposition.

A large number of former opposition MPs are expected to take a decision over the weekend on whether to fight the election or not amid strong indications that the majority of them are inclined to contest the polls.

Friday Times International

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

Syria army urges residents to quit Aleppo as ceasefire begins



Trump refuses pledge to respect a Clinton win



Philippines' Duterte, in China, announces 'separation' from US



IRAQ: Iraqi forces sit in the back of a vehicle as troops advance through the desert on the banks of the Tigris river, northeast of the main staging base of Qayyarah, yesterday during an operation against Islamic State (IS) group jihadists to retake the main hub city of Mosul.—AFP

SAUDI SOCIAL MEDIA USERS SEE PRINCE'S EXECUTION AS SIGN OF EQUALITY

RIYADH/DOHA: Saudi social media users interpret the rare execution of an Al Saud prince as a sign of equality under Islamic law, approval likely to reassure Riyadh's absolute rulers as large spending cuts test the kingdom's welfare-based social contract.

Prince Turki bin Saud al-Kabir was found guilty of shooting dead another Saudi national during a brawl and was executed after a royal order by King Salman, the interior ministry said on Tuesday.

Members of the ruling family, estimated to number several thousand, have only rarely been executed. A prince who assassinated his uncle, King Faisal, was beheaded in 1975 and a princess was shot dead for adultery two years later. In 2004, a young prince who had gunned down an acquaintance was pardoned by the victim's father at the last minute, after arriving at Riyadh's execution square.

News of the execution, which comes as the government is asking Saudis to accept unprecedented austerity, was welcomed by Saudis online, including royal family members who said King Salman had been "decisive" and "fair".

Law of GOD

Khalid al-Saud, an academic and royal family member, wrote on a Twitter account: "This is the law of God Almighty, and this is the approach of our blessed nation."

"A just ruler of the Islamic nation rules by the legitimacy of Islam," tweeted Saudi journalist Nasser bin Fareon. Social media users shared a clip of a previous speech by King Salman to Saudi officials telling citizens they should not fear suing royal family members if they had suffered injustice. Mohammed al-Masloukhi, the imam of the Safa mosque in

Riyadh, said the family of the victim had declined to accept hundreds of millions of riyals in "blood money". "God does not differentiate between a merchant and a poor man, nor between a prince and a citizen," he tweeted. But a Saudi university student from Jeddah, who spoke on condition he be identified only as Bahah, said the ruling was a reaction to people's frustration with apparent impunity enjoyed by royals.

"It had to happen. It's impossible to continue forgiving members of the royal family who commit crimes," he said by telephone.

"There are political consequences for not prosecuting members of the family, (because) the victims can be members of big tribes. There has to be answers."

Saudi officials say the judicial system is impartial. Prominent commentator Jamal Khashoggi told Reuters Saudis were receptive

to the decision. "It's a sign of respect to the sharia (Islamic law). People like that," he said. While a culture of public respect for government endures in Saudi Arabia, it is one of the most active Arab societies online, and digital platforms are seen as a useful forum where official accountability can be assessed.

Al Saud members receive monthly stipends, and top princes command great wealth and political power - although only a few in the family hold nationally important government posts - at a time when ordinary Saudis face financial cutbacks. In a country where citizens have no vote, the government is planning educational and social reforms, apparently aiming to shore up public support and political stability. Saudi Arabia executed at least 151 people in 2015, the most since 1995, according to Amnesty, making it the third most prolific executioner after China and Iran. —Reuters



JERICO, WEST BANK: A laborer from the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities works at the site of a 7th century, 827 square meter (8900 square ft) mosaic ahead of the opening ceremony at the Islamic archaeological site of Hisham Palace yesterday.—AP

MASSIVE CARPET MOSAIC BRIEFLY UNCOVERED IN PALESTINIAN TOWN

JERICO, WEST BANK: Archaeologists have removed the protective cover from one of the Middle East's largest carpet mosaics - but only for a day.

Visitors got a glimpse yesterday of the sweeping geometric and floral patterns in vibrant red, blue and ochre stones. The 827-square-meter (8,900 square feet) mosaic covers the floor of the main bath house of an Islamic palace near the biblical town of Jericho. The palace was destroyed by an earthquake in the eighth century.

Since being excavated in the 1930s and 1940s, the mosaic largely remained hidden under canvas and soil to protect it against sun and rain. Tourism Minister Rula Ma'ayah says the mosaic, which depicts 38 scenes in 21 colors, will be covered again until construction of a protective roof is completed next year.—AP

ISRAEL POLICE DEFEND OFFICERS AFTER VIDEO EMERGES OF SHOOTING

JERUSALEM: Israeli police yesterday defended officers who shot dead a 19-year-old Palestinian accused of trying to stab them, after video emerged appearing to show them fire at her on the ground.

The incident on Wednesday in a tense area of the occupied West Bank saw the woman approach border police officers, ignore orders to stop and pull a knife, Israeli police said. The officers posted to the Tapuah junction in the north of the West Bank then opened fire at her.

Also known as Zaatarah junction and with Israeli settlements nearby, it has been the site of a number of violent incidents. Video later emerged appearing to show officers open fire on the woman, Raheeq Shajeyeh Youssef, after she was already on the ground. Four officers can be seen in the video. "Who fired?" a voice can be heard saying afterward. "The four of us," someone responds. It was not clear who filmed the video that appeared on the Ynet news site and elsewhere.

Inquiry opened

Police said an inquiry had been opened as is usually done with fatal incidents, but defended the officers. "The video shows a partial picture of the event," police spokeswoman Luba Samri said in a statement. "It is not possible to see the terrorist moving towards the officers while handling the knife and endangering their lives."

"From the recording of the event it is possible to see that immediately after the danger was neutralised and had passed, the officers stopped firing, closed the area and proceeded to do the follow-ups on the incident."

The Palestinian foreign ministry harshly criticised Wednesday's shooting, saying in a statement that "the recording shows the soldiers continued to shoot her despite her falling to the ground and not representing any threat to them." The ministry alleged the death was one of "dozens" of similar cases. Israeli security forces have been accused of using disproportionate force in a number of cases over the past year. — AFP

MOSUL OFFENSIVE GOING FASTER THAN PLANNED, IRAQI PM SAYS

FORCES LAUNCH NEW MILITARY OPERATION

MOSUL, IRAQ: The offensive to seize back Mosul from Islamic State is going faster than planned, Iraq's prime minister said yesterday, as Iraqi and Kurdish forces launched a new military operation to clear villages on the city's outskirts.

Howitzer and mortar fire started at dawn, hitting a group of villages held by Islamic State about 10-20 km (6-12 miles) from Mosul, while helicopters flew overhead, according to Reuters reporters at two frontline locations north and east of Mosul.

To the sound of machine gun fire and explosions, dozens of black Humvees of the elite Counter Terrorism Service (CTS), mounted with machine guns, headed towards Bartella, an abandoned Christian village just east of Mosul.

Militants were using suicide car-bombs, roadside bombs and snipers to resist the attack, and were pounding surrounding areas with mortars, a CTS commander said. Hours later, the head of Iraq's Special Forces, Lieutenant General Talib Shaghathi, told reporters at a command centre near the frontline that troops had surrounded Bartella and entered the centre of the village. Two soldiers were hurt and none killed, and they had killed at least 15 militants, he said. "After Bartella is Mosul, God willing." A cloud of black smoke wreathed some frontline villages, probably caused by oil fires, a tactic the militants use to escape air surveillance.

Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi, addressing anti-Islamic state coalition allies meeting in Paris by a video link, said: "The forces are pushing towards the town more quickly than we thought and more quickly than we had programmed." A US-led coalition that includes France, Italy, Britain, Canada and other Western nations is providing air and ground support to the forces that are closing in on the city in an operation that began on Monday.

Mosul is the last big stronghold held by Islamic State in Iraq and around five times the size of any other city the group has held. The push to capture it is expected to become the biggest battle fought in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion.

The United Nations says Mosul could require the biggest humanitarian relief operation in the world, with worst-case scenario forecasts of up to a million people being uprooted by the battle.

Some 1.5 million residents are still believed to be inside the city, and Islamic State fighters have a history of using civilians as human shields.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said controls were being put in place to check jihadists were not trying to insert themselves among those fleeing Mosul.

Bombs, bunkers and tunnels

On the northern front, Kurdish forces known as peshmerga shot down a small drone that had flown over from the Islamic State lines. It was not clear if the drone, 1 to 2 metres (yards) wide, was carrying explosives or being used for

reconnaissance.

"There have been times when they dropped explosives," said Halgurd Hasan, one of the Kurdish fighters deployed in a position overlooking the plain north of Mosul.

Ali Awni, a Kurdish officer, kept a handheld radio receiver open on a frequency used by Islamic State. "They are giving targets for their mortars," he said.

"Liberating Mosul is important for the security of Kurdistan," Awni added. "We will have to fight them in the mind as well, to defeat their ideology."

So far, advancing Kurdish troops

ment forces advance, to avoid revenge attacks or ethnic and sectarian blood-letting as fighters are driven out.

Western allies have sought to limit the role of Shi'ite militia fighters known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, which human rights groups say have carried out killings and kidnappings of Sunnis in other areas freed from Islamic State.

After the Paris meeting, Iraq's foreign minister offered reassurance: "In answer to those who criticise the PMF for behaving badly, this is not true ... They are part of the Iraqi forces and



ERBIL, IRAQ: This file photo taken on April 07, 2015 shows Athil al-Nujaifi, the governor of Mosul, speaking during a press conference about Iraqi forces' military operations to retake the city of Mosul and other Islamic State group-held territories in the Nineveh province. —AFP

have moved through villages outside the city, finding abandoned houses rigged with explosives and underground bunkers. In some cases, Islamic State fighters appear to have fled without putting up a fight.

"We did not face resistance from Daesh. They are retreating to Mosul and to Syria. They gave no resistance," peshmerga soldier Ahmed Midhat Abdullah told Reuters in the village of Nawaran, north of Mosul, where a Kurdish column of armored vehicles was advancing in the dusty desert terrain.

Daesh is an Arabic acronym for Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, which swept into Mosul and other parts of northern Iraq in 2014 and has used extreme violence to administer a self-proclaimed caliphate there and in parts of neighboring Syria.

"The objectives are to clear a number of nearby villages and secure control of strategic areas to further restrict ISIL's movements," the Kurdish general military command said in a statement announcing the launch of Thursday's operations.

Shi'ite militia

The area around Mosul is one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse parts of Iraq, and Western countries backing the assault are concerned that communities feel safe as the govern-

will be disbanded afterwards." Abadi said the Mosul advance demonstrated that Iraqis from all groups could fight in common cause, noting that it was the first time in 25 years that troops from the Baghdad government had entered territory controlled by the Kurdish region to fight alongside the peshmerga.

"Our war today in Mosul is an Iraqi war conducted by Iraqis for Iraqis and for the defence of Iraq's territory," he said. "Full Iraqi unity is shining through and more than ever showing the unity to vanquish terrorism."

Islamic State published a video showing masked fighters walking in single file up a street at night under the cover of trees, while an unidentified man, apparently their commander, pledged to defeat the United States in Iraq.

US President Barack Obama hopes to bolster his legacy by seizing back as much territory as he can from Islamic State before he leaves office in January. Islamic State "will be defeated in Mosul", Obama said on Tuesday, expecting the fight to be difficult.

Iraqi officials and residents of Mosul say Islamic State is preventing people from leaving the city, in effect using them as shields to complicate air strikes and the ground progress of attacking forces.—Reuters



ALEPPO: Opposition fighters from the Sham Legion look at flyers reportedly distributed by the government encouraging people to leave a rebel-held area yesterday.—FP

SYRIA ARMY URGES RESIDENTS TO QUIT ALEPPO AS CEASEFIRE BEGINS

RESIDENTS NOT HEEDING CALLS TO LEAVE

ALEPPO: A “humanitarian pause” in the Syrian army’s Russian-backed assault on Aleppo took effect yesterday, but despite a drop in violence there was little sign residents were heeding calls to leave.

The UN said it hoped to carry out the first medical evacuations from Aleppo on Friday, after getting clearance from all warring parties and a pledge from Russia to extend the truce until Saturday. The unilateral ceasefire began at 8:00 am (0500 GMT) and was to last at least 11 hours, with the aim of allowing civilians and fighters to evacuate the city’s opposition-controlled east. Gunfire and artillery exchanges erupted around a crossing point near the rebel-controlled Bustan al-Qasr district shortly after the pause began, an AFP correspondent said. State news agency SANA said “terrorist groups” had targeted the area around the corridor with rocket, machinegun and sniper fire “in an attempt to hinder the humanitarian pause”. But by afternoon, the clashes had subsided and the east was calm, though the streets were empty.

The UN said Russia had pledged to extend the truce until Saturday night and the Syrian army had earlier said it would last three days. Yesterday its soldiers were calling through loudspeakers for residents to “seize the chance” to evacuate. Russia announced the ceasefire earlier this week, amid growing international pressure over its support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s campaign to recapture the city.

More than 300,000 people have been killed since Syria’s conflict began

in March 2011, and the violence in Aleppo has been described as some of the worst of the war.

‘Goodwill gesture’

Russia says the pause is a “goodwill gesture” but rebel groups have said they will not abandon their posts and many civilians fear falling into the hands of the regime forces that surround Aleppo. Western powers have also expressed skepticism. European Union leaders gathered for a summit in Brussels on Thursday were to strongly condemn Syria and Russia over Aleppo and were weighing sanctions.

More than 250,000 civilians have been trapped in the rebel-held east of the city under near-continuous siege since mid-July. The Syrian army has said it is opening eight corridors for civilians to leave, two of which can also be used by rebel fighters provided they leave behind their weapons.

The Russian defense ministry was streaming live video from several of the corridors, showing waiting ambulances and buses along empty roads. An AFP photographer in government-held west Aleppo said seven injured people had crossed via the Bustan al-Qasr crossing despite the fighting. But AFP correspondents in the east visited four crossing points and saw no movement through them.

Yasser Youssef of the Nureddine al-Zinki rebel group said opposition fighters wanted “nothing to do” with the Russian initiative. “Who are they to decide to displace the Syrian people who rebelled against the dictator Assad?” he asked.

Afraid to leave

Some civilians interviewed by AFP said they were eager to leave but wanted more reassurance they would be safe. “I don’t want to risk my life or my family’s by being among the first to leave,” said Mohammed Shayah, an unemployed father of four.

More than 2,000 people have been wounded since the army launched a new offensive last month aiming to take the entire city, according to the United Nations. Some 400 have been killed. The UN’s humanitarian task-force chief Jan Egeland said yesterday that Russia, the Syrian government, and rebels had given permission for medical evacuations from Aleppo to start on today. “We hope that the first medical evacuations can take place tomorrow,” he said, adding that the UN hoped to also deliver food to besieged east.

The civilian toll in Aleppo has drawn international condemnation, with Washington saying the bombardment could amount to a war crime. Moscow has dismissed the accusation as propaganda and demanded that rebels break ranks with the former Al-Qaeda affiliate, the Fateh al-Sham Front. In Brussels on Thursday, EU leaders were weighing sanctions against supporters of Assad’s regime, according to a draft summit statement obtained by AFP. EU President Donald Tusk said the organization should keep all options open in dealing with Russia, “including sanctions,” if it continues its “crimes” in Aleppo. Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May urged a “robust and united” European approach to Russian “atrocities” in Syria. —AFP

HARIRI BACKS AOUN AS PRESIDENT IN STEP TOWARDS ENDING DEADLOCK

BEIRUT: Lebanon’s former prime minister Saad al-Hariri said yesterday he would back Hezbollah ally Michel Aoun to become president, a step that may help resolve the country’s political deadlock but which still faces considerable opposition. “This decision comes from the need to protect Lebanon and the state and the people ... but it is a decision that depends on agreement,” he said in a speech, describing Aoun as “the only option left”.

Lebanon has endured a protracted political crisis since parliament failed to elect a new president more than two years ago, paralyzing government, causing a breakdown in many basic services and reviving fears of a slide back towards civil war.

However, Aoun will still face big obstacles towards his election as president by the country’s parliament, including opposition from parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi’ite Amal movement which is also an ally of Hezbollah.

Four prominent members of Hariri’s Future Movement bloc in parliament, including former prime minister Fouad Siniora, told reporters they would not vote for Aoun. Telecom Minister Boutros Harb, an ally of Hariri’s from a different party, said the same.

Still, the endorsement by Hariri, Lebanon’s leading Sunni Muslim politician who has long opposed Aoun’s Shi’ite ally Hezbollah, represents an important step towards breaking the prolonged standoff between Lebanon’s political leaders.

Hariri hopes to become prime minister again if Aoun becomes president. Hezbollah, Lebanon’s most powerful political player, released a statement welcoming moves to fill the presidency.

“In our discussions, we have finally reached common ground with General Michel Aoun ... He does not want the state to fall, and neither do we,” Hariri said, pointing to the political dangers facing Lebanon due to the civil war in neighboring Syria.

Power sharing

Parliament will convene on Oct. 31 for a session to elect the president, the 46th such sitting since the term of the last president, Michel Suleiman, expired in 2014, each of which failed to gain the two-thirds quorum needed for a vote.

Under Lebanon’s power-sharing arrangement among its main sects, the presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian, the premiership for a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of parliament for a Shi’ite.

The last parliamentary election took place in 2009 and later scheduled ones were postponed because of a failure by the sitting parliament to agree on a new electoral law.

Aoun, a former army commander in his 80s, led one of two rival governments during Lebanon’s 1975-90 civil war before the Syrian army forced him into exile. His main Christian rival for the presidency, Samir Geagea, endorsed him earlier this year.

Hariri, 46, son of the former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri who was assassinated in 2005, leads the “March 14” alliance against Hezbollah and its allies, which toppled his earlier administration from 2009-11 by resigning from it en masse.

Lebanon’s political fractures have been deepened by the war in neighboring Syria, in which Hezbollah has militarily supported President Bashar al-Assad. Hariri has accused Assad of being behind his father’s death, and gave evidence to an international court trying Hezbollah members charged with involvement in the killing. But he has also said he is prepared to share power alongside his rivals.

The former prime minister’s position as Lebanon’s leading Sunni politician has been shaken, however, by a financial crisis at his Saudi-based construction business, raising concerns he may have lost the support of the wealthiest Sunni Arab state. —Reuters

UK SENDS WARSHIPS TO WATCH RUSSIAN SHIPS IN ENGLISH CHANNEL SAIL EN ROUTE TO SYRIA'S COAST

LONDON: Britain has deployed warships to monitor a Russian aircraft carrier group and other vessels yesterday as they sailed through the North Sea and the English Channel reportedly en route to Syria's coast. The frigate HMS Richmond escorted the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov and its task group in the Norwegian Sea north of the UK between Iceland and Norway. The Type 45 destroyer HMS Duncan has sailed from Portsmouth to monitor the group as heads south toward the North Sea.

The Royal Navy regularly shadows ships, and is being supported in this instance by the Royal Air Force. But this Russian deployment is somewhat different, in that only a few countries have the capability to deploy such a force - an aircraft carrier and supporting warships. "It's a clear and military

signal that Russia is back on the international stage," said Peter Roberts, a senior research fellow for sea power and maritime studies at the Royal United Services Institute.

The ships are sailing in international waters, so NATO forces such as those of Norway, the Netherlands and Britain will simply watch them go past without challenge. The Russian navy deployment will increase its firepower in Syria, where it has conducted an air campaign in support of President Bashar Assad's army for more than a year. It comes amid an offensive by Assad's troops on Aleppo, backed by Russian warplanes, which has caused international outrage.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has urged her European Union partners to unite in condemning Russia's role in Syria and bring an end to what

she called Moscow's "sickening atrocities" there.

Russia announced a break in fighting in Aleppo on Thursday, and the Syrian military, using loudspeakers, called on residents to evacuate. There was no sign of such a move. The pause to allow supplies into the besieged city comes even as a US-backed offensive intensifies to recapture the city of Mosul in Iraq from Islamic State militants.

With turmoil in the Middle East, Russia is keen to show that it is capable of expeditionary warfare in Syria. "They are off to conduct a mission. They are off to conduct it off Syria," Roberts said. "They are very focused on their mission."

UK Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said the military will watch the vessels "every step of the way."—AP



BARCELONA: This file photo taken on October 7, 2016 shows a woman holding a placard representing the map of Catalonia with two "banderillas" stabbed on it during a protest against bullfighting in front of the bullring in central Barcelona.—AFP

SPAIN'S TOP COURT CANCELS BULLFIGHTING BAN IN CATALONIA

MADRID: Spain's Constitutional Court yesterday cancelled a bullfighting ban in Catalonia in what is likely to exacerbate tensions between Madrid and the separatist region, and drew an outcry from animal activists.

The decision represents a significant victory for supporters of the centuries-old tradition who have long sparred with animal rights organizations that believe bullfighting is a cruel, anachronistic event. In a statement, the court argued bullfighting was classified as part of Spain's heritage, and therefore a decision on banning it was a matter for the central government and not for semi-autonomous regions.

The ban has been declared "unconstitutional and void," it said. Catalonia's regional parliament voted to abolish bullfighting from January 1, 2012 after animal rights groups managed to garner 180,000 signatures for a petition. It was the first region in mainland Spain to ban the tradition, although the Canary Islands abolished bullfighting in 1991. — AFP

SOUTH SUDAN REBEL LEADER SAYS HE COULD RETURN NEXT MONTH

JOHANNESBURG: South Sudan rebel leader Riek Machar says he could return to the country as early as next month, even if he has to enter the way he fled - on foot. In an interview with The Associated Press in South Africa, Machar said a political process is needed to revive a peace deal that has collapsed.

But he did not commit to rejoining the deal on the same

terms. In the agreement, he had been vice president in a fragile national unity government under his rival, President Salva Kiir. Machar says he has the right to be president, and that his forces can "liberate" the capital. He fled South Sudan in July when fighting erupted among security forces. Yesterday, he described a 500-mile march through the bush into Congo.—AP

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DEPUTY'S DEATH MARKS 4TH OFFICER SLAIN IN 2 WEEKS

ALTURAS, CALIFORNIA: A deputy responding to a disturbance call in Northern California was shot to death - the state's fourth law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in two weeks.

Modoc County sheriff's Deputy Jack Hopkins, 31, was fatally shot after deputies were called to a rural area near the Oregon border. A suspect was detained shortly afterward, authorities said. No other details were immediately released.

Hopkins joined the force last year, the sheriff's office said. His death comes after two Palm Springs police officers were shot and killed Oct. 8 during a domestic disturbance call and after a Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant was gunned down Oct. 6 in the high desert town of Lancaster while answering a burglary call.

The killings in California are the latest in a string of fatal attacks on officers that includes ambushes in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A video posted late Wednesday to the Modoc County sheriff's Facebook page showed about two dozen patrol cars riding down a street with their emergency lights illuminated. The video was titled "Deputy Jack Hopkins Procession."

The Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen and Butte County sheriff's offices and the California Highway Patrol are investigating Hopkins' shooting, the office said. The California Highway Patrol, the Alturas Police Department and the US Forest Service responded after a call went out about an officer-involved shooting, the office said. The Modoc County Sheriff's Office said earlier in a brief statement the deputy was involved in an active-shooter incident. — AP



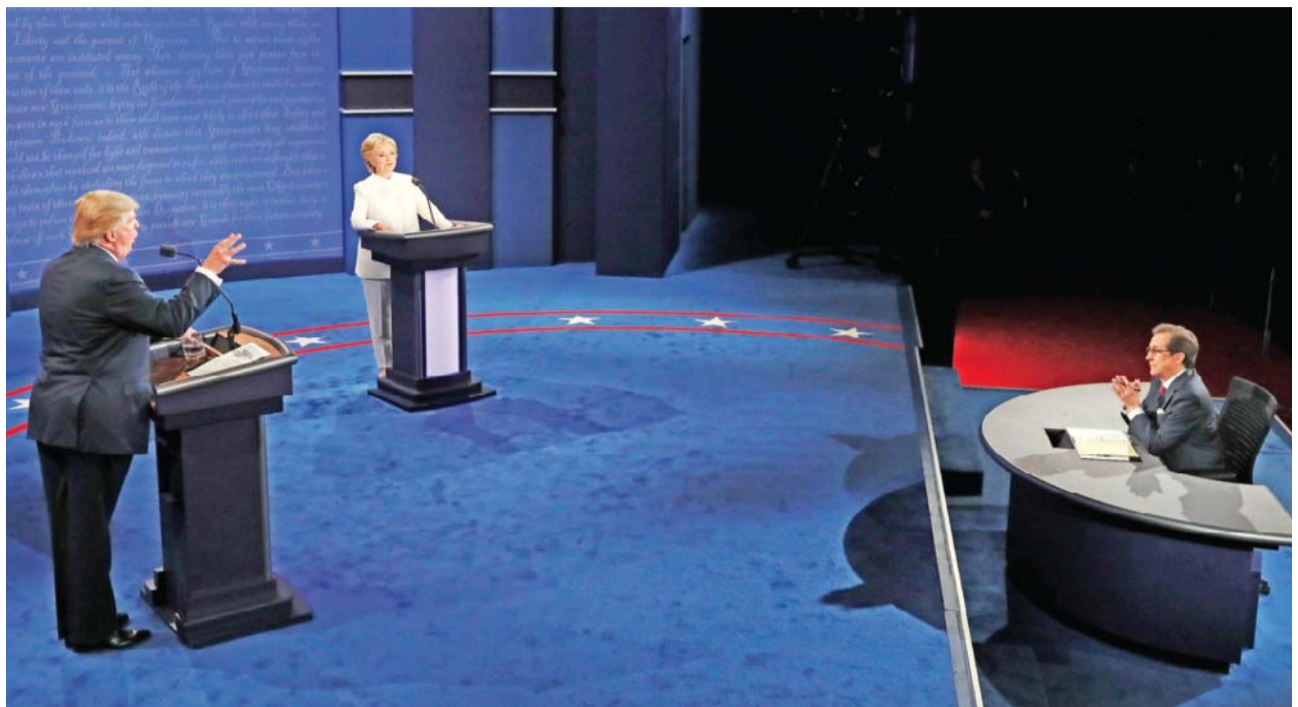
CALIFORNIA: This undated photo provided by the Modoc County, Calif., Sheriff's Department shows Deputy Jack Hopkins. Hopkins, 31, was shot to death Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016, while responding to a disturbance call, the Modoc County Sheriff's Office said. — AP

STUDENTS PUSH END TO VIOLENCE AFTER 4 SHOT OUTSIDE SCHOOL

SAN FRANCISCO: Students at two San Francisco schools where four classmates were shot in the parking lot the day before walked arm-in-arm as they exited classes and called for an end to violence. The expressions of sadness and resolve came after classes resumed Wednesday at the June Jordan School for Equity and the City Arts and Technology High School with extra security in place. Police searched for suspects in the shooting that wounded four students, leaving a girl in critical condition. The gunfire rang out as students were leaving Tuesday, creating chaos on the shared campus. Teachers herded students into classrooms, and the schools were locked down.

Some students wiped away tears as they recounted the scene. Devianna Lucero, a 15-year-old sophomore, said she heard five or six loud bangs as she left school - at first thinking nothing of it. Then chaos erupted. "At first, I didn't believe they were gunshots. I thought someone was banging on the wall," she said. "Then everyone was screaming and running to the classrooms."

Flowers were strewn in the parking lot Wednesday, along with messages scrawled in chalk that said, "No More Violence" and "All Lives Matter." Police said they were looking for four suspects but not how many had opened fire, striking a female student who was believed to have been targeted and three other teens. All are 15. Jessica Huang, a co-director at the June Jordan school, said the group that staged the attack were outsiders and not students at the school. She said the girl underwent a successful surgery and the other three students had been released from the hospital. "It was terrifying," Fernando Rodriguez, a 16-year-old junior, told The San Francisco Chronicle. — AP



LAS VEGAS: Moderator Chris Wallace, of FOX News, questions Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump during the third presidential debate at UNLV on Wednesday. — AP

TRUMP REFUSES PLEDGE TO RESPECT A CLINTON WIN

WALLACE ASKS FOLLOW-UP THAT MAKES NEWS

NEW YORK: Fox News' Chris Wallace worked hard to keep the final presidential debate substantive with tough questions to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, but it was the simplest of queries that extracted the biggest headline.

Noting Trump's claims Wednesday night that the election was being rigged against him, Wallace asked the Republican whether he would accept the results win or lose, pointing out GOP vice presidential candidate Mike Pence had said that he would. When Trump answered that "we will look at it at the time," Wallace seemed incredulous. The veteran newsman pointed out that a peaceful transition of power is one of the nation's longest traditions, no matter how tough the campaign. "Are you saying you're not prepared to commit to that principle?" Wallace asked. Answered Trump: "I will keep you in suspense."

Walking a fine line

Wallace walked the finest of lines during a campaign where debate moderators received an intense focus. As the first-ever general election moderator of Fox News, he had the hopes of an organization in the midst of a tough year riding on him along with additional baggage. Fox critics worried that he'd go easy on Trump because of the GOP bent of Fox's prime-time lineup. He kept things straight and issue-oriented and rode herd on the audience and candidates to keep control. Wallace promised he would not take on the role of fact-checker and largely adhered to that, although he had one nasty exchange with Trump in correcting the candidate on statements made in Syria in the last debate. Wallace tended to open a subject area with a general question before boring in on specifics to each candidate. For instance, he asked each candidate about their philosophies in naming Supreme Court justices, then moved in to ask Clinton about partial-birth abortions and Trump about whether he sought to over-

turn Roe vs. Wade. "It was a fair and balanced debate," said Megyn Kelly, Wallace's Fox colleague. "He pressed both sides."

Wallace asked Trump about the Republican's denials that he had groped or made unwelcome advances to women. Several women have come forward with stories following the release of a lewd "Access Hollywood" tape where Trump bragged of touching women against their will, after Trump denied that he had engaged in the conduct. "Why would so many different women from so many different circumstances over so many different years, why would they all in the last couple of weeks ... make up these stories?" Wallace asked him. When Trump claimed that "nobody has more respect for women than I do," some audience members in Las Vegas laughed - and Wallace was quick to scold them. "Please, everybody," he said. TiVo users paused and rewound the broadcast to watch that moment again more than any other in the debate, the technology company said on Thursday.

Trumps thanks

While Trump twice made it a point to thank Wallace for questions posed to Clinton - including the former secretary of state's claims in a leaked email about free

trade - the Republican seemed visibly angry when the newsman tried to correct him on points made about Syria in a previous debate. "If I may finish the question," Wallace said.

His toughest exchange with Clinton came when he asked the Democrat about "pay-to-play" charges surrounding people who made contributions to the Clinton foundation. When Clinton answered by praising the work the Clinton foundation had done, Wallace interrupted her with a reminder to answer the question posed. She didn't get the chance, since Trump interrupted at about the same time, and Wallace turned to him for a rebuttal.

While occasionally wordy, Wallace's questions seemed designed to get the candidates talking and he mostly let them go at it. The candidates - typical for most debates - bulldozed past his questions at times but there seemed fewer interruptions than in the previous two debates.

The first debate, moderated by NBC's Lester Holt, reached a record-setting audience of 84 million people. Last week's second debate with CNN's Anderson Cooper and ABC's Martha Raddatz sharing the journalists' duties reached 66.5 million. Ratings for Wednesday's debate will be released yesterday. — AP

UBER DRIVER ADMITS TO SEXUALLY BATTERING CUSTOMER

MIAMI: A Miami Uber driver has been arrested after police say he admitted to sexually battering a customer while she was incapacitated. News outlets report arrest records show 26-year-old Nimer Abdallah was taken into custody Tuesday on a charge of sexual battery of a victim who was physically incapacitated.

A report says Abdallah picked up the female victim and another person to drive them home early Saturday. Investigators

say at some point, Abdallah sexually battered the victim while she was intoxicated. The victim said she awoke the following morning and found her pants and undergarments had been removed.

The report says Abdallah admitted the victim had been drinking and stated he was wrong for what he did.

Uber says it's aware of the investigation and has banned Abdallah from their service. — AP



HOBOKON, NEW JERSEY: In this Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016 file photo released by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), James Southworth, Investigator-in-Charge for the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation, is handed the lead car's video recorder in an anti-static bag from NTSB investigator Michael Hiller. — AP

GROWING CALLS FOR RAILROAD PROBE IN WAKE OF STATION CRASH

TRENTON NEW JERSEY: New Jersey's commuter railroad is facing growing calls for more scrutiny at federal and state levels amid questions about its safety after one of its trains crashed into a station last month, killing a woman on the platform and injuring more than 100. New Jersey legislators on Thursday are scheduled to consider granting themselves subpoena power as they begin to look into the Sept. 29 crash at Hoboken Terminal. The Democrat-led Assembly Judiciary Committee is expected to consider the issue. If approved, lawmakers could compel officials to testify and provide documents.

Unclear

It's unclear whether the subpoena power would be used, and the Assembly is planning to work with the Democrat-led state Senate to investigate the crash. A Senate oversight panel hearing is set for Friday. Meanwhile, New Jersey US Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker on Wednesday asked federal officials to investigate safety and funding issues within NJ Transit.

The Democrats wrote US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx to probe whether there are additional safety issues and whether lack of funding impaired NJ Transit from addressing safety needs. Lawmakers from the New York and New Jersey region and beyond last week called on the federal government to step in to help address safety concerns. They asked the government to fulfill the transit agency's \$10 million request to help it install the GPS-based positive train control system.

The transit agency said in a filing in June that it hasn't made any additional progress on installing the system while approaching a December 2018 deadline. Foxx said at a news conference in New York last week that he wasn't ready to commit to the \$10 million, but that the government believes very strongly in positive train control. Trains run by NJ Transit, which operates the nation's second-largest commuter railroad, have been involved in 157 accidents since the start of 2011, three times as many as the largest, the Long Island Rail Road, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from January 2011 through July 2016. — AP

INDIANA OFFICIAL CLARIFIES VOTER REGISTRATION FRAUD PROBE

RESIDENTS RUSHING TO CORRECT THEIR NAMES

INDIANAPOLIS: After initially warning of potential widespread voting fraud, Indiana's secretary of state has acknowledged that many of the thousands of altered registration records she flagged might just be residents rushing to correct their names or birth dates ahead of the election.

Republican Secretary of State Connie Lawson told The Associated Press she wanted Indiana State Police to investigate to ensure there was no widespread fraud after her office found a heavier than usual number of changes to voter registration records this election cycle. "It's very possible that because of heightened activity this year that many of those changes are changes that the individual made," Lawson said Wednesday. "... That should give Indiana voters the comfort that we are vigilant and we are protecting their rights and the elections here are not rigged." Indiana is the home state of Gov. Mike Pence, the Republican vice presidential nominee, and also has contentious races for governor and US Senate on the ballot.

Reassurance

State police reassured residents in a statement Wednesday that the database Indiana uses to track voter registration "has not been compromised" but said the records Lawson turned over could serve as evidence of forgery in a separate voter fraud investigation it is pursuing. That investigation spans 56 counties and focuses on Patriot Majority USA, a Washington, DC-based voter mobilization group with ties to the Democratic Party that says it's being targeted for political reasons.

Scrutiny of state voting systems across the US has been heightened ahead of the Nov. 8 election. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has repeatedly said the election could be "rigged." Pence hasn't gone that far but has urged supporters to carefully watch polling stations to guard against irregularities.

"Voter fraud cannot be tolerated by anyone in this nation," Pence said during a campaign stop this week in Ohio. "So I encourage you, demand that our public officials are upholding the integrity of the vote." The secretary of state's office has refused to reveal how many individual voter registrations it has flagged to state



INDIANAPOLIS: In this Jan 7, 2015 file photo, Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson speak. — AP

police, saying only that the number is in the thousands. Lawson says her office conducted a review of the state voter database after receiving phone calls from an unspecified number of concerned citizens who were unable to access their online voter information or found inaccuracies in it.

"We stated that there were thousands of changes and we are not going to make any assumptions that they are all legitimate or all fraudulent," Lawson said. But other state elections officials said voter registration changes are not only routine but common. County clerks around the state, who are responsible for entering voter data in the state's system, could make a data entry error while processing a crush of registrations. Or someone may be registered as Robert but search for their registration online using the nickname Bob, said Angie Nussmeyer, a co-director of the election division of Lawson's office.

A public records request filed by the AP shows Nussmeyer's Republican counterpart in the elections division, Brad King, was looped in on emails from Lawson's office and state police about the initial investigation in September, as was Pence aide Shelley Triol. Nussmeyer, however, says she was not. Democrats say this is evi-

dence that the probe is partisan in nature. Julia Vaughn, policy director for the non-partisan government watchdog group Common Cause Indiana, said that before Lawson makes allegations of possible fraud her office "should make sure the voter file records haven't been altered through software snafus or human errors made by people in county or state agencies." "There is almost no history of this kind of fraud here so her response helps to fuel irrational claims by Donald Trump and others that the election will be stolen through voter fraud," Vaughn said.

A spokeswoman for the FBI's office in Indianapolis, Wendy Osborne, said that the agency was aware of the questions raised regarding voter registrations in the state. But speaking Wednesday afternoon, she added that state authorities had not asked for assistance in investigating the matter. Public documents explain that the FBI can participate in investigations into voter registration fraud, or whenever ballots that list candidates for president or for Congress are an issue. Before elections, FBI offices nationwide also designate agents to serve as liaisons with local law enforcement and state election officials should federal help be needed. — AP

NO ARRESTS, MANY QUESTIONS 6 MONTHS AFTER 8 KILLED IN OHIO

PIKETON, OHIO: Six months after someone shot eight members of an extended family to death in their homes, surviving relatives are still waiting - for an explanation, for an arrest, for a hint of closure. "I just want to know why?" said Tajianna Mead, of Waverly, whose 44 year-old father, Kenneth Rhoden, was among the victims. When the slayings were discovered the morning of April 22, rural Pike County in the Appalachian foothills of southern Ohio was coming to life with the colors of greening hardwoods and the white petals of dogwood trees. Half a year later, colors are changing again as leaves turn to burnt yellow and red across the thickly wooded hills.

Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader told WCPO-TV this week that he now believes the killers were local. Union Hill Road, where seven of the victims were found on three properties, is open again to traffic. "Private Property: No Trespassing" signs are posted at the end of the homes' driveways. Porches sit stranded in yards, their steps leading nowhere: In May, investigators moved the mobile homes where the killings occurred to a secure location as the investigation continued.



WAVERLY, OHIO: In this Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 photo, a truck passes a sign for the election of Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader. — AP

Leonard Manley, who lost his daughter, Dana Rhoden, and three grandchildren, lives on Union Hill Road near all the crime scenes. He spends his days tinkering after retiring two years ago from cutting timber. He doesn't know who committed the crime and questions whether it will be solved in his lifetime.

Manley, 65, has long thought the killers knew the properties intimately, in part because Christopher Rhoden Sr. had a security system, as well as a pit bull and bulldog, that would have been hard for a stranger to get past.

"You wake up at night, and you wonder. I get up of a night, 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. Can't go back to sleep, thinking about things," Manley said.

The victims were Kenneth Rhoden, 44; Christopher Rhoden Sr., 40; his ex-wife, 37-year-old Dana Rhoden; their three children, 20-year-old Clarence "Frankie" Rhoden, 16-year-old Christopher Rhoden Jr. and 19-year-old Hanna Rhoden; a cousin, 38-year-old Gary Rhoden; and Frankie Rhoden's fiancée, 20-year-old Hannah Gilley, whose 6-month old son with Frankie Rhoden was unharmed. — AP

TAJIKISTAN STARTS ANTI-TERROR DRILLS WITH CHINA

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN: Tajikistan began joint anti-terror drills with China on yesterday close near the border with Afghanistan as part of Beijing's drive to boost security in the region.

Tajikistan's defense ministry told AFP that the exercises on Tajik territory would last until October 24 and involve at least 10,000 troops as well as military vehicles and helicopters. Tajik authorities said last month that

China would be building infrastructure to increase security on the 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, which is a haven for drug traffickers.

China and Tajikistan entered into an anti-terror alliance with Pakistan and Afghanistan earlier this year.

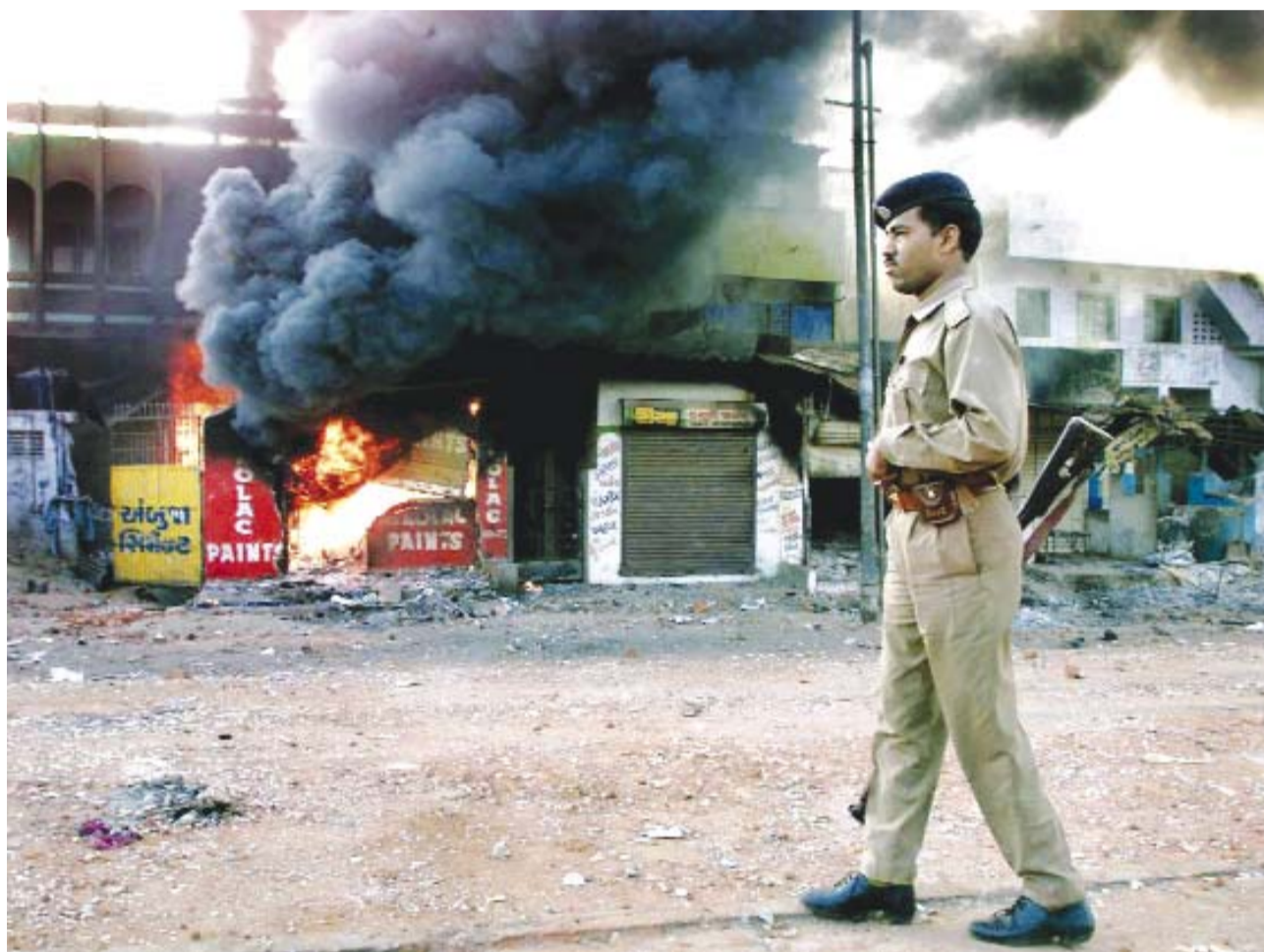
Security issues in former Soviet Central Asia, a region that borders China's restive

Xinjiang province, were once the exclusive preserve of Russia. But that has changed with the expansion of the China- and Russia-led Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which includes four of the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia and will soon incorporate Pakistan and India.

A suicide attack against the Chinese embassy in Kyrgyzstan in August highlighted Beijing's security interests in the region.

Kyrgyz authorities blamed the attack, which injured three people and resulted in the attacker's death, on Uighur radicals, a mostly Muslim minority from China's Xinjiang region.

The United States' security footprint in the region has shrunk since Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan ended agreements for bases used in Washington's Afghanistan operations in 2005 and 2014 respectively.—AFP



AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT, INDIA: This file photo taken on March 1, 2002 shows an Indian policeman walking past a row of shops burning during inter-communal violence in Ahmedabad.—AFP

INDIAN COURT ACQUITS 14 OVER 2002 MASSACRE OF MUSLIMS

WORST RELIGIOUS UNREST SINCE INDEPENDENCE

AHMEDABAD: An Indian court yesterday upheld appeals by 14 Hindus convicted over the massacre of 33 Muslims burnt alive during some of the worst religious unrest the country has seen since independence.

The victims had crowded into a small house seeking shelter during a wave of anti-Muslim violence in the western state of Gujarat in 2002, triggered by a train fire in which Hindu pilgrims were burnt alive. The rioters set the house alight, killing 28 people on the spot. Another five later died of their injuries.

The court in Gujarat upheld the convictions of another 17 people sentenced to life in prison in the original 2011 trial for their role in the killings in the village of Sardarpura. "Out of the 14 acquitted, the bench granted benefit of doubt to 11, while it said it did not find evidence against three others," said defence lawyer N L Jain after the hearing.

Original sentences

All 31 men were originally handed life sentences for murder, arson and other charges in the Sardarpura case. The attackers first surrounded the village, blocking off any escape, and then moved in. Gujarat's Hindu nationalist government was accused of tacitly supporting the attacks, and survivors of the Sardarpura massacre said it could have been avoided if the police had arrived on time. "We were shouting, pleading and begging. But no one came to our help, not even the police," Bifu Mia told AFP at the time.

More than 100 people have been convicted over the riots, which left more than 1,000 people dead in some of India's worst inter-faith violence since independence in 1947. Muslims were blamed for the train fire and Hindu mobs hungry for revenge rampaged through Muslim neighborhoods

in towns and villages across Gujarat during a week of bloodshed.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was the state's chief minister at the time, was accused of turning a blind eye to the violence. He was cleared of any wrongdoing in 2012 by a Supreme Court-ordered investigation but has been dogged by the accusations.

Witnesses said mobs surrounded and raped Muslim women, poured kerosene down their throats and on their children and threw lit matches at them. Earlier this year a court jailed 11 Hindus for life over the massacre of dozens of Muslims hacked and burnt to death in a residential complex in the city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

The massacre at the Gulbarg Society housing complex was one of the single worst losses of life in the week-long violence.—AFP

AFGHAN DISPLACED CRISIS MAY BE LARGER THAN EXPECTED, UN SAYS

KABUL: A wave of internally displaced people in Afghanistan and returning refugees in need of aid may be even bigger than previously feared, UN officials warned yesterday as they called for more money and attention for the growing crisis.

Nearly 400,000 Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan alone, according to the United Nations, forced out in many cases by pressure there. In one week in October, more than 50,000 people crossed the border back into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

Rising violence and economic deprivation, meanwhile, have led to nearly 300,000 Afghans being displaced within the country. In September, the United Nations and aid organisations called for an emergency infusion of \$152 million.

"These numbers far exceed projections for this year - and therefore outstrip the current resources of the humanitarian community to meet the increased needs," the United Nations said in a report last month.

Now Mark Bowden, UN humanitarian coordinator in Kabul, said even mid-year projections, which put the number expected to need aid at about 1 million, were "not just accurate, but may possibly be an underestimate of the scale of the problem that we are addressing".

That conclusion was echoed by Chaloka Beyani, a UN expert on internally displaced people, who just concluded a fact-finding visit to several camps around Afghanistan. "(The numbers) are accurate and indicate a growing crisis that is on our hands," he told reporters. "Humanitarian partners warn that many more internally displaced people could be displaced by the end of the year, yet attention and resources allocated to their needs seems to be decreasing."

The Afghan government has yet to fully implement a national policy to help internally displaced people, and many state agencies "lack resources and capacity to fulfil their functions", Beyani said.—Reuters

BLAST AT INDIAN FIREWORKS FACTORY KILLS EIGHT

NEW DELHI: At least eight workers were killed yesterday in a huge explosion set off by a blaze at a fireworks factory in southern India, police said.

Another 15 people were wounded in the blast in Tamil Nadu state, which came days before the Hindu festival of Diwali, which many celebrate by letting off fireworks. "Eight workers were killed and 15 were injured. Some of them have critical burn injuries," local police inspector Vijaya Lakshmi told AFP.

Emergency workers evacuated patients from a nearby hospital fearing the fire could spread. The town of Sivakasi where the blast occurred is home to some 700 small factories producing fireworks that are running at peak production ahead of Diwali.

More than 35 people were killed in 2012 after one of the factories in the town caught fire leading to a massive explosion.—AFP

PAKISTAN TO BLOCK INDIAN CONTENT ON TV, RADIO AS TENSION SIMMERS

KARACHI, PAKISTAN: Pakistan will ban all Indian content on television and radio channels from today, its media regulator said, stepping up media tit-for-tat bans that followed a spike in tension between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

The blanket ban drew immediate criticism from viewers and cable operators in Pakistan, a nation of 190 million people where Indian soap operas and Bollywood's elaborate song-and-dance sequences are wildly popular. Despite being bitter foes, Pakistan and India have deep cultural similarities dating back to before their separation at the end of British colonial rule in 1947.

Tension has been high since an Indian security force crackdown on protests in Indian-controlled Kashmir began in July, following the killing of a young Muslim separatist leader by security forces. Relations worsened in September, when militants attacked an army base in Indian-controlled Kashmir and killed 18 soldiers, a raid India

blamed on Pakistan. Islamabad denied involvement, but the diplomatic fallout and New Delhi's efforts to isolate Pakistan internationally, prompted calls in India for a ban on Pakistani actors and actresses in the country's giant Bollywood film industry. Pakistani cinemas responded by banning Bollywood films and as the rhetoric against Pakistani actors in Bollywood surged, Pakistan responded by enforcing bans on Indian channels. The complete ban will start on Friday at 3 p.m. (1000 GMT), Muhammad Tahir, spokesman for the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), told Reuters.

The measure goes further than the regulator's crackdown on India media announced this month, which saw some channels such as Star World and Star Sports taken down as PEMRA vowed to enforce an existing law that limits channels to air Indian content for just 86 minutes each day. The law was often flouted by entertainment channels and cable operators airing Indian

films and soap operas. The sale of Indian direct-to-home service is also forbidden, yet common, in Pakistan.

'In grief'

The removal of the Indian channels has not gone down well. "My wife is in grief ever since the ban has come into effect," said Saleem Ahmed, 55, an art gallery curator in Karachi.

Many women in conservative Pakistan face restrictions on how they can act or what they can wear in public, while in rural areas many women spend much of their time cooped-up inside their homes. "What entertainment do we have apart from watching Indian dramas?" asked Rubina Jan Muhammad, a 30-year-old maid. "We cannot go out of our homes, our males family members don't like us going out apart from for work."

Pakistani programs have in recent years also grown in popularity across the border, where Indian Hindi-language speakers can understand Urdu,

and vice versa. Pakistani cable operators fear the severing of cultural ties between the neighbors will hurt profits as some viewers have already threatened to stop paying subscriptions. "The public are yelling at us," said Khalid Arain, chairman of the Cable Operators Association of Pakistan. "Subscribers are not concerned about the origin of content." Arain's association estimates there are up to 4 million direct-to-home satellite devices in Pakistani homes receiving signals directly from India. "How can they be eliminated?," he asked? PEMRA spokesman Tahir said the latest measure would override a 2006 decree by former President Pervez Musharraf that allowed Indian TV channels to proliferate. Pakistan was created as a home for the subcontinent's Muslims at the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Though the partition was bloody, and the neighbors have fought three wars since, two of them over mostly Muslim Kashmir, their people share numerous cultural links.—Reuters



KABUL: In this photograph taken on October 19, 2016, Afghan women, who were displaced by Kunduz fighting between Afghan forces and Taliban insurgents, gather at a makeshift camp on the outskirts of Kabul.—AFP

KOREAN PASTOR ARRESTED IN CAMBODIA ON CHILD SEX CHARGES

PHNOM PENH: A South Korean pastor was arrested in Cambodia yesterday and charged with raping young girls who were living in his church in a popular tourist town, police said. The 62-year-old leads a Christian church in Siem Reap, the gateway to the famed Angkor temple ruins, according to local anti-trafficking police chief Duong Thavry.

Over the past six years he has abused at least eight girls between the ages of 13 and 21, she said. "Each of the victims were raped multiple times and all of the girls were staying in the church," she told AFP.

According to the officer, the girls' families lived in homes nearby but the pastor convinced them it would be best for the children to sleep inside the church compound. The pastor, identified by police as Park Youl, allegedly promised the girls he would financially support their families in exchange for sex and provided some of them with motorcycles.

"We have charged him with purchasing child sex," said Duong Thavry. The victims have now been moved to a safe place, according to Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE), an NGO that hunts pedophiles and tipped-off police to this case.

Cambodia launched a drive in 2003 to shed its grim reputation as a haven for foreign pedophiles. Dozens of foreigners have since been jailed for child sex crimes or deported to face trial in their home countries. But campaigners say sentences are still too short and many foreign pedophiles operate with relative impunity.—AFP

PAKISTAN WELCOMES TRUMP OFFER TO MAKE PEACE WITH INDIA

ONGOING UNREST IN KASHMIR CONTINUES

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan yesterday welcomed an offer by US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump to ease tensions with nuclear-armed rival India over ongoing unrest in Kashmir, which both claim as their own.

In an interview with Indian newspaper Hindustan Times last week, Trump said he would be pleased to be a mediator between Pakistan and India. "Well, I would love to see Pakistan and India get along, because that's a very, very hot tinderbox.... That would be a very great thing. I hope they can do it," Trump said.

Islamabad said it did not comment on media reports usually but in this case it welcomed the mediation offer. "We continue to urge our American friends including those in the administration to play their due role in resolving bilateral issues between Pakistan and India, particularly the Kashmir dispute," Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman Nafees Zakaria told a weekly briefing. "And definitely Pakistan has welcomed in the past also any role of mediation, we welcome such offers," Zakaria said.

The comment was a change of tack after Pakistan's interior minister launched a blistering attack on Trump's "ignorance" in May after the billionaire vowed that if he won office he would free a doctor jailed in 2011 after helping track down Osama bin Laden.

Trump was being criticized in the US yesterday after he turned his final presidential debate appearance into an unprecedented assault on US political convention by refusing to say that he would respect a Hillary Clinton victory in November.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence from British rule in 1947. India rejects any third party mediation and the rivals have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir.



LAS VEGAS, NEVADA: Republican nominee Donald Trump looks on after the final presidential debate at the Thomas & Mack Center on the campus of the University of Las Vegas on Wednesday.—AFP

Tensions have soared in recent weeks as India blamed Pakistan for a raid on an army base in Indian Kashmir on September 18, which saw New Delhi respond with what it called "surgical strikes" across the border, infuriating

Islamabad. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged BRICS leaders Sunday to take a strong united stand against the "motherhood of terrorism" in the South Asian region, in a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan.—AFP

AUSTRALIA WATERS DOWN ASYLUM-SEEKER SECRECY LAWS

SYDNEY: The Australian government has watered down controversial laws that critics say stop whistleblowers from speaking out about alleged abuse at offshore asylum-seeker detention camps.

Doctors on Thursday welcomed the move, which comes ahead of a High Court challenge to secrecy provisions introduced last year which made it a jailable offence for immigration department workers to speak out about conditions in the centers.

The department last month quietly changed the definition of immigration workers to exclude medical professionals, but only informed lawyers representing Doctors for Refugees this week, the advocacy group said.

Others such as teachers and social workers could still face jail time if they disclose information they obtain while working at detention camps on the Pacific island of Nauru and Papua New Guinea's Manus Island.

Asylum-seekers trying to reach Australia by boat are sent to the islands for processing, but are blocked from being resettled in Australia even if found to be refugees. "We treat (the changes) as a win for commonsense," Barri Phatarfod from Doctors for

Refugees told reporters in Sydney. "But it needs to be remembered that the amendment to this act does not cover teachers, social workers and the various non-medical people that Doctors for Refugees gets our information from. "Nor does it change the abuse and neglect that we witness in so many of the patients that we hear about in the detention centers."

Amnesty International

Amnesty International on Monday released a report alleging widespread abuse and an "epidemic of self-harm" at the Nauru centre. Conditions in the camps have been widely criticized by refugee advocates and medical professionals. The immigration department said Thursday the secrecy provisions did not stop workers from raising concerns "through appropriate channels" and "has never been an instrument to 'gag' lawful disclosures in the public interest". "The department's amendment to the determination makes clear that health practitioners performing services for the department are not subject to the act that includes the act's secrecy and disclosure provisions," the department said in a statement. Meghan Fitzgerald of Fitzroy Legal



SYDNEY: Dr Barri Phatarfod, co-founder of Doctors for Refugees, speaks at a Amnesty International press conference in Sydney on October 18, 2016.—AFP

Service, which is bringing the High Court case, said it had to be reassessed as the amendments could remove the grounds for a challenge, "but if anything it strengthens the resolve to fight to remove secrecy veils". The challenge mounted in July had argued the laws breached the protection of freedom of

political communication, and were therefore unconstitutional. The government, which has faced a barrage of criticism over its asylum-seeker policies and the secrecy surrounding the Pacific camps, has defended its overall stance as necessary to stop people from dying at sea.—AFP



SEOUL: A mock North Korea's Scud-B missile, left, and South Korean missiles are displayed at Korea War Memorial Museum yesterday —AP

US, S KOREA DETECT 2ND FAILED N KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCH IN WEEK

SEOUL: The United States and South Korea said they detected a failed North Korean missile launch Wednesday, the country's second failed test in less than a week. The US Strategic Command issued a statement late Wednesday saying it presumed the missile was a Musudan intermediate-range ballistic missile. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said yesterday that the launch was attempted near an airport in North Korea's Pyongan province, where the North on Saturday unsuccessfully tried to launch what US and South Korean military officials assessed as the same type of missile.

Cho June-hyuck, spokesman of South Korea's Foreign Ministry, said the latest launches show North Korea's "fanatical obsession" with nuclear weapons and missile developments. "Such repeated provocations only aggravate North Korea's isolation from the international community and economic hardship and further strengthen the international community's determination toward (adopting) a new resolution of strong sanctions," Cho said. A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Cmdr. Gary Ross, said the US condemns the attempted missile launch, calling it a provocation. He said the US government intends to raise its concerns at the United Nations. Musudan missiles have a potential range of about 3,500 kilometers (2,180 miles), which would put US military bases in Guam within their striking distance. North Korea is also pushing to develop a nuclear-armed long-range missile capable of reaching the US mainland, although US and South Korean experts believe it doesn't currently have such a weapon.—AP

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE, IN CHINA, ANNOUNCES 'SEPARATION' FROM US SEVERANCE ANNOUNCEMENT MET WITH APPLAUSE

BEIJING: Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte declared his "separation" from longstanding ally the United States in Beijing yesterday, as he rebalances his country's diplomacy towards China. "I announce my separation from the United States," he said to applause at a meeting in the Chinese capital.

His comments came after he met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square, with the two men pledging to enhance trust and friendship, while playing down a maritime dispute.

The two leaders-Duterte donning a suit and tie for the occasion-strode side-by-side down the red carpet inspecting an honor guard, with children cheering. Xi called the two countries "neighbors across the sea" with "no reason for hostility or confrontation", the official Xinhua news agency said.

Duterte is in China for a four-day trip seen as confirming his tilt away from Washington and towards Beijing's sphere of influence-and its deep pockets. Under Duterte's predecessor Benigno Aquino the two countries were at loggerheads over the South China Sea-where Beijing has built a series of artificial islands-but since taking office in June the new head of state has changed course. The two leaders held "extensive" and "amicable" official talks and oversaw the signing of 13 bilateral cooperation documents on business, infrastructure, and agriculture, among other fields, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, without giving details. In a statement, the foreign ministry cited Xi as telling Duterte their emotional foundation of friendly good

neighborliness was unchanged, and difficult topics of discussion "could be shelved temporarily". Duterte called the meeting "historic", it added. Duterte's visit to Beijing capped a series of recent declarations blasting the US and President Barack Obama.

Addressing the Filipino community in Beijing Wednesday, the firebrand leader said the Philippines had gained little from its long alliance with the US, its former colonial ruler. "Your stay in my country was for your own benefit. So time to say goodbye, my friend," he said, as if addressing the US. He also repeated his denunciation of Obama as a "son of a whore".

'Candid and friendly'

China, he said earlier, was "good". "It has never invaded a piece of my country all these generations." Duterte has also suspended joint US-Philippine patrols in the strategically vital South China Sea, and has threatened an end to joint military exercises.

The South China Sea is of intense interest to Washington and it has repeatedly spoken out on the various territorial disputes between China and its neighbors over the waters. Tensions have risen between the US and China over Washington's so-called "pivot" to the Asia-Pacific, a move that Beijing says is intended to contain it.—AFP



BEIJING: Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte (L) shakes hands with Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China Zhang Dejiang ahead of a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.—AFP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016



The sculpture 'Yellow' made by 11,014 lego pieces is displayed during the opening of US artist Nathan Sawaya exhibition 'The Art of the Brick', featuring works entirely made from lego bricks, in Milan, Italy, Wednesday. —AP

EXHIBIT OF LEGO SCULPTURES OPENS IN MILAN



Kelsea Ballerini, from left, Jill Scott and Meghan Trainor perform a tribute to Shania Twain during the CMT Artists of the Year awards show at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. — AP photos

Female singers rock the CMT Artists of the Year

Country singers Shania Twain, Carrie Underwood and Kelsea Ballerini honored each other and celebrated their shared successes at the CMT Artists of the Year show. Female singers rocked the stage, geeked out over on another and showcased women's impact on country music's past, present and future during the award show held Wednesday at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Twain, who is country music's most successful female singers, was given the artist of the lifetime award and was serenaded with a medley of her songs by female artists across three genres. Grammy winners pop singer Meghan Trainor and R&B singer Jill Scott joined Ballerini to sing Twain's classic anthem to female strength, "Man, I Feel Like a Woman," while Twain sang along from her seat in the crowd. Twain made her name in the mid-'90s with her big pop country songs and her music videos that combined sex appeal, female empowerment and high fashion. "I want to thank CMT for being such a huge support all these years even in my more rebellious years in the beginning when I was probably considered controversial, but you still put me on the air," Twain said.

Ballerini, who was given the breakout artist honor, was in the middle of her speech noting all the other young female singers she has worked with when she stopped to have a fan-girl moment. "Whoa, I am nervous," Ballerini said. "That is Shania Twain," pointing to the Grammy winner in the audience. Underwood, who was one of the artists of the year, performed "Like I'll Never Love You Again," backed up by hit songwriters Liz Rose, Hillary Lindsey and Lori

McKenna. "Aren't we blessed?" Underwood said. "God is good and he has definitely been good to me."

Also honored as an artist of the year was Chris Stapleton, who held the crowd's attention singing a solo rendition of "Whiskey and You." He said that CMT let him fill in for Luke Bryan on the show two years ago when Bryan had to cancel because of the death of his brother-in-law. "I filled in for Luke sitting up here singing a song I wrote called 'Drink a Beer,' and that was one of the first times anybody put me on national television," Stapleton said. Bryan, who was also honored at an artist of the year, was teased by his tourmates Little Big Town for his recent fall from a bicycle that ended up breaking his collarbone. "Luke, we have all made fun of you for falling off stages here and there and you can hardly hold yourself upright," said Phillip Sweet. "What in god's name makes you think you should start riding a bicycle?"

Before giving him his trophy, the country group presented him with a kid's bicycle with training wheels. The duo Florida Georgia Line also was honored as an artist of the year and performed "May We All." And artist of the year honoree Thomas Rhett and Swedish pop singer Zara Larsson performed a mashup of his song "Die a Happy Man," with her song "Never Forget You." "I am honored to be here because all the artists that are honored here in this room, they didn't get here by chance, they got here by taking chances," Rhett said. — AP

EMINEM RE-EMERGES TO SAVAGE DONALD TRUMP

Rap superstar Eminem re-emerged Wednesday with a loaded lyrical attack on Donald Trump, in a nearly eight-minute song in which he also identifies with the Black Lives Matter cause. The top-selling rapper of all time, Eminem has been relatively quiet in the past several years but wrote on Facebook that he was working on a new album. Eminem uploaded on YouTube the new song, entitled "Campaign Speech," in which he offers his take on America in 2016 in a freestyle rap largely without a musical backdrop.

The notoriously foul-mouthed rapper stays true to his provocative style but says that tycoon turned Republican presidential candidate Trump poses the real threat. "Consider me a dangerous man / But you should be afraid of this dang candidate," Eminem raps. "You say Trump don't kiss ass like a puppet 'cause he runs his campaign with his own cash for the funding. 'And that's what you wanted-A f*****g loose cannon who's blunt with his hand on the button, who doesn't have to answer to no one,' he raps, concluding: 'Great idea!' The 44-year-old rapper, whose last full-fledged album came out in late 2013, has rarely been overtly political in the past although he has made known his left-leaning sympathies in interviews.

Avenging deaths of African Americans

In "Campaign Speech," Eminem makes no claim to moral high ground, graphically explaining the sexual fantasies on which he would embark if he were president instead of Trump, who has faced multiple allegations of assaulting women. But Eminem, by the far the most prominent white artist in hip-hop, also raps at length about violent incidents that have galvanized the Black Lives Matter movement. Eminem imagines himself taking revenge on George Zimmerman, the volunteer neighborhood watchman in Florida who in 2012 shot dead African American teenager Trayvon Martin as he walked home with iced tea and candy.

The rapper envisions Zimmerman back in court and dressed in drag "with a bullseye on his back." "His whole chest and torso are left on the doorsteps of Trayvon's dad as a present for him," Eminem raps. Eminem also takes on New York police officer Daniel Pantaleo, who put his arm around the neck of cigarette vendor Eric Garner, who died after shouting, "I can't breathe." "I'm giving Daniel Pantaleo a refresher course on excessive force and pressure points," Eminem raps.

Riot grrrl act all out for Clinton
In another political track Wednesday, Le

Tigre—a band of Kathleen Hanna, a leader of the riot grrrl movement of feminist rock—released its first song in more than a decade. An unabashed endorsement of Hillary Clinton, Le Tigre's song "I'm With Her" the title refers to one of the Democrat's campaign slogans—hails her stance on abortion rights and gun regulations. "She's ready with a plan / And she's always got to work twice as hard as every man," the song goes. "Bye, bye, bye bye-Trump has got to go!"

Clinton, who would be the first woman president, separately announced that she would enlist several top stars including Katy Perry and Jennifer Lopez at events in the run-up to the November 8 election. Trump has faced heated opposition from the music world. Rock legend Bruce Springsteen this week ripped into Trump's allegations that the election is rigged. Trump knows he is going to lose but "he's such a flagrant, toxic narcissist that he wants to take down the entire democratic system with him," Springsteen told the BBC's Channel 4. Trump, however, has found support in the 74-year-old Las Vegas entertainer Wayne Newton, who has said he will join the candidate at his debate with Clinton on Wednesday in Sin City. — AFP



Eminem



Cher

Cher goes classic for new tour starting in Las Vegas

Veteran singer and performer Cher is not slowing down at 70, bringing her catalog of classic pop hits to a new North American residency show early next year. The singer announced her "Classic Cher" tour on Tuesday, which will open in February for three weeks at the Park Theater in Las Vegas' Monte Carlo venue, then move to Maryland in March before returning to Las Vegas in May.

"You try to take the most important things from each decade and you try to distill them into a story about yourself and you try to do it with film clips and music and movement and costume

and then you make it as entertaining as you can," Cher told Reuters. The Oscar and Grammy-winning performer, known for her eccentric and flamboyant costumes and her sultry vocals, has adopted numerous musical genres over her career spanning five decades, dabbling in dance and pop to rock and folk sounds. Her hits over the years have included "Bang Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down)," "If I Could Turn Back Time," "The Shoop Shoop Song" and "Believe." —Reuters

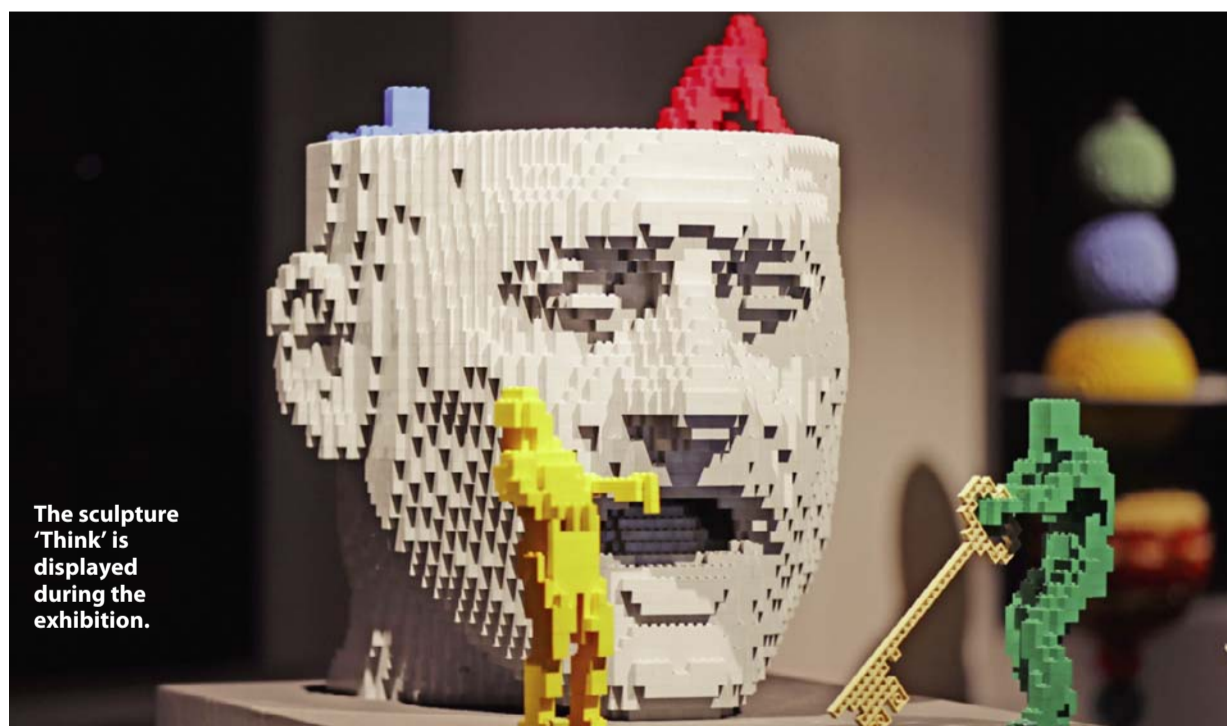


The 'Red dress' sculpture is displayed during the exhibition.



An iconic Superheroes sculpture is displayed during the opening of US artist Nathan Sawaya exhibition "The Art of the Brick". —AP photos

EXHIBIT OF LEGO SCULPTURES OPENS IN MILAN



The sculpture 'Think' is displayed during the exhibition.



A 'Mask' sculpture is displayed during the exhibition.

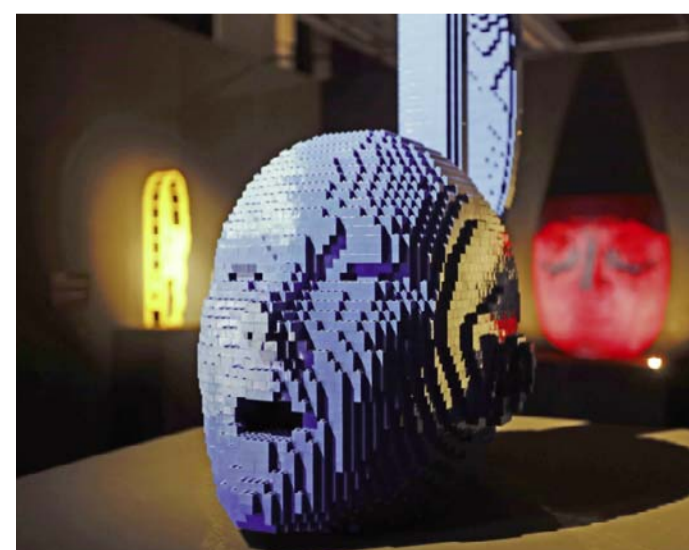


The sculpture 'Hands' is displayed during the exhibition.

An American artist has a standing order of several hundred thousand Lego bricks monthly to create life-size sculptures that have traveled the globe. Nathan Sawaya opened "The Art of the Brick" exhibit in Milan on Wednesday, featuring 75 Lego creations, both original pieces and replicas of masterpieces, including Michelangelo's David, a Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton and, topically, a portrait of recent Nobel Literature laureate Bob Dylan.

Sawaya said he favors the rectangular brick he used as a child for nostalgic reasons, and also because the lines and right angles give the appearance of curves when the viewer steps back from the art work. "I think that is part of the magic of using Lego bricks," he said.

A former lawyer, Sawaya turned to art full time in 2004 and works out of a studio stacked with more than 5 million bricks at any one time. A life-size human form can take two to three weeks, and use anywhere from 15,000 to 25,000 bricks, he said. For more complicated sculptures, it's more. Sawaya worked more than a month on a sculpture of a red dress out of 62,750 bricks, chiseling away pieces that had been glued into place as he worked to create a curvaceous effect. "By the time I was done, there were more red pieces on the ground than had been used on the dress," he said. The exhibit runs through Jan 29 at the Fabbrica del Vapore. — AP



One of the sculptures displayed during the exhibition.

EX-LEPER TAKES TO TOKYO RUNWAY TO FIGHT STIGMA



Models displaying creations by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Photo shows model Miyo Maki (front left) and other models displaying creations by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta during the "tenbo" 2017 Spring/Summer collection show at Amazon Fashion Week in Tokyo. — AFP photos



At 83 Miyo Maki had never manicured her nails, thickened and deformed due to leprosy, a disease she was diagnosed with when she was just 10 years old. But on Wednesday, as she marked her birthday, the former leprosy patient proudly displayed her shiny artificial nails, applied by a manicurist, ahead of a catwalk appearance at the ongoing Tokyo Fashion Week. Later that day, she walked down the runway, wearing a white lace dress and basking in the limelight long denied to her and other leprosy patients because of an overwhelming stigma against the disease.

"Ah, it was amazing," she said after the show, clutching a bouquet of flowers against her chest. "I turned 83 today. This is the best birthday I've ever had. I think this show represents a step forward in the history of leprosy," she said. Like thousands of other former patients relegated to leper colonies in Japan, Maki lived a cloistered life, battling stigma despite being cured. Leprosy has long been a curable disease after a medicine called Promin was introduced as a successful treatment in the 1940s. Although lep-

rosy has been almost eradicated globally, the disease still affects 200,000 people a year.

Former lepers continue to face discrimination due to the mistaken belief that the disease remains contagious even after patients are cured. The visible aftereffects of the disease, which can leave the face and limbs deformed, have also made it difficult to eradicate the prejudice. At Tokyo Fashion Week, Maki appeared in a show by designer Takafumi Tsuruta under the banner of his "tenbo" brand, that sought to portray the indignities suffered by lepers.

Men dressed as officers—one wearing a jacket printed with the words, "No Leprosy"—swooped in to take away a model who was playing the role of a leper. Tsuruta's runway presentations regularly feature a diverse line-up, and Wednesday's show was no exception, using models who were blind, in a wheelchair, or transgender, in addition to former patient Maki. "Fashion is a tool to send messages in a harmless, approachable way," Tsuruta said after the show. "Leprosy has been a universal issue, feared in the world for



Photo shows model Miyo Maki (second left), designer Takafumi Tsuruta (second right) and supporters posing with models in a dressing room prior to the "tenbo" 2017 Spring/Summer collection show at Amazon Fashion Week.

thousands of years. "Even though it is now a curable disease, people still suffer from stigma and discrimination," he added.

Forced seclusion

In Japan, patients were pushed into seclusion and many were forced into abortions or infanticide because of policies that forbade them from having children. A 2005 official probe found formalin-treated samples of 114 fetuses or babies at six state-run sanatoriums. Japan only ended its policy of forced seclusions in 1996, 89 years after it was put into place. The national parliament issued an apology and offered compensation to patients in 2001. The "tenbo" show featured a tribute to the babies who were terminated at the hands of sanatorium officials.

At one point during the presentation, Maki and other models sang a Japanese folk song about remembering home. The experience brought back painful memories of Maki's early years at the Zenshoen sanatorium in western Tokyo, where she still lives. She said she would venture out and climb up a hill to look over in the



Photo shows model Miyo Maki (left) displaying a creation by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.

direction of home, where she was not allowed to return. "On this runway... she is not just modelling but also fighting the stigma by taking each step," Tsuruta said. — AFP





Models displaying creations by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta holding a bouquet of flowers at the end of the "tenbo".

Forget Paris, focus on Tokyo, Japan

Tokyo may be the style capital of Asia, but with South Korea and China snapping at its heels and Japan's most iconic brands rooted in Europe, the city is being urged to haul its fashion week into the big leagues. Tokyo Fashion Week kicked off its spring/summer 2017 season showcase on Monday with six days of events intended to promote 50 brands, a mixture of the established and the new. Yet Japanese labels that are household names in the West-led by Kenzo, Yohji Yamamoto, Issey Miyake and Comme des Garçons—eschew home shores for the bright lights, prestige and visibility of Paris.

Tokyo Fashion Week attracts only 50,000 visitors—just a quarter of the total number that attend New York's two annual fashion weeks, and also lagging behind London, Paris and Milan. Held after the fashion merry ground exhausts the "big four", few make the extra trip to Tokyo, and not many in Japan believe they are missing out. According to a poll from local website Fashionsnap.com, only 20 percent of the Japanese fashion industry, including designers, stylists and editors, consider Tokyo's events to be of interest. The calendar, the no-show by the biggest brands, reluctance to open their doors to the wider public and sluggishness to embrace see-now, buy-now were all listed as shortcomings by the 221 people surveyed.

'Focus on your own'

The award-winning, Milan-based Turkish designer Umit Benan, wants to change all that. "Everyone needs to get together to make the Japanese fashion week much better," the menswear designer told

reporters after making his Tokyo debut, having announced he would ditch Paris fashion week. He called Japan's menswear the "most sophisticated you'll see in the streets" and said Tokyo was packed with the world's most creative buyers and designers, along with some of the most sophisticated consumers around.

"I think you really need to focus on your own fashion week, trying to create new waves in Japan fashion," he said, joking that he loves Japan so much, he visited 40 times in the last five years. He called Japanese fabric second only to Italy's. But unlike in Italy, where high fashion is governed by precision, he said the Japanese were willing to take risks, such as mix nylon with cashmere. "The Italians don't have the b***s to mix nylon into a 200 euro fabric," he said. "In Japan they're very flexible and very creative, spontaneous... when you touch it you're like my God what is this?"

While Tokyo has long been a springboard for up-and-coming designers, neighboring Seoul, with its vibrant street style, and Shanghai, as the commercial capital of China, are attracting increased interest. "To me, Tokyo is the Asian fashion center with long fashion-forward history," said Hong Kong designer Vickie Au who brought her "Urban Chill" collection to Tokyo after showing in New York. The street look, minimal style and clean lines of her House of V label, this season inspired by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry is well suited to Japanese taste.

'Beauty of the craft'

While she has boutiques in Hong Kong, China and Taiwan, and online, she is looking to break into

the Japanese and US markets. Au cited Yamamoto, the famed Japanese designer based in Paris, as an inspiration, praising him as a master of "modern and avant-garde tailoring". Christelle Kocher, creative director of up-and-coming French label Koche, also said she had learnt from Yamamoto and that it had been special to be the only French brand participating in Tokyo this season.

"Japanese culture is really refined and I think may be more than other places, they understand the beauty of the craft and the beauty of the time to make beautiful things," she said. US retailing giant Amazon is sponsoring Tokyo Fashion Week for the first time, and among the fashion set in Japan



Models displaying creations by designer Umit Benan at the end of the Umit Benan collection show in Amazon Fashion Week in Tokyo.



Designer Christelle Kocher (front right) posing with models at the end of her KOCHÉ AW16 and SS17 mix collection show presented by H BEAUTY&YOUTH at Amazon Fashion Week in Tokyo. — AFP photos

there are hopes that it can help rebrand the event into something brighter and larger. The company is already the largest clothing retailer in the United States and fashion vice president for Amazon Japan, James Peters, signaled that he is determined to replicate that success in Japan. While Tokyo still fol-

lows a six-month delay between catwalk and store, he said Amazon would be happy to help Japanese designers facilitate see-now, buy-now collections increasingly at the fore in New York. "I think if that's what the designers want to do, we're ready to do it," he told AFP at the week's launch party. — AFP



Models displaying creations by designer Christelle Kocher.

A WILD RICE SIDE DISH THAT COMPLEMENTS ANY MEAT OR FISH

By Melissa D'arabian

We all have our favorite winter dishes and mine is stuffing - or dressing, technically, since I don't stuff it in a turkey. The classic flavors lull me into feeling like I'm in white-capped mountains, even when I live in sunny San Diego and could pull off a Thanksgiving beach barbecue if I were so inclined. Rosemary, sage, thyme, dried cranberries and a little sausage work winter-wonderland magic for me.

My oldest daughter is also a fan. Valentine is also gluten intolerant. For several years, I simply made my holiday dressing with dried gluten-free bread cubes, but we wanted other

options that didn't involve fussing with gluten-free breads whose texture can be unpredictable in a dressing recipe. This Wild Rice Holiday Stovetop Dressing fits the bill.

It has all the classic taste of my grandma's holiday stuffing, and none of the gluten, so my daughter can enjoy it. Plus, it's pulled together in under 30 minutes in one pan on the stove. Easy. (You can also use brown rice if you prefer, which will add a little extra fiber and protein, but note that the cooking time will be longer.)

One link of turkey sausage is enough to add flavor and richness, so this dish is comforting without being overly heavy. Note, you can omit sausage entirely and use vegetable broth

to make this dish vegetarian. Typical holiday herbs - rosemary, thyme and sage - can be dried or fresh, so use whatever you are buying for the rest of your meal.

Cubed butternut squash adds a touch of welcomed color, sweetness and vitamins - feel free to change up the squash/rice ratio and add more if you want a more veg-leaning side. A small sprinkling of dried cranberries and pecans complete the holiday touch. But, feel free to serve this dish anytime - it's a perfect complement to any grilled or roasted meat or fish.

**WILD RICE STOVETOP DRESSING****Ingredients**

Start to finish: 25 minutes

Servings: 4

1 teaspoon olive oil

1 link sweet Italian turkey sausage, casing removed

1/2 cup chopped celery

1/2 cup chopped yellow onion

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup butternut squash cubes

1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, or 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped

1/2 teaspoon dried rubbed sage

1 teaspoon dried rosemary

1 1/4 cup wild rice blend (usually wild rice and basmati mixed)

3/4 cup chicken or turkey broth

3/4 cup water

1/4 cup dried cranberries

1/4 cup chopped toasted pecans

Salt and pepper

Preparation

Cook the sausage in the olive oil in a large saucepan over medium

high heat, until meat is golden, about 4 minutes. Add in the celery and onion and cook until softened, about 3 more minutes. Add the garlic, squash cubes, herbs and rice blend and saute for 1 minute. Add the broth and water, and raise temperature to high and bring to a boil.

Once boiling, stir the rice once, and then cover and reduce the temperature to low and allow to simmer gently, covered tightly, for 15 minutes. Turn off the heat, toss in the dried cranberries (quickly covering again) and let sit covered tightly for 5 minutes. Remove the lid, stir, taste for seasoning, add toasted pecans and serve.

Don't settle for dull turkey gravy at Thanksgiving

By Sara Moulton

Just because Thanksgiving mostly is about tradition doesn't mean that we aren't open to going off-script when it comes to side dishes and exactly how to cook the big bird. But the gravy? It's where innovation goes to die! Generally, we're content to just pour some store-bought chicken broth, along with a little butter and flour, into the pan in which the turkey was roasted, then call it a day. In truth, I love pan gravy as much as anyone, but you can make a more exciting gravy with just a little more work.

We were taught in cooking school that your sauce will only be as good as the liquid you add to it. In the case of turkey gravy, that would be turkey broth. What can be done to amp up its flavor? To start, you want to brown the turkey parts that have been packed inside the bird - the neck and the giblets (that is, the heart and the gizzards). Then, slice off the bird's wings - which nobody eats anyway - and add them to the other parts. (Do not add the liver; it will make the stock bitter. Instead, just reserve or freeze it until you can saute it in butter and serve it on toast. Yum!)

Browning these turkey parts in the company of some carrots and onions develops complex flavors. This is called the Maillard reaction. It's what happens when amino acids combined with the sugars found in meat and many vegetables are heated

above 300 F. Concentrated juices from these ingredients will collect in the bottom of the pan as you brown them. When you deglaze the pan, you dissolve those juices and add them to the browned ingredients, further deepening the stock's flavor.

You may be surprised to find tomato paste among this recipe's ingredients, but tomatoes happen to be a terrific source of umami. Umami is the fifth taste, after sweet, sour, salty and bitter. It is usually described as "meaty." The carrots in the stock also contribute umami. Briefly sauteing the tomato paste in the skillet helps to brown it and develop its natural sugars. Having cooked up your stock in a separate pan, you're eventually going to want to add to it the juices that streamed out of the turkey while it roasted and use the fat that accumulated in the pan while you basted the bird. Again, this is how you intensify the gravy's turkey flavor.

BIGGER AND BETTER TURKEY GRAVY

Ingredients

Start to finish: 4 hours 15 minutes (35 minutes active)

Makes 5 cups

The neck, wings and giblets (about 8-ounces total) from an 18- to 24-pound turkey

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

1 medium yellow onion, medium-chopped

1 medium carrot, medium-chopped

2 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled

1 tablespoon tomato paste

6 cups low-sodium chicken broth

1 celery stalk, coarsely chopped

2 sprigs fresh thyme

1 bay leaf

The drippings, 1/2 cup fat and pan juices

from an 18- to 24-pound roasted turkey

Butter, melted (if there isn't enough fat from the roast to make the gravy)

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons instant flour (such as Wondra)

Salt and ground black pepper

Preparation

Carefully chop the neck and wings into 1-inch pieces and pat them and the giblets dry. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the turkey pieces and giblets, reduce the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the onion, carrot and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are golden brown, about 5 minutes.

Add the tomato paste and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Transfer the mix-

ture to a medium saucepan and add 1 cup of water to the skillet. Deglaze the pan over high heat, scraping up the brown bits with a spatula, until all the bits have been dissolved. Pour the mixture over the turkey parts in the saucepan. Add the chicken broth and 2 cups water to the saucepan.

Bring the liquid to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cook, skimming the scum that rises to the surface with a skimmer or slotted spoon, until there is no more scum, 15 to 20 minutes. Add the celery, thyme and bay leaf, then simmer gently for 2 hours. Strain the stock through a colander, pressing hard on the solids. Discard the solids and measure the stock; you should have 4 cups. If you have more, return the liquid to the saucepan and simmer until it is reduced to 4 cups. If you have less, add water to the stock to make 4 cups. Cool, cover and chill until it is time to make the gravy.

When the turkey is cooked and resting on a platter, pour all the liquid in the roasting pan into a fat separator or large glass measuring cup. Pour or skim off the fat from the cup and reserve it; leave the cooking juices in the fat separator. You will need 1/2 cup of the fat for the gravy; if you don't have 1/2 cup, supplement with melted butter.

Set the roasting pan on top of two burners set over medium-low. Add the fat, followed by the flour. Whisk the mixture, preferably using a flat whisk, for 5 minutes. Add the reserved cooking juices from the roasting pan and two-thirds of the turkey stock. Bring the mixture to a boil, whisking. If the gravy needs thinning, add more of the turkey stock and the juices that accumulated on the platter where the turkey has been resting. Reduce the heat to a simmer and simmer for 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. — AP





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Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

Kids



Color me



Animal Alphabet Challenge

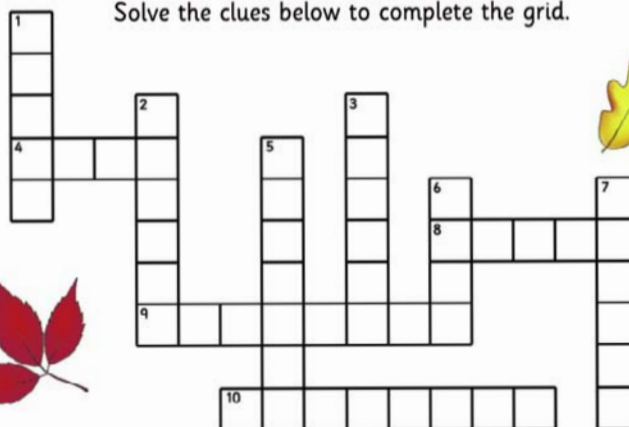
Can you come up with an animal for each letter of the alphabet?



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

Autumn Crossword

Solve the clues below to complete the grid.



Across

4. Use one of these to tidy up fallen leaves.
8. Orchard fruit.
9. Furry animal with a bushy tail.
10. Spiky animal who can roll into a prickly ball.

Down

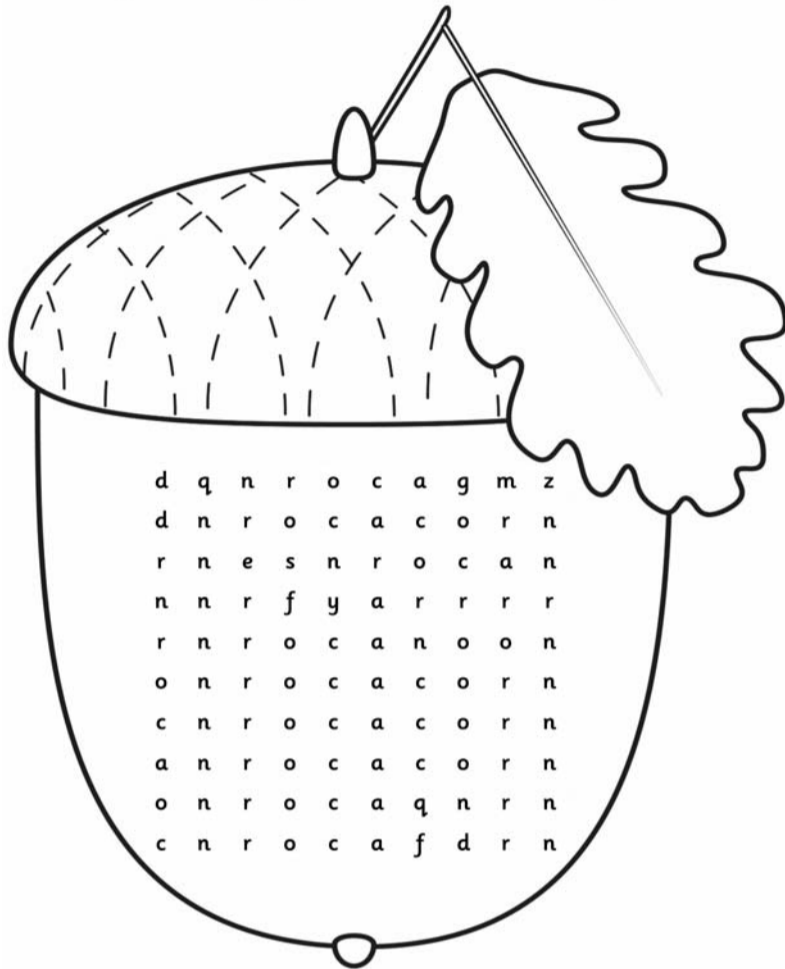
1. The seeds of oak trees.
2. They fall from the trees in autumn.
3. They fall from horse chestnut trees and are fun for games.
5. You might light one of these to burn leaves and twigs.
6. Another name for autumn.
7. One of the colours you might see autumn leaves change to.





Count the Acorns

How many times can you find the word "acorn" in the puzzle below?



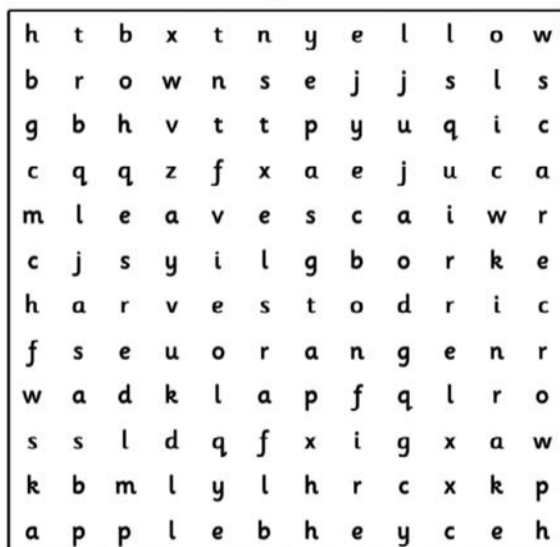
Autumn Leaves Match Up

Can you match up the pairs of autumn leaves and find the odd one out?



Autumn Word Search

Can you find the Autumn words in the puzzle below?



rake scarecrow brown yellow
squirrel leaves apple red
bonfire harvest fall pear
orange acorn

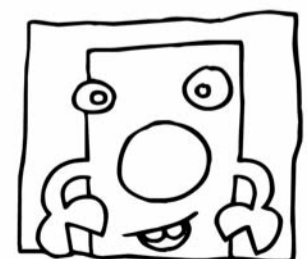
Sudoku 9x9 Puzzle - Sheet 1

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Don't guess - use logic!

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

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

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



Friday Times Travel



Jui Tui Shrine

Exploring Phuket:

The Thai holiday isle's cultural capital



The Phuket Thaihua Museum

Travelers who think that Phuket is all beaches and no culture may be surprised to find that there's more to Thailand's most popular Andaman isle than sun and sea. Ditch your beach towel and head to the island's east coast: cultural capital Phuket Town will whizz you right back to the island's roots. Thanks to its strategic southern Thailand location and natural bounty, Phuket's backstory is a fascinating one. Europeans (Dutch, Portuguese, French, and British) began to arrive from the 16th century, but the largest group of international arrivals were the Chinese, who flocked here in the late 19th century to stake their fortunes on the tin-mining boom. These workers married into Phuket's Siamese community, and the local 'Baba' (also known as Peranakan) culture was born here. This distinctive cultural blend is visible all over Phuket Town, from its architecture to its food. Plenty of travelers blitz through Phuket Town on a half-day visit, but there's plenty more to linger around for. Stay a night or two and you'll get to sample its busy nightlife, dig into its hugely varied culinary scene, explore its vibrant art scene and crash in quirky century-old homes transformed into boutique guesthouses.

Sino-Portuguese architecture

Phuket Town's Baba inhabitants were made rich by tin-mining and built majestic, European- and Chinese-inspired mansions featuring breezy terraces, elaborate wood-carved doors and central tile-floored courtyards. Others set up slim, multi-level shop houses, with louvered windows, upper terraces and elegantly arched ground-floor porches.

A DIY walking tour of Phuket Town's Sino-Portuguese highlights could begin at the Standard Chartered Bank, before meandering along Th Thalang with its colorfully restored shophouses. Next, wander past vividly revamped shop houses with golden-stuccoed pillars on pretty Soi Romanee. Check out the stunningly refurbished Phra Phitak Chyn Pracha Mansion (now home to famed Blue Elephant Thai restaurant) and pop next door to swoon over the antiques in Chyn Pracha House. Brush up on local history at Phuket Thaihua Museum on Th Krabi or, for an in-depth tour with local experts, link up with Phuket Heritage Trails.

Hidden shrines

Phuket's capital isn't all tin-mining grandeur. Sprinkled amid the Sino-Portuguese storefronts are a number of serene Chinese temples that are a pleasure to explore. One of the most enchanting is the elaborately carved, restored 1890s Shrine of the Serene Light, a Taoist shrine with intricate wall etchings at the end of an alley off Th Phang-Nga.

Visit in late September or October and you'll see these hushed worship spaces burst into action for Phuket's famously frenzied Vegetarian Festival. Expect thunderous fire-crackers, skewer- and knife-pierced worshippers, and colorful street parades. This important local celebration invokes the nine emperor gods of Taoism through self-mutilating mediums (mostly men). Jui Tui Shrine and Bang Niew Shrine are major sites for festival action.

Fabulous food

Phuket Town's multicultural makeup means its cuisine is as diverse as it is celebrated. From super-fresh seafood to some of the





Bo(ok)hemian is one of a growing number of hip cafes in Phuket

best curries outside the Indian subcontinent, Phuket Town's culinary creations, both traditional and inventive, are just as likely to be served up on shophouse porches as inside early-20th-century mansions.

On Th Thalang, Kopitiam by Wilai is a great place to try some Phuketian favourites; try the mee sua (sauteed noodles with egg, sea bass, prawns and squid). A few doors east, long-standing Abdul's Roti Shop doles out roti with sweet banana or savory massaman curry. Antique-packed Sino-Portuguese townhouse Raya pulls in a loyal following for its well-priced Phuket specialties. At Cookie House, pick up boxes of Phuket's signature cookies made from freshly pulverised almond paste, egg yolks and butter. At the gourmet end of the local dining spectrum, Suay surprises with fantastic fusion fare featuring mangosteen somdam (spicy green papaya salad) and lamb-chop massaman curry. Blue Elephant hits all the classic notes with its Royal Thai delights served in a glimmered-up 1903 mansion.

Cafe culture

Coffee lovers, you're in luck. Though this isn't quite Melbourne or London, Phuket Town has a lively emerging coffee scene and there are plenty of urban-chic spots to get your caffeine fix in style. Sporting lots of exposed brick and wall-mounted bicycles, Th Thalang cafe-gallery Bo(ok)hemian is the perfect example of Phuket Town's creative buzz. It's the perfect place to while away a few hours over tasty cakes and single-origin espresso with a novel in hand. Across the street, China Inn lures visitors into a beautifully renovated Sino-Portuguese home for tea, coffee and organic-fuelled bites. On Th Yaowarat, Gallery Cafe is a hugely popular yet laid-back hang-out for delicious breakfasts (Thai and European), brews and fresh juices in a revamped yellow townhouse.

Boutique sleeps

Phuket Town is known for its excellent-value lodgings, many of which are tucked into refurbished century-old buildings oozing historical charm. Cheap sleeps abound in



European-style hostel dorms, such as those at Ai Phuket Hostel. Comfy dorms are on offer alongside stylish mosaic-tiled doubles at Memory at On On Hotel; this gorgeously remodeled Sino-Portuguese stunner starred as a grimy backpacker haunt in the film adaptation of *The Beach*.

If you're more of a flash packer, bag one of four arty polished-concrete rooms at boutique-chic The RomManee, which unravels behind a bright turquoise façade on Soi Romanee. An exquisite upper-midrange choice is white-on-white boutique pad Casa Blanca, complete with private pool, all-fresh cafe and Spanish-inspired flourishes.

Art and fashion

Many of Phuket Town's historical shop houses house an eclectic bunch of one-of-a-kind boutiques and local artist-owned studio-galleries. Squeeze past antiquated stone Buddhas to find Thai-vintage-inspired women's couture at Ranida, or sift through rainbows of fabrics at Ban Boran Textiles.

With wavy kaleidoscopic canvases, metallic furniture and soft-booming background bass,

street-art-inspired Drawing Room is easily Phuket Town's most fun gallery. Meanwhile, Mr Zen crafts charismatic abstract portraits and canvases of mythical creatures at shop house-bound Wua Art Gallery & Studio.

Market magic

There's nothing like plunging into the depths of a local market to find Phuket's pulse; several can be found in Phuket Town. The jam-packed Weekend Market, three kilometers southwest of town, is reminiscent of Bangkok's legendary Chatuchak Weekend Market (only not as massive). You name it, they've got it, from knock-off designer handbags to silky mooΣay tai (Thai boxing) shorts, to tasty and affordable evening feeds.

Constantly stocked with fresh produce, busy Th Ranong Day Market offers an insight into day-to-day life on this ever-popular island. From Wednesday to Friday, an evening shopaganza unfolds at Indy Market. Travelers can also stock up on quirky souvenirs and vintage clothing flogged by stylish young Thais at Th Thalang's Sunday Walking St.

— www.lonelyplanet.com



Phuket Town's Drawing Room gallery



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Maintaining your composure is no easy feat today because someone is getting under your skin. Everything seems to be in a state of change and you don't want to miss your chance to make your two cents known when it comes to your needs. Something you previously overlooked can explode into awareness now, freeing you from previous illusions and thrusting you into a new relationship dynamic. Instead of succumbing to fear and striking out, use the diplomatic Libra Mercury to establish common ground where once there was none.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

For those of you who are not married or attached to a loved one for now-there are upcoming opportunities to meet your special love this week. This new relationship could be coming your way soon. Those of you that have experienced problems in your love relationship will find answers as you approach each difficult question one at a time. A deepening and more concrete foundation is making progress. Find ways in which to appreciate just who you are and what you are doing with your life. The happier you are with your life and your accomplishments and goals, the happier the people around you will become. Your positive outlook is catching! Your intuitive powers are strong toward making things work in your favor. This is a progressive time.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a great time to work in groups or teams. You may either be chosen to lead or choose to support the leader in a particular job. Your talent to see ahead of a project and view the end result makes you sharp in your work and in understanding what is needed. You make correct decisions, find the right path and move forward where career and success are concerned. Today is fun and the puzzle that appears difficult is quickly solved in your mind. You could be most persuasive with others and this afternoon you will find a way to convince a group of teenagers to change the destination of some questionable party. You are wise to help them make a change of plans, perhaps by taking a few of them to the site so they can see the condition or area in question.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

If you work, it may be part-time. Your day is full of satisfying projects. Talking with co-workers you may become aware of a concern that the quality of education in your city, state and perhaps country needs attention. You could help in the area of research. Research begins in the corners of the classroom where math, geography, language or science is taught. All the energies are working to encourage your discoveries. You have the confidence to follow-up with this subject through your own monitoring, volunteering and above all . . . Keeping detailed notes with dates. Bravo to your future efforts. Change names to protect the innocent and culminate your findings through writing. You have excellent ideas. These students are the future.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

If you are vacationing at this time, your day will be most comfortable if taken or begun early. However, it is possible that you will be traveling in order to tend to business. Who owes what, who owns what and who decides these things may be some of the major issues now. Understanding inner motivations, seeing through to the core is where your real path of power and enlightenment is at this time. You love the truth and you may peruse news articles and compare notes to find a truth. You find that after your work experience lately, you can really make clear choices in a short period of time. If you are not traveling, your workday may move into overtime this afternoon. Make tonight a time of relaxation-if possible, a shared massage.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find it an easy effort to obtain a loan today. Think first on the energy and time it takes to repay that loan and ask yourself if you would not like to postpone or trade that loan for a part-time job. A part-time job will help you pay off a large bill. This extra work may help you earn the extra income faster than it would take to pay off a loan. There are all sorts of opportunities to express yourself. Discovering new ways to improve your health through your diet has provided you with all sorts of good discoveries. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more significance for you now. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings this evening satisfies an emotional need-perhaps a social affair is being planned. Loved ones are agreeable.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a great workday. Your talents are in demand-lucky you! You could be in the public eye, especially with superiors or in relation to your work. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it entails more than usual. Your management and ability to direct others are successful. A co-worker tends to copy the way you dress-enjoy the attention. Take particular care in your finances now through the end of this month. With the costly months and holidays ahead, you would be wise to begin to think ahead. A little shopping each day may eliminate the last minute crunches to find the right thing or come up with the right amount of money. A social gathering this evening is for your benefit.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Today brings with it opportunities to understand and heal any physical or mental situations, changing attitudes and bringing new goals into focus. Today the energies are working with you to begin a new diet or health plan. This is a good time for making amends, making peace with the past and meditating on things unseen. Financial gain and material wellbeing are among the brighter prospects before you. This is a good time to focus in on how much things really mean to you. A family member or friend will be getting married soon and you might be giving a lot of thought into giving a party before the event. Get with some of the other members of the family or with other friends and work as a group; results will be wonderful.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Many of us clip coupons to save money but at this time you will be able to save money by throwing away some of those harsh chemicals you have been purchasing. The old way of cleaning worked very well and the internet should be full of ideas on how to clean with vinegar, newspaper, orange oil and all sorts of natural items. Today is a good day for work and progress and learning new things. You have the skills for the projects coming up now. Whether you work in an office or home, you are the most likely person to do this job better than most anyone else. If you do not have the time, take a little time to teach the techniques or special qualities that you have to someone that will have more time to follow through with the request.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your mind is so busy today that you may not be aware of a phone ringing or someone calling your name. This new cycle that you seem to have begun will set in motion a powerful need to work harder, work longer, concentrate and find the answers needed for particular projects. It would be wise to start each day with some planned breaks, perhaps an occasional lunch away from the workplace. You will be working harder and that will mean there will be more of an importance to take good care of yourself. Enjoy your work by seeing the importance as well as the pleasant opportunities to work with great people. Power becomes a compelling idea, perhaps even an aphrodisiac-you have a stronger than usual supply of it now; easy. Value each day.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be trying to understand some technical side of business today. You may even be thinking of ways in which you could go into business for yourself. You may decide to consult with a professional that can give you some important information on the steps that are needed to follow this idea of yours. The power of organization on a social scale seems to take on some meaning today and it could all be political. If you are involved in a competition with someone regarding this change of profession, think about where your dreams are, not where or how you compare with this other person. If your profession is something that you believe in and that you can enjoy, you are on the right track. Tonight is good for popcorn and a movie!



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You tend to be radical when it comes to self-analysis, which includes health care, food and physical wellbeing. Serving and caring for yourself and others is a primary source of inner growth and change. You are sensitive to criticism. Today, at work, you may have to make some adjustments-someone could be in a criticizing mood. Decide to make whatever changes you need and then move forward. This evening a loved one or friend is receptive and will listen to your words. You love social life and relationships of all kinds-partners, marriages, teachers, etc. You are very responsive yourself and value this in others. You do not play favorites and are quite impersonal when it comes to your responsibilities. Your good attitude is an influence on others.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antiga	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Nigar	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976

BBC FIRST

04:15 Pramface
05:15 Doctors
05:45 Eastenders
06:15 Stella
07:00 Holby City
08:00 Doctors
09:00 Eastenders
10:05 Casualty
10:55 New Tricks
13:40 Casualty
14:35 Holby City
15:40 Doctors
16:10 Eastenders
16:45 Stella
19:05 Doctors
19:35 Doctors
20:10 The Coroner
21:05 A Young Doctor's Notebook
22:00 The Kettering Incident
22:55 Happy Valley
23:50 The Detectorists
00:20 Him & Her
00:50 Doctors
01:50 The Coroner
02:35 A Young Doctor's Notebook
03:00 A Young Doctor's Notebook



04:00 Catch A Contractor
06:05 Key And Peele
06:30 Workaholics
07:20 Tosh.0
07:50 Tosh.0
08:15 Workaholics
09:30 Key And Peele
09:55 Tosh.0
10:20 Tosh.0
10:45 Nathan For You
11:35 Catch A Contractor
12:00 Tosh.0
12:25 Hungry Investors
13:15 Workaholics
13:40 Key And Peele
14:30 Tosh.0
15:45 Workaholics
16:10 Workaholics
16:35 Tosh.0
17:00 Tosh.0
17:30 Workaholics
17:55 Nathan For You
18:25 Tosh.0
18:50 Ridiculousness
19:39 Key And Peele
20:27 Coaching Bad
21:13 I Live With Models
21:37 Brotherhood
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
22:30 Underground With Dave Attell
22:54 Broad City
23:18 South Park
23:42 Idiotsitter
00:05 Chappelle's Show
00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:00 Underground With Dave Attell
01:25 Matt Braunger: Shovel Fighter
02:15 Broad City
02:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



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 You Have Been Warned
07:50 X-Ray Mega Airport
08:40 Magic Of Science
09:05 Magic Of Science
09:30 Railroad Australia
10:20 Survive That!
11:10 American Tarzan
12:00 Driving Wild
12:50 Extreme Car Hoarders
13:40 Sonic Sea
15:20 Misfit Garage
16:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars
16:35 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:00 Gold Divers
17:50 Gold Divers
18:40 Gold Divers
22:00 Wheeler Dealers
22:50 Guy Martin: Wall Of Death
23:40 How It's Made: Dream Cars
00:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
00:30 Sonic Sea
02:10 Wheeler Dealers
03:00 Guy Martin: Wall Of Death
03:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars



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 Disney Cookabout
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Austin & Ally
09:35 Shake It Up
10:00 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

17:05 Star Darlings
17:10 Gravity Falls
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:00 Backstage
18:25 Starstruck
19:45 The 7D
20:00 Star Darlings
20:05 Best Friends Whenever
20:30 Jessie
20:55 Liv And Maddie
21:20 Austin & Ally
21:45 Backstage
22:10 H2O: Just Add Water
23:00 Binny And The Ghost
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopdidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 The Hive
08:10 Zou
08:25 Loopdidoo
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 Pirates
10:20 PJ Masks
10:35 Miles From Tomorrow
10:45 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:50 The Hive
13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:30 Doc McStuffins
14:00 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
14:15 Sofia The First
14:45 Goldie & Bear
15:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:45 Doc McStuffins
16:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
16:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
16:50 Miles From Tomorrow
17:15 Sofia The First
17:45 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:30 Goldie & Bear
18:55 Unbungalievable
19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
20:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
00:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
00:20 Calimero
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopdidoo



07:00 Boyster
07:10 Super Matrak
07:35 Super Matrak
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 Future Worm
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 Future Worm
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
00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



04:40 Hollywood Cycle
06:30 Celebrity Style Story
07:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
07:55 E! News
08:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
09:10 E! News
10:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
11:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
12:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
13:00 E! News
13:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
16:00 E! News
16:15 Catching Kelce
19:05 WAGs
20:00 E! News
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 Rob & Chyna
23:00 Rob & Chyna
00:00 E! News
00:15 WAGs Miami
01:05 Rob & Chyna
02:50 E! News
03:50 WAGs



04:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
05:20 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
06:15 Murdoch Mysteries
07:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
08:05 The Chase
09:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
10:00 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
11:00 Murdoch Mysteries
11:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
12:50 The Chase
13:45 Emmerdale
14:15 Emmerdale
14:45 Coronation Street
15:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
17:00 Catchphrase
17:30 Royal Stories
17:55 Victoria

18:50 Home Fires
19:45 Emmerdale
20:15 Emmerdale
20:45 Coronation Street
21:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
22:00 Catchphrase
22:30 Royal Stories
22:55 Victoria
23:50 Emmerdale
00:15 Emmerdale
00:40 Coronation Street



04:05 Baking Good, Baking Bad
04:30 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
05:20 Eat Street
06:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
07:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
07:50 Access 360 World Heritage
08:40 Delinquent Gourmet
09:05 Eat Street
09:30 Baking Good, Baking Bad
09:55 Baking Good, Baking Bad
10:20 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
11:10 Eat Street
12:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
12:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
13:40 Bangkok Airport
14:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
15:00 Eat Street
15:30 Baking Good, Baking Bad
16:25 Carnival Eats
17:20 Eat Street
18:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
19:10 Meat v Veg
20:05 Baking Good, Baking Bad
20:30 Carnival Eats
21:25 Eat Street
21:50 Eat Street
22:15 Eat Street
22:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
23:05 Meat v Veg
23:30 Meat v Veg
23:55 Bangkok Airport
00:45 Tales From The Bush Larder
01:10 Eat Street
01:35 Baking Good, Baking Bad
02:00 The Shelbourne
02:25 Carnival Eats
02:50 Carnival Eats
03:15 Raw Travel
03:40 Raw Travel



04:45 Snakes In The City
05:40 Super Predators
06:35 Tiger On The Run
07:30 World's Deadliest Animals
08:25 Snakes In The City
09:20 Super Predators
10:15 Animal Storm Squad
11:10 South Africa
12:05 Lion Warrior
13:00 Ragged Tooth
13:55 Hyena Queen
14:50 World's Deadliest Animals
15:45 Snakes In The City
16:40 Man V. Cheetah
17:35 Animal Storm Squad
18:30 South Africa
19:25 Bandits Of Selous
20:20 Snakes In The City
21:10 Man V. Cheetah
22:00 Animal Storm Squad
22:50 South Africa
23:40 Bandits Of Selous
00:30 Ragged Tooth
01:20 Hyena Queen
02:10 World's Deadliest Animals
03:00 Wild Russia
03:50 Wild Survivor



04:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
04:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
04:48 Henry Danger
05:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
05:36 The Haunted Hathaways
06:00 Max & Shred
06:24 Henry Danger
06:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
07:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
08:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



CONTRABAND ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

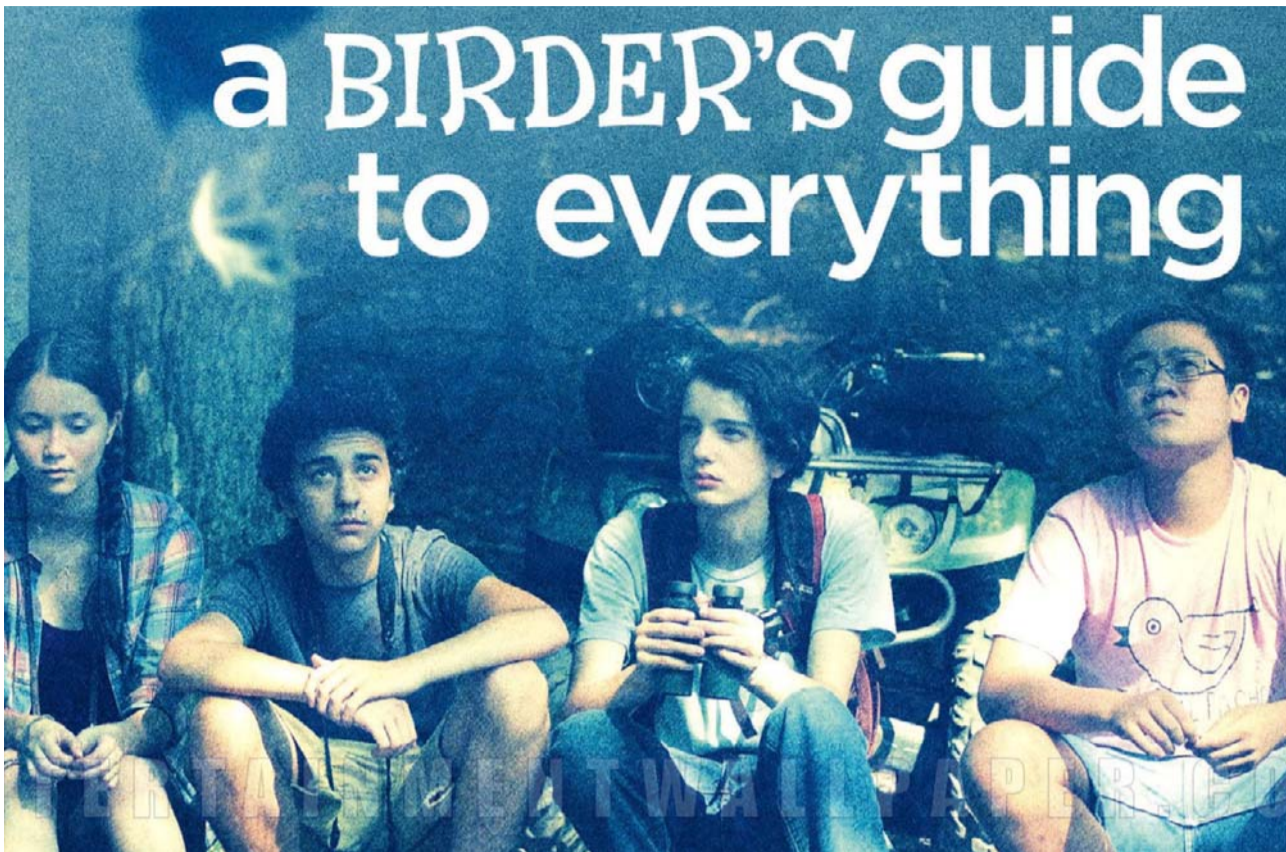
08:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
08:48 Winx Club
09:12 Harvey Beaks
09:36 Breadwinners
10:00 Get Blake
10:24 Rabbids Invasion
10:48 Henry Danger
11:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
11:36 The Haunted Hathaways
12:00 Winx Club
12:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
13:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
14:00 Breadwinners
14:24 Liar, Liar, Vampire
15:36 Henry Danger
16:00 One Crazy Cruise
17:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
17:36 The Loud House
18:00 Sanjay And Craig
18:24 Harvey Beaks
18:48 Breadwinners
19:12 Henry Danger
19:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
20:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
20:24 Game Shakers
20:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
22:24 Breadwinners
23:12 Sanjay And Craig
00:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
00:48 Henry Danger
01:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
01:36 Max & Shred
02:00 The Haunted Hathaways



04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
04:25 Destroyed In Seconds
04:50 Ultimate Survival
05:40 How It's Made
06:05 How It's Made
06:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
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 Bondi Vet
13:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
13:50 Ultimate Survival
14:40 How It's Made
15:05 How It's Made
15:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
16:20 Mythbusters
17:10 Kenny The Shark
17:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
18:00 The Big Brain Theory
18:50 Now That's Funny
19:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
20:30 How It's Made
20:55 How It's Made
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 The Big Brain Theory
23:00 Now That's Funny
23:50 Destroyed In Seconds
00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
00:40 Ultimate Survival
01:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
02:20 The Big Brain Theory
03:10 Now That's Funny



04:00 Betrayed
04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
05:36 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
06:24 Deadly Affairs
07:12 Impostors
08:00 Disappeared
08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:40 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
10:30 Deadly Affairs
11:20 Impostors
12:10 Evil Stepmothers
13:00 Disappeared
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
15:30 Deadly Affairs
16:20 Impostors
17:10 California Investigator
17:35 California Investigator
18:00 Disappeared
18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones



A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO EVERYTHING ON OSN MOVIES HD

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

05:15 Reclaim
07:00 Con Air
09:00 Swelter
11:00 Armored
13:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
15:00 Con Air
17:00 The Machine
18:45 Armored
20:30 Independence Day
23:00 Contraband
01:00 Patrick
03:00 Freezer

OSN MOVIES HD
FAMILY

04:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
06:30 Toy Story 3
08:15 Bark Ranger
10:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
12:00 Mighty Joe Young
14:00 The Rookie
16:15 Hotel For Dogs
18:00 Enchanted
20:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
22:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
01:00 Hotel For Dogs
03:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie

OSN MOVIES HD

04:00 The Rewrite
06:00 Home
08:00 A Birder's Guide To Everything
10:00 The Rewrite
12:00 Transcendence
14:00 Suffragette
16:00 Accidental Love
17:45 Max
19:45 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
22:00 Pawn Sacrifice
00:00 The Walk

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

05:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
07:00 Big Ass Spider!
09:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
11:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
13:00 Hot Rod
15:00 Sunshine On Leith
17:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
19:00 Blue Streak
21:00 What We Do In The Shadows
23:00 The Interview
01:00 Save Your Legs!
03:00 Blue Streak

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

04:00 Murder By Numbers
06:00 The Village
08:00 Parkland
10:00 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
12:15 The Truth About Emanuel
14:00 Short Term 12
15:45 One Fine Day
17:45 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
20:00 The Fisher King
22:30 A Walk Among The Tombstones
00:30 Gone Girl

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

05:15 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
07:00 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
08:30 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
10:15 Savva
12:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
13:45 Justice League vs. Bizarro League
15:15 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
17:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
19:00 Savva
21:00 When Marnie Was There
23:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
00:30 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
02:15 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
03:45 When Marnie Was There

OSN MOVIES HD
DRAMA

04:00 Scenic Route
06:00 Young Ones
08:00 Before I Go To Sleep
10:00 Changing Hearts
12:00 Rosewood Lane
14:00 Trust Me
16:00 A Teacher's Obsession
18:00 Changing Hearts
20:00 Big Eyes
22:00 Rudderless
00:00 Suite Francaise
02:00 A Teacher's Obsession

OSN MOVIES
PREMIERE

04:45 The Theory Of Everything
07:00 The Identical
09:00 The Two Faces Of January

11:00 The Song
13:00 The Theory Of Everything
15:15 The Lovers



04:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
04:48 Ways To Save The Planet
05:36 How It's Made: Dream Cars
06:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
06:24 How The Universe Works
07:12 How Do They Do It?
07:36 Food Factory
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Ways To Save The Planet
09:14 How The Universe Works
10:02 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 How It's Made: Dream Cars
12:02 How It's Made: Dream Cars

12:26 Ways To Save The Planet
13:14 How The Universe Works
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
15:38 How It's Made: Dream Cars
16:02 How It's Made: Dream Cars
16:26 Ways To Save The Planet
17:14 How The Universe Works
18:02 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
18:50 Ways To Save The Planet
19:40 How The Universe Works
20:30 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
20:55 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 Superhuman Showdown
23:00 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
23:25 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
23:50 How The Universe Works



04:15 Cake Boss
04:35 Oprah's Master Class
05:20 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
06:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
07:00 Little People, Big World: Battle For The Farm
07:50 Little People, Big World: Amy's 50th
08:40 Little People, Big World: Down Under
09:30 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
10:20 7 Little Johnstons
11:10 Designer Darlings
12:50 Love, Lust Or Run
13:15 Love, Lust Or Run

10:00 The Grinder
10:30 Galavant
11:00 Galavant
11:30 Community
12:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
13:00 The Bernie Mac Show
13:30 Trophy Wife
14:00 George Lopez
14:30 Community
15:30 Galavant
16:00 Galavant
16:30 Two And A Half Men
17:00 Two And A Half Men
17:30 The Bernie Mac Show
18:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
19:00 Superstore
19:30 The Goldbergs
20:00 The Goldbergs
20:30 New Girl
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon



05:00 Good Morning America
08:00 Suits
12:00 Suits
13:00 Criminal Minds
14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
15:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 Blindspot
18:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
19:00 Criminal Minds
21:00 Grey's Anatomy
22:00 Dead Of Summer
23:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
00:00 Sleepy Hollow
01:00 Prison Break



04:05 Counting Cars: Best Of
04:35 Counting Cars
05:30 Pawn Stars
06:00 Time Team
07:00 Search For The Lost Giants
07:50 Time Team
08:40 Grave Trade
09:30 American Restoration
09:55 Alone
10:45 Ax Men
11:35 Ice Road Truckers
12:25 American Restoration
13:15 Counting Cars
14:05 American Pickers
14:55 Lost Worlds
15:45 Battle 360
16:35 Grave Trade
17:25 Counting Cars
17:50 Time Team
18:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
19:30 Alone
20:20 Ice Road Truckers

OSN FIRST HD
COMEDY

04:00 The Grinder
05:00 Trophy Wife
05:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:30 George Lopez
07:00 The Bernie Mac Show
07:30 Community
08:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
09:00 Trophy Wife
09:30 George Lopez



THE FISHER KING ON OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

Word Search Puzzles

Restaurant

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

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

- APERITIF
APPETIZER
BILL
BUSBOY
CASHIER
CHAIRS
CHEF
COFFEE
COOKS
- CUPS
CUSTOMER
DESSERT
DISHWASHERS
DRINKS
ENTREE
FORK
GLASSES
KNIFE
- MANAGER
MEAL
MENU
NAPKINS
ORDER
PLATES
SALAD
SAUCERS
SERVERS
- SPOON
TABLECLOTH
TABLES
TEA
TIP
WAITER
WAITRESS
WATER
WINE

Yesterday's Solution

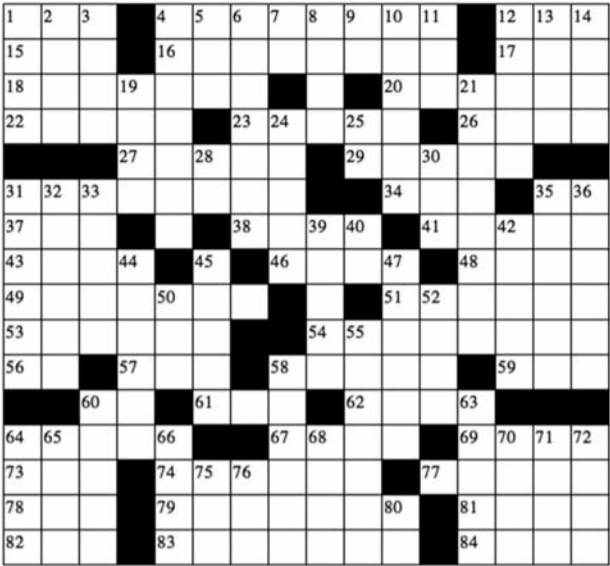
Movie Actors 3

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

- ARKIN, Alan
BALE, Christian
BANDERAS, Antonio
BROADBENT, Jim
BRODERICK, Matthew
BRODY, Adrien
BYRNE, Gabriel
CRAIG, Daniel
DAY-LEWIS, Daniel
EASTWOOD, Clint
FIRTH, Colin
FISHBURNE, Laurence
FRASER, Brendan
- GLOVER, Danny
GOODING JR, Cuba
HARRIS, Ed
HAWKE, Ethan
KINGSLEY, Ben
MACY, William H.
MALKOVICH, John
MCGREGOR, Ewan
MURPHY, Eddie
NICHOLSON, Jack
NORTON, Edward
OLDMAN, Gary
- PACINO, Al
PAXTON, Bill
PITT, Brad
QUAID, Dennis
RADCLIFFE, Daniel
SINISE, Gary
SLATER, Christian
STRATHAIRN, David
THORNTON, Billy Bob
WALKEN, Christopher
WASHINGTON, Denzel
WHITAKER, Forest
WILLIS, Bruce

The hidden movie title is: THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

CROSSWORD 1406



ACROSS

1. An international organization based in Geneva that monitors and enforces rules governing global trade.
4. Enclosed in (or as if in) a cyst.
12. A metric unit of length equal to 10,000 meters.
15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
16. (British) The side of a vehicle nearest the kerb.
17. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
18. The status of being acknowledged as a star.
20. In the same place (used when citing a reference).
22. Rice cooked in well-seasoned broth with onions or celery and usually poultry or game or shellfish and sometimes tomatoes.
23. A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge).
26. Avatar of Vishnu.
27. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
29. A cavity in the mesoderm of an embryo that gives rise in humans to the pleural cavity and pericardial cavity and peritoneal cavity.
31. Walk on one's toes.
34. The habitation of wild animals.
37. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
38. (British) Traditional jazz as revived in the 1950s.
41. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
43. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
46. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
48. Immediately past.
49. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
51. Type genus of the Otariidae.
53. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
54. A city in southwestern California east of Los Angeles.
56. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
57. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
59. Being one more than nine.
61. A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
62. The basic unit of money in Iran.
64. God of wealth and love.
67. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.

DOWN

69. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
73. An associate degree in applied science.
74. Sexual pleasure obtained by inflicting harm (physical or psychological) on others.
77. An iconic mental representation.
78. The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.
79. Of or relating to Iran or its people or language or culture.
81. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
82. A doctor's degree in education.
83. A South African plant of the genus Othonna having smooth often fleshy leaves and heads of yellow flowers.
84. A city in northwestern Syria.
1. A White Protestant of Anglo-Saxon ancestry.
2. French filmmaker (1908-1982).
3. Using speech rather than writing.
4. On end or upright.
5. (used as a combining form) Recent or new.
6. (Arthurian legend) The capital of King Arthur's kingdom.
7. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
8. An antidepressant drug that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin so that more serotonin is available to act on receptors in the brain.
9. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
10. Improved or corrected by critical editing.
11. A young woman making her debut into society.
12. A woman of refinement.
13. (cosmology) The original matter that (according to the big bang theory) existed before the formation of the chemical elements.
14. Informal terms for a mother.
19. Uttering in an irritated tone.
21. Inflexibly entrenched and unchangeable.
24. United States industrialist who manufactured plows suitable for working the prairie soil (1804-1886).
25. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
28. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
30. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
32. A colorless liquid hydrocarbon extracted from petroleum or coal tar and used in making synthetic resins.
33. A genus of Ploceidae.
35. A poisonous colorless flammable gas used in organic synthesis and to dope transistors and as a poison gas in warfare.
36. The peninsula and island in the Philippines where Japanese forces besieged American forces in World War II.
39. Having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude.
40. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
42. A mark used by an author or editor to indicate where something is to be inserted into a text.
44. Somewhat ill or prone to illness.
45. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
47. Of or relating to Moses or the laws and writings attributed to him.
50. Tooth on the rim of gear wheel.
52. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
55. The spirit of evil in Zoroastrianism.
58. A person with albinism.
60. (of pain or sorrow) Made easier to bear.
63. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
65. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
66. A genus of European owls.
68. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
70. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
71. American novelist (1909-1955).
72. Gather, as of as crops.
75. The products of human creativity.
76. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
80. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



KATHMANDU: A shadow of a Nepalese farmer falls on a heap of grains as he separates it from chaff and dust after a harvest in Chunnikhel, on the outskirts of Kathmandu yesterday. According to the World Bank, agriculture is the main source of food, income, and employment for the majority in Nepal. — AP

ANTI-VACCINATION NURSES IN AUSTRALIA FACE PUNISHMENT

SYDNEY: Nurses and midwives promoting anti-vaccination messages in Australia could face punishment, the industry regulator warned yesterday, as the country tackles recent outbreaks of preventable diseases. In response to increasing concern about anti-vaccination movements, Canberra last year introduced a "no jab, no pay" law blocking parents who refuse to vaccinate their children from accessing some government benefits.

The move followed outbreaks of measles in Europe and parts of the United States, and local whooping cough and measles cases in Australia. Some of those who reject vaccination fear that a triple vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella could cause autism, even though the theory has been widely discredited by various studies.

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) said it issued the warning after reports of a "small number" of practitioners who "promoted anti-vaccination statements to patients and the public via social media which contradict the best available scientific evidence". — AFP

SCHOOL BAN ON PREGNANT TEENS DIVIDES EQUATORIAL GUINEA

SOME DAUGHTERS ARE USED AS TRADE ITEMS: REPORT

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea: "Pregnancy is neither a crime nor a mental illness," insists Imelda Bosuala, a 15-year-old who was turned away by her school in Equatorial Guinea after falling pregnant. When the school term began last month, the government had put in place a new rule in order to enrol, all teenage girls must take a pregnancy test. And a positive test means no more education.

Speaking on state television, deputy education minister Maria-Jesus Nkara said the tough new measure sought to encourage schoolgirls to protect themselves against unwanted pregnancies.

A month into the new term, it is still too early to tell how many girls have been affected by the ban in a country where teenage girls come under heavy pressure to start a family. World Bank figures show that in 2014, the birth rate among Equatorial Guinean adolescents aged 15-19 was 110 in 1,000.

The figure is substantially higher than the global average of 44 per 1,000, but lower than in other African nations such as Niger (204), Mali (175) and Angola (167). Rights organizations have criticized the authorities for violating the right to education, slamming the measure as another example of repression in this tiny oil-rich nation whose president, Teodoro Obiang Nguema, has ruled with an iron fist since seizing power in a 1979 coup.

Illegal abortion fears

But opinions within the country are divided. "This is a good decision," said 13-year-old Sabina in the playground of Bioko Norte high school in the capital, Malabo.

"Coming to class while you're pregnant shows a lack of respect." Even Bosuala herself is in two minds. "Pregnancy is also not a good example to set in the school environment," she admits.

But French teacher Gerardo Ndong believes the decision was "foolish". And Trifonia Melibea, a sociologist and teacher at the National University of Equatorial Guinea, was also dismayed by the decision. "These adolescents are being deprived of the fundamental right to education. That's an insult," she said.

She also warned that the measure could push teenagers into seeking abortions in "inhuman conditions". In the former Spanish colony of 800,000 people, pregnancies can be legally terminated only if there is a threat to the health of the mother and with the authorization of the spouse or parents.

Daughters as 'trade items'

Efua, whose 14-year-old daughter is expecting a baby, believes the government should open a dedicated school "especially for young pregnant girls" so they can keep up their studies. Early pregnancies are most common in poor families, where adults might even consider sending a daughter out as a sexual offering. "Some parents use their daughters as items of trade, asking them to go out with rich men to help the family survive," said 19-year-old Ana Rita.

Sociologist Martin Ela pointed to increasing pressures from consumerism since oil production began in the 1990s. "These little girls go out with someone who is able to give them a smart-phone because they want to be on Facebook or WhatsApp," Ela said.

Melibea said teenage girls were particularly vulnerable to pressure. "In Equatorial Guinea, if a girl reaches the age of 18 without having a child, everybody starts saying she's barren," she said.

The high number of teen pregnancies can also be linked to the absence of legislative protection for minors against sexual harassment, meaning abusive men can operate with impunity.

'Devastating consequences'

Sierra Leone introduced a similar ban on pregnant teens last year, prompting a sharp reaction from Amnesty International. "Excluding pregnant girls from mainstream schools and banning them from sitting crucial exams is discriminatory and will have devastating consequences," the London-based rights group said in a study released in November 2015.

"Education is a right and not something for governments to arbitrarily take away as a punishment." — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199






Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC, FAAP, PEM



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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (20/10/2016 TO 26/10/2016)

SHARQIA-1 JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK SACRIFICE SACRIFICE ASAL ABYAD ASAL ABYAD SACRIFICE	1:30 PM	ASAL ABYAD	8:00 PM
	4:00 PM	ASAL ABYAD	10:15 PM
	6:00 PM	KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES	12:30 AM
	8:00 PM		
SHARQIA-2 JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	10:15 PM	MARINA-2 JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	11:30 AM
	12:30 AM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	2:00 PM
		JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	4:30 PM
		JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	7:00 PM
SHARQIA-3 INFERNO THE MERMAID PRINCESS THE MERMAID PRINCESS THE MERMAID PRINCESS INFERNO LAF WA DAWARAN INFERNO	11:45 AM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	9:30 PM
	2:15 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	12:05 AM
	4:45 PM		
	7:15 PM	MARINA-3 INFERNO	12:15 PM
SHARQIA-3 INFERNO THE MERMAID PRINCESS THE MERMAID PRINCESS THE MERMAID PRINCESS INFERNO LAF WA DAWARAN INFERNO	9:45 PM	THE MERMAID PRINCESS	2:45 PM
	12:15 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM
		INFERNO	7:00 PM
		INFERNO	9:15 PM
MUHALAB-1 JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK ISM- Telugu ISM- Telugu ISM- Telugu ISM- Telugu LAF WA DAWARAN ASAL ABYAD ASAL ABYAD LAF WA DAWARAN	11:45 AM	PRECIOUS CARGO	11:45 PM
	1:45 PM	PRECIOUS CARGO	
	3:45 PM	PRECIOUS CARGO	
	6:15 PM	PRECIOUS CARGO	
MUHALAB-2 PRECIOUS CARGO PRECIOUS CARGO INFERNO PRECIOUS CARGO INFERNO PRECIOUS CARGO PRECIOUS CARGO	8:15 PM	PRECIOUS CARGO	12:15 AM
	10:45 PM	PRECIOUS CARGO	
	12:45 AM	PRECIOUS CARGO	
MUHALAB-3 JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	11:45 AM	AVENUES-2 JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK - 2D 4DX	11:45 AM
	1:45 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK - 2D 4DX	2:15 PM
	3:45 PM	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART II- 3D 4DX	4:45 PM
	6:15 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK - 2D 4DX	7:30 PM
FANAR-1 SACRIFICE SACRIFICE LAF WA DAWARAN SACRIFICE LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN SACRIFICE	7:30 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK - 2D 4DX	10:00 PM
	10:30 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK - 2D 4DX	12:30 AM
	4:45 PM		
	7:00 PM	AVENUES-3 LAF WA DAWARAN	1:15 PM
FANAR-2 INFERNO INFERNO ASAL ABYAD ASAL ABYAD ASAL ABYAD INFERNO	9:15 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	3:30 PM
	11:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	5:45 PM
		LAF WA DAWARAN	8:00 PM
		LAF WA DAWARAN	10:15 PM
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REQUIRED

Secretary

for Contracting Company

Indian

or

Filipino nationality

Minimum 10 years experience

Please send CV to:
mohamed_fu_hvac@hotmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohamed Baruk Mohamed Asraf, holder of Indian Passport No. J6973017 & Civil ID No. 270021203341 has changed my name to Mohamed Baruk Ashrafali hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by the name of Mohamed Baruk Ashraf Ali. (C 5223) 18-10-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 04:33

Shorook 05:53

Duhr: 11:33

Asr: 14:46

Maghrib: 17:12

Isha: 18:29

on 29/11/2015, would like change my name to Albertina Fernandes. (C 5219) 17-10-2016

I Zahra holding Indian Passport No. Z3218479 issued at Kuwait

Hospitals	
Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9
Clinics	
Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016



Renault-Nissan's Ghosn to head Mitsubishi Motors

EGYPT'S ECONOMY TO GROW 3.5% IN 2016/17: SURVEY

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PARIS: A board shows the British Pound sell rate outside a currency exchange bureau in Paris yesterday. British Prime Minister Theresa May will seek to allay fears of the disruptive impact of Brexit after a wave of criticism when she addresses European Union leaders yesterday at her first EU summit. — AFP

SAUDIS RAISE \$17.5BN IN FIRST GLOBAL BOND ISSUE

MAMMOTH BOND ISSUE BOOSTS SAUDI STOCKS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia raised \$17.5 billion in its first international bond offering, HSBC said yesterday, reflecting strong interest as the kingdom seeks to diversify its oil-dependent economy. The bond issue—the first time Saudi Arabia has turned to international markets for financing—was hailed as historic by investors and according to official media was nearly four times oversubscribed.

"It was the biggest syndicated issue ever by any country," said Jean-Marc Mercier, co-director of the debt capital markets division at HSBC, which took part in the transaction and confirmed the figure. The world's largest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia is seeking financing as it moves to diversify its economy following the global collapse in crude prices. The kingdom is projecting a budget deficit of \$87 billion this year after a fall in oil revenues, which still account for most of its income.

It has taken a series of austerity measures, including subsidy cuts and reductions in cabinet ministers' salaries, and earlier this year announced an ambitious plan to diversify its economy. A veteran banker in the kingdom told AFP the issue would be considered a major achievement. "The rate came in at good levels. It's got to be viewed as a big success for the country," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Saudi Arabia divided the issue into three tranches with maturities of five, 10 and 30 years, HSBC said.

Future issues expected

The \$5.5 billion in five-year bonds carries a coupon that pays annual interest of 2.375 percent. A further \$5.5 billion in 10-year bonds carries a coupon of 3.25 percent, and the \$6.5

billion in 30-year bonds has a coupon of 4.5 percent.

The effective annual interest rate is 2.588 percent on the five-year bonds, 3.407 percent on the 10-year bonds and 4.623 percent on the 30-year bonds. The official Saudi Press Agency reported that total subscription requests amounted to \$67 billion, or almost four times the \$17.5 billion offered.

Saudi Arabia had previously issued domestic bonds but that led to a tightening of bank liquidity, according to Patrick Dennis, lead Middle East economist at Oxford Economics in London. "That's the main reason why they're now borrowing overseas," he told AFP.

Saudi banks' loan-to-deposit ratio rose for the fifth consecutive month in August, reaching 90.8 percent, because of faster growth in credit relative to deposits, Riyadh's Jadwa Investment said in a report this month.

While bank stress may be a factor, the veteran banker in Saudi Arabia said an international bond sale fits with the kingdom's global outreach. "A lot of international investors don't like to buy the local currency," preferring US dollars, he said.

Borrowing abroad also reduces the drain on the kingdom's foreign reserves. Official figures show those reserves declined to \$562 billion in August from \$732 billion at the end of 2014.

London-based Capital Economics said in a briefing paper that Saudi reserves are now "unlikely to fall much beyond their current level in the coming years" because the bond issue will finance around a third of next year's budget deficit and almost all of the current account shortfall.

In April the kingdom released its wide-ranging Vision 2030

for diversifying the economy. At its heart is a plan to float less than five percent of state oil company Saudi Aramco on the stock market. Proceeds would help form what will become the world's biggest state investment fund, with around \$2 trillion in assets. The veteran banker said Saudi Arabia's first global bond sale is a "small start in the big picture" and is likely to be repeated.

Stocks jump

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose sharply yesterday as banks rallied after the kingdom's mammoth international bond sale, which could help to unclog liquidity bottlenecks in the economy. Egypt bounced as investors bought into recent dips. The Saudi index gained 2.3 percent in sharply higher turnover as all but one of the banks advanced, with Samba Financial, which earlier this week had reported a drop in third-quarter net income, jumping 5.2 percent.

The kingdom conducted the world's largest emerging market bond sale on Wednesday, selling \$17.5 billion of debt in the government's first international offer while attracting investor orders totalling almost four times that amount.

"This issuance is a very welcome development for the Saudi equity market and the banking sector in particular," said Mohamed Eljamal, director of capital markets at Abu Dhabi's Waha Capital. "One of the main issues facing the banking sector in Saudi is the tight liquidity in the system and the high loan-to-deposit ratio - this issuance should directly help relieve some of this liquidity pressure." — Agencies

News

In brief

Egypt wheat body moots raising local crop price

CAIRO: The new committee formed to set the local buying price for Egypt's wheat crop has recommended raising it to 450 Egyptian pounds (\$50.68) per erdab (150 kg) from the current price of 420 pounds, the agriculture ministry spokesman said yesterday. A ministerial-level committee was established to determine the proper price for local wheat and whether the payment system should be reformed to minimize opportunities for corruption, the supply minister said on Wednesday. "The committee formed from the ministries of supply and agriculture agreed on a price per erdab of wheat for the coming season of 450 pounds," agriculture ministry spokesman Hamid Abdel Dayim told Reuters.

UAE's ENOC to self-fund refinery expansion: CFO

DUBAI: Emirates National Oil Co (ENOC) has decided it will self-finance the \$1 billion expansion of its Jebel Ali oil refinery, having talked with regional and international banks about a potential loan, its chief financial officer told Reuters. State-owned ENOC plans to expand the refinery by 50 percent, aiming to start commercial production in 2019. The company was in talks with relationship banks earlier this year for a US dollar debt facility, bankers said, with one of them adding that the amount being discussed was in the region of \$1 billion. The company was considering a loan backed by export credit agencies, another banker said.

Saudi's Kingdom Holding Q3 net profit slumps 38.3%

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Kingdom Holding, the investment firm owned by billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, posted a 38.3 percent fall in third-quarter net profit yesterday. Net profit of 179.88 million riyals (\$48.0 million) in the three months ending Sept. 30, versus 291.55 million riyals a year earlier, according to a bourse filing. Company blamed drop in hotel revenue and dividend income, as well as rise in depreciation and finance charges. Expected to record 150 million riyals less revenue from its share-swap deal with AccorHotels in its third-quarter earnings due to FX fluctuations caused by Brexit, Kingdom said on July 12.

Turkey unexpectedly keeps rate steady

ANKARA: Turkey's central bank yesterday kept its interest rate steady for the first time since March, wiping out the day's lira losses and defying analysts' expectations of cut. The central bank said in a statement on its website that the overnight lending rate would remain at 8.25 percent. Surveys of economists by Bloomberg and others had forecast a likely snip of 25 basis points. Shortly after the release, the lira was 0.2 per cent higher against the US dollar, a jump from the day's losses which at one point saw a decline of 0.4 percent. It was trading at 3.05 against the greenback at 2.30pm (1130 GMT). The bank said the one-week repurchasing rate remained stable at 7.5 percent as well as the overnight borrowing rate, at 7.25 percent. It is the first time there has been no cut under new governor Murat Cetinkaya, who replaced Erdem Basci in April. Basci had frustrated the government over his refusal to cut rates.



MYANMAR: Member of Parliament Tint Soe, a lawmaker from the ruling National League for Democracy party is photographed next to a giant jade stone. Miners in northern Myanmar have discovered the country's largest ever high-quality jade stone, thought to be worth around \$170 million, a local lawmaker told AFP on October 17, 2016. The 5.8 metre-long (19 feet) stone was discovered by miners in northern Kachin state last week, buried up to 60 metres deep inside a mountain. — AFP

EGYPT'S ECONOMY TO GROW 3.5% IN 2016/17: SURVEY

GROWTH TO MISS GOVERNMENT TARGET

CAIRO: Egypt's economy is likely to grow 3.5 percent in the 2016/17 fiscal year, missing the government's target of around 5 percent and falling below last year's growth rate, a Reuters poll showed yesterday. The poll, which surveyed 17 analysts, found growth would pick up only slightly to reach 3.7 percent the following fiscal year. Egypt has been struggling to stimulate its economy amid a severe shortage of dollars since a 2011 uprising drove away tourists and foreign investors, key sources of foreign currency. The economy also fell short of the government's target of 5.5 percent for the 2015/16 fiscal year, which ended in June. Egypt's finance minister has estimated growth for that period at around 4.2 percent. "Real GDP growth was unexpectedly high in 2015/16 considering the sharp downturn in tourism and severe forex shortages," said Jacques Verreyne, an analyst at NKC African.

The acute dollar shortage has made it harder for businesses to purchase from abroad and crippled manufacturers that

rely on imported raw materials.

Importers have had no choice but to turn to a black market to get dollars as banks ration meagre supplies for essential commodities. Businesses were paying 15 Egyptian pounds or more per dollar in recent weeks compared with an official rate of 8.8. The median forecast put inflation as measured by the annual rise in the consumer price index at 11.0 percent for the current fiscal year, down from a previous forecast of 11.5 percent.

Both forecasts are lower than the country's recent monthly core inflation readings. September's rate was 13.94 percent, up from 13.25 percent in August. Analysts expect inflation to jump in 2017/18 to 13.8 percent before easing slightly to 12.5 percent the following year.

The central bank has been trying to balance the need for economic growth with keeping inflation risks at bay. After raising its key rates earlier in the year, it kept them on hold at its last monetary policy meeting in late September, leaving

its overnight deposit rate at 11.75 percent and overnight lending rate at 12.75 percent.

The six analysts who weighed in on interest rates disagreed sharply on where they would go in coming months, though the median forecast put them as stable. "We see a 200-basis-point hike most probably at the Nov. 17 meeting, (after) receiving the first tranche of the IMF loan in order to attract portfolio investments in the short-run," analyst Eman Negm from Prime Holding said. Egypt in August signed a preliminary agreement with the International Monetary Fund for a \$12 billion lending program aimed at plugging its budget deficit and balancing currency markets. The IMF executive board must still grant final approval. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said earlier this month Egypt needed to take "prior actions", including steps towards a more liberalized exchange rate and reduced fuel subsidies, before the board could approve the program.— Reuters

AS IRAN OIL TENDERS NEAR, INVESTORS STILL IN THE DARK

TEHRAN/ISTANBUL: Two years after Iran pledged to open up its oil industry in anticipation of the lifting of sanctions, foreign companies say they still have little information about Iranian oil fields and contract terms, hindering investment decisions. Bosses from oil majors including BP, Total, Eni, Royal Dutch Shell and LUKOIL have all travelled to Tehran this year, since the EU sanctions ended in January. Their teams spent weeks meeting local officials ahead of investment tenders due to start next month.

But several senior executives and members of their negotiating teams told Reuters they still had

not been given sufficient information about the geology of Iranian fields or contract terms. The people, who were not speaking from Iran, said they were also unclear about how quickly they would be able to recoup their investment and who they could partner with locally. While foreign companies are eager to enter Iran, which sits on a tenth of the world's oil reserves, they are also wary of any contract terms that may lead to them falling foul of remaining US sanctions.

BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley, whose company is seeking deals to develop several fields, said he did not know the details of any potential con-

tracts yet. "Iran is a large oil and gas province ... but we don't have any specific contracts right now," Dudley said last week. "We're going to have to be very careful. We don't want to violate any sanction," he added.

If this lack of clarity leads to companies withholding investment in the tenders or investing elsewhere, it could undermine the plans of Iran's reformist President Hassan Rouhani to attract up to \$185 billion from oil majors into 50 projects and increase Iranian output to 5-6 million barrels per day (bpd) from less than 4 million now.

This could deprive the country of much-needed

income as it seeks to recover from years of sanctions which hammered its economy. The competition for foreign investment between oil-producing nations has intensified over the past five years due to abundant discoveries of new energy reserves in countries such as Brazil and the United States.

Political infighting in Tehran has clouded the outlook for Iran's energy sector. Hardline rivals of Rouhani have strongly opposed giving overseas firms control of oil fields, saying this contradicts the constitution which states that natural resource reserves cannot be owned by foreigners.—Reuters

AMERICAN AIRLINES Q3 PROFIT DECLINES

FORT WORTH, Texas: More empty seats and higher labor costs are cutting into profit at American Airlines. But in an encouraging sign for airlines and their investors - and a worrisome one for passengers - American is offering new evidence that higher fares could be just around the corner.

The world's biggest carrier said yesterday that third-quarter earnings fell 56 percent and would have dropped even more if it weren't for continuing low fuel prices.

The company earned \$737 million, down from \$1.69 billion a year earlier. Revenue slipped 1 percent but costs rose 5 percent. American was still able to claim that it beat Wall Street expectations. Excluding what it deemed non-repeating costs, mostly related to its 2013 merger with US Airways, the company said it would have earned \$1.76 per share. That topped the \$1.67 per share forecast from analysts surveyed by FactSet.

American doesn't disclose the average fare that passengers pay, but it was likely less than 1 percent. A key figure, revenue for every seat flown one mile, fell 3.3 percent, partly due to lower fares but mostly because the average flight was less fuel than during summer 2015.

The decline in that figure, called unit revenue, was the smallest recorded at American since the first quarter of last year. Translation: Airfares have been falling for two years, but they may be about to rise as airlines scale back their growth plans and limit the supply of seats.

American got a break again on fuel prices, although not as big as in recent quarters. The airline and its regional subsidiaries spent 11 percent less on fuel than they did in the third quarter of 2015.

Labor costs jumped 15 percent, however, as union workers won pay raises to make up for years of lower wages after the industry downturn in the previous decade. — AP

RENAULT-NISSAN'S GHOSN TO HEAD MITSUBISHI MOTORS

'LE COST KILLER' NOW HEADS THREE AUTOMAKERS

TOKYO: Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, nicknamed Le Cost Killer for turning around the once struggling Japanese automaker, is set to become chairman of Mitsubishi Motors, several months after throwing a lifeline to the scandal-hit company. The appointment will make Ghosn the head of three major automakers, including France's Renault which holds a major stake in Nissan.

Mitsubishi's current chairman and president Osamu Masuko will stay on as president, the company said, adding that the changes are to take effect in December following a shareholder vote.

Nissan came to Mitsubishi's aid in May when it announced plans to buy a one-third stake in the crisis-hit automaker for 237.3 billion yen (\$2.3 billion), as the smaller rival wrestled with a mileage-cheating scandal that hammered sales. "Earlier today Nissan completed the acquisition of the 34 percent equity stake in Mitsubishi Motors... and I am honoured to address this event as chairman elect of this company," Ghosn told a news briefing in Tokyo.

"Through this transaction, we're sending a clear message we believe in the underlying strength of Japanese carmaking," Ghosn-widely credited with turning around a nearly bankrupt Nissan and overhauling Renault in the nineties-insisted he would stay out of day-to-day management at Mitsubishi.

"The board is in charge of the governance of the company," he said. "The board is not in charge of the manage-



TOKYO: Nissan Motors chairman and CEO Carlos Ghosn (left) chats with Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) president and CEO Osamu Masuko (right) during a photo session following their joint press conference in Tokyo yesterday.—AFP

ment of the company. That's very clear."

However, he appointed Hiroto Saikawa, Nissan's chief competitive officer, as his co-CEO at the maker of the Altima sedan and X-Trail sport utility vehicle so he could focus on Mitsubishi's turnaround. The company has admitted it had been falsifying mileage tests for years, manipulating data to make cars seem more efficient than they were. Investors have cheered news that Ghosn would take the helm at Mitsubishi, with

its Tokyo-listed stock up more than 10 percent since Wednesday.

After markets closed on Wednesday, Mitsubishi warned it was on track to lose 240 billion yen in the fiscal year to March, ballooning from an earlier net loss forecast of 145 billion yen as the scandal eats into its bottom line. Two of the affected vehicle models were being made for Nissan, which was the first to uncover problems with the fuel economy data.—AFP

JAPAN GDP SHAKE-UP KNOCKING WORLD'S GROWTH INDICATOR

TOKYO: Japan is eyeing an overhaul of how it measures growth in its economy, and that is stirring fresh questions about the reliability of the world's go-to indicator - gross domestic product-in the digital age. Researchers at Japan's central bank crunched some numbers recently and concluded that the booming-economy-turned-perennial-laggard actually grew 2.4 percent in fiscal 2014 rather than shrinking an official 0.9 percent.

If those numbers are correct, it might mean a recession that year never happened. Tokyo's review could have broader implications as other countries also question a measurement that was born out of the US Great Depression.

"The Bank of Japan study is just the latest in a series of new questions raised about official GDP numbers," Erik Nielsen, chief economist at UniCredit Research, said in a commen-

tary. "If we are flying blind, then how can we expect good policymaking?" Whether it's the steel produced to make your car, that tomato from the supermarket, or your last dentist appointment, GDP adds up the value of goods and services in an economy over a certain period-offering a snapshot of a country's productivity.

In the old days, you might have booked a trip to Paris through a travel agent, bought a map to get yourself around the city and called the kids back home with a calling card.

All those purchases go towards GDP. Nowadays, many consumers turn to online booking apps such as Expedia and Airbnb, tap on free-to-use online maps, and phone home through no-cost sites like Skype or WhatsApp-and it's not easily accounted for.

"All that economic activity that used to be in GDP is now being generated by services that are either free or are paid for by advertising rather than the consumer," Professor Charles Bean, a former deputy governor at the Bank of England, said in a recent video.

'Never been harder'

Bean, tapped by London to study the problem, concluded in a report this year that Britain's economic activity is being understated. "Ironically, GDP may actually fall even though the quantity and quality of services is increasing," he said.

"Measuring the economy has never been harder." Luxembourg-based EU statistics

agency Eurostat has revised the way it measured GDP to get in line with recommendations from the United Nations Statistical Commission.

According to the Bruegel think-tank in Brussels, the impact on base GDP numbers from the change in methodology varied hugely across the EU, from 0.3 percentage points in Luxembourg to 9.3 percentage points in Cyprus. Many EU countries also introduced new sources of GDP and updated methods, including a new, EU-wide way of measuring illegal or underground activities such as the drug trade and prostitution.

Other countries face different measurement challenges. With inflation running at an estimated 475 percent annually, Venezuela's central bank has stopped publishing key economic data on a regular basis, while China, the world's number two economy, has been accused of tweaking its numbers in both directions. "The Chinese government likes to make the GDP trend to look smoother than it really is," said Claire Huang, a Societe Generale China economist based in Hong Kong. "It's not always making it higher...It actually lowered it when the economy was growing very fast back in 2010. It wants to downplay the level of fluctuations in its economy." For Japan, the possible culprits behind any mis-measurement include fewer companies and households filling out official surveys-the BoJ used tax returns instead-and missing out on big chunks of the internet economy.—AFP



TOKYO: Japan's highest mountain, Mount Fuji at 3,776 meters (12,388 feet), seen behind skyscrapers in Tokyo's Shinjuku area during sunset. Japan is eyeing an overhaul of how it measures growth in its economy, and that is stirring fresh questions about the reliability of the world's go-to indicator - gross domestic product — in the digital age. — AFP

ECB KEEPS RATES AT RECORD LOW AS MARKETS SEEK CLUES

INVESTORS WEIGH DRAGHI'S REMARKS ON STIMULUS

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank yesterday kept interest rates at historic lows and its asset-buying program unchanged, turning the spotlight on president Mario Draghi to hint at his next moves to nurture a still-hesitant eurozone economy.

Investors will be scrutinizing Draghi's remarks at a press conference, looking for reassurance that the bank's stimulus program is still on track after markets were rattled by talk that its massive bond purchases may be drying up. Members of the governing council voted not to make any changes to the ECB's ultra-loose monetary policy, which consists of record low interest rates, cheap loans to banks and a multi-billion-euro bond-buying program. "The governing council confirms that the monthly asset purchases of 80 billion euros are intended to run until the end of March 2017, or beyond, if necessary," the ECB said in a statement.

Its governing council believes the

moves, designed to pump cash into the economy and encourage banks to lend to businesses and households, have boosted GDP growth and inflation in the months since its decision. Under its mandate, the central bank aims to guide the economy towards a healthy inflation rate of just below 2.0 percent.

But growth and inflation remain lacklustre in the 19-nation eurozone, and many observers believe more stimulus is needed. They were spooked then by a Bloomberg report this month that suggested the ECB may "taper"-or wind down-its bond-buying scheme. While the ECB strongly denied the speculation, Draghi will likely be pressed to reiterate that the bank, far from winding down its asset purchases, is more likely to extend them. "The bank remains under pressure to assure markets of its ability to do more," analyst Jennifer McKeown of Capital Economics said. "Mr Draghi will at least want to allay fears of early tapering of asset purchases," she added.

Decision in December

The governing council's decision to keep interest rates and monetary policy unchanged was widely expected. The bank's benchmark "refi" refinancing rate has remained at an all-time low of zero percent since March. Its marginal lending facility is also unchanged at 0.25 percent and the rate on the deposit facility steady at minus 0.40 percent-meaning banks have to pay to park their excess cash with the ECB. "The governing council continues to expect the key ECB interest rates to remain at present or lower levels for an extended period of time," the ECB said in a statement.

Private banks have been unhappy with the low interest rates, which squeeze their profits. But with little sign of governments responding to Draghi's repeated calls to use growth-boosting fiscal policies to complement his monetary interventions, the ECB's ultra-loose policy remains a critical pillar of confidence in the 19-nation eurozone. Most central bank observers expect Draghi to hold off until December to announce any policy changes aimed at bringing inflation closer to the ECB's mandated target. Inflation reached its highest level in almost two years in September, at 0.4 percent, but remains far off the ECB's objective. But the bank believes that without its help, economic performance would be even worse. Minutes released in early October from September's governing council meeting showed members agreed it was "of crucial importance to preserve the very substantial degree of monetary support"-and little has changed since then. A study the ECB released this week showed increased demand for credit from businesses and households and banks softening conditions for offering loans as well as for their repayment-positive developments which the council will see as the result of its interventions. — AFP



FRANKFURT: ECB President Mario Draghi speaks during a press conference in Frankfurt am Main, yesterday. European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi yesterday said the governing council "didn't discuss" winding down its massive bond purchases. —AFP



SIDOARJO: Job seekers attend a job fair in Sidoarjo, East Java province, Yesterday. —AFP

INDONESIA UNEXPECTEDLY CUTS KEY INTEREST RATE

JAKARTA: Indonesia's central bank yesterday unexpectedly cut its key interest rate for the sixth time this year in a bid to boost slowing growth in Southeast Asia's top economy.

Bank Indonesia reduced the rate by 25 basis points to 4.75 percent, despite many economists having forecast there would no change. It was the second consecutive month that policymakers have trimmed rates as they scramble to boost the G20 economy, which has been losing steam in recent years due to slowing demand for its commodity exports.

The bank said it had decided on the move as it believes third-quarter economic growth will not be as strong as expected. The growth data is due to be released next month.

A statement said the bank "believes that monetary easing will strengthen the effort to drive domestic demand... and further push momentum for economic growth". Growth in the resource-rich country, which used to regularly come in at over six percent a year, has been sliding in recent times.

The economy expanded at 5.18 percent in the second quarter. The bank also said Thursday it expected growth in 2016 to come in at the lower end of its target range, which is between 4.9 and 5.3 percent. President Joko Widodo came to power two years ago on a pledge to boost growth, but has struggled to attract investment and get key projects off the ground due to the dim global outlook and Indonesia's difficult business environment. —AFP

STOCKS NUDGE HIGHER AFTER FINAL PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

LONDON: Stock markets inched higher but the Mexican peso was mixed after the third and final US presidential debate, which was judged to have given no clear boost to Donald Trump's hopes of winning the White House.

The peso is seen as the chief proxy for market pricing of the Republican candidate's chances in view of his promises to impose tough limits on immigration. It climbed to a six-week high against the dollar in the immediate aftermath of the debate but was down on the day in European trade.

A win for Democrat Hillary Clinton next month - now predicted clearly by polls - is also seen as opening the way for a rise in interest rates, which a number of US Federal Reserve policymakers have all but promised for December. The peso lost 0.3 percent in morning trade in Europe to 18.567 per dollar. Against a basket of currencies used to measure its broader strength, the dollar was up just under 0.1 percent, close to seven-month highs hit earlier this week.

"The likelihood of Donald Trump becoming president has nose-dived recently to as low as a one in eight probability ... (and) last night's debate has not provided that game-changing moment," said Lee Hardman, a currency strategist with Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi in London.

"The reduction in the political risk premium has helped the US dollar to strengthen broadly this month." New York Fed President William Dudley overnight gave one of the clearest signals yet that the world's largest economy is ready to take another step away from the ultra-low interest rates that have prevailed since the 2008 financial crash.

He said the Fed would move this year if the economy remains on track. Markets now price in a roughly 70 percent chance of a Fed hike in December.

ECB EYED

The European Central Bank, as expected, changed nothing in policy at its own meeting yesterday. President Mario Draghi's post-

meeting news conference (1230 GMT) will be eyed for confirmation that the bank may extend its bond-buying next year but also for more signs of reticence among policymakers about keeping interest rates endlessly in negative territory.

Among the best news for stocks this week has been a series of upbeat results for US banks, driven chiefly by bond, commodity and currency trading, and the European banking index outperformed the main indexes yesterday. France's CAC 40 and Germany's DAX were around 0.2 percent higher in morning trade. Britain's FTSE 100 dipped by around 0.1 percent, but the bank index was up by 0.8 percent.

US stock markets were also set to open marginally higher. Earlier, Asian stock markets had advanced, propelled by strong US earnings and oil prices that are near a 15-month high. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.1 percent. Japan's Nikkei extended its gains to 1.1 percent as the yen weakened. China's CSI 300

was also up 0.1 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 0.6 percent. With 70 companies in the S&P 500 having reported earnings through Wednesday morning, 80 percent have topped expectations. Third quarter earnings are now expected to increase 0.5 percent, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S, which would be the first quarter of growth in five.

Energy shares also contributed to the gains on Wall Street but US crude was down 1.4 percent to \$50.88 a barrel yesterday, after surging 2.6 percent to close at \$51.60 the previous session. Brent crude also fell back to \$51.92, after climbing 1.9 percent on Wednesday. "We have quiet commodity markets as the oil price advance pauses, quiet bond markets amid a lack of direction from US data, and stronger Asian equity markets," analysts from French bank Societe Generale said in a morning note.

"(That hasn't) translated into FX strength around the region, but has helped the yen drift a little lower." —Reuters

GEELY SHOWS GLOBAL AMBITIONS, LAUNCHING NEW SUV IN GERMANY

BERLIN: Chinese automaker Geely, the owner of Volvo cars, will unveil the first model of its new Lynk & Co brand in Germany yesterday, a compact SUV aimed at taking on the likes of BMW and Mercedes-Benz across the world. The Lynk, made in China, will go on sale at home in 2017, followed by Europe and the United States in 2018, and marks one of the first attempts by a Chinese carmaker to create a global brand that makes use European design and technology know-how.

Chinese companies have been snapping up cutting-edge German technology to push upmarket and gain a global footprint. This year alone, Chinese home appliances maker Midea has agreed to buy German robotics firm Kuka and Fujian Grand Chip Investment Fund LP is

taking over semiconductor equipment maker Aixtron. Long seen as a cheap, no frills brand in China and unheard of in Europe, Zhejiang Geely Holding Group purchased struggling Swedish carmaker Volvo from Ford in 2010 to help it leapfrog a decade of research and development.

While Volvo will continue to focus on premium vehicles, Lynk is an attempt to grab a slice of the mid-market. It will initially take on foreign carmakers' joint ventures in China, but - as shown by the global launch in Berlin - it also aims to challenge the world's biggest automakers in their own markets. The SUV, called '01', will target tech-savvy drivers. It will come with a high level of internet connectivity and owners will be able to rent out their vehicles to others by using the

Lynk app and a shareable digital key. The car will be a hybrid powered by a 1.5-litre three cylinder petrol engine combined with a lithium-ion battery and electric motor, and will be the first based on the Complex Modular Architecture platform developed by Geely and Volvo. Mercedes-owner Daimler and BMW are also investing heavily in hybrid vehicles and will be watching closely to see how the '01' fares with European consumers. Geely said the car would be priced competitively, but gave no details.

EUROPEAN KNOW-HOW

Geely's design has been refined by British designer Peter Horbury, who headed up design at Volvo in the 1990s and oversaw it for Jaguar, Aston Martin and Ford's other brands from 2002. In

doing so, Geely is upping the competitive pressure on established global carmakers, which have long accused Chinese rivals of merely ripping off their designs. Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), for example, has sued China's Jiangling Motor after it released the Landwind X7 SUV in 2014, a car that JLR says copies its Land Rover Evoque while costing around the third of a price. Geely said it had teamed up with Sweden's Ericsson for '01's connected features, as well as Microsoft and Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba. "The new '01' car will be the most connected car in the world, designed for a modern, urban audience who are used to collaborative consumption and all the benefits that this brings," said Alain Visser, senior vice president of Lynk & Co. — Reuters

BRAZIL CUTS RATES FOR FIRST TIME IN 4 YEARS

BRASILIA: Brazil cut interest rates for the first time in four years yesterday, opting for a modest 25 basis-point reduction to launch an easing cycle aimed at pulling Latin America's biggest economy out of its worst recession in over a century.

The central bank's nine-member monetary policy committee, known as Copom, voted unanimously to cut its benchmark Selic rate to 14 percent, signaling it will proceed with a "moderate and gradual" easing cycle. However, the bank said in its post-decision statement that it could opt for steeper cuts in the future if the pace of disinflation accelerates and Congress presses ahead with the approval of austerity measures. "The magnitude of monetary easing and a possible speeding up of its pace will depend on a favorable evolution of factors that allow greater confidence on meeting the inflation targets at the relevant horizon for the conduct of monetary policy," the bank said.

Lower rates will help President Michel Temer in his effort to strengthen a recovery that remains elusive with high unemployment as well as dwindling industrial and service activity frustrating hopes of a rebound later this year. For some analysts, the central bank is signaling a longer and more aggressive rate-cutting cycle is on the horizon. "We believe the central bank will have enough elements to step up the pace of easing to 50 basis points at its next meeting despite the caution expressed today," economists with Sao Paulo-based Haitong said in a research note. An overwhelming majority of analysts expected a rate cut, with many of them betting on a more aggressive 50-basis-point move.

In its statement, the bank said it forecast inflation at 4.3 percent in 2017 and 3.9 percent in 2018, but acknowledged private estimates remain above the 4.5 percent center of the official target for both years. Annual inflation currently stands at 8.48 percent. Stubbornly high inflation forced the central bank to hold the Selic steady for the past year at one of the highest rates among the group of G20 industrialized economies. However, a recent slowdown in inflation and the initial approval of a key austerity proposal in Congress gave the central bank's new governor Ilan Goldfajn enough arguments to cut borrowing costs. The easing cycle could take the Selic below 10 percent by as early as late 2017, some analysts said. The last time Brazil had a single-digit benchmark rate was in 2013.

CONFIDENCE ON THE RISE

That prospect could lift the spirits of investors in an economy battered by months of political upheaval that led to the ouster of Temer's leftist predecessor Dilma Rousseff earlier this year. For over a year businesses and politicians have demanded a rate cut to avoid stifling recovery during a second year of recession.

Lower borrowing costs could further lift confidence that has climbed steadily since Temer took office in May with a pro-business agenda. The recovery, however, remains tentative with high unemployment and falling activity. Service activity dropped by 3.9 percent in August from the same month last year, official data showed on Wednesday, a sharper fall than expected in the latest sign the recovery could be slow. Economists in a global Reuters poll on Tuesday projected Brazil's economy would only resume growth on a year-on-year basis in the first quarter of 2017. — Reuters



SPRINGFIELD: The Illinois Department of Employment Security office is open in Springfield, Illinois. In the past four years, Illinois has paid out more than \$700 million in improper unemployment benefits and retrieved only about 37 percent of it, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. — AP

US JOBLESS CLAIMS RISE, BUT LABOR MARKET STILL STRONG

WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS INCREASE 13,000

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose more than expected last week, but remained below a level that is associated with a strong labor market. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 13,000 to a seasonally adjusted 260,000 for the week ended Oct. 15, the Labor Department said yesterday. That marked 85 straight weeks of claims below the 300,000 threshold normally associated with a strong jobs market, the longest such period since 1970, when the labor market was much smaller.

Economists had forecast first-time applications for jobless benefits rising to 250,000 in the latest week. US financial markets were little moved by the data. Part of the increase in claims last week could be related to the effects of

Hurricane Matthew, which lashed the Southeast of the country, causing severe flooding. The storm could have left some people temporarily out of work. Unadjusted claims for North Carolina increased 2,520 last week. Outside the storm-affected states, there were hefty gains in unadjusted claims for Michigan, Kentucky and California.

The four-week moving average of claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, rose 2,250 to 251,750 last week. The claims data covered the survey week for October's nonfarm payrolls. The four-week average of claims fell 6,500 between the September and October survey periods, suggesting another month of solid employment growth. Sustained labor market strength could allow the Federal

Reserve to raise interest rates in December. The US central bank raised its benchmark overnight interest rate last December and has held it steady since, largely because of concerns over low inflation. While the pace of employment growth has slowed to a monthly average of 178,000 jobs so far this year after averaging 229,000 positions per month in 2015, it remains well above the roughly 100,000 that Fed Chair Janet Yellen says is needed to absorb new entrants in the labor market. Thursday's claims report also showed the number of people still receiving benefits after an initial week of aid increased 7,000 to 2.06 million in the week ended Oct. 8. The four-week average of the so-called continuing claims dropped 12,750 to 2.05 million. That was the lowest reading since July 2000. — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this Aug 15, 2016, file photo, United States' Ashleigh Johnson makes a save during a women's water polo quarterfinal match against Brazil at the Summer Olympics. — AP

GOLD MEDALISTS SHIELDS, JOHNSON WIN SPORTSWOMEN OF THE YEAR

NEW YORK: Claressa Shields did a cartwheel in the ring after winning her second Olympic boxing gold medal in Rio, and she's not done celebrating. Shields and water polo goaltender Ashleigh Johnson were recognized as Sportswomen of the Year at the Women's Sports Foundation's annual dinner Wednesday night. The 21-year-old Shields will decide in the coming years if she wants to add 'Tokyo' for the 2020 Games to the tattoo of the Olympic rings with Rio and London on her right biceps.

"I'm back in the gym, trying to figure out what's the best move next," Shields said. "I'm taking my time with that. I have a couple of different options. I can go pro or stay amateur for 2020." Johnson had 51 saves in Rio, including nine in the final against Italy, when the Americans won their second consecutive Olympic gold medal in water polo. "It was definitely a perfect ending to all the work and effort and sacrifices we made in the past 1 1/2 years," Johnson said. "It was a big thing to carry on the legacy."

A senior psychology major at Princeton, she hopes to lead the Tigers to the NCAA Tournament next spring. The water polo team just missed the tournament while the 6-foot-1 goalie with the wide wingspan trained for Rio. Big East Commissioner Val Ackerman won the Billie Jean King Contribution Award. Ackerman was the first president of the WNBA, now in

its 20th season, and served on the boards of USA Basketball and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

Pakistani pro squash player Maria Toorpakai Wazir, who dressed as a boy to play sports and later moved to Canada after receiving death threats from the Taliban, earned the Wilma Rudolph Courage Award. King, a winner of 39 Grand Slam titles in her tennis career, created the Women's Sports Foundation in 1974. The foundation provides travel and training grants and community-based sports opportunities. Presenters on Wednesday night included Jessica Mendoza, Mary Carillo, Laila Ali, Meryl Davis, Aimee Mullins and Sanya Richards-Ross.

Tributes

The foundation also paid tribute to the late Pat Summitt, the Tennessee coach who won eight national titles and a Division I record 1,098 games in her 38-year career. Former athletic director Joan Cronan and players Tamika Catchings and Kara Lawson honored their legendary coach. Shields defended her middleweight title and became the first US boxer to win consecutive gold medals in the Olympic sport that added women in 2012.

She's training and getting acclimated in her new place in Boynton Beach, Florida. The native of Flint, Michigan, spent the year before Rio at the

Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She moved to Florida three weeks ago. "I love it here, just got my furniture," she said. "I like the vibe and the people down here. They're very family-oriented and this place just makes me happy."

In the gold-medal match in Rio, Shields was faster and stronger than her taller Dutch opponent Nouchka Fontijn. Shields, who wore Superman knee socks, encouraged Fontijn in the fourth round to put up a better fight. "I didn't mean to taunt her in the last round," Shields said. "When I fight with my hands down, it's more letting her think she has opportunities and a shot when she doesn't." Shields owns a 77-1 record, won two world championship titles and spars mostly against men.

"If you want to get the best out of me, you have to let me fully perform," she said. "The guys can't hold back on me, so you end up going 100 percent. There's a bunch of guys who wanted to prove a point, and they couldn't." Shields, who threw out the first pitch at a Detroit Tigers game last month, has a film about her life in the works through Universal Pictures. Barry Jenkins, the director of the acclaimed movie "Moonlight," recently signed on to write the script. "I'm not done yet," Shields said. "I have this hunger to do more and be bigger and be more known and get women's boxing on the course of being respected by everybody." — AP

LEAKY SPRINGBOKS FIRE DEFENSE COACH

JOHANNESBURG: Embattled South Africa have axed defense coach Chean Roux ahead of a tour to Britain and Italy next month, the national rugby union said yesterday. The Springboks, once renowned for their defensive prowess, conceded 27 tries in nine Tests this season against Ireland, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. Allowing the All Blacks to run in nine tries in a 57-15 drubbing in Durban this month was the tipping point with the media insisting inexperienced Roux had to go less than a year into the post.

However, replacing him with JP Ferreira from 2016 Super Rugby runners-up Golden Lions has raised some media eyebrows. The Johannesburg outfit conceded 51 tries in 18 matches this season—virtually the same average that led to Roux being sacked. Head coach Allister Coetzee, who took over in April and has a four win-five loss record, also called up Free Cheetahs coach Franco Smith and kicking specialist Louis Koen for the tour.

Smith, who has guided his province to the Currie Cup final this weekend after a six-season absence, will assist attack coach Mzwandile Stick. Former national sevens squad star Stick has also come under fire and accused of being "out of his depth" by ex-Springboks skipper Corne Krige. The backroom staff changes came after a conference in Cape Town involving Coetzee, the six South African Super Rugby coaches and some former Springbok skippers and coaches.

Coetzee painted a gloomy picture of rugby in a country that produced World Cup-winning teams in 1995 and 2007. "We are living in our little kingdoms (franchises), hoping that we are the best rugby nation in the world. We are not." "There needs to be an alignment between the Springbok and franchise coaches to identify tactical shortcomings that impact on the performance of all our teams." "Ultimately, we need a shared philosophy to share our continuous improvement."

Coetzee wants the Springboks to play a more expansive game with the kick-and-harass approach of the past no longer effective. But a lack of imagination on attack and half-hearted tackling on defense led to three consecutive Rugby Championship away defeats this season. Some blame former Super Rugby coach Coetzee for the woes of South Africa. "Coetzee coached the Stormers for six years and never won the Super Rugby title. The investment in him as Springboks coach has no rugby merit," said columnist Mark Keohane. Starting on November 5, South Africa play the Barbarians and England in London, Italy in Florence and Wales in Cardiff. — AFP

SEAHAWKS' SHERMAN: NO REGRETS FOR OUTBURST

RENTON: The Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman said Wednesday that he has no regrets about his angry sideline tirade during the Atlanta game that has become as much a part of the conversation as the Seahawks sitting at 4-1 or their game this Sunday at division rival Arizona. "Nope, nothing at all," Sherman said.

Sherman's eruption in the win over the Falcons was a rare public display of strife among players and coaches. It took teammates Bobby Wagner, Kam Chancellor and Michael Bennett to finally calm Sherman. But what became clear since the tirade are the events that led to Sherman's outburst. There was a miscommunication between Sherman and backup safety Kelcie McCray that led to two different coverages being played and leaving Julio Jones uncovered down the sideline for a 36-yard touchdown.

Sherman was livid, although initially it was difficult to see what set him off other than the Seahawks blowing coverage and giving up an easy touchdown. Footage released Tuesday and broadcast on "Inside the NFL" showed defensive coordinator Kris Richard and Sherman shouting at each other as the defense came off the field. Sherman's anger ramped up after that, leading to sideline confrontations with coaches and teammates that took nearly the entire third quarter to simmer down.

Sherman said he has talked with Richard about what happened. "There wasn't much of a need. We've had a conversation but nothing outside of the norm. I think everything is pretty much understood," Sherman said. Sherman's anger did have a lingering effect. Atlanta scored touchdowns on its next two possessions - including another long TD on an apparent blown coverage. — AP

PAKISTAN'S AMBIDEXTROUS BOWLER PUSHES BARRIERS

LAHORE: A green-grocer's son who can bowl at pace with either arm is causing excitement in Pakistan as he targets a spot on the national team. Yasir Jan, 21, can generate around 145 kilometers per hour with his right arm and 135 kph with his left, making him a unique talent. Even in a country with a history of cricket innovations, such as the reverse sweep and reverse swing, Jan has set tongues wagging.

"Yasir has been an amazing talent," said his coach Muhammad Salman, tipping him as a definite prospect for the Pakistan Super League's Lahore Qalandars team which has snapped him up on a 10-year-contract. By swapping arms, a bowler can vary more greatly the angle of his delivery and adapt tactics depending on whether he is facing a right or left-handed batsman. "It is an advantage. As a captain when you have right-handed and left-handed batsmen batting then you have a luxury to have a bowler who can bowl with both," said Salman, a former Pakistan batsman. "There are no restrictions that a bowler can bowl with two hands in an over."

Jan's talent was uncovered in a Rawalpindi U19s match, when the batting side was running away with the game and his captain turned to him and made an unusual request. "We're already going down. Why don't you bowl left-handed?" Jan, now 21, recalls his captain saying. After a barren opening spell as a right-arter, he made the switch and shocked the opposition en route to his first four-for. "The coaches were also shocked. They said, 'What's this kid doing?'" he recalls. His special skill then hit the headlines during a talent hunt for the Lahore Qalandars conducted by former Pakistan fast bowler Aaqib Javed.

Poor background

Jan's chest-on action emulates his current idol, South Africa's Dale Steyn, but he said he was inspired by Pakistan's former right-arm, left-arm pace attack of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram. "I've been bowling with both arms since I was a kid," he told AFP at a training session in Lahore. "Waqar bhai (brother) and Wasim bhai were bowling in 2003 when I saw my first World Cup. 'I really liked watching them... I'd copy them. And I kept working and working at it and I got good. And it's helped me get picked.'"

Jan is the latest in a proud line of Pakistani innovators-from Hanif Mohammad, the original 'Little Master' who invented the reverse-sweep, to Imran Khan and Sarfraz Nawaz who were the first to unveil the dark arts of 'reverse swing', later popularized by Wasim and Waqar before being exported globally. His first break came in 2012 when he was picked for the Rawalpindi U16s, and in 2013 he was selected for the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, where Pakistan's top youth talent is honed.

Money is now being poured into developing and bulking up the wiry Jan, whose family moved to the capital Islamabad from the militancy-racked northwest when he was a child. "He came from a very poor background, we all know that. And the coaches around here, the people who own him now are going to spend a lot of money on his physical fitness and nutrition and all that," said Salman.

"And obviously it will take time, minimum six months to a year." It is a challenge for Jan, but he says he will work hard to bring his right-arm, left-arm combinations to the sport's biggest stages. "Now I've got a good platform so with hard work I hope to achieve my goal of playing for Pakistan, my country. To go to the biggest grounds around the world and the best players. This is my goal and my dream." — AFP



CHITTAGONG: Bangladesh's Mehedi Hasan (C) celebrates with teammates the wicket of England's Joe Root during the first day of the first Test match between Bangladesh and England at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Cricket Stadium. —AFP

B'DESH DEBUTANT TEENAGER PUTS ENGLAND IN DISARRAY

CHITTAGONG: Teenage debutant Mehedi Hasan claimed five wickets for 64 runs to stun England's top order and give Bangladesh the upper hand in the first Test in Chittagong yesterday. Moeen Ali and Jonny Bairstow scored half-centuries each as England reached 258-7 at stumps on the first day, after skipper Alastair Cook elected to bat first at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium. Moeen survived five reviews on his way to smashing 68 runs and Bairstow made 52 as England steadied against some superb bowling from Bangladesh's spinners to post a respectable score. Chris Woakes was 36 not out and Adil Rashid unbeaten on five. Experienced left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan finished the day with 2-46 to complement 18-year-old Mehedi, who became the seventh Bangladeshi bowler to take five wickets in his Test debut. "I never expected such a debut of this kind," Mehedi said. "I thought that I would pick up two wickets and score 30 runs but what happened is something I will remember all my life."

Mehedi, named player of the tournament at the Under-19 World Cup earlier this year, made an immediate impression, bowling Ben Duckett for 14 before trapping Gary Ballance for one in his opening spell. Shakib removed Cook for just four, in a disappointing start for the skipper who became England's most capped player with 134 Tests. Mehedi opened the attack for the hosts, beating Duckett on several occasions before he spun one beautifully to hit the middle stump as soon as the England debutant offered some room.

Three balls later Cook was also gone, attempting a sweep shot off Shakib only for the ball to hit him on the forearm and then the body before smashing onto the stumps. Ballance was ini-

tially given not out lbw, but Bangladesh reviewed the decision in their favor, with the replay showing the ball had struck his pad on the back foot first before touching the bat.

Moeen survives reviews

Moeen was given out three times by umpire Kumar Dharmasena but his decisions were overturned on each occasion. He was given out on 17 off Shakib before lunch-and then twice on the same score, in the first over after the break, off the same bowler. Two separate reviews from Bangladesh also failed. Mehedi struck soon after Shakib's eventful over by removing Joe Root for 40. Root had looked in good touch until he edged one that took a deflection off wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim's gloves before being grabbed by Sabbir Rahman at slip. Shakib then bowled Ben Stokes (18) for

his second wicket, but Bairstow joined Moeen for a 88-run sixth wicket partnership to revive England's innings. Moeen, who hit eight fours and a six in his 170-ball knock, was finally dismissed when Mehedi beat him with a turn to induce an edge that Rahim gladly accepted. Mehedi bowled Bairstow to complete his five-wicket haul shortly after the England wicketkeeper-batsman brought up his 11th Test fifty, a composed innings that featured eight fours. "Not bad on a day after losing three wickets very early. It was pretty tough but in the end we are pretty happy," said Moeen. "Definitely I did not think it would spin so much as it did today," he added.

England have included Gareth Batty in the side, giving the Surrey captain his first national cap in more than 11 years, while Bangladesh have handed batsman Sabbir his debut. — AFP

PAKISTAN WARY OF WEST INDIES

ABU DHABI: Pakistan can ill-afford any complacency against a dangerous West Indies side when the two teams meet in the second Test starting in Abu Dhabi today. Normal service will be resumed with a traditional red ball and daylight play after both teams fought out a tension-packed pink ball day-night Test in Dubai, won by Pakistan by a narrow 56-run margin.

Pakistan dominated the first three days after scoring 579-3 declared, courtesy of opener Azhar Ali's epic career best 302 not out, and then dismissing West Indies for 357. But leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo turned the match upside down with career best figures of 8-49 to wreck Pakistan for a paltry 123 in their second innings, giving West Indies a target of 346 to win.

Darren Bravo batted out of his skin and when the last session started West Indies needed 114 runs in a possible of 38 overs with Bravo unbeaten on 102 and ready to launch an assault in the final hour. It needed a leaping catch by leg-spinner Yasir Shah to dismiss Bravo for 116 and 26 runs later Pakistan wrapped up the match to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

"It will be tough. With the kind of confidence the West Indian batsmen have got, it will be difficult to get them out in the second Test," said Pakistan skipper Misbah-ul-Haq. "I think both teams are used to the red ball and have more idea of it-batsmen and bowlers know how the red ball behaves-spinners and fast bowlers will get more help and there will be reverse swing."—AFP

HH CROWN PRINCE SHOOTING TOURNAMENT LAUNCHED

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: HH Crown Prince Shooting Tournament was launched yesterday at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. A large number of shooters are looking forward to win this important tournament which declares the start of the shooting season in Kuwait.



Obaid Al-Osaimi

The Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi expressed his satisfaction at the proceedings and praised the outstanding readiness in all the ranges and facilities. He expressed confidence in the Kuwaiti referees competence, adding that the club is keen on holding refresher courses for referees to keep them updated with all new developments in the ISSF rules and laws, as all tournaments in Kuwait are held under international rules.

Al-Osaimi said the tournament will continue until tomorrow. The cups, medals and prizes will be distributed by representative of HH the Crown Prince, Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, during the closing ceremony to be held at 5:00 pm.

A large number of shooters from the National Guard, military and police sports associations expressed their wish to participate in addition to shooters from UAE and Bahrain. Double trap results of the first day saw Kuwait's Hamad Alafasi win first place, followed by UAE's Khalid Al-Kaabi in second place, while Ahmad Alafasi from Kuwait came third.



BEHBEHANI CONGRATULATES KUWAIT'S DISABLED ATHLETES

KUWAIT: Iqbal Behbehani visited Kuwait Disabled Sports Club and met Club President Shafi Al-Hajiri and several members of the board. Behbehani honored and rewarded several athletes who reached tremendous heights during the paralympic in Brazil. They included Ahmad Neqa who won the 100m wheelchair race Hamad Al-Adwani, Nasser Al-Saleh, Abdallah Al-Saif, Mohammad Mijbel, Atef Al-Dousary and Al-Khaldi who won a junior's bronze medal. Behbehani lauded the efforts of the club's athletes and urged them to continue their winning ways. She also appreciated the role of the club's board under the chairmanship of Shafi Al-Hajiri.



POPAL USING FOOTBALL TO FIGHT AFGHAN PREJUDICE

LONDON: Former Afghan women's football captain Khalida Popal is in no doubt she will return to her country despite fleeing it in the wake of death threats five years ago. The courageous 28-year-old told AFP she must go home if she is to continue her vocation of championing women's rights within Afghan society which she says have

not improved even since the Taleban were ousted from power.

"I will go back definitely and carry on what I'm doing," she promised on the sidelines of the Beyond Sports awards, the leading movement for social change through sport. "I have to go back to my country and do much more from there," added Popal, who was introduced to football by her school teacher mother who encouraged team sports at her school.

Popal, whose parents and 21-year-old brother joined her in Denmark a couple of months ago, had good reason to seek succor and comfort elsewhere after fearlessly banging the drum for more respect for women in Afghan society. "When my activities were more developed and my voice was stronger I felt greatly at risk," she said. "There was a time when I had to flee my country. I couldn't even explain it to my family. 'I couldn't say goodbye to my team-mates and parents and explain why I had to leave. 'It was a really tough decision but it was important to save my voice because my voice helps women stand up for their rights.'"

Popal, who started up her own organization Girl Power three years ago which helps

refugee women both living in and out of asylum centers to integrate into society across Europe, along with her team-mates had had to brave outright hostility from the start. "They see it as a masculine game and we faced barriers especially from people who were against women's development and role in society.

Empowering women

"One day a group of men stood up against us and damaged our football, they stole our schoolbags and tugged at our skirts. 'They said 'this is a man's game you should not be playing football'. 'They did not respect women they always called us prostitutes who were not practicing religion that we were against the Afghan culture.'"

However, Popal and her team-mates stood their ground. "We all faced them down," she says. "We didn't give up we wanted to empower women and our basic right to play the game. 'We wanted to have our freedom.' Popal, who admits her parents are still recovering from the years of harassment and threats as they gave her their unconditional support, feels free to even be ironic about the legacy left by

years of war and Taleban rule.

"As everyone knows Afghanistan has been through a war for many decades it has given us a great gift a culture of war where women has always been oppressed and pushed back. "Under the Taleban we almost lost a generation of women." Popal says even when aged 22 she became the first woman to work for the Afghan FA as a finance officer she encountered discrimination as her male colleagues refused to take their pay cheques from her because it was against their 'honour' to accept it from a female.

However, Popal says there is a 'ray of hope' or a 'positive virus' as she sees it because women's football is developing despite all the threats-and she is still very much part of it operating from abroad as director of events and programs for women's football. "I feel much stronger. I am the image and voice for them," she says. "Being there made the situation very difficult to raise my voice and I didn't want to shut up. 'I am very happy we have a strong national team and a women's league and I am very proud for the first time ever to get a woman as a national team coach (former American international Kelly Lindsey)." —AFP



Khalida Popal

BAYERN DELIGHTS ANCELOTTI AFTER THREE WINLESS STREAK

MUNICH: Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti said their 4-1 romp against PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League was the reaction he was looking for after a three-match winless streak. Bayern bounced back in emphatic style on Wednesday at the Allianz Arena with winger Arjen Robben in outstanding form.

Goals by Thomas Mueller and Joshua Kimmich put Bayern ahead before Luciano Narsingh netted for Eindhoven before the break. But Bayern dominated the second-half with Robert Lewandowski putting them 3-1 up before Robben, who had set up two of their goals, added the fourth. The German media had spoken of a 'mini-crisis' after

Bayern's Bundesliga draws with Cologne and Eintracht Frankfurt in the wake of their 1-0 defeat at Champions League Group D leaders Atletico Madrid.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge had branded their attitude in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Frankfurt as "unacceptable", but Ancelotti was pleased with his side's response against PSV. "That was the reaction I expect from the team, the attitude was good, we learnt our lessons from Frankfurt," said the Italian, who had won his first eight games in charge before the Madrid defeat. "We very happy to have Manuel Neuer," Ancelotti added after the Germany goalkeeper pulled off a string of good saves to

deny Eindhoven's attack.

Bayern face PSV away in a fortnight, then travel to face Russian side Rostov before hosting Atletico in their final group match on December 6 in a game likely to decide who wins the pool. "We played well, but we have to give our best in the next few games to make sure we play Atletico for first place," warned Ancelotti. Robben said Bayern deserved the win, but need to build on the performance when the Bundesliga leaders return to domestic duty at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday.

"We started very well, dominated straight away and put them under pressure," said the Dutchman as Mueller and Kimmich both net-

ted in the first 21 minutes. "We didn't hold them very well after we went 2-0 up and you have to always be careful. "Eindhoven were dangerous two or three times, but they we got back on top and deserved to win. "We knew we had to start well, and be aggressive and play with self-confidence at home, after our three games without a win. "We should have scored more in the first half, perhaps that is our only criticism, and we have to keep playing well like this. "It was nice to get the header, but it was down to the beautiful pass from Thiago, he deserves the credit," added the 32-year-old added after scoring his first headed goal in the Champions League. —AFP

WENGER TELLS HIS IN-FORM STARS TO STAY GROUNDED

LONDON: Arsene Wenger warned his Arsenal stars not to get carried away after they gave another demonstration of their sky-high confidence with a 6-0 demolition of Ludogorets in the Champions League. Wenger's side are in peak form at present and Bulgarian minnows Ludogorets were powerless to prevent their hot streak extending to seven successive victories in all competitions.

Alexis Sanchez scored a sublime opener and Theo Walcott and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain were also on the scoresheet at the Emirates Stadium on Wednesday before Mesut Ozil hit a second half hat-trick. With Arsenal top of their Champions League group after three matches and sitting pretty in the Premier League, where they are behind leaders Manchester City on goal difference, Wenger and company are finally feeling good about themselves after a troubled time last term. But the Gunners boss knows over-confidence could be fatal to Arsenal's chances of winning major silverware and he urged his players to stay humble.

"Let's not be too quick on the verdict. We have a strong squad and a strong spirit, but you have to take care of it and keep your feet on the ground," Wenger said. "Maybe the confidence is high, we have a good balance at the moment in the team. "In this game a lot is linked with confidence. I feel that at the moment because we win game after game, maybe we get through dodgy periods with less psychological damage. "The only way to win something big is to focus on the next one and work on humility." Despite leading 3-0 by the 46th minute, Wenger's team kept their foot on the gas and the Frenchman had no qualms about running up the score because he believes fine-tuning his attack will pay dividends in the long run.

Risky game

"We are taking more of our chances. Is that because our final ball is better or the finishing is better? It's difficult to analyze," he said. "In the first half it looked a different game because Ludogorets were dangerous going forward, but in the second half they suffered a lot physically. "We took control completely and could have scored more. We have a risky game so it's important to take our chances. "As long as we score three the opponent has to score four to beat you. Lets keep scoring and get any lapses out of our game."

Key to Arsenal's hopes of winning the Premier League and thriving in Europe will be maintaining the current purple patches of Sanchez and Ozil. Both Chile forward Sanchez and German midfielder Ozil are seeking improved contracts and made persuasive cases of bumper deals with their latest dominant displays. Wenger was especially encouraged with the way Ozil go forward in the hunt for goals after spending much of his time at Arsenal content to supply assists from midfield.

"It looks like he gets a taste to score. In the past he would come deep for the ball to be a provider, but now he gets forward more. That's what we want to encourage," Wenger said. Wenger also insisted Sanchez would be fit to face Middlesbrough in the Premier League tomorrow after the former Barcelona star came off in the 73rd minute. "I just wanted to give him a breather but physically he is fine," Wenger said. —AFP



SAN SIRO: AC Milan's Manuel Locatelli, center, celebrates with his teammates goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, left, and Mattia De Sciglio after scoring during the Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Sassuolo at the San Siro stadium. —AP

MILAN'S YOUTH MOVEMENT IN FULL FLOW AS JUVENTUS VISITS

ROME: At the age of 17, Gianluigi Donnarumma is already considered the heir apparent to Gianluigi Buffon. After only seven Serie A appearances, 18-year-old Manuel Locatelli is drawing comparisons to Andrea Pirlo. M'Baye Niang, a relative veteran at 21, is providing the kind of consistency at forward that Mario Balotelli couldn't. AC Milan is fully embracing a youth movement as it endures a third consecutive season out of European competition. In a league where the top clubs have had a tendency to rely on veterans and the odd Brazilian teenager, seeing so many young faces wearing the familiar Rossoneri colors is a novelty.

"There's less fear in Italy now, even though some clubs still prefer veterans," Niang said. "We've got the right mix. When you have great players that can win matches by themselves it throws the other players off balance." The Milan side that beat Chievo Verona 3-1 Sunday was the youngest average team of the

weekend in Serie A at 24 years, 231 days. Seven of the players were born in the 1990s - Donnarumma, Locatelli, Niang, Alessio Romagnoli, Suso, Mattia De Sciglio and Gianluca Lapadula.

"I don't feel like a young player anymore. I'm nearly 22 and I've been a pro since I was 16," Niang, who made his Ligue 1 debut with Caen in 2011, said in an interview with La Repubblica. "(De Sciglio and I) have got to be examples for the actual kids, like Donnarumma and Locatelli." Riding a five-match unbeaten streak, Milan is in third place, level on points with second-place Roma.

Time and experience

Up next for Milan is a match against five-time defending champion Juventus on Saturday at the San Siro. It's a rematch of last season's Italian Cup final, which Juventus won 1-0 after extra time. Milan hasn't beaten Juventus since November 2012. "It reminds me of Juve from a few years ago," Buffon said of

Milan, recalling Juve's transformation after a 2006 match-fixing scandal that saw the Bianconeri relegated to Serie B. "They just need time and experience to improve."

The last time Milan collected 16 or more points over its first eight matches was in 2010-11, when the Rossoneri won their last title. A year after that title, Milan sold top players Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thiago Silva to Paris Saint-Germain - part of a mass exodus of veterans instigated by a drop in investments by club president Silvio Berlusconi. The overhaul sparked a downward spiral that has seen Milan fail to finish higher than seventh the past three seasons, including a dismal 10th in 2014-15. Since current Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri was fired by Milan in January 2014, five different coaches have taken charge of the club. Berlusconi is in the process of finalizing the sale of the team to a group of Chinese investors.—AP

BRAVO ERROR HIGHLIGHTS RISK IN GUARDIOLA'S DEMANDING STYLE

MANCHESTER: With one of the world's best strikers bearing down on him, Manchester City goalkeeper Claudio Bravo had a quick decision to make as he received the ball five meters (yards) outside his penalty box. Smash it downfield and quickly retreat to his area? Or keep possession and instigate another attack for his team?

Most goalkeepers in that situation would choose the safer first option, but not Bravo. Instead, he attempted a delicate lob-pass over Luis Suarez to teammate Fernandinho - and completely fluffed it. The mis-hit pass went straight to Suarez, whose goal-bound return shot was blocked by the outstretched hands of Bravo outside the area. Immediate red card and, just like that, any realistic chance of City fighting back from 1-0 down vanished at Camp Nou.

City lost 4-0 to Barcelona on Wednesday in a Champions League game that turned on this avoidable mistake by Chile's international goalkeeper in the 53rd minute. The author of the error was perhaps not Bravo, but his coach. One of Pep Guardiola's footballing philosophies is that the goalkeeper must play the ball out from the back at all costs. That's why, months into his tenure at City, Guardiola made the big call to drop long-serving goalkeeper Joe Hart and sign Bravo from former club Barcelona.

Ball-playing goalkeepers

"There will be no change. It stays the same," Guardiola said after the Barcelona match. "I'm sorry, until the last day of my career as a coach, I will try to play from our goalkeeper." Guardiola knows it's a risky approach - he says so openly and regularly - but he believes the value of retaining possession outweighs the chances of making a mistake. "Most of the time, when we play good, it starts from there," he said.

However, having that rigid policy at his previous clubs, Barcelona and Bayern Munich, is fine considering the quality and type of goalkeepers and defenders that Guardiola had at his disposal. At City, the technique of some of his players isn't as good and he may be asking too much of defenders like Nicolas Otamendi, Gael Clichy and Pablo Zabaleta to keep possession in often exacting situations.

Bravo is one of the best ball-playing goalkeepers in the world - he started out as a forward as teenager - and center back John Stones was also bought by Guardiola this summer for the primary reason that he is good with the ball at his feet. The rest of the back line is not so comfortable, however. "Very brave, but very stupid," was the verdict of former Manchester United midfielder Roy Keane, analyzing on British television, when asked about the way Guardiola encourages Bravo to play the ball from the back.

Bravo has had an up-and-down start to his City career. Handed his debut in the Manchester derby against United at Old Trafford, he dropped a high ball to allow Zlatan Ibrahimovic to score a goal that reduced the deficit to 2-1. Later that game, Bravo might have been shown a red card and conceded a penalty when he dribbled away from Ibrahimovic in his area, only to take a heavy touch and then dive in studs-first at Wayne Rooney as the forward went for the ball. Bravo just about connected with the ball. Otherwise, he has looked composed and convincing with the ball at his feet - until his high-profile Camp Nou mistake. "It is a game of mistakes and correct decisions," Bravo said. "It's just bad luck that I was the person that changed the course of the game, but it's like that." —AP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (R) shoots to score a goal beside Manchester City's Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo during the UEFA Champions League football match FC Barcelona vs Manchester City at the Camp Nou stadium.— AFP

MESSI TREATED MAN CITY LIKE PLAYGROUND KIDS: ENRIQUE

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi ran riot through Pep Guardiola's Manchester City defense as though it was a playground game, according to Barcelona coach Luis Enrique as he savored a dazzling 4-0 Champions League win. Inspired by Messi's hat-trick, Barcelona joined Arsenal, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint Germain in registering important wins on Wednesday night. The Argentine genius was hailed for his composure after a month out with a groin injury.

Before 96,290 people at Camp Nou, Messi picked up on one City mistake on 17 minutes and added two more-one brilliantly curled in-in the second half after City keeper Carlos Bravo was sent off. "We have seen the calm that Messi has to finish inside the area as if he was in the school yard," said Enrique. "If there is anything you can expect of Messi it is that. It doesn't matter how many days he has been out or the games he has missed." Messi was "phenomenal," added Barcelona defender

Samuel Umtitei. "There will never be anyone like him. It is incredible what he did," added fellow defender Lucas Digne.

While Guardiola was adamant he would not change his style of pressing from the back, the former Barcelona coach is now under pressure with City second in group C, five points behind leaders Barcelona and just one ahead of Borussia Moenchengladbach. "Until the last day I am a coach I will try to play from the goalkeeper," said Guardiola. "It is always difficult to play in Barcelona with 11 players and with 10 the game was over," added Guardiola. "We created enough chances, we arrive at the byline many times, but with their strikers when they arrive they punish you." Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger said his stars must work on their "humility" after their 6-0 demolition of Ludogorets-with Mesut Ozil also bagging a hattrick-in Group A. "Let's not be too quick on the verdict. We have a strong squad and a strong spirit, but you have to take care of

it and keep your feet on the ground," Wenger said. "In this game a lot is linked with confidence. I feel that at the moment because we win game after game, maybe we get through dodgy periods with less psychological damage. "The only way to win something big is to focus on the next one and work on humility."

As well as leading Group A on goal difference ahead of PSG, Arsenal are second in the Premier League level on points with Manchester City. Wenger is anxious however to get Ozil and fellow scorer Alexis Sanchez to sign new contracts. Bayern Munich also romped to a 4-1 victory over PSV Eindhoven in Group D-recovering some esteem after losing to leaders Atletico Madrid in their last European game and drawing twice in the Bundesliga. Thomas Mueller, Joshua Kimmich, Robert Lewandowski and Arjen Robben were all on target in what coach Carlo Ancelotti said was the reaction he had expected from the German champions.— AFP

NO ONE IS 'UNTOUCHABLE' FOR MOURINHO AT UNITED

LONDON: Jose Mourinho has insisted the likes of high-profile Manchester United signings Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic are far from "untouchable" players. Both midfielder Pogba, a world record £89 million (\$115 million, 102 million euros) arrival from Juventus, and striker Ibrahimovic have had their recent performances called into question. When he was Chelsea manager in 2006, Mourinho suggested several key players were

"untouchable", indicating they had no chance of being dropped regardless of their form.

Asked ahead of United's Europa League clash at home to Fenerbahce on Thursday if the same situation applied at Old Trafford, Mourinho replied: "No. That was a different Premier League and situation-it was the best team by far. It was a different story. "Not untouchable. Untouchable in our team has to be the spirit, the pride, the

commitment to the club, the respect to the fans - that has to be untouchable, not players," the United manager added.

United captain Wayne Rooney has lost his place in the starting line-up, with the last four games seeing the veteran forward used as a substitute only. Portuguese boss Mourinho refused to say if Rooney would start against Fenerbahce. "I don't want to give you the team, honestly," he said. "Wayne is working well-he's one of the big

responsible people for the atmosphere that the players can breathe because he's positive and a good example. "We count on him, to start or be on the bench. He will be there." Monday's goalless draw away to bitter northwest rivals Liverpool extended United's unbeaten run to five matches. They are third in their Europa League group, with three points from two pool games-a point less than leaders Fenerbahce. — AFP



GERMANY'S DOLDERER CROWNED 2016 WORLD CHAMPION

Matthias Dolderer was awarded Germany's first Red Bull Air Race World Championship at the 2016 season finale in Las Vegas, USA on 16 October. Australia's Matt Hall claimed second place overall, with Hannes Arch of Austria honored in third.

In a wild and windy season finale, pilot Matthias Dolderer was crowned Germany's first Red Bull Air Race World Champion in Las Vegas on Sunday. Australia's Matt Hall, the only pilot able to challenge Dolderer's dominance in the final stages of the season, shared the champagne from the second step of the podium. Third place was confirmed for Austria's Hannes Arch, the former championship winner whose dynamic season was cut short when he perished in a private helicopter accident in early September.

"It's amazing – a fantastic feeling. As much as this trophy weighs, that weight has come off my shoulders," said Dolderer, who earned six race podiums including three wins to capture his maiden title in his fifth season. "You never reach 100 percent: We have been trying to get better and better, race by race, and I hope we come back even stronger next year. We won't give up and will try to defend this trophy."

High winds and gusts above 30 knots (34 mph) had forced the Race Committee to

Australia's Matt Hall, the only pilot able to challenge Dolderer's dominance in the final stages of the season, shared the champagne from the second step of the podium.

delay all Race Day flying sessions in Las Vegas. When a break in the conditions arose the Air Gates went up and the pilots took off for the Round of 14, but the weather window closed before the final two pilots could fly through the racetrack. With the Round of 14 incomplete, the day's results were invalid. Dolderer and Hall, however,

had both clinched their season-leading positions before the finale, with the points they earned at the seventh stop of 2016 in Indianapolis, USA.

"The strong winds and gusts today forced the Race Committee to cancel all flying sessions. This decision is in response to the inability to fully operate a safe racetrack

and flying conditions. Safety is of the utmost priority and with gusts over 30 knots, it exceeds our ability to conduct the race in a safe and fair manner," said Race Director Jim DiMatteo.

Among many special moments on the unusual Race Day was warm recognition from the entire field of Master Class pilots for the close of Nigel Lamb's racing career. The 2014 World Champion from Great Britain is hanging up his racing gloves and had delivered a fiercely competitive final season, claiming a track record and two race podiums on the way. Meanwhile, in the Challenger Class Florian Bergér claimed another season title for Germany when he was crowned the winner of the Challenger Cup.

Final Standings, 2016 Red Bull Air Race World Championship:

1. Matthias Dolderer (GER) 80.25 points,
2. Matt Hall (AUS) 55.75 pts, 3. Hannes Arch (AUT) 41.00 pts, 4. Nigel Lamb (GBR) 37.75 pts, 5. Nicolas Ivanoff (FRA) 35.00 pts, 6. Yoshihide Muroya (JPN) 31.50 pts, 7. Pete McLeod (CAN) 30.50 pts, 8. Kirby Chambliss (USA) 30.25 pts, 9. Martin Šonka (CZE) 25.00 pts, 10. Michael Goulian (USA) 19.75 pts, 11. Juan Velarde (ESP) 14.25 pts, 12. François Le Vot (FRA) 10.00 pts, 13. Peter Podlunšek (SLO) 4.00 pts, 14. Petr Kopfstein (CZE) 4.00 pts, 15. Cristian Bolton (CHI) 0.00



Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

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CHITTAGONG:
Bangladesh's Mehedi
Hasan Miraz bowls
against England on
the first day of their
first cricket test
match. — AP

MEHEDI STUNS ENGLAND

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