

SUBSCRIPTION

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Kuwait to host Arab Commercial Arbitration Court



IS attacks Iraqi city of Kirkuk amid Mosul fight



Packers tame Bears at Lambeau Field



20 MORE CANDIDATES REGISTER FOR ELECTION

TABTABAI AMONG FORMER OPPOSITION MPs TO ENTER FRAY



150 Fils



Min 20°
Max 37°



KUWAIT: Candidates file nomination papers for contesting in the upcoming National Assembly elections slated for November 26 at the registration office on Thursday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A large number of the so-called assembly majority opposition, comprising the February 2012 assembly, yesterday decided to take part in the next month's parliamentary polls, officially breaking a four-year boycott.

Former opposition MP Waleed Al-Tabtabai said the decision was taken after a meeting of a large number of former opposition MPs. He said he will register to contest the polls today along with Osama Al-Shaheen, Mohammad Al-Dallal, Mohammad Hayef, Osama Al-Munawer, Bader Al-Dahoum and Nayef Al-Merdas, all members of the February 2012 assembly which was controlled by the opposition and was dissolved by the constitutional court for procedural flaws.

Tabtabai said that the decision was taken for the service and interest of the Kuwaiti people. More opposition figures are expected to join the fray, including former MP Jamaan Al-Harbash of the Islamic Constitutional Movement.

Almost all opposition groups boycotted the December 2012 and 2013 elections in protest against the government's unilateral change of the voting system. But they eventually decided to take part under the amended single-vote system saying that the political situations in the country have deteriorated.

Three former opposition MPs Ali Al-Deqbasi, Adel Al-Damkhi and Ammar Al-Ajmi have already registered as candidates even ahead of the decision. But former speaker and opposition leader Ahmad Al-Saadoun said he will not change his position and will not contest the election because nothing has changed and even if the opposition wins it will not be able to change.

In the meantime, 20 more candidates filed their nomination papers yesterday raising the number of candidates so far to 152 hopefuls. They included a woman and two members of the dissolved assembly.

TRUMP AND CLINTON CARRY BARBS INTO CHARITY DINNER

NEW YORK: Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton took their acrimonious presidential contest to a charity dinner, where Trump drew boos from the well-heeled audience when his jokes veered well into the jagged terrain of his campaign speeches.

The candidates shared the stage Thursday night at an annual white-tie dinner in New York City that raises money for needy children and typically offers White House hopefuls a respite from election tensions. Trump, lagging Clinton in national opinion polls, had slugged it out with his rival on Wednesday night at their third and final presidential debate before the Nov 8 election. He drew sharp rebukes from Democrats and many in his own party for saying during the debate that he thinks the election is being rigged and so will not commit yet to accepting the outcome.

Alfred Smith V, whose family hosts the dinner named after the state's former governor, Alfred E. Smith, called Thursday's dinner "one

for the record books" and said it echoed the Las Vegas debate.

"Donald had some very solid minutes early on and eventually he crossed the line and took it a little too far," he told CNN on Friday. "Hillary, on the other hand, was able to laugh at herself and at the same time not underplay any of the serious things that Donald Trump has said or done."

Both presidential candidates call New York home but the crowd of financiers and political and media figures was largely in Clinton's court. Trump spoke first and set the room on edge with bitter jabs, drawing boos with his label of Clinton, a former secretary of state, as "corrupt."

"With all of the heated back and forth between my opponent and me at the debate last night, we have proven that we can actually be civil to each other," Trump said. "In fact just before taking the dais, Hillary accidentally bumped into me and she very civilly said, 'Pardon me.'" — Reuters



NEW YORK: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump (right), Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York (center) and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton share a laugh during the Alfred E Smith Memorial Foundation dinner on Thursday. —AP



Kuwaiti director Ramadan Khesro



Fatma Al-Husseinan, a cinematic observer at Kuwait National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters.



Cinema festival coordinator Dr Habib Ghloom

'HABEEB AL-ARDH' MOVIE DEPICTS KUWAIT GRAND CINEMATIC LEAP

KUWAIT GRABS 3 AWARDS AT THE GULF FILM FESTIVAL

ABU DHABI: The Kuwaiti movie 'Habeeb Al-Ardh' which snatched the first place in the long narrative movies' category of the Third Gulf Film Festival has drawn much applause for depicting truthful sacrifices for the homeland. The Kuwaiti movie (or lover of the land) has all the ingredients for success as a cinematic work, said Dr Habib Ghloom, the festival general coordinator, in a statement to Kuwait News Agency.

Kuwait has grabbed three awards in the Third Gulf Film Festival, concluded in Abu Dhabi Thursday. "Habeeb Al-Ardh", directed by Ramadan Khesro, snatched the first place in the long narrative movies category, the jury announced at the closing ceremony. The movie portrayed in a magnificent fashion deep meanings of faithfulness and sacrifices for the homeland, said Ghloom, who is also a popular UAE actor.

Ghloom expressed pleasure for participation of the Kuwaiti veteran actor, Abdelhusein Abdulredha. Jassem Al-Nabhan, also a famous Kuwaiti actor, expressed pleasure for the good impact the Kuwaiti movie left on the audience, noting that it was product of creative young movie makers. Fatma Al-Husseinan, a cinematic observer at

Kuwait National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, said most of the critics and attendees expressed admiration at the Kuwaiti movie. Winning the three awards at the festival affirms that the Kuwaiti cinema occupies a distinguished status at the regional level, she said.

For his part the movie director, Khesro, expressed satisfaction for winning the award, noting that cinematic works from the other GCC countries competed strongly in the festival. The movie narrates life of the late Kuwaiti poet Faek Abduljelil and his contributions to development of the Kuwaiti theater. The poet, who was also a composer of songs, died after he was taken hostage by the Iraqi occupiers of Kuwait. Khesro lauded the producer, Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, who had given unlimited support for this distinctive work.

In the animation movies category, Kuwaiti movie "Sandra", which was directed by Yusuf Al-Bakhshi came first and Kuwaiti documentary movie "We Die to Live Kuwait" ranked second in the long documentary movies category. The festival kicked off on Sunday with the participation of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the hosts UAE. It included the following awards for the best long

documentary, short documentary, filming of a documentary movie, narrative movie, narrative short movie, narrative long movie, filming of a narrative movie, soundtrack, and best actor and actress. — KUNA



Poster of 'Habeeb Al-Ardh' film

News

In brief

'Small Merchant' Forum

KUWAIT: The Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) announced Thursday the launch of the third edition of "Small Merchant" Forum in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and DACUM Academy for Consulting and Training. The forum aims at developing the concept of self-employment and encouraging middle and high school students to create their own small projects, Bandar Al-Rashed, MGRP Assistant Secretary General for Manpower Affairs, said in a press conference. Al-Rashed stressed the event's importance in instilling work values and initiative spirit in students, adding that it also aims at raising students' awareness and encouraging them to create and organize their projects in accordance with sound scientific fundamentals, and under supervision of experts in projects field in order to build a promising generation with ideas and achievements. The forum also tends to hone the students' characters and grow inside them the love for self-employment, serving their country and community, breaking the fear barrier, and bearing the responsibility through practical practices and ability to deal with the needs of markets, commodities, profits, and earnings, he said.

'Sports for all'

KUWAIT: The commission tasked with drafting the national sports strategy, "sports for all," has held its first meeting under chairmanship of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The Public Authority for Sport (PAS) said in a statement on Friday that the meeting was held at its headquarters, with attendance of members of the commission. Due to the international suspension of sports in the State of Kuwait, the national sports authorities, with participation of experts, have assessed the sector and drafted a strategy for overhauling it, the statement confirmed. The strategy, adopted by the Cabinet, covers sports for communities, entertainment, women (Olympic and non-Olympic) and sports for citizens of special needs. The statement indicated that the conferees discussed plans for updating the financial and administrative sections.

AMF's conference

RABAT: Arab Monetary Fund in collaboration with Morocco Central Bank, German International Development Agency (GIZ), Organization for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), World Bank, and Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) yesterday organized a regional conference to enrich financial education in Skhirat city. Abdulrahman A Al-Hamidy Director General and Chairman of the board of the Arab Monetary Fund delivered a speech at the opening session, entitled "financial education in the Arab world, strategies, implementation and impact." Al-Hamidy asserted on the importance on the issue of educating people regarding financial awareness and services in the Arab world. Financial education is one of the essential criteria of economic efficiency, aiming to make financial decisions and sound investments relating to various financial transactions, he reiterated. The two-day conference brings various senior Arab officials and experts from finance, economic, education, and banking sectors.

KUWAIT TO HOST ARAB COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION COURT

KUWAIT: The Arab Commercial Arbitration Court will be based in Kuwait, it was officially announced yesterday. Speaking at a news conference, officials of the court's constituent assembly said the court headed by Sheikh Meshaal Malek Abdulaziz Al-Sabah would be the first of its kind on the Arab level, and the world's third, adding that it will be tasked with settling commercial, investment and economic issues.

Sheikh Meshaal said that founding the court is based on an Arab initiative aiming to alleviate pressures on international arbitrators. He noted that some Gulf and Arab institutions have paid hundreds of millions of dollars due to disputes whose rulings were not just. Establishing the rules of justice amongst disputants enhances confidence in the court's performance and raises its status on Arab and international scenes, he stressed. He called

on the court's judges to set up a legal, technical and legislative system to issue fair and impartial rulings.

Meanwhile, Ashraf Al-Nimr, the court's secretary general, said the rise in commercial disputes on the Arab and the international scenes led to many cases of fraud and deception. Avoiding such cases was the motive to found an Arab court, he pointed out. Competitive conflicts amongst traders, investors and business-

men through the e-commerce have recently witnessed cases of piracy which negatively affected trade exchange amongst countries of the region, he said. In a speech delivered on behalf of Justice Minister, Assistant Undersecretary for Judicial Arbitration at the ministry Sheikh Dharar Saud Al-Sabah, said the foundation of court crowns the existing sector in the Arab region, expressing hope the court would achieve the aspired goals. — KUNA



4 WAREHOUSES CLOSED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: KFSD yesterday closed down four warehouses in Jabriya and Hawalli for violating KFSD standard safety regulations and condition, said security sources noting that the four warehouses had been previously warned and given chance to remove the violations.

Pork meat - KD 9 per kilo

A Filipino and a Filipina were recently arrested in Mahboula for smuggling pork meat to sell in Kuwait for KD 9 per kilo, said security sources. Case papers indicate that after receiving a tip, detectives stormed the suspects' apartment and found 30 kilos in their possession. A case was filed.



Professor jailed

The Criminal Court recently sentenced a Kuwaiti professor to four years in prison over 'blasphemy' against the Almighty God and HH the Amir during one of his lectures, said security sources.

Threat and assault

A citizen reported that the father and brothers of his son's schoolmates chased, insulted and assaulted his son after a fight at their school. The father said that the fight had already stopped when the father arrived to pick up his son. They chased his boy around the streets surrounding the school and threatened him if he ever fought again. Meanwhile, MoI's Relations and Security Media Department strongly denied that Al-Salam police station refused to file a case for the citizen and

stressed that a case had already been filed.

Fake detectives

An unemployed Syrian was recently arrested in Farwaniya and a search is on for another for impersonating as police detectives and robbing Asians, security sources said. Case papers indicate that detectives had received several similar reports from Asians reporting that two people dressed in national outfits had stopped them - pretending to be police detectives and asking to see their IDs. The victims took out their wallets and ran away. The suspect was arrested red-handed while bullying a victim while his accomplice managed to escape arrest. Meanwhile, Hawalli detectives have arrested a bedoon who had been wanted for several car robberies. Security sources said that the suspect was arrested while driving a luxurious vehicle that had been reported stolen.

Fighting with swords

Two citizens were recently arrested in Abdullah Al-Mubarak area for fighting and using knives and swords to settle some old scores, said security sources.

Liquor traders nabbed

Farwaniya detectives recently arrested three Sri Lankans (a man and two women) with 6 home-made liquor bottles, one imported liquor bottle and six packs of marijuana, said security sources. In another development, two Asians were recently arrested in Hawalli. Plastic bags filled with home-made liquor were found in their possession.



ELECTORAL PROCESS GAINS STEAM MUNICIPALITY SETS CAMPAIGNING TERMS

KUWAIT: Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality has mobilized its personnel and resources for facilitating forthcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26. The department said in a statement yesterday it would provide permits to each nominee to use two buildings as sites for electoral campaigning; one for men and the other for women. Accommodations will include parking lots, and the premises should be at least 500 meters away from schools.

Candidates are entitled to apply for using State-owned plots. Occupying a privately-owned unit warrants permit by the landlord and in case of his (her) absence, the concerned nominee pledges to evacuate it once the owner shows up and contest using his property for electoral purposes. The campaigner is compelled to pay KD 500 for using each building. Moreover, he (or she) must obtain neighbors' approval if he (or she) chooses to use his (her) house as the headquarters for campaigning and addressing would-be voters.

So far, up to 13 candidates have applied for setting up campaigning centers. The municipality will immediately dismantle and remove any campaigning station; launched without the prior permit from it. Electoral process in Kuwait is already gaining momentum, in preparation for the voting day, set on November 26th. More than 100 citizens have registered as candidates vying for a seat in the 50-member National Assembly (the Parliament). The registration for this year's parliamentary elections has largely eclipsed the ones held in 2013 and 2012,

records show.

According to Law 20/2012, a total of 10 candidates will be listed in each constituency. The electorate can only vote for one candidate per constituency. On Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah ordered forming a special panel to examine nomination papers of the candidates. The commission, to be presided by the first public attorney, justice Sultan Majed Boujarwa, will check the candidacy papers to ensure all the required terms and specifications for the nominees are met and available, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement. Candidates' papers' submission will proceed till October 28, pending the balloting due on November 26th. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has recently dissolved the parliament citing various challenges and regional critical conditions. At least three Cabinet members desiring to take part in parliamentary elections have already resigned from their executive posts.

Law number 35/1962, which deals with parliamentary elections, permits candidates to file their candidacies to contest elections. All eligible candidates should be Kuwaiti citizens below 30 years of age and are required to be fluent in written and spoken Arabic. They should have no criminal history, as those found with criminal records are prohibited from contesting the elections. Parliamentary life in Kuwait saw the light in the early 60s, thus putting the State of Kuwait on the world's democracy map.— KUNA

KUWAIT VOICES CONCERN OVER ILLICIT TRADE IN LIGHT WEAPONS

NEW YORK: Kuwait has voiced grave concern over the illicit and unregulated trade in small arms and light weapons and urged world countries to double efforts to stop the arms influx to no-state actors. The proliferation of such weapons had many humanitarian consequences and endangered peace and security, Kuwaiti diplomat Rafaei Al-Mutairi warned during the UN First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) meeting on conventional weapons.

He called on States to exert more efforts to

prevent the delivery of such weapons to non-State actors. Al-Mutairi noted that Kuwait was committed to the Program of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument. He also pointed out that Kuwait has started a nationwide campaign to collect unlicensed firearms and ammunitions. He welcomed the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, but stressed that it needed to be implemented in a manner that ensured the legitimate self-defense right of States, while maintaining a balance between import and export States. — KUNA

FEMALE SECRETARY REQUIRED

A Leading Steel Manufacturing Company is looking for a professional female secretary with the below eligibilities

- Strong expertise providing both administrative and clerical support to Executives and Managers
- Administrative Writing Skills, Reporting Skills, Supply Management, Scheduling, Microsoft Office Skills, Professionalism, Confidentiality, Organization, Travel Logistics, Typing, Verbal Communication
- Experiences in Industries are an advantage.

Qualification / Requirement

- Bachelor Degree or Diploma in business Administration or relevant field
- Very fluent in English with excellent grammar and writing skills
- Very strong in Computer applications
- Preferably a Philippine national

Minimum 8 years where at least 5 years have been as Administrative Assistance in Managerial and executive offices

Forward your CV to admin@kwtsteel.com, babu.shihab@kwtsteel.com

EQUATE FINALIZES POLYETHYLENE CAPACITY INCREASE PROJECT

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company has recently completed its PE Debottlenecking Project, which aims at increasing PE production capacity from 825,000 metric tons annually (MTA) to almost 1 million MTA, said President and CEO Mohammad Husain. It is one of many examples of our continuous partnership with customers and other stakeholders that reflect 'We Care. We Deliver,' he added in a press release.

"Through our 100% acquisition of MEGlobal during 2015, EQUATE is currently the world's second largest producer of ethylene glycol (EG) with a 12 % of the global market share," Husain. Husain

noted that during 2019, they will increase EG capacity by 750,000 MTA "once our USA Gulf Coast plant is completed." He explained that EG is used in a number of market applications, including polyester fibers, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and packaging, antifreeze and coolants, paints, resins, deicing fluids, heat transfer fluids and construction materials.

"Throughout the years, EQUATE's overall performance has been focused on Quality, Reliability, Sustainability, Growth and Partnership. These elements have truly made us 'Partners in Success' with our customers in many countries

around the world," Husain said. Meanwhile, Husain announced that EQUATE is participating in International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber (K 2016), which is considered the world's biggest event of its type.

K 2016 is taking place in Dusseldorf, Germany, during October 19-26. EQUATE's participation in K 2016 includes a display stand that is designed as a bee hive to showcase the company's Mission of "Maximizing stakeholders value by providing quality products and services to our customers" envisaged from its overall Quality, Reliability, Sustainability, Growth and Partnership." The unique exhibit stand

is welcoming the event's over 200,000 visitors from more than 60 countries. Established in 1995 as Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, EQUATE Petrochemical Company (EQUATE) embodies its "Partners in Success" slogan through the partnership among Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Quraan Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). Having commenced production in 1997, EQUATE is currently the owner and single-operator of several fully integrated world-class units in Kuwait, North America and Europe. — KUNA

UAE'S ADEPTIO GRABS 66.7% SHARES OF AMERICANA AT KD 711.5 MILLION

KUWAIT: Bursa of Kuwait announced that UAE's Adeptio has bought some 268,496,544 shares of the Kuwait Food Company (Americana) - making up 66.7 percent of its total capital. Bursa Kuwait Vice Chairman and CEO Khaled Al-khaled said in a press statement that the deal was estimated at KD 711.5 million (one KD = \$3.3). He added that finalizing the deal reflects confidence of the involved parties in the strength of Kuwait's economy, and enhances trust of investors in local companies. He stressed that the Bursa Kuwait is working hard to develop business so as to promote services provided to customers.

Meanwhile, chairman of National Investments Company and representative of the seller and buyer Hamad Al-Omairi, said Adeptio would submit its offer to Americana chairman, with KD 2.65 per share for official approval. Americana was established in 1863 and listed in the bourse in 1984, with a capital of KD 40.2 million. Americana Group's main lines of business are operating food and beverage outlets, as well as manufacturing food products. With a network of over 1,700 outlets, it is not only the largest operator of restaurant chains in the MENA region, but also one of the most successful franchise operators in the whole world. — KUNA



KUWAIT GRABS 3RD PLACE IN DISABLED WOMEN FORUM

DOHA: Kuwait's Anfal Bo Hamad clinched third place on Thursday in drawing and collages art category contest, which is part of the ongoing first GCC handicrafts forum for disabled women which kicked off on Wednesday. Anfal's mother, Najat Al-Reyahi, expressed her pride and joy in her daughter's valuable achievement, pointing out GCC officials' appreciation and care in the disabilities fields, and their deep attention to the handicapped and special need ones.

Al-Reyahi dedicated her daughter's achievement to the Kuwaiti leadership, government, and people, praising her country's significant care for the disabled ones through facilitating all potentials to provide them with the most appropriate environment to discover and launch their skills and talents. This prize is a new addition to Anfal's several achievements she attained on local, regional, and international levels, Al-Reyahi said, pointing out her daughter's superiority in memorizing the Holy Quran, in addition to other GCC excellence contests. A number of ministries, state authorities, civil community bodies, and private sectors in Gulf countries are currently taking part in the forum.

The 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. It is organized by the Rehabilitation International (RI), Regional Social Responsibility Network, and Maximize for Training and Consulting, and includes a number of workshops that highlight disabled women's capabilities, in addition to showcasing a number of experiences by the participants. — KUNA



Kuwait's Anfal Bo Hamad



A new school inaugurated in southern Iraq which is financed by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). — KUNA

KUWAIT-FINANCED SCHOOL OPENS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

BAGHDAD: Iraq's Ministry of Education has inaugurated a new Kuwait-finance school in the southern Al-Muthana Province. The school, financed by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), was built on an area of 4,645 square meters and cost \$3.3 million. "This generous gesture from Kuwait would help fill the huge gap in schools," Director of the Cultural Relations Department at the Iraqi Ministry Hasanein Moala said on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony, expressing gratitude to Kuwaiti leadership and people. He elaborated that "this is the 21st school out of 23 schools which Kuwait promised to build in Iraq at a total

cost of \$59.6 million. The remaining two schools would be opened in January and June 2017 respectively, he said. For his part, Kuwait Ambassador in Baghdad Salem Al-Zamanan, who attended the inauguration, reiterated Kuwait's commitment to offer all required support to Iraqi government to alleviate the suffering and meet the basic needs of Iraqi people. Last week, Kuwait distributed school bags and stationeries to displaced students in northern and southern provinces and would distribute food baskets to displaced people in Baghdad next week, Al-Zamanan said. — KUNA

'NO MILITARY SOLUTION' TO SYRIA CRISIS: KUWAIT

NEW YORK: Kuwait, addressing an informal session of the UN General Assembly, has re-asserted its belief that there is no military solution to the six-year Syrian crisis. Resolving this crisis must be according to the UNSC Resolution 2254 which outlined a clean path for reaching a political settlement to the crisis in Syria, on the basis of the first Geneva conference held in 2012 as well as the two relevant declarations that had been made in Vienna, said the State of Kuwait Permanent Delegate to the UN, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

Al-Otaibi was addressing an information session of the General Assembly on the humanitarian conditions in Syria. Echoing stand of the Kuwaiti Government, the senior diplomat called for maintaining the truce in Syria to pave way for holding discussions among the stakeholders. One of the reasons that had prompted Kuwait, along with 69 other member states, was the need for the member states to shoulder their responsibilities in line with the UN charter, following failure to protect the Syrian civilians as the crisis ushered its sixth year, said the ambassador highlighting the need for effective action on part of the international community to address the tragic situation in the war-torn nation.

Figures show that the humanitarian situation in Aleppo is seriously deteriorating, he said, indicating that up to 275,000 people have been besieged in east sector of the northern Syrian city of Aleppo-nearly half of the number of people suffering from blockades throughout the country. Only 25 percent of the dispatched humanitarian aid had actually reached the destined people in September, as compared to 50 percent in August. "Moreover dire need for water in Aleppo is being exploited as a war weapon," he said.

He urged all the parties in Syria to cooperate with international relief organizations to facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need and secure safe passageways for the civilians. "Recent bombing of Aleppo resulted in 300 deaths," he said, affirming that the six-year conflict has claimed 300,000 lives and left hundreds of thousands of people either wounded, maimed or homeless. September alone witnessed 30 air strikes on the Syrian cities, with usage of explosive-rigged barrels and chemicals arms, he added.

He called for immediate cessation of recurring breaches of international humanitarian laws, human rights, such as imposition of sieges and usage of phosphoric bombs and other lethal weapons including chemical ordnance against the civilians. The Kuwaiti envoy welcomed declaration of the truce in Aleppo and cessation of the air strikes, noting that there is no option other than halting the military and hostile operations, withdrawing foreign militias from Aleppo and other cities and regions, isolating the terrorist organizations such as "Daesh" and Al-Nusra Front from the other groups on the fields, in line with relevant Security Council resolutions.

During the same meeting, the UN envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura warned that Aleppo might turn into heaps of ruins by the coming Christmas, in case the foes resumed full-scale fierce fighting with heavy arms. Shedding light on his initiative on Aleppo de Mistura said it is aimed at halting the fighting, withdrawing fighters of Al-Nusra Front (now called the Front of the Liberation of the Levant), which is classified by the UN as a terrorist organization, as well as lifting the siege.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in his statement at the meeting that destiny of a nation such as Syria must not hinge on a single person-clearly alluding to President Bashar Al-Assad. He also echoed Kuwait's stance that there is no military solution to this question, urging for a cessation of the fighting, the air strikes on Aleppo and other belligerent actions throughout the troubled nation. "Radical elements must be isolated," he said, hinting at the need for a mechanism for monitoring separation of the "radical elements from the moderate ones." — KUNA



Kuwait Permanent Delegate to the UN, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah seen during the inauguration of the reserve website of the electronic security computer systems at the Ministry.— KUNA



INTERIOR VOWS TO PROTECT KUWAIT

ARMY CHIEF UNDERSCORES NATO'S PEACE EFFORTS

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has vowed that the nation will leave no stone unturned to support security forces in their quest to protect security. The Ministry of Interior (Mol) faces numerous challenges, particularly, the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for November 26th, a statement by the ministry's Department for Public Relations and Security Media quoted Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled as saying after he inaugurated the reserve website of the electronic security computer systems at the ministry.

Moreover, the Minister urged increased cooperation on the part of security personnel, saying that the ministry, "will not tolerate any attempt to harm national unity."

Speaking on challenges ahead, the Interior Minister urged the forces to take on all challenges, adding that the Ministry possesses all the capabilities and

tools to safeguard peace and security. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled also thanked the country's political leadership for their commitment to the nation's security through providing security personnel with the latest and most reliable methods and tools. Meanwhile, the Mol's Undersecretary Sulaiman Al-Fahad said that mounting challenges prompt readiness and alert, as he called on security apparatuses to put forth the most strenuous of efforts to protect the nation. "The Ministry of Interior will be up to the task," he stressed.

In another development, the Kuwaiti Army's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khoder has emphasized NATO's efforts to preserve global peace and security. In a meeting with Chief of Staff of the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) General Werner Freers, Al-Khoder said that they addressed plans to boost Kuwait's military cooperation with NATO through joint drills and exercises. On Kuwait's ties

with NATO, the Kuwaiti army chief described them as "exceptional." Moreover, Al-Khoder, accompanied by a Kuwaiti delegation, paid a visit to the headquarters of SHAPE in the city of Mons, 70 km south of Brussels.

Al-Khoder and his accompanying delegation visited NATO's main headquarters on Thursday. He met with Deputy Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Lt Gen Mark Schissler and senior NATO committee officials. After the meeting, Al-Khoder said he delivered a speech on the occasion and mentioned Kuwait's active contribution, diplomatically and military efforts, and rest of the international coalition against terrorist organization, mainly the so-called Islamic State (IS), including the transfer of military campaign center operations to Kuwait. The Kuwaiti army chief asserted importance on Kuwait's security apparatus support and partnership with NATO and various military institutes. — Agencies

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION KEEN ON PROMOTING YOUTH ABILITIES

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah has emphasized keenness on promoting capabilities of youth working in the state TV. Sheikh Salman was addressing the concluding ceremony of a training workshop the Information Ministry organized for preparation programmers and young directors at the TV sector, October 17-20. The minister stressed their responsibility, namely to exert further efforts to develop their abilities and keep pace with the latest media techniques.

Investment in the human element is the base to achieve progress and prosperity, not only spending on the engineering and technical infrastructure, Sheikh Salman said. The workshop is part of a plan to promote the capabilities at the Ministry of Information, he added. Sheikh Salman said that the ministry, upon directives from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, offers all forms of support to national media, especially the Kuwait TV. The minister honored participants in the workshop.

Women's dexterity

Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah said Kuwaiti women are known for their prowess and creativity in all domains. In a state-

ment to the press on the sidelines of the 8th Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF) Conference, themed "Young Arab Women Leaders", Sheikha Al-Zain said that Kuwaiti women have set a precedent for others to follow. She cited recent accolades attained by Kuwaiti women, noting that women comprise 50 percent of the Ministry of Youth's workforce, all of whom are talented and able to overcome the most insurmountable of obstacles. In words of encouragement to Kuwaiti women, Sheikha Al-Zain said that they are fully capable of reaching greater heights in political and economic realms.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kuwait Energy Sara Akbar told KUNA that the forum is a link that enables Arab businesswomen to share their knowhow with each other, adding that such events aim to familiarize women with any potential impediments facing them. Speaking on gender parity, Akbar said that women need further support to narrow the gender gap, which would provide them with increased opportunities of employment, noting that women deserve to ascend to the upper echelons of society. Through feting businesswomen in Kuwait, the AWIF aims to mold the next generation of female leaders to encourage them to contribute to the development of the nation. — Agencies

ZAIN WINS BEST EMPLOYER BRAND ACCOLADE AT ANNUAL LINKEDIN TALENT AWARDS MENA

DUBAI: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has been named the Best Employer Brand at the annual LinkedIn Talent Awards, celebrating the success of LinkedIn customers across the MENA region. LinkedIn operates the world's largest professional network on the Internet with more than 450 million members in over 200 countries and territories.

Zain was honored at a gala ceremony held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Dubai on Wednesday October 19, 2016, joining an elite group of organizations identified as being among the best employer brands in the region that utilize LinkedIn Talent Solutions to find, hire and retain top talent. In determining the winners, judges from LinkedIn analyzed the performance, results and impact of more than 850 elite organizations from the region based on several criteria that included: Career page completeness; nature of the content and creativity; engagement and reach.

Maryam Saif, Zain Group Head of Human resources commented, "This recognition as one of the region's best employer brands is acknowledgement of our genuine efforts and confirms our strategy of focusing on relevant and personalized content, relating to our audience's interest areas. It also provides us with an opportunity to benchmark ourselves against other companies that seek to attract the best talent. By using the power of LinkedIn, we successfully extended our reach across borders and subsequently gained interest from passive and active candidates alike."

Saif continued, "Zain Group's 7000 strong workforce come to work every day engaged and passionate about making a difference and delivering an exceptional digital lifestyle experience to our customers and communities. The recognition we have received from LinkedIn reflects the many years of team work, engagement, and fun that Zain has established with respect to its recruitment activities. This approach has resulted in us being able to have developed great professional friendships and we looking forward to leveraging these even further in the coming years."

According to LinkedIn

99% of the top global brands have employees who



share their content to their networks; 97% of the top global brands have employee posts contributing to their content efforts; 99% of top brands regularly share updates on their LinkedIn company page. Zain's human resources department plays a central role in how the company manages its business in ways that build long-term success and sustainability. It is active in inspiring strong commitment and superior performance from its people as the company believes effective people practices enhance business results. It is Zain's corporate conviction to be an employer of choice and the company's commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen is seen through numerous sustainable responsibility initiatives in communities where it operates, providing a strong value proposition for talent to be associated with the organization.

FOLKLORE AUTHORS HIGHLIGHT COMMON JEWELRY IN THE PAST

KUWAIT: Jewelry has always held a significant place in women of every culture throughout the history. These timeless pieces of jewelry have been created in a creative and innovative manner to adorn the human body and to bring satisfaction to its bearer. Kuwaiti women had their share of displaying a unique sense of style when it came to the jewelry they wore in the past. Two Kuwaiti folklore experts: Mohammad Ali Al-Khirs and Mariam Rashid Al-Agrogha shared in their book titled "Old Kuwaiti Household" the most prominent pieces of jewelry that were worn by Kuwaiti women back in the day.

These pieces were locally known as; "Al-Baghma," "Al-Khazzama," "Hejel" and "Terchiya" to name a few. In their book, the two authors explained in detail the purpose of each piece of ornament. Most prominent piece of jewelry in the Kuwaiti culture is "Al-Baghma." Al-Baghma was a large necklace elaborately decorated with stones and beads. This necklace held a great significance in terms of its monetary value, it was the most expensive one, and in terms of its social worth, it was a gift given to women on their wedding day. It also decorated women's necks in special social occasions, especially weddings.

Al-Baghma was a staple piece of jewelry in every Kuwaiti women's wardrobe, they pointed out. Terchiya, which is basically earrings, was another piece of jewelry that was owned by every Kuwaiti woman. They come in gold or silver and have numerous names. Kuwaiti women also liked to beautify their ankles by wearing Hejil, which universally known as anklet. Some of these ankle bracelets had jiggle bells while others were silent. The author mentioned another item that adorned the nose of Kuwaiti women in the past: Khazama. It was a nose earring that was worn on one side of the nose. They came in different sizes, they added.

As the noses were adorned so did their wrists, with various bracelets with different local names such as: "Khosour", a many equally-sized bracelet worn on one arm and they were usually decorated with amber and coral. "Meda'ad" were another type of bracelets which were typically made of gold or silver and were usually a stack of 6 or 12 pieces worn together on one arm. Of course the authors did not forget to mention these timeless piece of jewelry that transcends time and gender: rings. Rings enjoyed quirky names such as "Marami," "Khunser," "Bunsur," and "Rashim" that were only known by the locals. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Republic of Peru Heli Pelaex Castro hosted a reception on the occasion of Peru's Independence Day at Symphony Hotel. Top official, diplomats and media crews attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



International

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QAYYARAH: An Iraqi man walks as smokes billows in the distance. — AFP

QAYYARAH: FROM IS CONTROL TO BATTLE HUB

HUNDREDS OF FORCES FROM 60-NATION COALITION DEPLOYED HERE

QAYYARAH: Just months after its recapture from the Islamic State group, the sprawling Qayyarah base in north Iraq has become a hub for operations to retake Mosul from the jihadists. Iraq this week announced the start of operations to retake Mosul, its last city held by IS, and security forces are fighting their way toward it from the north, east and south. Iraqi police and soldiers, and hundreds of forces from the US-led coalition against IS are also deployed here, carrying out artillery strikes against the jihadists and working to rebuild the base.

"It is an area for mobilizing the units taking part in liberating the city of Mosul and the villages... surrounding it," Staff Brigadier General Qusay Kadhim Hamid, a senior commander in the interior ministry's elite rapid response forces, said of the base. Lieutenant General Raed Tawfiq Jawdat, commander of the federal police, said it is the most important base for

supplying Iraqi forces that are advancing toward Mosul from the south.

There are at least 7,000 forces deployed in Iraq as part of a 60-nation coalition assisting the war against IS in Iraq and Syria. At least half of them are Americans. The base is surrounded by a massive dirt berm, with tanks and other armored vehicles positioned inside. Most of the soldiers and police on the base are housed in tents that are coated with the powdery dust that covers the ground in the base and the desert beyond. IS jihadists did their best to deny Iraqi forces use of the base before they lost it in July, destroying buildings, toppling concrete walls, and disabling the runway.

'A lot of damage'

"We saw there was a lot of damage. Daesh did a lot of deliberate damage to try to make the base as (unuseable) as possible," Major

Chris Parker, a spokesman for the US-led coalition, told AFP at Qayyarah, using an Arabic acronym for the jihadist group. The runway "was completely unuseable when we came in," with trenches dug in it and bombs placed in the area, Parker said. Evidence of further destruction is also visible from the base, where a huge cloud of smoke rising from oil wells set alight by IS is an ever-present feature of the horizon. The smoke, which IS sought to use as cover from air strikes, sometimes blows over the base itself, blackening the sky like an approaching storm.

Coalition and Iraqi forces have been working to rebuild Qayyarah, and "we've seen the base develop very quickly," Parker said. The US air force has finished repairing the runway, which will eventually allow supplies to be flown in by cargo planes as well as arriving on the ground, though it is not yet open for use, he said. Already, "there's a lot of logistical sup-

port coming out of here" for the Mosul operation, Parker said. There is also "a lot of fire support. So Qayyarah is very important to the Mosul liberation," battle hub said.

American and French artillery is deployed at the base, carrying out strikes against IS and also firing illumination and smoke rounds in support of Iraqi troops. American HIMARS rocket launchers can hit IS far to the north, with a range that extends to the city of Mosul. The HIMARS position is marked by a spray-painted sign reading "Rocket City," with the rusty tails of old bombs or rockets stuck in the ground in front. Hulking Paladin mobile artillery pieces are stationed nearby, with tents of camouflage netting providing shelter for the soldiers who man them. While the base is relatively safe, IS has targeted it with artillery before. But the battle is moving farther away from Qayyarah as Iraqi troops close in on Mosul. — AFP



A member of the Iraqi government forces takes a position on top of a vehicle as smoke rises on the outskirts of the Qayyarah area, some 60 kilometers south of Mosul, on October 20, 2016, during an operation against Islamic State (IS) group jihadists to retake the main hub city. — AFP

IS ATTACKS IRAQI CITY OF KIRKUK, POWER PLANT AMID MOSUL FIGHT

ASSAULT THAT APPEARED AIMED AT DIVERTING FORCES

KIRKUK: Islamic State militants armed with assault rifles and explosives attacked targets in and around the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk early yesterday, in an assault that appeared aimed at diverting Iraqi security forces from a massive offensive against the IS-held city of Mosul. At least 13 workers, including four Iranians, were killed when IS militants stormed a power plant north of Kirkuk and then blew themselves up.

Multiple explosions meanwhile rocked the city and gun battles were ongoing, said witnesses in Kirkuk, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were concerned for their safety. Much of the fighting was centered on a government compound in the city. They said the streets were largely deserted out of fear of militant snipers. IS said its fighters targeted the provincial headquarters. The claim was carried by the IS-run Aamaq news agency and could not immediately be verified.

Local Kurdish television channel Rudaw aired footage showing black smoke rising over the city as extended bursts of automatic gunfire rang out. It quoted Kirkuk Gov Najmaddin Karim as saying that the militants had not seized any government buildings. The fighting raged late into the afternoon, and heavy smoke billowed up from the area of the provincial headquarters, where clashes were underway, according to live footage on the local Terkmeneli TV channel. It was unclear what caused the blaze.

Wide-scale offensive

In the power plant attack, which took place in Dibis, a town north of Kirkuk, three IS suicide bombers stormed the facility and killed 13 workers, including four Iranians, before blowing them-

selves up as police arrived, said Maj. Ahmed Kader Ali, the Dibis police chief. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi condemned the Kirkuk assault, which he said killed four Iranians and wounded three others, according to the official IRNA news agency. It was not immediately clear if Iranians were targeted in other attacks.

There was no immediate word on casualties among civilians or Kurdish forces in Kirkuk city. Kirkuk is some 170 kilometers from the Islamic State-held city of Mosul, where Iraqi forces have been waging a wide-scale offensive since Monday. IS has in the past resorted to suicide bombings in and around Baghdad in response to battlefield losses elsewhere in the country. But the complex assault in Kirkuk more closely resembled those carried out by the Taliban in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

Kirkuk is some 290 kilometers north of Baghdad and southeast of Mosul. The oil-rich city is claimed by both Iraq's central government and the country's Kurdish region. Kurdish forces assumed full control of Kirkuk in the summer of 2014, as Iraq's army and police crumbled in the face of a lightning advance by IS. Kemal Kerkuki, a senior commander of Kurdish peshmerga forces west of Kirkuk, said the town where his base is located outside the city also came under attack early yesterday, but that the base was now under control.

He said IS maintains sleeper cells in Kirkuk and the surrounding villages. "We arrested one recently and he confessed," he said, adding that the attackers may have posed as displaced civilians in order to infiltrate the city. Kirkuk province has absorbed hundreds of thousands of displaced people since IS

first overran wide stretches of northern and western Iraq in the summer of 2014, capturing Mosul, the country's second largest city.

'Full control'

Iraqi and Kurdish forces backed by a US-led coalition launched a multi-pronged assault this week to retake Mosul and surrounding areas from IS. The operation is the largest undertaken by the Iraqi military since the 2003 US-led invasion. Iraqi officials said they had advanced as far as the town of Bartella, 15 kilometers from Mosul's outskirts, by Thursday. Lt Gen Talib Shaghathi of Iraq's elite forces held a press conference yesterday a kilometer (half a mile) away from the town and insisted the special forces had "full control." He said Special Forces were clearing explosives and contending with some snipers who remained in the town. Gunfire could be heard in the distance.

Elsewhere in Iraq, the country's top Shiite cleric called on forces taking part in the Mosul offensive to protect civilians, and for residents of Mosul, a mainly Sunni city, to cooperate with security forces. "We stress today upon our beloved fighters, as we have before on many occasions, that they exercise the greatest degree of restraint in dealing with civilians stuck in the areas where there is fighting," the reclusive Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani said in a Friday sermon read by an aide. "Protect them and prevent any harm to them by all possible means." Some 3,900 people, or about 650 families, have fled Mosul and the nearby Hamdaniyah district since the operation began this week, according to Adrian Edwards of the UN refugee agency. — AP

TRUCE EXTENDED IN ALEPPO BUT UN DELAYS EVACUATIONS

ALEPPO: The UN said yesterday security concerns had forced it to delay planned evacuations from Syria's Aleppo, as Russia extended a truce that was largely holding for a second day. Moscow said it was extending the unilateral "humanitarian pause" in the Syrian government's Russian-backed assault on opposition-held east Aleppo until 1600 GMT today. But there was no sign that civilians or rebels were heeding calls to leave, with Damascus and Moscow accusing opposition fighters of preventing evacuations.

East Aleppo, which the rebels captured in 2012, has been under siege by the army since mid-July and has faced devastating bombardment by the government and its ally Russia since the launch of an offensive to retake the whole city on September 22. Nearly 500 people have been killed, more than a quarter of them children, since the assault began. More than 2,000 civilians have been wounded. The scale of the casualties has prompted outrage in the West, with Washington saying the bombardment amounted to a possible war crime.

Russia announced a halt to its air strikes from Tuesday and the unilateral ceasefire from Thursday. The Syrian army says it has opened eight corridors across the front line for the more than 250,000 civilians in rebel-held areas to leave, but so far almost none have taken up the offer. "There has been no movement in the corridors in the eastern district. For the moment, we haven't seen any movement of residents or fighters," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

'Threats preventing evacuations'

Syrian state media accused rebels of preventing people from leaving the city's opposition-held sector. And Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said fighters were using "threats, blackmail and brute force" to prevent civilians and rebels evacuating. The United Nations had hoped to use the truce to evacuate injured people from Aleppo, and possibly deliver aid. But yesterday afternoon, a spokesman said the operation had been delayed because of security concerns.

"Medical evacuations of sick and injured could unfortunately not begin this morning as planned because the necessary conditions were not in place," said Jens Laerke, spokesman for the United Nations humanitarian office OCHA. David Swanson, an OCHA spokesman in Turkey's Gaziantep, told AFP a four-day plan had been drawn up to begin with two days of evacuations to west Aleppo, rebel-held Idlib or Turkey.

If successful, the plan would then see aid delivered for another two days alongside continuing evacuations. No aid has entered Aleppo since July 7 and food rations will run out by the end of October, UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned on Thursday. The Syrian opposition National Coalition and rebel Free Syrian Army criticized UN policy in a statement, saying it "plays into the Assad regime's plans to empty Aleppo". It accused the world body of becoming a "tool in the hands of Russia".

'Crimes of historic proportions'

Moscow and Damascus have called on civilians to leave so that their offensive can focus on former Al-Qaeda affiliate the Fateh Al-Sham Front and the recapture of east Aleppo. Yesterday afternoon, rebel fire into west Aleppo killed one person and wounded three, Syrian state media said. Moscow has shown no sign of winding down its intervention, despite criticism of the civilian death toll and allegations that hospitals have been hit. A Russian aircraft carrier battle group was in the Channel between England and France Friday en route from the Baltic to the eastern Mediterranean. Yesterday, UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein denounced the siege and bombardment of Aleppo as "crimes of historic proportions" at a special session of the UN human rights council in Geneva. Western governments have also denounced the violence, but have been divided over how to respond. After meeting in Brussels on Thursday, European Union leaders backed down from an explicit threat of sanctions against Russia but warned they would consider "all available options" if atrocities continue. Damascus, meanwhile, warned Turkey after a series of deadly strikes against Syrian Kurdish fighters in the north of the country. In a statement, the army threatened to "down by all available means" Turkish aircraft violating Syrian airspace. — AFP



BENIN CITY: Newly crowned 40th Oba, or king, of the Benin kingdom, Oba Ewuare II (C), walks on a wooden bridge assisted by palace aides to perform the rite during his coronation. — AFP

NIGERIA'S NEW OBA OF BENIN: THE CORONATION OF A LIFETIME

ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS AFRICAN REALMS

BENIN CITY: The rainy season is supposed to be over in Nigeria, but on Thursday just before midnight, torrential rain and crackling lightning let loose over Benin City.

For those in the crowd, the message was clear: with the rain the gods had blessed the new monarch of the kingdom of Benin in the country's south.

The divine coronation was the climax of a day of royal pageantry, when some 100,000 people flooded the streets to catch a glimpse of the new "Oba"-king in the Yoruba language-Ewuare II. The kingdom of Benin, now located inside Nigeria, is one of the oldest and most prestigious African realms which flourished from around the 13th century until the British invasion hundreds of years later. It was famous for its vast wealth, sophisticated urban design and intricate bronzes.

The Oba does not wield any official powers in Nigeria, but has a great deal of influence. Politicians, businessmen and traditional leaders from all across the country honored the new king under the giant white tent with some 4,000 in attendance. Northern sultans bundled in turbans walked alongside southern princes, shirtless and draped in loops of chunky coral necklaces, while the Yoruba king of Ife wore a leopard skin. Wearing round John Lennon-style glasses and a string of pearls, Prince

Burns Effiom was in the audience and explained the significance of the coronation. "Politicians use traditional leaders to maintain peace," he told AFP. The Oba title is passed down from father to first-born son. So the new king, whose birth name is Eheneden Erediauwa, takes over from his father, Solomon Akenzua, who died earlier this year.

'Like God'

Huddled behind a wall of people armed with their cell phones, Christian Iyekekpolor jostled to snap pictures of VIPs. "From here I can see my king," said the young graduate of the University of Benin. "He's like God for us." Beside him stood Rickson Ogwu, who made the trip from Delta State, once a part of the ancient kingdom. Ogwu missed the coronation of the last Oba in 1979 because he was too young at age 12. He wasn't going to pass this opportunity up. "We can only see this once in a lifetime," the trader said. "I'm proud to continue the tradition of my people." More than six hours late on the program, the guests were finally assembled underneath the air-conditioned tent lit with multicolored chandeliers and the king arrived. Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, sat alongside other traditional leaders, foreign ambassadors and European delegations.

'Long live the king'

Nigeria, which has 170 million inhabitants, is deeply divided between a Muslim north and a Christian south; between supporters of the ruling All Progressives Congress party and the opposition People's Democratic Party. Yet on Thursday, those divisions were put aside, with the four major traditional rulers—the Oba of Benin, Emir of Kano, Sultan of Sokoto and Ooni of Ife—standing above the political fray.

"Please welcome, honored guests, the king of the century," said the master of ceremonies when Ewuare II appeared in an intricate armor of red coral and surrounded by dozens of chiefs and princes.

A graduate of the best British and American schools, and a former Nigerian ambassador to Sweden and Angola, the new king is determined to revive the former glory of his kingdom and kick-start the economy.

"With international aid and private sector partners, we will save our heritage," he said, promising in particular to invest in the bronze industry, the kingdom's pride. "I hope to attract tourists, help develop the agricultural industry," he said. "Long live the king!" exclaimed Eric Ojo, a 35-year-old entrepreneur. "I am happy. He was sent by God, but it is a king who has feet on the ground." — AFP

TROUBLE IN THE RANKS AS FRENCH POLICE PROTEST

PARIS: Blue flashing lights are a common sight for weary Parisians used to living under a state of emergency. The dozens of police cars on the Champs-Élysées this week were different. Blocking traffic on the famous avenue late on Monday, hundreds of officers and patrol vehicles gathered—not for a new anti-terror raid or, thankfully, in the aftermath of another attack—but to protest. "We've had enough!" one told AFP as a convoy of cars, bikes and officers covering their faces with balaclavas or masks, made their way noisily up the boulevard in a spontaneous demonstration.

Protests have continued and spread every night since, wrong-footing the Socialist government and highlighting anger in the ranks with the country on maximum alert. "Sick of being a sitting duck!" read one hand-written sign in the southern city of Toulouse this week. "Don't forget us," read another in Lyon in central France on Thursday night. The list of police complaints is long, covering everything from an ever-increasing workload, bureaucracy, outdated equipment and what is seen as lenient sentencing for violence against officers.

The frustration has been building for some time, fed by long-standing problems of delinquency in the country's rundown suburbs but boosted by the sense of insecurity in France. The spark for this week's demonstrations, organized by the rank-and-file rather than union leaders, was several petrol bombs thrown at officers in a known trouble spot outside Paris on October 8. A 28-year-old officer suffered serious burns and is still in a coma.

Prior to this, an off-duty officer and his partner were stabbed to death at their home northwest of Paris in June in an attack claimed afterwards by the Islamic State group. After the carnage in Nice in July, when an Islamist-inspired extremist killed 86 people with a truck, opposition politicians questioned whether police should have stopped him. In another blow to morale, during demonstrations against labor law reforms in the spring, officers were caught on camera kicking and hitting protesters with batons, leading to an outcry about brutality.

Loved or not?

"Police officers need recognition," Prime Minister Manuel Valls said Thursday as he sought to contain the crisis, just six months from presidential elections. "They are loved by the French people, and not only since Charlie," he added, referencing another dark moment for the men and women in blue over the last two years. The execution-style killing of a police officer during the raid by two extremists on the Charlie Hebdo magazine in January 2015 became one of the emblematic images of the tragedy.

It led to a rare outpouring of sympathy for police who are now more visible than ever around France as they guard buildings and sensitive sites under the state of emergency declared in November last year. Leading researcher and police expert Christian Mouhanna says the demonstrations stem from a mix of structural problems, politics and the heightened threat to France. Though police are generally respected—their bravery in last November's attacks in Paris was widely hailed—they suffer from poor relations with communities in crime-ridden areas.

Local policing has been cut drastically since 2003, meaning officers are distant and seen as heavy-handed enforcers. They also miss out on local intelligence, critical for fighting crime and terrorism, he says. Over-centralization means the rank-and-file are unable to take their own decisions, while grumbling about tedious guard duty to reassure the nervous French public is on the rise. Also—and worryingly for the government—they see themselves as suffering from political failures higher up, from the violent demonstrations against labor reforms or clearing refugee camps in Paris and Calais on the north coast.

"They find themselves managing problems in an authoritarian way that haven't been worked out differently," said Mouhanna, who heads a unit specializing in the police and penal system at France's national research institute, CNRS. The targeting of Francois Hollande so close to elections explains the president's eagerness, as well as leading members of the government, to meet police unions in person and satisfy their demands. "You are asking for resources, we'll give you them," Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve wrote in a letter sent to police yesterday. —AFP

S AFRICA'S WITHDRAWAL ROCKS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

'WITHDRAWAL SHOWS STARTLING DISREGARD FOR JUSTICE'

PRETORIA: South Africa announced yesterday that it would withdraw from the International Criminal Court, dealing a major blow to a troubled institution set up to try the world's worst crimes. The decision followed a dispute last year when Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir visited the country for an African Union summit despite facing an ICC arrest warrant over alleged war crimes. South Africa refused to arrest him, saying he had immunity as a head of state.

Justice Minister Michael Masutha told reporters in Pretoria that the court was "inhibiting South Africa's ability to honor its obligations relating to the granting of diplomatic immunity". "There is a view in Africa that the ICC in choosing who to prosecute has seemingly preferred to target leaders in Africa," Masutha added to AFP. The ICC, set up in 2002, is often accused of bias against Africa and has also struggled with a lack of cooperation, including from the United States which has signed the court's treaty but never ratified it.

South Africa would be the first country to leave the court, though others could soon follow. The withdrawal "shows startling disregard for justice from a country long seen as a global leader," Human Rights Watch said in a statement. Amnesty International said the country was "betraying millions of victims of the gravest human rights violations and undermining the international justice system."

Post-colonial bias?

South Africa's failure as an ICC signatory to arrest Bashir led to a wave of condemnation, which was met with an early threat from the government to withdraw from The Hague-based court. Bashir has evaded arrest since his ICC indictment in 2009 for alleged war crimes in Sudan's Darfur conflict in which 300,000 people were killed and two million forced to flee their homes. Earlier this month Burundi said it would withdraw, and Namibia and Kenya have also raised the possibility.

"It could spark a domino effect on other African states who may also want



PRETORIA: South African Justice Minister Michael Masutha gives a press briefing regarding South Africa's decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC). — AFP

to pull out," Anton du Plessis, of the Institute for Security Studies, told AFP. "South Africa played an important role in developing the ICC and now to see it playing such a destructive role is sad-denning." South Africa, which delivered a letter to the United Nations on Wednesday to activate its formal withdrawal, is likely to complete the process in one year. The Democratic Alliance, the country's main opposition party, immediately launched a legal appeal, describing the withdrawal as "irrational and procedurally flawed". "The decision... shows the depth of impunity and disregard for the rule of law within the ANC (ruling party)," it said.

'Disgraceful conduct'

In March, South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal accused President Jacob Zuma's government of "disgraceful conduct" over Bashir's visit and ruled that the failure to arrest Bashir was unlawful. The government was facing a possible defeat in the Constitutional Court next month over the issue, but

said that yesterday's decision meant its legal battle would be dropped.

During the summit, an emergency court order was obtained for Bashir's arrest, but government lawyers admitted he had quickly flown out of the country just before the order was issued. "We were called as country to arrest and prosecute a sitting head of state and the natural consequence would have been forced regime change in that country by South Africa," Justice Minister Masutha told AFP.

Of the ten ICC probes since 2002, nine have been into African countries and one into Georgia. In a major setback, its highest profile case-over Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's involvement in election violence collapsed two years ago. This month, it found former Congolese vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba and four aides guilty of bribing witnesses. Its chief prosecutor also recently sent a team to the Democratic Republic of Congo to urge restraint after weeks of deadly unrest. — AFP

UK 'FAKE SHEIKH' REPORTER JAILED

LONDON: British journalist Mazher Mahmood, renowned for his "fake sheikh" undercover sting operations for media mogul Rupert Murdoch's tabloids, was jailed for 15 months yesterday for tampering with evidence in a high-profile trial. Mahmood, 53, whose elaborate disguises have duped criminals, celebrities, and even royalty, plotted to get his driver to change a police statement during the drugs prosecution of Tulisa Contostavlos, a singer and former judge of the British version of the "X Factor" TV talent show.

Contostavlos had been about to go on trial accused of supplying cocaine for Mahmood, the self-styled "King of the Sting", as he posed as an influential Indian film producer while working on an exclusive story for the Sun on Sunday paper. The conviction is set to ruin the career of Mahmood, one of Britain's best-known undercover journalists. News UK, Murdoch's UK newspaper arm, said it had sacked him.

Some 18 individuals caught out by Mahmood's stings are planning to take civil action against him and lawyers are reviewing cases in which his evidence had led to successful criminal prosecutions. "Mazher has led scores of successful investigations during his 25-year career with the company," a News UK spokesman said, adding any legal claims would be "vigorously defended". "His work has led to the exposure of criminality and wrongdoing. It is a source of great regret that his time with the company should end in this manner."

Prosecutors said Mahmood got his driver, Alan Smith, to change a statement he gave to detectives which would have made Contostavlos's conviction less likely by supporting her case that she was a victim of entrapment. Her trial collapsed in July 2014 after questions arose about Smith's evidence. Earlier this month both men were found guilty of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice at London's Old Bailey court and on Friday Mahmood was jailed for 15 months while Smith was given a suspended 12-month prison term.

Mahmood made his name at Murdoch's News of the World, which was closed in 2011 after it was revealed senior journalists had been hacking voice-mails on mobile phones to get stories. He carried out the undercover inquiry which led to the 2011 conviction of three Pakistani cricketers for taking bribes to fix incidents in a match against England and also duped Sophie, Countess of Wessex, wife of Queen Elizabeth's youngest son Prince Edward, in 2001 when he posed as an Arab sheikh. But other stings have led to prosecutions which collapsed, including the case against five men accused of plotting to kidnap singer-turned-designer Victoria Beckham in 2002. — Reuters

TERROR ARREST IN LONDON OVER SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE

LONDON: Armed police arrested a 19-year-old man in London yesterday under counter-terrorism laws in connection with a suspicious package found on the Underground train network that sparked a security alert. "The man was arrested by officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, assisted by armed colleagues, in the street in Holloway Road" in north London, the police said in a statement.

London's Metropolitan Police said they had used a taser during the arrest at around 12.20pm (1120GMT) on the busy shopping street, but that no shots were fired. The police said they made the package safe after it was found on a train on

Thursday. It was now being "forensically examined". "The public will see more officers, including armed police, in and around transport hubs to provide reassurance around public safety," the statement said, adding that the London Underground was working as normal.

Counter-terror detectives opened an investigation on Thursday after the suspicious item was reported at around 11 am (1000 GMT) on a train at North Greenwich station, which serves The O2 entertainment complex, formerly the Millennium Dome. The police said in a statement on Thursday that "a controlled detonation" of the package had taken place.

"Officers are keeping an open mind regarding any possible motive," added the statement. "They are not looking for anyone else in relation to this investigation at this stage." Since August 2014, the terror threat level in Britain has been classed as "severe"-the second highest level, meaning an attack is considered "highly likely". London mayor Sadiq Khan praised the "outstanding professionalism" of police and Transport for London staff. "This situation was dealt with swiftly and safely, and no injuries resulted," he said. "Keeping Londoners safe is my highest priority. I am urging all Londoners... to remain calm and vigilant at all times." — AFP

PARK IN DELHI SHUT AFTER SUSPECTED BIRD FLU DEATHS

NEW DELHI: City authorities have closed a sprawling park in the heart of New Delhi after eight birds died of suspected bird flu, days after the city zoo was closed to the public after nine birds died there. New Delhi's Development Minister Gopal Rai said yesterday that eight bird deaths were reported to city authorities on Thursday. These included two more bird deaths in the Delhi Zoo and two dead birds found in the Hauz Khas Deer Park.

City officials said three dead crows were also found in a residential neighborhood near the zoo. Autopsies were planned on all the dead birds. The zoo was closed to the public Tuesday after autopsies confirmed at least three birds had died from H5N1 avian influenza. Rai said autopsy results of the birds that died Thursday were not known yet but the government was taking the precaution of closing the park.

H5N1 poses no apparent threat to humans, but highly pathogenic strains can be deadly to domestic poultry and, rarely, wild birds. Delhi's Hauz Khas Deer Park is home to hundreds of deer, peacocks and other birds. Described as one of the few "green lungs" of the highly polluted capital, the park is popular with joggers and walkers.

At this time of the year, bird sanctuaries, wildlife parks and water bodies around northern India are crowded with migratory birds flying south for the winter. Rai said vacations had been canceled for all employees of the city's animal husbandry department in case more dead birds are found. Animal health officials visited the capital's main poultry markets and took samples from different batches of chickens brought for sale. "We are closely monitoring bird sanctuaries, poultry farms and chicken wholesale markets," Rai said. Meanwhile, 15 storks have died over the past three days in a zoo in the central Indian city of Gwalior. Zoo official Pradeep Srivastava said zoo authorities were waiting for the autopsy reports on the painted storks to determine if avian influenza was present before deciding whether or not to shut the zoo. — AP

BANGLADESH: DEAD MILITANT LEADER BEHIND CAFE ATTACK

DHAKA: A militant who died in a raid in Bangladesh this month was identified as the head of a militant group blamed for a deadly attack on a cafe that killed 22 people, mostly foreigners, security officials said yesterday. Abdur Rahman leapt to his death from a five-storey building as he tried to escape the raid on Oct. 8 on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka, by the police-led Rapid Action Battalion, an elite force spearheading the counter-terrorism effort.

Battalion chief Benazir Ahmed said several documents, emails and letters retrieved during the raid confirmed Rahman was head of a new faction of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), known as New JMB, and went by the name Abu Ibrahim al-Hanif. "Rahman's real name was Sarwar Jahan," Ahmed told a news conference. "He was arrested for taking part in an attack on police in 2003, and nine months later freed on bail, after which he disappeared."

In its April issue, Dabiq, a journal of militant group Islamic State, reported that Abu Ibrahim al-Hanif was the jihadists' "emir" in Bangladesh. The July 1 cafe attack in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter was claimed by the jihadist group and was one of the most brazen in Bangladesh, reeling from a spate of killings of liberals and members of religious minorities in the past year.

Al Qaeda and Islamic State have made competing claims over the attacks in the mostly Muslim country of 160 million people. Police believe that New JMB, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, was involved in organizing the cafe attack. While authorities blame the violence on domestic militants, security experts say the scale and sophistication of the cafe attack suggested links to a transnational network.

The United States believes elements of Islamic State are connected to operatives in Bangladesh, US Secretary of State John Kerry said during an August visit to Dhaka. The targeting of foreigners could hurt foreign investment in the poor South Asian economy, whose \$28 billion garments export industry is the world's second-largest. Police have killed more than 36 suspected militants in shootouts since the cafe attack, including its presumed mastermind, Bangladesh-born Canadian citizen Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury. — Reuters



ISLAMABAD: In these photographs taken on August 30, 2016, pupils take part in a lesson at a makeshift school in a park. — AFP photos

OUTDOOR SCHOOL OFFERS NEW HOPE FOR ISLAMABAD'S POOR

NO WALLS, NO ROOF AND NO CHAIRS

ISLAMABAD: In the corner of a pristine park in an upmarket district of Islamabad, an open-air classroom run by an aging rescue-worker offers a beacon of hope to the city's poorest. For the past 30 years, "Master" Muhammad Ayub, whose day job includes defusing bombs and putting out fires, has cycled from his office to the makeshift school to teach children from surrounding slums for free.

There are no walls, no roof and no chairs and students dutifully rise to move en masse as the sun makes its way across the sky—it is their only source of lighting so they must follow it. In a country where education is underfunded and 24 million children remain out of school, grey-haired Ayub, 58, is hailed as a hero for providing his charges with hope for a better future.

"I was rescued from the darkness of illiteracy by an angel in the shape of Master Ayub when I was nine and collecting firewood," Farhat Abbas, now 20, said. Abbas now assists Ayub with classes while he studies for a bachelors degree at a local university. Such testimonies are common among the thousands of children who attended the school, many of whom have taken up jobs in the government and businesses that would have been otherwise been out of reach.

Humble start

The story of Master Ayub's school began in 1986 when he moved to the recently-built capital from the sleepy agricultural town of Mandi Bahauddin. With its wide boulevards arranged in a grid, stunning views of the Margalla hills and impressive monuments, Islamabad was a world away from the young man's hometown. But, he recalls, "when I arrived, I was puzzled to see small children working in the streets, begging or cleaning cars or selling flowers and I

wondered how come they have to do this in a posh capital city".

One day he came across a boy washing cars in at the market place and asked him why he wasn't in school. "I asked him if wanted to study and he said 'yes'. Right there I gave him a notebook, a book, a pencil and an eraser and started teaching him," said Ayub, a high school graduate himself who left college before finishing his degree. "The next day the boy brought another with him, and within a week there were 50 children in my class."

He began by teaching them in a corner of the marketplace, but was shooed away by the shopkeepers. From there he moved to outside a government school but authorities asked him to pack up after influential people living nearby complained they were causing a nuisance. He finally shifted to his current location in the park, which is adjacent to some of the most expensive houses in the city valued at over \$1 million—but also near a slum where minority Christian families reside.

Belated recognition

Founded in 1960, Islamabad was envisaged as a city for the country's political and bureaucratic elite but has been criticized for lacking public housing for the poor, who work in menial jobs and as domestic servants for the wealthy. As a consequence, numerous slum areas cropped up throughout the city, but because their domiciles are not legally recognized, many find it hard to get their children enrolled in registered schools.

Hina Shahbaz, 17, said she moved with her parents to Islamabad two years ago, "but because of the paperwork needed I couldn't get admitted into a school right away". She started attending Ayub's classes, while he used his contacts among local officials built over the years to get her enrolled at a formal school. She continues to come and help out by teaching younger students, while receiving maths tuition from her old teacher. "I like science and I want to become an engineer," she said. — AFP



CHINA, PHILIPPINES AGREE TO DIALOGUE OVER SEA DISPUTES

BEIJING: Beijing and Manila will resume talks on their South China Sea disputes, both sides said yesterday, an apparent diplomatic victory for China after an international tribunal dismissed its claims to the waters. The announcement came during Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's visit to China where he sought economic support from the Asian giant and announced his "separation" from longtime ally the US. "A bilateral consultation mechanism can be useful, which will meet regularly on current and other issues of concern to either side on the South China

Sea," the countries said in a joint statement.

The move to hold talks, suspended several years ago, will please Beijing, which has a longstanding policy of insisting territorial disputes be discussed directly between the parties, in an environment where analysts say it has more clout due to its economic size, rather than in multilateral forums.

The joint statement made no reference to a ruling by a tribunal at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague earlier this year, which ruled that there was no legal basis to China's claims to nearly all of the sea

— a verdict Beijing dismissed vehemently. Duterte initially told reporters he would raise the ruling in China, but later said that doing so would be rude to his hosts and that territorial disputes would take a "backseat" as he heaped praise on Beijing.

"Both sides affirm that contentious issues are not the sum total of the Philippines-China bilateral relationship," the joint statement added. It confirmed that China would lift a ban on imports from Philippine banana and pineapple growers which it imposed in 2012 as maritime tensions mounted. China seized control of

Scarborough Shoal, a fishing ground in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, the same year.

The two countries agreed to step up defense exchanges and co-operation between their coastguards, though no details were given. Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit the Philippines at an unspecified time, it added. Beijing greeted Duterte with military honors and offered the Philippines \$9 billion in soft loans for development projects. It has also pledged to support his controversial war on drugs which has seen thousands killed. — AFP

TYPHOON SURVIVORS WAIT FOR AID IN THE PHILIPPINES

ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL STORMS

PENABLANCA: Hungry Philippine typhoon survivors huddled in makeshift shelters and waited for aid yesterday, after losing nearly everything from one of the most powerful storms to hit the Southeast Asian archipelago. Super Typhoon Haima struck late on Wednesday night with winds similar to those of catastrophic Haiyan in 2013, which was then the strongest storm to hit the disaster-prone country and claimed more than 7,350 lives.

At least eight people were killed and another was missing while tens of thousands lost their homes as Haima devastated farming and mountain communities across the north of the Philippines' main island of Luzon on Thursday. "I cried when I saw my beans and squash plants that had been raked off by the winds. My mango trees were also toppled," farmer Leonardo Longan, 66, told AFP in the town of Penablanca, close to where Haima made landfall.

Like many of his neighbors, Longan and his wife now live in an improvised shelter with palm leaves for a roof, blankets for walls and a bed made from the collapsed wooden wall of his old dwelling. They sent their four school-age children to live with a relative, and borrowed rice from a local trader. A military plane-load of food aid was flown to the region yesterday to augment supplies positioned there ahead of the disaster, Romina Marasigan, spokeswoman for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council told reporters in Manila. But in Penablanca, a farming town of about 42,000 people, Longan said aid had yet to arrive.

In San Pablo, another Cagayan Valley town about 20 kilometers south of Penablanca, four families spent Thursday night on a roadside after Haima flattened their homes. "No one has helped us. It is just us and other families, helping each other on the side of the road," Jovy Dalupan, a mother of two, told AFP.

No dry clothes

Dalupan said her daughters, aged eight months and four years, had started coughing after being drenched during the storm and that their clothes were



TUGUEGARAO CITY: Motorists maneuver around fallen street lights destroyed by super typhoon Haima. — AFP

still wet. "But we have nothing to change into," she said. A preliminary report from the northern Cordillera region listed eight people killed by landslides and a man missing after being swept away on a swollen river.

More than 50,000 people in typhoon-affected areas in the north had received aid, although the total number of people who needed help was not known. Communication lines have yet to be restored in about half of the Cordilleras and so the extent of the typhoon's fallout there could not yet be determined, said Marasigan, the disaster council spokeswoman said.

Dozens of farming villages in Bataan and Pampanga provinces to the south near Manila remained under water yesterday, as water flowed down from the northern mountains, regional officials said, with nearly 40,000 residents seeking refuge on higher ground. The Philippine islands are often the first

major landmass to be hit by storms that generate over the Pacific Ocean. The Southeast Asian archipelago endures about 20 major storms each year, many of them deadly.

The most powerful and deadliest was Haiyan, which destroyed entire towns in heavily populated areas of the central Philippines in November 2013. Haima was the second typhoon to hit the northern Philippines in a week, after Sarika struck on Sunday claiming at least one life and leaving three people missing. Haima hit Hong Kong and the southern Chinese mainland yesterday, after weakening into a typhoon with wind speeds of 145 kilometers an hour. More than 700 flights in and out of Hong Kong were cancelled or delayed as the city's usually frenetic streets were deserted with schools closed and other precautions put in place under a Number 8 storm signal, the third-highest warning level. — AFP

FILIPINO PROTESTERS WANT POLICE IN DISPERSAL PUNISHED

MANILA: Hundreds of Filipinos protesting Friday outside the presidential palace burned a mock US flag and asked President Rodrigo Duterte to punish police officers for brutally dispersing an anti-US rally and ramming a van into some of the activists. About 1,000 left-wing protesters, carrying placards that read "US troops out now" marched 3 kilometers to the presidential palace in Manila to condemn the violent police action and seek justice for those injured.

Protest leader Piya Malayao, who was among those hit by the van in Wednesday's rally at the US Embassy, walked with crutches, her right leg bandaged. She and other protesters handed a letter to officials in which they asked Duterte for justice. "That action coming from the police could have really taken a lot of lives," Malayao said, adding the protesters would file criminal complaints against the officers. "That attack (was) really meant to kill our people."

Police say the protesters had no rally permit and attacked officers. Nine officers have been removed from their posts, including the van driver, while a police investigation is conducted. The driver, Franklin Kho, told reporters he did not deliberately hit the protesters but was trying to drive away because they were hitting the van and he feared they would commandeer it.

Hitting protesters

Rallies are common at the heavily-guarded seaside embassy in Manila's tourist district, and police have wielded shields and batons against the large crowds previously. But Wednesday's actions against more than 1,000 left-wing students, laborers and tribal people have been seen as among the most brutal in recent years. That's largely because of the van hitting protesters, but police were also seen using a firetruck hose, lobbing tear gas and hitting people and pulling their hair.

Videos of the van hitting the protesters like bowling pins have gone viral online. Associated Press TV footage showed the van repeatedly ramming the protesters as it drove wildly back and forth after activists surrounded and started hitting it with wooden sticks. Horrified protesters are heard screaming and cursing at the police. Malayao and a few others were hit and injured, some hospitalized. Lawmakers have also called for a congressional inquiry. US-based Human Rights Watch urged national police chief Ronald dela Rosa, who has expressed dismay over the violent dispersal, to carry out an impartial investigation and prosecute those behind the violence.

"Failure to do so will only guarantee that the culture of impunity for unlawful police violence continues," HRW said in a statement. Wednesday's protesters were demanding an end to the presence of visiting US troops in the Philippines and to support Duterte's vow to chart a foreign policy not dependent on the US, the country's longtime treaty ally. The violence happened as the police and Duterte are under increased international scrutiny for their alleged role in the killings of thousands of drug suspects and pushers as part of the tough-talking president's war on illegal drugs. — AP

TRUMP CHALLENGING A LOSS WILL BE TOUGH

SUPPORT FOR TRUMP HAS ERODED IN RECENT WEEKS

NEW YORK: If Donald Trump were to challenge the outcome of next month's presidential election, as he has hinted he might, he would face a difficult and expensive fight, according to election attorneys and a review of voting laws in key battleground states. Trump has said he is worried the Nov 8 election might be rigged in favor of his opponent, Hillary Clinton, and in Wednesday's debate he refused to say he would accept the outcome. But before any court challenge, Trump probably would have to ask for a recount, said Donald Brey, a Republican election lawyer in Ohio.

If the campaign did not pursue out-of-court options first, he said, a judge likely would dismiss the case. Recount rules vary from state to state. North Carolina, for example, doesn't allow a presidential candidate to request a recount at all if one candidate has a lead of more than 0.5 percent of the total votes cast.

In Wisconsin, the challenging candidate must pay the full expense of a recount if the vote in dispute is more than 0.25 percent, and in Colorado if it is more than 0.5 percent. That can be expensive. Officials in one Wisconsin village put the cost of a local recount, in which about 9,000 votes were cast earlier this year, at nearly \$13,000, said Michael Maistelman, a Wisconsin election lawyer who represented the unsuccessful candidate.

More than 3 million people voted in the 2012 presidential election in Wisconsin. Deciding where to challenge the election would be complicated. Trump, who trailed Clinton by 7 percentage points nationwide in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released last week, is fighting tight battles in some key states. In Ohio, for example, an average of major opinion polls reviewed by the RealClearPolitics

website found Trump to be leading by less than 1 percentage point. In Iowa, he is leading by nearly 4 percent.

Maximizing chances

In some other battleground states, polls suggest support for Trump has eroded in recent weeks. According to the RealClearPolitics website's poll tally, Clinton has substantial leads in Virginia, Colorado and Wisconsin. She leads Trump by more than 6 percentage points in Pennsylvania, nearly 4 points in Florida and more than two points in North Carolina.

To maximize his chances of overturning a Clinton win, Trump might need to challenge the results in several states, said Troy McCurry, a former Republican National Committee lawyer who was part of the party's recount team in 2012. Trump could try to bring a legal claim without first asking for recount by alleging, for instance, that an abuse of power by an election official, said McCurry, who's law firm represented Ted Cruz in the Republican primary before McCurry joined the practice. But if Trump's lawyers were unable to muster specific facts to support that premise, he said, a judge would dismiss the lawsuit.

Any lawsuit that withstood early challenges would face an uncertain future. With the US Supreme Court split 4-to-4 between liberal and conservative justices, state supreme courts or federal appeals courts could well make the final ruling in any election dispute. In Pennsylvania, Colorado and Florida, where a majority of both state and federal appeals court judges have Democratic affiliations, Trump might face a more difficult road. Meanwhile, appeals



OHIO: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Delaware County Fair. — AP

courts in Ohio, Wisconsin and Iowa are more heavily Republican.

Ohio election attorney Brey, who said he dislikes but will vote for Trump, believes a challenge in Ohio would be a last-ditch effort for the candidate. "Let's put it this way," he said. "If Ohio is close, Trump's already lost." Trump also might face obstacles from his own party, attorneys said, because it would be reluctant to challenge results in a state where, say, it lost the presidential race but won a close US senate race.

Numerous studies have shown US elec-

tions, which are decentralized and run by the states, are basically sound. "Mr Trump never mentions what criteria would be necessary for him to make a decision about a challenge," said Stephen Zack, an attorney who represented Vice President Al Gore in the case that was brought to the Supreme Court over the election recount in Florida in 2000. "Basically it is left as, 'I'll see what it smells like and then I will surprise you,'" Zack said. "There are rule-of-law issues that pertain to elections that separate us from anywhere else in the world." — Reuters

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FECES, SWASTIKAS FOR TRUMP AT MEXICO CARICATURE MUSEUM

MEXICO CITY: His golden hair twists into smelly, fly-infested excrement. In other cartoons, his trademark locks are shaped into a tongue or a wall. His silhouette also serves as Adolf Hitler's mustache. Donald Trump has been such a well of inspiration for cartoonists that a gallery is dedicated to the Republican presidential candidate at Mexico City's Caricature Museum. The exhibit's title takes aim at Trump's threat to make Mexico pay for a giant barrier across the border: "Trump: A Wall of Cartoons."

By calling Mexican migrants criminals and rapists, and vowing to deport millions back to their homeland, he has inspired a plethora of cartoonists from Mexico and other nations who contributed to the exhibit. Other Mexicans have vented their anger by bashing pinatas of his likeness or burning his effigy. Among the cartoonists, there are some recurring themes: the bouffant hair, brick walls, fresh feces and Nazi symbols.

One by the Mexican artist Antonio Rodriguez Garcia shows the Republican Party's symbol—a red and blue elephant-defecating dung shaped like Trump's unmistakable hairdo. Another signed Rodriguez shows Trump as Uncle Sam pointing his finger, with the phrase "I hate you" instead of the famous "I want you" message of the military recruitment poster. In a similar far-right vein, the Spanish cartoonist Jose Rubio Malagon drew Trump's hair into the shape of a hand doing a fascist salute. Belgium's Luc Descheemaeker, or O-Sekoer, drew Hitler's own distinctive haircut and small mustache, which, if you look closer, is Trump's silhouette. Others were less subtle, depicting Trump as a gorilla wearing a swastika armband or as a Hitler figure with blond hair.

'Involuntary comic character'

The cartoonist behind the exhibit is Arturo Kemchs, who as president of the Ibero-American Union of Graphic Humorists had requested contributions from his peers for a book on Trump a few months ago. He received hundreds of cartoons and fit 350 of them in the book, of which 2,000 copies were sold. The idea for the exhibit, which began October 13, came after the book.

"It's a character who made our work easier," Kemchs, 57, told AFP. "He's an involuntarily comical character." "This character has taken over spaces in the sense that some cartoonists no longer do caricatures of Mexican politicians. They go with the Donald Trump theme because he gives us a lot of material," he said. Kemchs shows two of his Trump cartoons: one with a brick wall replacing Trump's hair, the other with his crest shaped like a tongue. "I picked the tongue precisely because of his ability to talk and talk nonsense," he said.

'You build it'

The exhibit will go on tour in two other Mexican cities, Chicago, New York, Panama and Colombia. Meanwhile in Mexico City, locals and tourists marveled at the cartoons this week. Saki Kameo, a 21-year-old woman from Kobe, Japan who is studying Spanish in Mexico, had her favorite: a Russian nesting doll of Trump over Hitler, North Korean strongman Kim Jong-Un and Italy's Benito Mussolini. "There is a historic base for racism and that's why now there's Trump. It's not accidental that he has appeared," Kameo said. Luis Antonio Engfui Amaya, a Mexican cashier at a sushi restaurant, liked a cartoon of a Mexican imagining himself whipping Trump as the real estate tycoon applies cement to a brick wall. "It's as if the Mexican citizen is telling him, 'you want your wall, you build it,'" Engfui said with a smile. —AFP



MIAMI: President Barack Obama arrives to speak as he campaigns for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at Florida Memorial University. —AP

CANDIDATES SPEND FURIOUSLY AS ELECTION DAY DRAWS NEAR

TAKING DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON: Defying his notorious stinginess, Donald Trump more than doubled his campaign spending last month compared to August. He burned through roughly \$70 million as his standing in polls and among fellow Republicans dropped. His Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, spent even more — almost \$83 million. New finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission outlined their dramatically different approaches to the quest for the White House. Trump, while putting more money than ever into advertising, spent a fraction of the roughly \$66 million Clinton poured into media buys.

Clinton's payroll topped 800 people, coming in as her second-highest expense of the month, about \$5.5 million. Trump paid roughly 350 employees and consultants. He has outsourced most of his on-the-ground voter contact to the Republican Party. The New York real estate mogul has bragged until recently about his low-cost campaign and dismissed the need for television ads and polling services. But in September, he paid \$23 million for commercials.

Perhaps a reflection of his newest campaign manager, pollster Kellyanne Conway, Trump appears to have a new

interest in polling. In August he paid Conway's The Polling Company \$130,000. Last month, he almost tripled his payment to her company, part of \$1.7 million in September expenditures to five different polling firms. Another big expense: Long-ago ousted campaign manager Corey Lewandowski received a total of \$100,000.

Double-take

Lewandowski was fired in June and quickly became a paid contributor to CNN. That hasn't stopped him from collecting Trump campaign checks thanks to a contract. In September, his Green Monster Consulting firm collected what the campaign said was its final payout to him. His firm took in about \$540,000 over the course of the campaign. As a comparison, Clinton's campaign manager, Robby Mook, has been paid about \$153,000 so far.

One of Clinton's expenditures causes a double-take. Her campaign reimbursed employees who purchased \$260 worth of products from Trump International Hotel in New York. That was for props — a tie, polo shirt and hat — in a Clinton campaign digital video highlighting that Trump doesn't make all of his products in America. Indeed,

the Clinton campaign line-item in the fundraising report reads: "Merchandise Not Made In America."

September was the best fundraising month for both candidates. Of the \$100 million Trump said he raised for his presidential bid and his Republican partners, about \$55 million went to his campaign. Clinton's campaign said she raised \$154 million, and her September filing showed about \$74 million of that ended up in her campaign account.

Some outside groups active in the presidential race also filed fundraising paperwork on Thursday. Priorities USA, the chief super PAC backing Clinton raised almost \$25 million. A \$6 million chunk of that came from billionaire investor Donald Sussman. Clinton-aligned NextGen Climate Action Committee took in \$20 million last month. Nearly all of that amount — about \$18 million — came from former hedge fund manager and climate change activist Tom Steyer. So far this election cycle, Steyer has given the group \$43 million. Super PACs on the Trump side have been less fruitful in their fundraising. One of the groups, called Make America Number One, collected \$2 million in September from Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus. —AP

FLOOD VICTIMS FACE MAJOR HURDLES AS VOTING BEGINS

NORTH CAROLINA: As Keith and Felicia Scott looked at the ruins of their flooded-out house in North Carolina, the mold growing up the walls and the loose floorboards lying waterlogged at their feet, the presidential election was about the furthest thing from their minds. "I know it's something we need to focus on, but it's kind of hard to focus on that when you've got all this going on," said Keith Scott, a 49-year-old state prison employee who lives outside Lumberton, one of the areas inundated by Hurricane Matthew nearly two weeks ago. "Right now, you've got to find a place to live."

Of the 130 million Americans expected to cast ballots this year, the thousands of people in North Carolina whose lives have been upended by the flooding face some of the biggest challenges. As in-person, early voting began Thursday in the state, some roads were still impassable, bridges were washed out, and untold numbers of people were still out of their homes. Many were busy just trying to put their lives back together.

Some of the most heavily damaged areas are largely Democratic with a high concentration of black voters, and there are concerns the disarray

might depress turnout and sway the outcome of the White House race in this battleground state, where polls suggest a tight race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump and where Barack Obama beat John McCain in 2008 by a mere 14,177 votes out of 4.3 million cast.

The hurricane dumped more than a foot of rain up to 100 miles inland, triggering severe flooding across a large area of eastern North Carolina. Towns such as Lumberton and Tarboro were inundated. As of Tuesday, more than 1,000 people were in emergency shelters; others were

staying with family or friends, their homes uninhabitable.

The Scotts said they still hope to vote. Others sounded determined to do so. In Tarboro, where signs block drivers from getting into some neighborhoods and piles of damaged drywall, carpet, couches and other belongings line the sidewalks, 30-year-old Cordell Pettaway and his mother have a lot of work ahead of them before they can move back into their home in a historic black neighborhood: pulling up subflooring, removing wet furnishings and eventually getting the electricity turned back on. —AP

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NEW DELHI: An Indian woman uses an ATM in New Delhi yesterday. Indian banks are scrambling to contain the damage after more than 3.2 million debit cards were feared to have been hacked. — AP

3.2M DEBIT CARDS HACKED IN INDIA

BANKERS SCRAMBLE TO CONTAIN DAMAGE AMID PANIC

NEW DELHI: Indian banks scrambled yesterday to contain the damage after finding that more than 3.2 million debit cards may have been hacked. Several banks, including the government-run State Bank of India, advised customers to change their personal identification numbers. The banks have recalled thousands of debit cards and blocked others that they fear have been hacked.

The breach is thought to have been caused by malware on an ATM network. Finance Minister Arun Jaitely said yesterday the government was investigating how the security breach occurred. The National Payments Corporation of India that controls all retail payments systems in India said banks had received complaints from customers that their cards had been used fraudulently in China and the United States. The NCPI has alerted banks that 3.2 million cards were affected.

Yesterday, NCPI's managing director and CEO, Abhaya Prasad Hota, sought to reassure customers that financial authorities had stepped up precautions. "Necessary correc-

tive actions already have been taken," Hota said. "There is no reason for bank customers to panic."

The NPCI, in a statement, said a total of 13 million rupees (\$195,000) were withdrawn fraudulently in transactions affecting 19 banks and 641 customers. The State Bank of India, the country's top lender, said about 620,000 of its more than 200 million cards were "vulnerable" due to the security breach.

India's Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das said the government was tracking how the security breach took place. "In this cyber world, all transactions leave a trail. We will track the trail. Locate the point of origin of the breach and government will act swiftly on this," Das said.

Apart from SBI, other Indian banks include the Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, Central Bank and Andhra Bank that have replaced debit cards. Among private sector players, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Yes Bank have advised customers to change their identity numbers or change their cards. — AP

HIKE IN SAUDI VISA FEES COULD IMPACT BUSINESS

RIYADH: A seven-fold hike in visa fees to do business in Saudi Arabia risks deterring the foreign investment needed to transform its oil-dependent economy, diplomats and other sources say. But a senior Saudi business leader has dismissed such concerns, insisting the country's most sought-after business partners could easily afford the new charges. "It's incredibly short-sighted," a Riyadh-based diplomat said of the changes which took effect this month.

"They're obviously bleeding and they want to put the cost on foreigners as much as they can," he said, asking for anonymity. "It'll end up costing them a lot more than what they gain in visa payments."

Higher visa fees are one of many moves adopted by the kingdom to cover a loss in oil revenue which has slumped by 68 percent

over the past five years, according to official data cited by Bloomberg News. But the higher cost of entry permits has left people "scratching their heads", a second diplomat said. "We are expecting to see business reconsider Saudi as a market," said the Western envoy. "It's certainly happening already," though not in a major way. Starting in October, a six-month business or work-visa allowing multiple entries costs 3,000 riyals (\$800), compared with 400 riyals before, said Ala Siyam, general manager of Gulf Consulting House.

The consultancy, in Khobar on the Gulf coast, assists clients from more than 40 countries in securing visas to Saudi Arabia, which requires all foreigners to have a local sponsor, whether to visit on holiday or business. — AFP

OIL RISES ON RUSSIA'S OUTPUT FREEZE COMMITMENT

LONDON: Oil edged higher yesterday as Russia reiterated its commitment to joining a producers' output freeze to stem a two-year slide in prices but a strong dollar capped gains.

Global benchmark Brent crude futures were 12 cents higher at \$51.50 a barrel at 0847 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was trading at \$50.65 a barrel up 2 cents from its last settlement.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander

Novak said on Friday an oil output freeze agreement was necessary to prop up prices and that he would make proposals to his Saudi Arabian counterpart this weekend. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will hold a meeting on Nov. 30 to find common ground on capping oil production. This is expected to work out how each member country will contribute to a freeze.

"The near term fundamentals in the

oil market have turned positive. Demand is stabilising, OPEC production has peaked (and will fall if cuts are implemented), and global inventory declines imply that the market is more balanced than many believe," Neil Beveridge of Bernstein Energy said in a note to clients.

But Olivier Jakob, oil analyst at Petromatrix said: "We have been cautious in the current (oil) flat price rally, based on our forecast of an OPEC sup-

ply surge in the fourth quarter and a widening of the Brent contango."

A rise in the dollar on Friday to touch a seven-month high against a basket of currencies, in its third straight week of gains, prevented oil prices from pushing higher.

A stronger dollar means dollar-denominated commodities become more expensive to hold, making it less attractive for investors to buy them. — Reuters

WESTERN INSURERS REBUILD BUSINESS TIES WITH IRAN

CAUTIOUS INVESTORS SEEK TO REENTER LUCRATIVE MARKET

LONDON: Western insurers are slowly reaching deals with Iran as they seek to re-enter a multi-billion dollar market although the pace of business is hampered by banking restrictions ten months on from the lifting of international sanctions. Shut out of international financial markets for years, Iran is still trying to reap the benefits of last year's nuclear deal with world powers.

Despite the removal of international banking restrictions in January, Tehran has secured ties with only a limited number of smaller banks as US sanctions remain in force. By contrast, Iran is in more active talks with insurers to provide cover in a market valued at \$9 billion overall last year and potentially double that in the next decade.

Western companies need insurance in order to resume business with Iran. Shipping and trade credit insurance, which remove the risk of non-payment for goods, are the first types of insurance being offered. "There is generally a lower degree of fear and apprehension and that is because you have not had the big fines on the insurers that the banks have faced," said leading London sanctions lawyer Nigel Kushner.

"We are going to see greater and quicker movement there than on the banking side, at least in London and the UK," said Kushner, who is also a director of the British Iranian Chamber of Commerce.

As Iran has aimed to ramp up oil

exports, securing marine insurance has been crucial. Top tier Western ship insurers have started offering services in recent months. Iran's deputy oil minister, Amir Hossein Zamaninia, has said European insurers now have no problems insuring Iranian oil tankers, according to the oil ministry's news agency SHANA. Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs - marine insurers owned by shipping firms - have started to provide cover for Iran's shipping fleet, including its oil tankers.

Jonathan Andrews, director and head of eastern underwriting with Britain's Steamship Mutual, said it was insuring ships for Iranian tanker operator NITC and also for Iranian cargo ship operator IRISL.

"We have a long history of insuring Iranian ship owners," Andrews told Reuters. "We are happy to be insuring our former members again." Norwegian ship insurer Skuld said it was in discussions with IRISL, while it was already insuring NITC ships.

Others such as the UK's Standard Club said they were covering vessels trading to and from Iran, but did not say whether this related to Iranian shipping firms. Ship insurers say there are still constraints on payments, given a freeze on using the US financial system. "Problems remain however in relation to the channelling of payments through the banking systems, both in relation to collection of premium and settlement of

claims," said Andrew Bardot, executive officer with the International Group, which represents ship insurers.

This was due to the reluctance of many banks and financial institutions to process such payments, and was now the main concern for insurers and reinsurers, he said. "Solutions are being found, but it is a difficult process and likely to remain so for the foreseeable future."

DOLLAR RESTRICTIONS

US banks are forbidden to do business with Iran under domestic sanctions still in force. European banks also face problems, since transactions with Iran in dollars cannot be processed through the US financial system. Banks remain nervous after some heavy US penalties, including a \$9 billion fine on France's BNP Paribas in 2014, largely for violating US financial sanctions.

Despite this, European export credit agencies are guaranteeing trade finance for Western companies doing business with Iran. Germany's state run export credit group Hermes has concluded trade finance deals covering goods worth several million euros.

"About a dozen transactions have been approved so far," a Hermes spokesman said. "The demand is there from the exporters' side but they need a lot of information. There is a continuous and rising flow of applications (for export credit guarantees)." — Reuters



YANGON: A Myanmar woman walks along a sidewalk in Yangon yesterday. US President Barack Obama formally eased sanctions on Myanmar fulfilling a pledge made to the country's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi in September. — AFP

BRENT SPREADS SIGNPOST LONG ROAD TO REBALANCING

LONDON: OPEC's agreement on a new production target has been followed by a bout of renewed optimism about the rebalancing of the oil market. But there are so far few signs of imminent rebalancing in the structure of Brent futures prices for 2017.

"Fundamentals are improving and the market is rebalancing," Saudi Arabia's energy minister told a conference in London on Oct. 19. "The recent OPEC accord in Algiers was designed to further reinforce the already improving fundamentals," he explained ("Healthier oil market conditions at hand", Energy Intelligence, Oct. 20).

There are signs that stocks of crude and products have stabilized and even started to fall after rising since 2014 ("Asia oil markets are tightening as China cuts output, fuel stocks dwindle", Reuters, Oct 21). Like the Saudi energy minister, some oil market analysts have become more optimistic the long-awaited turning point in the cycle has at last arrived.

Brent prices for December delivery have climbed \$9 per barrel from the recent low in early August reflecting that optimism as well as short covering by hedge funds. But the forecast rebalancing is not evident in the structure of the forward curve, which is where any tightening in the supply-demand balance should show up.

The timespreads in WTI have risen significantly in recent weeks, mirroring the drawdown in US crude stockpiles. But timespreads in Brent, more representative of global oil market conditions, have remained weak despite the Algiers agreement. For many physical traders, timespreads rather than spot prices provide the most reliable guide to the supply-demand-stocks balance ("Brent contango is hard to square with missing barrels", Reuters, March 9).

In the past, a strengthening of crude timespreads has usually coincided with a shift in the supply-demand balance from surplus to deficit. However, Brent spreads have weakened rather than strengthened in recent weeks and remain far below the highs reported in the second quarter of 2016.

The market is no longer as severely oversupplied as it was in the second half of 2014 and throughout 2015 but there are no signs of it moving into deficit yet which will be needed to draw down stockpiles. Continued weakness in the spreads suggests many market participants see the road to rebalancing as a long one with a sustained drawdown in crude inventories still some way into the future. — Reuters

TURKISH AIRLINES CEO QUILTS TO TAKE UP AEROSPACE JOB

ISTANBUL: Turkish Airlines Chief Executive Temel Kotil has resigned to take on a new role in the country's aerospace industry, the state-run Anadolu news agency said yesterday, citing what it said was his farewell message to staff. Asked whether Kotil had left Turkish Airlines, a spokesman for the national carrier said the issue would be discussed at a board meeting later, but declined to comment further.

"I have taken the decision to leave Turkish Airlines as I have been offered a new post related to aerospace and space technologies," Kotil was quoted by Anadolu as saying in his farewell message. The Hurriyet Daily News said that Kotil, an aeronautical engineer who had been in charge of Turkish Airlines since 2005, had taken a new role as head of Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), where he was already a

board member. The ucuyoruzz.com aviation sector website, run by a former Turkish Airlines spokesman, said Kotil would be replaced by Bilal Eksi, currently head of the Turkish civil aviation authority. Reuters could not confirm the report.

Turkish Airlines, part state-owned, has been one of the world's fastest-growing carriers in recent years, but it reported a loss of 1.9 billion lira (\$617 million) in the first half of this year, reflecting the impact of costs due to forex fluctuations, declines in tourist numbers and growing competition in the sector. Its passenger numbers nonetheless rose almost 4 percent year-on-year in the first nine months of the year, partly due to transit passengers, despite a spate of attacks by Islamic State and Kurdish militants in Turkey and a failed military coup in July. — Reuters

STRONG SALES IN BRITAIN, JAPAN BOOST MCDONALD'S

NEW YORK: McDonald's shares surged early yesterday on unexpectedly strong third-quarter results, with sales in overseas markets compensating for softness in its home market.

The fast-food giant pointed to especially strong sales in Britain and Japan, as well as positive results in Australia, Canada and Germany. The news drove shares of the giant fast food chain up 3.4 percent to \$114.33 in pre-market trade. McDonald's scored a 3.5 percent gain in comparable global sales in the quarter, an acceleration from 3.1 percent in the second quarter. But in the US market, comparable sales rose by 1.3 percent, slower than the 1.8 percent growth in the prior quarter. The continued lift from the "All Day Breakfast" campaign is helping compensate for "continued industry softness," McDonald's said in a news release.

"Our third quarter results, including our fifth consecutive quarter of positive comparable sales across all segments as well as improved restaurant profitability, are a testament to the progress we are making to satisfy the needs of today's dynamic customers," said McDonald's chief executive Steve Easterbrook. Net income for the third quarter dipped 4.4 percent to \$1.3 billion. That translated into \$1.50 per share, a penny above analyst expectations.

Net sales declined three percent to \$6.42 billion, better than the \$6.28 billion projected by analysts. After a lengthy slump, McDonald's promoted Easterbrook to chief executive in early 2015 to better position the company against an increasingly competitive environment that includes other fast food giants like Wendy's as well as gourmet chains like Shake Shack. McDonald's has responded by reorganizing its international divisions and selling many restaurants to franchisees. The results included \$128 million in one-time restructuring expenses. — AFP



This file photo taken on August 10, 2015 shows McDonald's Big Mac, their signature sandwich held up near the golden arches at a McDonald's in Centreville, Virginia. — AFP

JUNCKER HOPES FOR CANADA TRADE DEAL IN A 'FEW DAYS'

BRUSSELS: European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said yesterday he hoped that a stalled EU free-trade deal with Canada can be struck in the coming days. "I hope we can see an agreed settlement in a few days," Juncker told a press conference as opposition from a Belgian regional government prevented the unanimous EU-wide support needed for the deal to be adopted.

"If I am saying that I hope an agreement will be found in the next couple of days, this does include today." He denied that the European Union summit, which wraps up on Friday, was the deadline for the deal. Juncker has warned that if the EU fails to reach such an agreement with Canada, it will likely scupper trade talks with other parts of the world, including ongoing negotiations with the United States. The head of the Belgian region of Wallonia, Paul Magnette, yesterday said he still refused to sign off on the deal with Canada, calling a last-minute offer "insufficient" even though he added there "is a will to advance."

Magnette spoke after marathon talks with Canadian Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland and an EU official in the capital of Wallonia, the walled medieval city of Namur, 70 km (40 miles) southeast of Brussels. The Namur parliament last week voted to block the deal, known as CETA-meaning that Belgium cannot sign up to the pact and leaving the deal in limbo after seven years of negotiations. The hold-up also threatens to torpedo next week's planned visit to Brussels by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to sign the deal. — AFP



BEIJING: A man holds an umbrella as he walks past a sales promotion poster placed at the entrance of an underpass in Beijing yesterday. China's growth was steady at 6.7 percent in the third quarter, government data showed on Wednesday, a sign of stabilization in the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

CHINA'S URBANITES SACRIFICE TO RIDE PROPERTY FRENZY

NATIONWIDE NEW HOME PRICES UP 11.2%, HIGHER IN BIG CITIES

BEIJING: Lydia Su said her heart jumped when she first heard a property in Shanghai's tree-lined French Concession was on the market - even though it was no bigger than a bathroom - swept up in China's latest property frenzy.

The 13.7-square meter (147-square foot) apartment, the detached annex of a villa, was priced at 1.8 million yuan (\$267,169), which at about \$19,500 per square metre ranks it among the world's most expensive residential spaces. Though Su eventually decided against the deal, she thought it was cheap. "This is 'small money' compared to many other properties in China," said the 27-year-old finance professional. Looser government restrictions and easier credit last year have triggered a wave of speculative - and panic - buying. Official data shows Shanghai home prices are more than a third higher in September than a year earlier.

And homes in the French Concession are a cut above, with average prices exceeding 100,000 yuan per square metre, Su said. Nationwide, new home prices were up 11.2 percent, the highest growth on record. China's biggest cities - Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen - have led the rise, but the frenzy is also spilling over into smaller cities in central China.

The surge has helped sustain China's economic growth, which held steady at 6.7 percent in each of the first three quarters. But when prices hit fever pitch at the end of summer, Chinese policymakers stepped in to warn about price bubbles and ballooning debts.

In early October, 15 cities announced cooling measures, including higher down payment ratios on second homes.

At the end of September, outstanding mortgages to individuals had

jumped by a third to 17.93 trillion yuan from a year ago, China's central bank said yesterday. There are signs mortgages are crimping household spending, in an economy increasingly reliant on domestic consumption.

Analysts also warn that the bull market is bringing forward future demand, as people fear prices running away from them, which could lead to a destabilizing loss of momentum in the coming months.

"Our research showed half of the people we surveyed have brought forward their plan to buy a house this year," said Wang Tao, chief China economist at UBS, citing a report that surveys around 3,000 people. Concerns on sales momentum are also making real estate developers wary of starting new construction projects.

New starts fell 19.4 percent in September, the first year-on-year decline since December. The property sector contributed 8 percent to gross domestic product growth in the third quarter, according to NBS spokesman Sheng Laiyun, so any weakening could reverse that effect.

NEW HOUSE, OLD CLOTHES

Shanghai was one of the earliest cities to announce restrictive measures in March. Rumours were rife that it would further restrict property purchases in September, which led to a jump in convenient divorces to allow couples to qualify to buy multiple houses. In China's tech hub of Shenzhen, 33-year-old head hunter Julia Qu said she was considering faking a divorce to skirt the 70 percent down payment rule on what could be Qu and her husband's third flat, valued at 3 million yuan.

"Faking divorces in China is very easy. All you need to do is to get a document at the marriage registry. It's not a real divorce," she said. Qu sold her second flat in early October, hoping to use the funds to cover the down payment. She said she wanted a bigger apartment for when she has children and her parents retire.

She is still burdened with monthly mortgage repayments from her first apartment. "The total mortgages we are paying are close to our income. What is left is only enough for our basic expenses," she said, noting that mortgage repayments commonly account for 80 percent of family income in Shenzhen.

"So there's no more travelling, expensive restaurants or new clothes," she said. Beijing native Zoe Zhang is in a similar boat, though she bought her apartment early last year before the spike. Her monthly salary of 7,000 yuan is mostly swallowed by the 5,600 yuan outgoings on her 1.2 million yuan mortgage. "I used to travel twice or three times every year when I didn't take the loan. Right now, considering the debt on my shoulders, I am only able to travel once per year," she said.

A UBS report showed the ratio of house prices to household disposable income in first-tier cities had risen to 18 to 20 times from 14.7 times at the end of 2015. "This puts China's tier-1 cities' affordability close to Hong Kong and more expensive than London," the report said. New buyers making such sacrifices will be hoping to follow in Zhang's footsteps. "I feel so lucky that I bought the apartment last year. Because right after I made the down payment, property prices started to jump," she said. — Reuters

MTN DENIES ILLEGAL TRANSFER OF \$14 BILLION FROM NIGERIA

ABUJA: South Africa's MTN has denied allegations it illegally transferred \$13.9 billion from Nigeria with the collaboration of top officials, in the latest scandal to hit the telecoms company in its largest market on the continent. The Johannesburg-based firm is facing a parliamentary probe over accusations it connived with senior Nigerian officials to move the funds out of the country without complying with the law.

A parliamentary source and local media said the funds were allegedly repatriated between 2006 and this year. "We would like to reiterate that at no point did MTN Nigeria (MTNN) illegally repatriate funds out of Nigeria or collaborate with Nigerians to loot the

external reserves of the country," Ferdinand Moolman, chief executive officer of MTNN, told the Senate hearing in Abuja on Thursday.

"MTNN is a Nigerian company and is proud to be conducting business in Nigeria. It therefore categorically refutes any accusations of money laundering, economic sabotage or tax evasion levied against it," he added. Moolman said all monies repatriated by the company were in respect of dividend payments and capital divestment originating from legitimate foreign direct investment.

"The dividend payments were made to shareholders who imported foreign capital for investment

in MTNN," he said. Moolman also exonerated Nigeria's Trade and Investment Minister Okechukwu Elenemah from the alleged capital flight.

"We would like to state that Dr Elenemah has never been a director or shareholder of MTNN," he said, adding that the minister had not connived with the company to move funds out of Nigeria.

The parliamentary probe followed a motion last month by Dino Melaye, a senator from central Kogi state, which called for MTN to be investigated over the alleged illegal transfers. Four local banks were also alleged to have been used to move the funds with the help of the trade minister. —AFP



PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak poses with his briefcase as he leaves to unveil the 2017 financial budget to Parliament House, outside the Finance Ministry in Putrajaya yesterday. —AFP

MALAYSIA PM DELIVERS BUDGET AMID OPPOSITION PROTESTS

NAJIB AIMS TO KEEP BUDGET DEFICIT TO 3% OF GDP

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak courted voters with perks and subsidies yesterday but was greeted by angry protests from opposition leaders unhappy with his handling of a corruption scandal at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). Najib, eyeing possible early elections next year, also pledged in his budget to cut a large fiscal deficit to keep the economy on track for strong growth.

Southeast Asia's second-largest oil producer was left reeling from the slump in global crude prices late last year, forcing it to slash its 2016 budget in January and lower its growth target to between 4 and 4.5 percent. Najib said the outlook was improving and expects growth to pick up marginally in 2017 to between 4 and 5 percent.

Spending will rise 3.4 percent to 260.8 billion ringgit (\$62.3 billion) next year, but the budget deficit would be cut to 3 percent of GDP from a target of 3.1 percent this year, he said. Ratings agencies have warned of a possible

downgrade if the budget deficit is too large. "We are now on the right track, as we have and are taking firm, bold and right decisions despite the measures being unpopular," the prime minister said in his speech in parliament.

Malaysia's stock market and ringgit currency were unmoved. Najib was widely expected to present a populist budget to shore up support ahead of elections he could call in 2017.

He announced an allocation of 6.8 billion ringgit to the government's annual cash handouts program, with 10 billion ringgit to be set aside for subsidies next year. The government's housing program for first time homebuyers would be expanded, while a special fund of up to 3 billion ringgit would be allocated for investment in small- and mid-cap companies.

Najib also announced tax relief on consumer items and relief for working mothers and parents of pre-schoolers. "In our view, it remains a fine balancing act to maintain fiscal prudence and

growth, with oil as the wild card," said Weiwen Ng, an analyst at ANZ Research.

OPPOSITION WALKOUT

Najib has been under fire over allegations of corruption at 1MDB, the indebted state fund whose advisory board he chairs. Lawsuits filed by the US Justice Department in July seek to seize more than \$1 billion of assets allegedly siphoned off from 1MDB, a fund Najib established in 2009.

The lawsuits do not name Najib but say more than \$700 million of misappropriated funds flowed into the accounts of "Malaysian Official 1", who US and Malaysian officials have identified as Najib. The prime minister was booed by opposition lawmakers throughout his speech. The speaker then asked lawmakers not interested in listening to the budget to leave. About 80 percent of the opposition bench walked out, describing the budget as unrealistic, said opposition lawmaker Tian Chua. — Reuters

BRITISH INVESTORS HOLD NERVE ON GOLD DESPITE PRICE FALL

LONDON: Savers who turned to gold to preserve capital after Britain's vote to leave the European Union look to be keeping faith, even as prices retreated, with some considering further purchases. Gold priced in sterling has fallen around 4 percent from 3-1/2 year highs touched in July, but prices are still around 100 pounds (\$120) above pre-Brexit levels. Benchmark dollar-priced gold is some 8 percent down from a 2-year high of \$1,374.91 an ounce hit on July 6.

Britain's bullion dealers reported higher sales over the past few weeks, as fears grew of a "hard Brexit" - a scenario that some fear could hinder trade and constrict foreign investment and devalue sterling further. "I didn't know the gold price had dropped. My husband tells me that the current price isn't far off what it was when we purchased, so no regrets," said Grace Hall, who deposited part of her life savings — 25,000 pounds — into gold at the end of June.

Dealers reported what they called an unprecedented rush for gold, much of it from first-time buyers, after the Brexit vote as equities and sterling slid, sparking a search for tangible assets that could be kept at home or in safety deposit boxes and not necessarily in banks.

"We don't have the capital to buy any more (gold) but if an opportunity presents itself and we come into some money I certainly wouldn't discount it," the 49-year old from Yorkshire said. Government-owned bar and coin producer the Royal Mint reported a seven-fold increase in sales of 100-gram bars, around half the size of a credit card and costing around \$4,400, in the two weeks following the June 23 vote. "Our sales for October are on track to be more than double the level in September, and 50 percent higher than in June when we were experiencing the immediate surge in demand around the Brexit vote," said The Royal Mint's director of bullion Chris Howard.

New account openings jumped at the beginning of October on the online gold trading platform BullionVault.com. Oct. 4 marked the heaviest trading volumes at 9.2 million pounds (\$11 million) since its record on June 24. The number of first-time UK buyers on the site had risen by around 170 percent in June, compared to the previous 12-month daily average. The Pure Gold Company, where Grace Hall bought and holds her gold coins, also recorded a 23 percent increase in demand from first time gold investors in the first week of October.

PERSISTENT CONCERN

"British investors active in physical gold are clearly anxious about the wider financial outlook as Brexit unfolds, and expect gold (in sterling) to continue rising," BullionVault head of research Adrian Ash said. Generally, British interest in gold has been lukewarm in modern times because of the pound's role as a global reserve currency, even when sterling was tested by crashing out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) in 1992.

Britain's dealers saw a buying surge in the initial phases of the subprime crisis at the end of 2008 and during Europe's debt crisis in 2012 and 2013. But interest this time is not dissipating as quickly, the dealers said.

The latest drop in prices encouraged London-based property developer Andrew to buy 30,000 pounds worth of bars and coins, adding to a 350,000 pounds purchase in July. He said, however, that he would sell it back if "I came across a property opportunity and I couldn't raise the money quick enough." — Reuters



DUNHILL: Camel and Newport cigarettes, both Reynolds American brands, are on display at a Smoker Friendly shop in Pittsburgh. British American Tobacco offered yesterday to buy Reynolds American Inc in a \$47 billion cash-and-stock deal that would create the world's largest publicly traded tobacco company and bring together brands like Camel, Dunhill, and Newport. — AP

BAT OFFERS TO BUY US TOBACCO FIRM REYNOLDS IN \$47 BILLION DEAL

LONDON: British American Tobacco has offered to buy out US cigarette maker Reynolds American Inc in a \$47 billion takeover that would create the world's biggest listed tobacco company with brands including Newport, Lucky Strike and Pall Mall.

The cash-and-stock deal would mark the return of BAT to the lucrative and highly regulated US market after a 12-year absence, making it the only tobacco giant with a leading presence in American and international markets.

It would also give the British company - which has been bolstered by a strong share price since the country voted to leave the European Union - more premium brands such as Camel, which it can sell in countries like Russia and Turkey where demand for Western cigarettes is still growing.

The marriage would also unite each company's efforts in the fast-developing world of e-cigarettes, which the companies say are less dangerous than smoking - a habit that kills about six million people worldwide each year. A Reynolds takeover by BAT, which already owns 42 percent of the US group, has long been seen as part of an inevitable wave of global consolidation in a mature industry. Yet the timing, less than three weeks before a US presidential election, was unexpected. "This proposed deal manages to be both entirely expected and a surprise," Euromonitor analyst Shane MacGuill said. The completion of last year's purchase by Reynolds of Lorillard and the current relative valuations of the two companies' shares were the main triggers, two sources close to the situation told Reuters.

They referred to a gain in BAT's stock since Britons opted for Brexit in June and a fall for Reynolds, which brought their trading multiples closer together. However in dollar terms, BAT's share performance is less pronounced.

"This is simplifying the structure by taking out the majority stake BAT doesn't already own," one source said, adding: "It's always been on the cards." After the Brexit vote, shares in BAT soared to all-time highs as investors bet the falling pound would lift the value of overseas revenue for UK-based companies like BAT, which do most of their business outside the country.

The pound has lost about a fifth of its value against the dollar since the EU referendum on June 23, pushing up the cost of the cash element of overseas purchases by UK-based firms. But between the referendum day and Thursday this week, when BAT decided to act, its shares had gained 12 percent, while Reynolds's stock was down 7 percent. This has increased the value of the share element of the offer. With little geographic overlap and therefore limited antitrust issues, this deal is also a lot simpler than another oft-speculated deal - that BAT would take over British rival Imperial Brands, the source added. Imperial shares were up 3 percent, with one analyst saying a general reignition of consolidation in the industry may be outweighing the fact that BAT is now unlikely to bid for its rival in the near term.

Reynolds, based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, acknowledged receipt of the unsolicited offer, which a different source said was decided on last night. It was made public immediately, as required by US securities regulators in cases where the buyer is a big shareholder. — Reuters

DOLLAR JUMPS TO MORE THAN EIGHT-MONTH HIGH

EURO WEAKNESS ATTRIBUTED TO CHINESE REBALANCING

NEW YORK: The dollar rose to its highest level since early February against a basket of currencies yesterday, boosted by higher expectations of a Federal Reserve interest rate hike this year and a weakening euro. Hawkish comments from Fed officials including New York Fed President William Dudley and higher expectations that Hillary Clinton will win the US presidential election have increased bets that the US central bank will raise rates in December.

Dudley said on Wednesday the Fed will likely increase interest rates later this year if the US economy remains on track. "There have been some Fed comments where they sound like they are ready to move in December, but also partly related is the market view that a hike in December is much more likely if Clinton wins than if Trump wins," said Steven Englander, global head of foreign exchange strategy at Citigroup in New York.

A victory by Donald Trump is seen as more likely to create uncertainty and possible market volatility, which could delay an interest rate increase. Traders are now pricing in a 74 percent chance that the Fed will raise rates at its December meeting, up from 64 percent two weeks ago, according to CME

Group's FedWatch Tool. The dollar index rose as high as 98.754, the highest since Feb 3. The euro fell as low as \$1.0870, the lowest since March 10. Weakness in the euro following Thursday's European Central Bank meeting boosted the greenback. ECB President Mario Draghi left a wide range of options on the table and emphasized that a long-awaited rise in inflation is predicated on "very substantial" monetary accommodation.

Weakness in the single currency was also being attributed to a possible rebalancing of reserves by China's central bank as the Chinese currency depreciates at a faster pace than expected. China's yuan exchange rate slipped past 6.75 per dollar on Friday after the central bank set the daily midpoint weaker than that level for the first time in six years.

"Last night when China began coming off we saw the euro coming off," Citi's Englander said. "There's a view that if capital exports from China are running at a strong pace, Chinese residents are buying dollars, which means the dollars get supplied by central banks out of reserves. Then they are unbalanced between dollar reserves and euro reserves so they sell some euros to rebalance with dollars," Englander said. — Reuters



Passengers disembark from a commercial flight on the tarmac of the George airport, South Africa. Africa gets its first solar-powered airport in George, with a plant that converts solar energy into direct current electricity using solar panels. — AFP

BANKS WARN SHARE TAX HIKE THREATENS PARIS' POST-BREXIT APPEAL

PARIS: A proposed increase in France's share tax flies in the face of efforts by the government and the financial industry to lure banking jobs from London, financial sector lobbies have warned. In a first reading of the 2016 budget bill, lawmakers in the lower house of parliament backed an increase in the tax to 0.3 percent from 0.2 percent as well as its extension to cover intra-day trading.

"This is also a bad signal that we are sending in the context of Brexit as for the attractiveness of the Paris financial centre," Philippe Brassac, head of the French banking federation

and chief executive of France's third-biggest listed lender Credit Agricole, told Reuters. Although the Socialist-led government had not included the increase in the original bill, it backed lawmakers' amendments to introduce the increase. There is no guarantee that the amendment will enter into law as it must also be backed in the conservative dominated Senate and in a final reading before the lower house.

Budget Minister Christian Eckert estimated during the debate that the tax would raise additional tax revenue of 500 million euros (\$545 million), but acknowledged that it was unknown

how investors might react. The proposals would increase French companies' financing costs, Brassac added.

The French government aims to attract businesses leaving London following Britain's decision to exit the European Union with plans to fast-track the registering of firms and extending tax benefits expatriates can qualify for. However, France's comparatively high taxes remains an obstacle as does the Socialist government's support for a long-stalled financial transaction tax in 10 EU countries - which would replace France's existing share tax. — Reuters

SAUDI CREATES BOND MARKET HISTORY

SOVEREIGN SELLS BIGGEST EM BOND • NEW BENCHMARK FOR GCC

LONDON: Saudi Arabia re-wrote the record books with its debut in the international markets on Wednesday as it sold the biggest emerging markets bond deal in history, establishing a new benchmark for the Middle East in the process.

The GCC sovereign raised \$17.5 billion through its offering of \$5.5 billion of five-year, \$5.5 billion of 10-year and \$6.5 billion of 30-year notes.

Some market sources suggested there was an element of egotism about the deal, which just eclipsed Argentina's \$16.5 billion transaction earlier this year. Indeed, it's the biggest syndicated bond deal by any sovereign. Yet bankers close to the deal say there was no deliberate strategy to achieve a record size.

Instead, the leads said that as the trade evolved, the \$17.5 billion size

became the best option in attaining the appropriate price and distribution, given the level of demand.

Books reached an incredible \$67 billion, with some accounts putting in \$1 billion orders across different portfolios. Interest came from high-grade accounts, emerging markets investors, commodity funds, insurers, central banks and other financial institutions as the opportunity to get yield from a Single A sovereign proved compelling.

After the books went subject, the global coordinators put forward a range of size options to Saudi officials from \$10 billion to \$20 billion-plus, in \$2.5 billion increments. "The question was what were the price breaks for each option," said a banker at one of the leads.

The sovereign could have raised \$10 billion, which was the amount

many investors had expected, at much tighter levels but that would have left many accounts under-allocated. One of the main aims was to get true global distribution and not rely on local demand. A \$20 billion deal, on the other hand, might have felt too big, especially as Saudi is expected to become a regular issuer.

"The balance of size, price and distribution was best at \$17.5 billion. That was the point that everything came together," said the banker.

STRIKING

Most striking was the 30-year note issue. "The 30-year was a statement," said a second banker at one of the leads. Saudi subverted the usual thinking around size and tenor on a multi-tranche transaction by making its longest-dated security the biggest. It

was a move applauded by rival bankers.

"It's a sensible strategy to take more out of 30 years right now, given the quality of demand in that part of the curve," said one banker away from the deal. Momentum for the 30-year tranche was driven by Asian accounts, such as life insurers, vindicating a decision to undertake a non-deal roadshow in Taipei and Singapore in July. "That worked so well," said a third banker involved in the deal about the Asia meetings. "The minute we announced the deal we got a 100% hit ratio from Asia. It wasn't a long list but all the life companies bought [the 30-year] because they were ready and wanted long-dated paper."

Asian investors took 22 percent of the 30-year tranche, though US buyers got the most with 44%. — Reuters



ROME: Members of the Italian trade union USB (Unione Sindacale di Base) hold a banner reading "wages, rights, social status, we want everything" in front of the Ministry of Economy during a nationwide general strike of public workers in central Rome yesterday. — AFP

BRITAIN'S WTO TERMS WILL DEPEND ON NATURE OF EU DIVORCE: AZEVEDO

OSLO: The terms of Britain's future membership of the World Trade Organization will depend a lot on how it separates from the European Union, the director-general of the WTO said yesterday.

In the case of a "hard Brexit", including leaving the EU's customs union, some argue Britain can fall back onto WTO terms to govern its global trading relationships. Britain is a member of the WTO but once it leaves the EU, the bloc's schedules of commitments—a list of its tariffs, quotas and subsidy entitlements—will no longer apply to Britain.

"Once they (the British) leave, legally the EU schedules no longer applies to them ... The other WTO members arguably could say: 'I don't like it. We should change this, or we should change that,'" Roberto Azevedo told a

business seminar in Oslo. "A lot will depend on the terms of separation in the negotiations between the UK and the EU. That may have a positive impact on how the other WTO members view this or not. "I don't think the global economy at this point in time can afford the luxury of more turbulence. The less turbulence we have the better. The quicker trade relations are established between the UK, the EU and other WTO members, the better."

US ELECTION

US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has criticized the TPP and TTIP trade deals concluded between the United States and the Pacific nations and the EU respectively, while her rival Donald Trump has spoken out against accords such as Nafta, enabling free

trade between the United States, Canada and Mexico. Azevedo said the anti-global trade rhetoric heard on the campaign trail may make it more difficult for the next US president to come back on those comments, if required.

"My concern is that if you step up your rhetoric it becomes harder and harder to backtrack," he said. He later told Reuters: "You need to bring rationality back in the conversation about trade. It cannot be an emotional conversation." "It is very difficult because people are affected in their everyday lives by these shifts. But these shifts are not caused by trade," he said, citing that eight out of the 10 jobs lost are due to increased productivity, new technologies, automation, rather than jobs being delocalised to countries with cheaper labor costs. — Reuters

NIGERIAN PROPERTY CRASH ATTRACTS BRAVE INVESTORS

LAGOS: A property market crash in Nigeria offers opportunities for brave investors betting that Africa's most populous nation will deliver high returns when it climbs out of recession.

Rents for residential and office property in the commercial capital Lagos have dropped by around 20 percent, year on year, due to a supply glut as projects planned prior to 2014, when oil prices started to fall, are now coming online. Investing in Africa's largest economy requires a willingness to navigate opaque land laws, corruption and the prospect of having money held up in the bank due to currency restrictions.

The central bank has made it difficult to repatriate profits as it seeks to avoid a collapse of the naira due to a slump of oil revenues, which has pushed Nigeria into its first recession in 25 years. But Nigeria has a fast-growing population that will require more housing and shopping malls in the long-term, and some investors believe the time is right to step in, particularly as banks are reluctant to grant loans to other potential buyers in the midst of the downturn. Some private equity funds, mostly from South Africa, are investing in Lagos and the capital Abuja, betting the spending power of the country's 180 million people will grow.

"We believe Nigeria has massive potential in the retail area," said Jan van Zyl, head of Nigerian property development at South African fund Novare Equity Partners. "The sector is in its infancy and will only continue to grow from a very low base." Investors face the risk of being caught in another devaluation as the central bank seeks to end a 30 percent spread to the black market—a goal it failed to achieve when it allowed a 40 percent depreciation in June.

But investors can take advantage of their purchasing power as the country is desperate for dollars to replace oil revenues which account for almost all the hard currency income it needs to fund food and other imports. "What you are offering as an investor is liquidity. In the country itself, there is no liquidity," said Jonathan Millard, Lagos-based chief operating officer at Troloppe Property Services. "If you're looking at this on a five to 10 year cycle there are tons of opportunities."

He said there were also opportunities in residential property, whose rents had, in dollar terms, fallen by up to 70 percent since 2009, which was driving down prices. "Vacancy is about 30 to 40 percent," he said.

BUILDING BOOM

The southern megacity of Lagos has seen a building boom in the last few years—real estate is a favourite destination for those who get their hands on oil money. Two shopping malls were completed within the last three months, bringing to eight the total of such retail hubs in the city. With the central bank imposing hard currency curbs and construction activities slowing in a dollar-starved economy, foreign capital flows into Nigeria fell by 61 percent, year-on-year, in the second quarter. — Reuters

Kuwait Times Weekender

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

www.kuwaittimes.net

A woman with make up on her face poses during the Comic Con convention at the Grande Halle de la Villette, yesterday, in Paris. — AFP

LEONARD COHEN OLD AND WISE ON 'YOU WANT IT DARKER'

SEE PAGE 23



Inspired by 007, Mexico to hold Day of Dead parade

The opening scene of the movie "Spectre" shows James Bond chasing a bad guy through a Day of the Dead parade in Mexico City—except there has never been such a procession. But life is about to imitate art. Inspired by the film, officials decided to hold a similar parade on October 29 that will start at the Angel of Independence monument and end at the historic Zocalo square.

The procession will have hundreds of volunteers and will "revisit the props and the wardrobe of the well-known film Spectre," the city government said in a statement on Thursday. In the film, the British spy played by Daniel Craig

goes after a bad guy through a parade featuring giant skeletons floating among people dancing with their faces painted as skulls.

The parade didn't exist in real life, said Tourism Minister Enrique de la Madrid. "Now, based on the film, there will be this festival." The procession will be part of a series of events that will run through November 2 in the capital. The Day of the Dead takes place between November 1-2 every year, when Mexicans visit cemeteries to pay respects to their late relatives, bringing them food and drinks in a centuries-old tradition mixing pre-Hispanic and Catholic beliefs. — AFP

Mumbai film fest opens amid protests over Pakistani talent

India's glitziest film festival opened this week to fanfare and fury, as Indians protested the inclusion of Pakistani artists. With a ceremony in Mumbai's iconic and newly refurbished Royal Opera House, the celebration of Bollywood and international film kicked off Thursday amid the sober announcement that at least one screening was canceled. The Pakistani classic "Jago Hua Savera," or "Awake, It's Dawn," was dropped from the Mumbai Film Festival schedule after a local organization claimed it would



In this file photo, Bollywood film maker Karan Johar poses for photographers at the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Rocks Green Carpet for the 17th Edition of IIFA Weekend and Awards in Madrid, Spain. — AP

cause public outrage. Even a public plea from Bollywood film-maker Karan Johar could not stem the calm. Johar released a video message asking Hindu nationalist protesters to not disrupt the Oct. 28 release of his big-budget romantic drama "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil," or "Difficulties of the Heart," which features Pakistani actor Fawad Khan in a small role.

"I beseech you to know one thing, that over 300 Indian people in my crew have put their blood, sweat and tears into my film," he said. "I don't think it's fair to them to face any kind of turbulence."

Johar pledged to avoid using Pakistani actors or crewmen in future movies. Tensions between Pakistan and India escalated last month after a deadly rebel attack on an Indian military base. India blamed Islamabad for backing the separatist rebels and providing them with training and arms. Pakistan denied the allegation, saying it offers only moral support to the rebels fighting for Kashmir's independence or merger with Pakistan. As the two governments trade increasingly acrimonious barbs, people in both film-crazy countries have moved to boycott each other's films.

Violent protests

Pakistani cinema's stopped showing Bollywood fare in their theaters weeks ago. And a blanket ban against showing Indian content on Pakistani television networks and radio stations took effect yesterday. India's government has not issued a blanket ban but said it would make such decisions on a case-by-case basis. The Mumbai festival organizers this week said they dropped the Pakistani black-and-white classic "Awake" due to "the current situation." Meanwhile, the regional political party Maharashtra Navnirman Samiti threatened to disturb any attempts to screen any film involving Pakistani talent. Many of the Bollywood glitterati attending the festival criticized the outrage and said protests were not the solution. "Of course you have to stand by the nation, but when it comes to a movie ... there are so many Indian actors who have already put their blood and sweat into it, I think they (protesters) should think about it," Bollywood actor Riteish Deshmukh said. Film director Zoya Akhtar called out the hypocrisy of protesters shutting down films while ignoring the ongoing cricket matches involving teams from both countries. Bollywood superstar Amir Khan also said the ruckus was "unnecessary," and that film audiences should be free to decide what they want to see. "People will see the film and decide for themselves, thank you very much," Khan told reporters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political party along with state authorities in Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, have issued statements assuring that violent protests would not be tolerated. Meanwhile, the weeklong film fest was screening some 175 films, documentaries and short films from more than 50 countries at venues across west-coast city. — AP

'Queen of Katwe' stirs hope in slum where film was born



An Ugandan girl plays chess in the two-roomed Som Chess Academy in the Katwe slum of Kampala, Uganda.

In a two-room shack in the heart of a Kampala slum, a bare-foot 5-year-old boy is being taught how to move his pawns. He is one of scores of Ugandan children following in the footsteps of a local girl who became a chess champion and the subject of a new Disney film. "Queen of Katwe" is set in this sprawling shantytown that until recently was only known to Ugandans for its high crime rate.

The movie shines a more flattering light on Katwe and the informal chess academy that nurtured the prodigy, Phiona Mutesi. The story is a source of immense pride for the stigmatized neighborhood in Uganda's capital, say some who have seen the film. "The film ... has the faces I know," said Barbara Nassozi, a science teacher at a Katwe school where some scenes were filmed. "People have liked it so much. It has brought an impact in the area. Katwe is now known in the whole world." "Queen of Katwe" follows the rise of Mutesi as a chess player amid grinding poverty, with her single mother barely able to support her and her two siblings. After Mutesi's brother is hit by a speeding motorcycle and hospitalized, the mother, played by Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o, stealthily pulls the boy from his hospital bed because she is not able to pay the bill.

Mutesi falls under the spell of an unassuming chess teacher, played by British actor David Oyelowo, who encourages the teenager to learn the game despite the skepticism of her mother, who warns her not to dream big because "you will be disappointed." Mutesi goes on to win a local championship, compete at events abroad and earn enough money to buy a house for her mother. The film's pathos will be familiar to those who have lived in Katwe, where poverty drives young people to despair, if not violent crime. Streams of raw effluent follow footpaths. The grade school where some scenes were filmed is makeshift wood structures in the dirt. Young men wash cars for a living.

The Som Chess Academy is an unexpected oasis of hope in the downtrodden community. "Chess is like a brain booster," one of its students, 11-year-old Lydia Nakaweesea, said shyly. "It is good for mathematics. That is why I come here." She had been forced to miss school for a few weeks because she lacked tuition, she said, but the chess academy is free. Robert Katende, who started the academy in 2004 and became Mutesi's mentor, now has chess academies in other Kampala slums, with former students acting as instructors when he is not available.

Many children have been knocking on his door following the release of "Queen of Katwe," Katende said. "Chess, I can say, is very important because it has given the children and the community a platform that they didn't have before," he said. "They would not have any way out of the slums, but they have been able, through chess, to travel, to go for events, to go to different places." Of Mutesi, who now attends boarding school and is a candidate for college, he said: "There is something special about Phiona because, first and foremost, she is a girl. ... She's also worked hard and believed in herself and taken all the guidance and counsel given to her." The film has received mostly favorable reviews in Uganda, where it premiered earlier this month at a red-carpet event in which Ugandans, many of whom had never acted before, shared the limelight with stars like Academy Award winner Nyong'o.

Review

Leonard Cohen old and wise on 'You Want It Darker'



This CD cover image released by Columbia Records shows "You Want It Darker," by Leonard Cohen. — AP

Leonard Cohen's late, late career resurgence reaches new heights on "You Want It Darker," an elegant treatise with deep felt layers of wisdom and a sense of finality. Produced mostly by son Adam, Cohen's third studio album in five years puts his most effective musical forms through a filter of restraint. Nothing distracts from the 82-year-old's haunting lyrics, and his vocals remain both otherworldly and down-to-earth. A physical, naked bass line drives the title song, as Cohen's woofer-rattling vocals are underpinned by a cantor and the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue Choir, connections to his Montreal youth. Full of recriminations and frustrations while also ready to accept fate, it may be God who wants it darker, but it's us who "kill the flame."

On "Treaty," later reprised with a string quartet, Cohen may be putting to rest the relationship described on "Hallelujah," with no room for illusions - "I'm so sorry for the ghost I made you be/ Only one of us was real, and that was me." The Mediterranean stylings of "Traveling Light" are like the soundtrack to Cohen's courtship of the legendary (and recently deceased) Marianne Ihlen on a Greek island in the 1960s.

"Leaving the Table" is a country song glowing from the jukebox and Johnny Cash could have recorded "If I Didn't Have Your Love" with Rick Rubin. If it's too early to say goodbye, we can consider "You Want It Darker" as simply his new album, not the end of a trilogy. No matter which station of life he's at, Cohen shines on, darkly. — AP

First Prince music to be released posthumously

Prince's label yesterday announced it will release the first posthumous music from the pop icon including an entire second album to accompany "Purple Rain." The announcement, made a week after a tribute concert in Prince's native Minnesota meant to



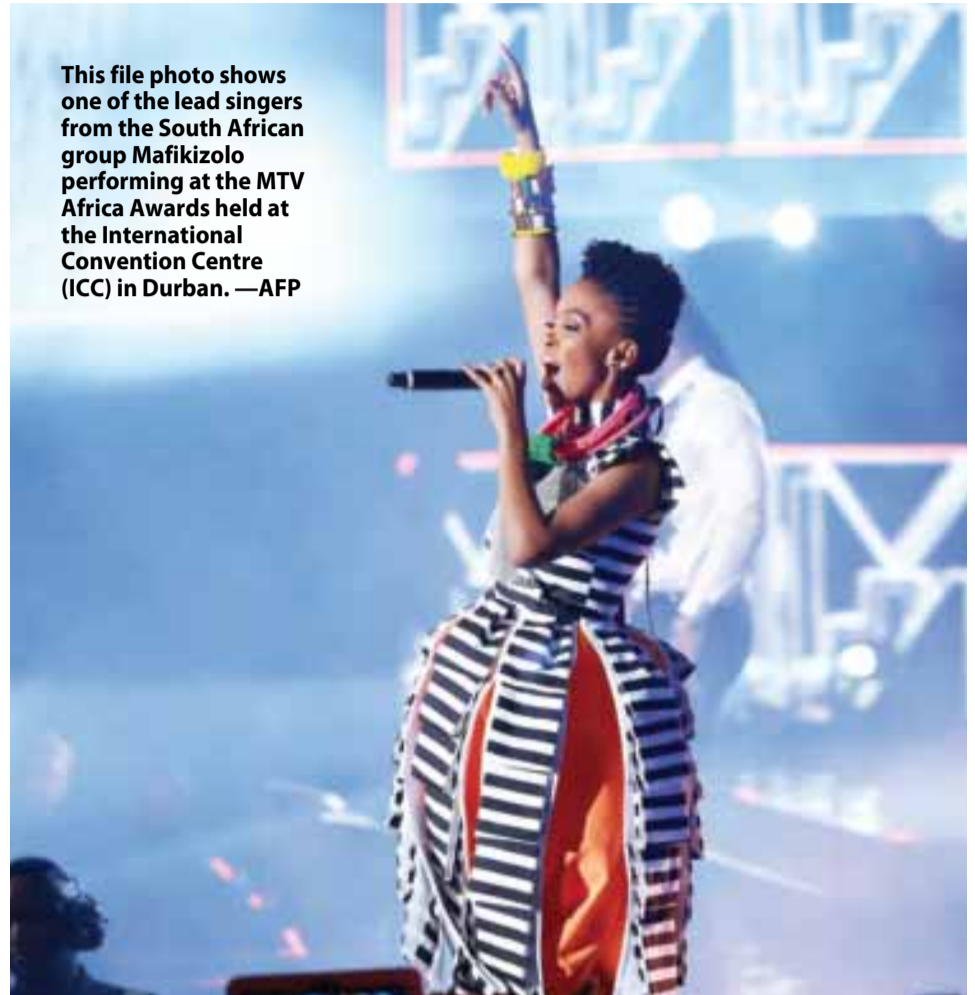
offer closure after his sudden death on April 21, comes as his estate steadily moves forward on a business plan for his vast holdings. Warner Brothers Records said it would next month issue a 40-track greatest hits collection,

"Prince 4Ever," with an attached 12-page book of photographs.

While consisting largely of the funk maestro's best-known hits from early and mid-career, "Prince 4Ever" will also feature the unreleased 1982 track "Moonbeam Levels." Long known to fans, with Elvis Costello even covering it, "Moonbeam Levels" was never officially released. It would have appeared on "Rave Unto The Joy Fantastic," an unfinished album Prince discarded in the late 1980s. Potentially more exciting for fans, Warner said in a statement it would next year reissue Prince's 1984 classic work "Purple Rain" next year and that it would be accompanied by "a second album of previously unreleased material."

Warner, which had agreed with Prince on remastering the "Purple Rain" recordings before his death, said it would announce more details including a release date later. "Prince 4Ever" will come out internationally on November 25 but go on sale three days earlier in the United States, a marketing move so it is available for US holiday shoppers. Warner-which is releasing the albums with Prince's imprint NPG Records, which stands for New Power Generation-had a notoriously complicated relationship with the artist. Prince in the early 1990s changed his name to the unpronounceable "love symbol" and wrote "slave" on his cheek to protest contractual terms by Warner, which sought to pace his prolific output. — AFP

This file photo shows one of the lead singers from the South African group Mafikizolo performing at the MTV Africa Awards held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Durban. —AFP



Africa's music industry changes tempo to local beat

Demand for homegrown contemporary music is sweeping Africa and driving a creative boom in an industry otherwise battered by falling CD sales and rampant piracy. A recent study of the entertainment sector by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) accountants showed rapid earnings growth in many African countries, fuelled largely by live performances by local artists. "Consumers are increasingly wanting local content," Vicki Myburgh, a PwC director who conducted the study released last month, told AFP.

"The Nigerian music market... will (soon) grow at nearly 13 percent annually, which is a fantastic rate." This weekend, African talent will be celebrated in Johannesburg at the annual MTV Africa awards set up in 2008 to recognize those "who have made the most impact on African music and youth culture". Contenders for the artist of the year category are Nigerian afro-pop stars Yemi Alade and Wizkid, South African afro-house DJ Black Coffee, Kenyan singer Sauti Sol and Diamond, a hip-hop guru from Tanzania. The increasingly prestigious awards tap into the continent's fast-growing youth market and its expanding consumer base, with Africa's total population projected to jump to two billion by 2050.

New rhythms

A few decades ago traditional African folk music dominated the industry, but the trend has shifted. Now, driven by a hunger for local tunes rather than output from the pop hubs of the US and Europe, African artists are mixing traditional African beats with new rhythms to produce cross-genre sounds. "It's the local content that's going to drive growth," Myburgh said. "The one sector that has done particularly well over the last five years is live music. It goes to show what people want—they are prepared to pay a huge amount to go and watch a live concert."

In contrast, piracy hollows out sales volumes. "There's lot of music being heard but not necessarily being paid for," she added. Nevertheless,

in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, revenue from the music industry grew an estimated four-fold in the two years up to 2015, according to PwC. The growth streak is forecast to continue, despite the country slipping into recession recently due to low oil prices. Kenya is also forecast for a strong growth, at about 9.3 percent a year between now and 2020.

And African musicians are not only appealing to domestic consumers, but also generating more interest abroad through tours and collaborations with big international names. "The African music scene has been very dynamic," said Claire Henoque, music promoter and owner of France-based Tour-makers. "What is so attractive is the ability of African musicians to blend with other music genres."

'Breaking down boundaries'

Young artists like Black Coffee, Nigeria's D-Banj, Don Jazzy and Tiwa Savage are now taking over from veterans such as Youssou Ndour and Hugh Masekela to clinch deals and work with Western performers such as US rapper Jay Z. "We see a lot of African artists now performing and touring overseas," Leo Manne, vice president of music channel Trace-TV Southern Africa, told AFP. "And now you see the influence of African music in American music-listen to (Canadian rapper) Drake. "African music will always influence global music. When the slave ships left Africa they left with the drum beat that continues to travel the world."

Saturday night's ceremony, hosted by South African comedian and US television star Trevor Noah, will be broadcast live across the continent, with US hip hop superstar Future also due to perform. "Africa's music industry is thriving and growing," said Alex Okosi, senior vice president of Viacom International Media Networks Africa, which runs the MTV Awards. "The growth is being driven by innovative artists that are breaking down boundaries and reaching Africa's enormous youth population through their music." — AFP

ELLIS ISLAND EXHIBIT

REVIVES NEW YORK'S LOST LITTLE SYRIA

Shakifa Halal was a Syrian immigrant on a New York-bound ship, her dreams rolled up in a piece of embroidery made from silkworms she grew, fabric she wove and cloth dyed with flowers picked in her homeland. "She rolled that up and brought it because she said she wanted to be able to prove that she had skills ... This to her was like showing a diploma," said Halal's granddaughter, Vicki Tamoush, her voice catching and tears streaming.

Halal's floral artwork, which she brought to America in 1910 at the tender age of 13, now hangs in the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, part of an exhibition called "Little Syria, NY: An Immigrant Community's Life and Legacy." Through documents, artifacts and photos, the exhibition tells the story of a Middle



Photo shows the former St. George's Syrian Catholic Church is seen in the financial district of New York in Manhattan. — AP photos

Eastern community that once flourished in Lower Manhattan. The show is on view through Jan. 9 in the building where some 12 million immigrants from around the world first set foot in America. And it documents the vanished neighborhood of Little Syria in ways that still resonate, at a time when Syrian refugees and immigrant rights are making headlines.

From the 1880s to the 1940s, Little Syria sprawled from the New York waterfront, where Ellis Island ferries dock today, up to the site where the twin towers were later built. It was a slum and a promised land, way station and destination. The neighborhood served as an incubator for other Arab enclaves, as residents moved on to build communities in Brooklyn, Detroit, Cleveland, Los Angeles and elsewhere. Shakifa Halal was among those who didn't stay long, moving on to join relatives in Oregon, then California. There she found work as a seamstress, likely using that treasured embroidery displayed at Ellis Island to get the job.

Tangible proof

But others remained in Manhattan, creating a community in the early 1900s - also known as the Syrian Quarter or Syrian Colony - that was



People take photos of Lower Manhattan where the Little Syria neighborhood was located, in New York.



In this picture taken Oct 1, 2016, Vicki Tamoush, 60, poses for a picture in New York City's Lower Manhattan after she visited the "Little Syria, NY: An Immigrant Community's Life and Legacy" exhibit at the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration.

home to some 3,000 immigrants from the Syrian Ottoman Republic. Most of the neighborhood was torn down in the 1940s to make way for the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. Just three original buildings survive on Washington Street, and today, the area's ethnic history is largely unknown, even to native New Yorkers. When a cornerstone of a Syrian Maronite church turned up in the rubble of the twin towers in 2002, it provided tangible proof that many Arabs once lived, worked and worshipped here.

"We didn't come out of a genie lamp," said Charlie Sahadi, whose family came from Lebanon to Little Syria in the late 1800s. They launched Sahadi Importing, one of many businesses that helped introduce Middle Eastern

goods to consumers here. The Ellis Island exhibition features a 1920s-era picture of Sahadi's great uncle, Abraham Sahadi, along with A Sahadi & Co tins and a 1930s ordering book. The Sahadi store moved to Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue in the 1940s, but remains a popular gourmet grocery to this day. The Sahadi story resonates with Devon Akmon, a fourth-generation Arab American and director of the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. The museum created the Little Syria exhibition, which debuted at its facility in 2012.

Arab Americans

"You have to honor, celebrate and commemorate who first came, then look at what's happening now," said Akmon, who attended the show's Ellis Island opening Oct 1. "Arab Americans just became folded into the American narrative and lost in the history of New York City. We're trying to pull that back out." Reclaiming stories is "essential," he said, as people flee war-torn Syria and amid anti-immigrant rhetoric on the campaign trail: Republican

presidential candidate Donald Trump has proposed banning or strictly limiting Syrians and Muslims from entering the US and many governors have sought to curb or change refugee resettlement.

Todd Fine, president of the Washington Street Historical Society, leads tours of the strip where the three structures from Little Syria survive: a tenement building, vacant community house and former Syrian Catholic church that now houses two restaurants. "Some people would say it's kind of miraculous that when everything else is destroyed ... these three little buildings (survive)," he said.

Fine's group and others seek to preserve the historic row, but only the church facade has secured protective landmark status from New York City officials. Meanwhile preservationists are pleased a monument soon will honor the community's literary legacy in a nearby park. Little Syria's writers included famed poet-philosopher Khalil Gibran. And Washington Street once housed offices for the influential "Al Hoda" Arabic newspaper. — AP

This 1910 photo shows a Syrian pastry counter in the Little Syria neighborhood of Lower Manhattan in New York.



Photo shows kite surfers near an uninhabited motu (tiny reef island) in the Aitutaki lagoon, in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific.



Vacation bliss in the South Pacific: Visiting Aitutaki

Photo shows wild chickens pecking at a coconut shell along the main road on Aitutaki's western coast in the Cook Islands. — AP



Swaying in a hammock hung from coconut trees, floating down a cyan-blue channel or swimming in a cloud of tropical fish, all I could think was, this place is too perfect to be real. Aitutaki consists of a handful of small islands encircled by a lagoon in the middle of the South Pacific. It's the paradise you always dreamed but never quite believed could exist: uncrowded, inexpensive, safe and friendly, and stunningly gorgeous around, in and under the ocean.

Three's a crowd

Here's the catch on visiting Aitutaki: It's not that easy to get to. First you fly to Rarotonga, the largest of the Cook Islands, 15 volcanic islands and atolls scattered over an area the size of the Mediterranean. There are flights to Rarotonga from Los Angeles, Tahiti, New Zealand and Sydney. From Rarotonga's open-air airport, I walked into town for the quintessential Polynesian souvenir, black pearls, then hopped on the city bus that circles the island in an hour to snorkel off Aroa Beach.

A 50-minute Air Rarotonga flight took me to Aitutaki, which has about 2,000 inhabitants and only 229 rooms for visitors hidden among the palms. When three couples from the luxury hotel next to my cabin took out kayaks, the miles-long white beach felt outrageously packed.

The beach hut

For Bora Bora-style overwater bungalows at over \$1,000 a night, check in at the Aitutaki Lagoon Resort and Spa. For 1/20th of that price, at Matriki Beach Huts, I got a cabin on the sand with private outdoor shower and deck exactly 19 steps from the lagoon surf. Bright red petals were on the bed, but manager Lisa Green also shared a jar of peanut butter, drove me to three tiny grocery stores for picnic lunch provisions, and let me pick starfruit in the garden.

For about \$20, including cold beer, I had just-caught tuna steaks with homemade passion-fruit marinade at Puffy's Beach Bar and ika mata, raw tuna cubes in coconut cream, at the Boat Shed on the eastern tip of the island.

What locks?

I went to the Boat Shed on a rented bicycle from Matriki and was told that if the half-hour after-dinner ride was too much, I could just park it outside the restaurant (no locks) and any driver would get me home. I decided to pedal instead along the pitch-black road through the fragrant night, but I cannot think of anywhere else I would have considered either option safely possible.



Photo shows One Foot Island, an uninhabited motu (tiny reef island) in the Aitutaki lagoon, in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific.

Even in larger Rarotonga, an airport representative told me I could safely spend a short overnight layover napping on the terminal's outdoor picnic benches after the building closed. "There may be some roosters though," was the one note of caution he sounded.

Although I visited in early July, during the Southern Hemisphere winter, Aitutaki was bursting with palm fronds in shades of mint to lime to shamrock green and luxuriant blossoms of bougainvillea, hibiscus and frangipani. Many of the latter ended up around my neck in an elaborate 'ei (what leis are called in the Cook Islands) after I passed by a health conference in a village hall. I was invited to stay for opening prayer, with a rippling polyphonic Maori hymn and to return for that night's party, when we washed down a gargantuan home-cooked buffet with fresh coconut water.

To be or not to be underwater

Within wading distance of my bed, I snorkeled among cobalt blue starfish and Pixar-worthy creatures in silver, black or yellow patterns with names like Moorish idol, threadfin butterflyfish and lemonpeel angelfish. During a daylong cruise to uninhabited motu - tiny reef islands - on Lisa's husband's fishing boat, I saw purple coral and

football-sized, sapphire-blue clams. But the colors were even more surreal above water: transparent over the sand bars, periwinkle in the surf, swirls of turquoise, green and aquamarine in the lagoon, while the lapis-lazuli

Pacific roared against the reef. It struck me that Aitutaki sits blissfully inside its reef like the best vacation amid real life: Sharks, capsizing waves, and cold abysses are still out there, but they can't get at you here. — AP



Photo shows tropical fish, including Pixar-worthy creatures such as the threadfin butterflyfish, swimming inches away from a snorkeler in the Aitutaki lagoon, in the Cook Islands in the South Pacific.



Tokyo Fashion Week

Models display creations designed by Keiichiro Yuri during the 2017 Spring/Summer Collection at the Tokyo Fashion Week in Tokyo yesterday. —AP/AFP photos



Models display creations designed by Yuma Koshino during the 2017 Spring/Summer Collection.





Models display creations by Japanese designer Yukihiro Teshima during the 2017 Spring/Summer Collection.



Okinawa fashion: **New style** for Japan's tropical islands

Okinawa, the Japanese archipelago home to thousands of US troops and popular with scuba divers, is looking beyond its beach resorts and World War II battle sites to bag a spot in high fashion. A two and a half hour flight from Tokyo and closer to Taiwan, Okinawa couldn't be more different from the Japanese capital, where the fashion set reach for tights and tailored jackets on even a balmy autumn day and look down their noses at homespun "resort wear". But rather than bend to Tokyo's will, two fashion houses on Okinawa have wider horizons: putting the sub-tropical island chain on a map of its own.

Both directors jetted into Tokyo for fashion week to meet buyers and journalists, but instead opted to stage their runway shows on Okinawa Island-live streaming them online to reach a wider audience. "Fashion is not only for people in Tokyo. That's what I want to prove," Roberto Yoshida, creative director of Okinawamade, tells AFP. Holding shows in other parts of Japan, a country made up of hundreds of inhabited islands with a population of 127 million-around double that of Britain-will make fashion week more interesting, he says.

The 38-year-old, the grandson of a Spanish woman, who also designs biker gear for Honda and runs a high-end line patronized by the likes of US rocker Lenny Kravitz, is holding his catwalk show on Saturday in an old elementary school with Okinawan women starring as his models. "I wanted to establish a brand that represents Okinawa," he says. "It has been my dream since high school." The brand is officially menswear, but his appeal is broader: 70 percent of his customers are young women from their teens to 30s, he says, and 30 percent come from outside Japan, mostly China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

For fellow label Lequio it's also about more than the island's blue skies, crystalline sea, hibis-

cus flowers: it's about promoting the island's unique culture and history.

"We want to present original products that can be made nowhere else," director Yoshinari Kakazu tells AFP. Lequio's spring/summer 2017 collection features a traditional Okinawa indigo dye and Kakazu wants to move into agriculture to support its production with farming on the wane.

He shows a beautifully soft indigo T-shirt dyed with intricate white patterns, which come from a kimono his mother wears for doing traditional dance. Lequio also has a second line,



Japanese Lequio fashion brand's director Yoshinari Kakazu poses next to a creation of his Okinawa-based brand in Tokyo. — AFP photos

Made In Occupied Japan, that fashions US military attire into bags.

The same cloth has been made into a hooded sundress for spring/summer 2017. Around 47,000 Americans troops are stationed in Japan, more than half of them on Okinawa, which was occupied for 27 years after World War II. While US culture has deeply influenced the island, rapes, assaults and hit-and-run accidents by troops, their dependents and civilians have also



Japanese Lequio fashion brand's designer Hiloki Deliva (left) and director Yoshinari Kakazu (right) pose next to creations of their Okinawa-based brand in Tokyo.

fanned controversy and protests. "We're using this name ironically to turn negative heritage into a plus point," says Kakazu.

Global ambitions

But neither Kakazu nor Yoshida want to be drawn on what they think of the bases, which also provide local jobs. Both have American friends and say US culture has been a huge influence. Lequio's show was held in the courtyard of an old American officers' mess in what Kakazu calls "the Beverly Hills of Okinawa".

It was live streamed on Monday, the first day of Tokyo Fashion Week. For his AFP interview Yoshida wore his own sweater printed with Mickey Mouse and Okinawa, as well as wide-brimmed rapper-style cap. He is inspired by

French designer Hedi Slimane, who in 2016 took Yves Saint Laurent's runway show to his home base in Los Angeles.

Yet unlike the unrelenting US drive towards mass consumerism, he has his eye firmly on cultivating exclusivity. Okinawamade sells online but has just one, tiny Tokyo shop, which only opens at weekends and where he says people queue for the limited chance to snap up the clothes. "A small brand that competes with major brands is more interesting," he said. "If I continue this way, I hope someday Nike or Supreme might ask me to collaborate in the future." Lequio also has big ambitions.

"Our clothes are luxurious resort wear with a casual twist," says designer Hiloki Deliva. "I want people all over the world to wear them." — AFP



'La Mode A Beyrouth' fashion week



Models display creations by Lebanese fashion designer Fouad Sarkis during 'La Mode A Beyrouth' fashion week, in the Lebanese capital.



Lebanese fashion designer Fouad Sarkis (left) walks on stage after his show during 'La Mode A Beyrouth' fashion week, in the Lebanese capital.— AFP photos



CHICAGO: In this Sept. 16, 2016, file photo, Lisa Gao, from Chicago, compares a new jet black iPhone 7, right, with her iPhone 6 at an Apple Store.—AP

APPLE: MANY 'GENUINE' APPLE PRODUCTS ON AMAZON ARE FAKE

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple says it has been buying Apple chargers and cables labeled as genuine on Amazon.com and has found nearly 90 percent of them to be counterfeit.

The revelation comes in a federal lawsuit filed by Apple against a New Jersey company on Monday over what Apple says are counterfeit products that were sold on Amazon. In the lawsuit, Apple says Mobile Star imprinted Apple logos on cables and chargers that "pose a significant risk of overheating, fire, and electrical shock." It says the chargers and cables were being sold on Amazon as genuine Apple products.

Apple says it purchased the products on Amazon and later told the online retailer that they were fake. Amazon then identified Mobile Star as the source. Amazon isn't named in the suit, but said in a statement that it has "zero tolerance" for counterfeiters on its site and that it pursues "wrongdoers" aggressively. Mobile Star didn't return a voicemail seeking comment.—AP

INDIAN WASHERMEN KEEP TRADITION ALIVE DESPITE DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES

NEW DELHI: Standing knee deep in a cement tank of milky water, Dinesh Kumar dunks clothes before vigorously scrubbing them with a brush at an outdoor laundry in the Indian capital. After quitting high school, Kumar joined his father among the ranks of traditional washermen who have hand-cleaned the sprawling city's dirty clothes for generations. Over the years, the work of "dhobi wallahs" has modernised to a degree, with industrial machines now used at some laundries for washing heavier loads of curtains, bed covers and towels.

But 32-year-old Kumar said most of the washing was still done by hand. The more delicate and expensive garments also needed to be handled carefully to ensure sewn-on beads or embroidery were not damaged. "I start work at the crack of dawn and wash about 100 clothes by evening," Kumar told AFP as washermen nearby swung damp trousers over their heads before thrashing them against concrete stone slabs.

After every wash in a milky bath of bleach and detergent, Kumar inspects the clothes closely to ensure they are spotlessly clean. "Most of the clothes come here from hotels, embassies or beauty parlors. If we don't wash properly, they will stop sending the clothes over."

Once the clothes are scrubbed, Kumar rinses them in the cement tub, wearing a plastic sheet around his waist to stop his rolled-up trousers getting wet. Such so-called "dhobi ghats" are normally set up next to a river, but these washermen in New Delhi rely on well water stored in cement tanks and pools for their supply. After the clothes are hung out on lines strung up on terrace rooftops to dry, they are ironed, often by the women in the washermens' family. But Ram Lal Kanojia, who runs another small laundry nearby, said younger generations were not keen on joining the family business, as India's economy grows rapidly. "My children are studying computers and management. They don't want to wash clothes all their life like me," said Kanojia, who earns about 25,000 rupees (\$374) a month. "It's too much hard work and not much money."—AFP

SAN FRANCISCO LAWSUIT, NYC LAW HIGHLIGHT GLOBAL RISKS FOR AIRBNB

AIRBNB FACES RECKONING

SAN FRANCISCO/BERLIN: Airbnb, the online lodging service that investors now believe is worth \$30 billion, faces a reckoning.

In eight years of torrid growth, the company has often clashed with local public officials seeking to minimize the impact of short-term rentals on neighborhoods and urban housing markets. Now, those simmering tensions are starting to boil.

The New York state legislature has passed regulations that Airbnb says could seriously damage its business in New York City, the company's largest US market; Governor Andrew Cuomo has until Oct. 29 to decide whether it will become law. The German capital of Berlin recently passed a law banning most short-term rentals, and Barcelona and Amsterdam are imposing steep fines for listings that violate laws there.

Ground zero for Airbnb's fight against tightening regulations is its home of San Francisco, where the company has sued to block a new requirement that it reject booking fees from property owners who have not registered with the city.

The case is a crucial test of Airbnb's business model. The company argues it cannot legally be held responsible for how landlords use its platform. If it is required to enforce local laws on short-term rentals, that could drastically reduce listings - and revenue - in some of its biggest markets.

Other cities looking to rein in Airbnb are watching the proceedings and looking to the city's law as a potential model, said James Emery, deputy city attorney of San Francisco. "Throughout the country, people representing cities have called me to ask what's going on with the litigation," he said.

Airbnb's legal argument relies on a 20-year-old statute designed to protect free speech online, known as Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. The company asserts in its lawsuit that San Francisco "impermissibly treats Airbnb as the publisher or speaker of third-party content" when it is merely a platform for communications between property owners and guests.

Other online marketplaces - such as Amazon, eBay, and Craigslist - have cited the same law to shield themselves from liability for any improper transactions among users of their services.

In the San Francisco case, US District Judge James Donato said at an Oct. 6 hearing he wasn't "seeing the link" between free speech protections and San Francisco's short-term rental regulations. Donato is expected to issue a ruling soon. Airbnb has also sued the Southern California city of Anaheim, home to the Disneyland theme park, and the nearby beach city of Santa Monica, over regulations that the company contends are illegal.

'Illegal' business model

Airbnb takes a cut of the revenue when a room or a home is booked and charges a service fee to guests. The company says it helps communities by enabling middle-class families to make extra money. It also points to agree-



Airbnb's logo, a peer-to-peer online marketplace and homestay network that enables people to list or rent short-term lodging in residential properties.—AFP

ments with officials in nearly 200 locales around the world, mostly for tax collection and in some cases for broader short-term rental regulation.

Critics counter that, in popular tourist destinations, Airbnb takes affordable housing off the market, drives up home prices and disrupts neighborhoods with streams of transient visitors.

As regulatory threats loom, Airbnb on Wednesday announced it would create an online registration system for property owners and automate the enforcement of Airbnb's existing rules in New York and San Francisco, which limit operators to a single listing of an entire residence.

New York Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, sponsor of the New York legislation, was unimpressed by Airbnb's announcement. "It's preposterous. Maybe half their listings are illegal" in New York City, she said. "It's part-and-parcel of the business model." Existing New York state law bars most urban apartment-dwellers from renting out their units for less than 30 days if they are not present.

The law recently passed by the state legislature would bar even advertising a rental that violates that existing law, which could help regulators crack down on Airbnb itself in addition to the users of its service.

Airbnb has said it will sue New York state if the governor enacts the law. The company said it has taken down nearly 3,000 illegal listings in New York City over the past year, and reports 44,622 total listings in the city as of Sept. 1.

Battle in Berlin

In Berlin, Airbnb is fighting a city demand that it turn over information to help enforce a new law imposing fines of up to \$110,000 on people renting out more than 50 percent of their homes for less than two months - among the strictest regulations worldwide.

Airbnb is "confident it would find a favorable agreement" with the city," said Peter Huntingford, Airbnb head of public affairs for Europe. But with the city intent on collecting data and Airbnb intent on refusing, another legal battle looms. "If Airbnb intends to risk a

trial, we are prepared to walk down that path," said Martin Pallgen, a Berlin Senate spokesman.

In Barcelona, Airbnb's third-largest market in Europe, the city is imposing fines that exceed \$65,000 for listings without proper licenses. Amsterdam city officials in April started scraping data from Airbnb and other short-term rental websites to root out illegal hosts because Airbnb will not turn over details on violators.

In its Wednesday announcement, Airbnb put forward what the company's head of global policy and public affairs, Chris Lehane, called a "comprehensive regulatory strategy" targeted at "rooting out bad actors."

But the new proposals stopped short of any commitments to share information or enforce bans on short-term rental operators, which many cities say is crucial for effective regulation.

Rising risks

Critics contend that a large portion of Airbnb listings are offered by commercial operators with multiple properties who are essentially running illegal hotels. The company, they argue, has effectively turned many residential neighborhoods into tourist zones.

In Los Angeles, a study by the pro-labor Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy found that property owners with two or more listings generated 44 percent of all Airbnb revenue in Los Angeles. Airbnb, in a statement, disputed that conclusion and called the group's analysis "misleading."

In New York City, the state Attorney General found that, between 2010 and 2014, more than 300,000 Airbnb reservations violated the law, representing about \$304 million in booking revenue, with about \$40 million of that going to Airbnb. Public officials need to prioritize the rights of full-time residents over landlords and visitors, said Rosenthal, the New York Assemblywoman.

"I represent New Yorkers," she said. "I don't represent tourists, and my responsibility is not to protect their cheap deal at the expense of New Yorkers."—Reuters

BACKPAGE.COM OPERATORS SEEK TO DROP PIMPING CHARGES

SACRAMENTO: The operators of an international website that advertises escort services asked a California judge Wednesday to throw out charges against them of pimping and trafficking prostitutes.

Attorneys for Backpage.com CEO Carl Ferrer and former owners Michael Lacey and James Larkin say the website is protected by the First Amendment and federal law. The men were charged in Sacramento County Superior Court by California Attorney General Kamala Harris.

"The AG's complaint should be dismissed immediately," wrote James C. Grant, a Seattle-based attorney representing the three men. "The charges the state asserts amount to a brazen effort to intimidate or shut down an online publisher by using all the criminal sanctions at the AG's disposal, despite that she has no authority whatsoever to do so." Backpage advertises a wide range of services, but Harris charged that more than 90 percent of its revenue - amounting to millions of dollars each month - comes from adult escort ads that use coded language and nearly nude photos to offer sex for money.

Ferrer, 55, is charged with pimping a minor, pimping and conspiracy to commit pimping. Lacey, 68, and Larkin, 67, both from Arizona, are charged with conspiracy to commit pimping.

Lawyers for the men say the federal Communications Decency Act grants immunity to website operators for content posted by users in order to promote free speech. They also say the state presented no evidence that the defendants knew anything about the nine ads cited in charging documents.—AP



SACRAMENTO: This undated photo provided by the Sacramento County Sheriff's office shows Carl Ferrer.—AP



BUCHAREST, ROMANIA: People look at a privately owned Tesla Model S electric vehicle on display at the Bucharest Auto Show on Thursday.—AP

TESLA EQUIPPING CARS TO DRIVE COMPLETELY ON THEIR OWN SUPERCOMPUTER IN A CAR

SAN FRANCISCO: Tesla Motors is starting to build its electric cars with all the sensors, cameras and other gear needed to drive completely on their own when regulations allow the technology to take over that responsibility.

The announcement made late Wednesday by Tesla CEO Elon Musk marks the Silicon Valley automaker's next step toward selling cars that can navigate the roads without the help of a human. Google, ride-hailing service Uber and an assortment of other automakers also are working on a range of self-driving cars in an effort to ultimately turn the steering wheel over to robots. Tesla has offered an automatic steering and braking system called Autopilot in its cars since last year, but that technology is meant to be monitored at all times by a driver.

After additional testing and getting the necessary regulatory clearance, all the cars rolling off Tesla's assembly lines will have the equipment needed to be fully autonomous, Musk said. By auto-industry standards Tesla is small, making about 100,000 cars a year, although hopes to increase its production to 500,000 vehicles per year by 2018.

Price jump

Musk predicted the technology will be twice as safe as a human driver. But adding the protection will jack up prices on Tesla vehicles that already can run over \$80,000 depending on what features a buyer wants. Adding the software and activating the hardware needed for a fully autonomous car will cost an additional \$8,000 - a more than 20 percent increase on the cost of Tesla's \$35,000 Model 3 sedan that is sched-

uled to be delivered next year.

Musk said he thinks the price will prove to be a pittance if he meets his goal of improving the technology so it's eventually 10 times safer than a human driver. The cars with the fully self-driving technology will get those improvements in upgrades delivered online.

Tesla's future cars will have eight cameras instead of the single one currently on the vehicles running the less-sophisticated Autopilot system. They will have sensors with twice the range as the current vehicles and have 40 times more computing power capable of performing 12 trillion operations per second, according to Musk. "It will basically be a supercomputer in a car," he said. But it's an open question when federal and state regulators in the US will settle on laws that allow robots to drive cars.

Even if regulations were to allow it now, Tesla is conceding it's not ready to flip switch yet, saying it still needs to do more testing and gather more data. For that reason, safety features such as automatic emergency braking, colli-

sion warning, lane holding and active cruise control that are currently available in current cars using the first generation of Autopilot won't be immediately be turned on in the vehicles designed to be fully autonomous.

Those limitations make buying Tesla's autonomous cars a "vanity purchase" akin to buying a TV offering ultrahigh-definition 4K pictures when relatively little programming is available in that format, said Edmunds.com analyst Jessica Caldwell. "There's also a risk that by the time all these self-driving features are fully tested and activated, other manufacturers may be ready to roll out more advanced hardware with better capabilities," Caldwell said.

Consumer watchdogs have questioned whether Tesla's first Autopilot system was ready to be on the road after a driver earlier this year using the system was killed when his Model S sedan struck a tractor-trailer in Florida. Tesla maintains Autopilot wasn't at fault. Government regulators are investigating the circumstances of the accident.—AP

NO PARTNER IN SIGHT, TWITTER FACES TOUGH SOLO CHOICES

SAN FRANCISCO/BOSTON: The apparent lack of interest in Twitter Inc by potential suitors may force the social media company to consider a route anathema to aspiring tech startups: a major restructuring and cutting some its nearly 4,000 employees.

The popular but money-losing micro-blogging service spent aggressively on product development and marketing in recent years, betting that it could afford to post losses as long as it attracted new users. But that growth stalled this year after it exceeded 300 million active monthly users, less than a fifth of Facebook Inc's users and below Facebook's Instagram.

Earlier this month, Twitter hired bankers to explore selling itself. Technology and media companies including Salesforce.com Inc, Walt Disney Co and Alphabet Inc's Google looked at the company but ultimately passed on buying it. The aborted sales process - and the company's strategy as an independent company - will be back in the spotlight when Twitter reports earnings on Oct. 27. The company declined to comment. "It's going to take some bold moves here," said David Hsu, a management professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, suggesting job cuts may be an option. "It takes a very lean staff to maintain the core Twitter as an advertising and messaging platform," Hsu said.

According to SunTrust analyst Robert Peck, Twitter could cut 10 percent of its workforce and save about \$100 million a year. Major layoffs, though, could hurt the company's image in San Francisco, where the competition for engineering talent is fierce. The company may look first at cutting sales and marketing, an area in which it spends more than twice as much as its rivals to earn each dollar of revenue. "Twitter's cost structure was originally built to grow into a much larger user base," said Peck. "But with user growth stagnating, the company likely needs to reduce excess costs."—Reuters

NINTENDO COMBINES PORTABLE AND HOME GAMING WITH SWITCH

REDMOND, WASHINGTON: Nintendo has announced a new gaming system that combines a portable handheld device with a dock to use at home.

Nintendo Switch will be released in March. The gaming giant released a preview video of the console Thursday. The company says the Switch features a dock to connect

the system to a TV. Users can lift the device from the dock and use it in portable mode as well.

The Switch comes with detachable controllers. It also features single and multiplayer capabilities. Nintendo says an exact launch date, price and more specifics will be released later.—AP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

- 00:00 Patrick
- 02:00 Freezer
- 03:30 The Machine
- 05:30 Independence Day
- 08:00 Sword Of Vengeance
- 09:45 Ladder 49
- 11:45 Heatstroke
- 13:30 Independence Day
- 16:00 Sword Of Vengeance
- 17:45 Ladder 49
- 19:45 Blackhat
- 22:00 Machete

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

- OSN Movies Drama HD
- 01:00 A Teacher's Obsession
- 03:00 Big Eyes
- 05:00 Changing Hearts
- 07:00 Trust Me
- 09:00 Penthouse North
- 11:00 A Teacher's Obsession
- 13:00 Big Eyes
- 15:00 Boychoir
- 17:00 Penthouse North
- 19:00 Dark Places
- 21:00 Very Good Girls
- 23:00 Only God Forgives

OSN MOVIES HD
FAMILY

- 00:00 Hotel For Dogs
- 02:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
- 03:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
- 06:45 The Rookie
- 09:00 Enchanted
- 11:00 Pocahontas
- 13:00 G-Force
- 15:00 Gulliver's Travels
- 17:00 Peter Pan
- 19:00 Annie
- 21:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
- 23:15 Gulliver's Travels

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:15 Tiger House
- 03:00 Transcendence
- 05:00 Max
- 07:00 Accidental Love
- 09:00 Taken 3
- 11:00 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
- 13:15 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
- 14:45 The Age Of Adaline
- 16:45 Steve Jobs
- 18:45 Terminator Genisys
- 21:00 Captive
- 23:00 Fifty Shades Of Grey

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

- 00:00 Save Your Legs!
- 02:00 Blue Streak
- 04:00 Sunshine On Leith
- 06:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
- 08:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 10:00 Sunshine On Leith
- 12:00 Blue Streak
- 14:00 Coneheads
- 16:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 18:00 The Bad News Bears (2005)
- 20:00 Out Cold
- 22:00 The Babymakers

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

- 02:15 The Hidden Face
- 04:00 The Fisher King
- 06:30 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
- 09:00 Gone With The Bullets
- 11:00 One Fine Day
- 13:00 Fearless
- 15:00 Jack Strong
- 17:30 Gone With The Bullets
- 19:30 The Boy
- 21:30 Lost River
- 23:15 Starred Up

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

- 01:15 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
- 02:45 When Marnie Was There

- 04:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 06:00 Savva
- 07:45 The Heart Of The Oak
- 09:15 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
- 11:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
- 12:45 When Marnie Was There
- 14:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 16:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 18:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
- 20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Treasures Of Egypt
- 22:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 23:30 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels

OSN MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

- 00:00 Wild
- 02:00 The Two Faces Of January
- 04:00 The Song
- 06:00 The Lovers
- 08:00 Still Alice
- 09:45 Peter Pan Live!
- 12:00 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- 14:15 Le Weekend
- 16:15 Still Alice
- 18:00 Love, Rosie
- 20:00 That Awkward Moment
- 21:45 Inherent Vice

STAR MOVIES HD

- 01:30 Scouts Honor
- 03:00 Sister Act
- 04:45 The Art Of War
- 06:45 Jane Eyre
- 09:00 Devil's Knot
- 11:00 The Last Shot
- 12:45 Thor 2: The Dark World
- 14:30 Scouts Honor
- 16:00 Saving Mr. Banks
- 18:15 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
- 20:00 Wicker Park
- 22:00 The Promotion
- 23:30 Proof

sundance
CHANNEL

- TV
- 00:55 Half Life
- 02:45 Mammal
- 04:20 Discovering: Zeffirelli
- 05:05 Good Rockin' Tonight: Legacy Sun Records
- 07:00 All On The Line
- 08:00 Medicine For Melancholy
- 09:30 Bob And The Trees
- 11:00 A Bronx Tale
- 13:00 Nani
- 13:25 Les Paul: Chasing Sound
- 14:55 Blood Thunder: The Sound Of Alberts
- 15:55 Blood Thunder: The Sound Of Alberts
- 17:00 Bob And The Trees
- 18:30 A Bronx Tale
- 20:30 Medicine For Melancholy
- 22:00 Then She Found Me
- 23:40 My Life So Far

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Deadly After Dark: Polar Bear Invasion
- 01:40 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 02:35 Tanked
- 03:25 Crocodile Hunter
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Deadly After Dark: Polar Bear Invasion
- 05:49 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 06:36 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 07:25 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 08:15 My Wild Affair: The Elephant Who Loved Too Much
- 09:10 The Vet Life
- 10:05 Wildest India
- 11:00 Treehouse Masters
- 11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
- 12:50 Wildest Africa
- 15:35 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 16:30 Crocodile Hunter
- 17:25 Wildest Africa
- 18:20 Gangland Killers
- 20:10 The Vet Life
- 21:05 Gangland Killers
- 22:00 The Cannibal In The Jungle
- 23:50 Beasts Of The Bayou

ci

- 00:00 The Haunting Of...
- 01:00 My Haunted House
- 02:00 Monster In My Family

- 03:00 My Crazy Ex
- 04:00 The Haunting Of...
- 05:00 My Haunted House
- 06:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 07:00 The First 48
- 08:00 The First 48
- 09:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 10:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 11:00 The FBI Files
- 12:00 When Life Means Life
- 13:00 Private Crimes
- 14:00 Frenemies
- 15:00 Homicide Hunter
- 16:00 It Takes A Killer
- 17:00 It Takes A Killer
- 18:00 Murder In-Law
- 19:00 Monster In My Family
- 20:00 Deadly Wives
- 21:00 Deadly Wives
- 22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 23:00 Ms. Homicide

Discovery
Family

- 00:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 01:20 The Big Brain Theory
- 02:10 Now That's Funny
- 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:05 How It's Made
- 05:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Kenny The Shark
- 07:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 08:40 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:50 Mythbusters
- 17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 18:40 The Big Brain Theory
- 19:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 19:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 20:20 Risking It All
- 21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 22:00 What Happened Next?
- 23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things

HISTORY

- 00:20 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 01:10 Counting Cars
- 01:35 Counting Cars

- 02:00 American Pickers
- 02:50 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 03:15 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 03:40 Shark Wranglers
- 04:30 American Restoration
- 05:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 06:00 Leepu And Pitbull
- 06:50 Leepu And Pitbull
- 07:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 08:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 08:30 Counting Cars
- 08:55 Ax Men
- 09:45 American Restoration
- 10:10 American Restoration
- 10:35 Shipping Wars
- 11:00 Shipping Wars
- 11:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 11:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 13:05 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 14:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 14:45 Time Team
- 15:35 Counting Cars
- 16:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 16:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 16:50 American Restoration
- 17:15 American Restoration
- 17:40 Shipping Wars
- 18:05 Shipping Wars
- 18:30 Pawn Stars
- 18:55 Storage Wars
- 19:20 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 20:10 Alone
- 21:00 Barbarians Rising
- 22:00 Forged In Fire
- 22:50 Time Team
- 23:40 Alone

NAT GEO
people

- Nat Geo People HD
- 00:10 Eat Street
- 00:35 Baking Good, Baking Bad
- 01:00 The Shelbourne
- 01:25 Carnival Eats
- 01:50 Carnival Eats
- 02:15 Raw Travel
- 02:40 Raw Travel
- 03:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 03:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 03:55 Croatia's Finest
- 04:20 Croatia's Finest
- 04:45 Meat v Veg
- 05:10 Poh & Co

- 05:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 06:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 06:25 Poh & Co
- 06:50 Raw Travel
- 07:15 Maximum Foodie
- 07:40 Eat Street
- 08:05 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 08:30 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 08:55 Croatia's Finest
- 09:20 Croatia's Finest
- 09:45 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 10:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 10:35 Food School
- 11:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 11:50 Dog Whisperer
- 12:40 The Shelbourne
- 13:05 Carnival Eats
- 13:35 Carnival Eats
- 14:00 Raw Travel
- 14:30 Raw Travel
- 14:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 15:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 15:50 Croatia's Finest
- 16:20 Croatia's Finest
- 16:45 The Shelbourne
- 17:15 The Shelbourne
- 17:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 18:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 18:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 19:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 19:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 20:00 Croatia's Finest
- 20:25 Croatia's Finest
- 20:50 The Shelbourne
- 21:15 The Shelbourne
- 21:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 22:05 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 22:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 22:55 The Shelbourne
- 23:20 Carnival Eats
- 23:45 Carnival Eats

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
CHANNEL HD

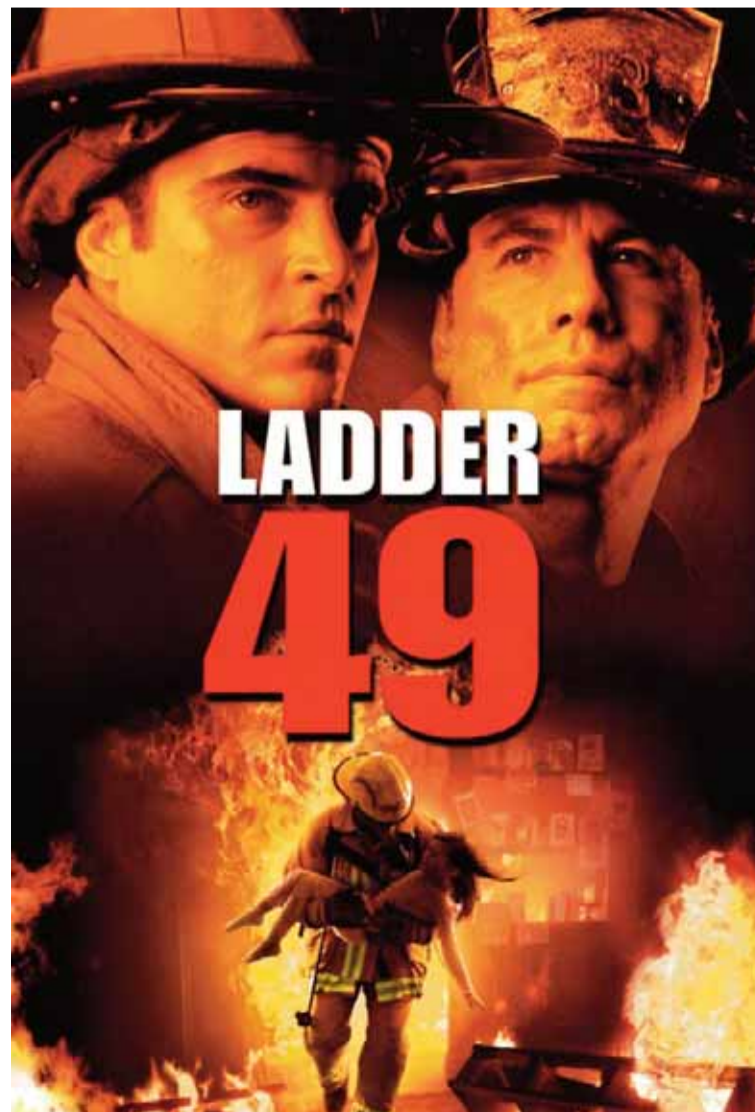
- 00:10 Locked Up Abroad
- 01:00 Airport Security: Colombia
- 02:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 02:55 Nazi World War Weird
- 03:50 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
- 04:45 Fusion Forager
- 05:40 World's Most Extreme
- 06:35 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 07:30 Facing...
- 08:25 Dog Whisperer
- 09:20 Dog Whisperer
- 10:15 Monster Fish
- 11:10 Cold Water Gold
- 12:05 Science Of Stupid
- 12:30 Science Of Stupid
- 13:00 Nazi World War Weird
- 14:00 Facing...
- 15:00 9/11: The Longest War
- 17:00 Mega Factories
- 18:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 19:00 Cold Water Gold
- 20:00 Planes That Changed The World
- 20:50 Mega Factories
- 21:40 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 22:30 Cold Water Gold
- 23:20 Planes That Changed The World

NAT GEO
WILD HD

- 00:20 Hyena Queen
- 01:10 World's Deadliest Animals
- 02:00 Wild Russia
- 02:50 Wild Survivor
- 03:45 South Africa
- 04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 05:35 Hunter Hunted
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Hooked
- 08:20 Bandit Patrol
- 09:15 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 10:10 World's Weirdest Animal Faces
- 11:05 Badass Animals
- 12:00 Shark Men
- 12:55 Wild Russia
- 13:50 Wild Survivor
- 14:45 South Africa
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 Caught In The Act
- 17:30 Dangerous Encounters
- 18:25 Animals Gone Wild
- 19:20 South Africa
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 Caught In The Act
- 21:50 Dangerous Encounters
- 22:40 Animals Gone Wild
- 23:30 Shark Men

DISCOVERY
SCIENCE

- 00:30 How Do They Do It?



LADDER 49 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

00:55 Food Factory
 01:20 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
 01:45 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
 02:10 How The Universe Works
 03:00 Superhuman Showdown
 03:48 Ways To Save The Planet
 04:36 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
 05:00 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
 05:24 How The Universe Works
 06:12 How Do They Do It?
 06:36 Food Factory
 07:00 How Do They Do It?
 07:26 Food Factory
 07:50 Food Factory
 08:14 Food Factory
 08:38 Food Factory
 09:02 Food Factory
 09:26 How The Universe Works
 10:14 How The Universe Works
 11:02 How The Universe Works
 11:50 How The Universe Works
 12:38 How The Universe Works
 13:26 How Do They Do It?
 13:50 How Do They Do It?
 14:14 How Do They Do It?
 14:38 How Do They Do It?
 15:02 How Do They Do It?
 15:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 16:14 Redesign My Brain
 17:02 Mind Control Freaks
 17:26 Mind Control Freaks
 17:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 18:40 Superhuman Showdown
 19:30 Prototype This
 20:20 Prototype This
 21:10 Prototype This
 22:00 Ways To Save The Planet
 22:50 Comet Crash: Rosetta
 23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

16:55 Key And Peele
 17:25 Key And Peele
 17:50 Tosh.0
 18:15 Tosh.0
 18:39 Tosh.0
 19:03 Ridiculousness
 19:27 Ridiculousness
 19:50 Brotherhood
 20:13 Lip Sync Battle
 21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
 21:30 South Park
 21:54 Broad City
 22:18 Dave Attell: Road Work
 23:05 Underground With Dave Attell
 23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition



00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
 01:00 BBQ Crawl
 01:30 BBQ Crawl
 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 03:00 Man Fire Food
 03:30 Man Fire Food
 04:00 Chopped
 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
 06:00 Man Fire Food
 06:30 Man Fire Food
 07:00 Chopped
 08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
 09:00 The Kitchen
 10:00 Siba's Table
 10:30 Siba's Table
 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
 11:30 The Pioneer Woman
 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 14:00 Chopped
 15:00 Man Fire Food
 15:30 Man Fire Food
 16:00 Guy's Big Bite
 16:30 Guy's Big Bite
 17:00 Siba's Table
 17:30 Siba's Table
 18:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
 18:30 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
 19:00 Chopped
 20:00 Halloween Wars
 21:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of India



00:30 Two And A Half Men
 01:00 Two And A Half Men
 01:30 The Detour
 02:00 The Detour
 02:30 The League
 03:00 Superstore
 03:30 The Goldbergs
 04:00 Trophy Wife
 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 05:30 George Lopez
 06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
 06:30 Community
 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 08:00 Trophy Wife
 08:30 George Lopez
 09:00 Superstore
 09:30 The Goldbergs
 10:00 New Girl
 10:30 Community
 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
 12:30 Trophy Wife
 13:00 George Lopez
 13:30 Community
 14:00 The Goldbergs
 14:30 The Goldbergs
 15:00 New Girl
 15:30 Two And A Half Men
 16:00 Two And A Half Men
 16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 18:00 The Mindy Project
 18:30 The Mindy Project
 19:00 Baby Daddy
 19:30 Fresh Off The Boat
 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 21:00 Young & Hungry
 21:30 Young & Hungry
 22:00 Saturday Night Live
 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 The Detour
 01:00 The League
 01:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 02:30 Two And A Half Men
 03:00 Two And A Half Men
 03:30 The Detour
 04:00 The Detour

04:30 The League
 05:00 Superstore
 05:30 The Goldbergs
 06:00 Trophy Wife
 06:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
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 16:30 The Goldbergs
 17:00 New Girl
 17:30 Two And A Half Men
 18:00 Two And A Half Men
 18:30 The Bernie Mac Show
 19:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 20:00 The Mindy Project
 20:30 The Mindy Project
 21:00 Baby Daddy
 21:30 Fresh Off The Boat
 22:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 23:00 Young & Hungry
 23:30 Young & Hungry



00:00 Prison Break
 01:00 Dead Of Summer
 02:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
 03:00 Sleepy Hollow
 04:00 Good Morning America
 06:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
 07:00 Suits
 08:00 Criminal Minds
 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 10:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
 11:00 Suits
 12:00 Criminal Minds
 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 14:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
 15:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
 16:00 Grey's Anatomy
 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 18:00 Criminal Minds
 19:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
 20:00 The Blacklist
 21:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
 22:00 Supernatural
 23:00 Grimm



00:00 The Night Of
 01:00 Code Black
 02:00 Game Of Thrones
 03:00 Westworld
 04:00 The Knick
 05:00 Maria Full Of Grace
 07:00 Undefeated
 09:00 Phil Spector
 11:00 Grey Gardens
 13:00 Shot In The Heart
 15:00 Conspiracy
 17:00 Grey Gardens
 19:00 The Night Of
 20:00 Code Black
 21:00 Eastbound & Down
 21:30 High Maintenance
 22:00 Quarry
 23:00 Angry Boys
 23:30 Getting On



00:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
 01:00 Sleepy Hollow
 02:00 Prison Break
 03:00 Dead Of Summer
 04:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
 05:00 Sleepy Hollow
 06:00 Good Morning America
 08:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
 09:00 Suits
 10:00 Criminal Minds
 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 12:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
 13:00 Suits
 14:00 Criminal Minds
 15:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 16:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
 17:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
 18:00 Grey's Anatomy
 19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 20:00 Criminal Minds
 21:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders



INDEPENDENCE DAY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

22:00 The Blacklist
 23:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow



00:20 12 Monkeys
 01:10 Eureka
 05:15 Face Off
 06:00 Stargate SG-1
 10:05 Smallville
 14:15 The Mummy: Tomb Of The Dragon Emperor
 16:10 Killjoys
 17:00 Face Off
 17:50 Sanctuary
 18:40 Sanctuary
 19:30 Earthtastrophe
 21:00 Deep Evil
 22:40 Pitch Black

02:25 Leah Remini: It's All Relative
 02:50 Monsters Inside Me
 03:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
 04:20 Toddlers & Tiaras
 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
 06:00 Jon & Kate Plus 8
 08:30 Cake Boss
 09:20 Separated At Birth
 10:10 Designer Darlings
 11:50 Say Yes To The Dress
 14:45 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
 15:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
 17:40 Oprah's Master Class
 19:20 Suddenly Royal
 20:10 Cake Boss
 21:00 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
 21:50 Oprah's Master Class
 22:40 Body Bizarre
 23:30 Diagnose Me



00:00 Bones
 01:00 House Of DVF
 02:00 Married At First Sight
 03:00 Married At First Sight
 04:00 Married At First Sight
 05:00 Three
 06:00 How I Met Your Mother
 06:30 How I Met Your Mother
 07:00 Making Mr.Right
 08:00 Cedar Cove
 09:00 Cedar Cove
 10:00 Married At First Sight
 11:00 Married At First Sight
 12:00 Married At First Sight
 13:00 Three
 14:00 Da Vinci's Demons
 15:00 Transporter: The Series
 16:00 Private Practice
 17:00 Gallery Girls
 18:00 Grey's Anatomy
 19:00 Grey's Anatomy
 20:00 Project Accessory
 21:00 House Of DVF
 22:00 Bones
 23:00 Bones

00:00 Violetta
 00:45 The Hive
 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 01:40 Hank Zipzer
 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
 02:30 Violetta
 03:15 The Hive
 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 04:10 Hank Zipzer
 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
 05:00 Violetta
 05:45 The Hive
 05:50 Mouk
 06:00 Jessie
 06:25 Jessie
 06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
 06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 07:20 Star Darlings
 07:25 Austin & Ally
 07:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
 07:55 Jessie
 08:20 Descendants Wicked World
 08:25 Backstage
 08:50 Star Darlings
 08:55 Alex & Co.
 09:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
 09:25 Girl Meets World
 09:50 Stuck In The Middle
 10:15 Disney Cookabout
 10:40 Princess Protection Programme
 12:10 The 7D
 12:20 Stuck In The Middle

00:20 Extraordinary Pregnancies
 01:10 Secret Eskimo Escape
 02:00 Leah Remini: It's All Relative





Battleships

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A										
B										
C										
D										
E										
F										
G										
H										
I										
J										

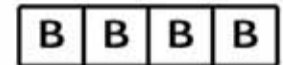


Ships

Aircraft carrier



Battleship



Cruisers



Destroyers



Submarines



Autumn Alphabet Challenge

Can you come up with an Autumn themed word 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 Leaf Counting

Count the number of leaves in each row and write the number in the box.

1.		<input type="text"/>
2.		<input type="text"/>
3.		<input type="text"/>
4.		<input type="text"/>
5.		<input type="text"/>
6.		<input type="text"/>





MANGO AND GRAZIA MIDDLE EAST MAGAZINE SHOWCASED AUTUMN/WINTER COLLECTION AT THE PROMENADE

KUWAIT: MANGO and Grazia Middle East magazine hosted MANGO's 2016 Autumn/Winter collection launched at an all-studded event at the fashion retailers store at The Promenade mall this month.

The evening cocktail event, took place on October 13 at MANGO's store, located on the ground floor at The Promenade, the neighborhood destination in the heart of Kuwait, Grazia Middle East Editor-in-Chief Alison Tay presented key pieces and looks for the coming season. Attendees met the Kuwaiti fashionista Yalda Golsharifi, celebrity bloggers, members of the media and VIP guests, as well as visitors of The Promenade mall took a sneak peek of what will hit the high street this autumn.

"MANGO has been one of the leading fashion trend setters in the region and it is exciting to be part of their latest event that provided our customers with an entertaining evening and insight into the brand and its latest collection," Alyah Al-Jasser, Marketing Manager at Al Othman Portfolio, the owner and charity fund of The Promenade mall.

Kicked off at 5 pm until 8 pm, MANGO, one of the leading global fashion groups founded in 1984 and Grazia Middle East entertained its guests with a photo wall and pass around canapes.

The event took place at The Promenade mall as part of a wider GCC campaign that launched in September across MANGO's regional stores promoting its latest clothing ranges to consumers and the media. The Barcelona-based brand has an extensive store network of 2,200 stores in 109 countries stocking its MANGO Woman, Man, Kids and Violeta lines.

Featuring five floors of shopping and entertainment, The Promenade mall provides top fashion brands, a gourmet supermarket and a variety of cafes and dining restaurants, while offering dedicated entertainment and health & leisure options such as a spa and ice skating rink.



RAISING A BABY IN A VEGAN LIFESTYLE

RIGHT WAY AND A WRONG WAY

PHILADELPHIA: There's a right way and a wrong way to raise a baby on vegan food. Those who get it wrong, parents say, give the responsible ones a bad name.

A Pennsylvania mother claiming to be vegan was charged this month with child endangerment for feeding her baby nothing but small amounts of nuts and berries. In Italy, after a number of vegan babies required hospitalization for malnourishment, a lawmaker this summer proposed a bill that would make it a crime to feed children under 16 a vegan

native of southern Italy is raising her 1-year-old son vegan, and her 12-year-old daughter is vegetarian. "To get a child to the point of starvation, it means you are ignoring him and his crying all the time," she said. "It's neglect."

Balanced diet possible

The American Academy of Pediatrics' book "Pediatric Nutrition" devotes a chapter to vegetarian and vegan diets. It describes how, with sound nutrition and dietary planning, "it is possible to provide a balanced diet

the only other option is a soy-based formula.

Key nutrients for babies are Vitamin B-12 and Vitamin D, as well as iron, zinc and calcium, Magge said. Getting enough B-12, which comes from milk and eggs, is a specific concern in the vegan diet, since a shortage can lead to neurological problems.

As babies nurse less and start consuming more solid foods, parents need to make sure all the nutrients necessary for proper development are being provided. A pediatrician can help guide parents and offer supplements if needed. In the Pennsylvania case, Elizabeth Hawk was charged Oct. 4 with endangering her 11-month-old son by restricting him to a diet of small amounts of fruit and nuts. Hawk, 30, of Farmington, became "obsessed" with a vegan diet, prompting her estranged husband to contact Fayette County child welfare workers, according to a criminal complaint.

Doctors determined in August that the baby had developmental delays and couldn't crawl because he was malnourished, according to the complaint. The malnourishment also worsened a bad rash, the complaint said. Calls seeking comment from Hawk, her former husband and the public defender's office weren't returned. Stories of vegan parents being arrested for malnourished children pop up every few years in the US, and the cases in Italy have made international news. In Arizona, Kimu Parker was arrested in April 2005 for nearly starving her three children with a diet she and the children's father called vegan. She was sentenced to 30 years in prison; the father, Blair Parker, got 15 years.

Death cases

In Florida in 2005, Joseph and Lamoy Andressohn got probation for neglect in the death of their 6-month-old son, who was fed only wheat grass, coconut water and almond milk. In Georgia, Jade Sanders and Lamont Thomas were sentenced to life in prison for the 2004 death of their 6-week-old son, who starved to death after they fed him a too-limited diet of soy milk and apple juice. Suzanne Lewis, a high school biology teacher in Reno, Nevada, who is raising her 8-year-old son vegan, feels more scrutinized when she hears such stories. "It makes me wonder if people are questioning me," she said. — AP



FORT COLLINS, COLORADO: In this Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016 photo, vegan mother Fulvia Serra holds her 1-year-old son, Sebastiano, at home.—AP

diet. Those cases are not about veganism at all, but are instead about neglect, say parents who are raising their children vegan. Pinning bad parenting on vegan diets, some say, unfairly stigmatizes those who have done their homework and are safely raising their babies without feeding them animal products like meat and dairy.

"They stress the elements of veganism in these stories, but it's not that these people aren't giving their children the right kind of food, it's that they aren't feeding them," said Fulvia Serra, of Fort Collins, Colorado. The

to vegetarians and vegans." "For children in general you can have a safe vegan diet, but it has to be in consultation with a pediatrician or health care provider," said Sheila Magge, an endocrinologist at the Children's National Health System and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' committee on nutrition. "These are critical times in brain development, and it has to be done carefully."

The ideal first food for babies is breast milk, Magge said. Many vegan moms opt to breastfeed, but for those who can't or don't,

FACEBOOK APOLOGIZES FOR REMOVING CANCER VIDEO

STOCKHOLM: Facebook has apologized for taking down a breast cancer awareness video because the images were flagged as offensive, saying the move was "an error". Swedish cancer charity Cancerfonden said Thursday that its video explaining to women how to check for suspicious lumps, featuring animated figures of women with circle-shaped breasts, had been removed from the US social networking site. "We find it incomprehensible and strange how one can perceive medical information as offensive," Cancerfonden communications director Lena Bjornstad told AFP. "This is information that saves lives," she said. "This prevents us from doing so." In a tongue-and-cheek open letter to Facebook, Cancerfonden had offered a different version of the offending round cartoon breasts.

"After having tried to meet your rules for several days without succeeding, we have now reached a solution which will hopefully satisfy you: two pink squares! This cannot possibly be offensive," the charity wrote, along with a picture of the new straight-edged breasts.

A Facebook spokeswoman later apologized for removing the video, saying: "We're very sorry, our team processes millions of advertising images each week, and in some instances we incorrectly prohibit ads. This image does not violate our ad policies. We apologize for the error and have let the advertiser know we are approving their ads." — AFP



HAVANA: US specialists in infectious diseases, top left, and Cuban specialists, right, attend a meeting at the Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute (IPK) on Wednesday.—AP



This image made available by Merck in October 2016 shows a vial and package for their GARDASIL 9 human papillomavirus vaccine. —AP

PRETEENS NEED ONLY 2 HPV SHOTS

NEW YORK: It's now easier for preteens to get the cervical cancer vaccine. The government on Wednesday quickly adopted a recommendation that preteens get two shots instead of three and space them further apart. Health officials hope that will boost the number of girls and boys who get vaccinated. "It will be simpler now for parents to get their kids the HPV vaccine series, and protect their kids from HPV cancers," said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The vaccine protects against human papillomavirus - or HPV - which can cause cervical cancer, certain other cancers and genital warts. It is commonly spread through sex and, in most cases, the virus doesn't cause any problems. But some infections gradually lead to cancer.

Health officials want kids to get HPV vaccinations at age 11 or 12, well before most first have sex and before they could be infected. But less than one-third of 13-year-old US boys and girls have gotten three doses. Busy parents have struggled with the old schedule, which called for three trips to the doctor within six months. "I know people who say 'I can't do that. Why even start?'" said Cynthia Pellegrini, a March of Dimes official who sits on the panel.

Recent studies have shown two doses of the current HPV vaccine - Gardasil 9 - work just as well in kids ages 9 to 14. The Food and Drug Administration two weeks ago said it could be given in two doses. What's more, two doses apparently work better when spaced six to 12 months apart. That means they could be given at annual checkups.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices made the recommendation at a meeting in Atlanta. The panel stuck with three doses for anyone who doesn't get their first shot until they turn 15. That's because they didn't have enough data on how well two doses worked in older kids.

The vaccine was first recommended in 2006 for girls, and then for boys in 2011 - partly to reduce the spread of HPV to girls. Vaccination rates have risen very slowly, and health officials have lamented the underuse of a potent cancer prevention tool.

Too many doctors have been timid about promoting the shots, experts say. That's at least partly because some parents have worried the vaccination seems like they are greenlighting their kids to have sex. But the onerous schedule sure didn't help. "I think it was the icing on the cake" for parents already hesitant about HPV shots, said Dr. William Schaffner, a vaccines expert at Vanderbilt University. Until recently, there were three HPV vaccines on the market. Now there's only one - Merck & Co.'s Gardasil 9. This month, the company stopped selling an older version. GlaxoSmithKline phased out its vaccine, Cervarix, in the US because of poor sales. —AP



AURORA, COLORADO: In this April 24, 2015 file photo, Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., speaks to members of the media following a US Senate delegation tour of the over-budget Veterans Administration hospital construction site. —AP

FEDS LOOK INTO CLAIM OF UNOFFICIAL VETERANS AFFAIRS WAIT LISTS

DENVER: Government investigators said they are looking into allegations that Department of Veterans Affairs employees in Colorado kept unofficial lists of veterans waiting for health care that could conceal how long it takes to get an appointment, possibly broadening a nationwide scandal.

The VA's internal watchdog announced an audit in a letter Wednesday's to Republican Sens. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Cory Gardner of Colorado. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter.

Johnson and Gardner asked for the inquiry after a whistleblower told them the lists were allegedly used at the Denver VA Medical Center and VA health clinics in Colorado Springs and the Denver suburb of Golden.

The inquiry by the VA's inspector general also will look into the whistleblower's allegations that records at the Colorado Springs clinic were falsified after a veteran took his own life while awaiting treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. Unofficial or secret lists have been used at VA facilities across the country to hide lengthy delays in care for veterans. Forty veterans died while waiting for appointments at a Phoenix VA hospital. The scandal led Congress to fund the Veterans Choice program, which allows veterans to seek private care at government expense if they have waited 30 days or longer. It also led to the ouster of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. —AP

EPA DELAYED FOR 7 MONTHS IN THE FLINT WATER CRISIS

'FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS'

WASHINGTON: The Environmental Protection Agency had sufficient authority and information to issue an emergency order to protect residents of Flint, Michigan, from lead-contaminated water as early as June 2015 - seven months before it declared an emergency, the EPA's inspector general said Thursday. The Flint crisis should have generated "a greater sense of urgency" at the agency to "intervene when the safety of drinking water is compromised," Inspector General Arthur Elkins said in an interim report.

Flint's drinking water became tainted when the city began drawing from the Flint River in April 2014 to save money. The impoverished city of 100,000 north of Detroit was under state control at the time. Regulators failed to ensure water was treated properly and lead from aging pipes leached into the water supply. Federal, state and local officials have argued over who's to blame as the crisis continues to force residents to drink bottled or filtered water. Doctors have detected elevated levels of lead in hundreds of children.

Who is accountable?

A panel appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder concluded that the state is "fundamentally accountable" for the lead crisis because of decisions made by state environmental regulators and state-appointed emergency managers who controlled the city. Even so, Snyder and other Republicans have faulted the EPA for a slow response. "As Gov. Snyder has stated all along, what happened in Flint was the result of failure of government at all levels," spokeswoman Anna Heaton said Thursday. State agencies have undergone "culture changes" and updated procedures to prevent a recurrence, so "it's encouraging to see other agencies undergoing evaluations that can result in improvements to help people here and across the nation," Heaton said.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver called the report "deeply troubling." Weaver, a Democrat who took office after the Flint crisis emerged, said agencies such as the EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are "in place to help ensure the well-being and safety of men, women and children, yet they failed when it comes to the man-made water disaster in Flint. Those responsible must be held accountable."



FLINT: In this Feb. 26, 2016, file photo, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder listens to a question after attending a Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee meeting. —AP

The report by the inspector general says officials at the EPA's Midwest region did not issue an emergency order because they concluded that actions taken by the state prevented the EPA from doing so. The report calls that interpretation incorrect and says that under federal law, when state actions are deemed insufficient, "the EPA can and should proceed with an (emergency) order" aimed at "protecting the public in a timely manner." Without EPA intervention, "the conditions in Flint persisted, and the state continued to delay taking action to require corrosion control or provide alternative drinking water supplies," the report said. Michigan officials declared a public health emergency in October 2015; the EPA declared an emergency three months later. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has acknowledged that her agency should have been more aggressive in testing the water and requiring changes, but told Congress that officials "couldn't get a straight answer" from the state about what was being done in Flint. Spokeswoman Monica Lee said Thursday that EPA issued an order in the Flint case "as soon as it became apparent that the city and state were failing to address the serious problems with the Flint drinking water system." — AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016



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 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	MARINA-1 KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES ASAL ABYAD ASAL ABYAD KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES SACRIFICE KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES SACRIFICE SACRIFICE	2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM
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		AL-KOUT.2 SACRIFICE	12:15 PM	AJIAL.4 WELCOME TO CENTRAL JAIL -Malayalam WELCOME TO CENTRAL JAIL -Malayalam WELCOME TO CENTRAL JAIL -Malayalam	3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Weather

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

FORECASTYWF OGR TO
 DPCWNTRTIN VTEBHD
 RITHOTENHENTSLEA
 ISHGOND MRUEUFIRN
 ZUGNHYS CPMNASZMR
 ZIU IPEAHOEHDCZOO
 LSONYSIRURRIEAMT
 ELRTTRAEEMMALREP
 IEDHSBUNNAILTDTF
 ECOGROHONAADIUER
 NOOIAERUPUCMIARE
 OLLLITSFQNTIRTHE
 LDFNTTASHOWEROYZ
 CYTILIBISIVOERTE
 YTIMONSOONONDLUS
 CCLOUDSEIRRULFSH

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| BAROMETER | FLOOD | ICE | STORM |
| BLIZZARD | FLURRIES | LIGHTNING | SUNNY |
| CELSIUS | FOG | MIST | TEMPERATURE |
| CLOUDS | FORECAST | MONSOON | THERMOMETER |
| COLD | FREEZE | OVERCAST | THUNDER |
| CYCLONE | FROST | RAIN | TORNADO |
| DOWNPOUR | HAIL | SHOWER | TSUNAMI |
| DRIZZLE | HOT | SLEET | TYPHOON |
| DROUGHT | HUMIDITY | SNOW | VISIBILITY |
| FAHRENHEIT | HURRICANE | SQUALL | WINDY |

Yesterday's Solution

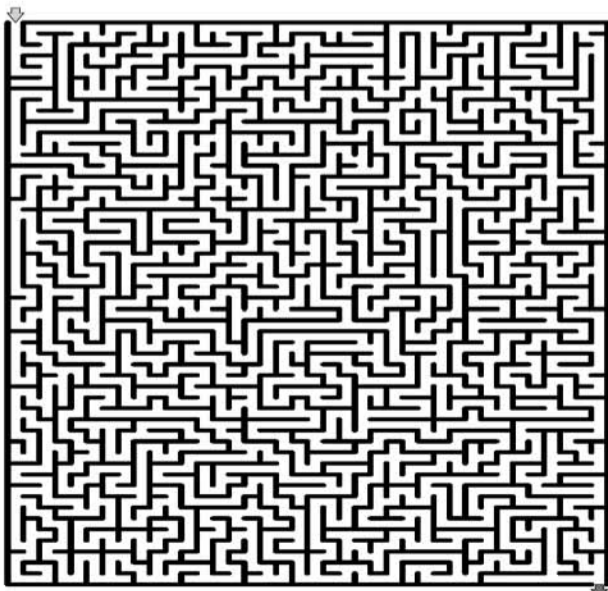
Restaurant

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

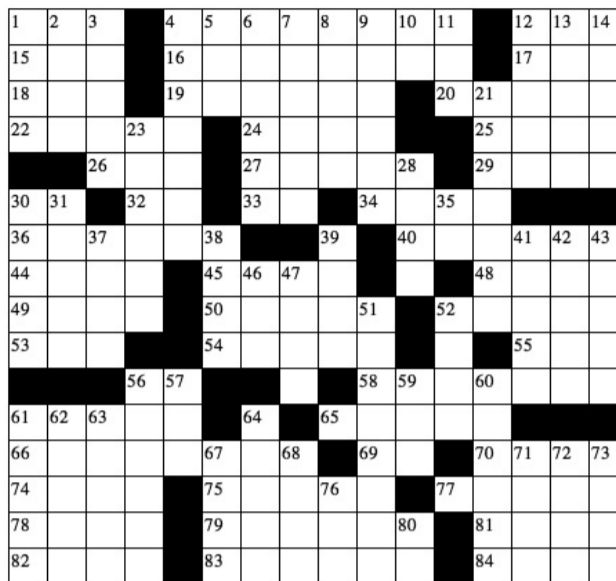
- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|------------|
| APERITIF | CUPS | MANAGER | SPOON |
| APPETIZER | CUSTOMER | MEAL | TABLECLOTH |
| BILL | DESSERT | MENU | TABLES |
| BUSBOY | DISHWASHERS | NAPKINS | TEA |
| CASHIER | DRINKS | ORDER | TIP |
| CHAIRS | ENTREE | PLATES | WAITER |
| CHEF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

The hidden word is: RESERVATION

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1407



ACROSS

- Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
- Terrestrial or epilithic ferns of tropical rain forests.
- A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
- A unit of length of thread or yarn.
- Sticking fast n.
- The basic unit of money in Romania.
- Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
- The line or plane indicating the limit or extent of something.
- British composer (1857-1934).
- Jordan's port.
- Hinge joint in the human leg connecting the tibia and fibula with the femur and protected in front by the patella.
- An account describing incidents or events.
- An associate degree in applied science.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A fractional monetary unit of several countries.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
- The larva of the housefly and blowfly commonly found in decaying organic matter.
- Of the same period.
- Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- Using speech rather than writing.
- Not final or absolute.
- A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
- A flour mixture stiff enough to knead or roll.
- Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
- New World chats.
- French romantic writer (1766-1817).
- To fix or set securely or deeply.
- A category in some early taxonomies.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- (Greek mythology) A sorceress who detained Odysseus on her island and turned his men into swine.
- A hairdo formed by braiding or twisting the hair.
- A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
- (Norse mythology) The heavenly dwelling of the Norse gods (the Aesir) and slain war heroes.
- A narrow way or road.
- Showing or causing joy and pleasure.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.

84. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).

DOWN

- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- Very spicy sauce made from tabasco peppers.
- The capital and largest city of Japan.
- One of the six playing periods into which the game of polo is divided.
- The cardinal number that is the sum of nine and one.
- A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
- Seal again.
- Not out.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
- Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
- Ruined by overcooking.
- Type genus of the Lycaenidae.
- Sturdy carnivorous burrowing mammal with strong claws widely distributed in the northern hemisphere v 1.
- German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
- The capital and chief port and largest city of Senegal.
- A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.
- Wild or seedling sweet cherry used as stock for grafting.
- Scottish chemist noted for his research into the structure of nucleic acids (born in 1907).
- Emblem usually consisting of a rectangular piece of cloth of distinctive design.
- A Roman Catholic priest who acts for another higher-ranking clergyman.
- (computer science) American Standard Code for Information Interchange.
- A woody climbing usually tropical plant.
- The former capital and 2nd largest city of Brazil.
- Starch resembling sago that is obtained from cuckoopint root.
- (Greek mythology) Fire-breathing she-monster with a lion's head and a goat's body and a serpent's tail.
- A wound resulting from biting.
- Used of the back and knees.
- The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.
- Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
- United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
- Or or relating to or caused by tides.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- A fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh and India and Nepal and Pakistan.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- (used as a sentenced connector) Therefore or consequently.
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
- Chief port of Yemen.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

BRILLIANT THOMAS UNSATISFIED DESPITE CIMB LEAD

KUALA LUMPUR: Justin Thomas was ho-hum over a bogey-free 66 yesterday, but that was hardly surprising for a defending champion who continued his mastery of the CIMB Classic to stay on top after 36 holes.

The 23-year-old American used pinpoint wedge shots to once again take advantage of ideal scoring conditions in sultry Malaysia with a six-under-par round, going to 14-under overall and two shots ahead of India's Anirban Lahiri. "It was a solid day. It was nothing special for sure. First seven holes, I didn't feel like I played very well," said Thomas, who shot a 64 on Thursday.

"I'm not crazy satisfied. I'm obviously happy with the round, and I probably would have taken it before the day

started but I definitely left some shots out there." It didn't show, however, on his six-birdie, no-bogey card, which kept him just off the record-setting pace he rode to victory last year.

Thomas won in 2015 by going 26-under-par for the event to earn his maiden PGA Tour title. It was the best showing yet in the tournament, which debuted in 2010. Lahiri nearly ended the day level with Thomas, however, but the 2015 Asian Tour Order of Merit champion faltered at the finish with a double-bogey seven on the par-five 18th hole.

"I've been playing well," said Lahiri. "It's just very disappointing to finish the way I did." "I would have liked to be in a better position the way I've played but

it's not over yet." Scotland's Russell Knox, James Hahn of the United States, and Hideki Matsuyama of Japan were another shot back of Lahiri at 11-under at the par-72 TPC Kuala Lumpur. Knox jumped into contention with a nine-birdie 63, the lowest score of the week so far, but a mark that may not last given the pace of scoring. Ryan Moore, a two-time CIMB Classic champ in 2013 and 2014, also stayed within sight of Thomas but he'll need a blistering weekend to catch up.

Moore, who clinched the winning point for the USA in the recent Ryder Cup, shot an eight-birdie 65. He is now six strokes back of Thomas at eight-under. Adam Scott, the highest-ranked golfer in the field at world number six,

saw his title challenge all but dissipate, managing only a three-under-par 69, nine strokes off the pace.

Scott had finished just a shot behind Thomas last year. As if to punctuate the tropical jungle setting, tournament officials had to remove a two-metre (six-foot) python from a fairway in the morning. However, the scaly spectator's appearance did not affect play, which hadn't yet started. The \$7 million tournament is jointly sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the PGA Tour and offers US\$1.26 million to the winner. It is the second event of the PGA Tour's 2017 schedule, and offers 500 points toward the FedEx Cup championship, as well as an invite to the winners-only 2017 Tournament of Champions. — AFP



TOKYO: International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach delivers a speech at World Forum on Sports and Culture in Tokyo, Thursday. Bach is in Japan amid tension between Olympic organizers and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, who is pushing to cut costs. — AP

BACH PROPOSES HOLDING 2020 EVENTS IN DISASTER AREA

TOKYO: IOC President Thomas Bach met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and suggested staging some events for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the northeastern region of Japan hit by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.

Bach said the International Olympic Committee is considering holding some of the baseball and softball games in the affected areas as "one of the options."

Fukushima is reportedly a strong candidate. Baseball and softball were dropped from the Olympics after Beijing 2008 but are among five sports added to the program for the 2020 Games. Both are very popular in Japan and an event in the disaster-affected areas could send a powerful message of reconstruction.

Bach said Abe welcomed his proposal. "We discussed ... the idea of the IOC to have some events of the Olympic games of Tokyo 2020 in the disaster-affected areas, to contribute to the regeneration of the area, to show the world by 2020 how this regeneration is making progress," Bach said.

"Baseball and softball are one of the options under discussion given the great popularity of the sport here in Japan," he told reporters. "So an inaugural match for baseball with the participation of the Japanese team, I think, could be a very powerful message."

The primary venue for baseball and softball is expected to be the Yokohama Stadium. Bach is in Japan amid tension between Olympic organizers and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, who is pushing to cut costs. A Tokyo government panel set up by Koike said the cost of the Olympics could exceed \$30 billion - four times the initial estimate - unless drastic cuts are made. The city panel also proposed moving three sports from planned new venues to existing ones including relocating rowing to a site hundreds of miles outside the capital. The IOC has suggested the possibility of moving rowing to an existing site in South Korea in case there is no resolution over the Japanese venue, the Asahi newspaper reported, quoting unidentified Japanese sources as saying. The South Korean venue in Chungju City hosted the 2013 world championships and rowing at the 2014 Asian Games. — AP

MINSK SELECTED TO HOST 2019 EUROPEAN GAMES

MINSK: The capital of Belarus was chosen yesterday to host the 2019 European Games, despite criticism of the country's human rights record and concerns over the cost of the event.

The European Olympic Committees approved Minsk - the only candidate - by an overwhelming majority to host the second edition of the multi-sport games. The Netherlands withdrew as host last year, citing financial worries.

"Belarus is not a superpower but we pay a lot of attention to sports," Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko told the EOC assembly before the vote. "You can count on Belarus."

Minsk was backed by a large majority of EOC assembly delegates despite objections from Norwegian and Danish representatives that the committee had rushed into picking Belarus without enough scrutiny.

"We don't know the concept or structure for the games. We don't know the financial consequences," Danish Olympic Committee general secretary Morten Moelholm Hansen told The Associated Press. "The greatest worry now is that we take a decision that we don't know anything about."

Lukashenko has been in power for more than 20 years in Belarus, a former Soviet republic where political opposition is tightly restricted. It is also the last country in Europe to use the death penalty.

After criticism of last year's inaugural European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan, on human rights grounds, EOC acting president Janez Kocijanic said there could be more of the same in Belarus in 2019.

"It might happen, of course," he told the AP. "You know, we are living in the times of democracy. Everybody is entitled to have his own opinion. What I would like to emphasize is that sport can come into any country, bringing in elements of democracy and free air. From our point of view, we will use sport as a tool of democracy."

The games in Baku involved lavish spending on new arenas and ceremonies, but failed to attract many top athletes. Belarus is focusing on quality

over quantity.

Kocijanic said the games would be "a little bit more modest but normal," but an "excellent games" in terms of the level of competition. Belarus Olympic Committee general secretary Anatoly Kotov said he expected to have between 10 and 15 sports on the program, compared to more than 20 last year.

Whether that will include swimming or track and field - traditionally the two Olympic sports with the largest following - is unclear. The European governing bodies for the two sports jealously guard the popularity of their own European championships, and have banded together to stage a joint event in 2018.

In Baku, swimming was held as a junior competition and track and field as a team event. "We want to see track and field but it must be competitions of the top division, qualifying for the Olympic Games," Kotov said. "It's completely possible we may have to go without some track and field disciplines, to be sure of 100 percent top level. If we can't do that, we'll have to make some sacrifices ... It's the same situation with aquatic events."

In his speech to the assembly,

Belarusian president Lukashenko urged more events from the European Games to be made qualifiers for the Olympics in order to attract more top athletes and fans, a position shared by the EOC.

Controlling spending is a key concern for Belarus, which is in recession and has asked the EOC and International Olympic Committee to provide financial support for the games, though it was not clear Friday whether that would be provided.

Minsk would likely need to spend far less than Baku to host the games, having built or refurbished many sports venues in recent years. The Belarusian capital hosted the world track cycling championships in 2013 and world ice hockey championships a year later.

After the Netherlands withdrew as host last year, Russia was the EOC's preferred backup choice for 2019. But Russia showed little interest in hosting the event, even before the IOC said the country was not an appropriate choice because of its doping scandals.

Doping is also a possible area of concern for Belarus, which has a record of performance-enhancing drug use in ice hockey, weightlifting and track and field. — AP



MINSK: Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko, foreground on a podium, speaks at the European Olympic Committees General Assembly in Minsk, Belarus, yesterday. The president of Belarus says his country is ready to host the 2019 European Games. — AP

WALTON AIMS TO GET LAKERS BACK ON SONG

LOS ANGELES: After two catastrophic seasons that were the worst in the club's history, Luke Walton is under no illusions about the size of the task facing him as he attempts to resurrect the Los Angeles Lakers.

The iconic California franchise looked to have hit rock bottom in the 2014-2015 campaign when the Lakers plunged to a 21-61 record in the Western Conference. But that low point turned out to be merely a staging post en route to a fresh nadir when they crashed to a worst-ever 17-65 season in 2015-2016. With Kobe Bryant heading off into retirement, and coach Byron Scott swiftly fired in April, the Lakers turned to Walton to begin the rebuilding process of the 16-time NBA champions.

A popular former Lakers forward-Walton spent

nine seasons at the club between 2003 and 2012 — the 36-year-old returns to Los Angeles having worked as an assistant to Steve Kerr at the Golden State Warriors from 2014.

That stint in the Bay Area included a spell at the start of last season when he was effectively standing in for Kerr as the Warriors head coach recovered from back surgery. Walton's spell in charge saw him oversee a record 24-0 start to the season, although under NBA rules the winning run was credited to Kerr.

Unsurprisingly, Walton envisages a long road back for the Lakers as they journey back from the lowest point in the franchise's history. "Patience will definitely be important, not only for me, but for the rest of the staff, the players, the fans, everybody," he said.

"It's important that we set our foundation, and that we set our goals and that we don't let whether we are winning or losing games take us from that path. We've got to stay the course, and keep looking at the big picture."

DANCING TO DIFFERENT TUNE

The Lakers will look to a blend of youth and experience as they attempt to revive their fortunes in the post-Bryant era. Veterans such as Luol Deng and Timofey Mozgov are among the additions to a roster that has a nucleus of young talent, including D'Angelo Russell, Jordan Clarkson and Brandon Ingram, the 19-year-old chosen second overall in last June's NBA Draft. — AFP



ORLANDO: Orlando Magic's Evan Fournier, right, gets possession of the ball against New Orleans Pelicans' Omer Asik, left, during the final seconds of overtime in an NBA preseason basketball game, Thursday, in Orlando, Fla. Orlando won 114-111 in overtime. — AP

DAVIS RETURNS WITH 33 POINTS IN PELICANS' LAST EXHIBITION

ORLANDO: The New Orleans Pelicans would have been happy just seeing Anthony Davis on the court. The way he played should make them ecstatic. The star forward returned sooner than expected from a sprained right ankle and had 33 points, 13 rebounds and four assists in the Pelicans' 114-111 overtime loss in Orlando on Thursday night. Davis was hurt Oct. 12 during a preseason game against Houston in China and the Pelicans said he was expected back in 10 days to two weeks, a timeline that could have meant missing the regular-season opener next Wednesday. But Davis made it back in about a week, returning to practice Wednesday and dominating right from the start of Thursday's game. He scored 16 points in 9 minutes of the first quarter as the Pelicans raced to a 38-22 lead. It would grow to 23 later in the game before Orlando rallied, then pulled it out

in OT after rookie Buddy Hield missed a chance to win it for New Orleans before the regulation buzzer. Terrence Jones added 20 points for the Pelicans, who finished 1-4. Evan Fournier scored 22 points as the Magic avoided a winless preseason. Serge Ibaka added 18.

HORNETS 96, HEAT 88

Kemba Walker had 17 points and six assists as the Hornets won the matchup of last teams who met in the first round of last season's playoffs. Frank Kaminsky added 16 points and six rebounds for the Hornets, who close their preseason schedule tonight against Minnesota. Rodney McGruder scored 16 points as the Heat, who beat the Hornets in seven games last spring, went largely with reserves. Okaro White finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds. Derrick Williams also scored 13 points. ... Hassan Whiteside shot 1 for 6 and had four

points in 15 minutes. ... Goran Dragic and Justise Winslow didn't play. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 10 points and 14 rebounds. Roy Hibbert added eight points, 11 boards and three blocked shots. ... Nicolas Batum scored 14 points but missed all three 3-point attempts.

KNICKS 116, NETS 111

Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points and the Knicks beat the Nets for the second time this preseason. Brooklyn played its starters into the final minutes and nearly came back, cutting the Knicks' lead to three before turning it over in the closing seconds. Jeremy Lin, who sat out the first meeting against his former team, led the Nets with 24 points and 10 assists. Coach Jeff Hornacek said he expects to meet with Derrick Rose on Friday to show him tape of what he missed while away from the team for his civil rape trial. — AP

OGWUMIKE LIFTS SPARKS TO WNBA TITLE, BEAT LYNX 77-76

MINNEAPOLIS: Nneka Ogwumike's short jumper with 3.1 seconds left gave the Los Angeles Sparks a 77-76 victory over the defending champion Minnesota Lynx for their first title in 14 years in the deciding game of the WNBA Finals on Thursday night. The league MVP joined her teammates in celebration as a stunned crowd slowly filed out after finishing with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Candace Parker had 28 points and 12 rebounds to earn MVP honors of the Finals. It was Parker's first WNBA title.

Rebekkah Brunson made one of two free throws with 23 seconds left to give the Lynx a 74-73 lead. Parker answered with a layup on the other end that Maya Moore countered with a jumper with 15 seconds remaining. Ogwumike's first try for the win was off the mark, but she worked her way over to the loose ball for another attempt that she coolly swished.

Lindsay Whalen's final shot from just inside halfcourt wasn't close, setting off Los Angeles' celebration. Moore had 23 points and 11 assists for the Lynx, who fell short of matching the WNBA record of four championships. The Houston Comets won four straight titles from 1997-2000. The Lynx played in the finals for the fifth time in the last six years. They won three.

Parker finally had help with the scoring when reserve Chelsea Gray reeled off 11 consecutive points for the Sparks. Gray capped that run with a smooth up-and-under layup to put them in front 60-59 early in the fourth quarter. Parker's putback with 3:06 left gave L.A. a 71-63 lead, putting the Lynx in trouble. But Moore seized the moment with a 3-pointer that brought Minnesota within four points, and Parker forced an off-balance 3 on the other end.

Lindsay Whalen stole the ball from Kristi Toliver and finished the fast break with a layup to tie the game at 71, setting up the final flurry. On the next play, Ogwumike hit a jumper that appeared to come after the shot clock expired. The officials signaled for a review, but never looked at the basket and Los Angeles led 73-71 with just over a minute left.

The WNBA's new postseason format with the field ordered by overall record regardless of conference sure worked well, leading to this classic matchup between the two teams that fought all summer for the top seed and featuring several of the league's biggest stars.

The game was remarkably close, with 11 lead changes and six ties in the first half alone. Moore gave Minnesota its biggest lead of the first 20 minutes with a pair of free throws in the closing seconds of the second quarter to make it 34-28.

The Sparks had an opportunity for a surge when Sylvia Fowles exited with an injury to her right hand, scoring on a fast break while Fowles was wincing in pain by the bench and out of the play and then picking up a bonus point on a free throw for Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve's technical foul.

Augustus and Renee Montgomery knocked down 3-pointers from the top of the key down the stretch of the third quarter, though, and Fowles soon re-entered the game. She made her presence felt with a powerful take to the rim for a layup and a 53-47 lead. With the area schools out for fall conferences and the Lynx with the chance to repeat as champions for the first time, the crowd at Target Center was predictably packed to the rafters and bouncing to the blaring hip-hop beats well before tipoff. The sea of green T-shirts displaying the team slogan "Roar," donned by roughly 90 percent of the fans, produced a deafening soundtrack from start to finish befitting a game for the trophy. — AP

ALL BLACKS EYE HISTORY IN 'MASSIVE' GAME

AUCKLAND: The All Blacks said they were primed to make history and Australia did their best to shut down the hype yesterday as the world champions seek a record-breaking 18th consecutive Test win.

Despite a pressure-laden build-up, captain Kieran Read was in a relaxed and jovial mood ahead of yesterday's game at Auckland's Eden Park, which has been a fortress for the All Blacks. "The boys are excited. We're up for this challenge. It's going to be a massive game, I'm really looking forward to it," said Read. "Obviously, it hasn't been done in the history of tier-one nations. As a game against Australia, we've got to prepare like all the other games where we've been successful." Victory on Saturday would break a 47-year-old record which was set by New Zealand in 1965-1969 and has been equalled twice, by South Africa in 1997-1998 and the All Blacks in 2013-2014. The hosts have won their last 35 Tests at Eden Park, where

Australia haven't tasted success for 30 years-but the Wallabies do have a habit of snapping All Blacks winning streaks. In 2010 they stopped a run of 15 All Blacks victories. They halted a 16-match winning streak in 2012 and two years later, a 12-12 draw in Sydney left the All Blacks stranded on 17. But while the All Blacks named their strongest possible line-up, the Wallabies opted for an experimental team. Coach Michael Cheika made four changes to their side that beat Argentina 33-21 two weeks ago, saying he wanted a "different feel" for the game as he looked to the future. The Wallabies this year have been way below the form that took them to the World Cup final 11 months ago and for Cheika, it meant going back to the drawing board. "We understand that instead of moaning and complaining about not having depth we've got to go out there and create," he said, adding that playing the All Blacks "will be excellent in giving us experience."

'NOT JUST ANOTHER GAME'

Most of Australia's current players weren't even born when the Wallabies last won in Auckland, but Cheika was not interested in revisiting history. "Every Test match is a big occasion. If we start thinking about those things and thinking what's not possible you'll come up with a negative answer," he said Friday after putting his side through their one training run in New Zealand. "You'd be blind not to see that we haven't done well here for a fair while but if you don't have the dream or conception inside that you can go out there and do it then it's never going to happen." Although the All Blacks are overwhelming favourites, Read said the All Blacks knew from past experience that they couldn't take the Wallabies lightly. "We've learned that it isn't just another game. When you've got something on the line oppositions raise their game and we've got to certainly raise ours," he said. — AFP

TOP-RANKED KERBER LOOKS TO END YEAR ON A HIGH

SINGAPORE: The absence of Serena Williams may have robbed the season-ending WTA Finals of a blockbuster showdown with Angelique Kerber, but the great American's withdrawal only means more accolades for the world number one from Germany after her breakout year. Regardless of how she performs in Singapore, Kerber will be presented with the year-end number one trophy after Williams, the only woman with any chance of overtaking her at the top of the rankings, pulled out of the elite eight-player tournament with a shoulder injury.

Kerber will become just the 12th woman to finish the year ranked number one since computer rankings were introduced in 1975, and no one would begrudge the 28-year-old's claim to the title after a career-best season in which she lifted the Australian and US Open trophies and finished runner-up at Wimbledon and the Rio Olympics.

"This is one of the things I have been dreaming of," Kerber said. "I have worked extremely hard to become the best player I can be and this is a reflection of that effort and the wonderful year I have had." With the ranking trophy safely in the bag, Kerber now has her sights on picking up another major piece of silverware, the Billie Jean King Trophy for the winner of the prestigious end-of-season tournament.

DEEP FIELD

Restricted to the world's top eight players, the WTA Finals is regarded as the most important annual event in women's tennis outside the four majors, boasting a star-studded honour roll.

While Williams has won the tournament five times, Kerber has only qualified twice before, in 2012 and 2013, bowing out in the round-robin phase each time, giving her added incentive to cap her year by winning the October 30 final. She will go into the event as the favourite this time but facing a tough challenge from a strong and deceptively deep field, which includes last year's winner, Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, and reigning French Open champion Garbine Muguruza of Spain.

Muguruza had her own breakout year in 2015, reaching the Wimbledon final then the semis in her first appearance at the WTA Finals. This year, the 23-year-old went one better, claiming her first major when she upset Williams in the French Open final. She now wants to make another statement on the indoor court of Singapore.

"I think the important tournaments are the ones you've got to play well, the ones that really count, the ones that really take you to the top level," she said.

"I just have a very aggressive game. I go for my shots with no regrets, even if I have to play to the fence." Romania's Simona Halep, runner-up two years ago, has also qualified for Singapore, along with Czech Karolina Pliskova, who ended Williams' reign as world number one in the semi-finals of the US Open, as well as American Madison Keys and Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia. Even though the tournament starts on Sunday, the last qualifying spot remains undecided with Britain's Johanna Konta tentatively booked to compete but at risk of being overtaken in the rankings by Svetlana Kuznetsova, if the Russian wins this weekend's Kremlin Cup in Moscow. — AFP



Duaij Al-Otaibi



Shaha and Sarah Al-Hawal

HH THE CROWN PRINCE SHOOTING TOURNAMENT TO CONCLUDE TODAY

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Shooting Tournament comes to a conclusion this evening in the presence of Crown Prince representative Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Several activities were prepared by the higher organizing committee to go along with the closing ceremony in addition to distributing cups and prizes.

The start of the tournament was very strong and competition was fierce to have the honor of winning of the tournament which launches the 2016/2017 season.

President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations, Deputy President of Kuwait Olympic Committee thanked Crown Prince's Paternal support of Kuwaiti athletes and his keen interest in the development of the shooting sport.

Al-Otaibi said that we are launching the local shooting

sports season with a dear tournament to all shooters and having the name of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who always accustomed us on supporting athletes in Kuwait. He said Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex is hosting Kuwaiti and Gulf shooters from Qatar, Bahrain and UAE in a tournament that covers all Olympic events pistol, rifle, shotgun and archery.

He added that the complex is distinguished by having all facilities required, and Kuwait shooters are ready and all are capable of winning.

Results of the tournament were as follows:

In the double trap event men, Hamad Al-Afasi was first, followed by UAE's Khalid Al-Kaabi, while third place went to Hamad Al-Afasi.

In the 10m air rifle men Abdallah Al-Harby was first, Mohammad Adel second and Khalid Al-Subaie third.

In the 10m pistol Ali Al-Mutairi was first followed by Hamed Al-Namshan in second and Mideth Al-Sahly third.

In the 10m air pistol women Israa Bahmun first, Huthama Al-Baghly second and Israa Dashti third.

In the 10m air rifle women, Heba Erzouqi first, Mariam Erzouqi second and Muneera Al-Anjari third.

In skeet women event Sheikhha Al-Rashidi ended in first place, followed by Fatima Al-Zaabi and Afrah Mohammad was in third place.

In the trap women event, Sarah Al-Hawal took first place followed by Shahad Al-Huwal in second and Asma Al-Qatami in third.



A shooter in action



Sarah Al-Hawal in action

CANUCKS STAY PERFECT, DEFEAT SABRES

VANCOUVER: Jannik Hansen scored his 100th NHL goal as the Vancouver Canucks defeated the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 Thursday to tie a franchise record for the best start to a season. Daniel Sedin, on a power play, also scored for the Canucks, who are 4-0-0 and the NHL's only unbeaten team. The last time Vancouver started a season 4-0-0 was 1992. Rookie Nicholas Baptiste scored for the Sabres. Canucks goaltender Jacob Markstrom, who was making his third consecutive start, made 26 saves. Sabres goalie Robin Lehner stopped 18 shots.

DUCKS 3, FLYERS 2

Ryan Garbutt's goal 11:34 into the third period broke a tie and gave Anaheim its first win of the season. Chris Wagner and Corey Perry also scored for the Ducks, who got 20 saves from goaltender John Gibson. Wayne Simmonds and Matt Read scored for the Flyers.

PENGUINS 3, SHARKS 2

In a rematch of the Stanley Cup final, Pittsburgh scored three times in the third period to come back and beat San Jose at PPG Paints Arena. Patric Hornqvist scored the winner on a power play at 14:02 of the third. Evgeni Malkin and Scott Wilson also scored for the Penguins and Tomas Hertl and Patrick Marleau scored for the Sharks.

BRUINS 2, DEVILS 1

Patrice Bergeron made a triumphant return to the Boston lineup, scoring with 1:15 left to give his team a come-from-behind victory over New Jersey. Bergeron, who missed the first three games of the season with a lower body injury, made his 2016-17 debut in his team's home opener and scored the winner off a pass from Brad Marchand, who scored the other goal for the Bruins. Kyle Palmieri scored on the power play for the Devils' goal.

CAPITALS 4, PANTHERS 2

Alex Ovechkin scored a tiebreaking goal on a deflection with 12:27 left in the third period to lead Washington over Florida at the BB&T Center. Marcus Johansson, Justin Williams and Evgeny Kuznetsov also scored for the Capitals, while Braden Holtby earned the win with 26 saves. Jaromir Jagr, 44, recorded career goal No. 750 and rookie defenseman Michael



VANCOUVER: Buffalo Sabres goalie Robin Lehner (40) keeps his eye on a shot from Vancouver Canucks center Brandon Sutter (20) during second-period of NHL hockey game action in Vancouver, British Columbia, Thursday. — AP

Matheson scored his second for the Panthers. Matheson is half Jagr's age.

AVALANCHE 4, LIGHTNING 0

Colorado responded with a victory against previously undefeated Tampa Bay at Amalie Arena. Matt Duchene scored his first two goals of the season and added an assist while Patrick Wiercioch finished with a pair of assists. Carl Soderberg notched his second of the season, Andreas Martinsen scored his first and Semyon Varlamov

recorded his 21st career shutout after finishing with 27 saves. Ben Bishop took the loss for Tampa Bay, stopping 12 shots.

CANADIENS 5, COYOTES 2

Five different goal-scorers helped Montreal top Arizona at the Bell Centre. Alexei Emelin, Torrey Mitchell, Shea Weber, Alex Galchenyuk and Artturi Lehkonen each scored for the Canadiens, who has scored at least three goals in each of their first four games. Jakob Chychrun and Laurent Dauphin scored for the Coyotes, who have allowed 12 goals in their last two games. Montreal's Carey Price, making his first regular season start since Nov. 25, 2015, made 27 saves. Louis Domingue allowed four goals on 19 shots before he was lifted for Justin Peters. Peters stopped 23 shots in relief.

WILD 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2

Eric Staal scored his second goal of the game midway through the third period as Minnesota stayed unbeaten at home, coming from behind for a win over Toronto. Goalie Devan Dubnyk's 31 saves, combined with earlier goals by Zac Dalpe and Staal helped improve the Wild to 3-1-0, as they swept a three-game homestand. The Maple Leafs got goals from Roman Polak and rookie Auston Matthews.

KINGS 4, STARS 3 (OT)

Martinez scored the game-winner 1:20

into overtime, giving Los Angeles its first win of the season, against Dallas at American Airlines Center. Jeff Carter and Tanner Pearson each had a goal and an assist for the Kings, who also got a goal from Nic Dowd. Petr Budaj stopped 17 of 20 shots. Jason Spezza had a goal and an assist and Tyler Seguin two assists for Dallas, which also got goals from Radek Faksa and Jamie Benn.

OILERS 3, BLUES 1

Edmonton captain Connor McDavid ended a two-game scoring drought 36 seconds into the third period when he set up Milan Lucic to give for the go-ahead goal against St. Louis. McDavid then iced the game with an empty netter in the final minute. Tyler Pitlick, the Oilers second round choice in 2010, also scored. Nail Yakupov, the former top-overall pick by the Oilers who was traded to the Blues prior to the season, scored for St. Louis.

HURRICANES 4, FLAMES 2

Carolina goaltender Eddie Lack made 26 saves for his fifth win in seven career starts against Calgary. Teuvo Teravainen, Victor Rask, Viktor Stalberg and Jeff Skinner scored for the Hurricanes, who started the season with a six-game road trip. Johnny Gaudreau, who signed a six-year \$40.5 million contract the day before the season began, scored his first of the season for the Flames. Troy Brouwer also scored for Calgary. —Reuters

NHL results/standings

Boston 2, New Jersey 1; Anaheim 3, Philadelphia 2; Pittsburgh 3, San Jose 2; Montreal 5, Arizona 2; Colorado 4, Tampa Bay 0; Washington 4, Florida 2; Minnesota 3, Toronto 2; Los Angeles 4, Dallas 3 (OT); Carolina 4, Calgary 2; Edmonton 3, St. Louis 1; Vancouver 2, Buffalo 1.

Western Conference							Eastern Conference							
Central Division							Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS									
St. Louis	3	1	1	13	11	7	Montreal	3	0	1	16	7	7	
Minnesota	3	1	0	15	11	6	Boston	3	1	0	13	9	6	
Colorado	3	1	0	14	11	6	Ottawa	3	1	0	17	16	6	
Dallas	2	1	1	14	13	5	Tampa Bay	3	1	0	13	13	6	
Chicago	2	2	0	16	15	4	Florida	2	1	1	11	10	5	
Winnipeg	2	2	0	14	16	4	Detroit	2	2	0	12	12	4	
Nashville	1	2	0	7	9	2	Toronto	1	1	2	14	14	4	
							Buffalo	1	2	1	11	12	3	
Pacific Division							Metropolitan Division							
Vancouver	4	0	0	10	6	8	Washington	3	0	1	11	6	7	
Edmonton	4	1	0	20	16	8	Pittsburgh	3	1	1	12	14	7	
San Jose	3	2	0	14	15	6	NY Rangers	2	2	0	15	12	4	
Anaheim	1	3	1	10	14	3	Carolina	1	1	2	13	14	4	
Calgary	1	3	1	14	21	3	New Jersey	1	2	1	6	8	3	
Arizona	1	2	0	10	15	2	Philadelphia	1	2	1	13	16	3	
Los Angeles	1	3	0	10	15	2	NY Islanders	1	3	0	9	12	2	
							Columbus	0	2	0	5	9	0	

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

YOUNIS LEADS PAKISTAN CHARGE

ABU DHABI: Younis Khan showed no signs of weakness after recovering from dengue fever to score a brilliant century as Pakistan dominated the opening day of the second Test against the West Indies in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The 38-year-old, who missed Pakistan's 56-run victory in the first Test in Dubai with illness, smashed 127 to carry Pakistan, who won the toss, to 304-4 at the close at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Younis finally holed out to deep mid-wicket off part-timer Kraigg Brathwaite after five hours at the crease, with fading light prompting the umpires to halt the day six overs before the scheduled close. Skipper Misbah-ul-Haq was unbeaten on 90 — just ten runs short of his 11th hundred as Pakistan's batsmen dominated on a batting-friendly pitch. Younis, who hit ten boundaries and a six, added 175 for the fourth wicket with Misbah and 87 for the third with Asad Shafiq who made 68. It was again the two veteran batsmen—Younis and Misbah—who put Pakistan on track for another big total with their 15th hundred partnership in 49 innings.

Misbah, who has now equalled Imran Khan's record of most Test matches as Pakistan captain with 48, hit two sixes and four boundaries as he worked in tandem with Younis to build an imposing total. West Indies were guilty of sloppy fielding with Younis dropped on 83 when Brathwaite failed to hold a return catch off his own bowling and wicket-keeper Shai Hope handing Misbah a lifeline on 54 off paceman Shannon Gabriel. Gabriel was the best of the bowlers with 2-43. It was Younis's 33rd Test hundred and 11th in the United Arab Emirates—where Pakistan have been forced to host international fixtures because of security fears back home.

He drove spinner Roston Chase for his eighth boundary to complete his hundred—his 31st score of over 100 without being dismissed in nineties—the most in Test cricket.

Younis and Shafiq led the early recovery after Pakistan lost openers Azhar Ali (nought) and Sami Aslam (six) in the first hour. Shafiq batted well in the extended two-and-a-half hour first session due to Friday prayers, hitting seven boundaries before playing on to Gabriel. Ali, who scored a career best 302 not out in Dubai, played on to Gabriel in the fifth over before Aslam was bowled by leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo attempting an ambitious drive.

Pakistan, who lead the three-match series 1-0 after winning the first Test in Dubai by 56 runs, brought in Younis, Zulfiqar Babar and Rahat Ali as they made three changes to their line-up. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

ABU DHABI: Scoreboard at stumps on the first day in the second Test between Pakistan and West Indies yesterday in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan 1st innings

S. Aslam b Bishoo	6
Az. Ali b Gabriel	0
A. Shafiq b Gabriel	68
Y. Khan c Chase b K. Brathwaite	127
Misbah-ul-Haq not out	90
Extras (lb-6 nb-7)	13
Total (for 4 wickets, 84 overs)	304
Fall of wickets: 1-6 Az. Ali, 2-42 S. Aslam, 3-129 A. Shafiq, 4-304 Y. Khan	
To bat: S. Ahmed, M. Nawaz, Y. Shah, S. Khan, Z. Babar, R. Ali	
Bowling: S. Gabriel 14-1-43-2 (nb-7), M. Cummins 15-1-43-0, J. Holder 14-4-31-0, D. Bishoo 20-0-92-1, R. Chase 12-0-53-0, K. Brathwaite 9-0-36-1.	



CHITTAGONG: Bangladesh's Tamim Iqbal defends a yorker ball during the second day of their first cricket test match against England in Chittagong, Bangladesh, yesterday. — AP

STOKES' LATE STRIKE PUTS ENGLAND EVEN

CHITTAGONG: Tamim Iqbal scored a half-century as Bangladesh made a solid start yesterday against England in the first Test in Chittagong before skipper Mushfiqur Rahim was bowled just before the close.

England paceman Ben Stokes dismissed Rahim three overs before the stumps after the Bangladesh captain looked to have taken his side to a comfortable position with a solid innings of 48 runs. Bangladesh survived some anxious moments after Rahim's dismissal to finish the second day with 221-5, trailing England's first innings total of 293 runs by 72 with five wickets in hand.

Shakib Al Hasan, who shared 58 runs with Rahim for the fifth wicket, remained unbeaten on 31 overnight along with nightwatchman Shafiul Islam, who was yet to open his account. Tamim earlier top-scored with 78 for the home side, his 19th half-century and fifth against England, before he got a top edge when he attempted a cut off off-spinner Gareth Batty.

Tamim, who hit seven fours, added 90 runs with Mahmudullah (38) for the third wicket to steady Bangladesh's innings after Moeen Ali took two wickets in one over before the lunch break to rattle them.

Tamim got a reprieve at 55 through a television review after being given out just before the tea break. Adil Rashid, who earlier dropped a tough catch of Tamim at 28 off Moeen, broke the left-handers' partnership when he had Mahmudullah caught at slip by Joe Root. The hosts had been 29-2 at lunch after Moeen bowled opener Imrul Kayes for 21 off his very first ball and then had Mominul Haque caught by Stokes at

slip for a duck. Earlier, 18-year-old debutant off-spinner Mehedi Hasan claimed the final wicket of Stuart Broad to finish with 6-80 as England added just 35 runs to their overnight 258-7 before they were all out. Left-arm Taijul Islam took the other two wickets that fell in the morning in England's innings to return with the figures of 2-47.

Taijul dismissed overnight batsman Chris Woakes (36) off the first ball of the day as Mominul took the catch at forward short leg. Adil Rashid was given out leg-before off Mehedi in the next over but the decision was overturned after review as replays indicated the ball had been missing leg stump.

Rashid made good use of his fortune

to score a brisk 26 before a fine diving catch at cover by Sabbir Rahman off Taijul ended his innings.

Broad also profited from the Decision Review System as he was given out by umpire Kumar Dharmasena off Taijul before it was overturned.

In a nightmare Test for the umpires, with eight of their decisions overturned in five sessions, Bangladesh also benefited from the review system at the end of the England innings. Umpire Chris Gaffaney initially declared Broad not out off Mehedi, but wicketkeeper Rahim immediately demanded a review which showed the ball took a sharp edge before going into the hands of the captain. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

CHITTAGONG: Scoreboard yesterday at the end of England's first innings in the first test against Bangladesh at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium:

England 1st Innings (overnight 258-7)	Mahmudullah 2-0-17-0, Mominul Haque 1-1-0-0.
Alastair Cook b Al Hasan	4
Ben Duckett b Mhasan	14
Joe Root c Rahman b Mhasan	40
Gary Ballance lbw Mhasan	1
Moeen Ali c Rahim b Mhasan	68
Ben Stokes b Al Hasan	18
Jonny Bairstow b Mhasan	52
Chris Woakes c Haque b Tislam	36
Adil Rashid c Rahman b Tislam	26
Chris Broad c Rahim b Mhasan	13
Gareth Batty not out	1
Extras: (14b, 4lb, 2w)	20
TOTAL: (all out)	293
Overs: 105.5.	
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-18, 3-21, 4-83, 5-106, 6-194, 7-237, 8-258, 9-289, 10-293.	
Bowling: Shafiul Islam 9-1-33-0, Mehedi Hasan 39.5-7-80-6, Kamrul Islam 8-0-41-0 (2w), Shakib Al Hasan 19-6-46-2, Taijul Islam 24-11-47-2, Sabbir Rahman 3-0-11-0,	
Bangladesh 1st Innings	
Tamim Iqbal c Bairstow b Batty	78
Imrul Kayes b Ali	21
Mominul Haque c Stokes b Ali	0
Mahmudullah c Root b Rashid	38
Mushfiqur Rahim c Bairstow b Stokes	48
Shakib Al Hasan not out	31
Shafiul Islam not out	0
Extras: (4lb, 1w)	5
TOTAL: (for 5 wickets)	221
Overs: 74	
Still to bat: Sabbir Rahman, Mehedi Hasan, Taijul Islam, Kamrul Islam.	
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-29, 3-119, 4-163, 5-221.	
Bowling: Stuart Broad 8-2-12-0, Gareth Batty 17-1-51-1, Chris Woakes 7-2-15-0 (1w), Adil Rashid 13-1-51-1, Moeen Ali 19-2-66-2, Ben Stokes 8-3-17-1, Joe Root 2-0-5-0.	

TOP BRITISH OFFICIAL DRAKE TO STEP DOWN IN 2017

LONDON: Ian Drake, the man who has presided over a golden era for British Cycling, will step down as chief executive in April, the governing body announced yesterday.

His decision comes after a difficult year for the organisation that saw technical director Shane Sutton quit in April after allegations of sexist and discriminatory remarks. British Cycling has also been dragged into the controversy surrounding Team Sky's use of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs), including for former Tour de France winner Bradley Wiggins. The organisation also said this month it was "cooperating fully" with UK Anti-Doping who were investigating allegations of "wrongdoing within cycling".

Drake, who has been involved with British Cycling for 20 years, the last eight as chief executive, confirmed that he will be leaving but not as a result of the ongoing controversies. "Some time ago I made the decision that the Rio Games would be my last as CEO of British Cycling," Drake, who took charge in 2009, said in a statement.

"Now, following the success of our Olympic and Paralympic teams at those Games, the launch of our innovative new partnership with HSBC UK and Yorkshire's successful bid to host the 2019 Road World Championships, I believe that the end of this Olympic cycle is the natural moment for a new CEO to take the organisation forward

into the Tokyo Games and beyond. "So it has been a difficult year but my decision to move on is completely separate to that (the allegations). It's just the time is right," he added.

The British Cycling board will begin the search for a new chief executive.

"Ian has been a pivotal figure in it all," Howden said in a statement on British Cycling's website (www.britishcycling.org.uk).

"It is also testament to his commitment to the organisation that he has chosen to announce this now so that we have time to conduct a comprehensive search for his successor." There is no suggestion of any wrongdoing by Team Sky, Wiggins or British Cycling and they have received support from UCI

president Brian Cookson.

But the furore, including a claim by former Team Sky rider Jonathan Tiernan-Locke that he was offered the controversial painkiller Tramadol when competing at the road world championships four years ago, threatens to tarnish the reputation of British Cycling.

During Drake's reign Britain has grown into a cycling powerhouse and amateur participation has spiked massively. Britain has won 20 of the 30 gold medals up for grabs in cycling at the past three Olympics. Wiggins became Britain's first Tour de France winner in 2012 and compatriot Chris Froome has won it three times since. — Reuters

CRUTCHLOW FASTEST AS RAIN RUINS PRACTICE

PHILLIP ISLAND: Heavy rain ruined yesterday's opening practice sessions for this weekend's Australian MotoGP with Cal Crutchlow squeezing in the fastest lap time at Phillip Island.

The morning session was completed but following a 40-minute delay, afternoon practice was red-flagged after just 14 minutes as incessant rain made conditions too dangerous to continue. British Honda rider Crutchlow, seventh behind newly crowned world champion Marc Marquez on the championship standings, posted a best lap of one minute 40.957 seconds in the morning. He put in only eight laps to record his best time as riders were severely hampered by the slippery conditions around the island circuit.

Italian Danilo Petrucci on a Ducati was second fastest ahead of Australian hope Jack Miller, riding a Honda. Valentino Rossi, vying with Movistar Yamaha team-mate Jorge Lorenzo to be this season's championship runner-up, was initially second, 0.041secs behind Crutchlow.

But the nine-time world champion ran into strife for exceeding the 10-lap limit on one of the Michelin wet tyres, and race stewards deleted his lap times set on that rubber compound. That relegated the Italian legend to the 20th-fastest time, just one slot behind team-mate Lorenzo.

"The conditions were very difficult. This morning we were able to ride for 20 minutes in acceptable conditions and I was quite strong," Rossi said. "In the afternoon the temperature went down and the amount of water was too much, so unfortunately we couldn't ride."

'TOO MUCH WATER'

Marquez, who at 23 became the youngest rider to win three premier-class world championship titles with victory last week in Japan, was fourth fastest with a best lap of 1:41.511. "Although it rained all day, in the morning we put in a few laps, but at the end of the session we had to stop because there was too much water on the track," Marquez said. "This afternoon it was also raining, making it dangerous to ride, we decided not to go out because it was an unnecessary risk."

Lorenzo, who was pipped by Marquez by just 0.249 seconds in last year's Phillip Island race, had a troubled opening practice and recorded only the 19th best time of 1:45.651 in a disastrous day for the Movistar Yamaha team.

"I exited the pit lane quite late this morning and I didn't make so many laps on the first run," Lorenzo said. "I was progressing slowly, but I stopped too early and when I tried the second bike there was already more water on the track, so I did just one more lap."

Marquez holds an unassailable 77-point lead in the standings with three races to go, starting this weekend at Phillip Island. The Moto3 riders got in the two scheduled practice sessions but the Moto2 teams lost the afternoon session entirely to rain.

Riders will have further practice sessions on Saturday ahead of qualifying for Sunday's third-last MotoGP of the season. The forecast is for continuing showers but at this stage Sunday's race has only a medium chance of showers. —AFP



LOS ANGELES: Addison Russell #27 of the Chicago Cubs turns a double play as Justin Turner #10 of the Los Angeles Dodgers is out at second base in the eighth inning in game five of the National League Division Series at Dodger Stadium on Thursday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

CUBS BEAT DODGERS 8-4, HEAD HOME WITH 3-2 LEAD

LOS ANGELES: One win away. Two chances at home. Seven decades of waiting. The Chicago Cubs closed in on their first World Series trip since 1945 by beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-4 on Thursday in Game 5 of their National League playoff. Jon Lester pitched seven sharp innings, Addison Russell hit a tiebreaking homer and the Cubs grabbed a 3-2 lead in the NL Championship Series. On deck, a pair of opportunities to wrap up that elusive pennant at Wrigley Field.

"The city of Chicago has got to be buzzing pretty much right now," manager Joe Maddon said. "We're not going to run away from anything. It's within our reach right now." The Cubs' first opportunity to clinch comes Saturday night in Game 6, when Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw faces major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks.

"That's a game we expect to win," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said. Of course, the Cubs were in the same favorable position 13 years ago - heading home

to Wrigley with a 3-2 lead in the NLCS. But even with ace pitchers Mark Prior and Kerry Wood starting the final two games, Chicago collapsed against the Marlins in one of its most excruciating failures.

More than a decade later, the franchise is still chasing its first World Series championship since 1908. "We've heard the history," center fielder Dexter Fowler said, "but at the same time we're trying to make history." Budding star Javier Baez was in the middle of everything for the Cubs, a common theme this October. The second baseman made a sensational defensive play when the game was still close in the seventh, and his three-run double capped a five-run eighth that made it 8-1. After busting out of his postseason slump Wednesday, Russell hit a two-run homer for the second straight game. This one was a sixth-inning drive off losing pitcher Joe Blanton that gave Chicago a 3-1 lead.

"Just rounding the bases, it was pretty exciting," Russell said. "Pumped up, not

only for myself but for the team and that little cushion that Jonny had to go forward from that." Baez had three of Chicago's 13 hits, matching the team's total in Game 4, when the Cubs snapped a 21-inning scoreless streak and won 10-2.

Lester allowed one run and five hits, improving to 2-0 in three playoff starts this year. He has given up two runs in 21 innings. The left-hander struck out six and walked one in a slow-paced game that lasted 4 hours, 16 minutes.

"These guys won the game for us," Lester said, nodding toward Russell and Baez. "I was just kind of along for the ride." Anthony Rizzo's run-scoring double gave the Cubs a 1-0 lead in the first. Los Angeles tied it in the fourth on Adrian Gonzalez's RBI groundout. Russell homered on an 0-1 pitch from Blanton, who gave up a single to Baez leading off the sixth. Baez stole second before Russell's shot to left-center put the Cubs ahead on another unusually hot night at Dodger Stadium.—AP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Bournemouth v Tottenham	14:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Leicester v Crystal Palace	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Arsenal v Middlesbrough	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Burnley v Everton	17:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Hull City v Stoke City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Swansea City v Watford	17:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
West Ham v Sunderland	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Liverpool v West Bromwich	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Espanyol v SD Eibar	14:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Valencia v FC Barcelona	17:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Real Sociedad v Deportivo	19:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Granada v Sporting Gijon	21:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

UC Sampdoria v Genoa CFC	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
AC Milan v Juventus	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayer 04 v Hoffenheim	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Hertha Berlin v FC Koln	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
FC Ingolstadt 04 v Dortmund	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
SV Darmstadt 98 v Wolfsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
SC Freiburg v FC Augsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Bayern Munich v Monchengladbach	19:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lyonnais v Guingamp	18:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Girondins v Lorraine	21:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Lille OSC v Bastia	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Dijon v Lorient	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Angers v Toulouse FC	21:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Nantes v Stade Rennes	21:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	



MANCHESTER: Fenerbahce's Souza, left, Manchester United's Memphis Depay, centre, and Fenerbahce's Robin van Persie, right, compete for the ball during the Europa League Group A soccer match between Manchester United and Fenerbahce at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England, Thursday. —AP

POGBA SCORES TWICE AS UNITED BEAT FENERBAHCE

LONDON: Paul Pogba repaid some of his world record transfer fee with two goals as Manchester United rediscovered their early-season shine, cruising to a 4-1 Europa League win over Fenerbahce to go top of their group on Thursday.

Pogba scored a penalty and rifled United's third into the top corner. Anthony Martial also netted from the spot and Jesse Lingard fired home in the second half before former Old Trafford favourite Robin van Persie pulled one back for Fenerbahce. Inter Milan and AS Roma, though, had more testing evenings.

Coach Frank de Boer breathed a sigh of relief when Inter survived an onslaught from Southampton to end a three-match losing streak with a 1-0 victory while Roma conceded twice late on to draw 3-3 at home to Austria Vienna.

Three sides have perfect records after three matches, Shakhtar Donetsk, Schalke 04 and Zenit St Petersburg all winning to move to the brink of the knockout rounds.

United have six points in Group A after

a morale-boosting performance ahead of manager Jose Mourinho's return to former club Chelsea on Sunday.

They went ahead in the 31st minute when Juan Mata was tripped in the area.

Regular penalty taker Wayne Rooney was on the pitch and needed one goal to join Ruud van Nistelrooy as United's all-time top scorer in Europe but Pogba took the ball and converted from the spot.

The hosts were handed a second penalty less than three minutes later and Martial took responsibility this time before Pogba lashed home a third goal.

Lingard made it 4-0 three minutes after the restart and Van Persie pulled one back for the Turkish team with seven minutes remaining.

Pogba, criticised following a subdued display in United's goalless draw at Liverpool on Monday, was handed a vote of confidence by Mourinho after scoring twice in a game for the first time in almost two years. "He needs time," the coach said of the midfielder he signed for 89 million

pounds (\$109.04 million) in the close season. "To be in Italy for four or five years ... I was not expecting it to be a click of the fingers for intensity."

UNDER PRESSURE

The pressure had been mounting on Inter boss De Boer after a woeful start to the season that left them 11th in Serie A and point-less in Europe.

After successive Group K defeats, De Boer's possession-based style had come under the microscope and they looked a struggling side as Southampton created a string of good chances.

Just as the Premier League club were cranking up the heat, however, Antonio Candreva swept the ball home in the 67th minute. Marcelo Brozovic was sent off late in the tie but Inter managed to hold on.

Roma captain Francesco Totti made his 100th European appearance for the club at home to Austria Vienna but his night was marred as the visitors fought back from 3-1 down to snatch a point.—Reuters

GUARDIOLA STICKING TO HIS GUNS AT MAN CITY

LONDON: Pep Guardiola enjoyed a dazzling start to his reign as Manchester City manager, so much so that after six successive Premier League wins some were suggesting the only real fight this season would be for runners-up spot.

A few weeks later his side are still top of the table but the early euphoria has been replaced by the cold chill of reality as the dark winter months loom.

First there was a 3-3 draw at Celtic in the Champions League and a few days later the wheels came off City's bandwagon when they were outplayed in a 2-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur.

Last week's 1-1 home draw with Everton was then followed by a 4-0 hammering at Guardiola's old club Barcelona. City's start to the season now looks slightly underwhelming, although Guardiola gave a passionate defence of his methods on Friday when it was suggested he may change tack. They will seek to end a four-match winless run when they host Southampton on Sunday, but even if they lose Guardiola said he will not be adapting the philosophy that has served him so well throughout his career. "I think about that," he told reporters. "But after that the solution is not better than I believe. So I cannot. Do you know why as well?"

"Because in seven years I won 21 titles. I'm sorry, but I won 21 titles in seven years. So it's three titles per year, playing in that way."

Guardiola said expectations upon his arrival in English football had been too high.

"We won the first 10 games of the season and everyone said City will win four titles," said the Spaniard whose first eight Premier League games have returned an almost identical record to the first eight under Manuel Pellegrini last season - six wins and 19 goals scored.

"But if you believe I arrive here and in three months everything is going well and we are going to win in Camp Nou 4-0 and going to

dominate against those guys, and Messi and Luis Suarez and Neymar are going to do nothing and Iniesta isn't going to play good - no way.

"I am good, but not enough. Last season Man City were the oldest team in the Premier League and that's why we tried to change a little bit for the future. We need to learn of course as quickly as possible." Apart from the Tottenham defeat, Guardiola said he has been proud of his team, insisting the result in the Nou Camp could have been different had keeper Claudio Bravo not been sent off when the score was 1-0.

However, he said City must learn to be more clinical. — Reuters

Sports



Younis leads Pakistan charge

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GREEN BAY: Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) tries to run away from Chicago Bears outside linebacker Leonard Floyd (94) during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, in Green Bay, Wis. — AP

RODGERS THROWS 3 TD PASSES, PACKERS WIN

GREEN BAY: Aaron Rodgers threw for 326 yards and three touchdowns, Davante Adams and Ty Montgomery emerged as playmakers in the second half and the Green Bay Packers beat the offensively challenged Chicago Bears 26-10 on Thursday night.

Rodgers was 39 of 56, setting a franchise record for completions in a game. It was the Packers' first contest without injured running back Eddie Lacy. "A lot of moving parts, a very satisfying victory at home," coach Mike McCarthy said.

The Packers (4-2) moved effectively on short gains most of the night, but couldn't break into the end zone until Adams caught the first of his two touchdown receptions with 9:11 left in the third quarter for a 13-10 lead.

Rodgers and Adams combined again for a 4-yard score on the first play of fourth quarter for a 10-point lead. It was effectively over from there for the Bears (1-6), who lost quarterback Brian Hoyer to a broken left arm in the second quarter.

With Jay Cutler already out with a right

thumb injury, Chicago turned to third-stringer Matt Barkley. An offense that was already 31st in the league in scoring got worse. Barkley was 6 of 15 for 81 yards and two interceptions. Coach John Fox tried to lean on the rush against the NFL's third-best run defense. It didn't work either.

Kadeem Carey had 48 yards on 10 carries, including a 24-yarder. Receiver Alshon Jeffery was held to three catches for 33 yards against a Packers secondary without its top three cornerbacks because of injuries.

It got so bad for the Bears that Rodgers had more completions (37) than the Bears had offensive plays (36) by 5:31 of the fourth quarter.

That 37th completion for Rodgers was 2-yard touchdown pass to Randall Cobb for a 16-point lead. Adams, Montgomery and Cobb each finished with at least 10 receptions.

HOYER HURT

Hoyer left early in the second quarter after getting hit by Julius Peppers and Clay

Matthews on an incompleting on third-and-6 from midfield. The right-handed Hoyer looked as if he landed on his left arm. He was attended to by trainers on the field for a couple minutes before going to the locker room. Hoyer was 4 of 11 for 49 yards.

TRIPLE THREAT

Adams had 13 catches for a career-high 132 yards, making Jordy Nelson-like moves to spin out of tackles for extra yards. Adams had just been cleared earlier Thursday from the NFL's concussion protocol after leaving the loss Sunday to Dallas. Cobb finished with 11 catches for 95 yards.

Montgomery, who got the start in the backfield with running backs Lacy (ankle) and James Starks (knee) out, finished with 10 catches for 66 yards, and nine carries for 60 yards. "You do what you have to do, you play the way you have to play," McCarthy said.

BIG FLOYD

The Bears' only touchdown came from

rookie pass-rushing linebacker Leonard Floyd, who forced Rodgers to fumble on third-and-10 from the 15 on a sack. Floyd recovered the ball in the end zone for a 10-6 lead, 30 seconds into the third quarter. The Packers scored touchdowns on their next three drives.

SLOW START

The Packers moved effectively with short passes in the first half but stalled on three drives inside the 22. Mason Crosby salvaged two series with field goals, but the Packers went scoreless on another drive when Montgomery was stopped on a fourth-and-goal run from the 1. Green Bay led 6-3 at the half.

INJURY REPORT

Bears: Besides Hoyer, RG Kyle Long left in the second quarter with an arm injury. Packers: RB Don Jackson, who was just activated from the practice squad Thursday to replace Lacy, left in the first quarter with a hand injury. —AP