

Kuwaiti inventor presents project for coating of nuclear reactors



Relief, shattered dreams for migrants leaving Calais' Jungle



Chevrolet Alghanim celebrates 50th anniversary



Eagles hand Vikings first defeat, Cards Seahawks tie



KUWAIT URGES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO FIGHT TERROR

JARALLAH: STATE NEEDS TO DO MORE AGAINST IS FUNDING



Min 18°
Max 36°
High Tide
06:08 & 20:55
Low Tide
00:55 & 14:08



Counter ISIL Finance Group (CIFG)

Kuwait 24 October 2016



KUWAIT: US Assistant Secretary for Terrorism Financing Daniel Glaser (left) and Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Khaled Al-Jarallah attend the meeting of the Counter-ISIL Finance Group (CIFG) yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday stressed the importance of joining international forces in the fight against terrorist groups that pose a threat to the world's peace and security. The remark was made by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah in his statement to the opening of a meeting of a panel on preventing the funding of the so-called Islamic State (IS), under the umbrella of the global coalition against IS.

No single state, no matter how big and strong it may be, can face the danger of terrorism on its own, Jarallah said during the meeting of the Counter-ISIL Finance Group (CIFG). He also stressed the significance of collective action to counter the phenomenon. He referred to efforts by the international community to fight all forms of terrorism, which undermines the world's security and stability, pointing to the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) reiterating countries' responsibility to prevent financing terrorism.

Jarallah affirmed Kuwait's commitment to FATF's recommendations on fighting terrorism, especially through legislations and other measures that guarantee transparency of information on donations to charity works overseas. The meeting comes amid the battle to liberate Iraq's Mosul from IS, said Jarallah, adding that Kuwait is providing full support to Iraq in this fierce confrontation. Kuwait has previously hosted a series of coalition meetings aiming to prevent funding for the group. Last April, the country hosted a meeting for the international coalition's communication group.

"We still have a lot to do, though we are satisfied with what we have done so far," Jarallah later told reporters. "We are ready to cooperate with our brothers and friends," he said, responding to US criticism of

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BRINGING THE BEST OF AMERICA TO KUWAIT



By Lawrence Silverman
US Ambassador to Kuwait

I am thrilled to be launching the fourth annual Discover America Week, which kicked off Sunday. Between Oct 23 and Nov 3, the Embassy will present events highlighting the best of the United States, including music, film, food, sports, automobiles, education and tourism. There will be special offers at American restaurants and stores around town, live performances from Raptor, a US Air Force band, a screening of a classic and very popular cowboy movie remake, and business seminars highlighting new areas for partnership between our two countries.

One focus of Discover America Week is education. Kuwaitis have been studying in the United States for over five generations. Last year some 15,000 Kuwaitis studied in my country, double the number from just a few years ago. We welcome Kuwaiti students. During my time in Kuwait, I hope that number will increase. And I hope more students and professors from the United States will come to Kuwait to increase the number and depth of academic and research partnerships between our two countries. During Discover America Week, we will organize a seminar to highlight what students and their parents need to know before studying in the United States, so that they can make the most of their experience.

Healthcare is another area of potential growth between the United States and Kuwait, and of personal interest for me. As Kuwait looks to improve its healthcare system, we will encourage US hospitals to increase and expand partnerships here. We will have a seminar during the week focused on healthcare connections.

Driving down the highways and neighborhood streets of this city admiring all the new and classic American cars, I was not surprised to learn that the automotive sector represents a third of US exports to this country. Did you know that some of the first international American auto dealerships were established in Kuwait? Jeep is celebrating its 75th anniversary and will be introducing a few new models during Discover America.

Boeing, the iconic aircraft company is celebrating its 100th birthday this year and just introduced in Seattle the first of 10 new 777 airplanes that it will deliver to Kuwait Airways beginning in just a few weeks. They are looking to bring hundreds of jobs to this country in the coming years. Another well-known US company, Sheraton, is celebrating its 50th year in Kuwait. Last week, GE opened the Kuwait Technology Center, the first of its kind in this part of the world. It will provide cutting-edge innovation and research, specialized training, and service and maintenance throughout the region. This center is proof that technology knows no borders.

The relationship between the United States and Kuwait is stronger than ever. The number of Kuwaitis visiting the United States is at an all-time high. During Discover America Week, we will highlight some of the many destinations that even intrepid Kuwaiti travelers have not yet discovered. There will also be a raffle for a free air ticket to the United States.

I encourage you to follow us on Instagram and Twitter at USEmbassyQ8 and on the hashtag #DiscoverAmericaKWT to review the complete Discover America program and to participate in the events that interest you. These events are a great opportunity to put a spotlight on the strong US-Kuwaiti friendship, and explore areas to broaden and deepen this relationship. I hope to see you at our Discover America events.

ASIAN WOMAN KILLED IN SALMIYA FLAT FIRE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said an Asian woman died while two others including a child were injured in a fire in a Salmiya flat yesterday. The woman was rushed to hospital, but died of smoke inhalation. The directorate said a call was received at 11:15 am about the blaze, prompting Salmiya, south Salmiya and technical rescue centers to respond. Firemen rescued people trapped inside the apartment because of the thick smoke. Investigations are underway to find out the cause of the fire.

MAIN OPPOSITION GROUP WON'T FIELD CANDIDATES

By B Izzak



Abdullah Al-Roumi

KUWAIT: The main nationalist opposition group yesterday reiterated that it will not end its boycott of the National Assembly elections. Former MP and leading member of the opposition Popular Action Movement (PAM) Khaled Shukhayer said the movement will not take part in the election, but will not criticize opposition members who decide to participate. He said PAM

members will not contest the election as long as PAM secretary general Musallam Al-Barrak and other leading members are behind bars.

Meanwhile, 41 new candidates registered for the elections yesterday, raising the number so far to 291 hopefuls for the Nov 26 snap polls. Two members of the dissolved Assembly, Abdullah Al-Adwani and Talal Al-Jallal, filed for reelection, while the main surprise was veteran ex-MP Abdullah Al-Roumi, who

filed his nomination papers from the first constituency. Roumi, who represented the constituency several times and was deputy speaker for one term, said the main focus should be fighting corruption, blaming the government for failing to do so.

He said the Kuwaiti people should fight corruption through the best selection of candidates to safeguard the nation.

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WITH EVERY TURN OF WRENCH, WOMAN BREAKING BARRIERS

PIPE DREAM TURNS REAL

ZARQA, Jordan: It is graduation day, and Maryam Mutlaq is celebrating her transformation from stay-at-home mom to licensed plumber. Mutlaq, 41, describes her business plan in a clear, strong voice to the other graduates, all veiled women. She plans to open a plumbing store and sell pipes and spare parts. She's even picked out a name, Challenge, and a location in an up-and-coming neighborhood.

It has been a challenge just to come this far in an ultra-conservative community where many women don't work at all outside the home. The coming months will determine if, against the odds, she can turn her bold dream into a real-life business. For now,

she is brimming with optimism. "We will break down the barriers that have been put up, that say we aren't capable of doing things as women," she says.

Mutlaq's choice is rare for the Arab world, where traditional gender roles make men the main breadwinners and confine many women to jobs such as teaching and nursing. Five years ago, the Arab Spring brought the hope of more opportunities for women. Yet that promise has not panned out, analysts and activists say. Only about a quarter of women in the Arab world work outside the home, the lowest percentage in the world.

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ZARQA, Jordan: In this March 21, 2016 photo, Jordanian plumber Maryam Mutlaq, 41, poses for a picture at a school. — AP

KUWAIT STILL LOOKING TO ISSUE \$9.9 BILLION INTERNATIONAL BONDS

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia: Kuwait is still considering the issuance of international bonds worth around 3 billion dinars (\$9.90 billion), a finance ministry official told Al Arabiya TV yesterday. Like other Gulf Arab states, Kuwait is turning to debt capital markets to raise money as oil prices remain at less than half their levels two years ago. Qatar in May sold \$9 billion of Eurobonds, while Saudi Arabia completed a record-breaking \$17.5 billion debut offering last week.

However, sources told Reuters earlier this month Kuwait's planned bond had been postponed until 2017 after authorities decided it was in no rush to raise funds overseas. Speaking to the television channel yesterday, Finance Ministry Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said the country's sovereign wealth fund, the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), would start to look at the measures that needed to be taken to complete an offering at the end of October. "We will look at the economic feasibility and the cost on the country for the issuance, as it is very important to take this into consideration," Hamada said.

He added that the country hadn't yet begun engaging with international banks about the bond because the KIA was still preparing the technical and legal frameworks for the deal. Kuwait has been granted some financial leeway by a pick-up in oil prices, after they touched a 12-year low in February. The move has been pronounced since Sept 27, when the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries announced plans to curb production for the first time in eight years, to rein in a global crude glut that has halved prices from mid-2014 highs above \$100 a barrel.

"Until the first half of this fiscal year at the end of September, the deficit reached around 3.6 billion dinars and (the full-year deficit) is expected to be lower than estimated in the budget due to the slight rise of oil prices," Hamada told the channel. Kuwait's finance minister, Anas Al-Saleh, said in July that the country's projected deficit for this fiscal year was KD 9.5 billion. Saleh said at the time the shortfall would be covered through drawdowns of reserves as well as issuing bonds both internationally and locally, with the latter debt worth around KD 2 billion. "A big chunk" of that figure had already been raised by the Central Bank of Kuwait, Hamada said. — Reuters



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo look on as Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and his Guinean counterpart Agapito Mba Mokuy sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regulating bilateral consultations between the two countries. (Right) His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo are pictured during Mbasogo's official reception. — Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT, EQUATORIAL GUINEA INK MOU FOR CONSULTATIONS

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regulating bilateral consultations between the two countries. The signing ceremony, held at Bayan Palace, was attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the visiting President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who arrived in Kuwait earlier yesterday on an official visit. The MoU was signed by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Guinean counterpart, Agapito Mba Mokuy.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received President Mbasogo and the accompanying officials at Bayan Palace. The meeting was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The top-level official talks were also attended by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior officials from the two sides.

Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said the talks dealt with means of boosting the bilateral relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir held a luncheon in honor of the visiting president and his delegation.

His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister and Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah were in Mbasogos' reception at the airport. He was also received by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

He was also received by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.



(From left) Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attend the reception.



Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Guinean counterpart Agapito Mba Mokuy shake hands after signing the agreement.

Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, along with senior state officials, senior military, police and National Guard personnel, as well as Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate.

An accompanying mission of honor from the Amiri Diwan was formed headed by Amiri Diwan Advisor Dr Yousef Hamad Al-Ibrahim. Mbasogo is

accompanied by an official delegation consisting of Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Francophone Affairs Agapito Mba Mokuy, Minister of Fishing and water Resources Estanislao Don Malabo, as well as Deputy Minister to the Presidency of the Republic charged with External Security Juan Antonio Bibang Nchuchuma, along with a num-



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting President of the State Audit Bureau Adel Al-Sarawi. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



Acting President of the State Audit Bureau Adel Al-Sarawi presents a copy of the reports on auditing state budgets and final statement for the fiscal year 2015-2016 to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

AMIR RECEIVES ACTING AUDIT BUREAU CHIEF

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Acting President of the State Audit Bureau Adel Al-Sarawi at Bayan Palace yesterday. Sarawi presented His Highness the Amir

with a copy of the reports on auditing state budgets and final statement for the fiscal year 2015-2016. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. Sarawi lat-

er presented copies of the report to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

AMIR OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO QATAR AMIR ON DEMISE OF SHEIKH KHALIFA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables of condolences on Sunday to Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and to Qatari Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, on the

demise of Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani who passed away earlier at the age of 84. In his cables, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow his blessing upon his soul and patients for his family and

the Qatari people. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Queen Silvia of Sweden wrapped up her visit to Kuwait yesterday. The Queen was seen off upon departure by the State of Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Nabil Rashed Al-Dekheel. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with director of Al-Kout television channel, Mohammad Al-Sayegh. — KUNA

INFO MINISTER UNDERSCORES PRIVATE MEDIA'S ROLE

KUWAIT: Private television stations in the State of Kuwait play a major role in news reporting and guiding citizens and promoting their concerns, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Salman, during a reception of director of Al-Kout television channel, Mohammad Al-Sayegh, urged the private media, namely the television stations, to

back the State information apparatuses in covering forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Separately, Sheikh Salman received Chief Executive Officer of the Kuwait Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) Abdulwahab Al-Marzouq, discussing cooperation for promoting tourism in the country. Kuwait has the potential to develop this sector and turn it into a tourist attraction, he said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Professor Douglas Elmendorf, Dean of John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University lectures at Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute. — KUNA

LACKING CONFIDENCE IN POLITICIANS ADDS TO ECONOMIC CHALLENGES: EXPERT

KUWAIT: Lacking confidence in political leaders, governments, or even transparent political institutions has recently become one of the challenges facing global economy, a US economic expert said yesterday. The American people, for example, have shifted their attention toward other alternative figures, mostly with no firm political stands, knowledge, or even social skills, after losing confidence in their political leaders and institutions, Professor Douglas Elmendorf, Dean of John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, said while lecturing at Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute.

US Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump truly fits the alternative political standard that a large number of Americans desire for their new leader, including, for instance, his contempt for those with different racial and religious

backgrounds, and his opposition to free trade, Elmendorf noted.

This change in people's opinions and principles in the US has also extended and spelled over to several countries, prompting voters to vote for "wall-erectors" instead of "bridge-builders," he said, adding that this would negatively impact the economies of those countries.

The US scholar also said that economic issues such as slow economic growth, unemployment rates surge, technological development, and globalization of trade and finance remain as the main challenges that are currently facing the world.

However, such challenges could form a great opportunity for people with high education and skills to grab and succeed in delivering their ideas, visions, and strategies, and, eventually, changing the public opinion, he noted. — KUNA

MABROOK COMPANY JOINS HORECA AS DIAMOND SPONSOR

KUWAIT: Preparations for Horeca Kuwait 2017 are steadily progressing, and the exhibition is already attracting more and more companies to take part in an event that provides a golden opportunity to exchange expertise as they strive to meet the local market's needs and future expansion plans.



Ali Farhat

In this regard, Mabrook Hotel Supplies Company announced its intention to take part in the exhibition as a Diamond sponsor, especially after the remarkable success Horeca had achieved over the past number of years.

Mabrook's Board Chairman Ali Farhat said that his company is very keen on taking part in local and regional specialized exhibitions in order to display its latest products, including mart kitchens which utilize modern technology to provide companies, hotels and central kitchens with their needs of tools, kitchens and equipment. "Horeca Kuwait has a major economic impact in view of the constant development in hospitality, as well as the building new hotels and

restaurants to cover the urban expansion Kuwait is currently witnessing," he stressed, noting that the total number of restaurants in Kuwait exceeds 5,000. Meanwhile, Kuwait has an estimated total of 7,000 hotel rooms, distributed in over 60 hotels; 45 percent of which are four and five-star hotels.

Further, Farhat expressed pride on behalf of his company for the status it has so far achieved in the Kuwaiti market, and stressed that developing this status and meeting the demands of the company's clients is on top of its priorities as a leading company with a long record of achievements ever since its foundation 58 years ago.

In addition, Farhat explained that during its participation in the previous Horeca exhibitions, Mabrook had displayed its latest products, adding that it would also present new products this year, namely kitchens and ovens as per the best international quality standards for both central or household kitchens.

Farhat added that Mabrook also provides a variety of hotel, restaurants and central kitchens' needs manufactured in Mabrook's factory in Sabhan and exports them to a number of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in addition to Lebanon and Jordan. He added that the company products of stainless steel, ASME and AISI were of high quality according to international quality and safety specifications, adding that Mabrook had recently won the ISO 9001 award.

The exhibition Horeca Kuwait 2017 is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company. It takes place at Mishref International Fair Ground in the period of January 16-18, 2017.

KUWAIT READY TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO END YEMEN'S CRISIS: JARALLAH

'KUWAIT STANDS AT EQUAL DISTANCE FROM ALL LEBANESE PARTIES'

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait is ready to continue efforts to achieve an agreement among the Yemeni parties, to put an end to the conflict in the country, said Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah yesterday.

This came in Al-Jarallah's reply to a reporter's question on Kuwait's vision towards the current situation in Yemen, as he emerged from the opening session of a meeting held by a panel on preventing the funding of the so-called Islamic State (IS) — under umbrella of the Global Coalition Against the IS.

UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad is exerting efforts to end the crisis and he is optimistic over a possibility of reaching a solution to the conflict in Yemen, Jarallah said. The senior official affirmed that the region's countries are also lavishing efforts to halt the bloody conflict.

Al-Jarallah denied that there are mediation efforts by Kuwait amongst Yemeni parties, emphasizing his country's readiness to back all efforts to end the war there. Kuwait hosted the UN-brokered peace talks amongst Yemeni parties on April 21- August 6, as part of the international endeavors to end the Yemeni crisis.

Lebanon

Meanwhile, Jarallah quashed Lebanese media reports that Kuwait is leading a campaign against a certain presidential candidate in Lebanon. "Kuwait stands at equal distance from all Lebanese parties," he stressed. Referring to the reports as 'utterly groundless,' he categorically denied that Kuwait has, or intends to, interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs or support party against another. This stance is integral to Kuwait's foreign policy, established by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, namely no-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, with keenness on "gaining friends." This is an approach that will never be abandoned, Jarallah stressed.

Egypt

In the meantime, Jarallah affirmed that the bonds between the GCC countries and the Arab Republic of Egypt have been solid, noting that



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah speaks to reporters after a meeting of the Counter-IS Finance Group (CIFG) yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

support for the nation particularly at the economic level would continue, and adding that the GCC states' relations with Egypt have been strong and solid. On record fall of the Egyptian pound value, Jarallah said the Egyptian currency rating "is determined by the market and Egypt's economic conditions." He affirmed that Kuwait, along with the other GCC member states, would continue backing Egypt's economy, its security and stability. He denied reports about a 'crisis' in Egypt's ties with the GCC countries indicating that such allegations are merely ink on paper.

Iraq

In further statements to journalists after the inauguration session, Jarallah affirmed that Kuwait is fully prepared to cope with any eventualities emanating from the battle for control of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Asked whether there are any concerns that

the IS militants might move to southern Iraq and to locations close to the borders with Kuwait, Jarallah said: "we ought to expect anything from this terrorist organization." He reiterated full support for the Iraqi Government in its battle to retake Mosul and congratulated the Iraqis on their victories on the field.

Jarallah indicated that Kuwait was maintaining its armament policy, securing weapons from strategic allies, namely the United States of America. First Deputy Prime and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has said that Kuwait's military procurements from the US exceeded \$25 billion and has affirmed that the sides have been negotiating on further deals, worth \$11 billion. Jarallah noted that Kuwait had enacted laws intended to dry up financial resources of the terrorist organizations and has made headways in monitoring charitable donations. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Head of Bangladesh's Chamber of Commerce and Industry attends the meeting. — KUNA

TRADE EXCHANGE WITH BANGLADESH HIT \$70 MILLION: CHAMBER

KUWAIT: Trade exchange with Bangladesh hit \$70 million in 2015, a Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) official said yesterday. Bangladesh has recently witnessed economic recovery in many areas, especially in the food and

garment industries, KCCI Deputy Director General Hamad Al-Omair said after a meeting with head of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Omair stressed keenness of KCCI on having feasibility studies on investment opportunities of

mutual interest, for the Kuwaiti investors to examine. He expressed hope for further bilateral trade over the coming years, referring to some available investment opportunities in Bangladesh, mainly in oil, natural gas and technology. — KUNA

ZAIN SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH MBC

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the signing of a partnership agreement with MBC Group, offering its postpaid and prepaid customers the largest library of Arabic TV shows, movies, and programs via the popular on-demand video service Shahid Plus on its most advanced network in Kuwait.

Zain's latest partnership came with the aim of offering its customers an all-new digital content consumption experience, as the company strives to provide the most innovative solutions and value-added services to its customer base, considered the largest in Kuwait.

Shahid Plus, an on-demand video streaming service, offers Zain customers a superior entertainment experience by providing high quality video streaming services over smartphones via its most advanced network in

Kuwait, including thousands of Arabic movies, TV shows, and programs without any interruptions or commercial breaks on their smartphones wherever they are.

Zain's postpaid and prepaid customers can now enjoy subscribing to Shahid Plus for KD 2 monthly, to be deducted directly from the bill, where they get one free week and enjoy a safe and convenient way to subscribe to the service without the need to use their credit cards.

Zain strives to offer customers the latest services and mobile solutions in the world of Value Added Services, all with the aim of surpassing customers' expectations. The company will continue leading the market by launching unprecedented services, products, and solutions in addition to value added services geared at maintaining its leading position in Kuwait.

KUWAIT'S TRADE SURPLUS WITH JAPAN UP 1ST TIME IN 16 MONTHS

TOKYO: Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan expanded 32.1 percent from a year earlier to JPY 19.3 billion (\$186 million) in September, growing for the first time since May 2015, due to slow imports, the Japanese Finance Ministry said yesterday. Kuwait maintained monthly black ink with Japan for eight years and eight months, the ministry said in a preliminary report.

Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan edged up 1.2 percent year-on-year to JPY 38.6 billion (\$372 million) for the first rise in 16 months, while imports from Japan plunged 18.0 percent to JPY 19.3 billion (\$193 million), down for the first time in four months. Middle East's trade surplus with Japan narrowed by 42.7 percent to JPY 268.3 billion (\$2.6 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports falling 30.9 percent from a year earlier.

Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 95.6 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, declined 31.0 percent. — KUNA

KUWAIT HOSTS INT'L INFORMATICS FORUM

KUWAIT: Kuwait is set to host a big forum for informatics, ideas and related technical creations next November.

The forum, to be organized by the Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award Foundation (SAIAF), is expected to attract local, regional and international participation.

The forum will held on November 21st, 22nd and 23rd at Arraya Ballroom in downtown Kuwait City, head of SAIAF's board of trustees Sheikhha Ayeda Salem Al-Ali said.

The main topics in this year's forum will be artificial intelligence, smart cities, 3D printers and many other innovations of great interest during this modern digital age, she added.

Ali added that the information economy forms a great percentage of productivity development in many countries, including the European Union states over 45 percent of development is based on using information technology and communications.



Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah



Sheikhha Ayeda Salem Al-Ali

CANDIDATE DEMANDS GENDER EQUALITY IN HOUSING LOANS

MANPOWER AUTHORITY APPROVES KD 69 MILLION BUDGET

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Third constituency parliamentary elections candidate Amani Al-Saleh said she is running for parliament because she has a strong wish to straighten the mistakes the government committed against the Kuwaiti people. She added that citizens are struggling and that the government should pay off their debts and impose taxes on merchants. "Women should be equally treated as men in terms of the KD 70,000 loan," she underlined.

Development plan

Secretary General of the Supreme Planning and Development Council Dr Khaled Mahdi stressed the significance and need to activate the development plan's projects according to the council's regulations. Speaking on the second day of meetings held to discuss the 4th annual development plan (2018-2019) in the presence of relevant and concerned authorities, Mahdi stressed that projects should be executed through the public-private-partnership (PPP) model in order to eventually achieve HH the Amir's vision of turning

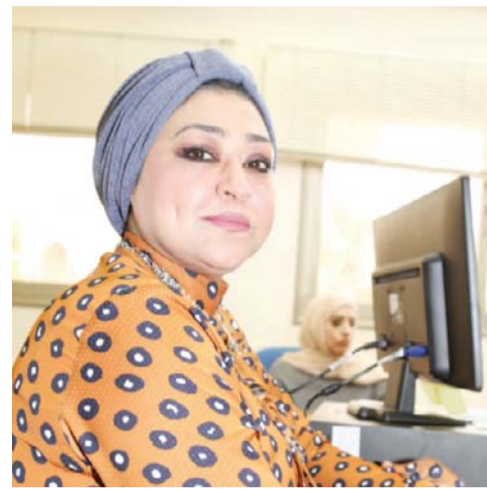
Kuwait into an international financial and commercial hub. Mahdi added that 90 percent of the Kuwaiti workforce works for the government, and hoped that the development plan projects would offer more job opportunities for Kuwaitis.

Budget

Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower Abdullah Al-Motoutah said that the authority's budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 would be KD 69 million, an increase of KD 17 million compared to that of the current fiscal year (2016-2017) at KD 52 million. Motoutah explained that the total payroll expense for the authority's 2,371 employees (including 200 in leading positions) would be KD 51 million in 2017-2018, an increase of KD 7.7 million from this year's payroll sum of KD 43,280,000.

Headquarters

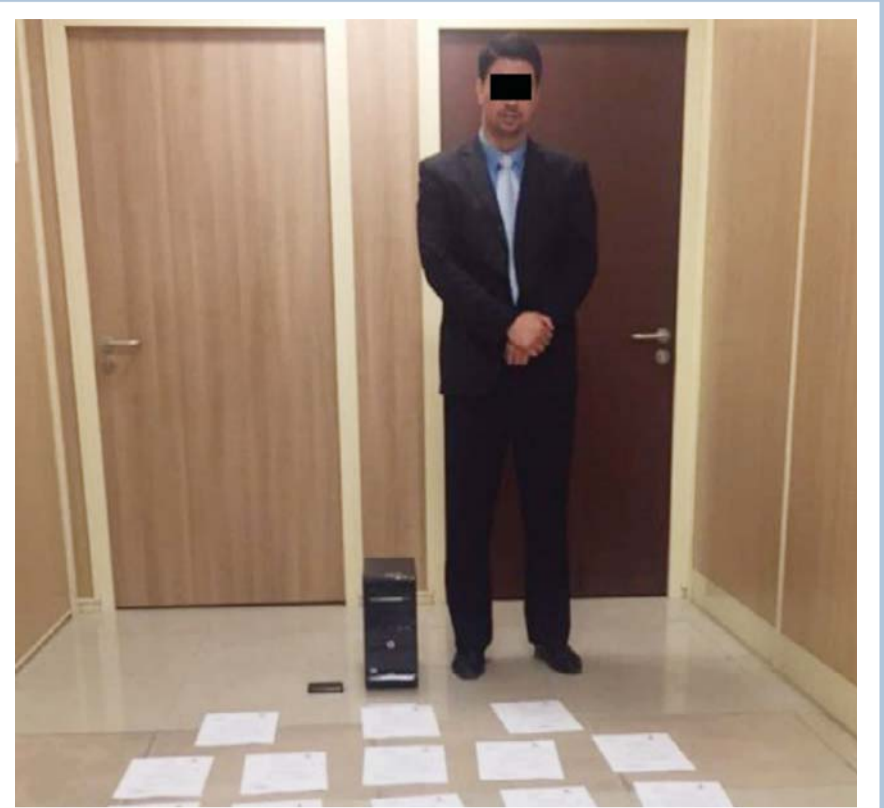
The Public Authority for Housing Welfare's senior officials discussed the idea of moving to a larger headquarters in Subhan, especially in view of the growing number of citizens vis-



KUWAIT: Candidate Amani Al-Saleh registers for parliamentary elections yesterday.

—Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

iting the authority for housing-related transactions. Informed sources said that a full study about this would be discussed with Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul soon.



PAAET EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR FORGERY

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested an Egyptian man who worked for the Public Authority of Applied Education and Training (PAAET) for

forgery. Detectives received information about Ahmad Mahmoud Hulayel's activity, so he was placed under surveillance, then arrested. The man was taken to the proper authority for further action.

'KUWAIT SPORTS REGULATIONS DON'T CONTRADICT WITH OLYMPIC CHARTER'

RABAT: Chairman of Kuwait's Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah has anew affirmed that the State of Kuwait's sports regulatory laws absolutely do not contradict with the international Olympic Charter.

Kuwaiti sports unions and clubs handle their affairs independently, said Sheikh Fahad in a press statement. He also renewed the denial of charges made by the International Olympic Committee about State intervention in Kuwait in the sports affairs.

Sheikh Fahad, taking part in the annual conference of the Arab sports union's chiefs, said the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee "will spare no effort to suspend and nullify" the decision by the international committee, barring Kuwaiti teams and champions from taking part in international tournaments under Kuwait Flag.

The chief of the Kuwaiti committee, who took part in inaugurating the conference on Sunday, urged the participants in the meeting to support the Kuwaiti efforts aimed at lifting the international ban. He also called on them to allow the Kuwaiti teams take part in Arab tournaments on grounds that the Arab sports unions are not subject to the international

committee's jurisdictions. He had noted that the Kuwaiti teams and athletes could compete with other Arab teams and champions, under umbrella of the Arab Sports Federation (ASF).

Earlier, Sheikh Fahad held talks on the issue with ASF General Secretary Saud Bin-Ali Bin Alabdul-Aziz, Chairman of the Arab Boxing Federation Yousef Al-Kathem and Chairman of

the Arab and African triathlon federations, Ahmad Nasser. The Kuwait Olympic Committee affirms that the Kuwaiti Government is the prime supporter of the national sports federations and clubs; with money, installations, administrative and technical facilities. However, the Government does not meddle in their organizational and electoral affairs. —KUNA

EMERGENCY PLAN SET UP TO PREVENT ENTRY OF BIRD FLU

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) announced yesterday an emergency plan to prevent the entry of H9N2 bird flu to the country. The authority has prepared an emergency and precautionary plan based on the preventive methods accredited by World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), PAAAFR Director General, Faisal Al-Hasawi said.

PAAAFR has been coordinating with all official bodies in the country such as the Ministry of Health, Municipality of Kuwait, Finance and Interior Ministries to form a joint

committee with the authority to develop and implement the plan, he added.

H9N2 bird flu appeared in one of the neighboring countries, and it's the most dangerous types of flu spread between livestock and poultry, Hasawi said. This type of bird flu spreads very quickly which causes heavy economic losses, recalling at the same time the large losses suffered by livestock sector in the country in 2008. The joint efforts with the authority will prevent the infection between the livestock and then to the humans. —KUNA

CPI IN SEPTEMBER ROSE BY 3.77%

KUWAIT: The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for September 2016 recorded an increase estimated at 3.77 percent compared with the same month in 2015, the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) has revealed. The index figure for September 2016 recorded increase at 143.3, by 0.99 percent as a result of the rise in prices of some major groups of influential figures in the movement and low standard of some groups, the bureau said in its monthly report yesterday. The report gives indications of the rates of changes in prices for the commodity groups influencing the families' expenditure and the ability of consumer spending. This index uses the year 2007 as the base year.

The Index of the Main Group of "Food and Beverages" increased in September, 2016, by 0.59 percent. The annual inflation rate for the group rose last month by 0.78 percent compared with the same

month in 2015, it showed. The index of "Tobacco and Narcotics" group stood in September at 152.5, just like the previous month, with no change. The annual inflation rate for this group increased in September by 0.46 percent compared with the corresponding period last year. The Index of "Clothing and Footwear" fell last month by 0.46 percent, while its annual inflation rate increased by 0.78 percent month-on-month. The Index of the Group of "Home Furnishings and Equipment Maintenance" decreased in September by 0.20 percent, while its annual inflation rose by 2.08 percent compared with the same period last year, the report pointed out. The Index of the "Health" group increased 0.08 percent, while its inflation rate increased in September 2016 by 1.87 percent, compared with the same month in 2015, it concluded. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Air Support Force from the Air Police Department left for Bahrain yesterday to engage in a GCC joint security mobilization exercise. The drill, dubbed 'Arabian Gulf Security 1', is part of the implementation of the decisions of GCC Interior Ministers to face regional security challenges, the Interior Ministry's security media department said in a press statement.

STATE DEPARTMENTS REVIEW PREPARATIONS FOR RAINY SEASON

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Guards (KNG) yesterday reviewed preparations for the rainy season in the presence of representatives from several state departments including the Ministry of Interior (MOI), the General Department of Civil Defense, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and Kuwait Municipality. During the meeting, backup commander Brigadier Tala' Abdul Razzaq Qadeer briefed the state departments' representatives about the plan. Qadeer also stressed that the plan was set within the Strategic Goals Document 2020 'Security First' which focuses on backing up state bodies on facing various potential threats.



AUK, KISR HOST SYMPOSIUM ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) in collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) organized a 'Renewable Energy Symposium and Exhibition' yesterday. The event featured five renewable energy experts from scientific institutes and the oil sector. AUK President Nizar Hamza said the world has been gradually shifting to renewable energies. "Scientists believe that the transition has been sooner rather than later. However, making this shift needs profound collaboration by everyone including governments, educational institutes and industries," he said.

In his presentation, entitled 'Role of Renewable Energy in Economic Sustainability and Industrial Development in Kuwait', KISR Executive Director Energy and Building Research Center Dr Salem Al-Hajraf noted that renewable energy is the future and that Kuwait adopted it a few years back. "Without energy, we cannot survive. We have it in Kuwait in abundance, but we need to sustain it that for our next generations. We are living in one world and we need to protect it and whatever natural resources we have," he said.

Hajraf said that people need enough resources in order to survive. "Population growth requires more water, more power and more raw materials, so we need more energy. Energy demand tells as that by 2035 and beyond, fossil fuels will be scarce, so natural gas demand will increase further. Oil exporting countries like us must not be worried because our number one product will be affected. We have abundant natural resources like solar energy. If we invest now, we can supply the needs of the world," he added.

Very high

Hajraf said electricity consumption in Kuwait is very high compared to other countries. "In Kuwait, we have already started exploring the journey to renewable energy by setting a target of 15 percent electricity generated from renewable energy and optimizing con-



KUWAIT: Nizar Hamza, AUK President delivers a speech during the opening of the symposium yesterday. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



sumption to the lowest possible level by 2030. We have renewable projects ongoing now. Kuwait can generate high yields on these projects and we can create a new market," he said.

Hajraf has more than 23 years of experience in various scientific research fields including renewable energy and clean energy technologies, feasibility and environment studies. The symposium yesterday also saw presentations from Dr Osamah Al-Sayegh (Kuwait Energy Strategy 2035), Dr Ayman Al-Qattan (Renewable Energy Technology Deployment Challenges) Dr Suad Radwan (Solar Energy in the Oil Sector) and Dr Mark Speece (Energy Transition and Role of Entrepreneurial Business Program). The auditorium was also used for the display of renewable energy samples, solar panels and other research paraphernalia.



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION LAW CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: AUTHORITY

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) stressed on Sunday that Law No. 42, 2014, embodied the optimal use of natural resources that contributes to achieving sustainable development. This came in a speech delivered by Deputy Director General of EPA Mohammad Al-Enezi on behalf of Chairman and Director General Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Sabah while inaugurating a workshop on "achievements of the oil sector in environment protection." The workshop was co-organized by the authority and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

Enezi said that the new law is a quantum leap in changing environment management as it involves all

institutions and government agencies of the country in protecting environment. He added that the workshop highlights great efforts exerted by the oil sector in the field of environment protection and the abidance by the new law, which has become a 'cornerstone' in environment work.

He lauded the fruitful cooperation between the oil sector companies and the authority after the issuance of the new law, referring to the outputs of memoranda of understanding, mainly the one on sharing information which includes 14 items.

The workshop also aims to know to what extent the oil companies abide by the new law, he told

reporters on the sidelines of the workshop. There are many environmental requirements which aim to protect Kuwait's environment in terms of the optimal dealing with waste and addressing oil and marine pollution, he said.

Several shortstops were organized between the two bodies so as to show efforts exerted on environment protection, he pointed out. Meanwhile, Asmaa Al-Qallaf, a senior official at KPC, extolled the cooperation between the two sides, affirming the corporation's keenness on environment protection. The event included six lectures delivered by specialists at the oil sector on many topics. — KUNA

KUWAITI INVENTOR PRESENTS PROJECT FOR COATING OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

DOHA: The Kuwaiti inventor Essa Abdulrahman Al-Nasrallah has presented to the 22nd GCC youth science forum a project for cementing walls of nuclear reactors. The Kuwaiti nuclear engineer said he started working on the project since he was a university student, when he presented a study on radiation impact on metals.

The Kuwaiti project is fundamentally based on the process in which matter transforms into plasma under extreme pressure and heat. Scientists have been exerting tremendous efforts to use materials that can withstand extreme conditions for at least five years.

Nasrallah indicated that his project is centered on impact of radiation,

nuclear wise, and on components of metals. Nuclear fusion is nowadays a main physics' branch. The forum opened on Saturday with a delegation from the Scientific Center of Kuwait taking part. The seven-day event provides a networking opportunity for talented youth from the six members of the GCC and aims to foster their scientific skills. — KUNA



Kuwaiti inventor Essa Abdulrahman Al-Nasrallah

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Crime

Report

MAN KILLS COUSIN

KUWAIT: A man killed his cousin and injured another in their diwaniya. The father of the two rushed in and found one of his sons with his head blown off, while the other was injured in the ear. His nephew was standing with a shotgun to his side. The shocked man called police, so they rushed along with paramedics to try and save their lives, but one of them was already dead, and the other was rushed to Adan Hospital. Police sources said the suspect's silence is preventing them from knowing the true reason behind the crime, adding that detectives found drugs residue and paraphernalia in the diwaniya along with two air rifles. The suspect was detained as investigations are underway.

Wanted

A Filipina woman who was walking late at night made policemen stop her and ask for her ID, but she said she left it at home and was going to the co-op. Policemen took her to the police station and took her fingerprints, and discovered she was wanted for three cases of theft, swindling and absconding.

Blackmail

An Indian domestic helper was used by a compatriot, who forced her to steal from her employer's home. The man wanted more, but when she refused, he threatened to kidnap her, so she went to Fahd Al-Ahmad police station and told them what was going on, and told them about the thefts she committed. Policemen agreed with the helper to lure this man by stealing some more items, then when he arrived at the agreed place, policemen arrested him. He will be sent to concerned authorities.

Smuggling

A shipment imported by a contracting company seemed to contain stationery, biscuits and children's food, but these were chemicals and slurries for making liquor. Tips were received by air customs officers about the shipment, so they waited for it until it arrived. When they inspected it, they found the illicit material. Authorities are looking for the man who imported it.

Harassment

A Syrian woman accused a man not known to her of harassing her and saying indecent words. The woman said while she was shopping in a supermarket, a man followed her and started flirting with her. When she ignored him, he insulted her with indecent words. The woman screamed, so people gathered around them, prompting the man to escape. Police are investigating. —Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa

Al-Qabas

Al-Qabas

GOOD RIDDANCE!

By Mubarak Fahd Al-Duwaila

It will not be far from the truth if I said that the Assembly that was dissolved was the most rejected assembly ever because of its performance over the past three years, and of the general standard of its members who became a subject of ridicule on social media. Now, that it has been dissolved, many are wondering if the move was to pacify people whose anger was on the increase against the performance of its members day after day, or was it for other reasons many do not know?

The answer, as we received it, is that a study that was delivered to the Assembly confirmed that two-thirds of the current members will not return to their seats if elections were held after the constitutional period, i.e. the summer of 2017, and the opposite is correct if elections are held within two months from now.

This may explain why the constitutional period for the new elections was reduced to 40 days, as the element of surprise is required in this case to achieve the goal, which is to deprive opponents from the chance to prepare. There remains another question - how did the holder of this opinion convince the rest of the influential parties? The answer simply is that the success of two-thirds of today's MPs guarantees stability in the Assembly's office, and in turn will contribute to deciding the government's side, and in this way all parties can be convinced of having an Assembly and government that are in total harmony, as the case was with the dissolved Assembly.

So, the Assembly was dissolved to guarantee continuity of its performance and formation for four new years, and not to give the political opposition any chance for success because of the surprise element! The evidence is that the constitutional articles that justify the dissolution do not apply to this Assembly, because it is not known if the government complained because of lack of cooperation by members - rather it is the other way round because the speaker always lauded the understanding and coordination between the two authorities. As for the regional conditions, they require other measures such as declaration of emergency and martial law, and it is not right to hinder the Assembly in carrying out its duties.

The dissolution of this cooperative Assembly confirms that the problem is not in the constitution but in the extent of belief in it and its rules. This is the hidden defect that made political life unstable in Kuwait from the day of independence until now. —Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

CONSTITUTIONAL 'BALDNESS'

By Hassan Al-Essa

Some commercials about so-called baldness and anti-hair fall treatments show someone's completely bald head without a single hair on it in one picture, a few hairs in a second one looking like recently grafted soil that had been barren before the medicine was used, then a third picture that shows thick hair that supposedly grew after using the medicine for a long period of up to six months or more, during which many bald people would have believed the ad and bought the medicine, making endless profits for the manufacturing company regardless whether hair grows or not. Thus, the ad would have achieved its goal and promoted an illusion!

The repeated dissolutions of the parliament and calling for new elections are just like those illusionary hair fall treatments. An ad would start with a decree on dissolving the parliament due to lack of cooperation between the executives and the legislators, though deep within and underneath, they are but one council run and controlled with the same mentality. After small, little, or even big hindrances here and there that can no longer be tolerated by the ruling authority, they start seeking various reasons to dissolve the parliament, each time with the same result that some of the members of that

bald parliament transgressed the limits agreed upon and have to be reminded of the state of constitutional baldness.

Thus the government resigns, the parliament gets dissolved and new elections are called according to the terms set by the authority. Then, the parliament comes back and so does the Cabinet with different names, though the essence of the lack of any political parties remains the same and ministers who are one third of Assembly members, who through favoritism and favors, manage to attract the affiliation of other blocs in order to form the majority needed in a rubberstamp parliament, where members swap places from time to time!

Though some previous parliaments witnessed a few individual rejections to totalitarianism, nothing has been changed since the 1960s, because such parliaments soon get dissolved and new elections are called, or even the constitution gets suspended like what happened in 1976 and 1986. So, in view of the delicate regional situations and security challenges, kindly use this 'baldness' medicine for a further six months, a year or two, then declare a severe case of constitutional baldness!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

News

in brief

DNA law amendments discussed in 1st session

KUWAIT: Amendments to the DNA law are expected to make its application restricted on certain categories to be announced later, high-ranking sources said, adding that authorities are currently working on these adjustments as per His Highness the Amir's request. Should the amendments be enforced through an emergency decree issued before a new parliament is elected, the Cabinet will follow the constitution and refer it to the parliament on the first session after the elections, the sources said. —Al-Anbaa

No hope

KUWAIT: Education minister Dr Bader Al-Essa confirmed that a Civil Service Commission (CSC) decision to reduce expatriate teachers' rent allowance cannot be reversed, ending hope that grievances that teachers had filed against the decision could be accepted. "Canceling the decision became impossible after it was published in the national gazette," he explained. "We did everything in our power to repeal it. We sent letters through the Cabinet to the CSC, but unfortunately, it is all over," he added. —Al-Rai

In cash

KUWAIT: Egypt will pay Kuwait the cost of petroleum products in cash according to agreements signed recently between the two countries, sources said, adding that no 'exceptional privileges' or discounts will be given. —Al-Rai

Staff transfer

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries Company (KIPI) is expected to absorb around 1,759 employees from Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC), who are working in Wafra, Khafji and KGOC's head office. An announcement was made last Sunday to establish KIPI with a capital of KD 1.8 billion, and it will carry out drilling, oil exploration and other purposes. —Annahar

KPC PROJECTS KD 480 MILLION PROFITS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries are expected to make KD 480 million in profits in the fiscal year 2017/2018, according to what KPC's Board of Directors adopted during its meeting Sunday. The projected profits were calculated based on an estimated production rate of \$2.8 million a day and a price of \$45 a barrel compared to the \$35 a barrel in the current fiscal year, said sources familiar with the meeting.

The most notable expected features in the strategy of KPC and its subsidiaries in the fiscal year 2017/2018 include the closure of the Shuaiba refinery that is affiliated to the Kuwait National Petroleum Company

(KNPC), and shutting down the fertilizer plants of the Petroleum Industries Company (PIC), said the sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Shutting down the Shuaiba refinery is expected to drop the refining capacity from 950,000 barrels a day to 650,000, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the sources said that no increases in manpower are expected in the next fiscal year, adding that the current number of workers in the oil sector is estimated at around 21,000. On the other hand, the sources indicated that procedures are ongoing to finalize the hiring of 850 Kuwaiti engineers and technicians this year in KNPC and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). —Al-Rai



ABK SILVER SPONSOR OF 'FIGHT LIKE A GIRL' BREAST CANCER AWARENESS EVENT

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced the conclusion of its successful Silver sponsorship of the 'Fight Like A Girl' Breast Cancer Awareness event, which was organized by The American Women's League - Kuwait (AWL). The event was held at the Jumeirah Hotel, on 22 October, 2016. Organized for the second consecutive year, the 'Fight Like A Girl' event was held under the patronage of the US Ambassador, and was attended by the South African, Hungarian, Indian, Peru and Brunai Ambassadors' wives, in addition to the President of the American Women League, Judge Lynda Greenstone.

ABK has taken the initiative to sponsor this event in support of women who are fighting the battle against breast cancer.

'Fight Like A Girl' demonstrates the power and strength females reflect when going through this life changing experience. ABK is keen to raise maximum awareness of this life threatening disease and play a role in saving lives by promoting early detection and highlighting available treatments.

The Bank's sponsorship is one of a series of initiatives it plans to take on for this cause. Its most recent participation was in support of the KCCC Open Day, which focused on celebrating the lives of those fighting cancer, and raising awareness of the disease among their families and loved ones. For more information about ABK please visit our website eahli.com or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

NBK HOLDS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BUSINESS JOURNALISTS

KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) acknowledges the significance of business journalism in supporting the national economy and banking sector, especially at this particular time when mega development projects are being executed.

Speaking on launching a training program organized by NBK for business reporters, Group CEO Essam Al-Sager said that local and international banking sectors are going through rapid changes dealt with by economic reporters. "Due to its leadership of the banking sector and its presence in various markets worldwide, NBK is very keen on passing such changes to the media, namely to economic and banking reporters," he underlined.

Meanwhile, NBK's CEO Salah Al-Fulajj stressed that NBK is keen on supporting all initiatives designed to develop Kuwait's eco-



nomics sector. Also speaking on the occasion, NBK's human resources manager Emad Al-Ablani welcomed participants and stressed that NBK was always keen on holding such training courses. The training program is organized during the period between October 22, 2016 and April 1, 2017.





In the year of over 3,000 shootings, US teenager faces life bullet

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BRITISH MURDERER 'FILMED VICTIMS'

'TRIPLE TALAQ' DIVORCE UNJUST: INDIAN PM
 HISTORIC INDIAN MOSQUE AGREES TO LIFT BAN ON WOMEN

NEW DELHI: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday criticized the controversial practice of triple talaq, which allows Muslim men to divorce their wives instantly with a single word, saying women should not face discrimination on religious grounds. Triple talaq divorce is legal under the Indian constitution, which allows the country's 1.2 billion citizens to be governed by their own religious laws when it comes to marriage, divorce and property inheritance.

The practice has faced repeated legal challenges in recent years, and Modi's Hindu nationalist government has said it wants to replace it with a new uniform civil code applicable to all religious groups. But that proposal has met stiff opposition from Muslim groups, who argue that it would discriminate against them. "What is the crime of my Muslim sister that just like that over the telephone someone says 'talaq' three times and her whole life should be ruined?" Modi said at a rally in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. "No injustice should be meted out to our mothers and sisters in the name of religion or community," he said in the televised speech.

Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state and 20 percent of its 200 million people are Muslim. Modi, whose Bharatiya Janata Party is gearing for state elections there early next year, said it was his government's duty to ensure the rights of Muslim women were upheld. "We should not look at religion when it comes to respecting or protecting women," said Modi. "Election, votes, politics must be kept on one side: Muslim women must get their rights." Some Indian Muslim women have in recent years launched legal challenges to triple talaq, which they say discriminates against them and violates their human rights.

A case in the mid-1980s involving Muslim woman Shah Bano, who took her rejected demand for alimony to the Supreme Court,

triggered debate across India about whether the court had authority over Muslim personal law. The court upheld her right to alimony, but its verdict was reversed by a law passed by the then-Congress party government after Muslim groups reacted angrily. The Supreme Court is currently hearing a petition filed by women's rights activists who want the judiciary to declare triple talaq

unconstitutional. Muslims make up more than 13 percent of the population of India, a secular democracy with a Hindu majority.

Historic Indian mosque

In another development, an historic mosque in India agreed yesterday to scrap a ban on women entering its inner sanctum, after a bitter legal battle about the restric-

tion in the deeply religious country. The Haji Ali Dargah trust has since 2011 barred women from the landmark mausoleum off the coast of Mumbai, insisting the presence of women near the tomb of a revered saint is a "grievous sin" in Islam. The trustees had appealed to the Supreme Court against a lower court's order in August to overturn the ban, a ruling made on the grounds that the

prohibition violated constitutional rights of equality.

But the trust told the Supreme Court yesterday it would now admit women, but needed several weeks to set up special entry areas to the tomb in the 15th-century building. "The trust has decided to give women access to the sanctorum housing the saint's tomb," its lawyer Gopal Subramaniam told the court. A Muslim women's rights group hailed the decision as a victory which would likely put pressure on other places of worship that have gender restrictions. "It's a victory for women's rights," said Noorjehan Niaz, co-founder of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan which campaigns for the rights of Muslim women in India.

"It is restoring the Islamic values of what we have always believed as Muslims, that Islam is a religion of equality, democracy and women's rights," she said. Niaz was one of the petitioners who filed the case against the Haji Ali Dargah trust on constitutional grounds. Women in India have been intensifying their campaigns to be allowed to enter a string of Hindu temples and other religious sites. Hundreds of women staged a protest march to a temple in Maharashtra state in January, leading the high court in Mumbai to strike down a ban against women entering a shrine there.

The reasons for the trust's change of heart in the latest case were unclear. But the Supreme Court when taking up the appeal had expressed hopes of a "progressive" approach from it, according to the Press Trust of India. Haji Ali Dargah is one of Mumbai's most recognizable landmarks and receives tens of thousands of not only Muslims but Hindu devotees and sightseeing tourists every week. The mosque is located on an islet accessible via a causeway at low tide. It was built in memory of a wealthy Muslim who gave up his worldly possessions and went on a pilgrimage to Makkah. —Agencies



MUMBAI: Indian Muslims take part in a protest rally against the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in Mumbai. Hundreds of Muslims gathered to protest against the possible implementation of the Uniform Civil Code across India, which would ban controversial practices such as triple talaq divorce, under which a Muslim man can divorce his wife instantly with just three words. —AFP



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CIVILIANS PAY PRICE OF IS 'SMOKE WAR' AROUND MOSUL

QAYYARAH: The smoke from fires lit by Islamic State jihadists to provide cover from air strikes has painted the northern Iraqi sky black, providing a dramatic backdrop for the Mosul offensive. The use of smoke in warfare is likely as old as war itself but the masks and technology available to Iraqi forces in this conflict leave civilians, especially children, the most vulnerable. As forces closed in on their Mosul bastion, IS set fire to oil wells, torched tyres inside the city and set up a defense system around it that includes burning oil trenches to blind their enemy's air and satellite assets. In the area of Al-Tina, south of Mosul, billows of white smoke from a sulphur plant torched by IS were brought rolling in by the wind, mixed at times with black plumes from blazing oil wells.

In the resulting haze, which limited vision to a few hundred meters, dust-caked children played on the roadside. "It blocks our chest," said Tiba, an 11-year-old girl wearing a blue dress and red headscarf. Anas, a seven-year-old boy with curly brown hair, said his throat was hurting. According to a UN statement, 600 to 800 people have sought medical assistance because of the toxic cloud released by the sulphur plant fire. Most of them were checked at a health centre in nearby Qayyarah but its chief doctor said several cases had to be transferred to a better equipped hospital nearby.

Hundreds treated

Two civilians are confirmed to have died from inhaling the sulphur fumes. That fire was put out over the weekend but oil wells, some of which have been burning for months, are still ablaze. Civilians living on the edges of Mosul in areas not yet retaken by Iraqi forces are also affected and have limited options for treatment. A medic at Mosul's Jomhuri hospital, whom AFP contacted but can not name for security reasons, said a growing number of residents were checking themselves in with respiratory problems. "Those who suffer the most are people with asthma, especially children and the elderly," the medic said. "We are doing what we can but the shortage of drugs at the hospital is getting worse."

Doctors told AFP that IS fighters are taking heavy casualties from the ongoing fighting and keeping most of the dwindling medical supplies for themselves. Abu Thaeer, who lives on the eastern outskirts of Mosul, brought his five-year-old son to Jomhuri hospital last week. "My son has asthma and he is suffering a lot from the smoke," he said. "The drugs still available are expensive so I moved him here, where he is being treated in the oxygen room." Up to 1.2 million people are believed to still be living in the city and Abu Thaeer said some were trying to move away from the fires to less affected neighborhoods.

Limited military impact

According to health and chemical weapon contamination experts from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the smoke



MOSUL: Iraqi forces fire artillery shells towards the nearby village of Zalhafa from their position on the outskirts of the village of Al-Khuwayn, south of Mosul, after recapturing it from Islamic State (IS) group jihadists. —AFP

clouds around Mosul were not of the most toxic kind. "The more the oil is processed—the more it will contain toxic fumes, but it would be less black," the ICRC said. "The most lethal and dangerous toxic chemicals are those we don't easily perceive with natural senses," it said. When masks are not available, civilians should use a wet handkerchief to cover their mouth and nose, the ICRC said.

On satellite imagery, a dotting of black smudges obfuscate the Mosul battlefield but

experts argue the jihadist tactic has limited impact besides obscuring the vision of drones. "Burning oil wells does cause a localized nuisance, but it doesn't stop us from collecting intelligence using a variety of aerial and space platforms," said Colonel John Dorrian, spokesman of the US-led anti-IS coalition.

David Witty, an analyst and retired US special forces colonel, said the fires were mostly effective at "temporarily impeding ground,

tactical operations as combating forces draw close to each other." "Smoke can greatly restrict close air support from attack helicopters, but less so for higher flying aircraft which already have GPS locations for targets," he said. In history, Saladdin, the 12th century Iraq-born founder of the Ayyubid dynasty, set dry grass on fire to disrupt his enemy during the battle of Hattin (in what is now Israel) to clinch a decisive victory against the Crusaders. —AFP

BATTLE FOR MOSUL CAN SHAPE OR BREAK IRAQ

ISLAMIC STATE PUT UP FIERCE FIGHT TO DEFEND 'CALIPHATE'

ERBIL: It has taken two years of training a demoralized army, and the backing of the air cover and special forces of the world's greatest powers, for Iraq to mount an offensive to recapture Mosul from Islamic State. Almost a week into the US-led onslaught, many of those running the campaign say the battle to retake the city could be long and hard. But they have also identified what they think is a chink in the jihadists' armour. If local fighters in Mosul can be persuaded to drop their allegiance to Islamic State, there is a chance that the battle can be brought to a more speedy conclusion, and that could have major implications for the future of Iraq.

Against a background of splits and rebellions in the Islamic State ranks in Mosul, some opposing commanders believe that a successful attempt to win over those local fighters could mean the battle will last only weeks rather than months.

Mosul, Iraq's second biggest city, is where IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared his Sunni caliphate in 2014, after his alliance between millenarian Islamists and veteran officers from the disbanded army of Saddam Hussein roared back into Iraq from bases they set up in Syria. Five Iraqi army divisions melted away in the face of a few hundred jihadists.

Now the battle to retake Mosul pits an unwieldy coalition of a 30,000-strong Iraqi regular force backed by the United States and European powers, alongside Kurdish and Shiite militias, against jihadists who have exploited the Sunni community's sense of dispossession in Iraq and betrayal in Syria. The political sensitivity with which the battle is handled could determine the future of Islamic State and of Sunni extremism, as well as the shape of this part of the Middle East, which is being shattered into sectarian fragments.

Islamic State fighters, estimated at between 4,000 and 8,000, have rigged the city with explosives, mined and booby-trapped roads, built oil-filled moats they can set alight, dug tunnels and trenches, and have shown every willingness to use some of Mosul's 1.5 million civilians as human shields. Islamic State seems to have a plentiful supply of suicide bombers, launching them in explosives-laden trucks against Kurdish Peshmerga fighters converging on Mosul from the east and northeast, and against Iraqi forces, spearheaded by counter-terrorism units, advancing from the south and southwest. "Mosul will be a multi-month endeavor. This is going to take a long time," a senior US official said in Iraq.

Caliphate

Karim Sinjari, Interior Minister in the self-governing Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) of northern Iraq, said IS would put up a fierce fight because of Mosul's symbolic value as capital of its self-proclaimed Islamic caliphate. "If Mosul is finished, the caliphate they announced is finished. If they lose in Mosul, they will have no place, just Raqqa (in Syria)," Sinjari said.

IS is adept at exploiting divisions among its enemies, and last Friday's dawn assault by its fighters on Kirkuk, for example, was not just an

attempt to divert Iraqi and Kurdish forces and relieve pressure on the main front. It was also intended to galvanise Sunni Arab opinion against the Kurds, whose Iraqi Peshmerga and Syrian Kurdish militia are the most effective ground forces deployed against IS. That is why many of those involved in the battle for Mosul stress the need to break the cohesion of IS and the allegiance it has won or coerced among alienated Sunnis, in Mosul and beyond.

Sinjari said. This was confirmed by the US official but could not be independently verified. But it fits with accounts of a recent abortive uprising against IS, led by a former aide to Baghdadi, that ended with the execution of 58 Daesh dissidents.

Crucially, more than half IS's fighting strength comes from Sunni tribes who were initially relieved they were being freed from sectarian persecution at the hands of a Shiite-dominated government in

it falls to avoid stoking a sectarian backlash. While the anti-IS coalition has gained momentum, military strategists and intelligence officials say the closer the Iraqi forces get to Mosul, the harder it will be. "If they decide to defend the city then it will be more difficult and the process will slow down," the intelligence chief said. Once inside Mosul, Iraqi special forces would have to go from street to street to clear explosives and booby traps set up by Islamic State. "The roads are very narrow. You can't use vehicles or tanks, so it will be a fight, person by person," Sinjari said.

Villages

Until now, it has been easy for the coalition to hit IS positions in deserted villages around Mosul, but the air strikes will slow down once Iraqi forces get into the city. Islamic State, Iraqi commanders say, has succeeded in the past in blocking army troops from moving against it by staging suicide attacks and rigging explosives. But they say that would no longer be an obstacle in Mosul as the Iraqi army has recently received an effective guided missile system that destroys explosives-packed vehicles. The Iraqi commanders say their tactic now would be to cut Islamic State fighters off from the hinterland of supporting villages and then split the city into different neighborhoods.

Brigadier Haider Abdul Muhsin Al-Darraj, from the army's 10th division, said military units would launch simultaneous attacks from multiple fronts on Mosul and divide the city into sectors to isolate IS fighters. With the coalition launching air strikes, the jihadists will have little chance of getting reinforcements from the western side of the city, which has been left open to encourage their departure towards Syria. The difficulty is how to hit IS targets inside Mosul without causing massive civilian casualties. "It's just like a tough surgery to remove a brain tumor," Darraj said.

Colonel Mahdi Ameer, from the 9th Iraqi army division fighting south of Mosul, said Islamic State had "deliberately blocked residents from leaving the city to use them as human shields and prolong the battle". Islamic State's enemies do not underestimate the group's strength, which depends on experienced former senior Baathist officers and Islamist radicals willing to blow themselves up to defend their Sunni heartland. "They are much more organized than the Peshmerga and others. They have good administration, a good support system and enough weapons and ammunition," said the Kurdish official.

The Mosul offensive will be the most important battle fought in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003. What happens next will shape or break an already fractured Iraq. "There are growing concerns about fixing the ... peace the day after liberating Mosul," said Hoshiyar Zebari, a top Iraqi politician and former finance minister. "How will this multi-ethnic, multi-sectarian city ... be governed and run without communal conflict, without revenge killing, without a large displacement of people? That needs some political planning on how the city will be governed," he said. —Reuters



HOL: Iraqi refugees who fled Mosul, the last major Iraqi city under the control of the Islamic State (IS) group arrive in the desert area of Rajam Al-Saliba on the Iraq-Syria border. —AFP

MOSUL REFUGEES TRAPPED UNDER IS FIRE ALONG THE SYRIAN BORDER

RAJAM AL-SALIBEH: They have escaped the Islamic State group stronghold of Mosul but hundreds of Iraqis seeking refuge in neighboring war-torn Syria are now trapped on the border under jihadist fire. As hungry and thirsty children wander in tears between makeshift tents, a motorbike suddenly roars towards the encampment in the Rajam Al-Salibeh border area, just inside Syrian territory. Syrian Kurdish fighters manning the border open fire, fearing an IS scout, or even a suicide bomb attacker. The vehicle disappears from view but then reemerges and is again met by fire from the Kurdish forces a second time before it retreats. The incident heightens the tension and fear at the border, where Iraqis fleeing IS-held Mosul ahead of an army operation to recapture the city are seeking refuge in their war-torn neighbor.

"A mortar shell fell and an Iraqi family was injured. Day and night there are clashes. We're living in danger here," said one Iraqi in his thirties, who refused to give his name. He said he feared reprisals against relatives still in Mosul, and spoke with his checkered keffiyeh over his face to hide it from the camera. Around him in the desert, hundreds of Iraqis waited in the heat. Despite the war that is ravaging Syria and has displaced millions of its residents, the Iraqis are desperate to reach the UN-run Al-Hol refugee camp in Syria's Hasakeh province. The wait is long: this group has been stuck on a stretch of Syrian border for 10 days, with IS-held Iraqi territory just behind them.

Trapped on the frontline

Kurdish and Arab fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces man earth berms on the border, and regularly skirmish with IS fighters coming from Iraq. The jihadists sometimes send scouts to see where people have gathered and then launch mortar shells at fleeing civilians. "We're on the front here, there is constant fire," said another Iraqi refugee, his face also covered,

this time with a black scarf. "My son is sick from the heat. Why won't they help us and let us enter Al-Hol?" he asked, also refusing to give his name for fear of reprisals. Local officials say the delays are necessary to prevent IS fighters from entering the country and the camp.

"There are security procedures to follow. We're afraid that Daesh (IS) elements might try to infiltrate disguised as civilians," camp official Roder Younes said earlier in the week. Al-Hol lies some 200 kilometers from Mosul, territory that those fleeing must navigate mostly on foot, dodging IS mines and sniper fire intended to keep civilians from escaping. The waiting families lie on blankets under makeshift fabric tents that shade them from the blazing sun. Men and women haul heavy bags stuffed with their remaining belongings, as barefoot and in some cases visibly malnourished children nibble biscuits that temporarily distract them from crying.

Hungry, thirsty

"The heat and the hunger are killing us," said Nawal, dressed in black. "At night it is so cold we dig a hole to bury our hands in and warm them up," she added, sitting with her three children in a group of other women. At Al-Hol, the camp is being expanded to accommodate the refugees already arriving and the many more who are expected to come as the operation to recapture Mosul advances.

Some 6,000 people have been at the camp for around the last two years, and it is being expanded to receive 30,000 people. On Friday, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said 912 Iraqis had arrived at the camp in recent days. But for those trapped on the border, the process is not moving fast enough. "We're been here a week, we're thirsty and a container of drinking water is 1,500 Syrian pounds (\$3), we can't afford that," complained Ibrahim al-Khalaf, sitting in a makeshift tent with his wife and six children. "We fled oppression, and we hope we won't be oppressed here too." —AFP

ISRAEL'S NEXT GAZA WAR WILL BE 'LAST': MINISTER

JERUSALEM: Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said in an interview with a Palestinian newspaper yesterday that Israel's next war with Gaza militants would be their last "because we will completely destroy them". Lieberman however said he had no intention of starting a new war in Gaza, which would be the fourth since 2008. He urged Palestinians to pressure Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip, to "stop your crazy policies".

"As minister of defense, I would like to clarify that we have no intention of starting a new war against our neighbors in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, Lebanon or Syria," he said in the interview with Jerusalem-based Al-Quds newspaper. "But in Gaza, like the Iranians, they intend to eliminate the state of Israel... If they impose the next war on Israel, it will be their last. I would like to emphasize again: It will be their last confrontation

because we will completely destroy them." Lieberman is part of what is seen as the most right-wing government in Israeli history, with several prominent members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition openly opposing a Palestinian state.

But while known as a security-minded hardliner, Lieberman believes in a two-state solution to the conflict based on land swaps. He reiterated that position in the interview, saying he sees the main settlement blocks in the occupied West Bank remaining part of Israel under a final peace deal. Lieberman, who took office in May, also criticized Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, accusing him of failing to make tough compromises that could lead to peace. He predicted Abbas would lose if elections were held, with polls showing most Palestinians would like the 81-year-old to resign. —AFP

TILTING, SINKING SAN FRANCISCO HIGH-RISE RAISES ALARM

SAN FRANCISCO: Pamela Buttery noticed something peculiar six years ago while practicing golf putting in her 57th-floor apartment at the luxurious Millennium Tower. The ball kept veering to the same corner of her living room. Those were the first signs for residents of the sleek, mirrored high-rise that something was wrong. The 58-storey building has gained notoriety in recent weeks as the "leaning tower of San Francisco."

But it's not just leaning. It's sinking, too. And engineers hired to assess the problem say it shows no immediate sign of stopping. "What concerns me most is the tilting," says Buttery, 76, a retired real estate developer. "Is it safe to stay here? For how long?" Completed seven years ago, the tower so far has sunk 16 inches into the soft soil and landfill of San Francisco's crowded financial district. But it's not sinking evenly, which has created a 2-inch tilt at the base - and a roughly 6-inch lean at the top.

By comparison, Italy's famed Leaning Tower of Pisa is leaning more than 16 feet. But in a major earthquake fault zone, the Millennium Tower's structural problems have raised alarm and become the focus of a public scandal. Several documents involving the downtown building were leaked in recent weeks, including exchanges between the city's Department of Building Inspection and Millennium Partners, the developer. They

show both sides knew the building was sinking more than anticipated before it opened in late 2009, but neither made that information public.

In a February 2009 letter, a chief buildings inspector, Raymond Lui, wrote to the tower's engineering firm to express concerns about "larger than expected settlements." He asked what was being done to stop the sinking and if the building's structural safety could be affected. DeSimone Consulting Engineers replied that the building had already unexpectedly settled 8.3 inches. But the engineering firm concluded, "It is our professional opinion that the structures are safe." City Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who has convened hearings on the matter at City Hall, asked Lui why the building was then certified safe for occupancy.

"We felt they had it under control," replied Lui, now employed in San Francisco's public works department. He did not elaborate. City officials, owners of the building's high-end apartments, its developers and politicians are arguing over who is to blame. Meanwhile, key questions remain. "When is this building going to stop sinking?" asks Jerry Dodson, an attorney and engineer who paid \$2.1 million in 2009 for his two-bedroom apartment on the 42nd floor. "That's something that no one has been able to answer."



SAN FRANCISCO: Jerry Dodson and his wife Pat stand inside their home on the 42nd floor of the Millennium Tower in San Francisco. The 58-storey tower has gained notoriety in recent weeks as the leaning tower of San Francisco. — AP

On the sidewalks outside the Millennium Tower, engineers last month started working to figure out why the building keeps sinking and if there's a way to fix it. But the process, which involves drilling deep holes and testing soil samples, is expected to take several months. The geotechnical engineer leading the operation, Pat Shires, said existing data indicates the tower "might" sink

between 24 to 31 inches in total, but nobody knows for sure. When the Millennium Tower opened, it became a haven for the city's well-heeled, and all 419 apartments quickly sold out. Tenants have included former San Francisco 49er Joe Montana, late venture capitalist Tom Perkins and Giants outfielder Hunter Pence.

The building has a 75-foot indoor lap-

pool, a health club and spa, an in-house cinema, and a restaurant and wine bar run by celebrity chef Michael Mina. Penthouses have sold for more than \$10 million. The tower's troubles are apparent in its five-floor underground garage, where Porsches and Lamborghinis sit near walls bearing floor-to-ceiling cracks, many bracketed by stress gauges to measure growth. Meanwhile, accusations and lawsuits are piling up. Dodson and other residents blame developers for what they say is a flawed design. The tower's foundation, for instance, uses piles driven 60 to 90 feet into landfill, rather than the pricier option of going down at least 240 feet to bedrock.

Millennium Partners maintains its design is safe and says many San Francisco high-rises have similar foundations. "We did this building the right way," Chris Jeffries, a founding partner at Millennium Partners, told a news conference. "The building is 100 percent safe." Jeffries blames the building's problems on an adjacent construction site where a city rail terminal is being built. He says the Transbay Joint Powers Authority, the public agency building the \$4.5 billion transit hub, dug a 60-foot hole to create a dry construction site and pumped out millions of gallons of groundwater that wound up compressing and weakening the soil under the Millennium Tower. — AP



CHICAGO: Jonathan Annicks (right) plays wheelchair basketball with his father, Mike, at the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital in Chicago. — AP

IN YEAR OF 3,000 SHOOTINGS, US TEEN FACES LIFE BEYOND BULLET

CHICAGO: He suddenly felt as if a hot wire had torn through his chest. It hurt to breathe. Jonathan Annicks wasn't sure he'd been shot. It was after midnight when he'd dashed outside his family's house to retrieve a phone charger from the car. Now, slumped over in anguish, he frantically punched his brother's number into his phone. "You might have to take me to the hospital," he gasped. "Come outside, please!" A hooded stranger had jumped from a van, fired seven shots, then sped away. Incredibly, only one struck Jonathan.

The 9 mm bullet plowed into his left shoulder, punctured both lungs, fractured his spine and lodged in his right side of his rib cage under his arm. At 18, Jonathan's life was about to take a cruel detour. It was early April and there already were signs that 2016 was going to be a very violent year in Chicago. By fall, the city's homicide rate approached 600. Shootings exceeded 3,000. Gangs and guns - on average, police seized an illegal weapon every 61 minutes - are the major culprits. More than 70 percent of those killed here this year were on a special police list of people with criminal records of gang histories.

Mistaken identity

But there are others who've been caught up in the mayhem: victims of robbery, mistaken identity, stray bullets or gang crossfire. Some incidents are particularly heinous, others inspirational. Jonathan Annicks' story is both, a life transformed, but not defined, by a single bullet. His injury had devastating consequences. He's now paralyzed from the mid-chest down. The bullet missed his heart by an inch, severely bruising his spinal cord. Over the past six months, his journey has been marked by resilience, change and a

determination to look ahead. "I couldn't stress about why I had been shot," he says.

"It wasn't worth it to stay sad because then I would just be making my life harder and I realized that very quickly. ... There was no point in sulking over something I couldn't change." Jonathan was shot on April 10 in Little Village, a neighborhood about 20 minutes from downtown. The community, which has a large Mexican population, is home to cozy taquerias, panaderias (bakeries) - but also gangs. Jonathan's home is on a boulevard that's a dividing line for opposing Latino gangs, police say, and he may have been mistaken for a rival gang member. Jonathan says it's pointless to think about the shooter. "If I lived with spite every day, then I don't think I would be able to function properly," he says. "I'd be very miserable if I were worrying about what he's doing or where he is." Instead, he's focused on rebuilding his strength and learning new ways to get out of bed, shower and dress. He also had to get accustomed to a catheter. It took time, too, to overcome the "why me" feeling and the sense of guilt that he was putting new pressure on his family. "People had to shape their lives in order to accommodate me," he says, "but after I realized they were there because they loved me ... I didn't have anything to worry about." His mother, Herlinda, has been a steady source of comfort since she told her son in the emergency room: "Whatever the outcome is, you're still here. You are who you are. We'll be fine. We'll deal with it." She's been his cheerleader and champion, juggling her job as a trust bank administrator with taking Jonathan to the doctor and physical therapy, cutting through insurance red tape, helping him each morning - and admonishing him when she thought he was being lazy or selfish. — AP

IN BATTLEGROUNDS FLORIDA, TOUGH STANCE ON FELONS MAY SAP VOTES FOR DEMOCRATS

1.5 MILLION FORMER FELONS STRIPPED OF RIGHT TO VOTE

TALLAHASSEE: Leonard "Roscoe" Newton has been in and out of Florida's prisons since before he could vote, starting with a youthful conviction for burglary. He's been a free man for six years now with an important exception: he still can't vote. Newton, who is African American, is among nearly 1.5 million former felons who have been stripped of their right to vote in a state with a history of deciding US presidential elections, sometimes by razor-thin margins of just a few hundred votes.

Felons have been disenfranchised in Florida since 1868, although they can seek clemency to restore their voting rights. Since 2011, however, when Republican state leaders toughened the restrictions on felon voting rights, just 2,339 ex-felons have had that right restored, the lowest annual numbers in nearly two decades, according to state data reviewed by Reuters. That compares with more than 155,000 in the prior four years under reforms introduced by Governor Rick Scott's predecessor, moderate Republican governor Charlie Crist, the data shows.

Restore voting rights

Crist, who was governor from 2007 to 2011, made it much easier to restore ex-felons' voting rights. "When I tried to be an effective member of the community, I saw that I was voiceless," said Newton, whose expectations of getting his rights restored were dashed when the rules changed under a new administration. "I'm 45, and I have never voted." The dramatic slowdown has stoked a racially charged debate over whether political bias taints the process of restoring felon voting rights in the largest battleground state in the Nov 8 presidential election.

Florida's toughened ban means racial minorities are disproportionately excluded from voting because of higher incarceration rates, data shows. Black voters tend to favor Democrats. "Republicans oppose the felon vote change because they are concerned about the political implications," said Darryl Paulson, a conservative Republican voting rights expert who sees wide restoration of voting rights as "a huge political advantage for the Democratic Party." Paulson says non-violent ex-felons should have the right to vote.

Almost all US states deny incarcerated felons the right to vote but many restore those rights after they have completed their sentences. Over the last two decades, more than 20 states have taken action to help people with criminal convictions regain their voting rights. Since July, Virginia's governor has restored voting rights to 67,000 felons. Florida is the largest of four remaining states that strip all former felons of voting rights, accounting for nearly half of those barred from voting nationally. Along with Virginia, the others are Kentucky and Iowa.

Tough new measures

In March 2011, two months after he became governor, Scott reversed Crist's reforms, which had allowed many non-violent felons to auto-

matically get their voting rights reinstated after they had completed their sentences. Crist had also simplified the process for felons convicted of more serious crimes to regain their votes. Scott, a millionaire former health care executive, put in place new restrictions, requiring ex-felons to wait five to seven years before applying to regain the right to vote, serve on a jury or hold elected office. He said the new rules ensured ex-felons had proven they were unlikely to offend.

Florida has disenfranchised about one in five voting-age black voters, according to research collected by the Sentencing Project, a Washington-based advocacy group. That compares with about 8.6 percent of the state's non-black potential voters. Data on the Hispanic voting-age population who can't vote because of

ment. "For those who may suggest that these rule changes have anything to do with race, these assertions are completely unfounded. Justice has nothing to do with race," Bondi wrote in a 2011 newspaper editorial. Scott's office, in a statement to Reuters, said former felons need to "demonstrate that they can live a life free of crime, show a willingness to request to have their rights restored and show restitution to the victims of their crimes" in order to have their voting rights restored.

'Fundamentally wrong'

Democrats have seized on the issue as a civil rights concern, regardless of the political impact, said Nell Toensmann, who chairs the Democratic Party of St Johns County, a north



FLORIDA: Voters line up to vote early at the Supervisor of Elections office in Bradenton, Florida. — AFP

the law was unavailable, although Hispanics make up 12.5 percent of Florida's inmates. The rates reflect racial disparities in criminal convictions. Florida's current prison population is nearly 48 percent black, more than any other racial group, although blacks are only 17 percent of the state's population.

Ion Sancho, supervisor of elections in Leon County, which includes the capital city of Tallahassee, accused the Republican administration of repealing the felon voting reforms "to reduce the number of African Americans who had their rights restored because those voters were perceived to be more Democratic voting and so therefore were targeted for elimination." Sancho is a former Democrat who is now unaffiliated with either party. Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi, the Republican officials who drove the 2011 policy changes, did not agree to be interviewed by Reuters or respond directly to questions on the accusations that the law is intended to influence elections.

But Bondi has previously denied the policy amounts to racially motivated disenfranchise-

Florida region of about 225,000 people dominated by Republicans. "Yes, it does disenfranchise a lot of African Americans, but it disenfranchises a lot of white people who would be voting as Republicans as well," she said. The Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation polling project shows a tight race in Florida. It estimates that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has a 48 percent chance of winning the state, compared to her Republican opponent Donald Trump's 42 percent. Political scientists say the voting ban can sap votes from both parties, but some research suggests that Democrats pay a steeper price. An analysis of voting patterns by race and economic status found that if the ban had not existed during the 2000 presidential election, Democrats would have had enough votes to overturn Republican George W. Bush's 537-vote victory in Florida that won him the White House. "In very close elections won by Republican candidates, felon disenfranchisement could be decisive," said Christopher Uggen, a University of Minnesota professor who led the study. — Reuters

MIGRANTS RISK IT ALL IN DEADLY GAMBLE FOR BETTER LIFE IN US

NOGALES: The two teens had trekked in the Sonoran Desert's searing heat for four days and were lost and almost out of water when border patrol agents in Arizona spotted them. Now, hours after being deported back to Mexico, 19-year-old Rodrigo and his 17-year-old brother Jose sat quietly on a recent evening in El Comedor, a shelter in the town of Nogales within sight of the US border and its promise of a sweeter future.

Around them, some 60 other freshly deported migrants from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala waited, forlorn, for the evening meal served by charity workers. "Tomorrow we go back home to Oaxaca (in southern Mexico) and we will tell our mother that we failed," said Jose, who asked that the pair's last name not be used. "But we won't give up, we will attempt the crossing again," he added, matter-of-factly. The shelter in Nogales, a town that straddles the US-Mexico border, is run by the Kino Border Initiative (KBI), a religious charity that offers migrants not

only food but also legal advice, clothing and a much-needed dose of TLC. Spend time talking to the men and women crammed on the benches of the one-room shelter-their faces etched with the hardships they have been through-and their stories bring forth the stark realities of the immigration debate that has roiled the US presidential campaign.

'Dignified way of life'

"The people we help are coming to the United States to seek a more dignified way of life," said Sean Carroll, a Jesuit priest and executive director of KBI, which runs El Comedor (dining hall in Spanish). "These men and women literally cannot earn enough money to put food on the table for their families." For several of the migrants at El Comedor, it was not the first time they had attempted the dangerous journey to cross the border, putting their fate in the hands of unscrupulous smugglers and drug cartels that can charge upwards of \$7,000 for the trip

through the unforgiving desert. Women are frequently sexually assaulted during the journey and many migrants go missing in the desert, where temperatures climb to 120 degrees in the summer.

Lost and desperate, some like Rodrigo and his brother end up hoping to be found by the border patrol agents who scour the frontier in vehicles, on horseback, on bicycle and on foot. Tougher border security aided by better technology has pushed migrants into remote areas controlled by drug cartels, Carroll and other officials who work closely with migrants said. And the recurring question raised during the US presidential campaign-why don't immigrants just come legally? — is simply not an option for the overwhelming majority, they add. "Many of the people we serve have no legal way at all or are faced with the prospect of waiting 15, 18, 20 years in order to even be considered for the possibility of coming legally," Carroll said. "And some are fleeing serious violence." — AFP

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RELIEF, SHATTERED DREAMS FOR MIGRANTS LEAVING JUNGLE

CALAIS: Hundreds of migrants bade farewell to the notorious "Jungle" camp in Calais yesterday, leaving behind the sprawling settlement and their dreams of reaching Britain with a mixture of relief and despair. "We don't know yet where we are going, but it will obviously be better than the Jungle, which was made for animals not humans," said Wahid, a 23-year-old from Afghanistan. "We will be in a home." Wahid was up before dawn to be among the first to get on one of the buses taking the camp's estimated 6,000-8,000 occupants to 451 centers across France. A 25-year-old Sudanese man, Abbas Hussein Ali, was also upbeat about leaving the insubstantial camp that has served as a launchpad for attempts to reach Britain. "I feel very happy, I've had enough of the Jungle," he said. But freshly scrawled graffiti on the walls of makeshift shelters and shops in the camp told another story. "I lost my hope," read one tag. "Is this justice? No," read another.

'My dream is ruined'
Hammoudi, a 22-year-old from the



CALAIS: Migrants gather by their tents and a bonfire as they look on in the 'Jungle' migrant camp in Calais, northern France. — AFP

devastated Syrian city of Aleppo, told AFP on Sunday: "My dream is ruined." Hammoudi, whose cousin was killed in a bombing in July, added: "My hope was

to be able to reach the UK, where I believe we as refugees would be better treated. But all of that is over." Some people, including Hammoudi, were still bent

on starting a new life across the Channel. Overnight, he and a group of Syrian friends fled the Jungle, aiming to set up camp nearby-and to keep trying to cross into Britain.

Mahmoud Al-Saleh, a 22-year-old from near Aleppo, said he was undecided about whether to register for transfer to a French accommodation centre. Sipping tea from a plastic cup, he spoke nervously, saying he feared trouble if he did not submit to the evacuation order. Saleh said he thought his chances of finding work were far better in Britain than in France. "I have to send money to my family in Syria. They have nothing... I just feel either I get to Britain someday, or I am better off in Syria," he said. Tasfu, a 48-year-old Eritrean carpenter, took a longer view. "My ambition is still to go to England, but I don't want to go to jail or risk my life in the process," he said, standing outside a shack in one of the Jungle's muddy alleys. "Once I have gone through the (asylum) process in France, I will go to England."

'My country is not safe'

Farhan, a 12-year-old Ethiopian boy who survived a harrowing sea voyage from Libya to Italy before travelling overland to Calais, said he wished he could go home.

"But my country is not safe," the boy said. "My heart has been broken since I left my family last year. I have not even been able to speak to them." Farhan was among scores of minors from the majority Oromo community in Ethiopia that has waged nearly a year of protests against a government largely made up of minority Tigrayans.

"Like everyone else, he travelled here alone," said Solan, a 24-year-old Ethiopian volunteer working with the minors. Britain has taken in nearly 200 child refugees out of an estimated 1,300 from the Jungle in the past week and is expected to take dozens more. Ashram, a 17-year-old Afghan, said he would try to renew his attempts to stow away on a truck heading across the Channel to Britain if his application failed. "I'm used to it now," he said.— AFP

News

in brief

US anti-Vietnam war activist Hayden dies

WASHINGTON: Peace activist Tom Hayden, whose radical views were at the forefront of the anti-Vietnam War movement in the 1960s, has died. He was 76. Hayden's wife, Canadian actress and author Barbara Williams, told CNN that he died late Sunday at the UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica, California, from complications related to a 2015 stroke. He is also survived by the couple's son, Liam. On Twitter, his official account hailed him as a "1960s radical who became a champion of liberal causes." Hayden was a member of the "Chicago 7" convicted on federal charges of conspiracy and incitement to riot over anti-Vietnam War protests at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The conviction was overturned on appeal. As an ideological leader of the influential Students for a Democratic Society, he authored its Port Huron statement, a visionary document that still inspires anti-authoritarian and pro-democracy movements today.

Unofficial US-N Korea talks held in Malaysia

SEOUL: A group of former US diplomats held closed door talks at the weekend with senior Pyongyang officials, even as international efforts gather pace to further isolate North Korea, diplomatically and economically. The two-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur, which was confirmed by the South Korean and US governments, was the latest in a series of unofficial talks commonly referred to as Track 2 that are closely monitored in the absence of any official contact between Washington and Pyongyang. In July, the North cut off its only remaining official channel of diplomatic communications with the United States in retaliation for American sanctions against its leader, Kim Jong-Un. The so-called "New York channel" had previously served as a key point of contact between North Korean and US diplomats at the United Nations.



ESEKA: Passengers escape from the site of a train derailment in Eseka. — AFP

Death toll in Cameroon train crash climbs to 79

YAOUNDE: The death toll in last week's train crash in Cameroon has climbed to 79 after rescuers finished combing through the wreckage, authorities said yesterday. On Sunday, 11 more bodies were pulled from the debris of the packed passenger train that derailed on Friday between Cameroon's two main cities, CRTV state radio reported. More than 500 people were injured, the radio added, when the train travelling from the capital Yaounde to the economic hub of Douala, came off the rails near the central city of Eseka. The train was crammed with people because a collapsed bridge made travelling the same route by road impossible. Extra carriages had been added to accommodate the additional passengers. "Searches at the site of the accident wound up on Sunday," a Camrail railway official who asked not to be identified said.

Islamic State executes 5 Iraqis in western town

BAGHDAD: The Islamic State group "executed" five Iraqis, including members of the security forces, during ongoing fighting in the western town of Rutba, army officers said yesterday. Jihadist fighters launched an attack on Rutba, a remote but strategic town near the Jordanian border in Anbar province, early on Sunday. They briefly seized the mayor's office before being pinned back by the security forces but were still deployed in some other neighborhoods of the town, the officers said. "Daesh (IS) controls Mithaq and Intisar neighborhoods in central Rutba," an army colonel said. "They captured people-civilians and policemen-and executed them," he said.

Vietnam police hunt hundreds of addicts after rehab escape

HANOI: Vietnamese police hunted yesterday for hundreds of drug addicts who escaped from a compulsory rehabilitation centre, with some using sticks and fire extinguishers to break out. The communist government decrees up to two years of forced rehabilitation at government centers to try to reduce drug use. Rights groups have denounced poor conditions at the facilities and mass escapes occur periodically. More than 500 addicts broke out of a centre in the southern province of Dong Nai late Sunday, leaving the centre in a shambles after smashing through concrete walls and windows and breaking down doors. The escapees flooded onto nearby roads, according to footage in local media, prompting officials to urge residents to stay indoors and lock their homes.

AT ODDS OVER BREXIT, THREE UK NATIONS DISCUSS HOW TO COOPERATE ON TERMS

BREXIT OPPOSED BY MAJORITY IN SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND

LONDON: The leaders of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales met British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday to discuss what part the three nations will play in the Brexit process, a thorny issue that risks triggering a constitutional crisis. May proposed setting up a new committee to give the three devolved governments, which have varying degrees of autonomy from London, a formal avenue to express views on how Britain's future relationship with the European Union should work.

"The country is facing a negotiation of tremendous importance and it is imperative that the devolved administrations play their part in making it work," May said in a statement her office released before the meeting. At stake is the three-century union between England, where a majority voted to leave the EU, and Scotland, where a majority voted to stay.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said yesterday she was seeking "meaningful input" into the decision-making structure and wants each of the United Kingdom's four assemblies to get a vote on the proposed

negotiating package. Sturgeon has said her government is preparing for all possibilities, including independence from the UK, after Britain leaves the EU. In Northern Ireland, which also voted to keep EU membership, there are fears that Brexit could undermine a 1998 peace deal and reinstate a hard border with the Republic of Ireland.

Experts have warned of the risk of a constitutional crisis if May does not take into account the position of each of the UK's four nations when conducting negotiations on the terms of Brexit. "Imposing a Brexit settlement in the face of devolved opposition (while legally possible) would be a reckless strategy," said the Institute for Government, an independent think-tank. "Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland cannot be treated like any other lobby or interest group. Equally, the devolved governments will have to accept that Westminster will have the final say," it said in a report.

The new committee proposed by May would be chaired by Brexit minister David Davis and include repre-

sentatives from the three devolved governments. May proposes that it should meet by the end of November and at least once more before Christmas. Sturgeon has said Scotland wants to keep as many of the advantages of membership of the EU's single market as it can and is looking for a bespoke deal to do so. The British government, however, has said it will negotiate a one-size-fits-all Brexit deal on behalf of the whole United Kingdom.

May's spokeswoman said yesterday the UK needed a single nationwide position going into Brexit negotiations, and May expected the devolved governments not to undermine the overall Brexit talks by conducting their own negotiations.

Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones said Wales, where a majority voted to leave the EU, wanted to play a full, positive and active part in the Brexit process and hoped the approach would be reciprocated by London. "If UK Gov can't negotiate position with devolved nations little hope of negotiating a good Brexit deal with 27 countries," he said on Twitter.— Reuters

SPAIN FACES CRUCIAL WEEK

MADRID: Spain entered a crucial week yesterday as acting conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy prepared to re-take power, ending 10 rollercoaster months without government marked by hope and disillusion. As the country headed towards an unprecedented third election in less than a year, its political fate hinged on whether the Socialists would allow a Rajoy-led minority government to rule and avoid more polls, and on Sunday they swallowed a bitter pill and voted to do so.

While conservatives cautiously welcomed the move, it will come as a blow to millions of Spaniards who voted for two upstarts they thought could bring change - far-left Podemos and centrists Ciudadanos-and many Socialist supporters. "An important decision was taken yesterday, and in my opinion a reasonable one," Rajoy tweeted yesterday with his usual reserve, as the main Ibx 35 index of Spain's stock market shot up 1.44 percent early afternoon on news the country would finally get a government. The decision caps a 10-month period that saw Spain go from jubilant hope after December 2015 elections ended the traditional two-party system to disillusion following repeat polls in June.

Back in December, millions of voters fed up with austerity and corruption during Rajoy's four-year term had cast their ballot for Podemos and Ciudadanos, led respectively by the 38-year-old Pablo Iglesias and Albert Rivera, 36. This resulted in a fragmented parliament where no grouping had enough lawmakers to govern alone, even if Rajoy's Popular Party (PP) won the most seats. But party leaders failed to reach any kind of viable coalition deal, prompting repeat elections in June with a similar result.

Rajoy will be weak

Now Rajoy-whose perceived dullness and mistrust of the media earned him the nickname "plasma prime minister" after he conducted press conferences via video screen-is poised to rule again thanks to the Socialists. On Sunday, after weeks of in-fighting that led to the resignation of Socialist chief Pedro Sanchez, 44, they voted to abstain in a parliamentary confidence vote on a PP government-which would give it enough traction to get through the vote. "The great winner is Mariano Rajoy," said Anton Losada, politics professor at the University of Santiago de Compostela.

"The headline could be: 300 days later, the boring plasma prime minister knocks out the three young emerging leaders who had come to eat him alive." Yesterday, King Felipe VI started a round of talks with party leaders-an obligatory stage in the post-election process and the fifth to take place since December. He meets Rajoy on Tuesday and will almost certainly designate him as prime ministerial candidate, safe in the knowledge that his minority government will succeed, even if rebel Socialist lawmakers threaten to vote no.

Two parliamentary debates and confidence votes will subsequently be called the final one expected to take place on Saturday or Sunday, and Spain due to have a government by November 1. But with just 137 lawmakers out of 350, Rajoy will not have an easy ride, given the huge opposition in parliament. "It's unprecedented in Spain to have a government with so little parliamentary support," said Fernando Vallespin, politics professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid. "He will have to negotiate every single law." Still, he may be able to count on a divided opposition. The Socialists have been ripped apart by in-fighting while Podemos has also been marked by divisions-and both strongly distrust each other.— AFP



VALETTA: Forensics work on the site of a small plane crash at Malta International Airport yesterday. — AFP

FRENCH SURVEILLANCE PLANE CRASHES IN MALTA, KILLING 5

VALETTA: A reconnaissance plane working for France's defense ministry crashed in a ball of flames at Malta's international airport yesterday, killing all five people on board, officials said. The plane plummeted into the ground nose-first shortly after taking off for an undisclosed surveillance mission from the island, which lies just 220 miles north of Tripoli, the capital of conflict-torn Libya. The Maltese government said in a statement that there was no indication of an explosion prior to the crash but did not rule out sabotage.

The French defense ministry said the plane had been working on its behalf, carrying out "reconnaissance missions in the Mediterranean." Three of those who died were employees of the defense ministry, it said. The two others were pilots employed by CAE Aviation, a private company based in Luxembourg which specializes in aerial surveillance and regularly works with European military. Defense sources said "not all" of the dead had been from the French military but did not want to reveal further details pending notification of all the victims' families.

CAE aviation said the plane "was being flown by an experienced crew with no technical issues reported on previous flights." It added: "At this stage, no cause for the accident can be determined." The defense ministry in Paris refused to release any details

of the nature of the plane's mission amid speculation it could have been bound for Libya. France led the 2011 Western military intervention in the north African country which led to the overthrow and death of former dictator Muammar Gaddafi and plunged the country into a state of chaos from which it has barely recovered.

Paris confirmed in July that its special forces were operating inside the conflict-torn north African state after three of its troops died in a helicopter crash. Malta described the plane as having been working for a five-month-old French "customs" operation. It had been due to return to the airport after a flight of a few hours yesterday without touching down anywhere else. The US defense department said it was not aware of the French mission.

Close to Libya

The twin-prop aircraft was a Fairchild Metroliner Mark III registered in the United States and leased to CAE aviation. It took off around 7:20 am. Shortly afterwards it tilted suddenly to the right and was seen plunging nose-first towards the ground, finally exploding into a ball of flames on a road that rings the main runway, damaging the perimeter wall and fence. "Official information, footage and eyewitnesses, including three members of the Armed Forces of Malta at the nearby barracks, and two commercial

airline pilots, clearly indicate that there was no explosion prior to impact," a government statement said.

Remains of all five victims had been recovered and an investigation had begun, it added. "The flight was part of a French customs surveillance operation which has been taking place for the past five months, with the aim of tracing routes of illicit trafficking of all sorts, including human and drug trafficking amongst others," the statement said. "The flight was registered with the Malta Air Traffic Services as a local flight and was to return to Malta within hours without landing in third countries." The accident resulted in traffic in and out of the airport being suspended for almost four hours, with 13 incoming flights diverted to Sicily.

But the terminal was not evacuated and only two outgoing flights were cancelled before normal service was resumed. Malta is on the front line of Europe's efforts to contain the waves of migrants trying to reach Italy from Libya in boats operated by people smugglers who are often also involved in illicit drugs and arms dealing. The island is also strategically located for Western powers seeking to monitor developments in Libya, where a fledgling national unity government is struggling to impose its authority and militants loyal to the Islamic State group have established a foothold.— AFP

Chevrolet Alghanim celebrates 50th anniversary of legendary Camaro in action-packed event

Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, commemorated the 50th launch anniversary of the legendary Camaro in an action-packed event that took place at the Sirbb Circuit in Shuwaikh, on Saturday, October 22nd at 5pm, in cooperation with the Kuwait Camaro Club (KCC). The participation of the KCC members demonstrates their ongoing support and steadfast loyalty for Chevrolet, wherein Chevrolet Alghanim is indeed indebted for. Attendees also included guests and representatives from General Motors, the Kuwait Camaro Club, the media and many other local fan groups of sports cars.

The 50th anniversary event began by setting new records from the get-go as Chevrolet Alghanim and KCC members collaborated to conduct the maximum number of test drives performed in one day, as well as providing a detailed presentation on the differences between the sixth and the fifth generations of Camaro in terms of design, performance and latest technology.

An official recognition ceremony followed where representatives of Chevrolet Alghanim and General Motors not only acknowledged the efforts and solidarity the KCC members have exhibited over the years, but also expressed an admiration to their adherence to road safety and traffic rules.

Shortly after, Chevrolet Alghanim cranked up the excitement once more by unveiling to the audience the 50th Anniversary Edition of the Camaro, which honors the sports car's distinctive looks and performance that have always set it apart. It is now available in both 2LT and 2SS models. Other features include:

- Nightfall Gray Metallic exterior (Convertible models include a Black top)

- Specific 20-inch 50th Anniversary wheels and wheel center caps

- 2LT includes RS Appearance Package

- Specific 50th Anniversary stripe package and exterior badges

- Unique grille with satin chrome accents

- Body-colored front splitter

- Orange brake calipers (front only on LT)

- Unique Black leather interior with suede inserts and orange accent stitching

- Distinct 50th Anniversary treatments on instrument panel, seatbacks, steering wheel and illuminated sill plates

A "Performance Show" by Mubarak Al Rumaidy followed where he showcased the amazing capabilities of the sixth-generation Camaro in a number of aspects, including maneuverability, speed and response to sudden brakes and lane switching, thanks to the Camaros advanced performance and handling abilities specially the Magnetic Ride Control in the 2SS that enables it to achieve higher RPM results compared to the fifth generation.

The action didn't stop there, however, for the visitors themselves had the chance to sit behind the wheel too, this time by participating in a thrilling Pro Kart Competition where winners went home with valuable gift vouchers from X-cite by Alghanim Electronics. Other games and activities were also presented, in addition to impressive car displays that featured Camaro's Legacy Generation and an accessorized lineup of the new Camaro where the guests has witnessed live demonstration of how can they personalize their Camaros by Kromozone team.

In the 50 years since its introduction, there have been six generations of the Camaro, all distinguished by styling that uncannily captured the design zeitgeist of their respective eras and performance technologies that remained sharply focused on the driving fun that made the original a hit from day one.

The Six Generations of Camaro

First Generation: 1967-69

The Camaro's first generation was born into the era's



A display of the six Camaro generations at the Sirbb Circuit



Abdullah Al-Mo'then, Chevrolet Alghanim General Manager, giving his speech

racing muscle car and drag racing wars – as well as road racing, which spawned the original Z/28 in 1967. First-generation Camaros also served twice as the Indy 500 pace car: first in 1967 and again in 1969. The '69 examples, with their Huger Orange stripes and orange houndstooth interiors, are among the most distinguishable and recognizable special models of the time.

Second Generation: 1970-81

The Camaro's second generation was its longest and its most successful, despite tumultuous changes in the industry that saw the horsepower of performance models such as the Z28 erode significantly. An all-new structure offered a slightly wider footprint and lower center of gravity – attributes that gave the Camaro excellent handling characteristics. It also supported dramatic, European-influenced styling. The Camaro enjoyed its best year ever in 1979, when 282,571 were sold, including nearly 85,000 Z28 models.

Third Generation: 1982-92

The third-generation Camaro also introduced and all-new architecture, with a contemporary strut-type front suspension, rack-and-pinion steering and more. The chassis system turned a car already renowned for its handling capability into a serious track machine, which was taken to its zenith with the special 1LE package, introduced in 1988. Aggressive styling complemented the car's performance capability and it was the first Camaro with a hatchback. Additionally, the 1982 Z28 was the first American production car to incorporate ground effects – and it was also named the Motor Trend Car of the Year.

Fourth Generation: 1993-2002

Performance continued to improve with the fourth-generation Camaro, with higher-power engines and chassis enhancements that built on the basic layout of the third generation. Styling evolved with more dramatic proportions, including a fast-raked windshield that gave the car an undeniably sleeker profile. The Camaro's front end was

redesigned in 1998, which coincided with the introduction of the landmark LS1 V-8, which gave Z28 and SS models performance reminiscent of the muscle car heyday.

Fifth Generation: 2010-2015

The seven years between the fourth-generation's hiatus and the launch of the fifth-generation (it was introduced in 2009 as a '10 model) didn't seem all that long, but was a comparative eternity in the automotive world. Chevrolet decided a new Camaro would have to acknowledge its heritage on the outside and it was the right call. The fifth-gen car went on to sell more than 500,000 copies and outpace its pony-car rival for five consecutive years. It also spawned new, track-focused 1LE, Z/28 and ZL1 models.

Sixth Generation: 2016+

The Gen Six Camaro introduced the Camaro's highest-ever levels of performance, technology and refinement, all rooted in a lighter, stronger architecture, which helped earn the 2016 Motor Trend Car of the Year award.

Chevrolet Alghanim thanks everyone who has attended and participated in making the 50th anniversary celebration a momentous success, including the indisputable support and passion of the Kuwait Camaro Club. The company promises more events and activities in the future geared toward the interest and culture of the youth of Kuwait.

To stay tuned for the latest offers, events and announcements, customers are encouraged follow the new and dedicated Chevrolet Alghanim Instagram account (@ChevroletAlghanim) as well as other social media channels featuring the same handler.



A group photo with KCC members and Chevrolet Alghanim



A performance showcasing the capabilities of the Camaro at the Sirbb Circuit

First-generation Camaros also served twice as the Indy 500 pace car: first in 1967 and again in 1969.



General Motors and Chevrolet Alghanim officially acknowledge the Kuwait Camaro Club



An exclusive edition of the all-new Camaro outfitted especially for the celebration



Camaro's previous generations welcome the brand new sixth generation

Styling evolved with more dramatic proportions, including a fast-raked windshield that gave the car an undeniably sleeker profile.



Chevrolet Alghanim's service specialists are on the ready



The special 50th Anniversary Edition of the Camaro



Cars display of the Kuwait Camaro Club

KABUL POLICE TACKLE CAR THEFT - BY DEFLATING TYRES

KABUL: Police patrol the Afghan capital on a warm Sunday, but not to hunt extremists. Instead, they are deflating the tyres of parked cars—a theft prevention tactic that is raising eyebrows as the country struggles to contain the growing menace of petty crime. Kabul and its estimated five million inhabitants are at war, a prime target for Taliban-led insurgent attacks as well as assaults by a nascent Islamic State.

The capital's fledgling police force are under pressure to prevent atrocities, so short on time and resources they have taken a scorched earth approach when it comes to tackling more routine petty crime. The logic is indisputable: If the car cannot be moved, it cannot be stolen. "Police politely ask the residents to not park their cars in the open... but when they prefer to pay no heed, then police may move in to remove the air nozzles as a last measure," says Feradoon Obaidi, chief of Kabul police's criminal investigation department.

"We can protect people from both the thieves and the terrorists," he says. "But they should know how much energy we have to put in to stop terrorists in the city.



KABUL: Afghan police officials stand beside a vehicle whose tyres they are deflating on a street at Khair Khana in Kabul. — AFP

By leaving their cars in the open, they are inviting thieves." A series of attacks have ripped across Kabul in recent months, jihadists armed with bombs and guns killing dozens of people, including the assault targeting Shiites during the Ashura festival earlier in October that left 14 people dead.

Most have been carried out by the

resurgent Taliban, including attacks on a global charity and a university as well as twin blasts in September that killed 41 people. The Ashura attack was claimed by Islamic State. In July, the Middle East jihadist group, which is struggling to gain a foothold in Afghanistan, claimed bombings that tore through minority Shiite Hazara protesters in Kabul, killing 84 people in the

deadliest attack in the capital since 2001.

'It works'

Official data shows up to 300 cars were stolen in Kabul's streets from March to July—slightly down from last year, but still frustrating for police. "In some cases they work in gangs, while others work individually snatching cars, especially (the ones) that can easily be unlocked," says Kabir Ahmad Barmak, chief of Kabul's eleventh district police. "They snatch cars parked in vacant streets especially at night, and sometimes turn them into spare parts," Barmak says, adding police have been forced to use valuable resources on special mobile patrols to tackle the problem.

Officers used to simply slash the tyres, but now take the slightly more considerable route of removing the air nozzles instead. "When you see these thieves lurking in dark and people recklessly leaving their cars in the open, it makes you think, best way to protect is to damage the tyres," says another officer in the district, who requested anonymity. "It is working," he adds with a triumphant smile. "Fewer people today leave their cars on streets than before."

But the tactic is angering a public frustrated with the inconvenience and financial burden of repeated repairs. "Should one expect the police to serve or to hurt?" says Akbar, a customer at a tyre repairing unit on the roadside outside central Kabul's "Bush Bazaar", a black market named after US President George W. Bush. "It is not fair to puncture a car to avert theft... You park your car here for few minutes, it is either stolen by a thief, or damaged by police," he says. "That is vandalism, not service."

Others pointed out they had little option but to leave their cars in the open. "When you go to the city, there are not many places to park your car except the streets, and then it is gone without much hope for its recovery," says Ahmad Shoaib, whose car was stolen last month. But there is one merry, busy segment of the capital that appears to appreciate the situation. "Police are doing a service," says handyman Abdul Shukoor at the roadside mobile tyre repairing unit, sipping from his steaming tea with a smile. "They prevent the cars from being stolen and help me make more money. The world is fair." — AFP

BRITISH MURDERER IN HONG KONG 'FILMED HIS VICTIMS'

VICTIM 'TORTURED FOR DAYS'

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong court yesterday heard how British banker Rurik Jutting tortured one of his victims for three days as the trial opened into the killings of two Indonesian women at his upscale apartment. Jutting, 31, had earlier yesterday pleaded "not guilty" to two counts of murder on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He instead pleaded guilty to manslaughter. The prosecution rejected the lesser plea.

The court heard Jutting filmed both women on his iPhone and jurors were warned by judge Michael Stuart-Moore that the footage was "very shocking indeed". Sumarti Ningsih and Seneng Mujiasih, both in their 20s, were found dead in Jutting's flat in the early hours of November 1, 2014, after he called police. Prosecutor John Reading said Ningsih was tortured with pliers, sex toys and a belt for three days at Jutting's apartment in Wan Chai—where expensive homes

lie close to a red-light district.

Jutting then killed her in the shower with a serrated knife, Reading said. Ningsih who was in Hong Kong on a visitor visa, had sex with Jutting on a previous occasion at a hotel for an amount of money, Reading said, but had offered to refund half the cash to be allowed to leave early, because he treated her violently. She had reluctantly agreed to meet Jutting again on October 26 when he offered her another amount of money which was not specified. After she was killed, her body was wrapped in plastic sheets and blankets, and put inside a suitcase, Reading said. Jutting recorded footage describing how he had enjoyed the killing and saying he could not have done it without using cocaine.

Hunting prey

Late on October 31, Jutting met Mujiasih at a bar in Wan Chai and brought her home after

offering her money for sex—they had never met before, said Reading. Mujiasih was in Hong Kong on a domestic helper visa, he said. Before going out to meet her, Jutting hid two knives under sofa cushions. He had also bought a small blowtorch, plastic ties and a hammer, Reading said. "In one of his interviews with the police, the accused explained how he went out that evening hunting for prey, and that Mujiasih was his prey," Reading said. Jutting cut Mujiasih's throat that night. When police arrived after Jutting called them, they discovered her body in a pool of blood in the living room, said Reading. Police officer Hong Kin-yip said Mujiasih was face down in the living room, naked and had cuts to her neck and buttocks. Ningsih's body was found hours later in a suitcase on the balcony.

Jutting shook his head in court as a recording was played of his call to police, during which he said Special Forces were outside his apartment. "Obviously bad stuff has happened," Jutting said in the recording. Jutting told police that he had taken the last of his cocaine and was hallucinating, Reading said.

Cambridge graduate Jutting, a former securities trader at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, faces a three-week jury trial and life in prison if convicted on the murder charges. Clean-shaven, much thinner than during his first court appearances, and wearing a dark-blue shirt, Jutting calmly entered his official plea for the first time yesterday.

He then took notes during proceedings. Jutting was deemed fit to stand trial following psychiatric tests and is being held at a maximum security prison. Judge Stuart-Moore said the evidence in the case was "to a large extent agreed" between defense and prosecution, but that there may be disputes over psychiatric and psychological evidence. The killings shocked the city of seven million—typically regarded as safe and known for its glitzy skyscrapers—and shone a spotlight on the seedy underbelly of the financial hub. Outside the court, a small group of protesters from Indonesian migrant worker organizations called for a "speedy and fair trial" and for compensation for the victims' families. — AFP



HONG KONG: Indonesian migrant workers hold up placards during a vigil for slain colleagues Seneng Mujiasih and Sumarti Ningsih on the eve of the murder trial for British banker Rurik Jutting, in Hong Kong's Victoria Park. — AFP

HAITI STORM VICTIMS BEMOAN AID CHAOS

JEREMIE: Rickety structures made of sheet metal and scrap wood are clustered along the road to the Haitian city of Jeremie, which still hasn't seen any aid nearly three weeks after Hurricane Matthew. In a scene that is eerily similar to the devastation in Port-au-Prince after the 2010 earthquake, when hundreds of thousands of survivors had to cram into every available space, families are living in makeshift camps. In one such camp on the side of the road, Dominique Pierre-Louis is trying to start a motorcycle covered in mud. "I fixed it so I can try to earn a little money by driving a motorcycle taxi," said the 42-year-old, who normally works as a bricklayer. "I just want a job, I don't need any charity. I'm a professional, I can help myself." Before the hurricane swept over Haiti, leaving hundreds dead, Pierre-Louis and his family lived outside Jeremie. But after days of not receiving any aid, he moved his wife and eight children to this muddy roadside camp. In the past two weeks, convoys carrying humanitarian relief have driven by, but none has stopped. The family is now living in a small space made of sheet metal and tarps. Pierre-Louis's wife Dieula, who has asthma and has been ill, rests on wooden planks covered by a sheet while their children scramble naked in the mud.

'Too many losses'

"I was in the hospital for eight days, I was better but the fever came back yesterday," she said, her face covered in sweat. "I should go back but I can't afford it." Aside from a cholera treatment center set up on the grounds of Jeremie's partially damaged public hospital, there is no free medical care in this city, which bore the brunt of Matthew's might. At night, Pierre-Louis sleeps sitting up in a plastic chair, the only possession they were able to save from their home. Two of the younger children sleep on his lap.

His sick wife shares their makeshift bed with their six other children. But Dieula doesn't complain too much about her situation. "The solidarity that usually binds Haitians has been ruptured-

there are too many homes destroyed, too many losses. The state can't do anything, it's too much," she said. A few meters away, Filton Janvier is more angry, and refuses to accept that the international community has abandoned him. "We're just on the side of the road. Authorities go by, the mayor just passed by, and even the president was here. But no one came to ask us how we were doing," the 39-year-old said, seething with rage. "I pay my taxes, I contribute like everyone else... I don't understand what is happening. It makes me angry because it makes me question our humanity," he added, as he watched another group of vehicles from a non-governmental aid organization drive by.

Empty hands

After the main roads were again open to traffic, aid started trickling into Jeremie, but the lack of coordination between the foreign agencies has stalled its distribution to those in need. On the city's main street, residents spot a bit of a crowd:

Food and construction materials are being handed out by city hall, people say—and it's going south. "The cop at the entrance ordered me to back up—I did it but people were pushing me from behind. The cop hit me with his baton and I fell down," said Rene Jean-Fritz, pointing to his bloodied knees. "These cops did not come to help people, they just came to beat us up," he charged, and onlookers voiced their agreement.

For Pierre-Louis, people are not looking for handouts but just need the bare minimum so they no longer have to sleep in the rain. "I just needed two tarps to cover the damaged part of my house. I don't need rice. They should use helicopters to give that to people in the mountains who have nothing," he said. Jean-Fritz, still angry, did not get anything at the aid giveaway. He got the plastic card granting him access to the distribution point the night before from a friend who had several dozen of them. No local officials or aid group verified that those who queued up for aid were truly in need. — AFP



JEREMIE: Leolien prepares food next to what remains of her house destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in the neighborhood of Deye Distriyel in Jeremie, in the southwest of Haiti. — AFP



JAMMU: An Indian villager points to marks made on a wall allegedly from firing from the Pakistan side of the border, at a residential area near the India Pakistan border in Ranbir Singh Pura. — AP

INDIA-PAKISTAN CROSS BORDER FIRING KILLS 4

ISLAMABAD: Two children and another civilian were killed along with a soldier in firing across the border between India and Pakistan, officials from both sides said yesterday, as tensions soar between the nuclear-armed rivals. Pakistan's military said an 18-month-old girl and another civilian were killed on its side of the border in "unprovoked firing" by the Indian army. "Due to Indian unprovoked firing last night a civilian, Muhammad Latif of village Janglora, and a minor Haniya, age one and a half, embraced shahadat (martyrdom) while seven civilians were injured," a military statement said.

The firing took place across the border between Indian-held Kashmir and Pakistan's Punjab province in the villages of Harpal, Pukhlian and Charwah, the statement said. Indian police said the late night heavy exchange of firing occurred in its RS Pura sector, killing an Indian border security guard and a six-year-old boy. The Border Security Force (BSF) soldier died after he received splinters from a mortar shell fired by Pakistan rangers, Danish Rana, inspector general of police for the area said.

"The boy and the BSF soldier died during the intense exchange of small arms fire and

mortars throughout the night along the border," Rana said. Six other civilians were also injured during the exchange, said another Indian police officer speaking on condition of anonymity. Relations between the two countries have plummeted in recent months, with India blaming Pakistani militants for a raid on an army base in its part of disputed Kashmir in September that killed 19 soldiers. India later said it launched "surgical strikes" across the border in Pakistan on militant targets, prompting fury from Pakistan which denied the raids took place.

Indian and Pakistani troops regularly exchange fire across their de-facto border in Kashmir, but rarely send ground troops over the line. The overnight incident comes days after Indian border security forces said they shot dead seven Pakistani soldiers in retaliation for a ceasefire violation, with Pakistan refuting the claims. Muslim-majority Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan, but claimed in full by both, since the two countries gained independence from Britain in 1947. Since 1989 several rebel groups have been fighting Indian forces deployed in the region, seeking independence or a merger of the territory with Pakistan. — AFP

INDIAN POLICE KILL 24 MAOIST REBELS

BHUBANESHWAR: Indian police killed at least 24 Maoist rebels in a remote, forested area of the eastern state of Odisha yesterday, police said, one of the heaviest casualty tolls suffered by the insurgents in recent years. Acting on a tip-off, police tracked a group of around 30 Maoists who had gathered at a makeshift training camp close to the border with Andhra Pradesh state, officials said. When the officers surprised the gathering shortly after midnight, a gun battle erupted. "It was a makeshift training camp. Police have recovered 24 dead bodies of the Maoists during the search," Mitrabhanu Mahapatra, the chief of police in Malkangiri district, where the ambush occurred said. One police officer was killed in the gunfight that followed and another wounded, said Rahul Dev Sharma, superintendent of police in neighboring Visakhapatnam.

Maoists launched their insurgency in the 1960s and have been fighting from their jungle hideouts ever since. The rebels accuse the Indian state of plundering the mineral-rich and underdeveloped

east and central regions of the country at the expense of the poor and landless, among whom they retain some support. While the level of violence has fallen in recent years, and the Maoists have lost hundreds of fighters to desertions and battles with security forces, the rebels remain capable of staging regular hit-and-run attacks across several states.

Police said yesterday's gathering included senior rebel leaders, but said they could not confirm if they were among the dead until all the bodies had been identified. The Maoists had not yet issued a statement on the incident via the website they have used in the past. The security forces seized automatic rifles and ammunition from the area, a stronghold of the insurgents, police said. According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, 337 people have been killed in left-wing extremist violence so far this year, more than half of them alleged insurgents. In July, Maoists killed at least 10 members of an elite Indian police force in the south of Bihar state. — Reuters



Four Palestinian friends who were injured during conflicts walk by the sea at Gaza's small fishing harbor yesterday. Fighting has left thousands of people with disabilities or no limbs in this Palestinian enclave. — AP

GAZA FACTORY TURNS TO RECYCLING TO SURVIVE

GAZA CITY: In the struggling Gaza Strip, Omar Ramlawi's plastic factory is one of the few businesses that has managed to stay afloat, overcoming dire shortages of raw materials by resorting to an unusual source: recycling. Recycling has never been a priority in Gaza, a crowded and impoverished seaside territory whose already weak economy has been devastated by years of conflict with Israel and mismanagement by the strip's ruling Islamic militant Hamas movement. The empty bottles and shopping bags strewn on Gaza's beaches and roadsides provide vivid reminders of the lack of environmental awareness among its residents.



GAZA: In this Oct 18, 2016 photo, a Palestinian worker cuts a plastic box in pieces before the recycling process in a plastic factory. — AP

Ramlawi has begun to change this, collecting tons of bags, bottles and other items to keep his factory open. With raw materials restricted under an Israeli blockade, Ramlawi says that he would have had to shutter the plant - and lay off his 50 workers - long ago. Instead, thanks to the recycling effort, his factory in east Gaza City produces between 1.5 to 2 tons of irrigation pipes, black trash bags and cable hoses each day - all supplied to the local market.

"Due to the siege and restrictions on imports, we had to use the materials available in Gaza and recycle it," Ramlawi said as workers behind him reeled a newly produced hose on a wheel out from the production line. "That's how the idea came and we started developing it." Israel and Egypt imposed the blockade on Gaza after Hamas seized control of the territory from the forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007. The blockade has restricted the movement of people and goods in and out of the territory.

clung of garbage in an organized way, not only plastic, but all components of solid waste," he said.

At the factory, two workers were sorting abandoned water tanks, juice containers and plastic crates one recent morning and chopping them up in a grinder. After that, the ground plastic was sent for washing manually, where workers used a shovel to stir the fragments in washing tubs before moving them in buckets to a locally made dryer. The plastic was further processed using a combination of old machines and manual techniques until it was finally turned into tiny balls. These balls, together with raw polyethylene, then went to production lines.

Israel says the policy is needed to prevent Hamas, a militant group committed to Israel's destruction, from building up its arsenal of rockets and other weapons. But the restrictions have crippled Gaza's economy. Scores of factories have been forced to close, and unemployment is over 40 percent, according to the World Bank and other international estimates. At times, Israel has restricted imports of polyethylene, a key material for Ramlawi. And in recent months, it has stopped them altogether. Ramlawi says he hasn't received a shipment in three months.

The process produces a substance that is close to polyethylene, Ramlawi said. Without it, he would have run out of his meager supply months ago and gone out of business. The plastic is mostly recovered from landfills and road waste containers by poor or jobless individuals - a process that the municipality turns a blind eye to, despite health concerns.

COGAT, the Israeli defense agency responsible for dealing with civilian issues in Gaza, said that polyethylene is on a list of "dual-use" materials that can be diverted by Hamas for military purposes. While such materials are sometimes allowed into Gaza, "they require security checks to ensure that the materials reach their proper destination to benefit the residents of Gaza," COGAT said in a statement.

For Nasrallah Al-Rifi, a father of six, searching through garbage is a matter of survival. Married since 2006, he has six children and can't find regular work. "I do this to feed my children," he said as he collected plastic from a landfill in Gaza City. He said he sells the plastic to subcontractors who then send it to factories like Ramlawi's, the largest of the six such factories in Gaza. He sells a cartload of plastic trash for 15 or 20 shekels, or roughly \$5. "I can give my son a shekel when he goes to school," he said. "It's better than sending him with no money." — AP

WITH EVERY TURN OF WRENCH, WOMAN...

Continued from Page 1

Jordan in turn scores far below the regional average of female labor force participation, with just over 14 percent. Unemployment is a separate measure, with higher rates for women than men in most of the region. Female CEOs and entrepreneurs have emerged across the region, but they still constitute a small group.

can do 70 percent of the tasks expected of a plumber, he says. Lara is eager to see her mother in full work gear and embraces her in the hallway. She says she now likes everything about her mother's job, and especially the tools. She wants to work in Mutlaq's shop and take a salary.

The International Labor Organization calculates that with more job equality, Jordan's economy would grow by 5 percent, or almost \$2 billion. But Zarqa, a gritty industrial city with a high unemployment rate, is one of the toughest places in Jordan, and perhaps even in the region, for women trying to tear down barriers. "Society is very conservative and is getting more and more conservative," says Zarqa Mayor Emad Momani. "We are far from seeing women in non-traditional jobs like plumbers or truck drivers."

But Mutlaq still faces plenty of criticism. Her oldest brother is a hold-out, telling her women have no business being plumbers. At the local mosque down the street from Mutlaq's house, preacher Akram al-Boureini says roles are clear in Islam: Men provide for the family and women raise children at home. Plumbing is "suitable only for men, not for women," he says. If women take over jobs intended for men, "we face unemployment and moral corruption."

Mutlaq got involved in 2014 in the plumbers' project, funded by the Millennium Challenge Corp., a U.S. government aid agency, to save water by preventing leakage. Under strict rules of gender separation, it's easier for female plumbers to conduct home visits, because male plumbers cannot enter homes where housewives are alone. Mutlaq was initially skeptical, but her husband Samir, who works in a flower shop, thought it was worth a try. The family, struggling from month to month, could also use a second income.

By the end of March, the plumbing project is winding down. Mutlaq is starting to worry about the future. She has pinned all her hopes on getting a grant. "I'm scared that I will end up sitting at home," she says. Small jobs for relatives and neighbors don't pay off. She can't charge much in her low-income neighborhood and is expected to give discounts to relatives. She has the extra cost of taking taxis to assignments because she doesn't drive, and her husband needs the family car for his job.

Her four children fiercely opposed the idea. The youngest, Lara, 12, was so embarrassed that she begged her mother to take off her green plumber's work vest during a parent-teacher meeting. Mutlaq kept it on to show her daughter that she's proud of herself. Mutlaq discovered during training that she loved handling tools and fixing things. Even when she was off the clock, she carried a few tools in her gray purse, in case a neighbor or relative needed a bit of plumbing "first aid." After a few months, she started going on house calls as assistant to a contractor.

Back home, Mutlaq flips through her work book - a white notepad listing her recent assignments - to underscore the point. She's charged between 5 and 10 dinars (\$7 to \$14) per home visit, barely worth her time. Such obstacles are familiar to Jordan's first female plumber, 53-year-old Khawla Sheikh, who earned her license in 2006. "So many people did not support me," she says. "The only ones were my husband and my family."

By graduation day in March, Mutlaq's children have come around. Sami, 19, is glad his mother can contribute to the family finances. Fatmeh, 22, even joins the community outreach program for a few months. And Lara excitedly unpacks Mutlaq's graduation prize - a 40-piece professional plumbers' tool kit - in the family living room. Two weeks later, Mutlaq is getting ready for work. She pulls a baseball cap over her headscarf and the green vest over a loose, long-sleeved T-shirt and pants.

Sheikh formed a cooperative of 18 female plumbers last year to help women with difficulties like launching their own business with no car or start-up funds. The women go on house calls in pairs, for safety. In late May, Mutlaq is anxious. She needs a grant. At a meeting hosted by an international aid group, 12 other women are handed checks of 300 dinars (\$425) each. Mutlaq gets nothing. She is angry and dejected, and even thinks of selling her tool kit. "It was a big dream, but it's been destroyed," she says.

The first stop for the day is Lara's school, where Mutlaq begins to remove an old faucet in the girls' toilets. Her fellow plumber, Ibrahim Asmar, says she does well on everything that doesn't require heavy lifting. She

But by early July, she has bounced back. She applies for a grant from USAID, a US government agency, and expects to hear by the fall. In the meantime, she's renting out some of her tools, doing small plumbing jobs and going on assignments with one of her brothers, also a plumber. She still wants to open a business one day, but says the journey has already been worthwhile. "This was the chance of a lifetime," she says. "The way I look at life has changed. The way I look at myself has changed, too." — AP

Recycling

The Gaza Strip produces 1,700 tons of solid waste daily, according to Abdulrahim Abu al-Qomboz, head of the environment department in Gaza municipality. Plastic makes up 15 percent of the waste, and he said his office is pleased with the recycling effort. "We encourage the recy-

KUWAIT URGES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION...

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait and Qatar over their steps to cut the financing of militants. Formed early last year, CIFG is led by the United States, Italy and Saudi Arabia and is made up of over 35 countries and four international bodies. Jarallah said Kuwait "has come a long way in introducing legislation that controls the collection of (charity) donations", a suspected channel of funding extremists.

week that the meeting in Kuwait City aims "to share information and continue developing and coordinating countermeasures against ISIL's (IS) financial activity worldwide". He said the Treasury was working closely with Kuwait and Qatar in particular to strengthen the technical side of the fight against terrorism finance, but "there is room for improvement".

The CIFG takes a global approach to undermining the flow of funds to the jihadist group, according to Adam Szubin, US Treasury's acting Under Secretary on Countering the Financing of Terrorism. Szubin said last

Szubin said the effort to choke off funding was showing some success. IS fighters had been abandoning the fight "as their pay and benefits have been cut and delayed, in what ISIL members in Mosul are calling a 'recession'", he said, referring to Iraq's battle to recapture the city from militants. — Agencies

MAIN OPPOSITION GROUP WON'T FIELD...

Continued from Page 1

Roumi said the last period was very bad from both the government and the Assembly and called on the opposition to take part in the polls. Other main candidates included Osama Al-Tahous, who was pronounced a winner in the 2013 election, but later the court decided there was an error in the sorting of ballots and awarded his seat to Nabil Al-Fadhl, who died over a year ago.

several cases of aggression against public funds were committed, adding that members of the previous Assembly failed to protect the rights of people. Former MP Nawaf Al-Fuzai said the government will not be able to raise the price of petrol "if we get elected, as we will defend the rights of Kuwaiti people". He said that the dissolved Assembly had squandered the rights of people and conceded many of its rights, becoming a puppet of the government. Fuzai said as a result of the Assembly surrendering its powers, corruption became rampant and widespread.

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GAZIDIS WORTH \$3.24M SALARY SAYS ARSENAL

LONDON: Arsenal have defended a 40 percent increase in the bonus paid to chief executive Ivan Gazidis, whose overall financial package is now 2.65 million pounds (\$3.24 million). The issue was raised at the club's annual general meeting on Monday, when chairman Chips Keswick said Gazidis was doing a "first-class job" and deserved the \$1.35 million bonus despite Arsenal failing to win the Premier League since 2004. "The appraisal of Ivan's performance covers a very broad spectrum of objectives and does so over a longer timeframe than one season including appropriate financial targets but also assessment of our longer term progress and representation of our values," he said. "Ivan is doing a first-class job in leading the development of the club across every aspect of its operations." Gazidis is the second highest paid executive behind Manchester United's Ed Woodward. Yesterday's meeting of around 150 shareholders was also addressed by manager Arsene Wenger, who gave an upbeat assessment of the state of the team who are second on goal difference in the league and well-placed to progress beyond the Champions League group stages. —Reuters



BRITTON POSITIVE SWANSEA CAN OVERCOME POOR FORM

LONDON: Midfielder Leon Britton is convinced that Premier League strugglers Swansea City can shrug off their sluggish start to the season as the Welsh club ended their run of four successive league defeats with a 0-0 draw against Watford in the weekend. Bob Bradley's side came close to breaking the deadlock in the second half when Mike van der Hoorn met Gylfi Sigurdsson's free kick at close range, only to be denied by Heurelho Gomes. Sigurdsson also hit the post for the home side, who remain winless in the league since the opening day of the season, and find themselves second from bottom in the table. "At the moment, it's just small margins," the 34-year-old told British media. "Having said that, I think there is a lot to build on for the future and if we carry on performing like we did... (on Saturday), I am sure the results will come. "We are certainly in a different situation than we are used to. And yes, it brings a different kind of pressure than we are used to. But as players you have to get on with it and stand up and be counted." — Reuters

SCHMIDT COMMITS TO IRELAND UNTIL 2019

LONDON: Joe Schmidt will continue as Ireland coach on his current contract up until the end of the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan, the Irish Rugby Football Union said yesterday. The IRFU issued a statement confirming the coach's continued involvement just 12 days before Ireland's end-of-year Test series opener against Schmidt's native New Zealand in Chicago. Schmidt, previously in charge of Irish province Leinster, took charge of the Ireland national team in November 2013. He guided Ireland to successive Six Nations titles in 2014 and 2015, as well as away wins over South Africa and Argentina. But there have been questions over whether Schmidt was seeking a return to New Zealand. In the IRFU statement the 51-year-old Schmidt said: "I would like to thank the IRFU for their patience and confidence, as the decision to continue took somewhat longer than I'd anticipated. "It is difficult at times being so far away from extended family, but we appreciate how lucky we are to have the support we have here in Ireland." — AFP



JAVELIN STAR YEGO 'LUCKY TO BE ALIVE' AFTER CRASH

NAIROBI: Kenya's world javelin champion and Olympic medallist Julius Yego said he was "lucky to be alive" after a car crash. The 27-year-old athlete was driving to his Eldoret home when his brand-new four-wheel SUV collided with a trailer lorry on the busy Nairobi-Eldoret highway on Sunday night. He was detained in hospital overnight from where he told reporters: "The driver of the trailer made a sudden U-turn in the middle of the road - there was no way I could have avoided him. "I slammed so hard on the car brakes while hooting at the driver, that I thought I had broken my leg. "I am lucky to be alive." "Yego did not suffer any serious injury, but

we decided to keep him in the hospital overnight for further observations," said a doctor at Mediheal hospital in the western city of Eldoret. Yego became the first Kenyan athlete to win a major field event gold medal at the world championships in Beijing in August 2015. Two years ago another Kenyan athlete Asbel Kiprop, the 2008 Olympic 1500m gold medallist was left hospitalised after a near fatal accident when his car went off the road near Eldoret as he was driving home at night. Road accidents account for the highest number of deaths in Kenya. The poor state of the roads, coupled with speeding are blamed for the heavy toll. — AFP



Fuhaid Al-Daihani



Abdallah Al-Rashidi

KUZNETSOVA CUTS HER OWN HAIR TO BEAT RADWANSKA

SINGAPORE: Svetlana Kuznetsova hacked off her own hair with a pair of scissors and burst into tears before saving a match point and beating the defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska 7-5 1-6 7-5 at the WTA Finals yesterday. Despite appearing on the verge of exhaustion and close to breaking down, Kuznetsova somehow summoned up the energy to win her opening round-robin match in dramatic fashion, less than 48 hours after she qualified for the prestigious end-of-season championship. Spectators at Singapore's Indoor Stadium looked on in stunned disbelief when the Russian gave herself an impromptu haircut early in the deciding third set, asking the umpire to get her a large pair of scissors before proceeding to chop off the end of her ponytail and tossing the loose strands onto her seat. "It was bothering me a lot. I was trying to put it behind my headband, but my hair is very thick and heavy," Kuznetsova explained. "When I was hitting the forehands every time I would hit a good shot...it would hit my eye every time and I had struggle. "I thought, 'ok, what's more important now? My hair, which I can let grow, or the match?' I thought, 'okay, I've got to go for it right now, and that's it' Radwanska said she did not even realise her opponent had cut off her locks during the match. "I didn't even know that," she told reporters. "Good thing she didn't cut her anything else. I think hair is not very important."

'HAVE TO STAY TOUGH' Later, at the next change of ends, Kuznetsova returned to her seat and began to cry, sobbing into her towel before she regained her composure, wiping the tears from her cheeks and returning to the court to continue a gruelling contest which lasted almost three hours. Her efforts looked to have been in vain when she dropped her serve to fall 5-4 behind and Radwanska got to match point but the Pole, who blew a 4-1 lead in the opening set, squandered her lone opportunity and Kuznetsova reeled off the last three games on the trot to register one of the bravest wins of her career. "It's what you have inside of you, something comes from the heart," Kuznetsova said. "I always work very much and then being on the court, I knew I have to stay tough. You always have a chance to come back. "I was trying as much, as hard as I can to fight and just be there." A two-time grand slam winner, Kuznetsova was appearing in the WTA Finals, restricted to the world's top eight players, for the first time since 2009 but the physical and emotional effort of qualifying appeared to take its toll. The 31-year-old needed to win the Kremlin Cup in Moscow on Saturday to leapfrog Britain's Johanna Konta for the last spot in the field then had to fly straight to Southeast Asia to be ready to play her opening match. Spain's French Open champion Garbine Muguruza was scheduled to play the Czech Republic's US Open finalist Karolina Pliskova in Monday's other White Group match. — AFP



SINGAPORE: Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia hits a return against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their women's singles match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

KSSC HONOURS RIO OLYMPIC SHOOTERS AND OFFICIALS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi thanked HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah for their continued support of the shooting sport and shooters. He said if it was not for this support the achievements would not have continued in the name of our country, and the latest of those is winning gold and bronze medals at the Rio Olympics. Al-Osaimi said that the board of directors honored Olympic shooters and officials, during the closing ceremony of HH Crown

Prince tournament on Saturday. He said gold medallist Fuhaid Al-Daihani was awarded KD 30,000 while bronze medallist Abdallah Al-Rashidi was awarded KD 10,000, meanwhile shooters Ahmad Al-Afasi, Khalid Al-Mudhaf, Abdelrahman Al-Faihan and Saud Habib Al-Kandary were awarded KD 3000 each. He said officials who accompanied the shooters were also awarded KD 3000 each. Al-Osaimi said the board of directors is proud of the shooters both winners and qualifiers to the Olympics and hoped that will be an incentive for other shooters to exert more efforts. He also thanked Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs for his care and support of KSSC shooters.



Obaid Al-Osaimi

COE CLEARED AFTER ENQUIRY INTO QATARI BRIBES RUMOURS

LONDON: The IAAF's Ethics Board has backed Sebastian Coe after the president of athletics' governing body denied discussing rumours that Qatari officials had been paying bribes in a bid to secure hosting rights for the 2017 world championships. The Board said on Monday it had found no evidence of bribery attempts or that International Association of Athletics Federations President (IAAF) Coe had been aware of or discussed them. It would not be opening a formal investigation into the process, which ended with London being selected as host city, he said. Ed Warner, Chairman of UK Athletics, told BBC Radio in January that the night before the IAAF Council's vote on the awarding of the 2017 championships in November 2011, he (as the head of the successful London bid team) was informed by a "senior person within the IAAF" of rumours that IAAF Council members were being called to receive "brown envelopes" containing cash from the Qatari delegation. Warner repeated the claim in a British Parliamentary hearing and later told the Ethics Board that the senior person was Coe, who at the time was head of the 2012 Olympics and IAAF vice president. A statement issued by the Ethics Board on Monday said that Coe had told the board that he had "no recollection of hearing such a rumour or therefore of communicating it to Mr Warner". The Board contacted four witnesses and all members of the IAAF Council at the time, none



Sebastian Coe

of whom supported Warner's claim. The statement said the purpose of the Board's preliminary investigation was to determine if there was enough evidence to establish that cash payments may have been made with improper intent or to have influenced the integrity of the award decision for the 2017 World championships. "The Ethics Board could not make such deter-

mination simply on the basis of any rumours that may have been circulating in or about November 2011 and nothing more. "As a result of its preliminary investigations, and noting that there is no documentary evidence to corroborate Mr Warner's recollection, the Ethics Board does not consider that it has sufficient evidence at present to open, under its procedural rules, a formal investigation." —Reuters



SINGAPORE: (L/R): Simona Halep of Romania, Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic, Garbine Muguruza of Spain, Angelique Kerber of Germany, Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, Madison Keys of the United States and Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia pose after the official draw ceremony prior to the WTA Finals Singapore at Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. — AFP

IOC OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIAN WHISTLEBLOWERS

LONDON: The Russian husband and wife team who felt betrayed by the IOC after blowing the whistle on state-sponsored doping in their homeland are now being offered financial and other assistance by the Olympic body. The International Olympic Committee said yesterday that it was providing career opportunities to 800-meter runner Yulia Stepanova and her husband, Vitaly Stepanov, a former Russian anti-doping official. Stepanova is being given financial support, while her husband will work as a consultant for the IOC on doping matters, the committee said in a statement to The Associated Press. The

couple have been living at an undisclosed location in the United States since providing information to German broadcaster ARD and others that helped expose systematic cheating in Russia.

Their testimony played a central role in the IAAF's decision to suspend Russia's track and field federation from global competition and exclude all but one member of its team from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August.

The IOC faced harsh criticism after rejecting calls to ban Russia entirely from the games and turning down Stepanova's application to compete in Rio as an independent athlete.

The couple met with IOC President Thomas Bach in September to discuss the committee's offer of "assistance in their careers," the IOC said in an email.

"After the couple reached out to the IOC, Yuliya Stepanova is being given financial and other assistance so that she can continue her sports career and potentially join a national Olympic committee," the IOC said.

It's unclear which national Olympic body Stepanova could represent, although the US would be a possibility since the couple have been living there. Her husband, meanwhile, "will be providing a consultancy service to the IOC

on all aspects of doping control and the protection of clean athletes," the statement said. Stepanova was part of the Russian doping system for years and served a two-year drug ban imposed by the IAAF. After she and her husband turned whistleblowers, the IAAF recommended that she be eligible to compete as a neutral athlete.

Stepanova did run as an independent athlete at the European Championships in July, but finished last in her 80-meter heat as she struggled with a foot injury.

The IOC rejected her bid to run at the Olympics, citing her past doping case and saying she did not satisfy the "ethi-

cal requirements" to compete at the games. At the time, Vitaly Stepanov labeled the IOC's offer to bring them to the Olympics to watch the games as VIP guests "a bribe." Stepanova also criticized the IOC, saying, "They never tried to understand our situation. They simply say whatever is going to serve them."

The couple said recently they feared for their safety and had switched residences after hackers breached a World Anti-Doping Agency database that records Stepanova's whereabouts.

Bach said in Rio that the IOC was "not responsible for dangers to which Mrs. Stepanova may be exposed." —AP

FORD REPLACES DOMINGUEZ IN TOULON DRIVING SEAT

TOULON: Toulon yesterday appointed Englishman Mike Ford as coach in place of the sacked Diego Dominguez, the Top 14 club's owner Mourad Boudjellal announced.

Ford, released by English Premiership side Bath in May, joined Toulon as backs coach in September when he vowed to take the mis-firing giants to the "next level".

Boudjellal told a press conference the decision to dispense with Dominguez had "not been an easy one to take". Dominguez was only appointed in the summer to succeed Bernard Laporte, who guided Toulon to three European Cups and a French title in a hugely successful five-year spell.

Former Italy international Dominguez leaves after four wins, three defeats and one draw with Toulon placed fourth in the Top 14 and second in their Champions Cup group.

"We had a disagreement, this is something that happens," Boudjellal explained whilst underlining his "esteem" for Dominguez. "Diego is first and foremost my personal failure because it was me who chose him. I accept that," said the French tycoon who made his fortune through comic book publishing.

The two men will meet this week to discuss the terms of the rupture. Toulon's colourful and outspoken owner added: "We are going to try to set up a system of playing that everyone will follow.

"None of the players called for Diego's head, but I wasn't happy with what I was seeing. "If I were a Toulon fan, I wouldn't feel like buying a ticket to come to the stadium."

The 50-year-old Ford, who arrived at Toulon as successor to former backs coach Steve Meehan, has been given a season-long contract. His first game in charge is Saturday's Top 14 clash against Grenoble at the Stade Mayol.

A former Ireland and England backs coach and boss of Saracens, Ford will combine his new role with his previous position as Toulon's backs coach. Boudjellal's decision to switch managers comes as he is in advanced talks to sell the club he has bankrolled to the European title three times and the French championship in 2014 during his 10 years at the helm. The club is set to be bought by a French film producer-Gerard Barbaud Lucien Simon, a lawyer and potential new club president. —AFP

LEBRON'S CAVS, DURANT LED WARRIORS FAVORED

CLEVELAND: LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers will celebrate their city's first sports crown in 52 years today, raising their championship banner as the 2016-17 NBA campaign opens. The Golden State Warriors, meanwhile, will welcome superstar forward Kevin Durant to the fold as they set out to avenge their loss to Cleveland in last June's NBA Finals after coming one game shy of back-to-back titles. The Cavaliers and Warriors open the season as favorites to play each other in the finals for the third campaign in a row, an unprecedented feat, even as 28 rivals try to fight their way into next June's title showdown. Chris Paul and Blake Griffin spark the Los Angeles Clippers while LaMarcus Aldridge and Kawhi Leonard join guard Tony Parker and big man Pau Gasol to ignite San Antonio.

Dwyane Wade, Jimmy Butler and Rajon Rondo unite in Chicago, Toronto will try to improve on its run to the last four last season and Russell Westbrook will try to lift Oklahoma City after Durant's departure. But the Warriors and Cavaliers have made themselves the teams to beat based on their past two seasons of success, Golden State with a record 73 wins last season and the Cavaliers making the best NBA Finals rally ever by winning the last three games.

"Our mindset going into this year is knowing that the hunter has now become the hunted," Cavaliers forward Kevin Love said. "So we have to approach every game a lot like the last two years, knowing we're going to get everybody's best shot."

James averaged 29.7 points, 11.3 rebounds, 8.9 assists, 2.3 blocked shots and 2.6 steals a game, leading the NBA Finals in each category to earn unanimous NBA Finals MVP honors.

"We're not satisfied with just winning one championship. We're not satisfied with just being successful. We want to continue to get better," James said.

JAMES 3-4 IN NBA FINALS

James has played in seven NBA Finals and the past six in a row. He lost his first with Cleveland then split four with the

Miami Heat. Upon returning to Cleveland he lost one more before the Cavaliers captured their first to give Cleveland a first sporting title in 52 years.

"I came back to bring a championship to our city," James said. "I knew what I was capable of doing. I knew I had the right ingredients and the right blueprint to help this franchise get to a place that we've never been. That's what it was all about."

Today, four-time NBA Most Valuable Player James will begin the quest to repeat as the Cavaliers open against the New York Knicks. "It will not be easy, and it shouldn't be easy," James said. "In my 13-year career, so far nothing has been easy. So I look forward to the journey and the work that lies ahead."

Other opening night games find Utah at Portland and San Antonio at Golden State, who added 2014 NBA MVP Durant after coming up short in the playoffs. Stephen Curry, the 2015 and 2016 NBA MVP, and fellow 3-point sharpshooter Klay Thompson will have Durant, Draymond Green and Andre Iguodala up front.

CAVS SPEND KING'S RANSOM

With the Cavaliers making a deal earlier this month to keep guard J.R. Smith, owner Dan Gilbert will spend a king's ransom of about \$100 million — \$6 million above the NBA salary cap-on the Cleveland starting five of James, Smith, Love, Kyrie Irving and Tristan Thompson.

Gilbert, who spent \$54 million in luxury tax for going over the salary cap, will spend more for the starters than about half of the league's teams will spend on entire rosters. Even Golden State with Durant will only have a payroll at about 75 percent of the Cavaliers. Australia's Andrew Bogut was sent from the Warriors to Dallas and several top reserves were released to make salary room for Durant.

Other clubs have made moves to try and join the elite. Atlanta signed veteran center Dwight Howard. Wade and Rondo moved to Chicago but the Bulls lost Gasol to the Spurs and Joakim Noah and Derrick Rose to the Knicks. — AFP



AUSTIN: Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain and Mercedes GP celebrates his win on the podium during the United States Formula One Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas on Sunday in Austin, United States. — AFP

HAMILTON KEEPS TITLE BID ALIVE WITH US WIN

AUSTIN: Defending champion Lewis Hamilton kept alive his bid for a fourth world title on Sunday when he claimed his first victory in six races at the United States Grand Prix in Austin. The Briton produced a flawless drive from pole position to finish almost five seconds ahead of his Mercedes team-mate and championship leader Nico Rosberg to seal the 50th win of his glittering Formula One career. Australian Daniel Ricciardo finished third for Red Bull and four-time champion Sebastian Vettel came home fourth for Ferrari after team-mate Kimi Raikkonen had been forced into a bizarre retirement when he left the pits with a loose rear wheel.

But it was again all about the Mercedes rivals and Hamilton trimmed Rosberg's championship lead from 33 points to 26 with three races remaining, but he knows that even if he wins them all the German can take his crown by finishing second in each one.

"A perfect drive Lewis, really well managed," said his team's technical boss Paddy Lowe as Hamilton surged over the line. It was Hamilton's seventh win this season, but his first since the German Grand Prix back in July, since when Rosberg has grabbed the momentum. Ricciardo's feisty Red Bull team-mate, the Dutch

teenager Max Verstappen, also retired after a mechanical failure, leaving the way open for Fernando Alonso to seize fifth for McLaren after a late attack on fellow Spaniard Carlos Sainz.

Hamilton had revealed concerns before the race about his engine-fitted overnight Friday with a new fuel injection system-but on a near-perfect warm autumn afternoon in Texas he made a clean getaway when the lights went out. He led off the grid from the 58th pole of his career as Ricciardo, from third, accelerated up the hill behind him into Turn One, where he found a way past Rosberg to take second.

Behind the leaders there was contact between Nico Hulkenberg's Force India and Valtteri Bottas's Williams, the former losing his front wing and, after limping to the pits, retiring at the end of the first lap.

VERSTAPPEN ON CHARGE

Roared on by a big crowd at the Circuit of the Americas, where Taylor Swift had entertained 100,000 fans on Saturday night, Hamilton took early control of the race and enjoyed a 1.4-second lead by lap three. Ricciardo, the only one of the leading drivers to start on "super-soft" tyres, pitted after eight laps from second, Rosberg taking his place, before he too went into the pits,

followed soon after by Hamilton. Hamilton regained control after 15 laps, when Vettel pitted for softs, the German rejoining in sixth.

Almost immediately, the Briton eased open a gap at the front while Rosberg resisted attacks from Verstappen.

Reminded by his team to be cautious and finish, the young Dutchman responded: "I'm not here to finish fourth!"

His audacity was not matched by substance and when he followed Ricciardo into the pits for his second stop, his pit crew was not ready. Verstappen apologised for his own error, took a relatively slow 9.2-second stop and within three laps was forced to retire with engine failure. His exit prompted the deployment of a Virtual Safety Car period during which both Hamilton and Rosberg pitted again. When they rejoined, Rosberg almost went past Pascal Wehrlein's Manor before remembering overtaking was not permitted.

For Raikkonen, in his Ferrari, it was race over when after a pit stop he stopped and rolled back down the hill to the pits.

Ferrari were under investigation for an unsafe release of his car with a suspected loose wheel. Raikkonen said a wheel-gun was still attached to his car when he left the pits. — AFP

ECCLESTONE STANDS UP FOR MCLAREN BOSS DENNIS

AUSTIN: Formula One's commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone has spoken out in support of Ron Dennis amid continuing speculation that shareholders are seeking to replace the McLaren boss. "If I was going to run a team I'd like to have Ron with me," the Briton told Reuters at the US Grand Prix, which Dennis attended 50 years on from his first involvement at a race weekend.

"I think he does a good job. Anyone that chucks him out is stupid. He's dedicated. I think we ought to try and support him so they don't get rid of him," added Ecclestone, who will turn 86 in Mexico next Sunday.

"It would be a shame to see him go. He's one of the good old timers." Britain's autosport.com website said in an unsourced report last week that Dennis, 69, would be leaving as McLaren chairman and chief executive at the end of the year when his contract expired.

A McLaren spokesman said in response that Dennis, who attended his first Formula One race as a Cooper mechanic in Mexico in 1966, had stated "categorically" that he is not stepping down. "Moreover, he remains contracted as chairman and chief executive officer of McLaren Technology Group and he retains a 25 percent shareholding-exactly equal to that of (Saudi-born business partner) Mansour Ojeh."

'INSPIRATIONAL CHAIRMAN'

Mahmood al-Koheji, CEO of Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund Mumtalakat, which owns the other 50 percent, told Reuters they had "great admiration" for Dennis.

"He's a colleague, an inspirational chairman who is behind all the ideas," he said. "Whatever he decides, we will support his decision. I hope he continues and I will try to make him stay."

However, former McLaren driver turned tele-

vision commentator Martin Brundle said he expected Dennis to leave.

"There seems to have been some friction and there seems to be a new direction they want to go in," he told Sky Sports television.

"I don't know who they've got in mind and (in) which elements of McLaren they will make changes, and whether they will restructure. We'll have to wait and see."

Dennis, who has been involved with McLaren since 1980, stood down as team boss in 2009 but returned as group chief executive in January

2014. McLaren changed their name in 2014 to McLaren Technology Group, incorporating the sportscar company and applied technologies as well as the F1 team.

Mumtalakat agreed that same year to sell some shares to Dennis but there has been no confirmation of that happening.

McLaren have not won since 2012 and struggled last year at the start of a new partnership with Honda. They have improved since and recorded their fourth double points finish of the season on Sunday. — Reuters



LeBron James (left).



Ron Dennis chats with Bernie Ecclestone (R).

BEATEN BUT UNBOWED, BANGLADESH PLEAD FOR MORE TESTS

CHITTAGONG: Skipper Mushfiqur Rahim pleaded yesterday for Bangladesh to be given more Test matches after the cricketing minnows fell agonisingly short of an historic victory over England. While England's main challenge is to manage their players' workload, Bangladesh struggle to arrange series against top-flight opponents and the just-concluded match in Chittagong was their first Test in 15 months. While India have agreed to host their first-ever Test match against Bangladesh next year, it will be a one-off and will do little to sate the hunger of a

cricket-mad nation. Rahim made his Test debut back in 2005, the same year that his opposite number Alastair Cook made his first appearance for his country. But while Cook broke the England record in Chittagong by winning his 134th cap, Rahim was making only his 49th appearance—a stark illustration of how little Test cricket Bangladesh are exposed to.

While Bangladesh have made big strides in one-day cricket, winning six homes series in a row before losing to England earlier this month, Rahim says their lack of opportunities is holding

them back in five-day cricket. "You can always improve if you play more Tests," said Rahim. "I have felt that each of my Tests has been like a debut game, and I have played 49 Tests so far. "I think we should play more Tests, which will give you more consistency in the other formats." Bangladesh were to have hosted Australia for a Test series last year but the tour was scrapped at the last minute over safety fears. England's tour was also in doubt after a deadly attack on a cafe in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka in July which was popular with tourists. Since being

invited to join the game's top table 16 years ago, Test cricket's newest nation has lost 72 of its 94 Tests and won just seven-five of them against fellow strugglers Zimbabwe.

Bangladesh entered the fifth and final day of the first Chittagong Test needing just 33 runs for victory with two wickets left, but could only add 10 to their overnight score.

Rahim refused to be downhearted and said there were many reasons to be proud at running England so close. "We can take a lot of positives—Miraz (Mehedi

Hasan) and Shakib (Al Hasan) bowled well. Tamim (Iqbal) batted well... it was a good Test for Bangladesh," he said.

The 18-year-old Hasan took six wickets on his debut while Tamim's fighting 78 helped Bangladesh post a competitive first innings total, albeit less than they hoped for at one stage after a lower-order collapse. Rahim said the outcome should not be blown out of proportion.

"If we would have won, we wouldn't become an extraordinary Test side. But we ended up achieving much of what we had set ourselves." — AFP

PAKISTAN SNIFF SERIES CLINCHING WIN IN TEST

ABU DHABI: Pakistan pressed West Indies hard for a series-clinching win in the second Test after setting a daunting 456-run target on the fourth day in Abu Dhabi yesterday. By close of play Pakistan had taken four wickets at 171 leaving the West Indies to bat out the fifth and final day today or score a further 285 runs with six wickets intact for an unlikely win.

No team has ever chased down more than the 418-7 West Indies managed against Australia at Antigua 13 years ago and on a weary last day pitch they will need a huge effort to stop Pakistan from taking an unassailable 2-0 lead. Pakistan won the first Test—a day-night affair played with the pink ball — by 56 runs in Dubai.

Pakistan had declared their second innings on 227-2 at lunch, with Asad Shafiq on 58 not out (his 16th Test half century) and Younis Khan 29 to give their bowlers enough time to force a win.

At close Jermaine Blackwood was unbeaten on 41 and with him Roston Chase 17 not out as the two foiled Pakistan's bowling during an unbroken 47-run stand for the fifth wicket.

The duo carried the fight initiated by opener Kraigg Brathwaite who scored a fighting 67 with six boundaries and a six.

Brathwaite and Marlon Samuels (23) had added 49 for the third wicket but both fell in the space of 12 runs, Samuels giving a return catch to leg-spinner Yasir Shah while Brathwaite trapped leg-before wicket by

Mohammad Nawaz. Brathwaite had completed his 11th half-century with a three run drive off paceman Sohail Khan—his first in this series.

West Indies' task of saving the Test was made even more difficult after they lost Leon Johnson (nine) and Darren Bravo (13) with the total on 63. Johnson tried to sweep a delivery from Shah only to drag it on to his stumps after hitting the bat and glove.

Bravo, who scored a fighting 116 in Dubai, slashed a drive off fast bowler Rahat Ali straight to point where Mohammad Nawaz held a head high catch. Pakistan added 113 runs in the first session to set up their declaration. Shafiq scored his second fifty of the match with three boundaries after Azhar Ali was dismissed for 79.

Resuming at 114-1 Pakistan were unable to score quick runs as West Indian captain Jason Holder kept a tight field, with only five boundaries in the session.

Ali, who scored a career best 302 not out in Dubai, edged Miguel Cummins to slip where Holder took a sharp catch for the fast bowler's first wicket in the series.

Ali hit five boundaries during his 137-ball stay at the crease. West Indies bowlers tried valiantly for more wickets but spurned a review when Holder trapped Younis in front of the wicket but television replays showed the ball was missing the stumps. The third and final Test will be played in Sharjah from October 30. —AFP



CHITTAGONG: England's captain Alastair Cook (top 3rd L) celebrates with teammates after beating Bangladesh during the final day's play of the first Test cricket match at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Cricket Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

ABU DHABI: Scoreboard Monday at stumps on the fourth day of the second test between Pakistan and West Indies at Sheikh Zayed Stadium:

Pakistan 1st Innings: 452	7-0-22-0, Roston Chase 6-0-26-0.
West Indies 1st Innings: 224	
Pakistan 2nd Innings	West Indies 2nd Innings
(Overnight: 114-1)	Kraigg Brathwaite lbw b Nawaz 67
Sami Aslam c Hope b Gabriel 50	Leon Johnson b Shah 9
Azhar Ali c Holder b Cummins 79	Darren Bravo c Nawaz b Rahat Ali 13
Asad Shafiq not out 58	Marlon Samuels c and b Shah 23
Younis Khan not out 29	Jermaine Blackwood not out 41
Extras: (4b, 3lb, 1w, 3nb) 11	Roston Chase not out 17
TOTAL: (for 2 wickets dec.) 227	Extras: (1lb) 1
Overs: 67.	TOTAL: (for 4 wickets) 171
Fall of wickets: 1-93, 2-164.	Overs: 62.
Did not bat: Misbah-ul-Haq, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz, Yasir Shah, Zulfiqar Babar, Sohail Khan, Rahat Ali	Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-63, 3-112, 4-124.
Bowling: Shannon Gabriel 12-2-36-1 (2nb), Miguel Cummins 7-0-26-1 (1nb 1w), Kraigg Brathwaite 15-2-33-0, Devendra Bishoo 20-0-77-0, Jason Holder	Still to bat: Shai Hope, Jason Holder, Devendra Bishoo, Miguel Cummins, Shannon Gabriel.
	Bowling: Sohail Khan 10-2-24-0, Rahat Ali 14-1-40-1, Yasir Shah 18-2-60-2, Zulfiqar Babar 15-5-32-0, Mohammad Nawaz 5-0-14-1.



ABU DHABI: The West Indies' batsman Roston Chase (R) plays a shot as Pakistani wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed looks on during the fourth day of the second Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

BEN STOKES LEADS ENGLAND TO 22-RUN WIN OVER BANGLADESH

CHITTAGONG: He might feel entitled to a breather after a back-breaking effort in his team's latest Test triumph but England's 'X-factor' Ben Stokes said he'd rather be dropped than rested during a marathon tour of the sub-continent. The lion-hearted Stokes was named man of the match on Monday for his starring role in England's nail-biting first Test win over Bangladesh in which he scored a crucial half century and took six wickets.

After batting for more than three hours while making 85 on Saturday, Stokes then bowled superbly in Bangladesh's second innings and finished the match with six wickets in temperatures hitting 32 degrees celsius.

Stokes began the year by scoring a career best 258 in a Test against South Africa but after England's dramatic 22-run victory in Chittagong, the Durham player classed it as his most complete performance so far.

"Overall, I think it is," the 25-year-old replied when asked if he thought it was the most satisfying match. Stokes said he was particularly pleased with having improved his technique against the spinners, saying he had always been able to "take the aggressive route" but had now given himself more options.

Stokes said he had been putting in the hours, "making sure that my defence is tight and still having options to be able to rotate the strike when they do bowl the ball in a good area".

He had also been working on his concentration levels so "that I'm switched on enough that if there is a bad ball to come along—because there aren't going to be many—I still put it away for four or six." Stokes' career has been interrupted by several injuries and the selectors

SCOREBOARD

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh: Scoreboard yesterday at the close of the first test between Bangladesh and England at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium:

England 1st Innings: 293	Kamrul Islam c Bance b Broad 0
Bangladesh 1st Innings: 248	Tajul Islam lbw Stokes 16
England 2nd Innings: 240	Shafiqul Islam lbw Stokes 0
Bangladesh 2nd Innings: (Resumed at 253-8)	Extras: (9b, 13lb, 1w) 23
Tamim Iqbal c Bance b Ali 9	TOTAL: (all out) 263.
Imrul Kayes c Root b Rashid 43	Overs: 81.3.
Mominul Haque lbw Batty 27	Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-81, 3-103, 4-108, 5-140, 6-227, 7-234, 8-238, 9-263, 10-263.
Mahmudullah lbw Batty 17	Bowling: Gareth Batty 17-3-65-3, Moeen Ali 14-2-60-2, Chris Woakes 7-3-10-0, Adil Rashid 17-2-55-1, Stuart Broad 15-4-31-2, Ben Stokes 11-3-2-20-2 (1w)
Shakib Al Hasan c Birstow b Ali 24	Result: England wins by 22 runs.
Mushfiqur Rahim c Bance b Batty 39	
Sabbir Rahman not out 64	
Mehedi Hasan lbw Broad 1	

will be desperate that he remains fit throughout the winter in which England will play a total of seven Tests, including five against India.

I'D RATHER BE DROPPED

Stokes was also the vice-captain in a preceding ODI series against Bangladesh while England are due to play six further limited overs internationals against India early in the new year. The workload means that England selectors could well be tempted to give Stokes a rest in one or two Tests, especially if they are dead rubbers—but he made clear that he would reject any such overtures. "I'll play all seven (Tests) if I still get picked, I'd rather get dropped," he said.

England skipper Alastair Cook said Stokes

was absolutely crucial to his team's prospects.

"I say it every single time we speak about him, the guy is that x-factor cricketer which every side would love to have," said Cook.

"He balances our side, he gives us options, he allows us to play the extra seamer here or an extra spinner, whichever way you look at it."

Cook also praised Stokes for his improvement against the spinners, which was highlighted by his maiden ODI century in Dhaka earlier this month. "The one thing he has done over the last year is improve his method against spin," said Cook. "I don't want to say I'm surprised but it surprised me how well he scored that hundred and... it just showed what a lot of hard work can do and he can take a lot of credit for that." — AFP

LANKA'S OLDEST CAPTAIN BANKS ON YOUNGSTERS

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's oldest ever skipper Rangana Herath yesterday said he hoped to build on the recent Test whitewash against Australia despite leading a young and inexperienced team to Zimbabwe. The 38-year-old spinner became the oldest player named to head an overseas tour as regular captain Angelo Mathews and his deputy Dinesh Chandimal pulled out of the two-Test series with injuries.

"I am pleased to be appointed captain of the national team even at the age of 38," Herath told reporters in Colombo before the team's departure to Harare. "It is true that we don't have experienced players, but we have a lot of confidence after winning against Australia," the veteran spinner said referring to Sri Lanka's historic series win against the then world number one team in a three-match tournament ending in August.

Herath set up Sri Lanka's success

against Australia with a maiden Test hat-trick and ended up man of the series. "What our young players lack in experience they make up with confidence," Herath said. "The victory against Australia has given us a huge boost. We hope to make a very significant impact in Zimbabwe."

There are three new faces in the squad for Zimbabwe - fast bowlers Kasun Madushanka and Lahiru Kumara and allrounder Asela Gunaratne. The first Test begins on October 29 in Harare while the second is scheduled for November 6 at the same venue.

Herath becomes the oldest Sri Lankan player to be named skipper of the national team at the start of a Test series. In 1983, leg-spinner Somachandra de Silva was asked to lead the team when regular skipper Duleep Mendis was injured during a three-day practice match in New Zealand ahead of two Tests. De Silva was 40 at the time. — AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews (C), Sri Lanka's oldest ever skipper Rangana Herath (L) and Dinesh Chandimal look on during a press conference in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka's oldest ever skipper Rangana Herath said he hoped to build on the recent Test whitewash against Australia despite leading a young and inexperienced team to Zimbabwe. The 38-year-old spinner became the oldest player named to head an overseas tour as regular captain Angelo Mathews and his deputy Dinesh Chandimal pulled out of the two-Test series with injuries. — AFP

LEICESTER HEROES VARDY, MAHREZ ON BALLON D'OR LONGLIST

PARIS: Leicester City heroes Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez, stars in their team's fairytale run to the Premier League title, have been named on a 30-player longlist for the 2016 Ballon d'Or.

Vardy—who has enjoyed a meteoric rise from amateur football to rub shoulders with the game's biggest names—is the sole Englishman nominated for the prestigious prize awarded by France Football magazine, which is organising the trophy on its own after the end of a partnership with FIFA. The Foxes pair are among eight Premier League stars on the list. Three-time world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo and last year's victor Lionel Messi,

who has won it five times altogether, are among the favourites to take the prize once again.

Ronaldo, who took home the award in 2008, 2013 and 2014, set himself up for a potential fourth Ballon d'Or when captaining Portugal to Euro 2016 glory and helping Real Madrid to an 11th Champions League triumph. Other members of Madrid's Champions League-winning campaign have been recognised as well in Gareth Bale, Luka Modric, Toni Kroos, Sergio Ramos and Pepe.

Pepe and Ronaldo are also joined on the list by Sporting Lisbon's Rui Patrício, who kept goal in Portugal's run to Euro

glory. Atletico Madrid and France striker Antoine Griezmann is another leading contender. However, his compatriot Karim Benzema is not on the list, the Real Madrid striker's year having been overshadowed by the sextape blackmail affair which led to him being frozen out of the national team ahead of the Euros.

The winner will be determined by a vote of journalists-national team captains and managers will no longer have a say after the ending of the five-year deal between France Football and FIFA.

The first Ballon d'Or was won by Stanley Matthews, at the time with Blackpool, who beat Alfredo Di Stefano for

the inaugural title in 1956.

Full list

Sergio Aguero (ARG/Manchester City), Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (GAB/Borussia Dortmund), Gareth Bale (WAL/Real Madrid), Gianluigi Buffon (ITA/Juventus), Cristiano Ronaldo (POR/Real Madrid), Kevin De Bruyne (BEL/Manchester City), Paulo Dybala (ARG/Juventus), Diego Godin (URU/Atletico Madrid), Antoine Griezmann (FRA/Atletico Madrid), Gonzalo Higuain (ARG/Juventus), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (SWE/Manchester United), Andres Iniesta (ESP/Barcelona), Koke (ESP/Atletico

Madrid), Toni Kroos (GER/Real Madrid), Robert Lewandowski (POL/Bayern Munich), Hugo Lloris (FRA/Tottenham Hotspur), Riyad Mahrez (ALG/Leicester City), Lionel Messi (ARG/Barcelona), Luka Modric (CRO/Real Madrid), Thomas Mueller (GER/Bayern Munich), Manuel Neuer (GER/Bayern Munich), Neymar (BRA/Barcelona), Dimitri Payet (FRA/West Ham United), Paul Pogba (FRA/Manchester United), Pepe (POR/Real Madrid), Rui Patrício (POR/Sporting Lisbon), Sergio Ramos (ESP/Real Madrid), Luis Suarez (URU/Barcelona), Jamie Vardy (ENG/Leicester City), Arturo Vidal (CHI/Bayern Munich). — AFP

IHEANACHO SCORES AGAIN IN AFRICAN GOAL RUSH

PARIS: Nigerians Kelechi Iheanacho and Ahmed Musa were among the scorers during a highly profitable weekend for African goal-poachers in the five major European leagues.

Iheanacho rescued a point for English Premier League leaders Manchester City against Southampton with his eighth goal in 11 league matches.

Musa got his first goal for Leicester City with assistance from Algerian Islam Slimani in a 3-1 triumph over Crystal Palace.

ENGLAND

SADIO MANE (Liverpool)

The Senegal forward sent his side on their way to a 2-1 win over West Bromwich Albion that took the Merseysiders level on points at the top of the Premier League table. He opened the scoring in the 21st minute at Anfield when he controlled a far-post cross from Roberto Firmino and finished confidently for his fourth goal of the season.

YANNICK BOLASIE (Everton)

Drew his side level away to Burnley when, in the 58th minute at Turf Moor, the Democratic Republic of Congo international pinched the ball from team-mate Romelu Lukaku and slammed home his first Everton goal. But it was not enough to get the Toffees a point, with a last-minute goal from Scott Arfield sealing a 2-1 win for Burnley.

AHMED MUSA (Leicester City)

The Nigeria striker scored his first goal for the Foxes by breaking the deadlock three minutes before half-time after good work by Shinji Okazaki and Slimani in champions Leicester's 3-1 win over Crystal Palace.

KELECHI IHEANACHO (Manchester City)

Musa's fellow Nigeria forward continued his fine run of form to help leaders City cancel out Southampton's opener in a 1-1 draw that kept Pep Guardiola's side top of the table on goal difference. On for Kevin De Bruyne as a substitute at the start of the second half, he drew City level in the 55th minute when, following passes from Fernandinho and Leroy Sane, he swept in a confident finish from six yards.

SPAIN

KEVIN-PRINCE BOATENG (Las Palmas)

Former Ghana midfielder Boateng scored one of the goals of the season as he finished off a sweeping 18-pass move from one end of the field to the other with a spectacular scissor-kick from Tana's back-heeled assist to give Las Palmas the lead at Villarreal.

CEDRIC BAKAMBU (Villarreal)

DR Congo striker Bakambu had the final say against Las Palmas as he slotted home his second goal in as many La Liga games in the 92nd minute to keep Villarreal just two points off the top with a 2-1 win.

ITALY

MOHAMED SALAH (Roma)

Salah was on fire during a stand-out performance for Roma in a 4-1 rout of Palermo that saw the Giallorossi move within two points of leaders Juventus, taking their league-leading goals tally to 23. A searing run into the area by the Egyptian was rewarded with a flick from Edin Dzeko that Salah fired through the legs of keeper Josip Posavec on the half hour. Salah also set up the final Roma goal for Stephan El Shaarawy.

KEITA BALDE (Lazio)

Keita was involved in most of Lazio's first-half chances on their way to a battling 2-2 draw at Torino. He fired a first-half free-kick over Joe Hart's crossbar, then failed to beat the England keeper in a one-on-one soon after.

GERMANY

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Borussia Dortmund)

The Gabon striker netted Dortmund's first goal in their 3-3 fight-back draw at strugglers Ingolstadt. After Ingolstadt took a 2-0 half-time lead, Aubameyang headed home from Ousmane Dembele's cross on 59 minutes for his seventh goal in seven games.

ANIS BEN-HATIRA (Darmstadt)

The Berlin-born Tunisia international slammed home Darmstadt's first-half free-kick to open the scoring in a 3-1 win over VfL Wolfsburg, who are winless in seven games.

NABY KEITA (RB Leipzig)

The Guinea international scored twice as Bundesliga newcomers Leipzig defeated Werder Bremen 3-1 to climb to second. Keita capped off a superb solo run to put Leipzig in front just before half-time, and the midfielder struck again on 74 minutes when he powered home a cross.

NABIL BENTALEB (Schalke 04)

The Algeria midfielder, on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, has scored three goals in two games after netting twice in Schalke's 3-0 win over Mainz which lifted them out of the bottom three. He opened the scoring with a great shot off his left foot on 23 minutes, then added the third when he fired through the Mainz goalkeeper's legs on 62 minutes.

FRANCE

RYAD BOUDEBOUZ (Montpellier)

Algeria attacking midfielder Boudebouz scored both his team's goals in a sobering 6-2 defeat at Monaco. The 24-year-old France-born player gave his team the lead after just nine minutes with a wonderful free-kick from just outside the penalty box. His second on the hour mark was from the penalty spot and drew Montpellier level at 2-2 before Monaco hit four goals in 25 minutes. — AFP



WINNIPEG: Mark Scheifele #55 of the Winnipeg Jets loses a faceoff to Anton Lander #51 of the Edmonton Oilers during the 2016 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic hockey game on Sunday at Investors Group Field in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The Edmonton Oilers scored three goals in the second period and goaltender Cam Talbot made 31 saves Sunday as the Oilers downed the Jets 3-0 in the NHL Heritage Classic outdoor game in Winnipeg. — AFP

OILERS DOWN JETS IN HERITAGE CLASSIC

WINNIPEG: Cam Talbot made 31 saves and Mark Letestu scored the first of three second-period goals, lifting the Edmonton Oilers over the Winnipeg Jets on Sunday in an outdoor game delayed almost two hours by sunlight melting the ice. The Heritage Classic victory extended Edmonton's winning streak to three in front of 33,240 at Investors Group Field. Fans wore both Jets and Oilers jerseys to the league's 19th outdoor game. Zack Kassian had a goal and an assist and Darnell Nurse also scored for Edmonton. Connor Hellebuyck, who had a tuque attached to his helmet, stopped 29 shots for Winnipeg. The NHL said the start of the Heritage Classic game was delayed "due to intermittent sunlight on the playing surface" and "in the interest of player safety."

ISLANDERS 6, WILD 3

John Tavares had two goals and an assist, Johnny Boychuk scored for the second straight game and New York beat Minnesota. Calvin de Haan, Alan Quine and Thomas Hickey also scored to help New York get its highest scoring total of the year and win for the third time in four home games after opening with two road losses. Thomas Greiss stopped 26 shots for his first win in two starts this season. Islanders rookie Anthony Beauvillier had two assists, giving the 19-year-old at least a point in three straight games. Zach Parise scored twice for Minnesota to top 300 goals for his career, and Nino Niederreiter also scored. Second-string goalie Darcy Kuemper made 27 saves.

RANGERS 3, COYOTES 2

Dan Girardi scored 1:55 into the third period and New York beat Arizona. Josh Jooris and J.T. Miller also scored for New York, which has won consecutive games to improve to 4-2-0. Henrik

NHL Results/Standings													
Edmonton 3, Winnipeg 0; NY Islanders 6, Minnesota 3; NY Rangers 3, Arizona 2; Anaheim 4, Vancouver 2.													
Western Conference					Metropolitan Division								
Central Division					Atlantic Division								
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
St. Louis	4	1	1	19	15	9	NY Rangers	4	2	0	22	16	8
Minnesota	3	2	1	19	19	7	Washington	3	1	1	13	10	7
Colorado	3	2	0	16	16	6	Pittsburgh	3	2	1	13	19	7
Chicago	3	3	0	23	22	6	NY Islanders	3	3	0	18	17	6
Dallas	2	2	1	14	16	5	Philadelphia	2	2	1	19	19	5
Nashville	2	3	0	15	15	4	New Jersey	2	2	1	8	9	5
Winnipeg	2	3	0	14	19	4	Columbus	2	2	0	11	11	4
Edmonton	5	1	0	23	16	10	Carolina	1	2	2	16	20	4
Vancouver	4	1	1	15	14	9	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).						
San Jose	3	3	0	14	18	6							
Anaheim	2	3	1	14	16	5							
Los Angeles	2	3	0	14	18	4							
Calgary	1	4	1	18	27	3							
Arizona	1	4	0	14	21	2							
Eastern Conference					Atlantic Division								
Montreal	4	0	1	20	9	9							

Lundqvist made 27 stops. Radim Vrbata had both of Arizona's goals, and Louis Domingue made 23 saves. The Coyotes have lost their first four games on a six-game trip since beating Philadelphia in overtime at home to start the season. Girardi put the Rangers ahead with a slap shot from the right point. The veteran was paired with rookie Brady Skjei in his first game after missing New York's previous three with a strained groin, and Skjei assisted on the goal.

DUCKS 4, CANUCKS 2

Nick Ritchie scored the tiebreaking goal on a rebound with 8:36 to play, captain Ryan Getzlaf had three assists and Anaheim finally opened

its home schedule with a victory over Vancouver. Andrew Cogliano, Cam Fowler and Corey Perry also scored for the Ducks, who have won two straight after a four-game winless start. John Gibson made 17 saves in the Western Conference's final home opener, thanks to a schedule that forced Anaheim to play in five teams' home debuts this month. Henrik Sedin scored the tying goal early in the third period for the Canucks, who lost in regulation for the first time this season. Bo Horvat scored a short-handed goal, and Loui Eriksson had two assists. Ryan Miller made 33 saves in his first outing since opening night for the Canucks. — AP



Kelechi Iheanacho

PRINCE ALI SAYS FIFA NEEDS TO SPEED UP REFORMS

AMMAN: Former FIFA presidential candidate Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan is concerned about the pace of reform in world soccer's governing body and says new president Gianni Infantino has "no time to lose" in bringing transparency to the organisation.

Infantino was elected in February with the task of leading FIFA into calmer waters after a series of corruption scandals plunged the governing body into its worst crisis. Prince Ali told Reuters in an interview that Infantino should focus on implementing reforms rather than issues such as proposals to expand the World Cup.

"I can only speculate as a new president he first has to look at his own administration and see what's going on in there," he told Reuters in Jordan, which is currently hosting the Women's Under-17 World Cup.

The tournament is the first FIFA organised female World Cup in the Middle East and is considered a significant milestone for women in the region, long constrained by cultural and religious conservatism.

"Everybody is looking at FIFA and the direction it is going and again it's critical time, there no time to lose." Soccer's global govern-

ing body is attempting to recover from the worst graft scandal in its history which has seen 42 people, including former FIFA executive committee members, indicted in the United States since May last year.

Criminal investigations are also under way in Switzerland, where FIFA has its headquarters. An investigation was also opened into FIFA's decision to award the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tournament to Qatar, a small, wealthy desert country with no real soccer tradition.

Prince Ali said that as someone who had "stuck to my guns in terms of really supporting football and having a clean organisation", he knew how urgent it was to speed up investigations and tackle improper business practices. "You really need to have a clean FIFA to be able to trickle down to our national associations" said Prince Ali, highlighting ongoing problems such as matchfixing.

"... the reality is putting aside the big ideas in the World Cup, the real issue is the organisation and cleaning it up for me I wish it will be more streamlined, more open and that's what I am hoping will take place," he added.

Prince Ali said the proposal to enlarge the

World Cup could backfire if not properly planned out, citing problems that faced Brazil and South Africa.

"When it comes to FIFA, at the moment there are other priorities really ... my only concern is that it's maybe more political and about pleasing people than what is best for the game," he said. — Reuters



Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein

RUMMENIGGE TELLS BAYERN TO KEEP IT UP IN CUP

BERLIN: Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has called for the "same again" in tomorrow's German Cup second-round clash at home to Bundesliga rivals Augsburg.

Holders Bayern warmed up for the visit of Bavarian neighbours Augsburg with a convincing 2-0 win at home to Borussia Mönchengladbach on Saturday, which coach Carlo Ancelotti dubbed their best first-half display this season.

Bayern broke a three-match winless

streak by thrashing PSV Eindhoven 4-1 last Wednesday in the Champions League, before beating Gladbach, but Rummenigge says they must maintain their current winning form at the Allianz Arena.

"The first-half display was perhaps the best performance of the season, which deserves praise, but in my experience, not too much," said Rummenigge. "We must do exactly the same again tomorrow."

Augsburg lost 2-1 to Freiburg on

Saturday in Germany's top flight, but travel the 80 kilometres to Munich buoyed by results against Bayern in recent years. They have won two of their last five games against Bayern and beat Pep Guardiola's side both 2014 and 2015 under ex-coach Markus Weinzierl, who is now in charge of Schalke.

Bayern, who beat Borussia Dortmund on penalties in the 2016 German Cup final in May, have lifted the trophy a record 18 times.

Their only fitness concern is Franck Ribery, who sits out the match with a leg injury.

Dortmund, who came back from two goals down to draw 3-3 at Ingolstadt on Saturday in the league, host second-division Union Berlin at Signal Iduna Park also tomorrow.

Borussia have a lengthy walking-wounded list with captain Marcel Schmelzer and Raphael Guerreiro out, while Sven Bender, Marco Reus, Neven Subotic and Erik Durm are all working

their way back after injury.

Bayer Leverkusen, another of Germany's Champions League representatives who were beaten 3-0 by Hoffenheim on Saturday in the Bundesliga, must be wary of third-division Sportfreunde Lotte, who knocked Werder Bremen out in the first round.

Alongside the Bayern-Augsburg clash, the other all-Bundesliga matches see Eintracht Frankfurt play Ingolstadt on Tuesday, while Cologne host Hoffenheim tomorrow. — AFP

MOURINHO AND GUARDIOLA FACE LEAGUE CUP REUNION

LONDON: Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola face off for the second time this season when Manchester United entertain holders Manchester City in the English League Cup fourth round tomorrow.

Guardiola's City took the spoils when he and Mourinho resumed hostilities in September, winning 2-1 at Old Trafford through goals from Kevin De Bruyne and Kelechi Iheanacho.

But City have gone off the boil since Sunday's 1-1 draw with Southampton leaving them without a win in five games, while United crashed to a crushing 4-0 defeat at Mourinho's former club Chelsea.

Asked whether the identity of his side's League Cup opponents would help motivate his hurting players, Mourinho told MUTV: "I would prefer to play in the Premier League. It's a bad feeling in the Premier League. With the combination of results, the gap to the top is six points. We've had a very difficult period of matches."

"We are really, really sad, but again this is not for kids. This is for men and tomorrow (Monday) we have to be men and work for the next one."

City's win at United on September 10 formed part of a sequence of six consecutive victories, which suggested Guardiola might find life in England something of a stroll. But since drawing 3-3 in a frenetic Champions League game at Celtic, the early-season certainty has vanished.

One-sided losses to Tottenham Hotspur and Barcelona sandwiched a 1-1 draw with Everton before Sunday's stalemate with Southampton, who went ahead after a blunder by City centre-back John Stones.

"It's important to change our dynamic from the previous games," Guardiola said. "Everything influences you. If you can play well or badly, it affects your mentality, so we are working on it."

"We will see tomorrow, after the players' recovery, then decide if it's necessary to make rotations or not."

POLICE PRESENCE

The round's other stand-out tie occurs on Tuesday when Liverpool, who lost on penalties to City in last season's final, and Tottenham Hotspur face off at Anfield.

The teams drew 1-1 in a high-octane Premier League clash at White Hart Lane in late August.

Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool crept above Tottenham in the league table at the weekend after they beat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 and Mauricio Pochettino's men could only draw 0-0 at Bournemouth.

"I'm pleased with the effort because after three games (in a week) it was difficult, mentally and physically," Pochettino said of his side's display at the Vitality Stadium. "The team showed again they are tough and there are lots of positives to take. I feel pleased with another big effort and now we keep going because we have another big game on Tuesday."

The spotlight will fall on and off the pitch at London Stadium, where West Ham United host cross-town rivals Chelsea.

Police are expected to be on duty inside the ground, which will stage its first London derby, after violent skirmishes involving West Ham fans during recent matches at their new home.

The remaining all-top-flight tie sees Southampton host the Premier League's bottom club Sunderland, who remain without a league win this season following Saturday's 1-0 reverse at West Ham.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is expected to make sweeping changes for the visit of second-tier Reading, who are managed by former Manchester United and Netherlands centre-back Jaap Stam.

Hull City travel to Bristol City, while Championship leaders Newcastle United host Preston North End and Leeds United face Norwich City. — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP		
Arsenal FC V Reading FC	21:45	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Liverpool V Tottenham	21:45	beIN SPORTS 1 HD
Bristol City FC V Hull City	21:45	beIN SPORTS
Leeds United V Norwich City	21:45	beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN
Newcastle United V Preston	21:45	beIN SPORTS 13 HD EN



PARIS: PSG's Marquinhos, left, heads the ball as Marseille's captain Bafetimbi Gomis, right, looks on during their French League One soccer match between PSG and Marseille at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Sunday. — AP

MARSEILLE HOLD PSG IN DRAB 'CLASSIQUE'

PARIS: There was nothing "Classique" about it as Paris Saint-Germain and bitter rivals Marseille conjured up an uninspiring 0-0 draw in relentless rain in the French capital on Sunday.

Billed as the Ligue 1 clash to rival Spain's El Clasico, this was a poor advert for French football and did little to dispel the impression that reigning champions PSG are struggling to get to grips with coach Unai Emery's methods.

Misfiring PSG striker Edinson Cavani had an evening to forget and the damp stalemate leaves his side in third, two points behind Monaco and six inferior to surprise leaders Nice, who won again despite missing the injured Mario Balotelli. "It's clear that the draw is not a good result for us," said Emery. "But the team had a good match and for 90 minutes we were in charge." There was plenty of rain and endeavour at the Parc des Princes in Paris in the first half but precious little goal-mouth action. Struggling in mid-table, Marseille, under new American ownership and with new coach Rudi Garcia in charge for the first time, were pinned back for long periods but the Parisians did little with the ball.

"It's a positive result. Mission accomplished as we didn't have a shot on goal," said Garcia. It took until 10 minutes before the break for the first real chance of the game, Cavani heading wastefully over for the home side when unmarked and then Serge Aurier shooting straight at Marseille goalkeeper Yann Pele.

Cavani took a tumble in the box under minimal contact just before half-time but referee Clement Turpin was unmoved despite strong appeals from Cavani and the home support, and the PSG players remonstrated with the officials as they trudged off into the break.

Both teams emerged with more intent for the second half and captain Bafetimbi Gomis had an early and rare sniff of goal for Marseille, for whom Garcia is their fourth different coach since the start of last season, underlining the instability that has blighted the fallen giants.

On 69 minutes Cavani was guilty again of poor finishing, once more heading badly off target when free and unmarked, as the Parisians stepped up the pressure, forcing a series of corners. And 10 minutes from time the long-haired Uruguayan made it a hat-trick of misses, prodding wide from close range when under pressure.

MARIO WHO?

Alassane Plea grabbed a hat-trick as Ligue 1 leaders Nice continued their terrific start to the season with a thrilling 4-2 victory at promoted Metz. With Balotelli out with a thigh injury, Plea assumed the lead role for Lucien Favre's unbeaten side and netted the opener on 12 minutes before adding a second from the penalty spot after Georges Mandjeck had equalised.

Substitute Habib Diallo made it 2-2 midway through the second half for Metz but Plea struck for a third time on 84 minutes before Wylan Cyprien wrapped up the points in injury time.

"It's a deserved win even if it was very tough. We played well," said Favre. "The players' reaction was very good after they equalised for two-all. We're incredibly happy to still be undefeated but we have to keep on working." Earlier, on-loan duo Henri Saivet and Jordan Veretout scored their first Saint-Etienne goals since returning to France from Newcastle United and Aston Villa respectively in a 2-0 win away to Caen. Monaco reclaimed second place on Friday from PSG with a 6-2 demolition of Montpellier at the Stade Louis II. — AFP

KROENKE: 'VERY HIGH' ON WENGER, 'VERY HARD' TO REPLACE

LONDON: Arsenal remains "very high" on Arsene Wenger and it will be "very hard" replacing the manager who is in the final year of his contract, owner Stan Kroenke told The Associated Press yesterday.

Wenger this month celebrated 20 years in charge of Arsenal and has offered no indication whether he wants to sign a new deal into next season.

The 67-year-old Frenchman became the Premier League's longest serving manager when Alex Ferguson retired from Manchester United in 2013. United is now on its third manager in three years and has not competed for the Premier League title since Ferguson's departure.

In a rare interview about Arsenal, Kroenke noted the tricky post-Ferguson succession at United while discussing the challenge of eventually replacing Wenger.

"You see it (at United), you bring up a comment like that," Kroenke told the AP after Arsenal's annual general meeting. "It's very hard. He's a great manager." Wenger signed his last three-year contract extension in 2014.

"We will sit down and discuss the future at the appropriate time," Arsenal chairman Chips Keswick told shareholders at a meeting where Wenger didn't address his con-

tract situation in his speech.

Although Wenger has won the Premier League three times, the last success came in 2004 - a drought which frustrates fans. "He's been a wonderful influence on the club," Kroenke said. "We are all very high on Arsene. We are (joint) top of the table right now." Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool are only separated on goal difference at the summit. Despite Wenger only winning the FA Cup twice since 2004, the team is in the lucrative Champions League for the 19th successive year thanks to its runner-up finish last season. Wenger is yet to win European football's top prize.

"I know a number of (sports team) owners that are very successful that say the same thing - the hardest thing to do is consistently competitive at the top of the league," said Kroenke, who also owns the NFL's Los Angeles Rams. "Arsene has always done that and Arsenal has always been in that position. We have always been competitive."

"We may not always win the things we want to win. We are very focused on winning for sure the league. Arsene's been consistently at the top and I will tell you - it's very, very hard to do if you look around sports." — AP



LONDON: Manchester United's team manager Jose Mourinho shouts during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Manchester United at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, Sunday. — AP

AL-MUTAIRI WINS INT'L DRIFTING COMPETITION

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti car racer Nasser Al-Mutairi won the third place in the final round of the international drifting competition held in the Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte early yesterday.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Mutairi expressed his happiness over this achievement, adding that the competi-

tion included 154 racers of different nationalities. Meanwhile, he said the tournament consisted of six rounds held in the UAE, moving to Malaysia, Thailand, Japan before concluding in Brazil. Al-Mutairi also noted that he was the only Arab participant in the event. — KUNA



Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger

Sports

**Ben Stokes leads
England to 22-run
win over
Bangladesh**



**Marseille hold
PSG in drab
'Classique'**



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016

LEICESTER HEROES VARDY, MAHREZ ON BALLON D'OR LONGLIST Page 18



PHILADELPHIA: Minnesota Vikings' Xavier Rhodes (29) intercepts a pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, in Philadelphia. — AP

EAGLES HAND VIKINGS FIRST DEFEAT OF SEASON

LOS ANGELES: The Philadelphia Eagles used a ball-hawking defense and a back-breaking kickoff return to upset the Minnesota Vikings 21-10 on Sunday, handing the NFL's final undefeated team its first defeat. Neither team's offense was effective and both team's quarterbacks struggled. Philadelphia rookie Carson Wentz completed 16 of 28 passes for 138 yards. Minnesota's Sam Bradford, who was traded from the Eagles before the season opener, was even worse for most of the game. He completed 24 of 41 passes for 224 yards.

DOLPHINS 28, BILLS 25

Jay Ajayi became the fourth player in NFL history to rush for more than 200 yards in consecutive games, leading the Miami Dolphins to a 28-25 upset win over the Buffalo Bills. Ajayi, a second-year running back from Boise State, ran 29 times for 214 yards and one touchdown as the Dolphins (3-4) ended Buffalo's four-game win streak. Ajayi joined O.J. Simpson (1973 and 1976), Earl Campbell (1980) and Ricky Williams (2002) as the only players to have consecutive 200-yard games.

LIONS 20 REDSKINS 17

Matthew Stafford connected with Anquan Boldin on an 18-yard touchdown pass with 16 seconds left, lifting the Detroit Lions to a 20-17 win over the Washington Redskins. Stafford, making his 100th career start, engineered a six-play, 75-yard drive after Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins scored on a 19-yard run with 1:05 remaining. Stafford completed 18 of 29 passes for 266 yards as Detroit (4-3) won its third straight, all at home. The Redskins (4-3) had a four-game winning streak snapped.

CHIEFS 27, SAINTS 21

Led by the efforts of running back Spencer Ware on offense and a defense that forced two turnovers, the Kansas City Chiefs beat the New Orleans Saints 27-21. Ware touched the ball 19 times for 132 yards. He caught a short pass from quarterback Alex Smith and turned it into a 46-yard touchdown play in the first quarter. The Kansas City (4-2) defense allowed New Orleans (2-4) quarterback Drew Brees to throw for 348 yards and three touchdowns.

GIANTS 17, RAMS 10

Landon Collins and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie each had two interceptions, fueling a strong defensive effort in the New York Giants' 17-10 win over the Los Angeles Rams at Twickenham Stadium in London. The Giants (4-3) intercepted Rams quarterback Case Keenum four times. New York had only three takeaways all season before Sunday.

JETS 24, RAVENS 16

Matt Forte generated 155 yards in total offense and scored two touchdowns as the New York Jets snapped a four-game losing streak with a 24-16 win over the Baltimore Ravens. The Jets (2-5) lost starting quarterback Geno Smith in the second quarter but pulled away in the second half thanks to Forte, who had 103 total yards in the final two quarters. New York's opportunistic defense picked off Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco twice to set up a pair of scoring drives.

BENGALS 31, BROWNS 17

Jeremy Hill rushed for a career-high 168 yards and Andy Dalton passed for 308 yards and two touchdowns, one of which was a 'Hail Mary' to A.J. Green at the end of the first half, to lift the Cincinnati Bengals to

a 31-17 victory over the Cleveland Browns. It was another rough afternoon for Cleveland (0-7), which lost quarterback Cody Kessler to a concussion in the second quarter. Kessler had just completed an 11-yard shovel pass when he was thrown hard to the turf by Bengals defensive end Carlos Dunlap.

COLTS 34, TITANS 26

The Indianapolis Colts might have saved their season with a 34-26 win over the Tennessee Titans. A week after blowing a two-touchdown lead in the fourth quarter and losing in overtime, the Colts scored two touchdowns in an eight-second span. Quarterback Andrew Luck hit Jack Doyle with a 7-yard touchdown pass with 1:55 left to give the Colts (3-4) a 27-23 lead, his third scoring strike of the day.

RAIDERS 33, JAGUARS 16

The Oakland Raiders continued their sizzling road form with a 33-16 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars. Oakland (5-2) is now 4-0 on the road this season. The last time it accomplished that came when the franchise advanced to the AFC Championship Game in 2000.

PATRIOTS 27, STEELERS 16

LeGarrette Blount ran for two touchdowns and 127 yards against his former team, and the New England Patriots turned to their old reliables Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski to hold off the Ben Roethlisberger-less Pittsburgh Steelers 27-16. The near-perfect-as-usual Brady was 19 of 26 for 222 yards and no interceptions. Brady has eight touchdown passes and no interceptions in three games since returning from his four-game suspension-and the Patriots (6-1) have won all three. Steelers backup quarterback Landry Jones, making only his third NFL start, was more than adequate in

replacing Roethlisberger, who is expected to be out three to six weeks with a knee injury.

CHARGERS 33, FALCONS 30 (OT)

The San Diego Chargers came from 17 points down to beat the Atlanta Falcons 33-30 in overtime, posting consecutive wins for the first time in nearly two years. Josh Lambo kicked the winning 42-yard field goal as the Chargers (3-4) sent the Falcons (4-3) to a second straight narrow loss. The Falcons had a chance to avoid overtime but Matt Bryant hit the left upright on a 58-yard field goal attempt at the end of regulation.

BUCCANEERS 34, 49ERS 17

Running back Jacquizz Rodgers rushed for 156 yards, Jameis Winston threw three touchdown passes, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers came from behind to defeat the San Francisco 49ers 34-17. Wide receiver Mike Evans caught eight passes for 96 yards and two touchdowns for the Buccaneers (3-3). Quarterback Colin Kaepernick started his second straight game and threw for 143 yards and one touchdown for the 49ers (1-6).

CARDINALS 6, SEAHAWKS 6 (OT)

In a game featuring two blocked kicks and missed field goals that would have won the game for both teams on what essentially were chip shots, Arizona and Seattle wound up settling for a tie. Cardinals kicker Chandler Catanzaro had a chance to win the game with a second field goal in overtime, but his 24-yard attempt with 3:19 remaining bounced off the left upright. The Seahawks took over, and after two long pass plays from Russell Wilson to Doug Baldwin, Seattle kicker Steven Hauschka shanked a 28-yard field goal wide left with seven seconds left to play in the extra period. — Reuters

NFL results/standings

New York Giants 17, Los Angeles Rams 10 (at London); Cincinnati Bengals 31, Cleveland Browns 17; Detroit Lions 20, Washington Redskins 17; Oakland Raiders 33, Jacksonville Jaguars 16; Kansas City Chiefs 27, New Orleans Saints 21; Miami Dolphins 28, Buffalo Bills 25; New York Jets 24, Baltimore Ravens 16; Philadelphia Eagles 21, Minnesota Vikings 10; Indianapolis Colts 34, Tennessee Titans 26; San Diego Chargers 33, Atlanta Falcons 30 (OT); Tampa Bay Buccaneers 34, San Francisco 49ers 17; New England Patriots 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 16; Seattle Seahawks 6, Arizona Cardinals 6 (OT)

American Football Conference

	AFC East							AFC North							AFC South							AFC West									
	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT			
New England	6	1	0	0	176	107	.857	Pittsburgh	4	3	0	0	170	150	.571	Houston	4	2	0	0	108	127	.667	Oakland	5	2	0	0	185	179	.714
Buffalo	4	3	0	0	187	131	.571	Baltimore	3	4	0	0	133	139	.429	Indianapolis	3	4	0	1	194	200	.429	Kansas City	4	2	0	0	136	123	.667
Miami	3	4	0	0	146	159	.429	Cincinnati	3	4	0	0	140	162	.429	Tennessee	3	4	0	0	146	161	.429	Denver	4	2	0	0	140	108	.667
NY Jets	2	5	0	0	119	180	.286	Cleveland	0	7	0	1	130	207	0	Jacksonville	2	4	0	0	117	160	.333	San Diego	3	4	0	1	206	185	.429

National Football Conference

	NFC East							NFC North							NFC South							NFC West									
	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT			
Dallas	5	1	0	0	159	107	.833	Minnesota	5	1	0	0	129	84	.833	Atlanta	4	3	0	1	229	199	.571	Seattle	4	1	1	0	111	84	.750
Philadelphia	4	2	0	0	156	88	.667	Green Bay	4	2	0	0	140	123	.667	Tampa Bay	3	3	0	0	128	159	.500	Arizona	3	3	1	0	159	110	.500
Washington	4	3	0	0	159	162	.571	Detroit	4	3	0	0	170	170	.571	New Orleans	2	4	0	0	176	195	.333	Los Angeles	3	4	0	0	120	154	.429
NY Giants	4	3	0	0	133	141	.571	Chicago	1	6	0	0	111	169	.143	Carolina	1	5	0	0	161	176	.167	San Francisco	1	6	0	0	144	219	.143



PITTSBURGH: Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell (26) is tackled by New England Patriots strong safety Patrick Chung (23) during the second half of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday. — AP



2016 Cadillac ATS lineup elevates performance

GCC LIQUIDITY CRUNCH TO PERPETUATE SUBDUED GROWTH

OOREDOO KUWAIT REPORTS NET PROFIT OF KD 32 M

REVENUE STOOD AT KD 533 MILLION FOR 9 MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPT 2016

KUWAIT: National Mobile Telecommunications Company (Ooredoo), a member of Ooredoo Group, announced yesterday its financial results for the nine months ended September 2016:

Financial Highlights:

- Total customer base increased by 4 percent to 24.9 million at the close of nine months of 2016, versus 23.9 million for the same period in 2015.
- Revenues for nine months of 2016 stood at KD 533.0 million compared with KD 547.9 million for the same period in 2015, a decrease of 3 percent.
- EBITDA for nine months of 2016 was KD 181.1 million compared to EBITDA of KD 192.1 million for the same period in 2015.
- The Net Profit attributable to NMTC in nine months of 2016 was KD 32.2 million compared with a Net Attributable Profit of KD 28.1 million for the same period in 2015. The increase was supported by good performances in Algeria and the Maldives.
- The consolidated Earnings per Share was 64.3 fils compared to 56.1 fils per share earned for the same period last year.
- Ooredoo Kuwait (NMTC) acquisition of "FASTtelco", a Kuwait based ISP, to offer advanced fixed broadband and mobile services finalized in May 2016.
- Ooredoo Maldives is preparing for an IPO at the local Stock Exchange in 2017



Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for nine months of 2016 was KD 3.2 million compared to KD 9.3 million for the same period in 2015.

Ooredoo - Algeria

Ooredoo's customer base in Algeria at the end of nine months of 2016 was 13.6 million customers, an increase of 4 percent compared with the same period in 2015. The Algerian dinar depreciated significantly compared with the same period last year, impacting the results reported in KD. Revenues for nine months of 2016 were KD 234.4 million compared to revenues of KD 255.8 mil-



lion for the same period in 2015. EBITDA for nine months of 2016 was KD 86.0 million, a decrease of 11 percent on KWD 96.2 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for nine months of 2016 was KD 15.5 million compared to a Net Attributable Profit of KD 11.1 million for the same period in 2015.

Wataniya - Palestine

The total customer base for Wataniya Mobile Palestine at the end of nine months of 2016 was 0.8 million, an increase of 8 percent from the same period of 2015. Revenues for nine months of 2016 were KD 19.2 million, an increase of 1 percent compared to the revenues of KD 19.1 million for the same period in 2015. EBITDA for nine months of 2016 was KD 5.6 million compared to an EBITDA of KD 3.4 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for nine months of 2016 stood at KD 0.2 million compared to a Net Attributable Loss of KD 1.2 million for the same period in 2015.

Ooredoo - Maldives

Maldives total customer base at the end of nine months of 2016 was 0.4 million, an increase of 14 percent from the same period of 2015. Revenues for nine months of 2016 were KD 23.8 million, an increase of 38 percent compared to KD 17.3 million for the same period in 2015. EBITDA for the nine months of 2016 was KD 13.1 million, an increase of 65 percent compared to an EBITDA of KD 8.0 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for nine months of 2016 was KD 7.3 million compared to the Net Attributable Profit of KD 3.7 million for the same period in 2015.

Financial Highlights:

	Quarterly Analysis			Nine Months Analysis		
	Q3 2016	Q3 2015	% change	9M 2016	9M 2015	% change
Consolidated Revenue (KD m)	182.1	188.8	-4%	533.0	547.9	-3%
EBITDA (KD m)	65.3	71.2	-8%	181.1	192.1	-6%
EBITDA margin (%)	36%	38%	-	34%	35%	-
Net Profit attributable to NMTC (KD m)	12.9	13.3	-3%	32.2	28.1	15%
Consolidated Customers (m)	24.9	23.9	4%	24.9	23.9	4%



Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors commented:

"Ooredoo maintained stable profitability levels during the nine months ended 30 September 2016, with net profit increasing by 15 percent to reach KD 32 million. Growth for the period was mainly supported by our performance in Algeria and Maldives, with the latter achieving an impressive EBITDA growth of 65 percent for the period. Our focus remains on delivering value to our customers and shareholders.

Ooredoo Kuwait performed well despite a highly competitive market. Driven by improved efficiencies, EBITDA increased by 4 percent and revenue grew by 7 percent for the period. We have put customer centricity at the heart of what we do and we are proud to have won the title "Speedtest Awards Winner 2016" by Ookla, which measured network speed on hundreds of thousands of users' devices in Kuwait.

Ooredoo Algeria increased its customer base by 4 percent for the nine month period, successfully maintaining its data market leadership position. We have strengthened our management team, with the appointment of Hendrik Kasteel as Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Algeria in August 2016. Kasteel brings a wealth of experience from 20 years of working in the telecom sector and will ensure the successful delivery of operations in this key market. Due to the impact of currency depreciation and challenges associated with the slowdown of tourism, Ooredoo Tunisia produced a weaker set of results, with decreases in EBITDA and net profit. Despite these challenges, we maintained our market leadership position and successfully increased our customer base by 5 percent to reach almost 8 million for the period.

Wataniya Palestine became profitable, with positive growth in EBITDA and Net Profit attributable to Ooredoo as well as an increase in its customer base by 9 percent for the nine months period."

Review of Operations

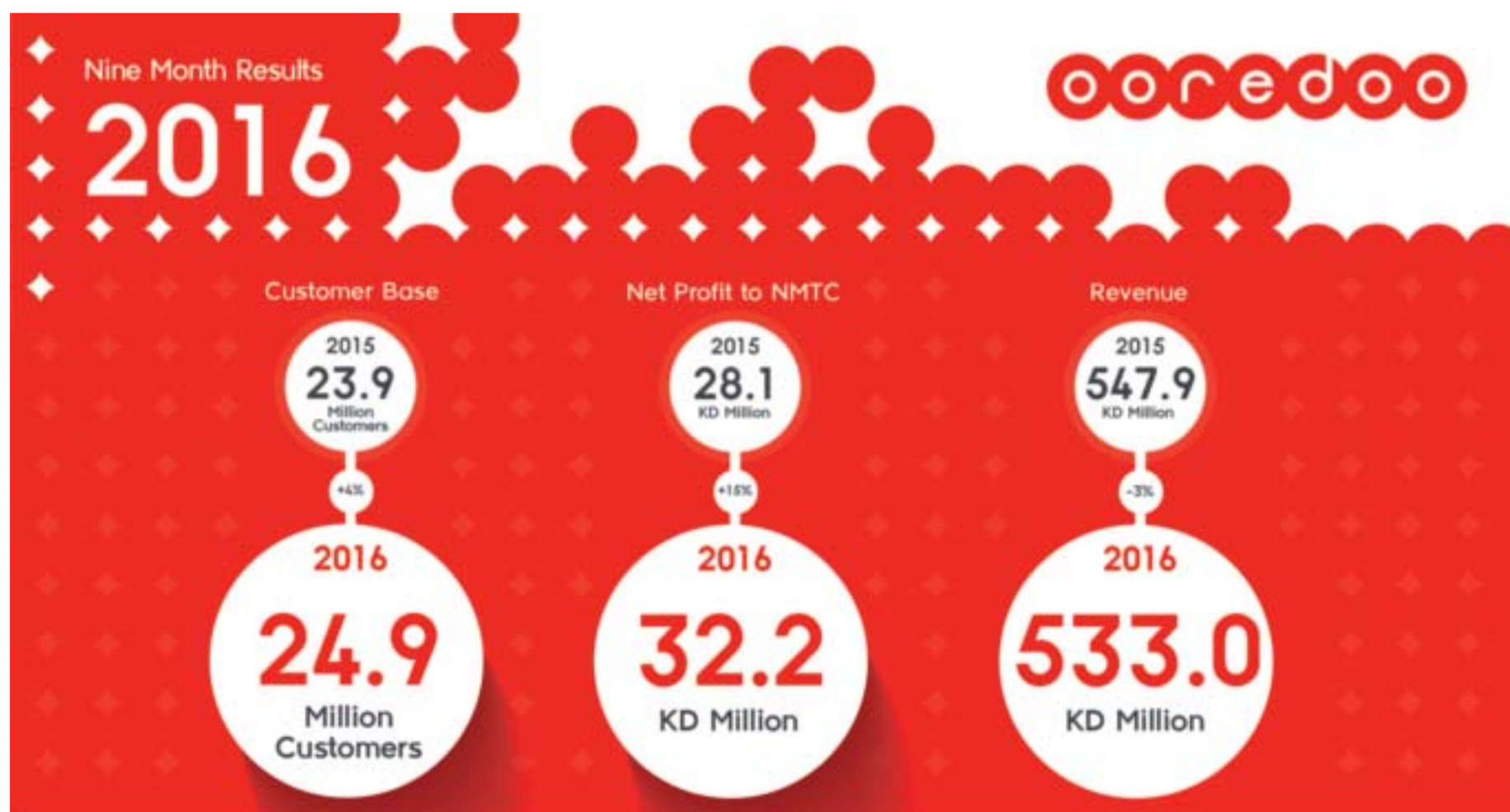
The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

Ooredoo - Kuwait

Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait was 2.4 million at the end of nine months of 2016, approximately in line with the same period in 2015. Revenues for nine months of 2016 were KD 148.7 million, an increase of 7 percent compared to 2015 of KD 139.1 million. EBITDA was KD 36.0 million versus EBITDA for nine months of 2015 of KD 34.5 million, an increase of 4 percent. Net Profit was at KD 6.7 million compared to KD 8.6 million for the same period in 2015.

Ooredoo - Tunisia

Ooredoo's Tunisia customer base was 7.8 million at the end of nine months of 2016, an increase of 4 percent on the same period in 2015. The Tunisian economy still suffering from slow tourism and the KD results are impacted by the depreciation of the Tunisian Dinar. Revenues for nine months of 2016 were KD 106.8 million compared to revenues for the same period in 2015 of KD 116.6 million. EBITDA was KD 41.8 million compared to KD 51.6 million for the same period in 2015. The Net



The Board of Directors of National Mobile Telecommunication Company K.S.C.P (Ooredoo) is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a consolidated Net Profit attributable to shareholders of KD32.2 million, translating to an earnings per share of 64.3 fils for the nine months of 2016. The revenue for the nine months of 2016 reached to KD533.0 million, compared with KD547.9 million in the same period of 2015. The Board of Directors takes this opportunity to express their gratitude and appreciation to NMTC (Ooredoo) shareholders, customers and to all our employees for their continuous efforts.

NBK WINS 'BEST BANK IN THE MIDDLE EAST AWARD'

GLOBAL FINANCE LAUREL FOR FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT IN 2016

KUWAIT: Global Finance magazine, the international leading publication specialized in financial and banking affairs, has granted the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) "The Best Bank in the Middle East Award for Financial Risk Management in 2016". The nomination was based on a thorough evaluation conducted by a specialized committee of leading experts on the bank's risk management policies, frameworks, methodologies, and their effectiveness.

Commenting on the news, Walid El Seyoufi, Deputy General Manager for NBK Group Risk Management affirmed that "This award asserts the bank's leadership in applying the best international practices in the field of risk management, so as to achieve its objectives of profit growth and to maintain the interests of all shareholders and stakeholders".

El Seyoufi explained that despite the severe financial crisis other banking and financial institutions are facing, NBK still managed to prove the



Walid El Seyoufi

efficiency and effectiveness of the risk management policies pursued by the bank. These successful policies helped in overcoming the financial crisis experienced by the banking and financial sectors during recent years.

He also added that NBK has consistently maintained a strict, low-risk strategy towards the types of activities in which it engages in and the types of exposures it takes on. Focusing on high-quality customers and banking products and services has successfully served the bank historically and still continues to protect NBK even in times of unprecedented crisis in the global financial system.

He clarified that NBK's presence in more than 18 countries through its branches and subsidiaries may cause some risks depending on the various types of work environments associated. Despite these challenges, NBK was able to manage the different types of risks by adopting adequate and efficient policies in line with the leading international practices in the field.

El Seyoufi praised the role of the Central Bank of Kuwait for the solid foundations of its prudent governance of the Kuwaiti-banking sector, which contributed to the NBK's entitlement to such a prominent and prestigious award.



EGYPT SEEKS NEW MARKETS TO BOOST DROPPING TOURISM

CAIRO: Egypt hopes to encourage tourists from new markets like China, Japan and Ukraine, a year after Russia and Britain suspended flights to the land of the Pyramids, the country's tourism minister said. Egypt's tourism industry, a crucial source of hard currency, has struggled to rebound since a mass uprising in 2011. Conditions worsened after the suspected bombing of a Russian plane carrying 224 people from a Red Sea resort in October 2015.

The attack prompted Russia to halt all flights to Egypt and Britain to suspend flights to Sharm Al-Sheikh, a resort on the Red Sea. The impact was clear. Egypt's tourism receipts halved in the 2015-16 fiscal year to \$3.77 billion. Since then, Egypt has made significant efforts to improve airport security and persuade the world it is safe, said Yehia Rashed, the country's tourism minister. It is also looking to attract tourists from countries that until now have not provided many visitors.

"We are trying to build up on some of the market sources that have potential ... The German market, Ukrainian, Chinese, Japanese ...," Rashed said at the Reuters Middle East Investment Summit. "We have

to go around and tell people, come and see Egypt with your own eyes ... we have a lot to offer." Rashed faces an uphill battle. An EgyptAir plane crashed en route from Paris to Cairo in May, killing 66 people. The cause remains unknown. In March, an EgyptAir plane was hijacked by a man wearing a fake suicide belt. No one was hurt.

In addition, Egyptian warplanes fired on a group of picnicking tourists last year, thinking they were militants. Eight Mexicans and four Egyptians were killed.

The ban on flights by Britain and Russia to Sharm al-Sheikh has delayed recovery. "We respect every country's decision," Rashed said. "They have to be comfortable in coming, and we will work on sending the message that Egypt is safe. Security at the airport has been stepped up very professionally, and there are new equipment everywhere."

Rashed declined to give projections on the number of tourists expected to arrive next year. "Terrorism is hitting tourism hard everywhere in the world, not just Egypt," he said. "We shouldn't be scared. We should... show them we have courage and confidence to move around." — Reuters

SPIE UNIT WINS KNPC CLEAN FUELS PROJECT DEAL

CERGY, France: The France-based SPIE Oil & Gas Services firm has won a five-year contract with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) under Clean Fuels Project which is currently under EPC phase of implementation. The project encompasses increasing the combined refining capacities of its Mina Al Ahmadi (MAA) and Mina Abdullah (MAB) Refineries and enhance production of environment friendly value added products through Bottom of Barrel processing using state of the art technologies. The Project also contributes towards linking the two refineries into an integrated refining complex and further enhance performance towards operational safety, reliability and energy conservation.

SPIE Oil & Gas Services has begun work on the five-year contract with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC). The services shall involve providing Commissioning Management and Support Services at both Mina Al Ahmadi (MAA) and Mina Abdullah (MAB) Refineries under CFP Scope of Work. The contract will draw the

expertise of SPIE Oil & Gas Services and work in tandem with KNPC Operations Team. The Clean Fuels Project (CFP) aims upgrade Kuwait's existing refineries and raise overall capacity to 800,000 bbl/d by 2018. The planned overhaul of Kuwait's refining sector includes building a new Al-Zour refinery, shutting down the Al-Shuaiba refinery, and retiring old units and installing new components at the remaining refineries. A crude distillation unit will be taken out of commission at the Mina Al-Ahmadi, and Mina Abdullah will lose a number of components, but its overall capacity will increase by 184,000 bbl/d.

Along with the Al-Zour refinery project, KNPC is expected to spend around KD 10 billion on the major upgrades. In mid-October, KNPC announced that it was in the process of finalizing the plans for a second loan of more than \$5 billion to help finance the projects. The deal was expected to be completed by fourth quarter 2016 or first quarter 2017. Local investment bank, NBK Capital is acting as exclusive financial advisor on the loan.

KAMCO BUYS OFFICE TOWER IN CINCINNATI

KUWAIT: Kamco Investment Company has successfully acquired a prominent 12-storey office tower in Cincinnati, Ohio formerly owned by GE. The mixed-use development located in downtown Cincinnati is categorized as a Class A property.

The strategic location provides returns expected to deliver an approximate 6.5 percent yield every year and a projected net internal rate of return (IRR) of about 7.1 percent after a total investment period of five years.

The newly built-to-suit facility is equipped with the latest building accessories and necessary infrastructure to accommodate a large number of offices, and consists of 31,557m2 of usable commercial space.

The property, leased to GE on a triple net 15-year lease, starts from October 2016 until 2031 with five additional terms of five years with each option extended.

Commenting on the deal, chief executive Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, said: "The acquisition was yet another landmark in Kamco's expansion plan implemented during the beginning of 2016. Our strategic focus on the regional and international real estate investments across the identified core markets will provide sustainable returns to the firm's stake-

holders." Khaled Fouad, the chief investment officer, said: "This investment opportunity emphasizes Kamco's ongoing determination in providing new diverse and innovative income generating asset streams. We believe that this prime asset offers long-term value in combination with attractive current yields."

"The Alternative Investments Department at Kamco is keen to resume developing and expanding its renowned track-record in different alternative asset classes on a local, regional and global basis."

The transaction was orchestrated by the Atlanta office of Eastdil Secured, acting on behalf of Carter and 90 North Real Estate Partners for Kamco. JLL Capital Markets Debt & Equity team, based in Chicago, co-ordinated the financing, on behalf of Kamco, with Des Moines, Iowa based Principal Real Estate Investors.

The local Cincinnati office of CBRE, led by Steven Thornton, provided property management on the asset. Assisting Kamco in completing the transaction, Ice Miller acted as legal advisors for all practices in the US. Ernst & Young provided tax advisory services for the acquisition, while BDO USA, Centrum Investment Group, and JLL assisted in completing the transaction.

OIL PRICES FALL AS IRAQ REJECTS OUTPUT CUT

LONDON: Oil prices fell yesterday as Iraq said it wanted to be exempt from an OPEC deal to cut production, though losses were capped by Iran saying it would encourage other members to join an output freeze. Brent crude futures were down 18 cents at \$51.60 a barrel by 1125 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was down 37 cents at \$50.48.

Iraqi oil minister Jabar Ali Al-Luaibi said Baghdad wants to be exempt from any production cut the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is aiming to achieve. Falah Al-Amiri, head of Iraqi state oil marketer SOMO, added that Iraq's market share had been compromised by the wars it has fought since the 1980s.

"We should be producing 9 million (barrels per day) if it wasn't for the wars," he said. OPEC

announced plans last month to reduce its output to between 32.5 million barrels per day (bpd) and 33 million bpd, from September's 33.39 million bpd. The group will iron out the details of how it will hit the target at its next meeting in Vienna on Nov. 30.

"A decision to cut to 33 million bpd should keep the crude price basis Brent in the \$50-\$60 band, not least because it shows that Saudi policy has changed, that OPEC is serious and can rise above political disagreements," David Hufton, of consultancy PVM, said in a note. Iraq said it could raise output slightly this month from September's 4.774 million bpd.

A short-term cap in oil output would reduce market volatility, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said on Monday at a

meeting with OPEC Secretary-General Mohammed Barkindo, as both look to stabilize prices.

Comments from Iran's deputy oil minister Amir Hossein Zamaninia, however, helped to push prices higher earlier in the session. He said Tehran would encourage other OPEC members to join an output freeze, adding that \$55-\$60 a barrel is a fair price to bring stability to the market.

Analysts said that oil markets, which have been dogged by two years of oversupply, might be rebalancing in terms of production and consumption. "The market moved into a small deficit in Q3, will remain so in Q4 and then the deficit will expand significantly in 2017," Barclays bank said in a note to clients. —Reuters

OPEC oil price drops to \$48.08 pb

VIENNA: Price of OPEC's basket of crudes dropped on Friday by 43 cents settling at \$48.08 per barrel, compared to \$49.51 pb on Thursday, according to OPEC's bulletin yesterday. The average annual rate of OPEC's crude of the past year stood at \$49.49 per barrel. The OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

US dollar stable against KD at 0.303

KUWAIT: The US dollar's exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.303 yesterday the same case with the euro which was stable at KD 0.329 compared to Sunday's exchange rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). Meanwhile, the exchange rate of the Sterling Pound was also down to KD 0.369, while the Swiss franc slightly dropped to KD 0.304. The Japanese yen was unchanged at KD 0.002. The US dollar was stable against major currencies after positive statements by members of the Board of Governors to its highest level in eight months raising the prospects of interest rate hikes Next December.

Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank Q3 net profit rises 1.1%

DUBAI: Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) yesterday posted a 1.1 percent rise in third-quarter net profit. The emirate's largest sharia-compliant bank made a net profit of 508.9 million dirhams (\$138.6 million) in the three months ending Sept. 30, compared to 503.2 million dirhams in the same period a year ago, it said in a statement. EFG Hermes forecast the bank would make a net profit of 494.5 million dirhams in the quarter. Earlier this month, ADIB chief executive Tiram Al-Mahmoud told Reuters the bank's earnings performance in the second half of this year would be similar to the opening six months of 2016.

DIB has enough capital to meet goals in 2017: CEO

DUBAI: Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) has no plans to raise its capital levels further after completing a 3.2 billion dirham (\$871.3 million) rights issue in June, the CEO of the United Arab Emirates' largest sharia-compliant lender said yesterday. "We are adequately capitalized," Adnan Chilwan said. "We see no need for further capital. We have enough to meet our ambitions for 2017." He was speaking on an earnings conference call after the bank posted a 9.9 percent drop in third-quarter net profit, in line with analysts' forecasts. The rights issue completed in June was aimed at boosting the bank's capital levels. DIB's Tier 1 capital adequacy ratio stood at 18 percent at the end of September, compared to the minimum level required in the United Arab Emirates of 8 percent.

Qatar's QIB reports 2.2% rise in Q3 net profit

DUBAI: Qatar International Islamic Bank, the Gulf state's third-largest listed Islamic bank by assets, reported a 2.2 percent rise in third-quarter net profit yesterday, according to Reuters calculations. Net profit of 223.3 million riyals (\$61.3 million) in the three months ending Sept. 30, versus 218.4 million riyals a year earlier. Reuters calculated based on financial statements in lieu of a quarterly breakdown. QNB Financial Services forecast: 221.8 million riyals. QIB's nine-month net profit 666.4 million riyals, up from 656.5 million riyals a year ago, a bourse statement said.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.927
Indian Rupees	4.560
Pakistani Rupees	2.901
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.070
Nepali Rupees	2.848
Singapore Dollar	220.040
Hongkong Dollar	39.140
Bangladesh Taka	3.871
Philippine Peso	6.306
Thai Baht	8.719

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.017
Qatari Riyal	83.455
ani Riyal	789.111
Bahraini Dinar	806.830
UAE Dirham	82.716

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	25.100
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.583
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.220
Tunisian Dinar	136.290
Jordanian Dinar	428.430
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.024
Syrian Lira	2.0165
Morocco Dirham	31.369

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.650
Euro	335.530
Sterling Pound	374.860
Canadian dollar	232.680
Turkish lira	98.590

Swiss Franc	308.740
Australian Dollar	234.720
US Dollar Buying	302.450

GOLD

20 Gram	255.960
10 Gram	130.900
5 Gram	66.300

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	304.300
Canadian Dolla	228.110
Sterling Pound	372.330
Euro	331.690
Swiss Frank	303.645
Bahraini Dinar	804.445
UAE Dirhams	83.080
Qatari Riyals	84.295
Saudi Riyals	81.870
Jordanian Dinar	428.790
Egyptian Pound	34.171
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.068
Indian Rupees	4.543
Pakistani Rupees	2.898
Bangladesh Taka	3.871
Philippines Peso	6.289
Cyprus pound	160.383
Japanese Yen	3.920
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.835
Malaysian Ringgit	73.560
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.305
Thai Bhat	9.615
Turkish Lira	98.977

Selling Rate

SAUDI AL-RAJHI BANK AIMS TO DIVERSIFY REVENUES

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's efforts to stimulate the private sector and develop the housing market will be the main drivers of growth for Al-Rajhi Bank until the end of the decade, its chief executive told the Reuters Middle East Investment Summit.

The kingdom's largest Islamic bank has traditionally focused on consumer banking, from which it derives 70 percent of its 330.5 billion riyals (\$88 billion) of assets and between 55 and 60 percent of its revenues. Earlier this year, Saudi authorities outlined ambitious plans to diversify the economy of the world's top oil exporter away from hydrocarbons, as crude prices slump.

The reform agenda includes tripling the government's non-oil revenues by 2020 and raising the proportion of Saudis who own their own homes in that timeframe by 5 percent, points to 52 percent. "We want to diversify our retail revenues but also between retail and the rest of the bank, so hopefully by 2020, we want to improve the mix," Steve Bertamini said in his first interview with international media since taking over as chief executive of Al Rajhi in May 2015. "If

we can capture a disproportionate share of the housing market growth that's expected, and a disproportionate share of the SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) growth... Plus these people are also consumers so you can bank both sides." In September, Al Rajhi announced it had agreed with the Ministry of Housing to become the first Saudi bank to participate in a new government scheme to increase home ownership. It will offer mortgages with the state funding part of the down-payment. Al Rajhi's SME business was moved to a specialist entity within the bank at the end of last year.

CONDITIONS

Having for years enjoyed the benefits of high loan growth and cheap deposits from state oil revenues, Saudi banks are under pressure to adjust to severe cut-backs in state and consumer spending. Some, including the largest lender National Commercial Bank (NCB), reported falling profits in the third quarter after needing to set aside increasing amounts to cover bad loans.

Al-Rajhi recorded nine quarters of declining profits up to mid-2015 but

its 16.7 percent increase in third-quarter profit marked a fifth successive quarter of earnings growth. "We had some customer service issues which we needed to address and there had been some under-investment in some parts of the business," said Bertamini. The bank's plans include a focus on digitalization and employee training. Al Rajhi's retail traditions help in sourcing deposits: its consumer cash is proving to be stickier than the government's oil revenues, which are being withdrawn from local banks to cover the state budget deficit.

Al Rajhi's 0.4 percent rise in deposits in the year to Sept. 30 contrasts with NCB, with perhaps the closest state linkage, which recorded a 15.3 percent slump over the same period. This helps Al Rajhi's cost of funding, already one of the lowest in the Gulf region according to a Sept. 6 note from Moody's Investor Services, at a time when Saudi money market rates are near seven-year highs. This higher cost of funding is likely to focus banks more on costs, to maintain margins on lending without passing on the full impact of increased rates to borrowers, Bertamini said. — Reuters



KFH-TURKEY WINS 'BEST R&D CENTER PRIZE'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House -Turkey (KFH-Turkey) has been awarded the "Best R&D Center" in Banking and Finance category at the summit held in Ankara, for the third consecutive time.

Nihat Zeybekci, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology, who has attended the summit has presented the prize to Mucahit Gundebahar, the Group Manager of KFH-Turkey Information Technologies, during the R&D Centers Performance Index Award and Certification Ceremony.

Expressing their pleasure that they have been awarded the prize for the third time in a row, Gundebahar said, "Celebrating its 5th year, KFH-Turkey's R'D Center continues its pioneering efforts in banking sector with its enriched staffing and improved infrastructure. Becoming our source

of pride with consecutive prizes since its establishment, I feel great pleasure to see this award on the front window of our R&D Center for the third time. I cordially celebrate my colleagues for their team harmony, successful coordination and well-disciplined efforts. On this very occasion, I would also like to express my gratitude to local and overseas business partners for their hard-working and labor who have not spared any efforts bringing in this success."

"We will continue bringing in new projects which will add to the prestige of Turkey in technology."

Stating that the most important driving force for the R&D Center aiming at combining and harmonizing the technology and R&D vision with the vision of the country is to become an actor in the national cause and raise the partici-

pation banking, Gundebahar underlined that the R&D Center operating under international standards would continue putting its signature under new projects which will contribute to Turkey's prestige in the field of technology.

The prize is given in recognition of the important steps taken as part of the 2023 vision of Turkey and motivating its potential in innovation. The prizes given after assessing 272 R&D centers within their respective categories are aiming at encouraging the R&D and entrepreneurship activities of the firms producing with high added value and technological level.

KFH-Turkey has, since its foundation in 1989, adopted as its principles to be painstaking in interest-free banking system, research in the field of investment, offer modern, stable,

reliable, high-quality and quick service to savings holders and businessmen, and provide its staff with ongoing training for the purpose of increasing their productivity. KFH-Turkey is bringing quick and high-quality service to savings holders and investors through its branches and correspondents at home and abroad by means of any and all the state-of-the-art technological means.

With its average growth rate of 35 percent between 2009-2015, KFH-Turkey outperformed the traditional banks which achieved an average growth rate of 18 percent and participation banks growing with an average rate of 31 percent. KFH-Turkey operates through its 380 branch offices throughout Turkey as well as Bahrain branch office, Dubai affiliate and KT Bank AG, its affiliate in Germany.



Tomatoes for sale for 10 Egyptian pounds, or about \$1.2, a kilogram, in Tawfiqia market in downtown Cairo. —AP

EGYPT INDUSTRY RACES TO FILL VOID AS TRADE GAP TO NARROW \$11-12BN IN 2016

CAIRO: Egypt expects to cut its trade deficit by \$11-\$12 billion in 2016 as part of efforts to ease an acute dollar shortage and is encouraging domestic industries to fill the void as imports plummet, Trade and Industry Minister Tarek Kabil said. Speaking at part of the Reuters Middle East Investment Summit, Kabil said Egypt had produced about \$4 billion worth of import substitutes since the start of the year and aimed to grow domestic industry by 8 percent in three years.

"If you look at last month's report, industry grew by almost 20 percent, because it has to fill the gap of the imports. Some of (the imports) are unnecessary and some is real consumption that Egyptian industry has to fill the gap for," he said in an interview at his wood-paneled offices in Cairo.

He said local companies were producing substitutes primarily in food industries, but also building materials, chemicals, leather and furniture. Egypt has struggled to overcome a crippling dollar shortage since the 2011 uprising caused foreign investors and tourists, key earners of foreign exchange, to flee.

The shortage is exacerbated by a severe trade imbalance - Egypt imported \$67 billion worth of goods in 2015 but exported just \$18.5 billion, according to trade ministry data.

Central bank governor Tarek Amer said in January Egypt aimed to cut its import bill by 25 percent to ease dollar demand. Egypt has this year raised customs tariffs on luxury goods, plugged customs loopholes, and tightened quality controls.

Together with dollar rationing and capital controls that have made it difficult for merchants to obtain enough foreign exchange to pay for cargoes, the measures have curbed imports.

Prices of imported goods have soared as merchants are forced to source their dollars on

the black market for as much as 15.5 pounds per dollar, a wide spread over the official rate of 8.8 pounds. Some imported goods have become scarce. Kabil said the trade deficit had narrowed by \$8 billion in the first nine months of this year, with imports falling \$7 billion but exports - key to bringing more dollars into the economy - rising by only \$1 billion.

But the moves have prompted complaints from manufacturers who say they struggle to import components and raw materials or pay more for them as they have to source dollars on the black market. The result: more expensive end products that are less competitive abroad.

DOUBLING EXPORTS

The minister, a former PepsiCo executive, said low labor costs would help keep manufacturers competitive as Egypt seeks to double its exports in the next five years. Egypt has created an export development agency to market Egyptian products abroad, Kabil said. It is focusing on Africa, where Egypt has a competitive as well as geographical advantage. The aim is to increase exports to Africa from \$4 billion now to \$8 billion five years, or 20 percent per year, he said. "We have already opened a logistics centre in Kenya ... last month," said Kabil. "We have a direct shipping line now from Egypt to Kenya and we're expanding on that ... Kenya is a no-brainer because it has access to five immediate countries next to it." To boost manufacturing, Egypt has increased the amount of industrial land available and will offer 10 million square metres on 30-year-leases this year, he said.

It has already offered about 5 million square metres and is working on fully integrated industrial parks dedicated to small manufacturers. "We have been focusing on this because there is a severe shortage of industrial land," Kabil said. "We are looking for exports to be 50 percent of imports within three years." —Reuters

BELGIUM CANNOT SIGN OFF ON EU-CANADA TRADE PACT

WALLONIA, OTHER REGIONAL LEADERS REJECT MONDAY DEADLINE

BRUSSELS: Belgium has conceded it cannot sign off on a landmark EU free trade deal with Canada because of continued objections from Wallonia and other regional leaders who rejected a late Monday deadline.

Without Belgium's signature, the other 27 European Union nations cannot go ahead, leaving the bloc stuck in another bitter stand-off after Brexit and with its much vaunted unity shattered amid growing popular distrust of international trade deals.

"We are not in a position to sign CETA," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said after brief talks with the country's regional leaders in Brussels broke up without an accord. The pact, known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), would link the EU market of 500 million people, the world's biggest, with the tenth largest global economy.

"The federal government, the German community and Flanders said 'yes.' Wallonia, the Brussels city government and the French community said 'no,'" Michel added.

Leaders of Wallonia, a 3.5 million strong French-speaking region south of the capital Brussels, are in particular asking for more time to negotiate terms. But European sources said European Council president Donald Tusk on Sunday called for an answer from Belgium by late Monday so he would be able to tell Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau whether or not to attend a CETA signing ceremony in Brussels on Thursday. Wallonia leader Paul Magnette said earlier as he left the talks that he could not endorse the accord under such pressure.

"Prime Minister (Michel) told us that the head of the European Council Donald Tusk wanted an answer from us today, yes or no," Magnette said.

"It is evident that in the current circumstances, we cannot give a 'yes' today," he said.

At the start of talks, Magnette had warned: "We will never decide anything under an ultimatum or under pressure."



BRUSSELS: Minister-President of Belgium Flemish-speaking Flanders Region Geert Bourgeois answers journalists as he leaves an emergency meeting of all Belgium federal entities on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in Brussels yesterday. —AFP

'Solid legal basis'

Wallonia parliament head Andre Antoine told Belgium's RTL radio earlier that it was important to get the deal right as it could pave the way for even larger and more far-reaching trade pacts with economic powers such as the United States and China. "We must therefore have a solid legal basis," he said. Wallonia leaders say more time is needed to study a draft deal which

Antoine said is massively complex and covers "300 pages of the treaty, 1,300 pages of appendices." Magnette and other critics especially fault terms supposed to protect international investors which, they say, could allow them to force governments to change laws against the wishes of the people.

CETA is opposed by anti-globalisation groups who say it is a test model to push through an even

more controversial EU-US trade deal called TTIP, talks on which have also stalled.

Wallonia has some support around Europe and from non-government organizations like Greenpeace, which fears the deal will reward "corporate greed" at the expense of hard-won EU health and environmental standards. Apart from sowing tensions with the European Council and the European Commission which strongly support the deal, Wallonia's position highlights long-standing divisions in Belgium between the northern and wealthier Flemish-speaking region of Flanders, which backs CETA and sees its southern, French-speaking left-leaning compatriots as wasteful spendthrifts.

Canada has made no secret of its irritation with Belgium and the EU. Chrystia Freeland, the Canadian

trade minister, appeared on the verge of tears Friday after walking out of negotiations with Magnette and blasted the EU as "incapable" of signing international agreements.

The botched negotiations over the deal strike a further blow to a Europe in turmoil following Britain's shock vote in June to leave the bloc, as well as sharp divisions over the migration crisis and opposition to austerity medicine imposed on Greece and other debt-hit EU countries.

During a press conference yesterday, European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas sought to give breathing room to the Belgian hold-outs. He insisted that the Commission, the EU executive, "is not in the habit of working with ultimatums or deadlines" and urged patience for a deal he said was still possible. —AFP

UK BANKS FEAR POLITICIANS SET AGAINST THEM ON BREXIT

LONDON: For decades, Britain's bankers have relied on their industry's outsized status in the economy to find a receptive ear in government. But in the aftermath of the country's vote to leave the European Union, the sector that generates about a tenth of national economic output is grappling with an uncomfortable new reality where economics doesn't always trump politics.

June's vote to quit the EU has triggered a change in leadership and tone in the British government with new Prime Minister Theresa pledging an industrial revival and to build "an economy that works for everyone" - setting nerves jangling in the City of London global financial hub. Reuters spoke to several senior bankers from big

British and international banks based in the city, including some involved in discussions with the government over Brexit. Many said their warnings about the impact of a so-called hard Brexit - where they lose their access to the European single market - were being met with scepticism by the government and accusations from some eurosceptic lawmakers that they were undermining the message that Britain can thrive outside the EU.

"It's almost as if we were back in the 1940s and we were looking for fifth columnists all over the place because people are trying to do Britain down," said Ronald Kent of the British Bankers' Association (BBA). The term "fifth column" refers to a group of people that acts secretly

against the state to assist an external enemy. The head of the BBA, Anthony Browne, said on Sunday that the public and political debate was "taking us in the wrong direction" and that big international banks were preparing to move some operations out of Britain in early 2017.

The government has pledged to execute Brexit following a vote to leave the European Union that was driven in part by a desire to curb immigration and was regarded as a repudiation of a London elite, including a banking sector still the subject of lingering public anger over its role in the financial crisis.

While finance minister Philip Hammond and his ministerial colleagues have been keen to assert the financial

industry is of great importance, officials say privately the Brexit deal will have to work for the country as a whole - and means the banking industry cannot expect special treatment.

"There is no question of prioritizing the financial sector, or any other sector in those talks - it's not fair to talk in terms of special cases," said one source with knowledge of the government's approach to the negotiations with Brussels. The finance ministry referred a request for comment for this story to remarks made by Hammond to a parliamentary committee last week. He said addressing the Brexit challenges faced by the financial industry was a very high priority for the government. —Reuters

GLOBAL STOCKS UP ON JAPANESE, EUROPEAN DATA

TOKYO: Stock markets had an upbeat start to the week after stronger-than-expected economic data from Japan and the eurozone. Attention is likely to focus this week on Friday's release of US growth data, as investors adapt to expectations the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates in December.

Germany's DAX gained 0.9 percent to 10,808 and France's CAC40 was up 0.8 percent to 4,572. The FTSE 100 of Britain rose 0.2 percent to 7,031. US shares looked set to rise, with Dow and S&P 500 futures up 0.4 percent. Japan posted a trade surplus of 498.3 billion yen (\$4.8 billion) in September, compared with a deficit of 18.7 bil-

lion yen in August. While exports fell 6.9 percent from a year earlier, pulled lower by anemic demand for autos and machinery, that was better than the forecasts for a decline of more than 10 percent.

Meanwhile, a preliminary survey of factory managers showed a fifth straight month of improvement in manufacturing sentiment and the measure for output rose for the first time since January. The bond yields at which governments in Europe's debt-ridden southern countries fund their budget gaps were also sharply lower, 10-year bond yields falling 5 basis points in Spain and 15 in Portugal after a ratings deci-

sion seen as crucial to keeping the European Central Bank buying Lisbon's bonds. A 2.5-percent rise for European banking stocks and strong readings from German and eurozone purchasing managers helped the continent's major stock markets all gain robustly.

Spain edges up
But the IBEX outstripped its German and French equivalents with a 1.4 percent rise. Spain's conservative leader Mariano Rajoy was on course to secure a second term in power for his People's Party (PP) after the Socialists agreed to abstain in a confidence vote this week, end-

ing an impasse stretching back to elections last December. "In the very short term, the formation of a government is good news for Spanish spreads," Rabobank analysts said in a morning note. "However, in the medium term Spain will still be left with a minority government that is likely to face an uphill struggle to pass any legislation."

Wall Street was set to open higher, pushing indexes back towards all-time highs. Europe's have recovered from three-year lows hit in February as the US economy improves and central banks globally continue to pump cash into the system.

The FX weakness allowing more UK listed names to become attractive targets. "The US growth figures due Friday for the July-September quarter will no doubt be "the highlight of the week," Chris Weston of IG said in a commentary. "Keep in mind that growth has averaged around 1 percent in the past three quarters, so a snap back to the consensus estimate of 2.5 percent would be welcomed."

Asian stocks also gained after a sluggish end to last week on Wall Street while China's yuan currency neared 6.80 per dollar, levels not seen in six years and which Beijing intervened heavily to defend in January. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan inched up 0.2 percent. Japan's Nikkei moved in a tight range and was last up 0.2 percent while Shanghai outperformed, rising over 1 percent.

The Shanghai Composite index led gains, adding 1.2 percent to 3,128.25, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1 percent to 23,604.08. They were bolstered by reports that China's banking watchdog called for stricter oversight of the real estate market and controls on risks related to industries with excess capacity and local government debts.

Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.3 percent to 17,234.42. South Korea's Kospi climbed 0.7 percent to 2,047.74 and India's Sensex advanced 0.4 percent to 28,191.88. Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 0.4 percent to 5,408.50. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 24 October 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 11.03	5,341.52	5,330.49	5,345.32	5,330.49
Weighted Index	▲ 0.50	348.72	348.22	349.52	347.17
KSX 15	▼ -0.60	811.63	812.23	815.42	806.91

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92
IKARUS	31.5	31.5	63,373	1,996	3	31.5
IPG	370	370	66	24	1	370
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780
ENERGYH	44.0	40.5	77,499	3,147	10	44.0
GPI	37.5	36.5	4,640,293	171,841	82	37.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85
Oil & Gas			4,781,231	177,008	96	760.40

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KFOUC	168	162	745,000	122,406	28	168
BPCC	455	450	150,000	67,750	7	450
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600
ALQURAIN	200	198	157,958	31,585	10	200
Basic Materials			1,052,958	221,741	45	903.39

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300
CABLE	385	370	710,079	269,350	35	385
SHIP	162	156	375,100	59,553	18	156
PCEM	910	900	40,596	38,714	13	900
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66
ACICO	290	285	40,000	11,550	5	285
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
NICBM	208	188	84,390	12,211	11	200
EQUIPMENT	42.0	41.0	161,426	6,725	13	41.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102
SALBOOKH	56	55	2,750	152	2	55
AGLTY	470	465	155,000	72,125	3	470
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192
CLEANING	38.0	38.0	201,000	7,838	2	38.0
KGL	47.5	47.0	26,290	1,236	9	47.0
KPCP	170	170	50	9	1	170
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,600
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.0
MAYADEEN	29.0	28.5	941,378	27,289	19	28.5
CGC	650	650	500	325	1	650
MTCC	52	52	5,000	260	1	52
UPAC	670	670	3,000	2,010	1	670
ALAFCO	216	214	437,500	94,200	16	216
MUBARRAD	53	49.0	241,149	12,134	25	52
LOGISTICS	74	73	100,850	7,373	6	74
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	68
FCEM	79	77	75,600	5,855	6	77
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79
Industrials			3,581,658	626,709	187	1179.56

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90
CATTL	224	224	10	2	2	224
DANAH	83	82	99,995	8,280	6	83
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176
FOOD	2,620	2,620	398,841	1,044,963	12	2,620
Consumer Goods			498,846	1,053,245	20	1114.93

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198
Health Care			0	0	0	1055.20

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300
SULTAN	55	54	92,852	5,024	4	55
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158
OULAFUEL	110	110	7,585	835	9	110
MUNIAZAHAT	75	71	177,000	12,955	22	74
JAZERA	830	830	23,286	19,327	4	830
SOOR	112	108	9,574	1,054	7	112
FUTUREKID	104	104	2,005	209	2	104
ALRAI	148	148	10,000	1,480	1	148
ZMAH	44.0	42.5	6,933,532	286,359	188	43.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170
Mezzan	1,020	1,000	289,000	289,020	41	1,000
Consumer Services			7,524,844	608,263	278	922.00

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
ZAIN	385	370	5,124,815	1,920,485	91	385
OOREDOO	1,080	1,080	1,056	1,119	2	1,080
HITSTELEC	35.0	34.5	2,373,779	82,809	20	35.0
VIVA	840	830	22,878	18,900	26	830
Telecommunications			7,522,328	2,023,312	139	567.49

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
NBK	580	570	1,109,514	641,235	35	570
GBK	228	228	60,000	13,650	5	228
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310
ALMUTAHED	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380
KIB	188	186	722,600	135,039	15	186
BURG	320	315	635,193	203,256	10	320
KFIN	470	465	124,353	58,244	13	470
BOUBYAN	375	370	2,699,898	1,012,380	39	370
AUB	192	190	33,812	6,434	2	192
ITIMR	32.0	30.5	1,824,050	56,702	48	32.0
WARBANK	202	202	1,965,101	396,950	58	202
Banks			9,174,521	2,523,919	226	782.54

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	236
GINS	630	630	82,115	39,132	3	630
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	475
WINS	105	105	4,162	441	4	105
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	184
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5
WETHAQ	29.5	29.5	500	15	1	29.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355
Insurance			68,777	39,588	8	948.80

Global

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
81,620,574	10,708,506	2,263

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SOKOUK	29.0	28.0	809952	22,879	31	28.5
KRE	50.0	50	467,030	23,352	10	50
URC	97	96	87,203	8,387	8	97
NRE	79	76	3,839,912	297,545	61	78
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	540
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.0
ARABREC	27.5	26.5	2,070,083	58,104	50	27.0
ERESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5
MABANEE	800	800	808,247	646,598	35	800
INJAZZAT	66	66	20,000	1,320	2	66
INVESTORS	20.5	20.0	1,366,085	27,761	15	20.5
IRC	25.0	24.0	578,735	14,073	25	24.5
ALTJARIJA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.0
MAZAYA	108					

GCC LIQUIDITY CRUNCH TO PERPETUATE SUBDUED GROWTH

CFA MEMBER SOCIETIES SURVEY LISTS CHALLENGES TO GCC ECONOMIES

KUWAIT: Tightening liquidity will continue to pose imminent challenges to GCC economies according to the latest CFA member societies survey, which gauged the opinions of CFA members and charter-holders in the Middle East.

The survey revealed that the majority of CFA members agree that shrinking government deposits will result in additional cuts to infrastructure projects in order to realign spending, and this will have negative short-term economic effects. CFA societies in the region believe that reduced funds allocated to infrastructure projects would mean that the construction industry will be affected the most by the liquidity crunch. Private sector firms, particularly SMEs, will experience greater difficulty in raising capital as cost of capital will increase and banks are expected to become more selective in their lending patterns. The findings indicated that the bond market will emerge as a leading financing option for the private sector; though they acknowledged that regional debt markets are not yet developed enough to cover financial needs of the economy.

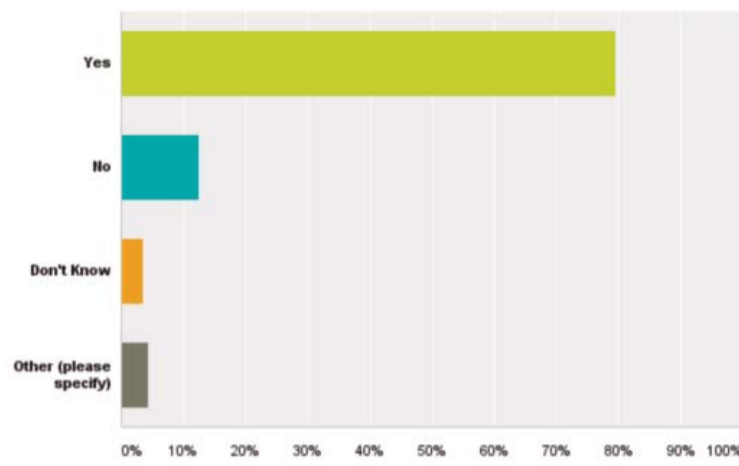


M R Raghu, CFA Society Kuwait

M.R. Raghu, CFA, Member and Founding

Will falling government deposits lead to more cuts in government spending for infrastructure projects?

Skipped: 1



President of CFA Society Kuwait, commented on the findings saying: "Investment professionals recognise that the current liquidity challenges have arisen because a decline in oil prices and

lower government spending has negative bearings on bank balance sheets, asset prices, equities and credit growth. Investors are also concerned that in equity markets, such macroeconomic

conditions will mean reduced returns because of the impact on corporate earnings. With oil prices unlikely to return to historical levels of above \$100 in the near future, the lower economic growth rates currently projected might become the new normal going forward."

He added: "On other hand, the recent stabilisation of crude prices and increased cash flow from international investors through the credit markets is offering GCC countries hope of a rebound. Easing the current strains faced by the regional financial market would raise market performance."

The investment professionals who were surveyed noted that banks in certain GCC countries do have resilient capital buffers and provisioning levels, given their income from commodity exports. Although, according to the survey, banks in the region will see an increase in Non-Performing Loans (NPLs), NPL ratios remain relatively low while loan loss provisions are robust. This is possible because of strong macroeconomic performance until the end of 2014, with this period also seeing the introduction of regulatory structures and improved risk management within the finance industry.

Ten key survey findings:

1. 79% of members believed that falling government deposits will lead to further cuts in government spending for infrastructure projects.
 2. Government budget cuts to realign spending
- with declining revenues will have negative short-term economic affects, according to 95% of respondents.
 3. Cost of funding, especially lending rates, will increase due to banks being pressurised by tightening liquidity, as per 77% of investment professionals in the region.
 4. 83% said that the increased cost and greater difficulty in raising capital would lead to a decrease in private sector activity.
 5. 53% felt that loan growth would be negative in the short-term future, while only 32% thought it would be positive.
 6. 77 percent were convinced that the current liquidity conditions will lead to an increase in Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) for banks in the region.
 7. Construction and SMEs are the industries that will be affected the most due to the liquidity shortfall.
 8. 73 percent said that regional debt markets are not developed enough to sufficiently cover financial shortfalls, although the survey also showed that CFA members feel the debt/bond market will be the leading source of financing for the private sector.
 9. 89 percent thought that the current cash flow environment will cause further dents to already declining corporate earnings.
 10. The UAE has the largest available capital buffers to see out this challenging period and is expected to be the least affected by the liquidity shortfall.

US OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS STIR FROM HIBERNATION

LONDON: US oil and gas drillers are reporting the biggest and most sustained upturn since oil prices began slumping in the middle of 2014. The number of rigs drilling across the country has risen by 149, or 40 percent, since hitting a cyclical low at the end of May, according to oilfield services company Baker Hughes. The active rig count has risen in 18 of the last 21 weeks confirming that a sustained upturn in drilling is occurring. Most of the extra rigs are targeting oil-rich formations (127) rather than gas-bearing formations (21) though most wells will produce a mix of hydrocarbons.

Oil prices started rising earlier than natural gas prices which likely explains why so many additional rigs have been deployed in oil-rich areas. The number of oil-directed rigs has been rising since the end of May while the number of gas rigs has been rising consistently only since the end of August.

SOUTHWEST

More than two-thirds of the extra rigs have been deployed in the neighbouring southwest states of Texas (80), New Mexico (+16) and Oklahoma (+14). Within those states most of the additional rigs have been deployed in the Permian (90) and Anadarko (11) basins of western Texas, eastern New Mexico and western Oklahoma.

The Permian and Anadarko offer near-ideal conditions for low-cost and low-risk oil and gas production despite the continuing slump in other regions. These are some of the oldest, largest and best understood hydrocarbon basins in the United States with production stretching back to the 1920s ("Trek of the oil finders", Owen, 1975).

Hundreds of thousands of wells have been drilled in the region: there are few places on the planet where the subsurface geology has been better explored and understood.

The sedimentary basins are many kilometres deep and there are multiple thick oil and gas bearing formations stacked on top of one another which can be exploited simultaneously.

The region is dominated by oil and gas production, with a friendly regulatory framework, an established liquids and gas gathering network and a large eco-system of exploration and production, drilling and oilfield services firms. The resurgence of drilling in the Permian and Anadarko basins therefore represents the application of new shale techniques (horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing) to some very old and conventional hydrocarbon areas.

WORST OVER?

The reactivation of drilling rigs has not been entirely confined to the southwest. There have been smaller but notable rig additions in Pennsylvania (9) Alaska (5), Colorado (4) and Ohio (3).

Increased drilling is probably enough to stabilize and start raising oil and gas production reversing the previous downturn. Nationwide crude oil production declined by only 20,000 barrels per day in July compared with June, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

The monthly decline was the smallest for a year and the second-smallest since oil production peaked back in April 2015. With the number of oil drilling rigs up by 69 since the end of July, it is very likely US oil production has started increasing again.

The resumption of gas drilling is still in its early stages but the number of rigs has risen by 27 or 33 percent in the last two months. The resumption of North American shale drilling presents a difficult challenge for Saudi Arabia and other members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Shale producers have proved that they can just about survive with oil prices around \$50 per barrel, at least in the short term.

Sustained prices much above \$60 per barrel would likely produce a significant increase in US oil output and complicate efforts to rebalance the oil market as well as cut into OPEC's market share. In the short term, therefore, \$50-60 may prove to be an effective ceiling on oil prices, based on the reaction function of the shale drillers. —Reuters

INDIA'S TATA SONS DUMPS CYRUS MISTRY AS CHAIRMAN

\$100BN CONGLOMERATE STRUGGLES TO OFFLOAD ITS BRITISH ASSETS

MUMBAI: India's Tata Sons dumped Cyrus Mistry as its chairman in a surprise announcement yesterday, almost four years after his appointment as the first chief of the conglomerate from outside the Tata family. The decision comes as the steel arm of the sprawling \$100 billion conglomerate struggles to offload its loss-making British assets while its carmaking business continues to be plagued by weak sales.

"Tata Sons today announced that its Board has replaced Mr. Cyrus P. Mistry as Chairman of Tata Sons. The decision was taken at a board meeting held here today," the company said in a statement.

The conglomerate said Ratan Tata had been appointed interim chairman until a successor was appointed—a sensational comeback for the 78-year-old media-shy industrialist, who made way for Mistry in December 2012. The search for a successor to Mistry, 48, was likely to take four months, the statement said.

Tata Sons is the holding company of the massive tea-to-steel Tata Group, arguably India's most famous family conglomerate, which spans at least 100 companies in as many countries.

Its businesses include one of India's largest IT firms, Tata Consultancy Services, the biggest vehicle maker Tata Motors, and a ritzy hotel chain which includes Mumbai's Taj Mahal palace hotel.

Mistry succeeded Ratan Tata in December 2012 after being announced as its heir more than a year earlier. He is related to the famous Indian family through his sister's marriage. Ratan Tata, who took over as chairman of Tata Sons in 1991 and led the company for 21 years, is credited with building it into a global behemoth.

During his time at the helm, the organization went on a global purchasing spree, acquiring major names ranging from Tetley Tea to Land Rover and the Anglo-Dutch steel firm Corus in 2007 for \$13.7 billion.

Struggling steel

However, Mistry's time in charge has been rocky and the group, founded under British colonial rule in 1868, has hit headwinds of late



MUMBAI: In this photograph taken on May 27, 2016, Tata Sons Chairman Cyrus Mistry poses for a photograph during the launch of the 'Cliq' online store in Mumbai. —AFP

with lacklustre performances at several companies including Tata Motors, Tata Power and Tata Steel. The group's revenue slipped 4.6 percent for the financial year ended March to about \$103 billion, hurt by global economic uncertainty, a crash in commodity prices and volatility in currencies, according to Bloomberg News.

It has been trying to offload its loss-making British steel assets for several months but has so far been unable to find a buyer. More than 15,000 jobs at its plant in Port Talbot, Wales, are at stake.

Mistry said recently in an interview with the company's in-house magazine that the group "should not be afraid of taking tough decisions for the right reasons, with compassion". In August Tata Motors reported a 57 percent fall in

quarterly profits, slowed by weak sales of its luxury British unit Jaguar Land Rover and foreign exchange losses.

"Tata Motors is not on a sustainable footing and obviously Tata Steel has had its struggles."

"Mistry was not giving direction to the individual companies so Ratan Tata has probably just got frustrated and taken back the chairmanship," a company analyst, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

The Mumbai-based Tata brands feature daily in the lives of Indians, with products ranging from salt to trucks to watches. Mistry's sister is married to Tata's younger half-brother Noel, who was initially tipped to be the group successor and is now tipped by some analysts to get the top job. —AFP

IMF CHIEF SAYS PAKISTAN OUT OF ECONOMIC CRISIS



LAHORE: Pakistani shoppers and vendors gather at a fruit market in Lahore yesterday. —AFP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was praised yesterday by IMF chief Christine Lagarde for emerging from an economic crisis and stabilizing its economy, after the country completed its bailout program.

The IMF released the last instalment of a \$6.6 billion three-year economic bailout package to Pakistan last month. Lagarde, on her first visit to Pakistan Monday, congratulated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif "on successfully completing the IMF programme which has helped Pakistan restore its macroeconomic stability", according to a statement from Sharif's office.

"It is a fantastic step in your journey that you have achieved a better and solid economic position in a brief period of two years," Lagarde said, according to the statement.

Lagarde added the completion of IMF program reflected "very positively" on Pakistan and the country is "certainly out of economic crisis". Lagarde noted that economic growth has gradually increased, the fiscal deficit has reduced while inflation has continuously declined in Pakistan.

"She also appreciated the country's strengthened social safety nets and tax policy and administration reforms," the statement said. In an article published in Pakistan's daily The News, Lagarde wrote that the country had embarked on an important transformation to join the ranks of emerging market economies.

"Its three-year economic reform program, which the IMF supported, has delivered significant gains," she wrote. "The economy is now more resilient, and further steps have been set in motion to support higher, private sector-led, and inclusive growth." —AFP

AL-TIJARI WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Hadi Yahya Ibrahim Hejazi — KD 7000, Abdulmajeed Ali Al Seraj — KD 7000, Najat Abdulmuhsen Ismael Taqi — KD 7000, Feroz Abdulrahman Malim — KD 7000, Sami Saneed Jaras — KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever

With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account Daily draw to win KD 7,000

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

1ST quarter— KD 100 000, 2nd quarter— KD 150 000, 3rd quarter— KD 200 000, 4th quarter— KD 250 000. With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

* Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

* ATM card

* Issue a credit card against your account

* Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...
Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!

DELL EMC PARTICIPATES AS PLATINUM PARTNER AT IDC IT FORUM 2016

KUWAIT CITY: Dell EMC yesterday announced their participation as a Platinum partner at the IDC IT Forum 2016 being held at Radisson Blu in Kuwait. Through this enabling platform, Dell EMC aims to help organizations and IT professionals develop a clearer understanding of digital transformation and create a trusted IT foundation to modernize, automate, and transform their business.

With more than 100 IT professionals in

attendance, this event brings together world's leading IT vendors showcasing their pioneering products and services that address the challenges faced by organizations when transitioning to a digital model of business. In addition, visionary enterprise heads and decision makers will share best practices to harness and embrace digital transformation enabling organizations and IT professionals to explore strategies for improving efficiency, fostering innovation, reducing costs,

and increasing business competitiveness.

With the digital age creating game-changing opportunities at an accelerated pace, IT professionals are tasked with developing new IT efficiencies that enable new ideas to be integrated with existing systems and architecture without disrupting business operations. In line with this objective, Dell EMC's participation as a Platinum Partner is aimed at helping IT professionals drive innovation and optimization across the scale and

breadth of an organization by leveraging its industry-leading converged infrastructure, servers, storage, and data protection technologies.

At the event, Samer Saber, Country Manager for Kuwait at Dell EMC will partake in a panel discussion titled "Digital Transformation: Leveraging IT to Future Proof Your Business" highlighting the need to embark on the digital transformation journey. Samer Saber will also exchange insights to enable organiza-

tions take their first step in meeting their IT vision by leveraging Dell EMC's best-in-class, easy-to-deploy infrastructure platforms to deliver IT as a service. Also, Ezzat Adhami, Senior Systems Engineer for Kuwait at Dell EMC will engage in an insightful session to help organizations understand the importance of modernizing their data center and leveraging Dell EMC's best-in-class converged infrastructure platforms to add more value to their IT investments.



BEIJING: A Chinese woman demonstrates the ability of Baxter, an industrial robot from US company Rethink Robotics, to follow her hand movements.

ROBOTS AT CENTER OF CHINA'S STRATEGY TO LEAPFROG RIVALS

SHOWCASING BURGEONING ROBOT INDUSTRY AT EXHIBITION

BEIJING: The Canbot can say its name, respond to voice commands, and "dance" as it plays Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean." Other robots China is displaying at the World Robot Conference can play badminton, sand cell phone cases and sort computer chips. China is showcasing its burgeoning robot industry at the five-day exhibition in Beijing, part of a national effort to promote use of more advanced technologies in Chinese factories and create high-end products that redefine the meaning of "Made in China."

growth in the work force thanks to the "one-child" policy era and aging of the population. China will have to make big strides to leap ahead of Germany, Japan and other nations whose robots are generations ahead.

Infinites International Group, based in eastern China's Shandong, advertises its Canbot U-Partner as a service robot that could be programmed to run in shopping malls, restaurants and banks. But it's modeled on the "Pepper" robot made by Japan's SoftBank. Nearby, Peng Zhihui and Luo Binylu stood with "Ares," a human-

in southwestern China's Sichuan province. A Shanghai investment company pitched in some funding.

World's top consumer

"Many robots aren't very useful right now, but will show their true value when they are used in homes in the future," Peng said. Thousands of factories in southern China's industrial centers which long were manned by low-cost migrant workers, are now turning to robots. China has become the world's top consumer of industrial robots and will soon have the most commercial robots in operation of any country. Foxconn, the Taiwanese firm that assembles Apple's iPhones in China, has installed 40,000 robots in its factories. China made robotics a focal point of its recent "Made in China 2025" plan, and has set national goals of producing 100,000 industrial robots a year and having 150 robots in operation for every 10,000 employees by 2020, a figure known as robot density. Currently, China ranks 28th in the world for robot density, behind Portugal and Indonesia. Chinese suppliers sold about 20,000 robots last year to local companies. "There has never been such a dynamic rise in such a short period of time in any other market," the International Federation of Robotics said in an analysis of China's robot industry published earlier this year.

Steve Wyatt, head of sales and marketing for Switzerland-based ABB Robotics, said his company employs more than 1,600 people in China and has seen its sales in China grow by a factor of 50. But the country remains behind in terms of the complexity of tasks Chinese-made robots can handle, Wyatt said. Chinese appliance maker Midea Group recently announced it was purchasing almost all of German industrial robot manufacturer Kuka. Wing Chu, a senior economist at the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, said China will continue to seek foreign expertise to advance in robotics as part of a broader effort to transform its economy. "In the longer term, China wants to upgrade all its industries," he said. — AP



BEIJING: In this Friday, Oct 21, 2016 photo, a Chinese boy shouts into the Canbot, a companion robot, displayed during the World Robot Conference. — AP photos

Apart from the cool factor, China's sweeping plans to upgrade its factories and production lines depend on building and better using advanced robots. Automation is crucial for industries facing rising labor costs and slowing

sized robot they designed with exposed metal arms and hands and a wide range of uses in mind, from the military to performing basic tasks in a home. Peng and Luo, both 24, developed the mannequin-like Ares while attending college



BEIJING: Visitors look at industrial robots displayed beneath the words that read "Chinese Robots".



BEIJING: Visitors watch a robot play badminton.

POSTING A BALLOT SELFIE? BETTER CHECK YOUR STATE LAWS FIRST

TRENTON: You probably already know whether you'll vote for Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton on Election Day, leaving one important question to consider when you walk into your polling place: Is it OK to take a picture of your ballot? While secrecy in the voting booth has become a thing of the past for those ready to share their views and daily lives on social media, laws nationwide are mixed on whether voters are allowed to take pictures of themselves in the act or of their ballots — "ballot selfies."

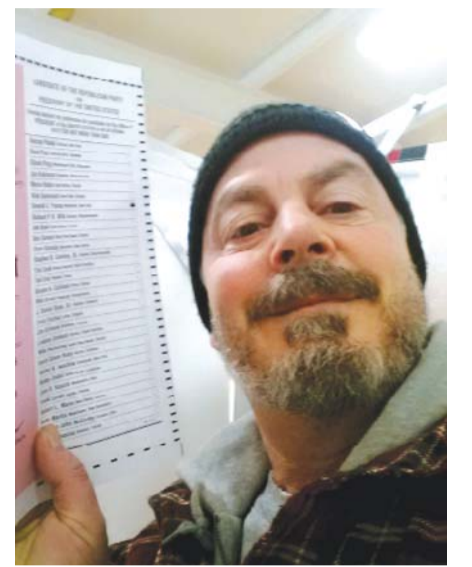
Federal judges have struck down bans on selfies in New Hampshire and Indiana, and rules have been changed in places like California and Rhode Island, but in many states it's still a violation that carries potential fines or jail terms. There are laws against sharing any photo of your ballot in 18 states, while six other states bar photography in polling places but do allow photos of mail-in ballots, according to a review by The Associated Press.

Critics say such regulations have not kept up with technology and are confusing for voters and election workers. Some states that ban ballot selfies or have moved to block them cite concerns the photos could harm the integrity of the voting process by encouraging vote-buying or coercion, though some acknowledge there's no evidence to support those fears. Nikola Jordan, 33, of Omaha, Nebraska, has been taking such photos for about 10 years and believes they are a great way not only to share her views on the issues, but also to stress the importance of voting and being civically active. A Nebraska lawmaker added a provision to state election law this year to allow ballot selfies.

"I was doing this for years before I learned it was technically illegal," Jordan said with a laugh. "It's all about encouraging other people to get involved in the process, to show it can be fun and exciting to make your voice heard (at the polls). Don't think of voting as some boring thing ... It's your chance to make a difference."

'The core of democracy'

The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston last month upheld a decision that New Hampshire's ban on ballot selfies was unconstitutional, saying it suppressed a large swath of political speech and there was no evidence to support the state's concerns. "It goes to the core of democracy," said Gilles Bissonnette, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire, which brought the suit on behalf of three people investigated for vio-



In this Feb 9, 2016, photo, provided by Bill Phillips, of Nashua, NH, Phillips takes a selfie with his marked election ballot. — AP

lating the statute. Among those filing briefs in support of ballot selfies was Snapchat, which argued they are the latest way voters, especially young adults, get involved in the political process and express support for or against a cause or a candidate.

"We had a failure to recognize the importance of online political speech, especially to the younger generation," Bissonnette said. "The First Amendment needs to be guarded rigorously. These old laws cannot and should not be applied to the modern technology." California Gov Jerry Brown signed a bill last month that repeals a 125-year-old law barring voters from showing people their marked ballots. It goes into effect after the November election, but legislative analysis have found no occasion of the ban being enforced — and it hasn't stopped people from sharing photos of their 2016 ballots.

Colorado started mailing ballots this week in the all-mail presidential election, and some ballot selfies started popping up on social media. In response, Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey on Thursday issued a reminder that publicizing completed ballots is a misdemeanor in the state. The ACLU criticized his statement as potential voter intimidation. Morrissey's spokeswoman told reporters he had no plans to comb social media looking for folks posting ballot selfies, saying authorities investigate only in response to a complaint. — AP



SEOUL: Attorney Peter Young-Yeol Ko speaks in front of the Seoul Central District Court. — AP

527 KOREANS SEEK NOTE 7 PAYBACK FROM SAMSUNG

SEOUL: Hundreds of South Korean Galaxy Note 7 smartphone owners filed a lawsuit against Samsung Electronics yesterday over its handling of the fire-prone device. Attorney Peter Young-Yeol Ko, head of the Harvest Law Firm, said the 527 plaintiffs want Samsung to compensate them for the costs to visit shops to exchange their phones, for the hours they had to wait while transferring data and for psychological harm from using a hazardous product.

His clients include a person who claims to have lost thousands of pictures from a family vacation and another who drove eight hours round-trip to return the phone. The group are seeking 500,000 won (\$442) compensation per person in their initial claims, which could increase later. South Korean courts do not award punitive damages. "We are filing a lawsuit not to ask for hundreds of millions of won in punitive damages like in the United States," Ko told reporters outside the Seoul Central District Court. "We are demanding fair compensation for the simple damage that consumers have suffered."

The Galaxy Note 7 smartphone was recalled twice in an unprecedented consumer safety crisis. Samsung recalled the Galaxy Note 7 phone first on Sept. 2, citing a defective lithium-ion battery after confirming reports that the phone tended to over-heat or catch fire. Earlier this month, the South Korean firm recalled its replacement Note 7s after finding they also were prone to catch fire. The company stopped making or selling them less than two months after the flagship smartphone's debut. The company

did not immediately respond to called and emailed requests for comment.

Replacement phones

Ko, who had used Samsung phones only for the past 15 years, said he had to visit a mobile shop three times after buying a Note 7 in August, first to get the battery checked when reports of the devices catching fire first surfaced. He went back to get a replacement phone after Samsung's first recall. Finally, he still needs to go get a refund and hand in the replacement phone; he plans to get an LG-brand smartphone next time, he says. Apparently in response to criticism over its handling of the recalls, Samsung announced Monday that customers who replace their Note 7s with Samsung Galaxy S7 or S7 Edge smartphones can get 50 percent discounts on upgrades to Galaxy S8 or Note 8 smartphones next year if they return the S7 or S7 Edges. Samsung's latest plans do not provide any compensation for consumers who prefer not to get another Samsung phone. Samsung earlier offered 30,000 won (\$26) worth of coupons for the Samsung mobile shopping mall to all Note 7 users. Those switching to other Samsung phones were offered 70,000 won (\$62) worth of coupons. Kim Chae Yong, who joined the lawsuit, said he spent nearly \$100 on gas and highway tolls to return a Note 7 phone after the first recall. Kim drove about 300 kilometers from his home in Cheonan to Busan, where he had bought the Note 7. "I feel betrayed," the 26-year-old plant engineer said. "I am angry and I don't ever want to use it again." — AP



CORDOBA: Noelia Garella, a kindergarten teacher born with Down Syndrome, plays with children at the Jeronito kindergarten. — AFP photos

ARGENTINE WITH DOWN SYNDROME INSPIRES AS A PRESCHOOL TEACHER

‘IT HAS BEEN A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR THE STAFF’

CORDOBA: When Noelia Garella was a child, a nursery school rejected her as a “monster.” Now 31, she is in a class of her own. In the face of prejudice, she is the first person with Down syndrome to work as a preschool teacher in Argentina—and one of the few in the world. Garella’s case set a precedent after the school confronted a taboo: could a person with a cognitive syndrome be in charge of a class?

Her two- and three-year-old pupils crowd around her affectionately in her classroom in the Jeronito nursery. At her bidding, they sit down for a story and watch engrossed as she reads, following her lead as she imitates a shark, baring her teeth. “I adore this. Ever since I was little, I have always wanted to be a teacher, because I like children so much,” she tells AFP. “I want them to read and listen, because in society people have to listen to one another.”

Self-belief

Garella’s determination inspired her colleagues to hire her at the preschool in the northern city of Cordoba, despite reservations in some quarters. One party “in a position of responsibility” judged that she should not take classes

because of her condition, said Alejandra Senestrari, the former director of the school who hired Garella. Teachers, parents and even the city’s mayor weighed in. They decided there was no reason Garella could not teach early-learning reading classes. “With time, even those who had been opposed joined in the initiative to hire Noe as a teacher,” said Senestrari. “We very quickly realized that she had a strong vocation. She gave what the children in the nursery classes most appreciate, which is love.”

A genetic condition, Down syndrome typically affects a person’s physical and intellectual growth. In Garella’s case, it has done nothing to diminish her optimism and self-belief. Standing by her side, her mother, Mercedes Cabrera, looks tearful when her daughter tells the story of the day care center director who told Garella’s parents: “No monsters here.” But Garella smiles. “That teacher is like a story that I read to the children,” she says. “She is a sad monster, who knows nothing and gets things wrong. I am the happy monster.”

Lesson in life

Other countries have stories of people with

Down syndrome who have become teachers. But Garella’s case is thought to be the first in Latin America, where disagreement over whether pupils, let alone teachers, with Down syndrome should be accepted in public schools has generated controversy in the past. Garella’s colleagues have been moved by her case. “It has been a unique experience for the staff,” says Susana Zerdan, current director of the preschool. “The way the children accept her, incorporating her naturally into the school—there is a lesson in life there for us all.”

Garella first joined the Cordoba public education system as an assistant for reading classes in 2012. “I always feel good with the children. Their parents love me and the other teachers and principals I have had are wonderful,” she says. She likes to do Latin dancing in her spare time. She dreams of having children of her own and lately has been feeling flutters because she has “met someone.” She has been jointly in charge, with another teacher, of a class in the Jeronito preschool since January. “I have a boy with Down syndrome in my class. He is wonderful,” she says. “Oh, it is lovely when someone like me is born.” — AFP



LOOKING FOR NO 2: DOGS SNIFF OUT FECAL POLLUTION

FAIR HAVEN: Some specially trained dogs are helping humans curb themselves. A company that has trained dogs to recognize the smell of human fecal bacteria has been sniffing out sources of water pollution nationwide, discovering broken sewer pipes, leaking septic tanks and illegal sewage discharges, to the delight of environmental groups and government agencies.

Conventional water sampling tests take 24 hours at a laboratory, and often must be duplicated to ensure their accuracy. Testing of sewer systems with dye or smoke takes days and is costly. But the dogs give an instant yes-or-no indication as to whether a particular location is contaminated with the bacteria.

Using dogs rescued from shelters and specially trained to detect human waste in the same way other dogs are trained to sniff out drugs or explosives, the dogs of Otisfield, Maine-based Environmental Canine Services are always looking out for No. 2. “I could make a lot of jokes about what kind of job this is, but I won’t,” said Scott Reynolds, who runs the company with his

wife, Karen. “They alert us to the presence of human-specific bacteria, E coli, poop, whatever you want to call it.”

Environmental problem

Human fecal contamination is a serious environmental problem that can cause illnesses including intestinal problems; hepatitis; respiratory infections; and ear, nose, and throat problems. Contamination from the E coli bacterium, naturally occurring in human intestines, becomes dangerous if it is present in the environment in high enough concentrations. It is the leading cause of beach and waterway closures in the US, and tracking down the source of such pollution is a high priority for local and state governments.

One recent day, two of the company’s dogs sniffed the edges of a pond near the New Jersey shore in Fair Haven, where polluted runoff was helping to choke the pond with thick algae that covered it with a green scum. Environmental groups including Clean Ocean Action, along

with the local government, hired the company to determine whether any sewage was making its way into the pond, which feeds into the nearby Navesink River, a waterway having its own problems with bacterial contamination.

Sable, a 10-year-old German shepherd-husky mix Reynolds rescued from a shelter, and Remi, a 3-year-old black Lab mix they found as a stray, were put to work. They sniffed the shoreline and found nothing amiss. “Just as important as what you find is what you don’t find,” Karen Reynolds said. The couple then took the dogs to a nearby manhole, which town workers had opened, to demonstrate what the dogs do when they smell human waste. Sable is trained to bark when he smells it; Remi is trained to sit still, and that’s precisely what they did as soon as they sniffed the manhole. Their rewards: a treat for Remi and some play time with a tennis ball for Sable.

Good doggie

The dogs are trained to ignore fecal bacteria from animals, and customers often try to trick them (unsuccessfully) during evaluations of the company. Waterway contamination from bird, wild animal and pet waste is also a significant source of water pollution. Rick Haley, a water quality analyst with the Skagit County, Washington, public works department, was among them. He had the dogs sniff samples of animal waste, all of which they ignored until they got to one containing human bacteria, which they flagged.

Once the dogs went to work there, they helped authorities find 15 to 20 leaking septic tanks that were polluting waterways, including one in Bayview State Park that routinely had to be closed to swimming when bacteria levels got high. After the dogs found an upstream source of sewage from a faulty septic tank, repairs were made, and the beach saw much fewer closures, Haley said.

The company has done work in 15 states, with bases in Otisfield; Lansing, Michigan; and Santa Rosa, California. Peg Kohring, a director of The Conservation Fund in Sawyer, Michigan, has hired the dogs three times in the past five years to track down pollution making its way into Lake Michigan. “We had quite a few beach closings because of high E. coli, and we did extensive water testing, but you don’t know exactly where the problem is,” she said. “With the dogs we’re able to go right to the source. They found a homeowner whose house was only half connected to the septic system; the other half was washing directly out into a creek. We found 30 homeowners who had no idea where their sewage was going.” The dogs also helped the city of Bridgman, Michigan, pinpoint where a sewer pipe had broken. — AP



SOUTH PORTLAND: In this Tuesday, Oct 11, 2016, photo, Scott Reynolds of Environmental Canine Systems, left, and Fred Dillon, the storm-water program coordinator for the city of South Portland, Maine, inspect a storm water drain pipe. — AP

BABIES SHOULD SLEEP IN PARENTS’ ROOM FOR FIRST YEAR: US DOCTORS

MIAMI: To reduce the risk of sudden death, babies should sleep in the same room as their parents but in their own crib or bassinet for the first year of life, US doctors said yesterday. The new policy statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics still says babies should sleep on their backs, on a clean surface free of toys and blankets, a guideline that has been in place since the 1990s and has reduced sudden infant deaths by about 50 percent.

Latest data

Still, some 3,500 infants die each year in the United States from sleep-related deaths, including sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and accidental suffocation and strangulation. The main change to the AAP guidelines, which were last issued in 2011, is the specific call for infants to stay in their parents’ room for six months to a year if possible—but not sleep in the same bed. “Parents should never place the baby on a sofa, couch, or cushioned chair, either alone or sleeping with another person,” said lead author Rachel Moon. “We know that these surfaces are extremely hazardous.”

‘One never forgets’

Experts say that urging parents to put babies to sleep on their backs instead of their bellies helped drive down the rate of sudden infant death from 120 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1992 to 56 deaths per 100,000 in 2011 — a 53 percent reduction in one decade. That advice still stands. Deaths from SIDS have plateaued in recent years, but it is still the leading killer of babies aged one month to one year.

Children may become entangled in bedding, or suffocate under bumpers or toys, get squeezed in the corner of a couch or armchair, get overheated, or simply stop breathing for no apparent reason. “It is nothing but tragic,” said Peter Richel, chief of the department of pediatrics at Northern Westchester Hospital, who remembers losing two patients in the past 26 years to sudden infant death—a four-month-old boy and a two-week-old girl.

“Often there is nothing special to point to, other than they are just kind of taken away,” he said. “It is something that one never forgets.” Other risk factors for SIDS include smoking in the home, and exposing babies to drugs or alcohol. Richel said

that the new policy means doctors will have to change some of their long-held advice. “Many pediatricians will suggest that by two months of age, infants go to their own room, and with the use of a monitor so that you can hear them cry out for a feeding,” said Richel. “This really goes against that kind of usual advice, which is fine, because if it saves lives we are all for it.”

The new policy is described in a paper called, “SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2016 Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment,” and will be presented Monday at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in San Francisco. “The most important thing to remember is that the crib should be free of all loose objects that could lead to strangulation or suffocation,” said Robert Glatter, an emergency physician at Lenox Hill Hospital, who was not involved in the research. “This means that a bare environment is ultimately safest.”

The AAP policy also suggests placing newborn infants skin-to-skin with the mother “immediately following birth for at least an hour as soon as the mother is medically stable and awake.” Breastfeeding is recommended, but mothers are urged to move the baby to a separate sleeping space afterward. “If you are feeding your baby and think that there’s even the slightest possibility that you may fall asleep, feed your baby on your bed, rather than a sofa or cushioned chair,” said co-author Lori Feldman-Winter, a member of the Task Force on SIDS. “If you do fall asleep, as soon as you wake up be sure to move the baby to his or her own bed,” she said.

The highest risk period for SIDS occurs between the ages one to four months. SIDS is rare in babies older than eight months. Other strategies include offering a pacifier at nap time and bedtime, and making sure infants get all their recommended vaccines. Parents are warned against using expensive home monitoring systems, as well as wedges that may be marketed as reducing the risk of SIDS. “We know that we can keep a baby safer without spending a lot of money on home monitoring gadgets but through simple precautionary measures,” Moon said. — AFP

BATTLE LINES HOLD FIRM AT GLOBAL WHALING HUDDLE

PORTOROZ: Pro- and anti-whaling nations dug in their heels at a key meeting yesterday where Japan sought to lift a 30-year-old moratorium on commercial whales while others pushed for a sanctuary in the Atlantic. Meeting host Slovenia urged compromise for the majestic marine mammals’ sake, but member states of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) cleaved almost immediately into historic factions.

“The moratorium on commercial whaling should and could be lifted on a stock-by-stock basis based on sound scientific evidence,” Japan insisted in a written submission. The commission’s own advisory scientific committee “has confirmed that certain stocks of whale species are recovered,” which implies the moratorium is outdated, it argued. Japan’s yearly whale hunt, which it says is carried out in the name of science, is a recurring and deeply divisive issue at the 88-member IWC’s biennial gatherings.

The organization’s 66th meeting, scheduled to run until Friday, opened in the Adriatic resort of Portoroz yesterday. Scientific hunts are exempt under the IWC’s 1986 moratorium, but critics insist Japan abuses the provision for commercial catches. The meat ends up on supermarket shelves and in restaurants, in line with an IWC stipulation that whales taken for science must be eaten. “It is a loophole that the IWC never anticipated being routinely exploited by a country in order to kill whales for profit, but that is precisely what Japan has been doing since 1987 to kill more than 15,000 whales,” said Kitty Block of conservation group Humane Society International. The International Court of Justice ruled in 2014 that Japan was abusing the scientific exemption. Tokyo cancelled its 2014/15 hunt, only to resume it the following year, killing an estimated 300-plus animals. New Zealand and Australia are asking the IWC to introduce stringent reviews for scientific whaling projects. “It is clear that Japan’s stated research objectives can be met using non-lethal means and we urge Japan to cease its lethal practices,” reads a document submitted by New Zealand.

Give back their environment

Japan, for its part, opposes the creation of a South Atlantic whale sanctuary, a proposal of Argentina, Brazil, Gabon, South Africa and Uruguay which carries the backing of the European Union and others. Tokyo’s commissioner to the IWC, Joji Morishita, highlighted the intractability of the divide. “One side... is supporting the total protection of whales under any circumstances, no kill, no one whale should be killed,” he told journalists at the meeting.

The other, “like Japan, is supporting sustainable utilization of marine living resources including whales,” he said. “These positions are so... fundamentally different and that is causing the difficulties or stalemate or deadlock of this organization. Unless we address this issue in some manner we will just be repeating the same thing, meeting after meeting.” Japan, Norway and Iceland are traditionally in their own corner at the biennial IWC meetings, which seek to balance issues of national sovereignty, subsistence rights and culture, with conservation of Earth’s natural bounty.

This year’s meeting marks the 70th anniversary of the commission’s founding, and the 30th birthday of the moratorium estimated to have prevented the killing of tens-even hundreds-of thousands of whales. Conservationists say whales still face a multitude of perils, from hunters and ship strikes to getting snared in fishing gear and pollution. “(...) It is in the interests of all of us to give back to the cetaceans their living environment,” Slovene Environment Minister Irena Majcen urged delegates. “This is something that should unite us.” — AFP



PORTOROZ: Protestors hold up a placard reading ‘It’s time to take whale meat off the menu’ as they demonstrate in front of the venue for the 66th International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting. — AFP

CALIFORNIA RIVER ADDING KEY INGREDIENT: WATER

FRESNO: A decade ago, environmentalists and the federal government agreed to revive a 150-mile stretch of California's second-longest river, an ambitious effort aimed at allowing salmon again to swim up to the Sierra Nevada foothills to spawn. A major milestone is expected by the end of the month, when the US Bureau of Reclamation says the stretch of the San Joaquin River will be flowing year-round for the first time in more than 60 years. But the goal of restoring native salmon remains far out of reach. The original plan was to complete the task in 2012. Now, federal officials expect it will occur in 2022. And the government's original estimate of \$800 million has ballooned to about \$1.7 billion.

"I think we all had hoped we'd be further along," said Doug Obegi, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, which led the lawsuit that produced the deal with the government to bring back salmon. "Restoring the state's second-largest river was never to be a cakewalk." James Nickel is among the farmers in the fertile San Joaquin Valley region around Fresno questioning whether the project should go forward.

California is enduring a fifth year of drought, and many farmers have experienced sharp curtailments in water allotments from the government, leaving some fields fallow. Nickel, a fifth-generation farmer to work land along the river, doubts the wisdom of spending money on an intricate system of passages to get salmon around the river's many dams and siphoning off more water from agriculture.

Keystone species

"Most practical folks would look at it and say, 'Impossible,'" Nickel said. "It seemed like a waste." Scientists say salmon are a keystone species for the region. For thousands of years, salmon spawned and died, their decomposing bodies feeding nutrients into the valley soil, helping make it one of the nation's most prosperous farming regions. The San Joaquin River spans 366 miles and is among the state's most dammed rivers. It starts as snowmelt high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, cascades down through granite canyons and fills a reservoir at Friant Dam east of Fresno.

A few miles below Friant, the river has been running dry for much of the year. At Mendota, a community about 40 miles west of Fresno, the river resumes flowing with the help of various tributaries and eventually feeds into San Francisco Bay. Before the US Bureau of Reclamation opened Friant Dam in 1949, the river teemed with up to a half-million salmon a year and was deep enough that paddleboats transporting cargo could navigate far into the San

Joaquin Valley.

The dam gave farmers irrigation water that dramatically expanded agriculture but ended the salmon migration. The Natural Resources Defense Council in 1988 set out to revive the river, filing a lawsuit that claimed the government's dam and irrigation channels favored commerce at the native salmon's expense.

The battle ended in a 2006 settlement that requires farmers to give up roughly 18 percent of the water captured behind Friant Dam. It also set an aggressive schedule to bring back natural salmon runs by 2012. "It was a longshot, to say the least, that everything would be executed on that timeline," said Jason Phillips, who led early efforts by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to restore the river.

Today, he's CEO of the Friant Water Authority, which provides water primarily from the dam to growers irrigating 1 million acres of farmland. He calls it an "open question" whether the San Joaquin can be revived as envisioned under the settlement. He said water for farms has become even scarcer since the settlement was reached with tightening regulations. And forecasts of climate change's impact on California's water supply weren't calculated into the deal, he said.

Salmon numbers

Adding complexity, officials say, in a 2012 attempt to flow the river, water seeped onto a farmer's field, destroying his tomato crop, a broad issue that has plagued the project. Construction has not yet begun on passages for migrating salmon to swim around two dams on a lower stretch of the river that distribute water to farmers. Design for one abruptly halted in 2013, when engineers found the ground was sinking at an alarming pace - the result of farmers pumping groundwater to irrigate.

Meantime, state wildlife officials are raising salmon in tanks on the riverbank in small numbers and trucking them past obstacles to spawn. Plans call for reviving a migration of roughly 40,000 a year once the obstacles are cleared, allowing salmon to swim on their own from the Pacific up to the base of Friant Dam. Money is another question. The project is to be paid for through state and federal sources. Much of the federal funding, however, needs Congress' approval each year, creating a degree of uncertainty, said Alicia Forsythe, current manager of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program for the Bureau of Reclamation. Forsythe defended the project's slow pace, saying officials have spent time collaborating with farmers along the river rather than simply forcing the project on them. — AP



STANISLAUS COUNTY: In this Sept 28, 2016, photo, Elizabeth Vasquez of the US Bureau of Reclamation explains efforts to return water to parts of the San Joaquin River that have long been dry during a tour of the confluence of the San Joaquin and Merced rivers. — AP



AL SAYER MEDICAL HOLDS SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON DENTAL NERVE TREATMENT

KUWAIT: Under the auspices of Dentistry Department (Dentistry Continued Higher Education), Ministry of Health, Al Sayer Medical Co., an affiliate of Al Sayer Group Holding, and sole exclusive agent of SybronEndo, a world leading dental company, held a Scientific Seminar and Workshop on Latest in Dental Nerve Treatment.

The lectures were delivered and workshop overseen by international professor Prof Gianluca Gambarini, Chief Dental Nerve Treatment Division and Head of Higher Studies Div, Dental Nerve Treatment, University of Roma,

Italy, with more than 450 international research studies on dental root and nerve treatment.

The lecture and workshop were held at the newly created auditorium at Salmiya specialized clinic, with large audience and participants including MOH doctors, providing hands on experience for all participants, as professor presented firsthand TF ADAPTIVE from global SybronEndo, a revolution in world dental treatment for its unique characteristics ensuring patient safety with no complication during the nerve treatment and dental filling, along with its easy time saving use.

Dr Hussam Afeefi, GM, Al Sayer Medical, commented that "first of all we would like to than Mr Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs, Dr Yousif Al Duwairi and all dental continued education office staff for providing this opportunity to hold such lectures and workshop and its significant contribution to dentists update on latest scientific advances in this field, and its support to MOH and its intensive efforts and steady endeavors towards the promotion of services offered to both citizens and expats in Kuwait.



CONCENTRATION OF CO2 IN ATMOSPHERE HITS NEW HIGH

GENEVA: The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere averaged a record 400 parts per million in 2015, an ominous milestone for the planet's health, the UN said yesterday. The greenhouse gas has previously passed the 400 ppm threshold on certain months in specific locations but never on an annual global basis, the United Nations World Meteorological Organization said.

In its latest Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, WMO also reported that CO2 concentration rates had "surged again to new records in 2016" and predicted the annual average would stay above 400 ppm "for many generations." The concentration of CO2 spiked in part because of a strong El Nino, the weather phenomenon that occurs every four to five years with a broadly warming effect.

El Nino "triggered droughts in tropical regions and reduced the capacity of 'sinks' like forests, vegetation and the oceans to absorb CO2," WMO said. But the head of the

Geneva-based agency, Petteri Taalas, warned against complacency just because El Nino has subsided for now. "The El Nino event has disappeared. Climate change has not," he said. Taalas called CO2 "the elephant in the room" in the battle to rein in climate change.

He applauded the landmark deal reached in Rwanda's capital Kigali earlier this month to phase out hydrofluorocarbons, a category of dangerous greenhouse gases widely used in refrigerators and air conditioners. But he said that without similarly bold action against CO2 emissions, the world will fail to meet the goals laid out in the historic Paris Agreement on climate change.

The WMO's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin tracks concentrations of gases in the atmosphere, rather than emissions. Aside from CO2, the report monitors concentration rates of methane, nitrous oxide and several other gases with a major impact on climate change. — AFP



GUADALAJARA: In this Sept 27, 2016, file photo, SpaceX founder Elon Musk speaks during the 67th International Astronautical Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico. Musk elaborated on his plans to colonize Mars in a Reddit session Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016. — AP

CLINIC
PAGE

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
ر. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
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TO-GO COMBO MEALS: MAIS ALGHANIM UNVEILS LATEST PROMOTION

Mais Alghanim To-Go has recently unveiled its latest promotion, to coincide with the coming of fall and the back to school season; by introducing the new To-Go Combo Meals.

This special promotion is being offered to Mais Alghanim To-Go patrons, treating them to savoring a diverse variety of delectable dishes that have been created to satisfy even the pickiest of diners. The offering includes the Gathering Meal, which features char-broiled meat Kabbabs, shish Taouk and many more of our signature recipes.

The promotion also features a wide variety of Lebanese appetizers, which have been meticulously prepared in the Mais Alghanim To-Go kitchen, and include some of the most scrumptious and healthy Mezzas such as Hummus, Hummus Beirut, Mutabbal and Batata Harra. This is in addition to a variety of fresh salads; including Fattoush, Seasonal Lebanese Salad, Rocca Salad, Tabbouleh; together with an assortment of toppings. Among these are fried chicken livers or fried chicken wings and your choice of side dishes including French fries or saffron-infused Basmati rice.

So the next time you find yourself in the company of acquaintances in the Diwaniya, spending some quality time with family members or start feeling the pangs of hunger at work; remember that you can always enjoy

a delicious selection of healthy and valuable meals offered by Mais Alghanim To-Go. Order a Gathering or Family Meal, along with your choice of favorite barbecued meats, appetizers and salads.

Mais Alghanim To-Go kitchen - being the recipient of numerous industry awards - continuously strives to provide its clientele with a new and innovative experience every time and to enable friends and family to enjoy each other's company while savoring appetizing signature dishes at an exceptional price, wherever they may be. With Mais Alghanim To-Go rest assured that the most stringent public health and safety measures are observed in all branches, since only cutting-edge, quality packaging equipment and materials are utilized; supplemented by a fleet of delivery vehicles whose outreach spans the whole of Kuwait. We are always true to our motto, "Closer & tastier... wherever you are."

For inquiries or to order any of our promotions, all you have to do is call our hotline or place your order via the Talabat website. Mais Alghanim To-Go will deliver right to your doorstep, or you may opt to pick-up the order yourself from the nearest branch to your location: Bneid Al-Gar, Shuweikh, Fintas, Salmiya or from our newest outlet in Hawalli - off Al-Qadisiya Club.

ENTERTAINMENT WITH A CAUSE

Indian Youth Society Kuwait's well-established name and a nonprofit society known as IYS presenting Shaam -e- Ghazal on 28th October 2016 at 6:30 pm in Salmiya Indian Model School Auditorium (SIMS), an evening full of entertainment for the Ghazal lovers.

We are privileged to have the famous Ghazal Singer Shakeel Ahmed to lighten up the evening with his mesmerizing tone and beautiful collection of Ghazals. He will also sing few famous Ghazals from the albums of renowned Ghazal legends Ghulam Ali, Jagjit Singh and Pankaj Uddhas as a tribute to the Ghazal Legends. Shaam-e -Ghazal is yet another small step to support our society & this time IYS in association with SIMS is supporting Sakshi NGO.

Sakshi's work is concentrated in the fields of Education, Health and Community Development. They work for

the up-liftment of the poor and destitute by helping them achieve socio-economic independence, self-sustainability and health. They do everything from providing educational and health services to the needy, mainstreaming marginalized street children, making low-literate youth employable and empowering women.

Indian Youth Society of Kuwait fondly known as IYS is a non-profitable organization registered with Indian Embassy of Kuwait by the initiative of a like-minded young Indians with the vision of honoring, encouraging, supporting and celebrating the Indian social & cultural values amongst the people of Kuwait. IYS has been successful in gaining popularity and remains a strong and fast growing organization in Kuwait led by its founder members. IYS welcomes all individuals to join and serve the community.

THE SECRET TO MCDONALD'S FRIES: HIGHEST QUALITY POTATOES FRIED IN PUREST NON-HYDROGENATED OILS

McDonald's has always been proud of offering only the best and the highest quality food, from the meats and vegetables, to the bread and dairy products, all the way to the oils used in frying its food.

Since 1955, McDonald's has been using the best and highest quality meats and potatoes, and this commitment to quality is what makes McDonald's food special, delicious and beloved around the world. The world famous fries in the iconic red box are a prime example of this, as they have become one of the most popular McDonald's products for customers around the world.

To make its world-famous fries, McDonald's uses only the best quality, 100% natural potatoes harvested from approved and certified farms. At the source, only the best quality potatoes of the

Ranger Russet & Russet Burbank species are manually selected to be prepared and shipped off to McDonald's restaurants.

Within this vein, McDonald's is also committed to using only the highest quality cooking oil, Canola Oil, stemming from its belief that the quality and purity of the oil is a crucial factor and directly impacts the quality and flavor of its food. This is why McDonald's uses a high quality 100% vegetable oil blend, which does not undergo a hydrogenation process (treatment of oil with Hydrogen), therefore it is not hydrogenated. There is a very small trace of trans fatty acids in our oil (less than 0.3%), similar to the majority of non-hydrogenated vegetable oils you buy from your local grocery store for home use. McDonald's is extremely proud that it offers its customers the highest quality vegetable oils available on the market.



CUSTOMERS CONTINUE TO WIN BIG THIS DIWALI AT MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the leading jewelry retailer is giving customers an opportunity to win big this festive season. The 'Delightful Diwali' campaign that commenced in GCC on 19th October, 2016 has already given chances to its customers to win big this festive season. Over 25,000 gold coins have already been won by customers so far as a part of the ongoing Diwali campaign at Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Furthermore, one lucky customer Mr Sushil Kumar won 100 gold coins on the 3rd day of the campaign.

This season, Malabar Gold & Diamonds showcases the latest collection of gold, diamond & precious gems jewelry in their outlets, to celebrate this festive period. Customers can win a guaranteed gold coin or up to 500 gold coins instantly on purchase of gold jewelry

worth KD 200 via Scratch N Win coupons. Adding to the above, customers also get two gram gold coin on diamond jewelry purchase of KD 400 and a one gram gold coin on purchase of diamond jewelry worth KD 250.

Other exciting offers that customers can avail during the campaign are no making charges for 8 gram gold coins. Also, customers can protect the gold rate at Malabar Gold & Diamonds on payment of 10% of the entire amount on the selected gold jewelry. Furthermore, customers can avail the zero deduction offer on 22K (GCC) gold jewelry exchange as well. All the aforementioned offers are valid until 5th Nov. 2016.

To add more glitter to this season, they have also unveiled the latest collection of jewelry specially designed for Diwali in gold, dia-

monds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has incorporated these designs as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine-Indian Heritage Jewelry and Precia - Precious Gem Jewelry. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been at the forefront in gold jewelry manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing and plans on being the 'most-preferred' jewelry retailer in the coming years. The group strives to continue embarking on its journey by further expanding in the near future.



QUALITYNET SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES ITS SECOND BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

Qualitynet, Kuwait's #1 ICT, Data Communications & Internet Services Provider arranged its second Blood Donation Drive under the slogan "Every blood donation is the gift of life" at its head office in Sharq. The camp was held in association with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank and saw participation from all levels of employees and also from customers and the general public.

Social Media Officer Osama Al Qadhi elaborated on how the initiative was based on the need to give back to the community. "Our

Blood Donation Drive is among the year-long initiatives we implement towards our commitment to do our bit for the nation, through a Corporate Social Responsibility program. There is a constant need for donors at our Central Blood Bank, whose stocks run on such donation drives. We believe such an initiative helps us on both Humanitarian and Social fronts, not mentioning the many benefits the act can do for a donor" said Al Qadhi.

"We urge not just our staff and customers, but also the general public to help the Blood

Bank in carrying out its selfless acts by offering to donate blood in timely intervals. The act of donating is to give the gift of life. And remember - every type counts!" added Al Qadhi. Al Qadhi concluded by thanking the staff from the Kuwait Central Blood Bank for their timely response and for the well-coordinated efforts at the blood donation drive. He also thanked all the staff, customers and public that donated blood at the camp.



Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah with Ambassador of Egypt Yasser Atef during the opening.

THE ART OF THE EGYPTIAN APPLIQUE WORK AT SADU HOUSE

By Faten Omar

The Sadu House on Sunday launched an exhibition and workshop on the Art of the Egyptian Applique Work: Al-Kheyameya. The event was planned in conjunction with the "Kuwait, Capital of Islamic Culture" celebration by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said that Egyptian cadres contributed in building and development of Kuwait in various fields. Humoud added that the exhibition reflects the civilization of Egypt and noted that the art of Al-Kheyameya, an ancient Egyptian heritage, portrays a deep history with its relationship with Arab Islamic culture. For her part, President

Sheikha Altaf Salem Al-Sabah said that Al-Kheyameya art is based on a traditional decoration cloth added (Alablak) and dates back to the ancient Egyptians and emerged during the Islamic era and the Ottoman Empire.

The event was attended by The Ambassador of Egypt Yasser Atef, and a number of ambassadors. This exhibition and workshop brought to Kuwait two professional tent applique masters, conducted a three days workshop started on October 22, 23, and 24. The workshop was conducted by master kheyameya Hany Mahmoud who shared his experience with Sadu House enthusiasts. During the workshop, participants were introduced to the intricacies of pattern design and their transfer on canvas, the adjustment of cotton appliques and the hand-sewing technique in the style of the tentmakers of Cairo.

Sadu House has also launched a new program platform called 'The Weaving Stories'. The exhibition of Egyptian applique marks the starting point in Weaving Stories program, envisaged to promote and celebrate textile stories from the region and beyond. The Exhibition and Workshop displays the colorful and elaborate applique work that derives from the decorative wedding tents of the Mamluk, Ottoman and Khedive eras in Egypt. "We are creating Weaving Stories, an interactive exhibition that focuses on bringing more awareness to the value of the tradition of Sadu cloth as a cultural symbol and the stories that these textiles hold. Each element of the exhibition will create new perspectives on Sadu weaving while encouraging visitors to become active participants in the exhibition," she said.



GUST TO LAUNCH CENTER FOR TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) announced yesterday, the upcoming launch of the Center for Teaching and Learning Research (CTLR), next Sunday October 30th, under the sponsorship of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. The launch will be celebrated with week-long math, science and technology workshops given in collaboration with the esteemed Queen Rania Teacher Academy, Jordan.

The opening ceremony will welcome GUST Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Salem Al Tuhaih, GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, Minister of Education and Higher Education Professor Bader Al-Essa, Undersecretary to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Director General of KFAS, Dr Adnan Ahmad Shahab Eldin, as well as both private and public school administrators, principals and teachers, Ministry of Education supervisors, among others.

Attendees will participate in hands-on bilingual workshops in math presented by Queen Rania Teacher Academy, under

such topics as Calculus: Rate of Change & Functions by Dr Muad Al-Shiyab, and Geometry: Platonic Solids by Kamal Lahlouh. Attendees will also have the opportunity to attend science workshops focused on problem based learning, and technology workshops by Dr Mohammad Yassine from GUST, and Dr Nouf Al-Wadi from Washington, DC.

The primary goal of the workshops will be to help facilitate the implementation of the new math and science curricula by offering public and private school teachers high quality workshops focused on those areas, as well as the use of technology. As part of the event, KFAS will announce the upcoming launch of an online forum, Ustath Cafe, designed as a platform to support math and science teachers across the country.

CTLR further cement's GUST as a leading institution for higher education in Kuwait that supports and contributes to its community. Additional information including full descriptions of the workshops and registration details can be found on: ctlr.gust.edu.kw.



CLASSIFIEDS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016



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

Table listing movie programs for Sharqia-1, Sharqia-2, Sharqia-3, Muhalab-1, Muhalab-2, Muhalab-3, Fanar-1, and Avenues-1 through Avenues-4, including titles like 'Sacrifice', 'Precious Cargo', and 'Jack Reacher: Never Go Back'.

For Rent Residential apartment in a special location in Salmiya overlooking Hamad Al-Mubarak Street comprising of 2 bedrooms, reception, 2 baths and kitchen.

For Rent Commercial apartments in Salmiya, Hamad Al-Mubarak Street comprising of 2 bedrooms, reception, 2 baths and a kitchen.

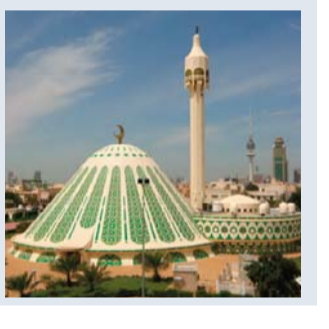
CHANGE OF NAME I, Syed Ayub S/o Shaik Hussain Peera, holder of Indian Passport No: M8391273, Civil ID No: 267120203104 has changed my name to Shaik Mahammad Ayub hereinafter in all my dealings and documents.

For Rent Apartment in Jabriya behind Royale Hayat Hospital comprising of 2 bedrooms, reception, 2 baths and kitchen.

The public is hereby notified that MS. ELIZABETH SYBINGCO has filed with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait, Migrant Petitions for Correction of Entry In the Last Name of her children.

March 2002. The Last Name of the children should read as ABDELRAHMAN ABDELFA-TAH MOHAMED BASSIONY instead of ABDUL RAHMAN BASSIONY.

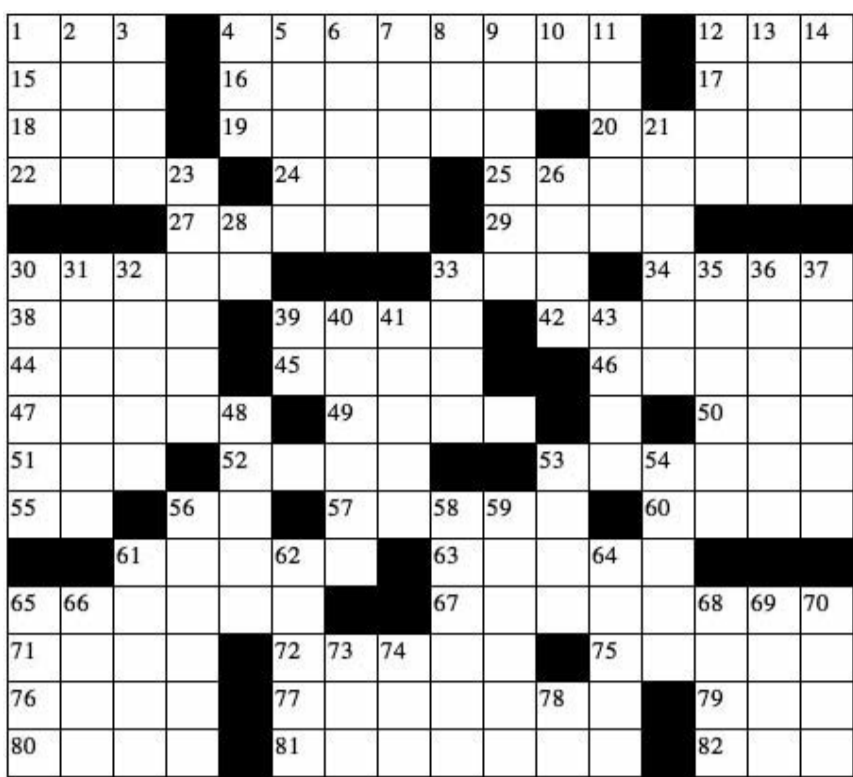
PRAYER TIMINGS table with columns for Fajr, Shorook, Duhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha.



Flight Schedule Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Large flight schedule table with columns for Airlines, Flt, Route, Time, and Destination. It lists arrival flights on Tuesday 25/10/2016 and departure flights on Tuesday 25/10/2016.

CROSSWORD 1410



ACROSS

1. (computer science) The rate at which data is transferred (as by a modem).
4. A dicotyledonous genus of the family Ericaceae.
12. A reproach for some lapse or misdeed.
15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
16. Oblivious of dangers or perils or calmly resolute in facing them.
17. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
18. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
19. (anatomy) Situated farthest from point of attachment or origin, as of a limb or bone.
20. A member of the Nahuatl people who established an empire in Mexico that was overthrown by Cortes in 1519.
22. A small cake leavened with yeast.
24. A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.
25. Hypothetical remedy for all ills or diseases.
27. A formal expression of praise.
29. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
30. Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.
34. Weapons considered collectively.
38. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
42. Anneal or toughen by a process of gradually heating and cooling.
44. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
45. A formal mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs.
46. (informal British usage) Aggravation or aggression.
47. (Greek mythology) A princess of Colchis who aided Jason in taking the Golden Fleece from her father.
49. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
50. A conspicuous disparity or difference as between two figures.
51. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
52. The basic unit of money in China.
55. A doctor's degree in religion.
57. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
60. Having been read.
63. Excessively fat.
65. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
67. A republic in southeastern Europe.
71. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
72. Covered with water.
75. Indian religious leader who founded Sikhism (1469-1538).
76. Be agitated.
77. Type genus of the Cariamidae comprising only the crested cariama.
79. Anterior pituitary hormone that stimulates the function of the thyroid gland.
80. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
81. A festival featuring African-American culture.
82. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.

DOWN

1. Divulge information or secrets.
2. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
3. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
4. Failing to detonate.
5. Of or like a feeble old woman.
6. An oil port in southern Iraq.
7. Many times at short intervals.
8. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
9. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
10. Being one more than one.
11. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
12. A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
13. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
14. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
21. Large ornamental tropical American tree with bipinnate leaves and globose clusters of flowers with crimson stamens and sweet-pulp seed pods eaten by cattle.
23. Any member of Athapaskan tribes that migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
26. Type genus of the family Arctidae.
28. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
31. Add to the very end.
32. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
33. The basic unit of money in Ghana.
35. Popular music originating in the West Indies.
36. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
37. Having an oblique or slanted direction.
39. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
40. The whiteness that results from removing the color from something.
41. Soviet chief of secret police under Joseph Stalin.
43. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
48. Jordan's port.
53. A white native of Cape Province who is a descendant of Dutch settlers and who speaks Afrikaans.
54. Goddess of love and fecundity.
56. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
58. The child of your aunt or uncle.
59. A member of the Circassian people living east of the Black Sea.
61. (of speed) Having or caused by speed approximately equal to that of sound in air at sea level.
62. Having the wind against the forward side of the sails.
64. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
66. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
68. The basic unit of money in Peru.
69. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
70. A Loloish language.
73. The 6th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
74. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
78. Informal terms for a mother.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you've been playing the waiting game in the emotional arena, it could be time to turn your anticipation into action. You're riding high on the energy of the playful Leo Moon in your 5th House of Romance. However, the urgency to free yourself from complicated entanglements standing between you and your happiness might prompt you to overreact. Instead of taking a risk, exercise a small dose of caution so you don't do something you regret. A new kind of love may be within reach, but you still have work to do before it's yours.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

It is possible to overdo the exercise program-careful. Keep an ever-watchful eye on balance in your life now. This means a reasonable amount of exercise, balanced nutrition, play, work, rest and volunteer time. This is one of your best overall days. You may find yourself turning out any emotional pockets and working with your feelings. A very strong time-do not push too hard. Your support system such as your family and friends becomes more secure now. You are able to dispense with some of those unessential items and develop what is most basic and true in your environment. You encourage better support. It is easy to see what you value. Your sense of appreciation is sharp and in high focus. The evening will bring with it good luck.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This may be a challenging day in which you can use your skills and expertise to solve problems and feel successful. Take your breaks and use them wisely. Sorting things out and getting them organized to utmost efficiency keeps you busy. There is a lot of mental energy churning around; it may be hard to put it to work. Circumstances may prove difficult regarding communication but you are willing to learn and understand whatever instructions or needs are directed your way. A break for a bit of exercise before lunch is a good thing. This afternoon you display a practical and conscientious desire to be helpful and as a result you gain many clients for your company. Take care of your physical wellbeing this evening with a light dinner and friendly conversations.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a gratifying day and there are many more days like this ahead. You will be reaping the rewards of your hard work, even though it may only be the good feeling that comes when you do your best. There is a greater than usual interest in relationships, social connections and the arts. If you are not showing your creative work, you may be working to help someone else show a creative work. You are successful in selling for others and may find yourself on call to work in contract type of work. Vases, paintings, handmade productions-all get your attention and approval. You are not afraid to present yourself to most anyone. People are people, no matter what their titles, and you are able to work for just about anyone.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

The planets are placed in just the right place to help push you to sign contracts and make big money deals-wait twenty-four hours before signing on the dotted line. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. New ways to communicate or an easy manner will make conversations and interactions go well. You may find yourself more talkative and accomplished than usual. A dialogue with an older person may take place. It may be your turn to give guidance. You have time to listen and the time you give to this person is important. Take a little trip or get outside today. You may want to break that routine and try something new or different. You may discover valuable insights.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

As you look back over last week you will see that you have made good progress with what you want to accomplish. Some timing may have to be adjusted but you are coming near to reaching a successful end result. This week will be even better so dig in and get going. Financial savvy and a practical turn of mind are qualities that take on a great deal of importance. You have a natural way of knowing how to put people, ideas and things together to work profitably. Playing the role of a facilitator can be rewarding. This afternoon you will have an opportunity to get rid of what does not serve you well. You can plan your path to even better and greater possibilities. You could receive unexpected backing and, in general, your efforts are successful.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There is a yearning to broaden horizons and reach for the ultimate. New goals are stimulating and propel you forward. You may feel restricted as you make your way through certain projects, today, but patience will win and positive results are inevitable. Law, politics, education, travel and religion are some of the areas where an emotionally charged performance will be played. Your friends may need your help this evening and you may find yourself helping someone move or make decisions regarding their job, school or family. All of this should go rather smoothly. Good luck blesses all of your relationships at this time. If you are single you may find this a good time to converse with someone that you might like to get to know better.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Hard work and determination are your best foot forward today. Co-workers have a lot to say to you but you are good at multitasking by listening and tending to the company needs at the same time. Your career has been in the spotlight this year and will soon settle into a good rhythm so that you will be able to keep your steady flow of work moving. Give yourself a gift today by ordering an astrological chart and step ahead to view this coming birth year. There is a yearning for the stimulation of new ideas which may find you checking out the library at the noon break or after your workday ends. Friends listen to your needs and help with ideas that will move you forward in your career. Tonight, loved ones want to help you celebrate.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Your emotional drive and sense of things may be at odds with your best interests, the way to proceed. You could make some bad decisions, be too generous or squander your resources. Most of this day presents opportunities to be in social situations with friends and loved ones. However, keep a close rein on the expenses. A love relationship may be somewhat strained for what seems like no reason at all. Keep busy and always ready to lend a listening ear to your loved one. This frustration should clear by early November. The past and the future intermingle and the barriers between people dissolve. Patience is the key to the greater psychic and spiritual sensitivity you feel now. Lovers, children are emphasized at this time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

In the workplace, this is a period of great mental activity and heightened communication. You will find an interaction with others and an exchange of ideas showing off your business expertise-you are smart as a fox. You will find yourself wanting to really buckle down and consolidate your career. You and your supervisor could be pleased with the results of your work. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. You may have the opportunity to lead or take a favored evening class for the next few weeks and you may find this could be a great opportunity to meet new friends, make new plans and find new ways to relax and be renewed before the next day at work. You may feel that you could gain a raise soon.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Be prepared for debates and walk softly. Others could challenge your non-conforming attitude in some situation that results in opposition and blockage. Not perhaps a good time for you to try out new things or break away from the old routine. Your own surroundings work against you in this. If you need a loan, now is the time to check out the possibilities. Material things and the whole concept of value take on more importance for you now. Financial security and enjoying the finer things in life, appreciating and creating things others long to have, assume high priorities now. You have just enough time to freshen up and perhaps change clothes for the evening. You Enjoy a little music and your loved one may enjoy attending a social function this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Making your mark on the world has special significance for you now. Achievement, ambition and authority take on greater importance now. Organizing projects as well as people seems to be a central activity for you at this time. You make a lot of money for other people through your advice and through your accounting abilities. Why not take some of your own advice and turn some of that paperwork into good cash rest the idea of resigning yourself to accepting your life as it is. If it needs changing then do what it takes to make those changes. Faith can put a light around many things but you are the one that has to make the final decision regarding your choices. This evening you might enjoy a romantic dinner for two.

Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 2

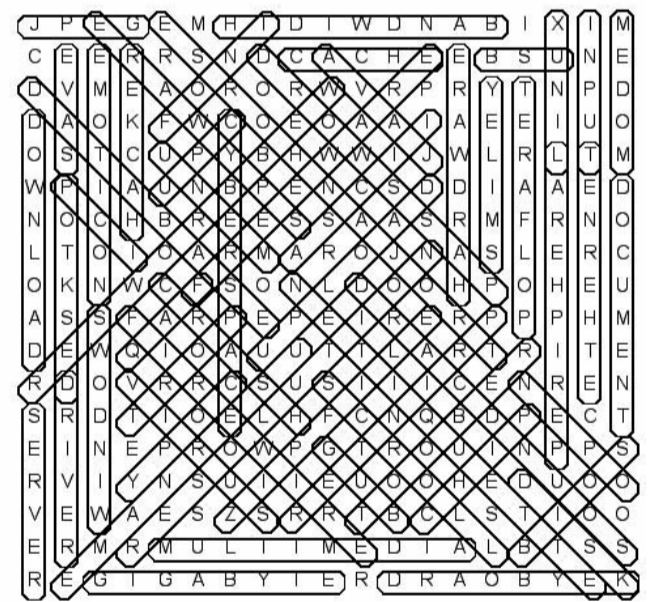
Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.



- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| AGAIN | EPIC | MOUTH | STAY |
| BABY, BABY | ESCAPADE | MY WAY | STRONG ENOUGH |
| BAILAMOS | FANTASY | NAME | SUMMER GIRLS |
| BARBIE GIRL | FUNKDAFIED | NO SCRUBS | THE SIGN |
| BELIEVE | GETTO JAM | NOBODY | THIS KISS |
| BOOMBASTIC | HONEY | ORDINARY WORLD | TODAY |
| CANT STOP | IRIS | PUSH | TOO FUNKY |
| CRUSH | LET'S RIDE | REAL LOVE | TWISTED |
| DANGEROUS | LINGER | RUNAWAY | UNDERSTANDING |
| DOWNTOWN TRAIN | LONGVIEW | SLAM | UNSKINNY BOP |
| EMOTIONS | LOVE IS | SMOOTH | WEAK |
| ENDLESS LOVE | MOTOWNPHILLY | SPOONMAN | WONDERWALL |

Yesterday's Solution

Computer Jargon 2



- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| ASCII | DISK | HARDWARE | PASSWORD | SOUNDCARD |
| BANDWIDTH | DOCUMENT | INPUT | PCI | SPYWARE |
| BIOS | DOWNLOAD | JAVA | PERIPHERAL | TERAFLOP |
| BUG | DRIVER | JPEG | PORT | TROJAN HORSE |
| CACHE | EMOTICON | KEYBOARD | PRINTER | UPLOAD |
| CHIP | ETHERNET | LINUX | REBOOT | USB |
| COPY | FAQ | MENU | RESOLUTION | USERNAME |
| CPU | FIREWIRE | MODEM | SAVE | VIRUS |
| CRASH | FONT | MULTIMEDIA | SCROLL | WEB BROWSER |
| CYBERSPACE | FREEWARE | NETTIQUETTE | SERVER | WINDOWS |
| DATABASE | GIGABYTE | OPEN | SMILEY | ZIP FILE |
| DESKTOP | HACKER | | | |

The hidden word is: MICROPROCESSOR

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Puth cancels remainder of tour, citing illness

Charlie Puth is canceling the remainder of his tour due to illness. The singer said on Twitter Sunday that he has been "extremely sick" during the tour and

hasn't taken the time he needs to recover. He says "resting and taking time off the road" is the only way he can get better and resume performing. The "Don't Talk Tour" began last

month and had been scheduled to run through Nov 8. Puth hasn't released any information on whether the remaining tour dates will be rescheduled.

Lily Collins is penning a memoir



The 27-year-old beauty is to have personal essays covering subjects including being the daughter of famous musician Phil Collins, dating, and body image published in a revealing book entitled 'Unfiltered: No Shame, No Regrets, Just Me'. Of sharing such details with the public, she said: "It's definitely like having my diary published." The 'Mirror Mirror' actress was inspired to write the tome by director Warren Beatty and her role in 'Rules Don't Apply' as devout baptist Marla Mabrey, which sees her character overcome "intense" situations. She explained: "I was put into many situations throughout the years in acting, in Warren's film especially, where you're in an intense situation and you have to fight your way through it, go through the emotions, and live and breath those scenes." Lily was previously romantically linked to her co-stars in both 'The Mortal Instruments' and 'Abduction', Jamie Campbell Bower and Taylor Lautner, and while she won't be name-dropping any ex-boyfriends, she will open up about what she has learnt from past relationships. She told People magazine: "It was not about attacking, it was about showing how you can be given situations in life and turn them into lessons. It takes knowing what you don't want to know what you do want." Lily is also writing the book in the hope of inspiring other young women who share their lives on social media. She said: "This is my way to open up conversation with young women and say, 'Hey, we're all the same.'" They're so open and honest and inspiring about their stories. It really encouraged me to be brave like them." The announcement comes hot off the heels of Phil, 65, launching his own autobiography, 'Not Dead Yet', in which he candidly talks about his battle with alcohol addiction and the ups and downs of his career spanning 60 years. Lily's book will be published through HarperCollins and will be out in March 2017.



Spelling is loving 'every minute' of being pregnant

The 43-year-old actress was shocked to learn she and husband Dean McDermott - the father of her other kids, Liam, nine, Stella, eight, Hattie, five, and Finn, four - were expecting their fifth child, but so far everything is going well and she is having an "amazing experience". She said: "I never thought I'd be pregnant again! It's a very welcome surprise. I said before my pregnancy with Finn that I love being pregnant and it was such an amazing experience and this one has not let me down! It's been great. I have energy and I feel like I'm loving every minute of it." The former 'Beverly Hills, 90210' star suffered placenta praevia while she was pregnant with Finn, causing problems with delivery as the condition means the neck of the uterus is blocked by the placenta, and she is relieved to have been told by her doctors that she won't experience the same issues this time round. She told People magazine: "I'm totally healthy and safe. I am 100 percent healthy! The condition I had

with my last pregnancy, the baby and I got checked out when we first found out and not only does it not exist but it cannot exist. So we are going to have a happy and healthy pregnancy together!" Tori has been craving doughnuts but isn't too worried about gaining weight as looking after four children keeps her in shape. She said: "I am not working out at all. I always say this, I have four kids and it's the biggest work out of anyone's life! I literally am up at 6am with the kids, I do not do my thing and settle in bed until nine at night. Literally I don't sit down." The star has also confessed that she may find out the sex of her unborn child after undergoing a family vote. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "We did find out with the first two, didn't find out with the second two - huge, amazing surprises. The kids are old enough now they kind of want to find out, you know. We've taken a family vote so at some point we might find out but not yet."

James Corden's singing nerves

James Corden was "terrified" singing in front of Justin Timberlake. The 38-year-old talk show host voices Biggie in the animated adventure and though he enjoyed laying down vocals for the soundtrack, he was wary about getting in the studio in front of the 'Can't Stop the

him, but I think I got away with it. "I think it was fun. I certainly loved it." James often shows off his singing talents on the 'Carpool Karaoke' segment of his 'Late Late Show', but he insists that's different to making a record. He said: "Not in a studio, not like actually singing like it matters." The British star's next guest on the show will be Lady Gaga, and having recently recorded their segment, he teased viewers are in for a surprise. He said: "Something happens in that Carpool that's never happened before." Gaga revealed earlier this month she had joined the likes of Sir Elton John, Mariah Carey, Justin Bieber, Adele, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Britney Spears and Gwen Stefani in singing her greatest hits on 'Carpool Karaoke'. She took to Twitter and Instagram to share a picture of herself and the host wearing matching pink cowboy hats and wrote: "Had a lil fun with @JKCorden today!" James - who has two children, son Max, five, and 23-month-old daughter Carey, with his wife Julia - recently admitted he worries about having enough time to fulfill all his goals. He said: "My biggest worry is that I'll run out of time - I really want to make the most of the time that I have. When you're lying in your death bed, you're not going to think, 'Oh I wish I'd made one more TV show ... I try to remember that all I've really got is right now. Everything that's behind you is gone, everything in front of you is unknown, so if you try to do your best in the time that you're here, then you will have a good and successful life." — Bang Showbiz

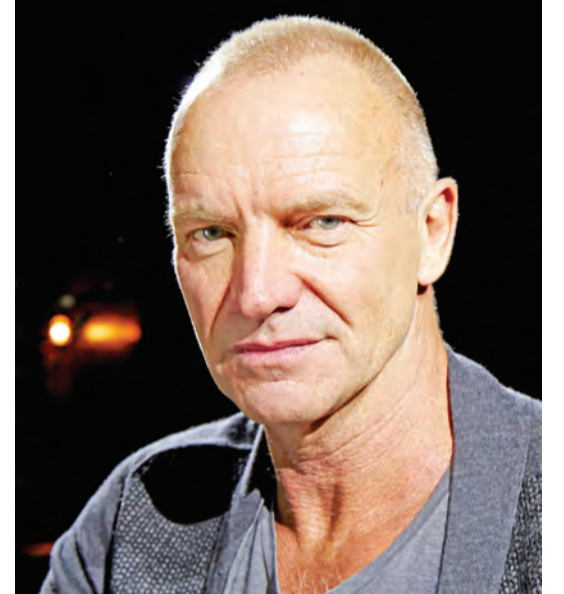


Feeling' hitmaker, who served as musical producer on the film, as well as voicing grumpy troll Branch, James told 'Entertainment Tonight': "I spent like half a day doing singing which is always quite, you know, terrifying if you're me and it's

Sting to perform, receive honor at American Music Awards

Sting will hit the stage at the American Music Awards next month, and the icon will receive a special honor for his successful career. Dick Clark Productions said yesterday that Sting will receive The American Music Award of Merit on Nov 20 at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. The award was last given in 2008, to Annie Lennox. Other recipients include Michael

Jackson, Prince, Johnny Cash, Whitney Houston and Paul McCartney. The 65-year-old former Police lead singer will perform a medley of his hits, including his latest single "I Can't Stop Thinking About You." Sting will release a new album, "57th & 9th," on Nov 11. Bruno Mars will open the AMAs, which will air live on ABC. Drake is the leading nominee at the fan-voted show.



University of Connecticut spokesman, Tom Breen, stands in front of the night hospital at the former Mansfield Training School in Mansfield, Conn.

Old mental institution attracts filmmakers and the curious

University of Connecticut officials say there are clearly no ghosts at the former mental institution that now serves as the school's Depot Campus in Mansfield. But the abandoned buildings at the former Mansfield Training School have made it an attraction for ghost

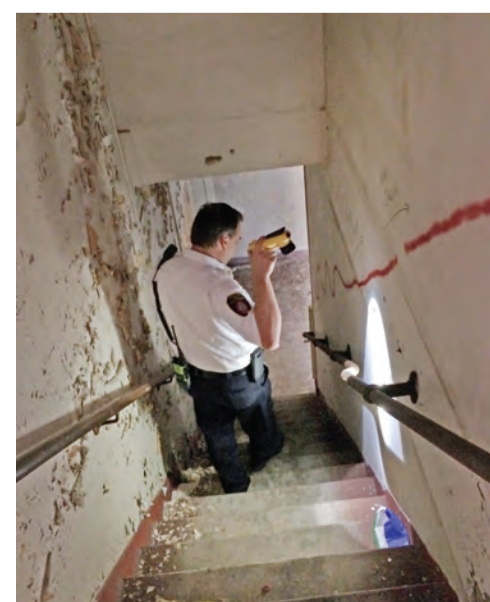
hunters, horror filmmakers, copper thieves and the curious. The school has put up fencing around many of the decaying buildings to keep people out, and police make regular patrols, but say that doesn't always stop trespassers.

So far this year, four people have been

charged with sneaking into the buildings. School officials say they'd like to find more uses for the more than 350-acre property, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. But red tape, cleanup cost and other priorities have kept them from moving forward. — AP



In this photo, a classroom desk sits inside an abandoned building at the former Mansfield Training School in Mansfield, Conn. — AP photos



University of Connecticut Deputy Fire Chief Michael Makuch descends a flight of stairs inside Tredgold Hall at the former Mansfield Training School in Mansfield, Conn.



A vandalized bathroom is shown inside an abandoned building at the former Mansfield Training School in Mansfield, Conn.

Hollywood A-listers honor comedy prize winner **Bill Murray**

US comedian Bill Murray is on cloud nine, and it's not just because his beloved hometown baseball team, the Chicago Cubs, are advancing to the World Series for the first time in 71 years. The "Caddyshack" and "Lost in Translation" star got a major salute Sunday from America's top comedians and Hollywood A-listers, who presented him with one of the nation's top comedy awards. "I'm confused and I feel like I'm in a hurricane," Murray told a crowd in Washington after receiving the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor—quickly goading the audience to pass around his trophy, a small bust of the 19th century writer and humorist, to "see how far back it can get."

The 66-year-old was feted at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington by comedy's finest—Aziz Ansari, Bill Hader, a fully bearded David Letterman and Jimmy Kimmel. They turned out to share anecdotes and jokes about the US comedian, whose appeal spans multiple generations.



Jimmy Kimmel, left, and Molly McNearney arrive at the Kennedy Center.



Emma Stone arrives at the Kennedy Center.



Victoria Lily, left, with her father Paul Shaffer arrive at the Kennedy Center.



Bill Murray is honored with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday in Washington, DC. —AP photos

"He's a man who travels around the world spreading joy and foolishness wherever he goes," Kimmel told the audience.

"Bill Murray could shove you over the side of the Hoover Dam and you'd be like, 'Hey, Bill Murray!' all the way down," Kimmel said of the comedian. Murray is known for his notoriously bizarre antics, such as crashing a recreational kickball game in New York in 2012 or joining a couple as an uninvited surprise guest in their engagement photos in South Carolina. Singer Miley Cyrus paired with musician Paul Shaffer to perform a musical tribute to Murray, and actresses Sigourney Weaver and Emma Stone recounted their favorite memories from working on set with Murray.

Had the Cubs not clinched a win Saturday, however, the evening could have been for naught, as the Major League Baseball team would have been playing game seven during the ceremony. Speculation as to whether avid fan Murray would show for the award ceremony or head to the game—had it happened—was

But Murray, who wore a black tuxedo and Cubs-blue bow tie, said he had not had plans to skip the award.

Dinner with Sotomayor, meeting with Obama

Murray took full advantage of his time in Washington, dining with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and stopping by the White House press briefing room Friday decked out in Cubs attire. "He was wearing a Cubs jacket, which for a White Sox fan is a little troubling," US President Barack Obama, who met with the comedian despite their opposing baseball allegiances, told reporters. Asked about what the pair of golf enthusiasts talked about, Murray told AFP: "Putting."

Murray first rose to fame in 1977 on the cast of "Saturday Night Live," playing smarmy crooner "Nick the lounge singer," before landing his first major big screen role in the 1979 hit "Meatballs." By 1980, Murray had quit SNL and over the next two decades became one of

Hollywood's biggest comedic stars through such roles as an oblivious groundskeeper in "Caddyshack" (1980), a supernatural investigator in "Ghostbusters" (1984) and a doomed weatherman in "Groundhog Day" (1993).

In recent years, Murray's roles have taken a more serious turn, including in a handful of Wes Anderson films such as "Rushmore" (1998) and his Oscar-nominated performance as a worn-out movie star in Sofia Coppola's "Lost in Translation" (2003), for which he won a Golden Globe. Born in 1950 in a Chicago suburb, Murray was the fifth of nine children. He first got involved in comedy when he followed his older brother Brian Doyle-Murray onto the cast of Chicago's famed Second City improvisational comedy troupe. "The only reason I'm here is because of my brother Brian," Murray told the crowd. Former recipients of the Mark Twain Prize include Whoopi Goldberg, Tina Fey, Jay Leno and last year's winner Eddie Murphy. The award ceremony will air on public broadcaster PBS on Friday. — AFP

'Real-life Cinderella' film delves into plight of Hong Kong maids

Cyril Goliava cut an elegant figure in her yellow evening gown as she won a beauty pageant in Hong Kong, smiling to cheers from the crowd as she was presented with a tiara and trophy. But the euphoria faded as the Filipina beauty queen removed her purple eyeshadow and fake eyelashes on a bus ride home, and thought of her week ahead. "When I go home, it's sad all of a sudden because your time with friends is over," Goliava said. "It's another week of work. Six days of stressful work, I'll be eating alone again and a full day of a repetitive job." The story of Goliava, a Filipina domestic helper, and her fellow workers is the subject of a new documentary that seeks to shatter stereotypes about the millions of women employed in households across the world.

Directed by filmmaker Baby Ruth Villarama, "Sunday Beauty Queen" follows five domestic workers as they gear up for the annual Miss Philippines Tourism Hong Kong, a pageant organized by the maids in the Asian financial hub since 2008. The 94-minute documentary, which took four years to make, attempts to tell the women's story from a different angle instead of the usual "depressing" way, Villarama said. "I want to break the stereotypes and the usual approach when it comes to how we tell the story about them," the filmmaker said by Skype from Manila. "Along the way I learnt that it's not about escaping from the world they have, but it's about making something out of their struggle and finding their own happiness. It gives them a sense of purpose."

Barred from sitting on sofa

The documentary premiered this month at Asia's largest film festival, the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea. There are over 300,000 foreign maids in Hong Kong, mostly from the Philippines and Indonesia, who live with their employers and typically toil 16 to 20 hours a day, six days a week. Sunday is their only day off. For Goliava and fellow Filipina helpers, Sundays are filled with catwalk coaching and rehearsals, giving them respite from tough jobs by taking part in the annual contest and the events leading up to it.

The film shows their exhausting daily routines, their relationships with their employers, and the hardships they face. These range from exploitation and strict employment rules that discourage helpers from reporting abuse, to their treatment, such as being barred from sitting on the sofa or forced to sleep in the kitchen. One maid competing in the pageant lost her job after she failed to get home one Sunday by her 9 pm curfew. "It's a real-life Cinderella story," Villarama said.

Anti-migrant sentiment

Although Hong Kong's foreign maids have better protection than their counterparts in other parts of Asia, social exclusion and mistreatment in the city have come under scrutiny since the 2014 case of Erwiana Sulistyani, an Indonesian maid beaten by her employer and burned with boiling water. A study released in March found that one in six foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong is a victim of forced labor and that a significant proportion have been trafficked.

Meanwhile, anti-migrant sentiment surged after two Filipina helpers launched a failed legal battle in 2013 for the right to permanent residency in Hong Kong. But not all Hong Kong residents are prejudiced towards foreign domestic helpers, as the film shows. Jack Soo, a 67-year-old who lived alone with his helper Mylyn, one of the beauty pageant contestants, said in the film that Hong Kong would "be in trouble" without foreign maids. — Reuters

Screen legend Streep says singing badly required work

Oscar-winner Meryl Streep had to learn how to "screw around" with songs when she played a tone-deaf socialite, she told reporters in Japan yesterday. Streep, whose latest work "Florence Foster Jenkins" opens the Tokyo International Film Festival, has an enviable musical pedigree, but had to tamp down her skills when she took on the lead role. "I did try to learn how to sing these arias properly, so I got a very, very good, true opera coach and he taught me the arias correctly," Streep told journalists.

"And then in the last two weeks of a two-month preparation ... we just, what's

the nice word, screwed around with them," she said. "Somehow I pulled it off," the 67-year-old said of playing Foster Jenkins. American socialite Foster Jenkins craved fame as a diva but instead gained notoriety for her terrible singing voice.

The strained warbling of her latest film is a far cry from the musical talents Streep showed off in "Mamma Mia!" in 2008 and "Into the Woods" in 2014.

The 29th edition of the Tokyo International Film Festival will screen 16 films in competition chosen from some 1,500 works sent in from 96 countries and regions. — AFP



US actress Meryl Streep poses for photos following a press conference for her latest movie "Florence Foster Jenkins" in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

Japan animation auteur Hosoda sees beasts in child's growth

In this image released by 2006 Tokikake Film Partners, Kazuko Yoshiyama, a junior high school student, jumps in a scene from Japanese animation director Mamoru Hosoda's animation film "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time." — AP photos



Time warps, half-bestial children and parallel worlds are, for Mamoru Hosoda, a natural way to pursue the universal coming-of-age story that has driven all his movies. "A child growing up is fascinating and stunning, a true wonder of the world," the burly but friendly Japanese animation director said recently in an interview at his suburban Tokyo Chizu Studio. "There is struggle in growth and change, between that wolf, that blood, that drive within you and order or reason needed to live as a human being. I want to keep looking at this child, standing alone in the middle of all that."

A retrospective of Hosoda's works, starting from his early shorts, is highlighted at this year's Tokyo International Film Festival, which opens Tuesday. People think his films are about family, which they are, but it's the child in the middle of that framework that fascinates him the most, Hosoda says. His latest,

the 2015 "The Boy and the Beast" focuses on a boy's evolving relationship with a disheveled but well-meaning bear-father, complete with video-game-like martial-arts fight scenes.

A real struggle

All the films feature the trademark hand-drawn style of the art-school-trained Hosoda, especially stunning in the depiction of rural landscapes below cloud-filled skies that evokes luscious paintings. A decade into his feature-animation career, Hosoda continues to defy the time and cost-saving technological advantages of computer graphics, now the standard at studios like Pixar and Disney. "We are really barely hanging on," he said, stressing that given the time and costs required for drawing, rather than switching completely to computer graphics, his work has been a real struggle. Sometimes, he is



In this image released by 2012 "Wolf Children" Film Partners, Hana, center, holds her half-wolf children, Yuki, left, and Ame in a scene from Japanese animation director Mamoru Hosoda's animation film "Wolf Children."

frustrated, even insulted, when he gets asked why he simply doesn't change with the times and use computer graphics. Hosoda's first feature, "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time," portrayed a schoolgirl who finds herself suddenly able to go back and forth in time, a take on that common wish of having done or said something differently. The scenes in which she gets thrust through time are dazzling. Hosoda, honored internationally, including at the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival, as well as at home, winning the Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year, is also recognized for his collaboration on animation with acclaimed visual artist Takashi Murakami, who designed manga-like motifs for Louis Vuitton luxury bags.

Japanese settings

But Hosoda isn't at all happy about the title he has earned of "the next Miyazaki,"

referring to the legacy of Oscar-winning Hayao Miyazaki, of Ghibli Studios' "Spirited Away" and "Ponyo." "There are as many angles as there are directors, and we must enjoy that diversity," said Hosoda, irritation clear in his voice. Hosoda, who sees Disney's 1991 "The Beauty and the Beast" as the film that influenced him the most, stressed it's important for artists like him to be aware of their position in international filmmaking, while staying true to the storytelling of Japanese settings, situations and characters that are close to his every day. Like the characters in his film, Hosoda as creator is also being asked that same question of identity, he added. "It may feel like a tiny corner of the world, but it is about the eternal," he said, stressing that the answer is not about the gimmick of localization. "To face up to this with sincerity is what allows a work to reach people on the other side of the planet." — AP



This file photo shows the lobby of the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. — AP



This file photo shows people walk by the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

Three days in Nashville - with your mom

By Anne D'Innocenzio

I've always wanted to have a mini-reunion in Nashville with my college girlfriends. I imagined hanging out at honky-tonk bars like the famous Tootsie's Orchard Lounge, listening to country music and meandering along Music Row. Instead, I found myself in Tennessee's capital city with my 90-year-old mom and my sister. Was it a drag? Far from it. The three nights we spent here turned out to be lots of fun as we experienced the different personalities of this Southern city, from its eclectic foodie culture to its rich history. My

mom is very mobile and has the spunk of a 65-year-old. Still, I took plenty of precautions, did some pre-planning and focused on a few major sites. We needed to pace ourselves - and leave time for naps and coffee breaks.

We stayed at a hotel close to some key attractions but away from noisy downtown bars. And we tried to avoid noisy restaurants as my mom is hearing-impaired. We also found a friendly cabdriver who took us from place to place. Better to have my mom use her energy visiting tourist spots rather than tiring herself out getting around. We also chose fall for a visit rather than summer so we didn't have to

deal with sweltering heat. And we went during the week, not a weekend, to avoid bachelorette parties - which have become a huge trend in Nashville - and other celebrations. Here are some highlights.

Lodging

I wanted to stay within walking distance to places like the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and the historic Ryman Auditorium. I also wanted a hotel with lots of amenities for my mom. So I booked a room at The Hermitage, a five-star, century-old hotel in downtown Nashville. The Hermitage staff was extremely gracious, went out of their way to book dinner reservations and even got us great seats at the Grand Ole Opry.

Food

I wanted us to try different types of restaurants. Our first meal in Nashville was lunch at Puckett's, a few blocks from our hotel. It had a quaint general-store feel and offered tasty traditional Southern food like pulled meat and macaroni and cheese - and it was cheap, \$40 for the three of us. But the highlight of our culinary adventures was The Standard at The Smith House, a townhouse built in the 1840s. The restaurant serves more upscale Southern fare - I had blackened sea bass with mashed potatoes and caramelized corn. And we shared an order of grits.

Music

You can find music in Nashville anywhere, anytime. But I didn't want to tire out my mom. So we focused on getting tickets to an evening concert at the Grand Ole Opry, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort. It was delightful, featuring a lineup of performers like Montgomery Gentry and Old Dominion. But make sure to arrange for a cab or a car service to pick you up after if you are not driving. The line for a cab is long. For the winter season beginning Nov. 1, Opry concerts are held at the Ryman Auditorium, which some fans think is an even better venue.

History

From country music to the Civil War, Nashville has a lot of history. But we had to be selective. A must-see: the Country Music Hall of Fame, which features a vast collection of video clips, instruments and costumes from stars across the decades. From Roy Rogers, who started his career as an old-time yodeling cowboy, to Taylor Swift, a Nashville darling before she became a pop megastar, the museum takes you from its folk roots to its contemporary glitz.

Another hot attraction: the backstage tour of the Ryman Auditorium, nicknamed "the mother church of country music" because of its origins as a church and as the original loca-



People look at exhibits at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tenn.

tion for the Grand Ole Opry radio broadcast and show. We visited dressing rooms dedicated to stars like Minnie Pearl and spent time in the wooden pews.

Then there's the Hermitage plantation, a 25-minute drive from downtown. President Andrew Jackson owned the property from 1804 until his death there in 1845. Carve out a half day as you'll need time to tour the stunning main house and walk the grounds. A horse-and-wagon ride allowed my mom to

actually see all of the grounds without walking too far. On our final day, we visited the Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library, which features videos, photographs and various displays of highlights of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

Of course, it would have been great to visit the historic Belle Meade plantation too, and honky-tonk bars like Tootsie's. But I'm saving that for another trip. I want to go with my girlfriends, but my mom wants to go back too. —AP



People visit the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn.



This file photo shows French artistic directors Alexis Martial (right) and Adrien Caillaudaud (left) arriving for the funeral of French fashion designer Marie-Louise Carven at the Saint-Roch church in Paris. — AFP

Designer duo go at French fashion label Carven

French fashion label Carven parted company yesterday with the duo of young designers who took over at the helm just 18 months ago. Alexis Martial and Adrien Caillaudaud left "by mutual agreement" the Paris house said in a brief statement only weeks after their latest spring-summer show. Carven-one of French fashion's success stories of recent years-said it would announce the appointment of a new artistic director later. The parting of the ways is the latest in a long line of "revolving door" changes at the top of well-known houses.

Earlier this month Australian Justin

O'Shea left Brioni after only six months amid critical coolness over his plans to give "James Bond's tailor" a controversial hard-rock makeover.

Both Martial and Caillaudaud-who were seen as a part of an emerging generation of thrusting young Paris designers-had previously worked at Givenchy. They succeeded Guillaume Henry who left Carven to lead Nina Ricci having revamped the brand's sleepy image in his five years in charge. Carven-which was bought out in May by the Hong Kong-based Bluebell luxury group-halted its men's line in July. — AFP

After summer bonanza, Spain worries about tourism future

After basking in its best tourist summer season in 15 years, Spain now sees dark clouds on the horizon as popular destinations reach saturation point and holiday-makers are more thrifty, industry experts say. The 2016 summer season proved exceptionally good, with an influx of tourists fleeing other popular destinations recently hit by attacks, said Jose Luis Zoreda, vice-president of Exceltur, the sector's employers' association. A combination of lower interest rates and petrol prices along with unrest in other Mediterranean countries benefited Spain's coastal regions, with their famed "sun and beaches," he said.

But he warned that "it will be difficult to reproduce this one-off scenario." Exceltur believes that out of the 75 million estimated tourists to Spain this year, close to four million will be holidaymakers who used to go to places like Turkey or Egypt. But it's "a very uncertain and volatile bubble," Zoreda said.

Thrifty trend

In 2016, the tourism sector is expected to grow 4.4 percent year-on-year-compared to a forecast 3.2 percent expansion in Spain's overall economy-which is "the highest rise in the past 15 years," said Exceltur. In the first eight months of the year, Spain saw a 10 percent

increase in the number of tourists from 2015 — or a total of 52.5 million people, with the Brits in the lead. This compares with more than 68 million foreign visitors for the whole of 2015, when Spain was ranked the third tourism destination in the world after France and the United States. But dark clouds are gathering.

For one, business tourism has dropped due to political uncertainty in a country that has been without a fully-functioning government for 10 months after two inconclusive elections. More importantly though, tourists on average have not been spending as much as last year-between two and six percent less depending on the months-as they stay for shorter periods of time. Generally, the trend is to save money, said Philip Moscoso, professor at Madrid's IESE Business School. "More people arrive with low-cost airlines and opt for alternative types of rentals," such as Airbnb, he said-a phenomenon that hurts hoteliers. Over the past two years, the number of regulated tourist accommodation has risen 1.6 percent, while rentals through platforms such as Airbnb have jumped 75 percent, said Exceltur.

Less quantity, more quality

As such, popular destinations such as Barcelona and the Balearic Islands reached sat-



In the first eight months of the year, Spain saw a 10 percent increase in the number of tourists from 2015 - or a total of 52.5 million people, with the Brits in the lead. — AFP

uration point, which in some cases posed environmental problems. Margalida Ramis of Majorca's GOB environmental group said the island's infrastructure was not able to handle "the effects of the summer," pointing for instance to the treatment of waste water. This summer, dirty water found its way into the island's northern Albufera natural park as purifiers at a nearby resort's plant stopped working correctly.

The influx of tourists on the country's beaches also threatens a fragile ecosystem made up of dunes and aquatic plants, said Ramis, who called for a limitation on unregulated tourism rentals. Authorities are trying to "shift the 'sun and beach' model towards a type of tourism that would be less about quantity and more about quality," said Moscoso, as well as highlighting the country's heritage. Barcelona, for instance, is trying to promote excursions to the nearby rocky range of Montserrat, while for the northern Basque Region and the wine-making Rioja area it's gastronomy. Another proposal is to attract more Asian tourists-who by and large prefer shopping and visits over sunning themselves on the beach. But Moscoso pointed out that business had been so good recently for the "sun and beach" sector companies are reluctant to drastically change their models. — AFP



Hundreds of people take part in the "Catrinas Parade" along Reforma Avenue, in Mexico City on October 23, 2016. Mexicans get ready to celebrate the Day of the Dead highlighting the character of La Catrina which was created by cartoonist Jose Guadalupe Posada, famous for his drawings of typical local, folkloric scenes, socio-political criticism and for his illustrations of "skeletons" or skulls, including La Catrina. — AP/AFP photos

Hundreds of Mexican women participate in iconic 'Catrinas' Parade

Hundreds of women dressed as "Catrina" - Mexico's elegant skeleton lady - participated at an annual parade in Mexico City on Sunday. Women and girls of all ages wore elegant, colorful dresses complete with elaborate face makeup to resemble "Catrina".

They paraded along Reforma Avenue ahead of the famous 'Day of the Dead' celebrations held across the country. Mexican artist Jose Guadalupe Posada created "Catrina" a skeleton lady who dons a large-brimmed hat and Victorian-era gown. The character was meant as a criticism of women who pretended to be of a higher class even if it meant starving, and becoming painfully thin. — AP



Lifestyle

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Hundreds of Mexican women participate in iconic 'Catrinas' Parade

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Lanterns and decorative items are hung on display ahead of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, in Mumbai, India, Sunday. Diwali is one of Hinduism's most important festivals, dedicated to the worship of the Hindu goddess of wealth Lakshmi. — AP

Art-loving US couple gives multi-million dollar collection to Paris

A Texan couple who discovered their love for art during a trip to Paris in the 1970s are to donate the multi-million dollar collection they have amassed since to the French

capital. Businessman Spencer Hays and his wife Marlene were in the city Saturday to formalize the first installment of their donation — 187 works including pieces by Edgar Degas and

Amedeo Modigliani worth around 173 million euros (\$188 million) — to the Musee d'Orsay. "When Marlene and I grew up in a little town in Gainesville, Texas, even visiting France was far beyond our great expectations. But in 1971 we made our first trip to Paris, and our love affair with this wonderful country began," Hays told a crowd which included President Francois Hollande at the Elysee Palace.

"After our death, our collection will be gifted to the French people for the benefit of art lovers around the world. But, even more important to us, this collection is our legacy," he added. The couple, who are both aged 80 and have been married for 60 years, have a collection of some 600 works from the late 19th and early 20th centuries worth 350 million euros and it continues to grow.

"The people who know you know your collection gets bigger around July 14 and December 7, because those are your birthdays. And this year, once again, Marlene, you gave Spencer a Matisse, and you, Spencer, gave Marlene a Modigliani... It wasn't easy to live up to that!" Hollande said. The President added that the couple had given France not only their collection but also "access to culture for everyone." "Your act, your donation, honors the French Republic," he said during a ceremony in which the couple received the distinction of commander of the Legion d'Honneur, one of the country's highest honors. — AFP



American collectors Marlene (center) and Spencer (right) Hays pose for a photograph after they have been awarded Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor) by French President Francois Hollande (left) following their donation of painting masterpieces to the Musee d'Orsay at the Elysee Palace in Paris. — AFP



The annual Booker Prize is one of the most high-profile awards in English-language literature with the winner receiving £50,000 and a near-guarantee in increased sales. — AFP

Highlands murder tale tipped for Booker Prize win

A tale of murder and class warfare in the Scottish Highlands by a little-known novelist is one of the favorites to win this year's Booker Prize for literature today. "His Bloody Project", the second novel by Scottish author Graeme Macrae Burnet, has been outselling the other five nominees, leaving its small Glasgow-based publisher struggling to meet demand. "One of the great side-effects of being shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize is the interest that it has created abroad," Burnet told AFP in an interview before the ceremony for the prestigious English-language literary award.

His novel tells the gritty story of a young and poor tenant farmer who murders the village administrator and his family. The social hierarchy of 19th-century rural Scotland dominated by aristocratic landowners is a key feature of the book. But its roots stretch far from the small community of Culduie where the novel is set. "The initial idea, which has been in my head for 30 years, came from the case of Pierre Riviere, a French peasant in the early 19th century who killed three members of his own family and then wrote a rather eloquent account of what he had done," said Burnet. "I was just totally fascinated by that," he said.

'Vivid, authentic'

In a year where the jury spurned big-name novelists, the bookmakers' two other favorites are South African-born Briton Deborah Levy's "Hot Milk" and Madeleine Thien's "Do Not Say We Have Nothing". "Hot Milk" is a tale of a torturous relationship

between mother and daughter set in a Spanish village, while Canadian Thien's book is based around a world of classical music and silence in revolutionary China. Among the other shortlisted novels is Paul Beatty's "The Sellout", a satirical novel set in a fictional neighborhood of his native Los Angeles, which explores racial equality and the civil rights movement.

US first-time author Ottessa Moshfegh's "Eileen" is a portrait of a disturbed young woman and Canadian-born Briton David Szalay's "All That Man Is" was described by judge Jon Day as "a post-Brexit novel for our times". Previous winners of the prize include Salman Rushdie for "Midnight's Children" and Michael Ondaatje for "The English Patient". Burnet said he was undaunted by the limelight and curious to see how the novel would resonate with different audiences internationally.

He said a Chinese journalist had told him that the book's "oppressive atmosphere" reminded her of Mao's China and the condition of Chinese peasants. "That sort of Kafkaesque notion of the arbitrary use of power and regulations has actually filtered very much into 'His Bloody Project'," said Burnet, who lived in Kafka's native Prague for a while. The novel also has more than a touch of Belgian influence through Burnet's devotion to the work of prolific crime writer Georges Simenon.

"The book is now going out into the world, but when you're writing the book you have no thought of that and I don't think you should have any thought of that," he said. — AFP

International Exhibition of Culinary Art (IKA)



A visitor stands behind the showpiece 'Witches night' by Antsipenka Dzmitry of Belarus during the International Exhibition of Culinary Art (IKA) also known as the Culinary Olympics IKA in Erfurt, Germany, yesterday. The 'Olympics of Chefs' has over 2,000 participants according to the Association of Chefs. The Culinary Olympics is the most important event for chefs and cooks worldwide. — AP



Chefs stand behind the show piece 'Hong Kong Skyline' of Hongkong's national team.



Jury members stand behind a show piece at the stand of the Canadian national team.