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Kuwait Times



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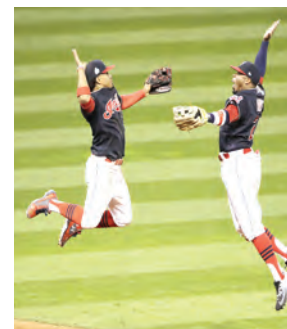
Iran Guard unveils maritime 'suicide' drone



The Real Fouz: The importance of primer



Indians blank Cubs 6-0 in World Series opener



GULF MINISTERS APPROVE EXCISE TAXES, SET TO FINALIZE VAT DEAL

RIYADH SAYS IMF'S GROWTH FORECAST 'REASONABLE'



Min 22°
Max 36°
High Tide 09:42 & 22:31
Low Tide 03:40 & 16:20

ZAIN PARTICIPATES IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

BADER AL-KHARAFI: KUWAITI YOUTH HAVE THEIR PRINT IN ENTREPRENEURIAL INNOVATION

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its participation on the first day of the Youth Empowerment Symposium. This activity forms part of the company's strategic partnership with the event, and marks its fifth consecutive year of support. The symposium falls under the patronage of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Zain Group's Vice Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi participated in the opening panel discussion titled "Innovation and the Future of Technology" alongside Corey Owens, former Head of Global Public Policy at Facebook and Uber Technologies. Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan took part in the discussion panel titled "Lessons for Leading Entrepreneurs" alongside a number of prominent local business leaders.

During his panel discussion, Kharafi commented: "One of the most critical factors for corporate success is providing employees with the inspiration to stimulate collective thinking, and giving them the appropriate space for creativity and opportunity to present their ideas."

The vice chairman emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship, urging the youth who attended the Symposium to find innovative solutions in non-traditional business areas. He also spoke about the impor-

ance of education in a country's future development and how the education system in Kuwait should transform to offer more innovative methods of learning. He also pointed out that there are numerous examples of successful personalities who are not formally educated but who have still gone on to establish leading institutions, having taken advantage of practical experiences they developed over time.

Regarding technological developments that can represent significant challenges for businesses to adapt, Kharafi said, "Keeping up with the latest technological developments is important for organizations if they are to continue on the right path to guide their development. Zain was quick to embrace innovation and digital services in its operational strategy, entering numerous partnerships and investing in emerging technology companies."

Zain invested in NexGen Group, as part of its ambition to establish a specialized unit for the provision of smart city services to governments, corporates and real estate developers. Roudhan said, "Successful leadership requires a team that works with one 'heart', a team that is innovative and learns from mistakes and continues to improve. Leaders need the power of a good team to assist them in achieving goals."

Continued on Page 3



Zain Group's Vice Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi

RIYADH: Gulf finance ministers expect to finalize today a deal on value added tax and have also approved excise levies, Saudi Arabia's minister said after regional talks with the International Monetary Fund. The taxes are a response by crude-exporting Gulf nations to a plunge in oil prices. In June, the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) six members agreed on the VAT, a five-percent levy on certain goods to take effect in 2018. "Hopefully tomorrow we'll put the final touches on that issue in our meeting as finance ministers," Saudi Finance Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf told reporters. "We also approved excise taxes. So we have already taken important steps in that direction" of taxation, he said.

Assaf spoke after chairing talks between his Gulf counterparts and central bank governors with Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund. Revenue-raising measures including excise and value added taxes are among the IMF's recommendations for Gulf states adjusting their economies to lower crude prices which have slowed regional growth. "All the GCC countries have started strong reforms in response to that new situation," Lagarde said at the same press conference.

They have increased energy prices, begun to control the public sector wage bill, and most have reduced capital spending. "More will be needed," Lagarde said. Oil prices are hovering around \$50 per barrel after hitting a 10-year low of less than \$30 in January, down from a peak of more than \$100 in mid-2014.

Assaf said IMF forecasts for GDP growth of 1.2 percent this year and 2.0 percent in 2017 were "reasonable", as the IMF continues to urge fiscal reforms. At the joint press conference, Assaf said he expects economic growth to be "2.0 percent or less" in 2017. Growth slowed sharply this year as low oil prices strained the budget and led authorities to impose broad spending cuts. The spending crunch also led Saudi Arabia to tap the international bond market with a \$17.5 billion bond issue last week, the largest emerging market debt deal in history. — Agencies



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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Coptic Metropolitan of Jerusalem and the Near East Anba Antonious. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Housing Minister Yasser Abul and Kuwait Credit Bank officials.

AMIR MEETS RELIGIOUS LEADERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the Coptic Metropolitan of Jerusalem and the Near East Anba Antonious and his accompany-

ing delegation, at Bayan Palace yesterday.

His Highness the Amir also received Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul. He also received Director General of

Kuwait Credit Bank Salah Al-Mudhaf who introduced his new deputies Abeer Butaiban and Fouzi Al-Saqlaqui. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan

Affairs sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. Abul later introduced Butiban and Mudhaf to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In other news,

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the newly appointed Ambassador of Kuwait to China Samih Johar Hayat. — KUNA

CROWN PRINCE HONORS KUWAITI ATHLETES

KUWAIT: His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah patronized yesterday a ceremony to honor prominent Kuwaiti athletes for the 2014-2015 sports season. The event is organized by the Public Authority for Sport (PAS).

Upon arrival, His Highness the Crown Prince was received by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman

Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Chairman and Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the authority's Deputy Chairman Sulaiman Al-Adsani, Chairman of Kuwait's Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and other senior sports officials.

In his opening speech at the event, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed the greet-

ings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for all attendees. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf said that His Highness the Amir is strongly supporting Kuwaiti athletes and youth activities.

Further development

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf congratulated the athletes for their achievements, wishing them the best of luck in seizing first places in upcoming regional and international competitions. He also advised them to boost their efforts to further develop their skills and unite in facing difficulties. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also praised the efforts of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Chairman and Director General of the Public Authority for Sport Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chairman of Kuwait's Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and heads of sports federations.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf for the achievements of Kuwaiti athletes. He also congratulated all Kuwaitis for the country's drastic improvement on the evidence-based Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index (YDI), jumping to the 56th spot in 2016 from the 110th in the previous report issued in 2013. The



His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah patronizes a ceremony to honor prominent Kuwaiti athletes for the 2014-2015 sports season.

minister also hailed the Olympic and Paralympic achievements in Rio De Janeiro in Brazil in 2016.

Key element

The Kuwaiti leadership believed that youth are the key element in achieving development in the country, therefore, it is continuously providing support to boost the skills and talents of this category of society. Sheikh Salman expressed optimism that Kuwait would overcome the international ban on its sports activities in the nearest time. The Cabinet has recently approved a resolution to develop different sectors of Kuwaiti sports, presented by the authority, Sheikh Salman added. Speaking at the ceremony,

wheelchair race champion Ahmad Naqa Al-Mutairi praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah and His Highness Sheikh Nawaf for providing support and facilitations for Kuwaiti athletes. Mutairi, who won the race in the 15th Paralympics tournament in Rio de Janeiro, also thanked Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud and the authority's officials for their efforts in the matter.

He added that Kuwaiti athletes will work harder and do their best to bring more achievements to Kuwait.

The ceremony also included showing a documentary video on the achievements of the athletes, followed by His Highness the Crown Prince's honoring of the athletes. — KUNA



His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other officials are pictured with female athletes honored during the ceremony.

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KUWAIT: Bader Al-Kharafi, Vice Chairman of Zain Group (right), speaks during the Youth Empowerment Symposium as Corey Owens, Head of Public Policy at We Work looks on.

FIFTH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM 'TMKEEN' CONCLUDES



By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The second and final day of the fifth annual Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tmkeen) yesterday witnessed a host of activities to provide opportunities for Kuwaiti youth to gain valuable insights about entrepreneurship from industry leaders, academics and experts. As a national youth initiative, Tmkeen holds this annual conference with the goal of spreading awareness, knowledge and inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs in addition to a myriad of other events throughout the year.

The activities on the second day of the conference started with the final judging committee for the KIPCO Tmkeen Award. This was followed by a panel discussion on 'SME's Journey to Global Success', which featured Hamad Al-Sayer, Managing Director of Al-Sayer Retail Est, Noor Al-Qatami, Co-founder & CEO of Saveco, Abdulmohsen Al-Babtain, CEO of SPARK Athletic Center, and Talal Al-Ajeel, Managing Partner of Reyada.

"We have successful businesses all over

Kuwait. But young Kuwaitis are afraid of taking risks with new ideas, and that's why we see copy-paste projects," said Sayer. He added that the reason for seeing a lot of cafe, restaurant and cupcake businesses is because the public sector isn't supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs. For Babtain, the problem with young people is that they are not creative. "A successful person is one who creates something from nothing," he said. He noted that everyone must use his hobby and turn it into a business to be motivated, adding that setting up a business requires entrepreneurs to follow up every single detail.

Qatami gave three pieces of advice to young Kuwaitis. "A lot of people accept jobs only because of high salaries, and that's why they hate them. You have to love what you do," she explained. She added that young people should not give up on their dreams, but keep up the hard work. Finally, she said everyone who has a business should think about giving back to the society. "The problem is that we steal projects. We are not searching for soci-

ety's needs," Ajeel said, adding that the private sector must help young people to turn their ideas into action. Tmkeen is a national initiative that is delivered by Kuwaiti youth to the youth in Kuwait. It has been holding this annual youth symposium, as well as separate events during the year, to educate, inform and inspire. It also works to assist youth business leaders by providing a training and development leadership program.

Important role

During the opening speech on Monday, Ali Al-Ebrahim, President of Tmkeen, said that the conference is held under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, noting that the Amir is always supportive of young people and supports them to achieve their ambitions. He added that small enterprises play an important role in the economic development of countries. "We aim to inspire and encourage small and medium Kuwaiti projects by giving them a chance to meet famous personalities who began small,

but later launched prominent brands and became founding partners of major companies," Ebrahim said.

At the inaugural seminar, Bader Al-Kharafi, Vice Chairman of Zain Group, and Corey Owens, Head of Public Policy at WeWork, spoke about innovation and the future of technology, moderated by Hassan Al-Mosawi. Kharafi said Zain has continually invested in new technologies to stay ahead of the competition. "If we ask people what they want, they will say the latest car and the latest phone - the answer will always be related to the newest technologies," he said.

Kharafi added that companies must have a corporate and creative role to encourage Kuwaiti youth. He noted that Kuwait has talented young people whose ideas should be taken seriously. He explained that education is important to shape the minds of the youth. "The new generation is characterized by constant movement and ambition without borders. The ideas of young Kuwaitis should be implemented and all the difficulties and chal-

lenges should be faced. There are a lot of personalities who started from scratch, and then proceeded to establish leading institutions," he added. Owens noted that the person responsible for the policy of a company should look at the company from a distance to see his moves the way they should be done. "I believe that a successful person is one who disagrees with his manager to take the company towards success. After my experience at big companies, I think that motivation and desire are key, in addition to the team, which encourages you to achieve," he said. Owens advised young people to surround themselves with people who believe in them, encourage them and trust that they will show their best towards any work they do.

Along with Owens, the former head of public policy at Uber and Facebook, Tmkeen hosted two other successful startup entrepreneurs - Jeremy Liew, a Partner at Lightspeed Venture Partners and a key investor in Snapchat, and Jennifer Boulanger, Head of Global Recruitment at Booking.com.



KUWAIT: Bassam Al-Shemmari (left) speaks during the press conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

TEN ARAB INSTITUTIONS WIN SHEIKH SALEM INFO AWARD

KUWAIT: Ten Arab institutions have won Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award in its 16th edition. Bassam Al-Shemmari, the steering committee deputy chairman, said at a news conference on Wednesday that the institutions, five public and five private, won the award for the best technical project in the Arab world. They represented Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Palestine, Jordan, and Egypt. Each of Bahrain's government and the private sector won the prize. Omani public sector took two, Palestine two for the private sector, Saudi Arabia one for the public sector,

Jordan one for the private sector, the UAE one for the government sector and Egypt a single for the private one. The prizes valued \$200,000; \$20,000 for each winner.

Shemmari indicated the UAE earned the award for the digital transactions' single counter, Oman for the gateway "invest easily," and the Omani municipality for the smart application "baladiyati." Winners in the private sector were Abjad Company of Jordan for the website Abjad, the UAE Level-Z from Bahrain for queue management and the Egyptian "Estah" Company for a smart application. — KUNA

KFH PIONEER AT HIRING YOUNG NATIONAL CADRES: GROUP CEO

LOW OIL PRICES INCUMBENT ON GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE REFORM PLANS

KUWAIT: KFH-Group CEO, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh said that Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is a pioneer at recruiting and hiring young national cadres, expressing his pride in sponsoring the Youth Empowerment Symposium for the fifth consecutive year as part of the bank's social and national responsibility in supporting and empowering the youth.

He added, in a press statement on the sideline of the symposium held amidst huge turnout that the young national manpower is a major component of the national labor at KFH, indicating KFH hires and trains over 300 fresh graduates annually at different sectors at the bank.

"The drop in oil prices cast shadow on the national economy, mainly the budget deficit. It has been incumbent upon the GCC governments to take drastic actions to address the falling oil prices especially when the prices sharply dipped to below \$30 a barrel. This requires continuing reform plans and reducing cost policies," added Nahedh.

He indicated that the surge in oil prices to



KUWAIT: KFH-Group CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh speaking at the Youth Empowerment Symposium.

\$50 level a barrel is suitable for Kuwait's budget, stressing the importance of the reform plan that boosts the income and reduces subsidies. The future of oil prices is still not clear which entitles the Ministry of Finance to put the best plans to avoid any negative impacts resulting from another sharp decrease in oil prices. KFH seeks to tap into and avail the best investment opportunities, yet to conduct the most suitable acquisitions that add value to the bank in the MENA region in particular and the world in general.

Moreover, speaking at the second panel session at the Youth Empowerment symposium themed 'Leader Characteristics', Nahedh illustrated that there are qualities to make a good leader and to contribute in developing the institution, most prominently is the clarity, the persuasion skills, and to be a good listener. The leader should benefit from the experience and capabilities of his employees. He should convince his team in the directives and plans of the institution, yet to be fair, ambitious, and armed with clear vision.

CITI FOUNDATION, INJAZ AL-ARAB EXTEND PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

KUWAIT: INJAZ Al-Arab, the regional office of Junior Achievement (JA) Worldwide, and Citi Foundation renew their 11 year partnership in support of a common vision - to instill Arab youth with a spirit of entrepreneurship through the principle of 'learning by doing'. Both parties aim to make a difference in the region by developing, empowering, and fostering students' skills through various internationally acclaimed programs. The partnership with INJAZ Al-Arab is a part of the Citi Foundation's Pathways to Progress approach designed to prepare urban youth with the career readiness tools and opportunities to thrive in today's economy. Specifically the partnership will support two Injaz Al-Arab programs, The Company Program and the Innovation Camps across nine countries in MENA, including Kuwait. Together both initiatives target a total of 9,920 Arab youth and seek to foster their skills in entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

Akef Aqrabawi, Chief Executive Officer,

INJAZ Al-Arab comments: "Thanks to the generous contribution of Citi, Arab students have the opportunity to hone their entrepreneurial skills as they become the leaders of tomorrow. Armed with these quintessential skills, youth can forcefully and confidently start and run their own businesses as well as become more well-rounded and employable developing their ideas into viable business options. The bigger picture is to equip youth to drive the economies of the Arab World forward through training designed to inspire them to develop ambition, entrepreneurship and professional skills."

Competition

One of these programs is the regional annual Company Program competition which was designed to inspire and prepare a generation of Arab youth to use their natural talents, passion and determination to become the business leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow. The initiative is a culmi-

nation of the course of 2016-2017 of experiential learning and application based activities executed by a select group of corporate mentors who work hand-in-hand with students on establishing, marketing and liquidating a real business.

"Unemployment amongst Arab youth currently stands at among the highest in the world. With a gap between the education system and job market in the Arab World, Arab youth need to take on the role of job creators themselves, which is why innovative educational programs based on developing entrepreneurial skills and mind-sets are needed now more than ever. The Citi Foundation-INJAZ partnership enables the next generation of entrepreneurs to develop skills that link to a tangible pathway to overcoming unemployment not only for themselves but creating job opportunities for others through their enterprises," said Carmen Haddad, CEO of Citi Qatar and Regional Board member of Injaz Al-Arab. Other programs include the

Innovation Camp one-day events (I-camps) which are one day action-packed events designed to challenge students to find innovative solutions to real business challenges. I-camps caters to creativity, teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, and presentation skills in order to learn about business start-ups in a fun and interactive way.

"Our work with INJAZ Al-Arab in the Middle East will continue to invigorate a culture of entrepreneurship and improve work-readiness skills among young people across the region through our joint programs," Haddad added.

Named one of the top 100 NGOs in the world by Global Journal, INJAZ Al-Arab has influenced the lives of over two million students since its inception in 2004. INJAZ provides Arab students with entrepreneurship training, opportunities to develop soft and occupational skills, and the financial literacy required to start and run their own businesses as well as become more well-rounded and employable.

ZAIN PARTICIPATES IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

Continued from Page 1

Roudhan added, "In the era of constant technological advancements, organizations need real and practical mechanisms to empower and encourage innovation, and a good leader has to be able to take decisions with confidence and see challenges as a motivation to inspire and achieve." Zain's support of the symposium is in line with its long-term strategy to provide the necessary support to national initiatives aimed at uplifting the capabilities and skills of youth in Kuwait.

The Youth Empowerment Symposium provides local youth with an ideal opportunity to gain valuable insights from several internationally and locally renowned industry pioneers, academics, and experts. This year's speakers included Jeremy Liew, investor of Snapchat and partner at Lightspeed Venture Partners; Jennifer Boulanger, Head of Global Recruitment at booking.com; Corey Owens, Former Head of Global Public Policy at Uber Technologies and Head of Global Public Policy at We Work; and other prominent local speakers.

Zain's presence in this national event also showcases the company's dedication to empowering the entrepreneurial skills of youth in Kuwait. The Symposium delivers outstanding knowledge to talented young people to empower them to progress in their chosen fields of interest as well as to spark the light of enthusiasm within them.

Candidates speak

YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BECOME AWARE OF CHALLENGES: MARAFIE

CANDIDATE FOCUSES ON YOUTH, HEALTHCARE, NATIONAL UNITY

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Dr Kazem Marafie, a practicing surgeon since 1977, is running in the National Assembly elections for the first time with the aim to make the youth aware of future challenges. "Young people asked me to run in the elections to place their issues in the parliament. They encouraged me and are volunteering to work for my campaign. I'm running in these elections to deliver a message, whether I win or not," he told Kuwait Times.

"The youth are the pillars that we depend on. I want to make sure that the next generation has a bright future. They have skills, abilities and ambitions, but they don't have the finances to run in the election, as it is a very expensive affair. This was the reason behind setting up my electoral headquarters in second constituency although I am running from the first, to allow youth from different areas to gather. This will prepare them to be ready to enter the parliament. I will be holding weekly symposiums during my election campaign," Marafie said. He hopes the future will be bright for the youth. "If the youth unite, they will represent a great power and will eliminate corruption and bribery. We want to fight 'wasta' so all people can be equal."

Expats

"We need expats in our society, as they have the experience in various positions and fields. But if we have a Kuwaiti with the same skills, then we should employ him. There are further issues related to expats that I will discuss in the parliament," stressed Marafie.

Healthcare

"As this is my specialization, I understand best how to resolve most problems in this sector. The idea of former health minister Dr Hilal Al-Sayer of bringing in specialist doctors from abroad to Kuwait instead of sending



KUWAIT: First constituency candidate Dr Kazem Marafie speaks to Kuwait Times. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

patients abroad was a great idea. Kuwait has the ability and budget to do so. I intend to propose this idea again," he pointed out. "To decrease the cases of medical tourists traveling abroad as patients and getting medical treatment with public funds, we can send a patient to a

suitable place for the treatment he needs, such as the Czech Republic for physiotherapy instead of Britain. There are many cases of corruption, of doctors writing exaggerated reports about the health condition of the patient to extend his stay abroad for four months, although he only needs to stay for two weeks," said Marafie. According to him, most healthcare offices abroad are suspect. "I have faced many such cases of patients asking me to extend the period of their treatment, but I have never agreed, as it's wrong," Marafie added.

More solutions

"Medical treatment is very expensive. But we can send patients to universities abroad, which is free of charge. They only need donations for some departments in the hospital such as for leukemia, cancer and others. I applied this in the past a few times, but the ministry here does not accept this solution as they need bills for the patient's treatment. My proposal can save thousands of dinars, as we can treat around 400 patients for the cost of just two patients, as the donation amount is only around \$50,000, which equals the cost of two patients," he noted.

Slogan

"My slogan is 1+1=1, which symbolizes unity, that I and the people of Kuwait are united with our rulers - the Al-Sabah family. We love our country and we should all sacrifice for the benefit of our country. There are many fanatics running in these elections financed by other countries to realize their agendas. So we should be careful and mindful of such candidates," Marafie concluded.

News

In brief

Subsidized food

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Ministry of commerce and industry's official spokesperson Khaled Al-Abdul Hadi said that out of the ministry's keenness on public health and consumers' safety, it made sure subsidized food items distributed to citizens have proper health certificates. Speaking in response to social media reports about seizing some chicken sold on markets infected with salmonella, Abdul Hadi said that all proper procedures had been taken by both the ministry and the municipality. Abdul Hadi also noted that the seized specimens were collected in outlets other than those of subsidized food.

Fuel prices

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) strongly denied reports published in one of the local dailies about its intention to raise fuel prices in December and stressed that such stories are groundless rumors.

Case adjourned

The criminal court yesterday adjourned a hearing till the end of December in a case filed against 40 public sector employees over accusations of forging attendance fingerprints and using a plastic mold for employees who do not even show up to work.

E-revenue stamps

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Justice Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah ordered the formation of a special committee to apply the use of e-revenue stamps for all justice ministry transactions.

UNLAWFUL CONSULTATIONS WILL BE STAMPED OUT: INTERIOR MINISTER

36 MORE CANDIDATES JOIN RACE

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior (Mol) will use the full force of law to quell any forms of 'illegal consultations' amongst candidates contesting upcoming parliamentary elections, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled paid a visit to the administration of elections affairs to oversee preparations for the forthcoming elections, a statement issued by the ministry noted. Speaking on these consultations, he said it is incumbent upon the nation's security apparatus to uphold the law, adding that the country's leadership is adamant that this democratic event would go off without a hitch.

Moreover, the Interior Minister said that the Mol will spare no effort to ensure seamless and successful elections, noting that the world will be watching this democratic spectacle unfold. He also urged all hopefuls standing for elections to keep the nation's best interests at heart. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled also encouraged the electorate to cast their votes for the good of the nation, thanking the Ministry of Information and other bodies involved for their commitment to the electoral process.

Electoral race

Candidates contesting upcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26th continued to file their candidacies on Wednesday, as some 36 candidates have registered to join the race. The First Constituency yielded the following four candidates: Ibrahim Al-Kandari, Hussein Al-Bahrani, Issa Al-Ostath and Yousef Al-Baloushi. The second Constituency produced seven candidates, who were: Ahmad Lari, Khaled Al-Dhaferi, Shail Al-Banai, Abdulrahman



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah is pictured during his visit to the administration of elections affairs. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Al-Anjari, Adnan Al-Qabandi, Ali Maqadas and Awda Al-Ruwaii. Meanwhile, Khaled Dehrab and Jassim Shemsa registered in the Third Constituency, while Ahmad Abdullah, Bader Al-Jassar, Hussein Al-Daihani, Hamad Al-Shimmeri, Khalaf Al-Arbiid, Rabee Al-Bughaili and Mutlaq Al-Enezi registered in the Fourth Constituency.

The fifth Constituency churned out the lion's share of candidates of the day in Bader Al-Attiya, Hassan Al-Otaibi, Humoud Al-Kuthair,

Saeed Al-Muri, Talal Al-Mutairi, Ayidh Al-Otaibi, Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Abdulhadi Ahmadi, Fahad Al-Azmi, Mohmmad Al-Doussari, Mohammad Al-Sawagh, Mutlaq Al-Otaibi, Mutlaq Ghazi Al-Otaibi, Nasser Al-Doussari, Nawaf Al-Otaibi and Yousef Al-Mazidi. Moreover, the number of candidates that have hitherto registered has now risen to 358 with the withdrawal of one candidate, as registration closes on Friday October 28. —KUNA

TWO HELD FOR POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED WEAPONS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two citizens were arrested by weapons detectives for possessing unlicensed weapons. Tips were received about a suspect having unlicensed firearms, so a warrant was obtained and his house was raided, where a large amount of ammunition was found. They then went to the second suspect's house, where they found two AK-47s and a pistol. Both were sent to concerned authorities, the Ministry of Interior's relations and security information department said in a statement.

Drills

An evacuation exercise was held at a surgical ward at Sabah Hospital by the medical emergencies department in cooperation with Sabah and Amiri hospitals' administrations. The exercise simulated leaking water, so power

was cut off and patients removed from the ward. Six patients were taken to the emergency surgery department of the same hospital, while four others were taken to Amiri Hospital, according to the plan. Meanwhile, the civil defense department carried out a mock evacuation exercise at Regency Hotel. The department's acting director Col Jamal Al-Foudary held a meeting in the presence of participants to discuss the outcome of the exercise.

Camping

Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said registration for the spring camping season 2016/2017 will open at 2:00 pm on Friday, Oct 28, after the approval of nine sites in Jahra and Ahmadi governorates. Public Relations Director Abdelmohsen Aba Al-Khail said registration can be done through the site www.baladia.gov.kw.

FUEL PRICE HIKE IMPACTS DELIVERY SERVICES IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The fuel price hike had impacted the standards of living in Kuwait with many people paying double or triple to "fill the tank." Owners of delivery businesses said that the decision, approved by the cabinet last August, had led them to increase delivery fees from around 15 to 35 percent. In separate statements, the owners said that their fleet of vehicles travelled all around Kuwait, delivering goods and food which in turn meant that their cars consume more fuel.

Head of a local delivery company, Mohammad Faisal said that his business was wholly dependent on fuel, revealing that the increase in the price had led him to hike delivery fees to around 30 percent. "Most companies increase fees to around 25 to 30 percent," said Faisal, adding that the money was used to refuel delivery cars so that business would continue to flow.

Faisal affirmed that the increase in fees was a necessary measure, otherwise his business would incur losses. He added that delivery services would not be the only ones affected by the hike because most of the small and medium-sized enterprises were depending on delivery businesses to sell their products.

Meanwhile, owner of a local restaurant, Mohammad Abdullah said that the decision to increase the price was a normal outcome due the retreating price of oil. "The

restaurant was forced to increase delivery fees... it is the only way to cover our losses," said Abdullah who added that some other businesses were barely making it due to the price hike.

It would be necessary to establish an authority that would figure out the best way to ensure that business owners and their employees would not be heavily affected by the current status quo, suggested Abdullah, adding that paying more for the fuel and food material would lead to more pressure on delivery services and restaurants.

Al-Harth Al-Hajri, another delivery business owner, affirmed that businesses were not the only one suffering from the fuel price hike, saying that consumers were also to be considered. "Our businesses will have to increase fees to cover the losses, but the consumers will also feel the effect because delivery is more expensive... the service was meant to make things easier to manage; however, it seems that things will change now," said Hajri.

The cabinet issued a decree last August to increase fuel price as of September by 85 fils for the Premium, 105 fils for the Super, and 165 fils for the Ultra. The Ministry of Commerce had issued a decision last April to keep restaurants delivery fees at 250 and 500 fils for local and outside areas deliveries. — KUNA

EXPAT TEACHERS' ALLOWANCE CUT SOVEREIGN DECISION: MINISTER

DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENT 'BELOW EXPECTATION'

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih said Kuwait is ready to discuss decreasing expatriate teachers' rent allowances at the coming Arab labor

ministers' conference. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held to celebrate Armenian National Day, Subaih stressed that contracts signed with expat teachers do not include a specific figure for rent allowance.

Subaih added that the decision was a sov-

ereign one and had to be respected. "We are ready to discuss the topic during the Arab labor ministers' meeting and our doors are open for everyone," she underlined, pointing out that Kuwait respects all communities on its soil and that they come from brotherly and sisterly countries. "We are ready to explain Kuwait's point of view," she added.

Notably, the Central Statistical Commission (CSC) decided to cut expatriate teachers rent allowance from KD 150 to only KD 60 effective from mid-October, justifying it as part of the government's strategy on cutting expenditures in the state budget. The decision had created anger amongst expat teachers and some communities resorted to their embassies demanding intervening on the grounds that the lowest rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Kuwait is KD 250.

Meanwhile, Subaih admitted that what has been achieved of the development plan "is below our expectation." However, she added, the surge in implementing the development plan from 56 percent to 80 percent over the past three years "is a quantum leap," Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. She hoped implementation would reach 95 percent if paper work cycle was shortened. Subaih meanwhile termed as "solid and excellent" the relations with Armenia. She said there was an Armenian school in Kuwait and the Armenian community was estimated at over 5,000 people. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Social Affairs Minister Hind Al-Subaih (right) and Armenian Ambassador Manvel Badeyan cut the cake during a ceremony held to celebrate the Armenian National Day. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

JARALLAH STRESSES GULF SECURITY AGREEMENT

stances have been thrust upon the entire world." —KUNA

Jarallah added that now that the former National Assembly has been resolved due to the hard security developments and circumstances, it is, thence, necessary to adopt and approve this agreement. He noted that the Kuwaiti government would present the draft agreement to the next parliament, hoping that it would be passed.

Meanwhile, Jarallah said that Kuwait is dedicated to its humanitarian and relief efforts, as per orders of His Highness the Amir. Addressing a question over whether Kuwait's contributions to humanitarian efforts has diminished due to plummeting oil prices, he said that "these circum-

Moreover, the Deputy Foreign Minister pinpointed some of Kuwait's most notable contributions to humanitarian needs, including the fourth humanitarian donor's conference for Syria and other similar events. Speaking on Kuwait's unwavering commitment to humanitarian efforts, he said that the country stands ready to work with the UN, adding that the Foreign Ministry is working on a program designed to ramp up humanitarian work, which is

OOREDOO WINS 21 'STEVIES' AWARDS FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

DOHA: Ooredoo was awarded 21 International Business Awards (IBAs), the leading global recognition of company performance and best practices, as well as 'The People's Choice Award' in the telecommunications category, at a high-profile ceremony held in Rome, Italy, this week. The International Business Awards, also known as the 'Stevies', honor the achievements and positive contributions of organizations around the world, receiving entries from more than 60 countries. This is the fourth year in a row that Ooredoo has been recognized by the awards, with judges citing Ooredoo's success in integrating business innovation and the development of market-leading products with its strong community-focused approach. With 2016's impressive results, Ooredoo has now been among the awards' top ten most highly-recognized companies for three years running.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo, said: "Ooredoo's strong performance at this year's International Business Awards demonstrates once again that we are taking the lead in network performance, digital innovation and supporting the needs of our customers. We believe that cutting-edge networks help enrich people's lives and we're proud and pleased that our efforts across our footprint have been recognised by these awards for another year." Ooredoo received awards across its operations in the Middle East, North



Mijbil Alayoub

Africa and Southeast Asia, including two Gold Stevie Awards - the highest honours of the evening. The first Gold was for "Best application - News," won by Ooredoo Myanmar's 'Bindez Tha Din', a news aggregation application that provides access to a wealth of localized and real-time reports in Myanmar's native language, which has received a strong response in the information-hungry country. The company's second Gold Stevie award was for the "Best Investor Relations Site" for the Ooredoo Group IR site. Ooredoo also received "The People's Choice Award" in the Telecommunications category, based on a worldwide public vote conducted over summer.

Ooredoo received an additional five Silver Stevie Awards, including "Company of the Year - Telecoms" for Ooredoo Qatar, "Customer Service Department of the Year" for Ooredoo Myanmar, "Best Interface Design" for Ooredoo's 'Stand for Good' Microsite, "Best New Product of Service of the Year - Financial Services" for Ooredoo Mobile Money, and "Communications or PR Campaign of the Year - Social Media Focused" for Ooredoo Qatar. Ooredoo also won 14 Bronze Stevie Awards across a range of areas, including "Best Website" "Corporate Social Responsibility Program of the Year" and "PR Campaign of the Year".

The Stevie Awards are the world's premier business awards. They were created in 2002 to honour and generate public recognition of the achievements and positive contributions of organizations and working professionals worldwide. Known as "the International Stevies," the IBAs are open to all organizations worldwide: large and small, public and private, for-profit and non-profit. The 2016 competition attracted more than 3,800 nominations from organizations of all types, in more than 60 nations.



THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AWARDSSM

MORE KUWAITIS RECEIVE TREATMENT IN US: ENVOY

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The number of Kuwaitis receiving medical treatment in the United States has increased significantly, newly-designated US Ambassador to Kuwait Laurence Silverman said yesterday during a seminar to promote America. 'Discover America Week' is a week-long event highlighting different aspects of America including food, music, film, sports, automobiles, education and tourism.

Yesterday's program was titled 'Health Connections' and was held at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "While I strongly support Kuwaitis receiving great treatment in America, I also support the development of new hospitals in Kuwait as part of the continued advancement of the healthcare sector," he said.

Silverman said that he met a US healthcare operator that will be running one of the new hospitals from the beginning of next year. "Our embassy brought over a healthcare trade delegation to establish connections with Ministry of Health officials as well as private sector contacts and facilitate the exchange of healthcare technology from the US to Kuwait. Over the coming years, I hope to see even more US healthcare companies become active," he said.

Silverman acknowledged Kuwait faces healthcare challenges. However, he believes that US institutions and companies can help Kuwait address the challenges, which not only affect the health of Kuwaitis, but could incur significant cost for Kuwait.

Yesterday's session saw three speakers from various healthcare institutions, both in the US and Kuwait - Jose Nunez, Chief Advisor, Houston Methodist Global Health Care Services in Houston Texas, Talal Braidy, Global Relations Director of Houston Methodist Global Health Care and Mussad Al-Razouki, Chief Business Development Officer, Kuwait Life Sciences Company.

Razouki spoke about healthcare imbalances in Kuwait and the fact that 65 percent of its local population wants to be treated abroad rather than patronize its own healthcare service system in Kuwait. He also mentioned the aggressive hospital projects being built in Kuwait and even joked that once delivered, hospital beds will be way more than hotel beds available.

The Health Connections seminar is one of many events related to Discover America Week. Other events include promotions of many US-based franchisee restaurants, films, basketball, business expos and the display of many US-made products in the local market.



KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Laurence Silverman, center, poses with the Health Connections speakers yesterday at the KCCI. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

US-KUWAIT WORKING GROUPS TO FURTHER ENHANCE TIES: US ENVOY

WASHINGTON: US Ambassador Designate to Kuwait Laurence Silverman said that the multi-faceted working groups formed at the concluded US-Kuwaiti dialogue will take a "very good relationship and make it even better."

"This is a relationship of mutual benefits to both our peoples," Silverman said in an exclusive interview, "not just to one and not the other - very tangible benefits." Silverman was speaking a few days after a visit by Kuwait's chief representative at the initial talks of their kind, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to Washington.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled had headed a delegation of officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, defence, interior and higher education, and state bodies like the National Security Bureau, Kuwait Investment Authority and Kuwait Direct Promotion Authority. During his brief stay, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and his delegation met US State Secretary John Kerry and other US officials, including Ambassador Silverman.

Silverman said that these different working groups will "work on very, very practical issues" which aim to "bring even more benefits to the two peoples." In spite of both nations being "in contact all the time," he added the work groups are a way of "putting even more of an emphasis" on bilateral cooperation. "We have our experts

and Kuwaiti experts to really go into the details."

The talks covered security, defense, education, trade exchange and consular issues, he said. On education, in particular, Silverman said the US was "facilitating" the travel of even more Kuwaitis to complete their higher education across US universities. "We welcome them. It's good to have them," he said. "We think they can have a good education (in the US) and then come back and contribute even more to Kuwait."

Regarding security-related affairs, he said the US "reiterated our commitment" to Kuwait's security. "Kuwait has been the victim of terrorism, particularly last year, and we have always tried to work together to try to enhance the capabilities of Kuwait to provide security to its own people," he underlined.

On defense, he said that Kuwait plays an "important role" in the international coalition's efforts to combat the so-called Islamic State (IS) group, across Iraq and Syria. The dialogue was the "very first time that we ever had such a comprehensive discussion on all of the issues," he said.

The Kuwaiti people "should see that what we did here is something very practical," he added. It "should not be looked at as just a meeting." However, he mentioned that the talks were "very broad" and were only the "beginning of an effort to enhance our relationship." — KUNA

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Crime

Report

'HOOLIGANS' TO BE DEPORTED

KUWAIT: A security source said the Farwaniya security director has asked for deporting five Somalis because of their hooliganism at a Khaitan public park and terrorizing picnickers. The source said interior ministry operations received calls about some expats harassing picnickers in the park. A police patrol went to the park and arrested the five. Meanwhile, five Indians were arrested while intoxicated, and 29 locally-brewed liquor bottles were found with them. They were sent to concerned authorities.

Domestic violence

A Pakistani man who could not tolerate his American wife's "free" behavior beat her, and was detained at the police station. The man, who lives in Salmiya, attempted many times to impose his conservative customs on her, but her openness to other cultures prevented her from going along with his wishes, so he beat her when he failed. The woman went to Mubarak Hospital and obtained a medical report, then went to the police station and lodged a complaint. The husband was summoned, and begged his wife to forgive him, but she insisted that he be punished. The case was sent to the prosecution.

'Psychiatric' son

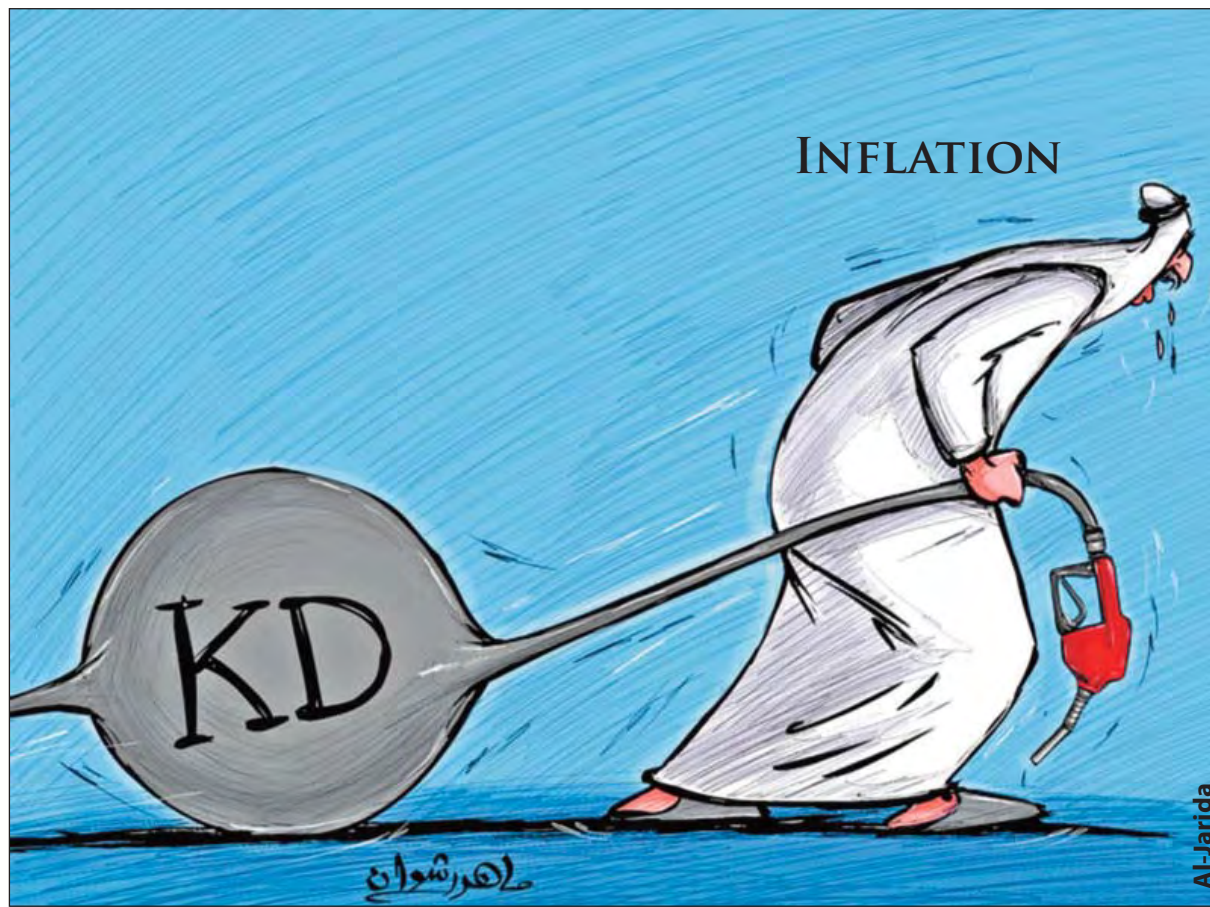
A Jordanian man got fed up with his son's behavior that caused harm to his family and himself, and took him to Hawally police station and asked that he be taken to the psychiatric hospital. The Jordanian said his son beat him and his mother sometimes in a way that made them lose control over him, and they were unable to hand him to the psychiatric hospital. Policemen promised to refer the son to the psychiatric hospital.

Worker injured

An Egyptian man was rushed to Mubarak Hospital ICU after he fell from the roof of an elementary school in Zahra. The man was carrying out construction work when he fell and sustained extensive injuries. Police and paramedics went to the school and took the man to the hospital in critical condition. Police are investigating.

Airport arrests

An expat who arrived at Kuwait airport from a Gulf country was found wanted for a swindling case and was handed to airport security men. Meanwhile, an attempt by an Arab expat to smuggle 247 Tramadol tablets was foiled. And at Nuwaiseb border crossing, a citizen was arrested with hashish and drugs paraphernalia and was sent to concerned authorities. — Al-Rai



News

in brief

16-YEAR-OLDS TRIALED AS ADULTS FROM JAN 1

KUWAIT: Teenagers as young as 16 years of age will be tried as adults in criminal cases starting from January 1, 2017, security sources said, urging legal guardians to take extra caution and make sure that their children stay away from criminal behavior. The National Assembly had last year passed a law to reduce the legal age for criminal accountability for teenagers from 18 to 16. — Al-Rai

DNA law

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's visions to amend the DNA law includes restricting the process of taking samples to public sector employees and workers in 'dangerous and sensitive positions' including jobs in the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Oil, National Guard and Kuwait Fire Service Directorate, as well as to prisoners and suspects, sources said. Samples will not be taken from civil employees, children or used as a requirement for Kuwaitis to obtain electronic passports, the sources added. — Al-Rai

KIPI's board

KUWAIT: Former board member of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation was chosen as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the recently established Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries (KIPI), high ranking oil sources said. The board was recently formed from 'specialized technical experienced personalities in various fields,' including CEO Hashim Hashim, Petrochemical Industries Company's CEO Mohammad Al-Farhoud, and Kuwait National Petroleum Company's CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi, the sources added. — Al-Rai

No violations

KUWAIT: The State Audit Bureau's report for the 2015/2016 fiscal year did not include any violations registered against His Highness the Prime Minister's diwan - a precedence in the bureau's 52-year history. This is the fruits of restless efforts that came following instructions from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah he gave to his teams to avoid committing similar violations to those included in last year's report, sources said. — Al-Qabas

No grilling

KUWAIT: Director of Capital Emergency Team at Kuwait Municipality Tariq Al-Qattan warned candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections from barbecuing at their headquarters, saying that meals prepared previously and delivered to the location are allowed to be distributed. Workers who distribute those meals to voters must obtain medical certificates, Qattan noted. — Al-Rai

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

A MESSAGE TO CANDIDATES

By Saad Al-Motesh

The most important statements nowadays are those made by candidates in quest of a parliamentary seat. One can see them criticizing the executives and accusing them of dereliction. Some of them might make statements playing on people's emotions and many of them will even succeed in doing so.

Some of these statements are only made to address voters' feelings and win a parliamentary seat, which is a very important position, elevating the status of a winner because he will be one of 50 people with special privileges that are inaccessible to other citizens. All doors will be open for them and they will go through considerable social and financial changes. Still, will anyone buy these tricks? I hope candidates will not do these tricks for the sheep they will serve to voters for dinner at their electoral campaign headquarters. What I mean here is filling their statements with talk about reform and fighting corruption, as many of them claim.

Dear candidates, let me remind you of one thing before candidacy registration closes. In fact, it is a very frightening thing for anybody seeking a position to move up the political ladder. Almighty Allah said that paradise is waiting for those who do not seek higher positions in this world. So, if you are among those Almighty Allah mentioned in his holy book, you must know that you will be accountable for your deeds and we have no control over you.

Dear candidates, you can always deceive us by shouting and wailing about keenness on greater good and this nation's and people's interests. We might even help you achieve your goals with our good intentions because we know nothing about what actually goes on in your minds. Nonetheless, will you ever deceive the creator who knows and sees each and everything? I am sure that none of you will and that none of you doubts Allah's ability to know what is on your minds and in your hearts!

All doors will be open for them and they will go through considerable social and financial changes

— Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY VISITS EQUATE'S STAND AT K 2016

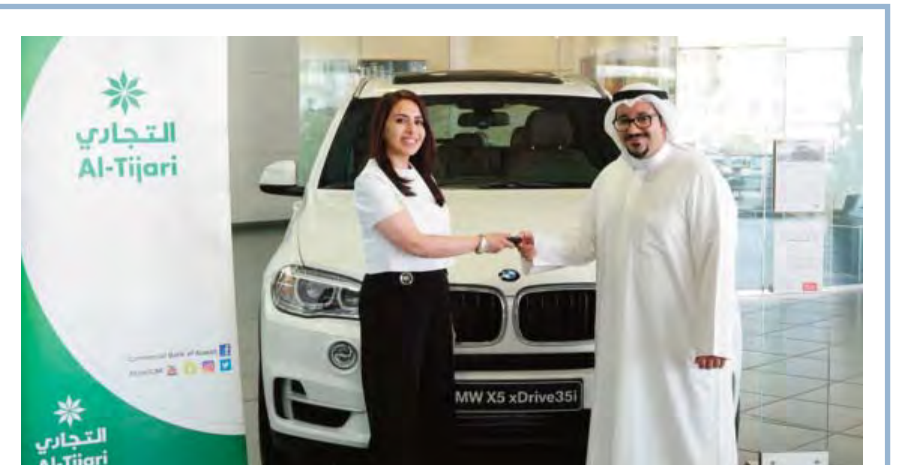
KUWAIT: Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Germany Monther Al-Essa visited the booth of EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, during the International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber (K 2016). Taking place in Dusseldorf, Germany, during October 19-26, K 2016 is considered the world's biggest event of its type.

Ambassador Essa said, "His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed his vision to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub. For this to be achieved, economic diversification through developing the industrial sector is a key factor. Kuwait's industrial presence is prominent throughout different parts of the world as we

export a number of main commodities, such as petrochemicals that are utilized in manufacturing plastics and other products. With petrochemical products currently forming over 60% of the value of Kuwait's non-oil exports, this industry has an evident role in diversifying income sources and the global presence of Kuwaiti industries. We are proud to see Kuwait being represented at K 2016 through EQUATE's participation."

EQUATE Polyethylene Business Director and President of EQUATE Marketing Company (EMC) Ahmad Al-Saleh said, "Throughout the past 20 years, EQUATE has formed solid collaboration locally and worldwide with all stakeholders. Through this collaboration, EQUATE has maintained excellence based on Quality, Reliability, Sustainability, Growth and Successful Partnerships. EQUATE has production facilities and customers in various parts of the world. EQUATE is participating in K 2016 under the theme 'We Care. We Deliver' as we have just completed the debottlenecking project to increase our polyethylene production capacity from 825,000 MTA to almost 1 million MTA. On behalf of EQUATE, I would like to extend appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Essa for this invaluable visit during K 2016."

During the visit, Ambassador Essa was accompanied by Saleh and other members of EQUATE's staff for a tour around K 2016 to view the event's various activities. The tour included visiting the display stands of global machine manufacturers promoting their equipment at K 2016 using EQUATE's polyethylene products.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently handed over a BMW X5 vehicle to Humoud Hussein Ali Al-Haddad, the winner of a draw held as part of the 'Your Gift for First Salary and More from CBK' campaign for Kuwaiti employees in the government, oil and private sectors. Sahar Al-Rumaih, CBK's commercial credit sector director and individual banking services acting director, received the winner, who expressed happiness on winning the vehicle.

KIB HOSTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS TALK FOR ITS STAFF

KUWAIT: As one of its many initiatives to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in line with its efforts to promote the health and well-being of all members of society including its own employees, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently hosted a special educational talk on breast cancer for its staff.

Presented in partnership with Al-Sidra Association for the Psychological Care of Cancer Patients, the talk addressed both the physical and emotional aspects of the disease, and its effects not only on patients but on family members too. The interactive discussion was designed to provide staff with a greater understanding of the disease, especially the role of mental health and the importance of early detection. It also aimed to equip them with tools to enable them to support those in their lives who might be battling the disease.

The event began with a talk presented by Altaf Al-Essa, Psychotherapist at Al-Sidra Association, who spoke about the importance of psychological health and well-being during and after treatment, to ensure a better life for the patient. Following that, Dr Rabee Harb, Family Medicine Specialist

at Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI), gave a brief overview of the key medical aspects of the disease, including risk factors, symptoms, screening, early detection and prevention.

"As part of our ongoing strategy to promote the health and well-being of our employees, we launched a number of initiatives throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which focused on education and awareness. Our goal was to enhance awareness about the difference facets of the disease, equipping our staff with all the necessary information and tools regarding breast cancer. In addition to this lecture, we also distributed a series of informative bulletins to ensure sure our staff had all the information they needed to know in order to combat this disease," said Nigel Holmes, General Manager of the Human Resources Department at KIB.

This latest collaboration came under the umbrella of KIB's ongoing strategic partnership with Al-Sidra Association, a highlight of the Bank's robust social responsibility program. KIB offers strategic support to Al Sidra throughout the year, sponsoring the Association's numerous activities, events and initiatives.



Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary

International

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016



Women lawmakers face sexism, violence on job

JIHADISTS 'SHAVE BEARDS' AS PRESSURE BUILDS ON MOSUL

Page 8

Page 12

9/11 LAW AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PANDORA'S BOX

WASHINGTON: It's a hard scene to imagine, a Saudi Arabian king answering before a New York court for the 9/11 attacks, but a new US law threatens to become a Pandora's Box of diplomatic crises. Congress passed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, overcoming President Barack Obama's veto, to help the relatives of victims of the September 2001 outrage seek compensation. But in doing so they struck a blow against sovereign immunity, a previously sacrosanct principle in international relations, and disturbed diplomatic ties with US allies and foes alike.

If Saudi monarchs can be pursued in US courts for alleged support of bombers, could American officials or soldiers face justice abroad for past or future actions in the field? And if an old ally like Saudi Arabia could find itself in a US judge's crosshairs, what of other friends with even closer diplomatic, military and economic ties in Europe or Asia? The law, however, is now the law even if just last week US Secretary of State John Kerry said it "unintentionally, I think... puts our country at great risk."

Kerry, who was speaking after talks with Saudi Arabian foreign minister Adel Al-Jubeir, said they had discussed ways "to fix this" without going into detail. His spokesman later said the administration would work with Congress to advise how the law could be reformed in letter or application-but it is far from clear how this would work. "Where sovereign immunities are diluted, the international system becomes chaotic, and no country and no government is able to conduct its official business," Jubeir warned.

Meanwhile some British, French and Dutch lawmakers have threatened retaliatory legislation to allow their courts

to pursue US officials, threatening a global legal domino effect. The text of the JASTA law does not mention Saudi Arabia, but the law's champions made it clear that its intent is to allow plaintiffs to seek damages for the September 11 attacks. Official US investigations into the attacks ordered by Saudi-born Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden found no evidence that the kingdom had directly sponsored the onslaught.

But 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudi, some-coincidentally or otherwise met with Saudi officials before taking part, and some Saudi private citizens have donated to Al-Qaeda. Some of the relatives of the dead think they have a case, and some US lawyers and politicians are keen to give them their day in court-whatever the international fall out.

Victim of terrorism

Saudi interests lobbied hard against the JASTA legislation but, even with Obama and Kerry also firmly opposed to its passage, lawmakers sided with public support for the victims. Saudi Arabia, which sees itself as the US partner in a hostile region, was outraged. "Saudi Arabia is a victim of terrorism as much as the United States is, and by the same terrorist groups," said Prince Turki al-Faisal, who was head of Saudi intelligence until 10 days before the attacks. By passing JASTA, Faisal told a Washington conference last week, Congress "has accomplished the terrorist aim of hammering a wedge into the heart of the US-Saudi relationship."

Faisal reassures himself the 70-year-old US-Saudi alliance is "too big to fail," but JASTA is on the books and

some here have begun to imagine extreme but now plausible scenarios. "It means the king of Saudi Arabia can be hauled into court in New York and interrogated by an attorney," said Bernard Haykel, professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton. "So you can imagine the problem. If he does not show up, there would be some judgment against the kingdom," he warned the conference at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.

Icing on the cake

Such a result would be a blow to relations at any time, but US-Saudi ties are at a low, fed by Obama's hands-off approach to Syria and his nuclear accord by Saudi foe Iran.

"And this legislation seems to be the icing on the cake," said Haykel, warning that the kingdom and other US allies would see JASTA as confirming Washington's abandonment of its friends.

And the crisis could spread beyond the already chaotic Middle East should JASTA provoke retaliatory legislation elsewhere. The European Union has already warned that some of its members are thinking this way, and reports suggest the Gulf monarchies, Turkey, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan and Iraq may follow. "It's very, very close long-term allies of the United States who are disturbed," scholar Hussein Ibish told the conference, dubbing the law a "Pandora's Box" of diplomatic disasters. — AFP



NEVADA: President Barack Obama boards Marine One at Santa Monica Municipal Landing Zone in Santa Monica, Calif, as he begins his travel back to Washington. — AP

DENUCLEARIZING N KOREA A 'LOST CAUSE': US INTEL CHIEF

WASHINGTON: Convincing North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons is a "lost cause," America's top intelligence official said Tuesday, causing concern in the State Department and ally South Korea over an issue of long-standing US policy. The United States has always maintained it cannot accept North Korea as a nuclear state and, under President Barack Obama, has made any talks with the North conditional on Pyongyang first making some tangible commitment towards denuclearization.

But in remarks to the Council on Foreign Relations think-tank, US Director of National Intelligence James Clapper suggested such a policy was based on wishful thinking. "The notion of getting the North Koreans to denuclearize is probably a lost cause. They are not going to do that. That is their ticket to survival," Clapper said. "They are under siege, and they are very paranoid. So the notion of giving up their nuclear capability, whatever it is, is a nonstarter with them," he added.

Policy change?

His comments reflected an opinion widely-held among North Korea experts but one only expressed in private by senior US administration officials who feel a policy change on North Korea is overdue. While Clapper may have been seeking to shore up arguments to support the imminent deployment of the US THAAD missile defense system in South Korea, his remarks add a high-profile voice to the growing debate over how the next US president should handle North Korea.

State Department spokesman John Kirby rebuffed Clapper's position, stressing that "nothing has changed" with the Obama administration's policy of pushing the North-through a toughened sanction regime-to give up its nuclear weapons. "We want to continue to see a verifiable denuclearization of the (Korean) peninsula," Kirby said. Critics of the policy say sanctions and non-engagement have done nothing to prevent the North's accelerated drive towards a credible nuclear deterrent that could directly threaten the US mainland.

Steadfast South

South Korea, which has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the US hardline on Pyongyang, also stressed there would be no change of course. "The determination of not only South Korea and the US but of the international community to end North Korea's nuclear program is stronger than ever," a foreign ministry official said. "We will work with the international community to impose stronger sanctions and pressure on the North so it will have no other choice but to denuclearize," the official said. — AFP

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TEHRAN: Photo shows what Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards referred to as 'suicide drone' - capable of delivering explosives to blow up targets at sea and on land. — AFP

IRAN UNVEILS 'SUICIDE DRONE'

US 'TROUBLED' BY SPYING SENTENCE OF IRANIAN AMERICAN

TEHRAN: Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said yesterday they had developed a "suicide drone" capable of delivering explosives to blow up targets at sea and on land. The new drone is primarily for maritime surveillance and "has not been designed to be armed with missiles," the Tasnim news agency, which is close to the Guards, reported. "(But) it can carry heavy payloads of explosives for combat missions to launch suicide attacks. "Flying at a high cruising speed near the surface of the water, the aircraft can collide with the target and destroy it, either a vessel or an onshore command centre." Tasnim said the drone was designed to fly as low as two feet (half a meter) above the water at a speed of around 250 kilometers per hour but could reach an altitude of 900 metres.

As with previous drone announcements by Iran, the news agency released photographs of the aircraft on the ground, but no footage of it flying. "It has an advanced military camera with the capability of being used at night and during the day, as well as the possibility of being used in damp sea conditions," Tasnim said. Earlier this month, the Revolutionary Guards claimed to have produced a new attack drone, the Saegheh (Thunderbolt), by reverse-engineering a US Central

Intelligence Agency RQ-170 Sentinel drone that was captured in December 2011. Iran claimed one of its cyber warfare units took control of the US drone and landed it safely, while the US says a technical problem caused it to crash. The Guards released pictures of the Thunderbolt, but no footage of it in flight.

US 'troubled'

In another development, United States said it was "troubled" by Iran's reported 18-year sentence of an Iranian American accused of spying, a week after two other dual citizens were sentenced amid tense bilateral relations. In an interview from a prison in northeast Iran with the Los Angeles Times, Gholamrez Reza Shahini, 46, said he was being sent to prison for "collaborating with a hostile government," a reference to the United States. The San Diego man, who goes by the nickname Robin, said he was arrested July 11 when he was visiting his mother and other family members in Iran.

"We are troubled by reports that Robin or Raisa Shahini, a person reported to be a US citizen, may have been convicted and sentenced to 18 years in prison," said State Department spokesman John Kirby. "We reaffirm

our calls on Iran to respect and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, cease arbitrary and politically motivated detentions, and ensure fair and transparent judicial proceedings in all criminal prosecutions, consistent with its laws and its international obligations." Last week, an Iranian American businessman and his 80-year-old father were sentenced to 10 years in an Iranian prison for espionage, prompting the US State Department to demand their release.

Siamak Namazi and his father Baquer Namazi were sentenced "for espionage and collaboration with the American government," said Iranian prosecutor-general Abbas Jafari Dolat-Abadi, according to the Fars news agency. In response to the US demand for their release, Iran said it would not accept US "interference" in its internal affairs. The sentencing of Iranian Americans comes in the context of tensions between the US and Iran over the normalization of financial relations between the Islamic republic and the international community following a nuclear agreement. The historic deal between world powers and Iran, which came into force in January, saw a partial lifting of sanctions in exchange for curbs on Tehran's nuclear program. —Agencies

ISRAELI TEEN SHOT DEAD BY AN EGYPTIAN OFFICER

JERUSALEM: An Israeli Bedouin teenager shot dead while working along the Egyptian border appears to have been killed by Egyptian forces in error, an Israeli source said yesterday. Nimr Abu Ammar from the southern town of Laqiya was shot on Tuesday as the 15-year-old took part in maintenance work on the border fence. The Israeli army had initially said that the "shooting does not appear to be connected to terror activities," without providing further details.

An Israeli official speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue said the shooter was a member of the Egyptian security forces, who apparently mistook the youth for a militant. According to the official, initial findings showed that the work was taking place in a "no-man's land" where there are "quiet understandings with the Egyptians regarding the Israeli presence there." The official said the initial findings showed that an Egyptian officer at the site "mistakenly thought the boy was planting a mine" while he in fact was making coffee for the crew of Israeli laborers and his father, who was working there.

An Israeli military spokeswoman would only confirm that the shooting was by Egyptian security forces. Speaking on army radio yesterday, Abu Ammar's father, Bassam, blamed the Israeli security forces for insufficiently protecting his son. "They didn't tell him 'put on a helmet, put on a protective vest,'" he said of the Israeli army. "I blame the defense ministry. They didn't respond on the spot." He said Egyptian officers first told them to move, but before giving them a chance to do so opened fire.

Israeli media reported that soldiers did not return fire because they realized it was a mistake. According to the defense ministry, Nimr Abu Ammar was working for a sub-contractor of the company in charge of border fence maintenance, and had gone to work there along with family members. The Israeli official criticized the contractors for enabling minors to work, as well as those who brought their children to work. The shooting occurred in the Har Harif area midway along the 240-kilometre border between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Israel. Jihadists loyal to the Islamic State group are waging a deadly insurgency in the Sinai.

In the same area in 2012, an Israeli soldier and three militants who infiltrated from Sinai were killed in a clash along the border. Banditry and drug trafficking also occur in the area. In 2014, the 15-year-old son of an Arab Israeli defense ministry contractor was killed on the Golan Heights when a blast hit the car he was travelling in with his father and another contractor, both of whom were wounded. Egypt and Jordan are the only two Arab countries with peace treaties with Israel, which has been keen to improve ties with Cairo. Earlier this year, the Israeli military's deputy chief of staff said his country had seen "unprecedented" intelligence cooperation with the two nations. —AFP

JIHADISTS 'SHAVE BEARDS' AS PRESSURE BUILDS ON MOSUL

KHAZIR: Islamic State group fighters were shaving their beards and changing hideouts in Mosul, residents said, as Iraqi forces moved ever closer to the city yesterday and civilians fled in growing numbers. Reached by AFP inside Mosul, several residents said the jihadists seemed to be preparing for an assault after recent advances on the eastern front brought elite Iraqi forces to within five kilometers of city limits.

"I saw some Daesh (IS) members and they looked completely different from the last time I saw them," said a resident of eastern Mosul who gave his name as Abu Saif. "They had trimmed their beards and changed their clothes," the former businessman said. "They must be scared... they are also probably preparing to escape the city." Residents and military offi-

launched on October 17 to retake the last major Iraqi city under IS control. The assault is being backed with air and ground support from the US-led coalition which launched its campaign against IS two years ago, shortly after the jihadists seized control of large parts of Iraq and Syria.

'Wave of displaced'

Iraqi federal forces, allied with Kurdish peshmerga fighters, have taken a string of towns and villages in a cautious but steady advance over the last week in the face of shelling, sniper fire and suicide car bombings. Some 3,000 to 5,000 IS fighters are believed to be inside Mosul, Iraq's second city, alongside more than a million trapped civilians. Aid workers have warned of a major potential humanitarian crisis once fighting

relatively low 8,940 yesterday, according to a UN tally, because most of the fighting so far has taken place in sparsely populated areas.

Civilians in villages on the eastern outskirts of Mosul were being bused to a camp near Khazir, an AFP correspondent reported. "The army made us get out, they told us to leave and said we would see about the details of our settlement" in a camp, said Umm Ali, a 35-year-old woman. "We used to live in terror night and day, the shelling was coming closer. The Islamic State controlled our lives, so we decided to flee," said Essam Saadou, a 22-year-old student. A wave of displaced residents was also expected from Al-Shura, an IS stronghold between Mosul and Qayyarah, the main staging base on the southern front, federal police said.

Sights set on Raqa

As the noose tightened on Mosul, 13 defense chiefs from the 60-nation coalition meeting in Paris set their sights on Syria's Raqa, which would be the last major city under IS control if it loses Mosul. "We have already begun laying the groundwork for our partners to commence the isolation of Raqa," US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said after the talks. The coalition—which also includes Britain and France—has provided support in the form of thousands of air strikes, training for Iraqi forces and advisers on the ground.

France said yesterday it had extended the mission of its aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, in the eastern Mediterranean until at least mid-December to help the offensive on Mosul. President Francois Hollande decided to extend the mission after France's defense council "reviewed the military, humanitarian, political and security stakes involved in the recapture of Mosul," a statement issued by his office said. Leaders in Paris on Tuesday also discussed the post-IS future of Mosul, which is an ethnically and religiously mixed region and where achieving a political compromise might prove even harder than a military victory. —AFP



IRBIL: A customer gets his beard trimmed at a makeshift barbershop inside the Baharka camp for displaced persons on the outskirts of Irbil. — AP

cials said many IS fighters had relocated from eastern Mosul to their traditional bastions on the western bank of the Tigris river, closer to escape routes to Syria.

The sounds of fighting on the northern and eastern fronts of the Mosul offensive could now be heard inside the city, residents said, and US-led coalition aircraft were flying lower over the city than usual. Tens of thousands of Iraqi fighters have been advancing on Mosul from the south, east and north after an offensive was

begins inside the city itself.

An Iraqi minister said yesterday that more than 3,300 civilians fleeing the fighting had sought help from the government the day before, the most for a single day so far. There was "a big wave of displaced people that is considered the greatest number since the start of the military operation to liberate Nineveh province," Displacement and Migration Minister Jassem Mohammed al-Jaff said in a statement. Numbers of displaced residents were growing but stood at a

News

in brief

US praises Qatar moves to deny jihadists funds

DOHA: The United States yesterday praised Qatar's role in the fight against the Islamic State group and its "positive efforts" to deny the jihadists funds. A senior Treasury Department official, Daniel Glaser, is in Qatar and has held talks with Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani on the issue, the statement released by the US embassy added. Washington's public backing comes just weeks after leaked emails alleged that presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton believed Qatar was "providing clandestine financial and logistic support" to IS. "Glaser discussed the Government of Qatar's recent positive efforts to counter terrorist financing with Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser," the statement from the embassy said. "The United States Government enjoys a close and ongoing relationship with the Government of Qatar in combating terrorist financing and supports Qatar's efforts to deny terrorist financiers access to its financial system. "The United States appreciates Qatar's role as a coalition partner in the fight against IS."

Hospital pays \$450,000 after 'dumping' homeless patient

LOS ANGELES: A Los Angeles hospital will pay \$450,000 to settle a lawsuit alleging that it "dumped" a mentally ill homeless lady in the street, wearing only simple paper pajamas. Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer called the practice of patient dumping "unconscionable" and said on Twitter on Tuesday that the matter "will not be tolerated." The city sued the Gardens Regional Hospital and Medical Center in April 2015, stating that its employees had driven the 38-year-old woman suffering from schizophrenia and other mental disorders to a welcome center for the homeless in the city's Skid Row district, then left her there in her paper hospital pajamas. The woman, who was also diabetic and asthmatic, had no money, medical prescription or identity papers and could not be admitted. She thereafter wandered the streets for hours before someone reported her to the authorities. Feuer announced Monday that the city and hospital had settled the suit, which alleged that the same woman had been abandoned in the same way at least five times before.

German couple accused of torturing women to death

PADERBORN: A couple accused of luring women to their house in western Germany and torturing them so badly that at least two died went on trial yesterday, accused of murder by neglect. Angelika B., 47, who is now estranged from her partner, entered the courtroom first, shielding her face behind a file. Wilfried W, a bearded 46-year-old, stood calmly and looked at photographers as he entered the court in Paderborn, in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Investigators have accused the pair of using online personal advertisements to lure women to their home in the small town of Hoexter. Police were drawn to the house after a woman, aged 41 and identified as Susanne F, died in hospital in April from injuries related to torture. Wilfried W's lawyer said the former couple were at odds over who was the driving force behind the crimes. "The ex-wife is portraying him as the main perpetrator, at least in her latest statements," said Detlev Otto Binder, speaking to reporters outside the courtroom.



Blast at firecracker workshop kills five

NEW DELHI: Five people were killed in an explosion at an illegal firecracker workshop in India, police said yesterday, ahead of the annual Diwali festival when demand hits its peak. The building housing the workshop was completely destroyed when a fire hit gunpowder stocks used to make the fireworks in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state late Tuesday. "There was a blast in the store room which caused the fire and the building collapsed due to the impact. Six more are injured," local police inspector Ramesh Yadav said. Four people were rescued and a case has been filed against the factory owner over illegal manufacture of firecrackers, he said. Such accidents are common ahead of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, which many celebrate by letting off fireworks. Last week eight workers were killed in an explosion in southern Tamil Nadu state, India's firecracker manufacturing hub.

Montenegro's veteran PM Djukanovic stepping down

PODGORICA: Montenegro's veteran leader Milo Djukanovic will not continue as prime minister in the next government according to his party, which topped recent parliamentary polls. The Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) late Tuesday said the party's management had decided to propose Djukanovic's deputy and former national security chief, Dusko Markovic, as candidate for prime minister-designate. A party committee was expected to approve the decision later. Markovic, a close ally of Djukanovic, would then be tasked with forming a new government after the DPS took just 36 of the 81 seats in parliament, meaning it requires coalition partners to rule. Djukanovic, who was set to remain party leader, has long dominated the small Balkan country, serving several times as premier and once as president since 1991. The 54-year-old twice previously stepped down as prime minister but retained party leadership—once in 2006 and again in 2010—both times returning to power after a two-year break.

FLORIDA OASIS FOR RETIREES IS TRUMP STRONGHOLD

THE VILLAGES: Menus have large type, boutiques sell loose-fitting clothing and slippers, and residents roam around on golf carts. This is the central Florida community of The Villages, developed especially for retirees, which has become an important Republican stronghold in White House hopeful Donald Trump's play for this key southeastern US state. In each driveway sits at least one golf cart, often decorated with decals for Trump. "They are people who worked hard, saved their money, feel very strongly about the opportunities they had in this great country," said John Calandro, chairman of the Sumter County Republican Party.

Happy to chat, many receive reporters with open arms. During a drive in Calandro's golf cart, which bears a sticker reading "Veterans for Trump," he points out various churches and golf courses, and notes that no resident of The Villages was born here. Many are so-called snowbirds, retirees who move to Florida to enjoy its warm climate. "It's kind of exciting to talk to people from all over the country and to see the common values they have," said the Vietnam War veteran. "We are strong believers in capitalism."

Marina Woolcock, president of the community's chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women, agreed. "It really is a community of like-

minded people," she said. "We were fortunate enough to have enough money to move out of Buffalo, New York, where there is snow, to a community here with a lot of programs, great golf courses... So we enjoy the lifestyle," she said. Late in the afternoon, a small fair is underway in the center of the community, with couples dancing in the square. Others remained seated, watching the scene with a smile. Many wear hats or clothing with Republican slogans.

Electoral battleground

"It's traditionally a very conservative area," said Ann Boyd, a retired teacher who works on the local Democratic campaign. "If you look at the map of Florida, there's a big red spot where The Villages is." Boyd said her Republican neighbors bother her about her politics, making her feel marginalized. She wouldn't go to the square to dance in a T-shirt that identified her as a Democrat, for instance. "We usually keep a low profile, because they sort of assume everybody thinks the way they do, and that's not so," she said.

According to the Florida Division of Elections, 53 percent of voters in Sumter County, which has 118,000 inhabitants, are affiliated with the Republican Party. That's compared to 26 percent of US adults nationally who identify as Republican, according to a Gallup poll.

For that reason, The Villages and retirement communities like it are important to Trump in his race for the White House. "Trump has little chance of winning the election. His only chance is through Florida. To win Florida, he will need to rely on older voters who are more likely to vote for him than younger voters," said Joseph Uscinski, a political science professor at the University of Miami.

Central Florida stew

Florida is one of the most important battleground states in the November 8 presidential election. With 20.2 million people - 17.3 percent of whom are over 65 - it is the third most populous state in the country. But what makes it key, besides its size, is that it swings between liberal and conservative tendencies, leaving a very small margin between Trump and his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. Its electoral complexity lies in its diversity. Basically, the southern part of the state is Democratic, the north is Republican. The center - a stew of Puerto Rican Democrats and retired Republicans - is the real battleground.

According to RealClearPolitics, a website that tracks polls and politics, Clinton had a 3.8 point lead over Trump in Florida as of October 21. But the results could still change, and a turn in Florida could define the outcome nationally. Everyone here still remembers the con-

tested Florida recount in the 2000 presidential election that ended with the US Supreme Court declaring George W Bush the winner in Florida by 537 votes. That

win gave Bush enough electoral votes to win the election nationally, even though his Democratic rival Al Gore had more popular votes. —AFP



FLORIDA: Supporters cheer Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a rally at the Antique Car Museum property in Tallahassee, Florida. Early voting in Florida began October 24. —AFP

RUSSIA: THE UNINVITED GUEST IN US ELECTION

MOSCOW ACCUSED OF HACKING EMAILS

NEW YORK: Many unorthodox things have taken place in the 2016 race for the White House, but Russia is perhaps the most unlikely guest at the US political dinner table. From US accusations that Moscow hacked emails of Democratic Party leaders to hurt Hillary Clinton, to her charge that opponent Donald Trump is a "puppet" of Russia's Vladimir Putin, one might be forgiven for thinking it's 1960, not 2016.

The outsized spot for Russia in the campaign is unusual and, experts say, shows how difficult ties are between the former Cold War rivals, especially over Syria, Ukraine and cyber threats - and how far apart the contenders are on how to fix them. "In past elections, candidates' positions on Russia were much closer," explains Timothy Frye, chair of the political science department at Columbia University in New York. "In this election, Trump has taken a position directly at odds with that of Clinton and at odds with the foreign policy establishment. Mr Trump's position is extreme even by the standard hawk-dove criterion."

'No respect' for Clinton

Moscow's arrival on the US election scene first drew attention in late 2015, when relations were already fraught following Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and the launch of its bombing campaign in Syria. At that time, Putin described the Republican Trump as a "very bright, talented person." The real estate billionaire returned the compliment, praising the Russian leader as a strong leader, "unlike what we have in this country."

Russia's involvement has grown since then, with what experts believe to be a major hacking campaign that included the leaking of more than 20,000 emails from Democratic Party leaders, as well as alleged Russian links to Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort. In her second debate with Trump earlier this month, Clinton lashed out at Moscow. "We have never in the history of our country been in a situation where an adversary, a foreign power, is working so hard to influence the outcome of

the election," she charged.

Russia has flatly denied the hacking accusations, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov dismissing them as "flattering" but "ridiculous." Moscow "was, is and will be committed to the principle of the need to fight cyberterrorism and hacking," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov added. Then during the final presidential debate last week, Trump boasted that only he could improve relations with Moscow because Putin has "no respect" for Clinton. "That's

in pushing the subject of Russia. "Hillary sees that as a winning issue, especially among voters of Eastern European descent," he said. "Swing states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan all have sizeable Ukrainian, Polish and other Eastern European population for whom Russia is a particularly strong issue."

'Rigging' the election

While Russia has insisted it had no role in Democratic party email hacks, its hostility towards Clinton is

Two days after the elections and before the protests began, Clinton - then at the State Department - called for a full investigation into the accusations, citing "serious concerns about the conduct of the election."

Her criticism deeply riled Putin, who accused her of meddling in Russia's affairs and saying she had given opposition activists some kind of "signal" to act. In that context, Trump's recent warnings about the "rigging" of the US election "are music to the ears of those who have a very



GAITANIA: Yised Pecupaque (left), who heads the San Pedro's Association of Indigenous Coffee Growers, which groups 64 coffee producers of Nasa Wes'x indigenous reserve of Gaitania, walks with his father Humberto near Gaitania, department of Tolima, Colombia. First known as the birthplace of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and more recently by the quality of its coffees, Gaitania is a mountainous land where coffee plantations and stories of more than half a century of armed conflict are heard everywhere. —AFP

FARC AND ELN, KEY PLAYERS IN COLOMBIA'S GUERRILLA FIGHT

BOGOTA: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN) are the main insurgent groups in Colombia's decades-long civil conflict. President Juan Manuel Santos plans to establish negotiations today with the ELN and salvage a separate peace accord with the FARC, which voters have rejected in a referendum. Following is a factfile on key differences between the two groups.

Farmers and students

FARC: Born in May 1964 out of a peasant uprising, the FARC mostly comprises guerrillas from rural areas. The group follows a Marxist-Leninist doctrine and holds land reform as a core issue. ELN: Founded in July 1964 and primarily inspired by the Cuban revolution, the ELN also draws on liberation theology and Catholic power channeled in favor of the poor. The group has a strong urban influence, especially among students and trade unions.

Vertical hierarchy and federalism

FARC: Created in the image of Soviet communism, the group operates with strong leadership and a vertical hierarchy, with a secretariat composed of nine commanders and Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Londoño, better known by his noms de guerre Timoleon Jimenez or "Timochenko." ELN: The group has a federal structure - each front has its own voice. It includes a central committee (COCE) with five members, directed by Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista or "Gabino." Analysts say its leadership has flexibility. Some point to Gustavo Anibal Giraldo, or "Pablito" - leader of the ELN's Eastern Front and the source of 40 percent of the group's armed actions - as reticent toward a political solution to the conflict.

Fighters

FARC: The group has 5,765 fighters according to the FARC's own figures. The government estimates that for each one there are one to three militia members collaborating with the group, which is active in 25 of the country's 32 departments. ELN: Some 1,500 fighters - according to official estimates - are active in 10 departments. The ELN has a wider social base than the FARC, according to experts, even though the number of militia members or supporters is unknown.

Drug trafficking and hostages

The FARC and the ELN have financed their operations through drug trafficking, as well as with ransom kidnappings and extortion. Taking hostages has become the "primary funding source" of the ELN, according to Jorge Restrepo, head of the Conflict Analysis Resource Center in Bogota. In recent years illegal mining has also contributed funding to both groups.

Land and citizen participation

Though the agendas of the two guerrilla groups coincide on many points, their goals are different. According to political scientist Victor de Currea-Lugo, the FARC's central perspective is agrarian, while the ELN has a broader goal of social transformation. There are common themes in the roadmaps of both negotiations - which both include six key points - including agreements on justice for victims, ceasefire and disarmament and ratifying the accord. The ELN's negotiation plan also includes themes of social change, political participation, and "democracy for peace," while the FARC wants agreements on drug trafficking, land reform and a future political role for rebels. —AFP

OKLAHOMA MAN WANTED FOR VIOLENT CRIMES HAD A HIT LIST

OKLAHOMA: Authorities say the Oklahoma man who has been wanted since Sunday in a string of violent crimes, including the killings of two relatives, had a hit list purporting to target several more people. Michael Dale Vance Jr., a 38-year-old man from Chandler, Oklahoma, is wanted on multiple charges, including two counts of first-degree murder. He was last seen early Monday about 30 miles from the Texas border in western Oklahoma - 165 miles from where the manhunt began Sunday night in Wellston. "Obviously, as long as he isn't apprehended, we're extremely concerned about those he may have indicated that he wishes harm to," Oklahoma County Sheriff John Whetsel told The Oklahoman newspaper on Tuesday. "Most of those are outside of Oklahoma County."

A Wellston police officer who was shot in the foot Sunday night during a gunbattle with

Vance said he shot the suspect twice in the encounter. Officer Jim Hampton told Oklahoma City television station KOCO that Vance was struck twice by gunfire. "He fell to the ground again, laid there for a few minutes, got back up. The firefight was on again," Hampton said. "At one time, we were actually standing up facing each other, shooting at each other." The FBI is coordinating the search for Vance among several federal, state and local agencies and is deliberately being tight-lipped so Vance isn't tipped off to their efforts, spokesman Terry Weber said in a statement.

"This investigation is ongoing and any premature release of information regarding the apprehension efforts of Mr Vance can negatively impact these efforts to safely apprehend (him)," Weber said. Law enforcement is providing protection for the people on the alleged hit list, Whetsel said. —AP



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speak during the second presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis. —AP

because he would rather have a puppet as president of the United States," the Democrat shot back during a fiery exchange. "No puppet. You're the puppet," he retorted.

Using Russia to win swing votes?

Such attention to Moscow in an American presidential campaign is "unprecedented," said Frye. "It is a direct reflection on the state of the relationship, which is at its lowest since the Cold War," he said. For Frye, Clinton may have a pointed interest

in no doubt. The Kremlin's massive state media machine has covered every scrap of controversy surrounding the former secretary of state - and highlighted every Trump statement deemed favorable for Russia. Observers trace the Kremlin's animosity for Clinton back to Russia's parliamentary elections in December 2011, when several mass protests presented Putin with his biggest-ever challenge as Russian leader. Tens of thousands took to the streets to denounce vote fraud.

cynical view of the United States - in Russia and elsewhere," Frye said. But as a Clinton victory looks more and more likely, the Kremlin will need to find a way to work with her, according to Stephen Sestanovich of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. "The question is not whether they will be prepared to talk, but what they will talk about," he said. "Unlike the situation in the past 25 years, when there would be one disagreement at a time, now it's a really full plate of disagreements." —AFP

CLINTON WARNS AGAINST COMPLACENCY, AS TRUMP WARNS OF WORLD WAR THREE

COCONUT CREEK: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton warned her supporters on Tuesday against complacency as opinion polls show her holding a clear lead over Republican rival Donald Trump with exactly two weeks left until the Nov 8 election. Clinton told voters in Florida, one of the battleground states where the election is likely to be decided, that Democrats cannot afford to slacken. "I hope you will come out and vote because it's going to be a close election. Pay no attention to the polls. Don't forget, don't get complacent, because we've got to turn people out," she told a rally in Coconut Creek, standing in front of a large sign reading "Vote Early."

Trump also campaigned in Florida on Tuesday. He blasted recent spikes in premiums for health insurance under President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare. Trump promised to repeal and replace the health care law, as soon as he is elected. "This is why we have to drain the swamp and repeal and replace Obamacare immediately, and I'm the only candidate running for president who will do it," Trump said. On Monday, the US government said the average premium for insurance plans sold

on Healthcare.gov for 2017 rose by 25 percent compared with 2016. But with polls showing Trump trailing Clinton, Trump has asked his campaign to cut back on work identifying candidates for jobs in his future administration and to focus instead on bolstering his chances on Nov. 8, according to two people familiar with the campaign's inner workings.

Powell to vote for Clinton

An average of national polls on the RealClearPolitics website since mid-October gives Clinton a lead of more than 5 percentage points, as Trump fights off accusations that he groped women and faces heavy criticism for suggesting he might not accept the result of the election if he loses. Clinton received a further boost when Colin Powell, who served as Republican President George W Bush's secretary of state and was chairman of the US military's joint chiefs of staff under his father, Republican President George Bush, said on Tuesday he would vote for her.

Trump denies the accusations of sexual misconduct and says the election is rigged against him,

although he has not cited widely accepted evidence to back that up. On Tuesday, Trump said that Clinton's plan for fixing the Syrian civil war would "lead to World War Three," because of the potential for conflict with military forces from nuclear-armed Russia. In an interview focused largely on foreign policy, Trump said defeating Islamic State is a higher priority than persuading Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down, playing down a long-held goal of US policy.

Clinton has called for the establishment of a no-fly zone and "safe zones" on the ground in Syria to protect noncombatants. The two candidates have sparred in recent days over the US-backed Iraqi military push to take the northern Iraqi city of Mosul from Islamic State, which Trump described as a "total disaster." "He's declaring defeat before the battle has even started," Clinton, who was secretary of state during President Barack Obama's first term, said on Tuesday. She urged supporters to participate in early voting, which began this week in Florida. "Nobody should want to wake up on Nov 9 and wonder whether there was more you could have done," Clinton said. —Reuters

CLASHES AFTER TURKEY DETAINS DIYARBAKIR MAYORS

DIYARBAKIR: Turkish police clashed with protesters in Diyarbakir yesterday, using tear gas and water cannon to prevent them demonstrating against the detention of the Kurdish-majority city's co-mayors. Gultan Kisanak and Firat Anli were taken into custody on Tuesday night in a surprise move against the leaders of a city hit by renewed fighting between

Turkish forces and members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The two were detained as part of a "terrorism" probe, security officials said. The Diyarbakir prosecutor said in a statement that Kisanak and Anli were accused of having links to the PKK and "inciting violence".

Hundreds of protesters tried to march to

the town hall in Diyarbakir, the largest city in Kurdish-majority southeastern Turkey, some throwing rocks at police, an AFP correspondent said. At least 25 protesters were now in custody, security sources said. According to the correspondent, there was no access to the internet in Diyarbakir since morning. Dogan news agency reported that from 10:30am

(0730 GMT) other southeastern and eastern cities like Batman, Van, Elazig, Gaziantep and Kilis also could not access the internet.

'No to intimidation'

Officers responded using batons, tear gas and water cannon to repel the protesters, the correspondent said. "The pressure will not intimidate us," demonstrators chanted. The Diyarbakir governor's office warned that any demonstrations yesterday were "unlawful" and would not be allowed, saying that since August 15, public gatherings and meetings were banned in the city.

Other rallies were planned elsewhere in Turkey including Istanbul in the city's popular Istiklal Avenue. A group of around 50 people tried to hold a sit-in on the avenue as they carried a large banner saying: "Municipalities belong to the people-people cannot be taken over", an AFP photographer said. But the police prohibited it and threatened to intervene, the photographer said, adding the group chanted: "We are shoulder to shoulder against fascism" and "If you are quiet, you will be next".

The prosecutor said Kisanak was accused of being a member of the PKK, while both individuals had made speeches in support of the rebel group. They are also alleged to have allowed the use of municipal vehicles for the "funerals of terrorist members", the prosecutor added, referring to the PKK. The pro-Kurdish leftist People's Democratic Party (HDP) described the move against the mayors as

"extremely unlawful and arbitrary". In a statement, the party said the authorities' actions showed a hostile attitude toward the political will of the Kurdish electorate. The HDP called on the international community not to remain silent to the "groundless and fabricated accusations" against the co-mayors.

'Arms must be laid down'

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn described their detention as "worrying" in a statement yesterday. Although the EU proscribes the PKK as a terrorist organization, Mogherini and Hahn urged both sides to find a political solution. "Arms must be laid down and a process of internal political dialogue should start as a matter of priority, involving the elected representatives of the affected population," they said.

More than 40,000 people have been killed since the PKK first launched an insurgency in the southeast in 1984. A two-and-a-half-year ceasefire collapsed last July which led to almost daily attacks by the PKK against security forces while Ankara launched military operations in the southeast to rid urban areas of fighters. Last month, 24 mayors suspected of links to the PKK were suspended and replaced with officials close to the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) co-founded by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In the same month, the government suspended 11,500 teachers suspected of links to the PKK. —AFP



DIYARBAKIR: Turkish plain-clothes police officers detain a protester yesterday during a demonstration against the detention of the Kurdish-majority city's co-mayors in Diyarbakir. —AFP

LIBERIAN WARLORD 'REBIRTH' TESTS LIBERIA'S FORGIVENESS

KILLER TURNED PREACHER SEEKS FUND FOR CHARITY

MONROVIA: Everyone likes a good redemption story, and there are few more remarkable than that of notorious Liberian warlord "General Butt Naked", who repented of his atrocities and became a preacher. The "general", who earned his nom de guerre from fighting street battles naked during Liberia's 14-year civil war, killed or mutilated thousands of people - sometimes by his own hand, other times using his army of mostly child soldiers.

After rebels ousted his foe, ex-president Charles Taylor, in 2003 and peace returned to Liberia, the general begged for forgiveness and quickly found that the charismatic personality that made him a natural rebel commander was well suited to preaching. So while Taylor does time for war crimes, Joshua Milton Blahyi, 45, has remodeled himself as a popular street pastor - a quick, and often financially lucrative, way to gain respect in West Africa.

Now Blahyi wants funding for a charity that he says is training former child soldiers and drug addicts in farming and construction-spurring mixed feelings among Liberians, some of whom question whether he isn't doing it all for the notoriety. "When I got converted, I tried to show how sorry I was and how I can give back to the society.

I tried to go after my kind, the most dangerous guys," said the burly and deep-voiced Blahyi, who bristles at suggestions his motives may not be sincere.

"The country we destroyed is the country we want to rebuild." His Journeys Against Violence NGO has, he says, trained about 1,000 former combatants and street kids in activities such as farming and bricklaying since 2007, but has been hampered by a lack of funds. At his training camp in a suburb of the capital Monrovia, lush vegetation threatens to overrun half-built houses abandoned for want of funds. Blahyi says he is appealing to donors to support him and is asking for half a million dollars to complete the units and carry out farming programs.

Liberians were remarkably forgiving of the war's atrocities. Blahyi got hugs on the streets of Monrovia after being the first warlord to approach the post-war Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2008, where he admitted to killing 20,000 people. He was then recommended for amnesty. His public apology also shot him to fame. Newspapers ran stories on him, one documentary got 10 million views, and a parody villain was named after him in the hit Broadway musical

comedy The Book of Mormon.

"I do want it to be written down in history that I ... went to the TRC and also faced the court," he said. Luke Barren, an ex-combatant, says he has found work as a mason thanks to Blahyi's NGO. "We have come here to do something good for ourselves. Sleeping on the streets and doing bad things to other people is not necessary," said Barren. But some in Monrovia, a city that was repeatedly attacked during Liberia's civil war years, are not convinced. "This is aimed at getting attention for people to have sympathy for him," said university student William Dickerson. "His statements are not serious."

James Rennie, a 28-year-old taxi driver whose grandfather was shot dead by Blahyi at a roadside checkpoint, expressed doubts about his redemption. "I've been hearing that Butt Naked is a pastor, but for me he is not a real pastor," said Rennie. "Unless I see my grandfather, I will never forgive Butt Naked." However the authorities, at least, seem willing to give him a chance. "If it's intended to help young people, I think it is commendable," national human rights commission head James Torh told Reuters. "We should encourage him to continue." —Reuters



Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh

WHY AFRICAN STATES ARE LEAVING THE ICC

JOHANNESBURG: Until last week, no country had withdrawn from the International Criminal Court. Now, three African states - South Africa, Burundi and Gambia - have made official decisions to leave. Gambia announced its decision late Tuesday. Concerns are high that more African countries now will act on years of threats to pull out amid accusations that the court unfairly focuses on the continent. Here's a look at what it all means.

Someone to take on genocide

Many in the international community cheered when the treaty to create the ICC, the Rome Statute, was adopted in 1998 as a way to pursue some of the world's worst atrocities: genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Not all countries signed on, and as of last week, the treaty had 124 member states. Notable countries that have not joined include the United States, China, Russia and India. Some countries are wary of The Hague, Netherlands-based court's powers, seeing it as potential interference.

Frustrations and threats

Only Africans have been charged in the six ICC cases that are ongoing or about to begin, though preliminary ICC investigations have been opened elsewhere in the world, in places like Colombia and Afghanistan. Experts point out that all but one of the ICC cases in Africa were referred

to the court by African countries themselves or the UN Security Council. One case that caused considerable anger among African leaders was the ICC's pursuit of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta for his alleged role in the deadly violence that erupted after his country's 2007 presidential election. The case later collapsed amid prosecution claims of interference with witnesses and non-cooperation by Kenyan authorities. The African Union has called for immunity from prosecution for heads of state, and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni at his inauguration in May - with Al-Bashir in attendance - declared the ICC to be "useless."

The travels of Al-Bashir

Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir has become a symbol of the limitations facing the ICC, which does not have a police force and relies on the cooperation of member states. Al-Bashir has been wanted by the tribunal for alleged genocide and other crimes in Sudan's Darfur region after the UN Security Council first referred the case to the ICC in 2005. Since then, however, Al-Bashir has visited a number of ICC member states, including Malawi, Kenya, Chad and Congo. His visit to South Africa in June 2015 caused uproar, and he quickly left as a court there ordered his arrest. The ICC has no power to compel countries to arrest people and can only tell them they have a legal obligation to do it. —AP

FIVE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE ICC

THE HAGUE: The Gambia has become the third country in just a matter of weeks to announce it plans to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC). The shock announcement will be a personal blow to the tribunal's chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, a Gambian lawyer and former justice minister. The Gambia's move comes after South Africa dealt the world tribunal a huge setback on Friday by announcing its intention to leave, in the wake of a similar

setback, but the court is not going to disappear," he said after Pretoria's announcement. The ICC's founding Rome Statute "is a treaty and parties are free to leave it as they want," said Aaron Matta, senior researcher at The Hague Institute for Global Justice think-tank. Announcements to leave send the "wrong message," Matta agreed. "But in the end, the ICC is there for the victims, not the ones in power who decide to enter or leave a treaty."

central African nation over disputed elections, analysts pointed out. Of the 124 countries to have ratified the Rome Statute since 1999, 34 are African.

Will current probes continue?

Yes. It takes a year from a notice of withdrawal is formally submitted to the UN secretary general for the move to be completed. But any country is still beholden by its previous engagements to the court and

Is Africa unfairly singled out?

Of the current 10 full investigations, nine are underway in eight African countries. But "the prosecution has to follow evidence, and they go where the evidence leads them," said Matta. "They are in Africa because the victims are there. They are in Africa because that's where serious crimes have occurred and most of these situations in Africa have been referred to the ICC by the countries themselves," Matta said. Cases involving a full investigation of alleged crimes in the Central African Republic, Uganda, Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo were all referred to the ICC by the governments of those states. Cases in Libya and the Sudanese region of Darfur were referred by the UN Security Council. Only in Kenya and Ivory Coast did the prosecutor initiate such investigations, and even in these countries, the governments cooperated to some extent with the court.

Cases outside of Africa

The court has not focused exclusively on Africa. ICC judges in January gave the prosecutor permission to launch a full-blown probe into alleged war crimes in Georgia during its 2008 war with Russia over the breakaway South Ossetia region. And other full investigations will follow. The prosecutor is already conducting 10 other preliminary examinations - where issues of jurisdiction and admissibility are evaluated - in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Ukraine and in the Palestinian territories. The ICC only acts as a court of last resort when states are unable or unwilling to do so. It can only operate where it has jurisdiction, either because the country is an ICC member state, or through a referral by the UN Security Council. That means referring crimes in Syria, which does not recognize the court, has become highly political, and has been blocked at the UN Security Council by Russia and China's vetoes. —AFP



Members of Burundi's Parliament prepare for the swearing-in ceremony of President Pierre Nkurunziza, in the parliament building in Bujumbura, Burundi. Lawmakers in Burundi overwhelmingly voted in support of a plan to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), escalating a bitter dispute with the international community over the human rights situation in the East African country. —AP

move by Burundi earlier in October. Here are five key questions about the future of the tribunal set up in The Hague in 2002 to prosecute the world's worst atrocities:

Beginning of the end?

It is not, according to Harvard law professor Alex Whiting "International criminal justice has always had its ups and downs and setbacks in the past. This is another

Will there be mass withdrawal?

Probably not. These moves "may have opened a gate or a doorway for other countries... and it may be possible for other countries like Kenya and Uganda to follow as well," said Whiting, but it does not mean many other African countries will choose to leave. For instance, Gabon last month referred a case to the ICC after deadly unrest was triggered in the

the Rome Statute which underpins it. Even if countries subject to preliminary assessments such as Burundi pull out, the statute specifically states that a withdrawal "shall not affect any cooperation with the court in connection with criminal investigations and proceedings... which commenced prior to the date on which the withdrawal became effective."

they were seen on the road, some carrying backpacks and suitcases.

CALAIS: Fresh fires broke out yesterday in the "Jungle" on the second day of operations to dismantle the squalid migrant camp in northern France, sending people fleeing with their meagre belongings. Huge clouds of black smoke billowed over the sprawling settlement near the port city of Calais, which the French authorities said they expect to finish clearing by the evening.

Scores of riot police were massed on the outskirts of the Jungle, where the flames destroyed many of the tents and makeshift shelters that had housed the thousands of migrants and refugees including children. "We have it within our means to close the waiting lines by this evening. After the last migrants are taken in hand, the lines will close," senior local official Fabienne Bucco said. Migrants and officials alike said the fires that blazed through the camp overnight and early Wednesday were set deliberately, while exploding gas cylinders caused them to spread.

Police said four migrants had been arrested on suspicion of arson. An Eritrean teenager named Yones said Afghans had started the fires. "They are angry because the Jungle is finished and they cannot go to England," Yones said. Many migrants could be seen taking selfies with the flames in the background. "You have to leave," an aid worker shouted at some migrants. "You have these gas cylinders in your caravan, get them out!" Scores of people escaped to an area just outside the camp. Police barred them from going back in and

Around half of the camp's estimated population of 6,000 to 8,000 migrants have been transferred out since Monday, boarding buses to centers around France. Nearly 800 unaccompanied minors whose fate has been a key cause of concern on both sides of the Channel have been moved to shipping containers converted into temporary shelters in the Jungle, according to the interior ministry.

Meanwhile, workers in orange overalls ramped up demolition operations, tearing down tents and makeshift shelters at the lawless camp that has become a symbol of Europe's migrant crisis. Fires broke out Tuesday within hours of the start of the demolition. A Syrian man was taken to hospital with injured eardrums after a gas canister exploded in the flames.

'It's very scary'

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Tuesday that all minors "with proven family links in Britain" would eventually be transferred there. He said London had committed to reviewing all other cases where it was "in the child's interest" to settle across the Channel. British interior minister Amber Rudd on Monday pledged to bring eligible children from France to Britain "as quickly and as safely as possible", without specifying numbers. The head of Save the Children on Tuesday called for a smooth process to ensure their safety. —AFP

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 'AFGHAN GIRL' ARRESTED IN PAKISTAN



PESHAWAR: Afghan Sharbat Gula, the 'Afghan Girl' who appeared on the cover of a 1985 edition of National Geographic magazine, waits ahead of a court hearing in Peshawar. — AFP

PESHAWAR: An Afghan woman immortalized on a celebrated National Geographic magazine cover as a green-eyed 12-year-old girl was arrested yesterday for living in Pakistan on fraudulent identity papers. The haunting image of Sharbat Gula, taken in a Pakistan refugee camp by photographer Steve McCurry, became the most famous cover image in the magazine's history. She now faces up to 14 years in jail, a Pakistani official warned. Gula was arrested by Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for fraud following a two-year-long investigation in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, the capital of restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

"FIA arrested Sharbat Gula, an Afghan woman, today for obtaining a fake ID card," Shahid Ilyas, an official of the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) said. Ilyas said that FIA is also seeking three NADRA officials who were found responsible for issuing Pakistan's national identity card to Gula, who have been at large since the

fraud was detected. He said that Gula faces seven to 14 years prison time and fine between \$3,000 to \$5,000 if convicted by court over fraud. Pakistani officials say that Gula applied for a Pakistani identity card in Peshawar in April 2014, using the name Sharbat Bibi.

She was one of thousands of Afghan refugees who managed to dodge Pakistan's computerized system and to get an identity card. The original image of Gula was taken in 1984 in a refugee camp in northwest Pakistan at the time of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. McCurry later tracked her down, after a 17-year search, to a remote Afghan village in 2002 where she was married to a baker and the mother of three daughters. Pakistan has launched a crackdown against those who have obtained fake ID cards fraudulently and launched a reverification campaign across the country.

Officials say NADRA has so far reverified 91 million ID cards and detected 60,675 cards by non nationals fraudulently. A NADRA official said

that 2,473 foreigners, mostly Afghans, had voluntarily surrendered their ID cards which they obtained fraudulently. Some 18 officials of the authority were under investigation for issuing ID cards to foreigners and eight were arrested, the official said. More than 350,000 Afghan refugees have returned to their war-torn homeland from Pakistan this year, UN data shows, with the torrent of people crossing the border expected to continue.

Pakistan has for decades provided safe haven for millions of Afghans who fled their country after the Soviet invasion of 1979. Pakistan hosts 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees, according to UNHCR figures from earlier this year, making it the third-largest refugee hosting nation in the world. A further one million unregistered refugees are estimated to be in the country. Since 2009, Islamabad has repeatedly pushed back a deadline for them to return, but fears are growing that the latest cutoff date in March 2017 will be final. — AFP

VENEZUELA RIVALS FACE A TEST OF STRENGTH, HIT THE STREETS

CARACAS: Venezuela's political rivals faced a test of strength yesterday, with the opposition vowing mass street protests as President Nicolas Maduro resists efforts to drive him from power. The socialist president and center-right-dominated opposition accuse each other of mounting a "coup" in a volatile country rich in oil but short of food. The crisis prompted Pope Francis to intervene on Monday, granting a private audience to Maduro, who said the sides had agreed to launch a "national dialogue" to settle the crisis. Leaders in the broad opposition coalition, the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), denied they had reached any agreement with the government on the terms of any talks.

They are furious at the authorities' decision last week to halt their bid for a referendum on removing Maduro from power. They have called for massive nationwide protests—the first such rallies since hundreds of thousands of MUD supporters filled the streets of Caracas on September 1. Maduro for his part called a meeting of his so-called National Defense Council, which includes the heads of the various branches of government. He flexed his muscle on Tuesday with a rally of thousands of supporters.

Risk of unrest

Analysts have warned of a risk of violent unrest in Venezuela. Clashes at anti-government protests in 2014 left 43 people dead.

On Monday a students' group said 27 people were injured in clashes with police

at a protest in the western city of San Cristobal. Venezuelan authorities on Tuesday detained at the airport three Peruvian journalists working for the Mexican network Televisa and an Argentine photographer for the Associated Press. One of the detained journalists wrote on Facebook that they would be sent home.

"Incredible, declared inadmissible by Venezuela, we have been expelled from our neighboring country," wrote Leonidas Chavez. "(...) Today I felt like a guillotine dropped on my neck." Slammed by a fall in global oil prices, Venezuela's economy has crashed, sparking protests and looting driven by shortages of food, medicine and basic goods. Maduro calls the economic crisis a capitalist conspiracy. The opposition blames his economic management. A recent poll found that more than 75 percent of Venezuelans disapprove of Maduro. But he has vowed to resist efforts to sack him before his term ends in 2019.

Maduro blasted the opposition-majority legislature on Tuesday after lawmakers voted to stage a "political and criminal trial" against him. Maduro fired back by summoning the defense council. "We will not permit a parliamentary coup of any kind," he told cheering supporters. It was unclear what impact Tuesday's legislative vote will have. The Supreme Court has overruled the National Assembly's decisions since the opposition majority took over in January. The opposition claims Maduro controls the court and the electoral authorities and has used them to block the referendum. — AFP



GHOR: Afghan men gather around the bodies of civilians, including children who were killed by Islamic State militants in Ghor province yesterday. — AFP

ISLAMIC STATE ABDUCTS, KILL 30 IN AFGHANISTAN
IS EXPANDING PRESENCE BEYOND ITS EASTERN STRONGHOLD

KABUL: Militants linked to Islamic State jihadists abducted and killed around 30 civilians, including children, in central Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, raising concerns about the group's expanding presence beyond its eastern stronghold. The killings occurred late Tuesday north of Firoz Koh, the capital of Ghor province, with the local government calling it a revenge attack after a local IS commander was gunned down.

IS, which controls territory across Syria and Iraq and is making steady inroads in Afghanistan, has so far not officially claimed responsibility for the attack. "Our security forces with the help of locals conducted an operation and killed a Daesh (IS) commander yesterday. Daesh fighters in return abducted around 30 villagers, mostly shepherds," Ghor Governor Nasir Khazeh said. "Their dead bodies were found by local people this morning." Abdul Hameed Nateqi, a Ghor provincial council member, gave a similar account to AFP, adding that the assailants were Taliban renegades who had sworn allegiance to IS.

The killings underscore Afghanistan's unraveling security situation as the resurgent Taliban continue a push into urban centers 15 years

after they were toppled from power. IS fighters have been trying to expand their presence in Afghanistan, winning over sympathizers, recruiting followers and challenging the Taliban on their own turf, primarily in the country's east. In March Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced that the Islamists had been defeated after local security forces claimed victory in a months-long operation against the group. But IS militants have continued to launch deadly strikes in the country.

'Caliphate'

The latest devastating attack in Ghor represents a major escalation for IS, which has so far largely been confined to the eastern province of Nangarhar where it is notorious for brutality including beheadings. "(IS) announces its emergence in Ghor by murdering dozens of civilians," said Borhan Osman, a researcher with the Afghanistan Analysts Network in Kabul. Osman added that the IS group in Ghor comprised mainly of former Taliban fighters. The Afghan government is currently in the middle of an operation, backed by NATO airstrikes, against IS in the province.

NATO recently said the group's influence was

waning as it steadily lost territory, with fighters largely confined to two or three districts in Nangarhar from around nine in January. "Right now we see them (IS) very focused on trying to establish their caliphate... inside Afghanistan," John Nicholson, the top US and NATO commander in the country, told reporters on Sunday. "Of course with our Afghan partners we have been able to reduce that territory significantly and inflict heavy casualties on them." In July, IS jihadists claimed responsibility for twin explosions that ripped through crowds of Shiite Hazaras in Kabul, killing at least 85 people and wounding more than 400 others.

The bombings marked the deadliest single attack in Kabul since the Taliban were ousted from power in a 2001 US-led invasion. The killings sparked an avalanche of global condemnation, with the United Nations labeling the direct assault on civilians a "war crime". The Taliban, who are in the middle of their annual summer offensive and are more powerful than IS, denied any involvement in the Ghor killings. The militant group, which has stepped up nationwide assaults on the Western-backed government, is known to distance itself from attacks that result in large civilian casualties. — AFP



CARACAS: University students march against the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in the streets of Caracas yesterday. — AFP

TAWDRY US CAMPAIGN A GIFT FOR IRAN HARDLINERS

TEHRAN: For hardliners in Iran, running down the United States has become a lot easier during the US election campaign—it's just a matter of turning on the television. From the flurry of sexual assault allegations against Donald Trump to Hillary Clinton's leaked emails, the unsavoury campaign has been lapped up in Iran, particularly by those who remain staunchly opposed to closer ties with the West. For the first time, Iranian authorities allowed the last head-to-head debate between the two candidates to be aired live on television.

Perhaps not without coincidence, state TV has also been playing a dubbed version of hit US show "House of Cards" (renamed "Khaneh Poushaly" or "House of Straw"), which depicts the Washington beltway as a den of greed, scheming and murder. The supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, even joined the Twitter conversation during the third debate, writing: "US presidential race and issues two candidates raised is a typical result of lack of spirituality and faith among those in power." It is all music to the ears of conserva-

tives in Iran, who fear last year's nuclear accord with world powers may open the door to Western influences and undermine the 1979 Islamic revolution. Relations between Iran and the United States have been deeply troubled since diplomatic ties were broken after the revolution, and Iranian conservatives have defined the country primarily in opposition to Washington, which they call "The Great Satan".

'Weakness of US democracy'

Hamidreza Taraghi, a leading member of the conservative Islamic Coalition Party, said this year's election campaign has "ridiculed" US politics. "That this process can produce candidates who are so corrupt and unbalanced, mentally and intellectually, shows the weakness of American democracy," he said. Taraghi said it proved the value of Iran's Guardian Council which disqualifies thousands of candidates before elections, although Iranian reformists complain the Council's decisions are skewed against them. — AFP

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SOUTH KOREAN SCANDAL

SEOUL: To outsiders, the frenzy that has erupted here may not seem to match this week's acknowledgment by South Korean President Park Geun-hye that she got help, including the editing of some of her speeches, from a mysterious woman outside of the government. But Park's surprise televised address has created one of the biggest challenges of her four years in power - and touched a deep chord in this divided nation.

Media and online commentators speculate that the woman, Choi Soon-sil, might have meddled in other state affairs, even as she used her connections to Park to push companies to make tens of millions of dollars in contributions to establish two nonprofit foundations. How bad is it for Park? At one point recently, the 10 most popular search words on a major internet portal site were all associated with the scandal, including the word "impeachment." What we know about a growing political scandal:

What Park has said

Park acknowledged having close ties to the woman, saying in her address Tuesday that Choi helped her "when I had difficulties" in the past. Park said Choi gave her personal advice on speeches and public relations issues during the 2012 presidential election campaign and for an unspecified time after Park's 2013 inauguration. Park said she eventually stopped getting such help from Choi, but didn't say when that help stopped. Park also did not mention the reports about Choi's corruption scandal. But the president's acknowledgment that she got some help from Choi appeared to give credence to widespread media speculation that

Choi, who doesn't have any official government post, might have pulled strings behind the scenes and interfered in key state affairs.

Why the frenzy has been so big

Park's statement caused an instant uproar in South Korea. Stories about it were on every major newspaper front page and led TV newscasts. Liberal opposition lawmakers demanded resignations from all of Park's presidential advisers and Cabinet members. Many South Koreans believe that Park's acknowledgment is simply the tip of a much bigger iceberg, and that Choi was deeply involved in state affairs

behind the scenes.

Park's statement failed to soothe public anger. In fact, it triggered more questions about Choi's role in her government. The acknowledgment also seems to feed into long-running criticism that Park doesn't manage things transparently and has poor communication skills. Park's perceived faults are often seen by opponents as similar to the heavy-handed style of her late dictator father, former President Park Chung-hee. Deep political divisions still linger in South Korea from the country's decades of rule by military dictators, which ended only in the late 1980s. — AP



SEOUL: South Korean President Park Geun-hye bows after a public apology in Seoul, South Korea on Tuesday, Oct 25, 2016. Park offered a surprise public apology after acknowledging her close ties to a mysterious woman at the center of a corruption scandal. — AP

DUTERTE THREATENS TO END US DEFENSE TREATIES

PHILIPPINE LEADER CALLS JAPAN 'LONG-STANDING FRIEND AND ALLY'

TOKYO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte sought to assure Japan yesterday that his high-profile visit to China last week was about economics, not security, and vowed to stand on Tokyo's side over the dis-

puted South China Sea when the time comes. Earlier in the day, Duterte reiterated his harsh words for long-time ally Washington, saying he might end defense treaties. The volatile Philippine leader's visit

to Japan comes amid jitters about his foreign policy goals after weeks of verbal attacks on ally the United States and overtures towards China.

Duterte last week announced in China his "separation" from the United States, but then insisted ties were not being severed and that he was merely pursuing an independent foreign policy. His perplexing comments pose a headache for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has tightened ties with Washington while building closer security relations with Manila and other Southeast Asian countries as a counterweight to a rising China. "You know I went to China for a visit. And I would like to assure you that all there was, was economics. We did not talk about arms. We avoided talking about alliances," he told an audience of Japanese businessmen.

Duterte, speaking through a Japanese interpreter at the start of his talks with Abe, later said he would stand on Japan's side in the contentious matter of the South China Sea. Describing Japan as a "special friend who is closer than a brother", Duterte said after the meeting that Manila would work closely with Japan on regional issues of common concern and uphold the values of democracy, the rule of law and peaceful settlement of disputes including the South China Sea. Reading from a statement, he

added: "Today we have taken steps to ensure that our ties remain vibrant and will gain greater strength in the years to come."

Independent foreign policy

Both Tokyo and Washington have grown worried that the commitment under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino, to stand up to China in the South China Sea is under threat, although Japan has no direct territorial row with Beijing there. Japan has a separate dispute with China over tiny, uninhabited isles in the East China Sea, and has been keen to stress the importance of the rule of law.

Abe, for his part, said he welcomed Duterte's efforts to improve Manila's ties with Beijing and - noting the South China Sea issue was one of international interest - said the two leaders had agreed on the importance of settling maritime disputes peacefully. Aquino angered China by lodging a case with an arbitration court in the Hague challenging the legitimacy of Beijing's maritime claims in the resource-rich sea. The court's ruling in July emphatically favored Manila but was rejected by China, which has warned Washington and Tokyo to stay out of the feud. Duterte earlier told an audience of Japanese business executives he did not pick quarrels with his neighbors, but had tough words for Washington.

"I have declared that I will pursue an independent foreign policy. I want, maybe in the next two years, my country free of the presence of foreign military troops. I want them out," he said. "And if I have to revise or abrogate agreements, executive agreements, this shall be the last maneuver, war games between the United States and the Philippines military." China claims almost the entire South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion worth of trade passes every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims on the sea, believed to have rich oil and gas deposits.

Duterte has threatened to abrogate defense agreements with the United States several times but has yet to take any concrete action beyond cancelling some minor navy patrol exercises. In a pattern already becoming familiar, Duterte's foreign minister, Perfecto Yasay, tried to soothe concerns raised by the president's remarks. He told a news conference that Manila would respect treaty obligations as long as mutual interests converged. Japan and the Philippines also signed notes on two yen loan projects worth up to 21.4 billion yen (\$205 million), including one to build two patrol boats for the Philippine Coast Guard to boost its capacity for search and rescue and law enforcement. —Reuters



TOKYO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte bows to the national flags of the Philippines (left) and Japan as he reviews the guard of honor with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the latter's official residence in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

BANKER CALMLY DETAILS HOW HE SLIT THROATS OF 2 WOMEN

JUTTING DETAILS COCAINE, ALCOHOL, SEX BINGE PRIOR TO KILLINGS

HONG KONG: British banker Rurik Jutting calmly detailed to police his cocaine-fueled descent into a torture and killing binge that ended in the deaths of two Indonesian women in his luxury Hong Kong apartment, according to videos shown in court yesterday. The 31-year-old Cambridge graduate told police that six weeks after he started buying cocaine directly from a dealer, he was vastly indulging in the drug, as well as alcohol and paid sex. On the third day of

feel sexually charged and led to him fantasizing for long periods of time. He had tried cocaine previously but only fleetingly, he said. Later in the interviews, when describing the first killing, Jutting bent over to show how he slit the throat of first victim, Ningsih, whom he previously met through a classified website.

"Initially I didn't cut deeply enough, I cut the windpipe but only a vein ... she was bleeding on the floor. Then I pulled her into my shower and used

apartment, just a few minutes walk from the city's red-light district. He said he killed her within 20 minutes of her entering his apartment. Again motioning to the two officers present in one police video, he showed how he used his right hand to cut her throat and his left to hold her head. "I don't recall how long it took her to die. I think at one point, while she was still alive, I went out onto the balcony ... I was naked and covered in her blood and lay on the balcony for

November 2, 2014, a day after Jutting was arrested, he went into great detail over what had happened, politely relaying the course of events and appearing jovial at times.

Jutting, who also studied at Winchester, one of Britain's most famous and oldest private schools, worked at Bank of America Corp in Hong Kong prior to his arrest. During the police interviews he said he resigned shortly after killing Ningsih, sending an email to notify the bank, before later attempting to "clean the bathroom" where his first victim died. Bank of America declined to comment when contacted by Reuters yesterday. Dressed in a navy blue shirt, Jutting appeared attentive during the court session yesterday as he listened to the videos. In one video, he said he had "mutual sexual relations" with Ningsih at a hotel near his flat during a six-day period when he had a string of "sex workers" visit him.

The second time he met her he agreed to pay HK\$8,000-HK\$10,000 for her to spend the night with him, an encounter that ultimately turned into three days of torture. Jutting, a former vice president and head of Structured Equity Finance & Trading (Asia) at Bank of America, had expressed "job depression" in his series of monologues that he termed the "narcissistic ramblings of Rurik Jutting." Jutting was accused of murder in October 2014. Police said they received a call from the then 29-year-old, requesting officers to come to his apartment, where they found the bodies of the two women.

Ningsih, who had a son in Indonesia, was visiting Hong Kong on a tourist visa. Her mutilated body was discovered inside a suitcase on Jutting's balcony, while Mujiasih, a domestic helper, was found lying inside with wounds to her neck and buttocks, forensic pathologist Dr Poon Wai-ming testified in court. The defense and prosecution were largely in agreement over the physical evidence, Judge Michael Stuart-Moore had advised the jurors on the first day of the trial. He told them the verdict could rest on psychiatric and psychological testimony. Murder carries a mandatory life sentence, while manslaughter carries a maximum sentence of life. The case continues. —Reuters



HONG KONG: A prison van (far right-third from front) transporting British banker Rurik Jutting, 31, accused of the murders of two Indonesian women, drives on a blocked road with a police convoy as it approaches the High Court in Hong Kong. —AFP

his murder trial, the prosecution said Jutting was consuming 10 grams of 30-percent pure cocaine a day, an unbelievably high dosage. An expert toxicologist said in the courtroom around three grams could be fatal.

Jutting has admitted killing Sumarti Ningsih, a 23-year-old single mother, and another Indonesian woman, Seneng Mujiasih, 26, in his apartment two years ago. But he has pleaded not guilty to murder on grounds of diminished responsibility, while pleading guilty to the lesser crime of manslaughter. He explained in the video how cocaine made him

the knife to cut as deeply as I could and then she died within a few minutes," he said in the video that was viewed by a packed court room. Jutting filmed himself torturing and killing one of his victims, part of mobile phone footage taken from four hours of recordings in which he veered between boasting, remorse and describing the pleasure he derived from sexually brutalizing the women.

When describing the second killing in a video, Jutting explained how he met Mujiasih in a bar near his home and agreed to pay her HK\$12,000 (\$1,550) to go back to his

some point of time," he said.

'She was prey'

Jutting said he didn't sleep in between the two killings, which was a period of around five days. He instead took copious amounts of cocaine and read and watched extreme pornography which included violence and rape. He detailed how he met his second victim in a bar called New Makati, a place where he said it was known that sex workers were available. "She was prey - I was in a mode I can only describe as hunting," Jutting said. In the police interviews conducted on



HONG KONG: Newly elected pro-independence lawmaker Yau Wai-ching (front center) is surrounded by the press as she sits in the main chamber at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong yesterday. —AFP

WOMEN LAWMAKERS FACE SEXISM, VIOLENCE ON JOB

GENEVA: Women members of parliament (MPs) in all regions face sexism, harassment and violence from male lawmakers and are increasingly targeted by online humiliation campaigns, a report said yesterday. The first study on the issue by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) follows scandals in France and other countries where women have denounced abuse in the corridors of power.

Sexist violence and harassment against women lawmakers is "real and widespread," the report said. The findings suggested "that the phenomenon knows no boundaries and exists to different degrees in every country, affecting a significant number of women parliamentarians". The results were based on data provided by 55 women parliamentarians of all ages who were selected from 39 countries in five regions.

Four out of five of the women reported having been subjected to hostile behavior causing psychological harm or fear. Some 44.4 percent said they had received threats of death, rape, beatings or abduction during their terms. "The respondents said that most of these acts were committed by their male colleagues - from opposing or their own parties," it said. Being under 40, or belonging to the opposition or a minority group, are "aggravating factors" that put

women at risk, according to the study by the Geneva-based body that links 171 national parliaments.

The IPU called for male and female MPs to denounce such behavior and for codes of conduct and complaint procedures to be put in place. Females account for 22.8 percent of some 46,000 parliamentarians worldwide. "The report ... is an eye-opener, it's the first of its kind. We have gone out to interview members of parliament, to have their own personal perspectives, from their own experience," Martin Chungong, IPU secretary-general, told a news briefing. "We are looking at how we can help resolve some of these issues, because they are actually a stumbling block to political participation of women," he said.

Women lawmakers endure hostile behavior and sexist violence in parliamentary offices and political meetings, as well as the newer arenas created by social media, the report said. Women MPs from sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East "described photomontages showing them nude, photos of them accompanied by disparaging comments, obscene drawings of their person or information published in the social media suggesting that they had had marital problems and failed private lives," the report said. —Reuters

MYANMAR'S REFUGEES RETURN AFTER DECADES IN THAI CAMPS

BANGKOK: Sixty-five war refugees returned to Myanmar yesterday from Thai border camps, the United Nations said, in the first formal repatriation scheme for exiles trapped in limbo between the two countries. Thailand has sheltered tens of thousands of Myanmar refugees since the early 1980s, when families began fleeing Karen state to escape the then-junta's brutal counter-insurgency campaign.

But Thailand does not legally recognize refugees or offer asylum, while safety fears and a lack of land rights across the border have left many Karen exiles unconvinced about returning despite the end of junta rule. Sixty-five people crossed back yesterday, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a day after a family of six left. "Many say they feel encouraged by the reforms in Myanmar and see a better future for themselves and their families back home," said Vivian Tan, a Thailand-based spokesperson for UNHCR.

This scheme is the first voluntary repatriation backed by both governments and supported by international aid groups, who are assisting with transportation and resettlement. But the conditions are not yet right for a mass exodus, Tan added, urging Myanmar to further demarcate its borders and move forward with a fledgling peace process. Several thousand refugees from the Thai camps have slipped

home on their own since Myanmar began a democratic transition in 2011 that saw the former junta-run country embrace free elections and loosen the military's grip on power.

A 2012 ceasefire between the army and ethnic Karen rebels also significantly eased violence. The nation's new de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has devoted her first few months in power to organizing peace talks between the army and dozens of rebel leaders. But despite a much-vaunted summit in August, the military continues to clash with a myriad of ethnic militias around the country. Last month fresh fighting broke out between the army and a splinter rebel group in Karen state, displacing thousands of people.

The Karen Refugee Committee, which helps manage the Thai camps, stressed the ongoing unrest and cautioned against clearing the facilities too quickly. "The government needs to stop fighting with ethnic groups in all areas. Without that, how could we trust them?" said committee spokesperson Blooming Night Zan. While Thailand does not give citizenship to people in camps it has allowed the UNHCR to resettle tens of thousands of them to third countries over the past decade. But new refugees have also trickled in during that time, with more than 100,000 still living in the nine remote camps sprawled across the two countries' mountainous border. —AFP

KIDS' 'MIRACLE' SURVIVAL AS AUSTRALIA PROBES DEATHS

GOLD COAST: Two children had a "miracle" escape when a raft flipped at an Australian theme park killing four adults, police said yesterday, as claims emerged that safety concerns had been raised at Dreamworld last year. Two women and two men died when two rafts on the Thunder River Rapids ride at the Gold Coast tourist attraction collided Tuesday, tipping one backwards, with police saying the victims were "caught in machinery". But a boy and a girl, aged 10 and 12, on the six-person circular raft survived. Police initially identified them as two girls. Reports, which police would not confirm, said they were the children of one of the dead women.

"It seems, from what I've seen, almost a miracle that anybody came out of that," Queensland Police assistant commissioner Brian Codd told reporters after viewing CCTV footage of the tragedy. "If we're going to be thankful for anything, I'm thankful for that." He said it had been "absolutely traumatic" for the children who were now being cared for by family, as floral tributes were laid outside Australia's largest theme park, which is hugely popular with domestic and overseas tourists. Two of those who died were identified in local

media as Canberra-based brother and sister Kate Goodchild, 32, and Luke Dorsett, 35, with their mother, who was holidaying with them, distraught.

"We are just devastated, absolutely devastated," Kim Dorsett told the Brisbane Courier-Mail. "I have three children and have lost two of them-my whole family has been wiped out." Queensland Ambulance officials said on Tuesday the ride, marketed as a family-friendly thrill, malfunctioned and Codd stressed a thorough investigation was underway to find out what went wrong. Thirty detectives were at the scene with rafts taken away by a forensic team. "There will be a broad range of things examined-policies, procedures, maintenance schedules and the actual, I guess, the make-up of the whole ride itself in terms of compliance about contemporary engineering," he said.

'Gold Coast is safe'

Ben Swan, the Queensland secretary of the Australian Workers Union, said the organization voiced serious concerns about the operation and maintenance of some equipment at Dreamworld last year, although not the river rapids ride. "I don't want to inflame the situa-

tion," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "However, we do think that in the interests of workers at that facility, but also to the patrons of that facility... it is important there is a full inquiry." The Australian newspaper reported that a series of mechanical problems were plaguing the water ride hours before the accident. Codd said he was aware of the reports and added: "I would imagine that would be an important area of interest for the coroner."

The Gold Coast, which hosts the Commonwealth Games in 2018, is a major tourist destination and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk pleaded with holidaymakers not to turn their backs on the area. "The Gold Coast is safe," she told the Seven Network. "Please don't alter your holiday plans. Please continue to show your support. We will get to the bottom of this." Dreamworld, which opened in 1981 and has over 40 rides and attractions, said in a statement late Tuesday its whole team was "devastated and shocked". "We are working closely with the authorities to understand exactly what occurred." The park remained closed yesterday. —AFP



WASHINGTON: (From left) Donald Trump Jr, Eric Trump, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, Melania Trump, Tiffany Trump and Ivanka Trump take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony during the grand opening of the Trump International Hotel yesterday. — AFP

TRUMP MAKES MID-CAMPAIGN STOP TO PROMOTE NEW HOTEL

WASHINGTON/ LOS ANGELES: With just 13 days to go before Americans choose a new president, Republican contender Donald Trump took a brief break from campaigning yesterday to promote his new hotel in Washington, not far from the White House. The Trump International Hotel - located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue in the Old Post Office - had a soft opening on Sept 12, an occasion marked with great fanfare by the Manhattan billionaire businessman himself. Only part of the hotel has been operational since, with several floors still being renovated.

Before a crowd of several hundred "VIPs" including former House speaker Newt Gingrich and journalists, Trump boasted that the hotel was finished "ahead of schedule" and "under budget" - without offering specific figures. "Today is a metaphor for what we can accomplish for this country," Trump said, with his children Don Jr, Eric and Ivanka - all executives in the Trump Organization - at his side. "Just about everything our government touches is broken, or they break it," he said. "Simply nothing works."

In 2012, the federal government handed Trump the right to renovate the Old Post Office, built in 1899, after a bidding process. The contract stipulated the hotel needed to open in 2016. Trump was given a 60-year lease in exchange for his commitment to invest \$200 million in the granite and steel building, just a 10-minute walk from the White House. The hotel has 263 rooms and has apparently cut prices to boost occupancy. This weekend, rooms are available for just over \$400 a night, according to the hotel's website - one of the highest rates in the US capital.

"Look how beautiful this is - it's not like he gets there by cutting corners," Gingrich said in the entryway to the hotel's "presidential ballroom". Trump, his children and his wife Melania participated in a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony in the hotel's atrium, and the 70-year-old real estate mogul hinted his presidential ambitions were not far from his mind. "With the notable exception of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, this is the most coveted piece of real estate in Washington, DC - the best location," he quipped.

Meanwhile, an axe-wielding protester hacked out the gold lettering and television logo on Trump's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame yesterday. A man who identified himself to a local news agency as James Lambert Otis said he was the vandal, and had originally intended to

remove the entire star from the sidewalk on Hollywood Boulevard. He said he was going to auction it and donate the proceeds to the women who allege they were groped or sexually mistreated by Trump - charges the real estate tycoon denies - but was unable to lift the slab.

"It was very difficult. The stone was like marble - hard to get through," he said about an hour after the 5:45 am attack on the star. Dressed in construction overalls, Otis said he used a sledgehammer and pick to hack away Trump's name and the logo indicating the star had been awarded in the category of television - for Trump's work on his reality show, "The Apprentice".

Otis said he still hoped to sell the pilfered pieces and return to do the star further damage. "I'm not frightened of jail and I'm certainly not frightened of Mr Trump," said the man, who claims to have been arrested around two dozen times for protesting various causes. "This is as bad as hacking the Statue of Liberty," said onlooker Melrose Larry Green, 65, who described the vandalism as "disgusting". "Someone doesn't want to vote for Donald Trump, that's fine, go and vote for Hillary Clinton. But this is disgraceful. All this is going to do is get more votes for Donald Trump."

This is not the first time the 70-year-old Trump's Walk of Fame star, which he got in 2007, has been targeted. In July, a Los Angeles street artist built a 15-cm wall of wooden planks topped with barbed wire around the monument. Trump has repeatedly vowed during his campaign to build a wall between Mexico and the United States, drawing criticism from rights groups. Last year, excrement was left on the star and someone drew a large yellow X over it. A swastika and a mute symbol were also drawn on the red tile earlier this year.

"Today is Hillary Clinton's birthday and I have a feeling that somebody decided to give her a birthday present," said Angela Turner, 71, a bystander at the scene of the latest attack. Liliana Preciado, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Police Department, told AFP a "male, Caucasian, approximately six feet tall" had used a pickaxe and sledgehammer on the star. "We have surveillance video as well as video that has been uploaded to the Internet that our detectives are taking a look at and they are confident they will be able to identify the suspect," she added. — Agencies

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 'AFGHAN GIRL' ARRESTED

PESHAWAR: An Afghan woman immortalized on a celebrated National Geographic magazine cover as a green-eyed 12-year-old girl was arrested yesterday for living in Pakistan on fraudulent identity papers. The haunting image of Sharbat Gula, taken in a Pakistan refugee camp by photographer Steve McCurry in the 1980s, became the most famous cover image in the magazine's history. Her arrest highlights the desperate measures many Afghans are willing to take to avoid returning to their war-torn homeland as Pakistan cracks down on undocumented foreigners.

Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested Gula for fraud following a two-year investigation on her and her husband, who has absconded. Investigators, who have uncovered thousands of fraud cases over the last decade, launched a probe into her application shortly after she procured the card. "FIA arrested Sharbat Gula, an Afghan woman, for obtaining a fake ID card," Shahid Ilyas, an FIA official, told AFP.

Ilyas said the authorities were also seeking three National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) officials found responsible for issuing Pakistan's national identity card to Gula, who have been at large since the fraud was uncovered. He said that Gula faces seven to 14 years in prison and a fine of \$3,000-\$5,000 if convicted. In reality she is unlikely to serve such a harsh sentence - many Afghans who have been convicted in similar cases have been deported before they could be sent to prison.

Officials say Gula applied for a Pakistani

identity card in Peshawar in April 2014, using the name Sharbat Bibi. Thousands of Afghan refugees have managed to dodge Pakistan's computerised system to get an identity card. The photo attached to her application featured the same piercing green eyes seen in McCurry's famous image, only older. The original photograph was taken in 1984 in a refugee camp in northwest Pakistan during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. McCurry later tracked her down, after a 17-year search, to a remote Afghan village in 2002 where she was married to a baker, and the mother of three daughters. — AFP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Inam Khan, owner of a bookshop, shows a copy of a magazine with the photograph of Afghan refugee woman Sharbat Gula, from his rare collection yesterday. — AP

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Focus

UNENDING FOREX CRISIS IN NIGERIA HURTING BUSINESS

Nigeria's currency scarcity remains a nightmare that won't go away, with even Africa's richest man Aliko Dangote feeling the pain. The West African country's economy has been hammered by the global crash in oil prices - worth 70 percent of its revenue and the bulk of its dollars - and ongoing rebel attacks on oil infrastructure in the southern swamplands. But the response to the naira's slump has made matters worse. In Feb 2015, the central bank fixed the naira at 197-199 per dollar in an attempt to stop its rapid plunge.

To protect its foreign reserves, Nigeria banned the importation of many goods, ranging from toothpicks to rice. Propping up the naira proved costly for the import-dependent country. Facing the imminent depletion of its foreign reserves and double-digit inflation, Nigeria was forced to abandon the peg in June this year. Yet the country is still suffering the consequences of the peg as it wrestles to overcome an enduring currency scarcity.

A wave of multinational firms, including South African hotel and gaming group Sun International, have left Nigeria, citing forex concerns. Recently Nigerian billionaire Dangote, a manufacturing tycoon with a range of companies spanning cement to flour, has reduced staff because of "operational costs." "This year has been a very challenging one for us as a business. The unavailability of foreign exchange, coupled with an unprecedented hike in the exchange rate has resulted in increased costs across the organization," Dangote warned in an October letter. Once Africa's poster child for booming growth, Nigeria announced in August it was in recession.

Flexible Rate?

Business leaders say if Dangote is hurting, then there's a serious problem. "It's unfortunate," Muda Yusuf, head of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told AFP. "Not many businesses have access to the official forex window to source for their requirements to bring in the needed raw materials for production," Yusuf said. Part of the problem is that it appears the naira is again being held at an artificially high rate, explained Yusuf, who says that the currency should be allowed to "fully liberalize".

Officially Nigeria's naira is 305 to the dollar, but today it is trading up to 460 on the black market, where most businesses get their cash to bring in raw materials and supplies. "A flexible exchange rate regime will encourage inflows," he said. "If this is done, the supply side of forex will improve and there will be more dollars to go around."

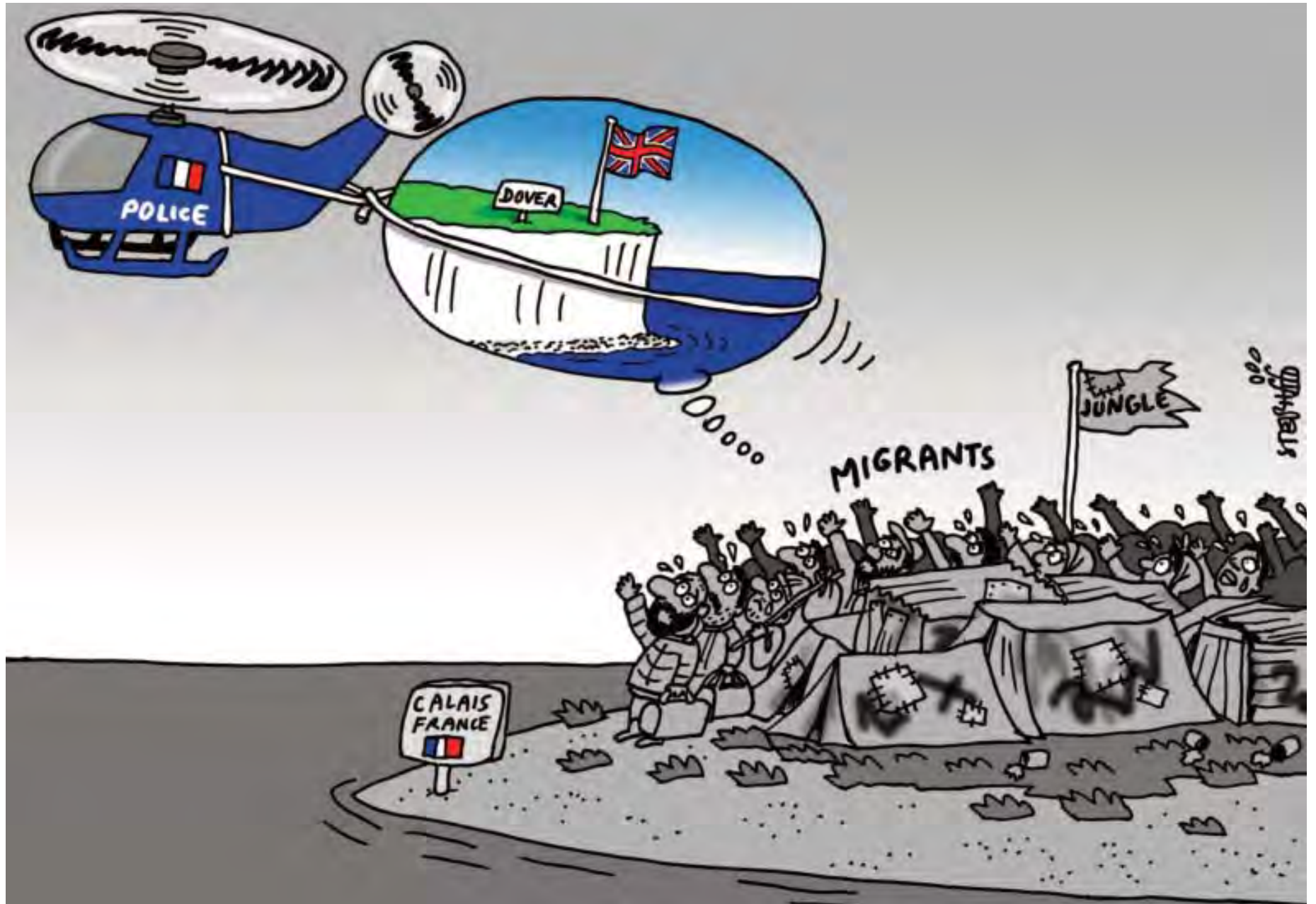
Airlines Pull Out

The painful impact of Nigeria's forex crisis can be clearly seen among international airlines. Last week, Gulf airline Emirates and Kenya Airways said they would suspend flights to the Nigerian capital Abuja from Oct 30 to Nov 15. However, both carriers added that they would continue to fly to Lagos, the country's commercial hub. The announcement comes after US carrier United and Spanish airline Iberia halted their Nigerian operations earlier in the year, citing limited inability to repatriate their profits because of unavailability of forex. Other international operators complained that Nigeria owed them hundreds of millions of dollars from ticket sales as the government holds on to the dollars to boost its reserves.

Devaluation?

Analysts say it's only a matter of time before the naira is devalued again. "Although there remains heavy opposition to further devaluation within the Nigerian administration, we believe that macroeconomic realities will force some further downwards movement in the naira this year," BMI Research said earlier in October. With investors shying away, Nigeria is struggling to implement a record budget designed to stimulate growth. Nigeria normally produces 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd), but output dropped to a low of 1.4 bpd this year as a result of rebels attacking pipelines, with no signs the militants are ready to lay down their arms. — AFP

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ON MOSUL ROAD WITH ELITE FORCE'S 'CLEANERS'

After crosses were restored and flags raised in this Christian town near Mosul, elite units stayed behind for one of the least gratifying and most dangerous jobs in the war: The cleanup. Constantly scanning their surroundings, five special forces members moved carefully down the streets of Bartalla, the muzzles of their rifles continuously shifting in every direction. To provide cover, the gunners of four armored vehicles in a convoy sprayed heavy fire around them as they moved slowly down two strips of asphalt. "We're targeting suspect buildings and corners where we don't have good visibility," said Colonel Mustafa, adding that they also usually open fire on perpendicular streets in case snipers are lurking there.

These members of the counter-terrorism service (CTS) - widely seen as Iraq's best fighting force - are already first in line when Islamic State group jihadists have to be taken on in close combat. But after a road, village or town has been secured and declared retaken, they crisscross the area to sniff out snipers, enemies concealed in tunnels, car bombs and booby-traps. "After liberating surrounding areas," a CTS officer who gave his name as Nabil told AFP in Bartalla, "we came back the other way to clean up the road."

This kind of mission is particularly dangerous because the bulk of their own force has already moved on to the next front and they have very little backup. Their protective gear is rudimentary and they disappear into tunnels wearing tee-shirts to hunt jihadists who might be hiding there. Yet they are the cream of the crop of Iraq's armed forces. Their training and their salaries - some cited a figure of around \$2,000 a month - are superior to most of the rest.

"They were trained by the Americans. They're really something else," Colonel Samer, who commands a tank unit in the regular army, said with a hint of admiration and envy in his voice. The CTS is under the command of Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, who in Iraq is the commander in chief of the armed forces. Thanks to the United States, CTS also has better equipment than the average Iraqi soldier. Anwar, who claims he was "the first to drive into the Bartalla battle", proudly displayed his night-vision goggles and pointed to the bullet impacts on his vehicle from that day. To locate potential car bombs, those CTS units are also equipped with digital tablets they can use to enter coordinates sent to them by the US-led coalition.

Coalition Support

"Their planes gather coordinates and send them to our commanders, who then pass them on to us. All we have to do then is to get to them with our vehicles," said Sergeant Amr, a radio to his ear and a tablet in his hand. Next to him, the armored vehicle's driver followed his instructions to support the men walking towards a building they wanted to inspect. Above them, the gunner in his turret loads his ammunition. "Left, right, turn and fire," Sergeant Amr said.

A barrage of gunfire was unleashed, several shots on every identified position, to check there was no return fire or explosion. Sergeant Amr, a 27-year-old from Baghdad who joined the frontline a month ago, just a day after his wedding, then briefly got out of his vehicle to confer with

the unit moving on foot. "We have EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) specialists - they are the ones looking for IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," said Hamza, a CTS fighter wearing a scarf and an "Iraq special forces" cap.

"If they spot a car bomb, we come in to neutralize it," said the young man, who has already spent six years with CTS. That is usually done by a controlled detonation. "Job done! Mission over," Sergeant Amr finally exclaimed, putting down his radio. Sitting on the pavement or the bonnets of their vehicles, the men scoffed rice rations before moving to the next target. They still had around five kilometers to cover before reaching the edge of the city of Mosul, as Iraqi fighters tighten the noose on the militant stronghold. — AFP



Iraq's elite counterterrorism forces advance toward Islamic State positions in the village of Tob Zawa, about 9 km from Mosul on Tuesday. — AP

POPE FRANCIS THE MANAGER - SURPRISING, SECRETIVE

Father Ernest Simoni, a 88-year-old Albanian, was watching Pope Francis on television this month when, to his astonishment, he heard the pontiff mention his name. Francis announced that the simple, white-haired Roman Catholic priest, who had spent many years in jail during Albania's communist dictatorship, was to become a cardinal. It was the first that Simoni, or any of the other 16 new cardinals named by Francis at the same time, had heard of their elevation to the prestigious rank.

"I did not believe either my ears or eyes," Simoni told Reuters in Albania. "The pope said it, but I could not believe it. Can he be talking about another Ernest? I said to myself." But more significantly, the pope had also kept nearly the entire Vatican hierarchy in the dark about his decision, which he announced on Oct 9 to thousands of pilgrims.

The episode illustrates how Francis has used his own distinct management style to try to shake up the Church since his election in 2013. He is keeping his cards close to his chest as he tries to push through a progressive agenda to make the Church more welcoming in the face of conservative opposition. Interviews with a dozen current and past Vatican officials and aides paint a portrait of Pope Francis, a Jesuit who turns 80 in December, as eschewing filters between him and the outside world. He carries his own black briefcase, keeps his own agenda, and makes many of his own calls.

In contrast, his two immediate predecessors, Benedict XVI and John Paul II, worked hand-in-hand with the Vatican bureaucracy, which is known as the curia. Behind Francis' approach is a clear mandate, received from the worldwide cardinals who elected him in 2013, to overhaul the curia. Over the decades the Vatican's administration has collected some of the Church's most orthodox officials, partly because of the lieutenants that Francis's two highly-conservative predecessors called to their entourages in Rome.

As a result, Francis believes that only by reducing the power of the curia - including surprising it on some decisions - can the 1.2 billion-member Church embrace those who have felt marginalized, such as gays and the divorced. The approach has scored Francis some victories, such as bypassing conservative bishops to streamline the procedures by which Catholics can obtain marriage annulments. There have also been setbacks, such as putting too much

power in one cardinal's hands to resolve financial problems and later having to rein him in.

Some internal critics say he relies too much on snap judgements and others have urged greater transparency. They say his decisions to set up new structures, such as an economy ministry and an external advisory council of eight cardinals from around the world, were divisive and that he could have enacted change by putting new people at the top of existing departments.

No Filters

One of the most striking differences between Francis and his two predecessors is that it is virtually impossible to determine who, if anyone, is really close to him. The personal secretaries of Benedict and John Paul - respectively Georg Ganswein, now an archbishop, and Stanislaw Dziwisz, now a cardinal - were always at their side and became celebrities in their own right, the powerful gatekeepers to get to the pope.

By contrast, few people know the identities of Francis' two priest-secretaries - Father Fabian Pedacchio Leanz from Argentina and Father Yoannis Lahzi Gaid, an Egyptian. Both have other part-time jobs in the Vatican and do not appear or travel with him. "He does not want any filters," said a person who knows the pope well. "Sometimes he will tell one of his secretaries 'so-and-so is arriving in a few minutes' and that is the first they hear of it. Sometimes he tells one without telling the other."

This person, like most of the others interviewed for this article, has had direct dealings with Francis and all spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media. This year, an Argentine visitor told a guard at a Vatican gate that the pope was expecting him. Phone calls had to be made to determine he was not a prankster. The pope had not told anyone he had invited the visitor. One person close to the pope said he likes to manage this way because it gives him freedom to bypass rigid channels of communication and makes it impossible for anyone to become indispensable, as top aides of previous popes did.

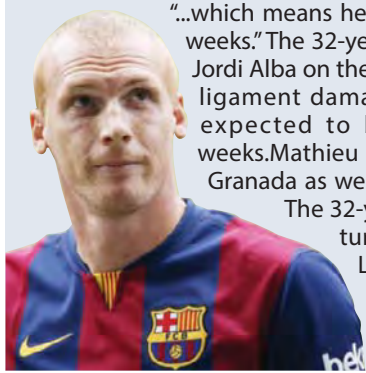
Joyful Destruction

Francis likes to break rules and then change them once the shock has died down. Two weeks after his election, he included women in a liturgical service open only to men. Later, he ordered that the rules be formally changed worldwide. Pope Benedict's sudden resignation in Feb 2013 brought to a climax one of the most turbulent periods in modern Vatican history, including the arrest of his butler for leaking documents that exposed corruption and cronyism. Francis watched from afar as Benedict's papacy unravelled under the weight of successive scandals. After he was elected, he appointed trusted people to lower or mid-level positions in Vatican departments, where they can be his eyes and ears. — Reuters



BARCELONA'S MATHIEU OUT FOR THREE WEEKS

MADRID: Barcelona defender Jeremy Mathieu will be sidelined for around three weeks after suffering from a calf injury during the 1-0 defeat against Espanyol in the Catalan Super Cup on Tuesday, the Spanish champions said yesterday. "Test conducted by the medical services yesterday morning have revealed that FC Barcelona defender Jeremy Mathieu has injured the soleus in his right foot," Barcelona said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.com).



"...which means he's going to be sidelined for an estimated three weeks." The 32-year-old joins fellow defenders Gerard Pique and Jordi Alba on the sidelines. Captain Andres Iniesta suffered knee ligament damage in Saturday's 3-2 win at Valencia and is expected to be sidelined for between six and eight weeks. Mathieu will miss this weekend's league game against Granada as well as next Sunday's trip to second-place Sevilla.

The 32-year-old is also suspended for Barca's return fixture against Manchester City in the Champions League on November 1. Barcelona, who are currently third in La Liga with 19 points, face Granada on Sunday. —AP

GIVE SLOW-STARTING JANSSEN TIME, PLEADS POCHETTINO

LONDON: Vincent Janssen should not be judged on his lack of goals since joining Spurs from Dutch side Alkmaar in the close season, said club manager Mauricio Pochettino yesterday. The 22-year-old Dutch international, who joined on a four-year contract for a reported fee of £17 million (\$22.3m, 20.1m euros), scored only his second goal for the club in Tuesday's 2-1 EFL Cup defeat by Liverpool. Both his goals have come in that competition and from the penalty spot. "We are very happy with him," Pochettino told SpursTV. "We need to understand he's 22 years old and coming from the Netherlands. It's a different league. We always need to give time. "One thing is clear, he's a player that works a lot, is always involved and shows commitment in every game and every training session. "That could only pay off to score goals in the future." Janssen, who in his sole season at Alkmaar scored 27 goals to top the league scoring chart, has not been able to suggest yet that he can pressure first choice striker Harry Kane, who is injured. —AFP

INJURED KLITSCHKO GIVES NO THOUGHT TO RETIRING

BERLIN: Former world heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko says he is not contemplating retirement despite having seen three title bouts fall through this year. "I've never thought about stopping, not once, after the defeat and losing my belts," Klitschko, who lost his IBF, WBO and WBA titles to Tyson Fury last November, told German daily Bild. "As long as I can perform in the ring, am fit and motivated, I'll keep going. "I want to box in March or April against IBF world champion Anthony Joshua. "That'll be the biggest heavyweight fight for years and hopefully it'll be for three titles." Hamburg-based Klitschko, who turns 41 next March, has endured a frustrating 2016. His rematch against Fury had been set for July 9, only for an injury to force the British fighter out. Fury then pulled out of a second bout scheduled for this Saturday as he battles depression. Earlier this month, Fury's licence to box was suspended by the British Boxing Board of Control. Fury has vacated the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) and World Boxing Association (WBA) titles he still held to focus on his recovery. —AFP

AMERICAN GOLFER PATRICK REED HAS GAME, LOVES TO TRAVEL

SHANGHAI: The Asia swing is the rare trip where Patrick Reed's wife doesn't accompany him. She stayed in Houston because they're finally moving into their new house at The Woodlands.

Not that Reed figures to spend that much time in his new digs. American golfers are traveling more than ever, and the 26-year-old Reed is taking that to an extreme. He has played 66 tournaments in the last 24 months (including the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup), and as a long and tiring 2016 starts to wind down, Reed is just getting warmed up.

He played in Malaysia last week and is at the HSBC Champions in Shanghai this week. Next week is the Turkish Airlines Open, and then after a week at home, he heads to Dubai for the final event of the European Tour season. After a week back home for Thanksgiving, Reed is off to the Bahamas for the Hero World Challenge and then gets on another plane for the Hong Kong Open.

"And then 20 days before we head to Hawaii," he said, with a grin. The reason for this hectic schedule? "I love to compete. I love to play," Reed said on the practice range at Sheshan International, just three hours after his plane landed from Malaysia. "When I'm home, I'm just sitting there wishing I was out playing. Justine feels the same way. It might not be the best strategic way to get your ranking up, but at the end of the day, if you play well it doesn't matter." Reed's ranking really isn't hurt that much by playing because there is a maximum of 52 tournaments that count toward the equation. He is No. 7 in the world, making progress toward that "top 5 player in the world" comment that attracted so much attention when he won the World Golf Championship at Doral two years ago. Besides, he says he always wanted to be known as a global player. He is going to Antalya next week, conceding that he didn't know where it was (Turkey) while in college in Georgia. He couldn't find Dubai on the map until he went for the first time last year to finish his first year as a European Tour member.

"I didn't want to play only in the US," Reed said. "I feel it helps my game traveling overseas. I always wanted to see the world and get out of my comfort zone."

Most top players limit themselves to about 22 tournaments a year, feeling as though they need time off to rest their body and mind. So far, Reed said keeping fresh has been the least of his worries. "I'm stubborn. My mind is great," he said. "If anything, the one thing I'll work on is the body. The body can go in dips, and it breaks down my swing."

This was his busiest year yet, partly because of the Olympics. Starting with the U.S. Open, Reed played 14 times in 16 weeks through the Ryder Cup. The only tournament he didn't play was the Canadian Open. The other week was an open week before the Tour Championship.

"I'm tired this year," he conceded. "But I'm still going to do it. I just have to get down when I have long runs and when I need my breaks. This year was unique because even during a week off, you were preparing for a big event. That made it difficult to shut anything down."

RUSSELL RECOGNITION

ussell Knox won twice in the last year, starting with the HSBC Champions, and he is No. 20 in the world. And yet the 31-year-old Scot can still walk through a shopping mall without getting noticed. As long as he doesn't cut off his hair. "I told my wife that sometimes when I shave my head, people think I'm Justin Timberlake," Knox said Tuesday. "And she was like, 'No, never. I don't see it. I don't think so.' And that same day at the St. John's Town Center, this woman runs up to me screaming. She gets five steps away and was, 'Oh' and

walked away." Knox said golf fans around Jacksonville, Florida, recognize him more. "Outside my home, barely anyone knows me," he said. "And I'm fine with that." It wasn't clear if Knox was joking when he added Phil Mickelson to that group. He talked about playing with Mickelson for the first time a few years ago at the Wells Fargo Championship, and later was asked if Mickelson knew he was.

"I still don't think he knows who I am," Knox said. "And I'm OK with that. Maybe he does. We've said, 'Hi' a few times. But he's Phil Mickelson. I don't care what I've done. I'm not Phil Mickelson."

LEXI AND THE SHARK

Lexi Thompson has been added to the field at the Franklin Templeton Shootout, the first woman to compete since Annika Sorenstam in 2006.

Thompson is a seven-time winner on the LPGA Tour, including a major. Jason Dufner and Brandt Snedeker are the defending champions Dec. 8-10 at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida. Among the newcomers to what used to be known as the Shark Shootout are Justin Thomas, Russell Knox, Kevin Kisner, Kevin Chappell, Smylie Kaufman and Bryson DeChambeau.

REMEMBERING ROMACK

Barbara Romack was a fixture at the US Women's Open, and a playful introduction was all anyone needed to know about her golf. She was the player who never lost to the great Mickey Wright.

Wright lost to Romack in the California Girls' Junior and the California Women's Amateur. Romack rose to prominence in 1954 when she defeated Wright in the U.S. Women's Amateur at Allegheny Country Club in Pennsylvania. "She was my pigeon," Romack once jokingly said of Wright, who became widely regarded as golf's greatest female player. They remained close friends over the years, and Wright was saddened to hear from the USGA that Romack died on Oct. 15 at age 83.

"I sort of looked up to her as a big sister," Wright said in an email to the USGA. "She was great fun, always laughing, and what a marvelous amateur golfer she was. Fine swing and a great putter. Can't believe she is gone, but she will forever be in my memories." Romack was at her best as an amateur, and she was the first woman golfer to be on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 1956 when the magazine referred to her as a "little tiger" in promoting the Curtis Cup. Romack played on three US teams.

She also won the 1952 North & South Amateur at Pinehurst, the 1953 Canadian Women's Amateur and the California Women's Amateur four times.

DIVOTS

Rory McIlroy wasn't planning any equipment changes the rest of the year, though he is putting a TaylorMade driver and fairway metals in his bag for the HSBC Champions. ... Graeme Storm made a bogey on the final hole of the Portugal Masters, costing him his full European Tour card. Only the top 110 after last week are exempt. Storm finished at No. 111 by 100 British pounds. ... Phoenix area golf fans have a unique 3-for-1 offer. Under a program called "Go Green Go Often," they can buy a single-day pass for \$50 that gets them into PGA Tour, LPGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions events. Those are the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in two weeks, the Waste Management Phoenix Open the first weekend in February and the Bank of Hope Founders Cup in March. ... Doug Hawken is retiring Jan. 31 as president and chief operating officer of Ping. He worked 45 years for the Arizona-based clubmaker. —AP



FARMINGDALE: In this Aug. 28, 2016 photo, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, right, and his caddy, J. P. Fitzgerald look down the fairway before McIlroy tees off from the first hole during the final round of The Barclays golf tournament in Farmingdale, NY. — AP

MAJESTIC MCILROY GUNS FOR MAJOR SCALPS AT WGC

SHANGHAI: A resurgent Rory McIlroy is looking to end 2016 in style, starting by winning the prestigious World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions in Shanghai this week. But the PGA Tour's newly-crowned FedEx Cup champion will have to overcome all four of 2016's first-time major winners and 40 of the world's top 50 players in a star-studded field if he is to lift the title for the first time. The list of champions of the tournament dubbed "Asia's Major" reads like a who's who of golf.

But the Northern Irishman's illustrious name is missing from a WGC-HSBC Champions roll of honour featuring Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Martin Kaymer and Bubba Watson, something McIlroy would love to put right. "Here, yes, I'd love to tick that one off," McIlroy told AFP. "I've won in Hong Kong before. I've won in Shanghai but it wasn't an officially sanctioned event at the time (the Shanghai Masters in 2011). "I'd love to win in China again and I've played well enough on this golf course to win but just haven't really done enough when it mattered. Hopefully this year will be the year to change that." The good news for McIlroy is that he appears finally to have put his injury-wracked 2015 behind him. McIlroy ripped ankle ligaments playing football and had to miss his British Open defence and a large chunk of last season. And so wretched were his 2015 fortunes that when he got to Shanghai a year ago he was floored by a dodgy sandwich and severe food poisoning which meant he could not practice.

McIlroy did manage to tee off 12 months ago-albeit 10 pounds lighter-and finished tied 11th, the only time he has failed to make the top six at Sheshan. "I've avoided the club sandwich this week," joked McIlroy. "The aim is to get out of China in one piece. I'm taking every precaution to be in good shape," he laughed.

McIlroy still went on to win the Race to Dubai and it seemed his game had turned the corner, more so when he won the Irish Open in May.

GROUND TO MAKE UP

But he missed the cut in two majors—the US Open and the US PGA championship—largely because of an inability to find the cup with the putter. But his mojo returned on the greens during the FedEx Cup series last month as he stormed to two wins in four events—the Deutsche Bank Championship and the season-ending Tour Championship—and a \$10 million bonus. "After the FedEx Cup and the Ryder Cup I wanted to take some time off as it was a busy stretch of golf," said former number one McIlroy. "I went to Dubai last week for a few days to practise and, yeah, the game's feeling really good and I'm really happy with where I'm at. "I'd love to do the double (FedEx Cup and Race to Dubai). There's a lot of ground to make up but that's nothing a couple of wins wouldn't fix." Masters champion Danny Willett leads the Race to Dubai standings and has great memories of the 7,261-yard Sheshan course on the western outskirts of Shanghai's seething metropolis of 24 million people. The Englishman shot a flawless 62 with 10 birdies in the final round a year ago to finish in a share of third place.

British Open champion and Olympic silver medalist Henrik Stenson lies second in the European Tour standings and will be looking to close the gap with McIlroy lurking in third.

US Open Champion Dustin Johnson took his first big tournament win at the WGC-HSBC Champions in 2013 while US PGA Champion Jimmy Walker completes the full house of 2016

major winners in China this week.

Justin Thomas, who retained his PGA Tour CIMB Classic title in Kuala Lumpur last week, plus US Ryder Cup talismen Patrick Reed and Rickie Fowler and defending champion Russell Knox are also in the hunt for a share of the \$9.5 million prize fund—the richest in world golf outside America and the majors. — AFP

WOODS NO LONGER AT WGCs, AND THEY'RE UP FOR GRABS

SHANGHAI: Dustin Johnson's victory in the most recent World Golf Championship at Firestone this summer means he has to capture only the Dell Match Play to become the first player to sweep the four world events.

For Rory McIlroy, the HSBC Champions that starts today is the last chance to make it three straight years with a WGC title.

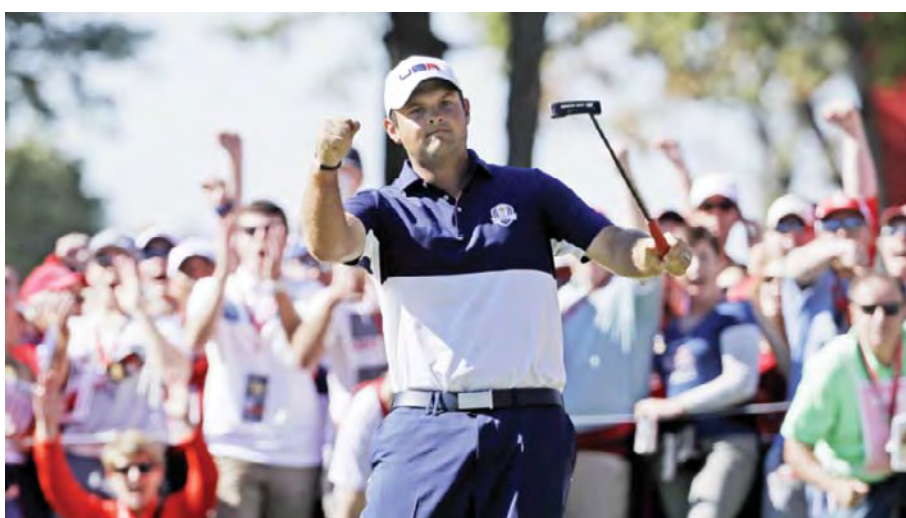
It's all quite impressive until compared with Tiger Woods. "I know Tiger has won like 18 of these things, I'm not sure," McIlroy said. "Second place is probably down around three or four." McIlroy has a keen sense of history, even when it comes to a series that by golf standards is still relatively new. Woods won a WGC title 18 times in a span of 15 years. Johnson and Geoff Ogilvy are next in line with three. In some respects, the World Golf Championships can be barometer for the world of golf.

During the height of his career, Woods had no peer. He won a majority of the WGCs at a time when he was ruling golf. Now, they seem to be spread out among top players. Johnson has three. McIlroy and Jason Day have two apiece. Henrik Stenson, Phil Mickelson, Darren Clarke, Adam Scott

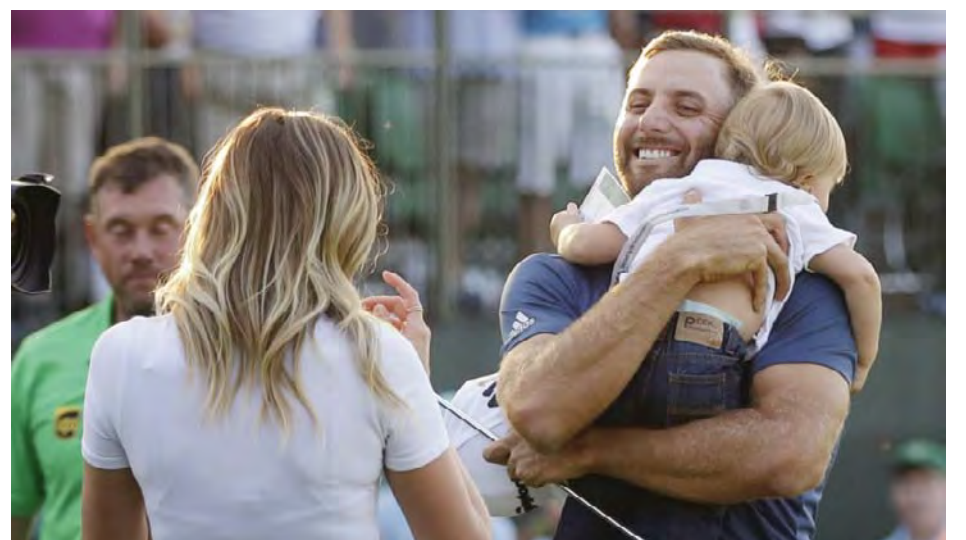
and Ernie Els also have two. Martin Kaymer, Bubba Watson and Justin Rose are among major champions who also have a WGC title. Golf is loaded with great players, just none that stands out so much clearly over anyone else. "I guess it is a reflection of where we are," McIlroy said. "Someone like Tiger comes around, if it's not once-in-a-lifetime, it's once-in-a-generation. I think with technology and with the knowledge that's in the game nowadays with the coaching, it's harder and harder to separate yourself from the rest of the pack."

"And someone like me sitting here, I'm saying that sort of grudgingly because I would have loved to be on the other side of that, where there wasn't so much party," he said. "But it seems like anyone that tees it up has a great chance to win. Overall for golf, that's not a bad thing." The theory that anyone can win on any given week was illustrated last year at Sheshan International.

Russell Knox was the last one to get into the field at the HSBC Champions and produced his first PGA Tour victory, holding off Johnson and Kevin Kisner. Knox went on to win again at the Travelers Championships, had three runner-up finishes and now is No. 20 in the world. —AP



CHASA: In this Oct. 2, 2016, file photo, United States' Patrick Reed reacts after winning the fifth hole during a singles match at the Ryder Cup golf tournament, at Hazlet National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. American golfers are traveling more than ever, and the 26-year-old Reed is taking that to an extreme. He has played 66 tournaments in the last 24 months (including the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup), and as a long and tiring 2016 starts to wind down, Reed is just getting warmed up. — AP



OAKMONT: In this June 19, 2016, file photo, Dustin Johnson, right, greets his fiancée, Paulina Gretzky, as he holds their son, Tatum Gretzky, on the 18th hole during the final round of the US Open golf championship, at Oakmont Country Club, in Oakmont, Pa. — AP

NO ANDERSON AS ENGLAND UNCHANGED FOR INDIA

DHAKA: Fast bowler James Anderson was left out as England named an unchanged 16-man squad yesterday for their five-Test series against India. Anderson, who has taken a record 473 Test wickets for England, had already been ruled out of next month's opening Test in Rajkot as he is recovering from a shoulder problem.

The 34-year-old was forced to miss England's ongoing series in Bangladesh, but could join the squad for the remaining four Tests of the India tour. England are also without paceman Mark Wood due to an ankle injury, but they elected not to draft in another seamer, leaving the squad unchanged from the two-Test series with

Bangladesh. Stuart Broad, Chris Woakes, Ben Stokes, Steven Finn and Jake Ball are the pace bowlers in the squad, with Moeen Ali, Adil Rashid, Gareth Batty and Zafar Ansari supplying spin. England secured a 22-run victory over Bangladesh in Chittagong on Monday and will close the two-Test

series in Dhaka this weekend. England launch their series against India in Rajkot on November 9 and will also play matches in Visakhapatnam, Mohali, Mumbai and Chennai. England squad for India Test series: Alastair Cook (Essex, capt), Moeen Ali (Worcestershire), Zafar Ansari (Surrey), Jonny Bairstow (Yorkshire, wkt), Jake Ball

(Nottinghamshire), Gary Ballance (Yorkshire), Gareth Batty (Surrey), Stuart Broad (Nottinghamshire), Jos Buttler (Lancashire), Ben Duckett (Northamptonshire), Steven Finn (Middlesex), Haseeb Hameed (Lancashire), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Ben Stokes (Durham), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire). — AFP

BAYLISS BACKS STOKES TO BECOME ONE OF THE GREATS

CHITTAGONG: England coach Trevor Bayliss has backed Ben Stokes to become one of cricket's all-time greats, joking that the combative allrounder is likely to deck anyone who dares give him a rest.

With star paceman Jimmy Anderson currently sidelined, Stokes is emerging as one of the keys to England's chances on a marathon tour of the sub-continent which will see them play five Tests in India in November and December after wrapping up a two-Test tour of Bangladesh. Stokes was named man of the match after Monday's dramatic finale to the first Test in Chittagong which saw England edge home by 22 runs in a nail-biting contest. In a match otherwise dominated by spin, Stokes took six wickets with a mixture of classic seam and reverse swing that underlined his growing intelligence as a bowler and importance to the pace attack. But he also scored 85 in the second innings in a sixth-wicket partnership with Jonny Bairstow worth 127 runs which effectively turned the course of the game.

Bayliss said the 25-year-old was still at a relatively early stage in his career but had the potential to be an all-time great. "It's going to be easier to judge the longer he goes. The potential of the guy—he could be right up there with some of the all-time best all-rounders," Bayliss told reporters in Chittagong.

"Only time will tell, but certainly, the strides he's made here on the sub-continent playing spin have been top class. It wasn't all that long ago we were wondering how he might go on spin-friendly wickets, but he's a guy that works extremely hard in the nets."

Since the retirement of Andrew Flintoff nearly a decade ago, England have been lacking a top-quality pace bowler who can also bat up the order

and give them an ideal balance to the side.

WORK IN THE NETS

Stokes' career best 258 against South Africa at the start of the year suggested his batting class but he had been seen as vulnerable to spin—a facet of his game he has worked exhaustively to improve.

"I think it's his defence to spin that has improved out of sight," said Bayliss.

"We know that if he gets a bad ball, he can hit anything over the fence but you've got to be there to get that loose ball," he added ahead of the team's departure for the second Test in Dhaka which begins on Thursday.

"He's a guy that in the past probably hasn't had a lot of footwork—plays from the crease a little bit and backs his eye and hands. "But as we saw in the one-dayers and this Test, he defended really well off the front foot, got right forward and smothered the ball before it had a chance to spin and jump past the outside edge." While England's management say they may have to rotate players during the tour to keep them fit and fresh, Stokes has made clear he will reject any offer to put his feet up and the selectors will have to drop him instead.

Asked if Stokes could play all seven Tests, Bayliss said it would take a brave man to bet against it and indicated that he would more likely be given a breather between the Tests.

"I'm not sure we're game enough to drop him out anyway, might get a thump in the head," said Bayliss of a player who once broke his wrist when he smashed his locker in a fit of anger.

"He's a very resilient person, let alone cricketer. We've got to watch what he does between the Tests to make sure he is available for all the matches." — AFP



RANCHI: New Zealand's Tim Southee (R) bowls as Indian batsman Rohit Sharma looks on during the fourth one day international (ODI) match between India and New Zealand at The Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) stadium complex in Ranchi yesterday. — AFP

N ZEALAND BEAT INDIA BY 19 RUNS TO SQUARE SERIES

RANCHI: Fast bowlers Tim Southee and James Neesham ran through India's middle order to help New Zealand to a 19-run series-leveling win in the fourth one-day international Ranchi yesterday. Southee (3-40) and Neesham (2-38) shared five wickets between them to bowl out India for 241 in 48.4 overs.

Earlier opener Martin Guptill scored a gritty half-century to drive New Zealand to 260 for seven after electing to bat first. Southee hurt India's reply with an early wicket but Ajinkya Rahane (57) and Virat Kohli (45) put on 79 runs for the second wicket to steady the chase. Kohli dominated his stay at the crease with two fours and a six before his innings was cut short by leg-spinner Ish Sodhi who got the star batsman caught behind.

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who is trying to make the number four slot his own, walked out to a rousing welcome in his hometown Ranchi. Neesham soon swung into action with two big wickets of Rahane and Dhoni as India's chase began to fall apart.

Rahane was setting a good pace after recording his 16th ODI half-century, but failed to convert his solid start into a big score as he was adjudged lbw to a Neesham inswinger. Neesham got Dhoni bowled for 11 in his very next over as the crowd fell silent with the wicketkeeper-batsman once again faltering in a chasing effort after he consumed 31 deliveries.

But it was Southee's double strike in the 33rd over of the innings that completely derailed India's chase with the hosts slipping to 154 for six. Southee got Manish Pandey (12) and Kedar Jadhav (0) off consecutive deliveries to be on hat-trick which was only averted by Hardik Pandya (9), who did not last long.

Axar Patel tried to infuse life into the chase with his 40-ball 38 as he looked to turn things around with Amit Mishra, who made 14, at the other end. Mishra was run out after a mix-up while attempting a second run and Patel was bowled by Trent Boult, who took two wickets. But the hosts did not bow out without a fight as Dhawal Kulkarni, unbeaten on 25, and Umesh Yadav put together 34 runs for the final wicket to give the Black Caps a scare. Earlier the visitors, started off well courtesy of a 96-run opening stand between Guptill (72) and Tom Latham only to lose steam towards the end of the innings.

Leg-spinner Mishra led the bowling charge with impressive figures of 2-42. The spinners, who were brought into the attack after the 10th over, dried up the flow of runs and Patel's left-arm spin managed to break the stand. Guptill went on to complete his 31st ODI half-century as he and skipper Kane Williamson tried to build momentum against a persistent bowling attack. Guptill, who was named the man of the match, though did not make the most of a dropped chance at 62 as he fell to Pandya 10 runs later. Mishra ended the obdurate Williamson's stay at the crease after getting the batsman caught by Dhoni for 41. India's bowlers kept chipping away as the visiting batsmen found it hard to get runs in the final 15 overs, in the process losing wickets at regular intervals.

Mitchell Santner struck an unbeaten 13-ball 17 to give respectability to the New Zealand score which in the end proved just enough. The action now shifts to Visakhapatnam for the deciding fifth and final match on Saturday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

RANCHI, India: Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between India and New Zealand in Ranchi yesterday.

New Zealand		India	
M. Guptill c Dhoni b Pandya	72	R. Sharma c Watling b Southee	11
T. Latham c Rahane b Patel	39	A. Rahane lbw b Neesham	57
K. Williamson c Dhoni b Mishra	41	V. Kohli c Watling b Sodhi	45
R. Taylor run out (Kulkarni/Dhoni)	35	M.S. Dhoni b Neesham	11
J. Neesham c Kohli b Mishra	6	A. Patel b Boult	38
B.J. Watling c Sharma b Kulkarni	14	M. Pandey c Latham b Southee	12
A. Devcich c Pandya b Yadav	11	K. Jadhav lbw b Southee	0
M. Santner not out	17	H. Pandya c Latham b Santner	9
T. Southee not out	9	A. Mishra run out (Santner/Watling)	14
Extras (lb3, w13)	16	D. Kulkarni not out	25
Total (7 wickets; 50 overs)	260	U. Yadav c Taylor b Boult	7
Fall of wickets: 1-96 (Latham), 2-138 (Guptill), 3-184 (Williamson), 4-192 (Neesham), 5-217 (Watling), 6-223 (Taylor), 7-242 (Devcich)		Extras (lb3, w9)	12
Bowling: Yadav 10-1-60-1 (3w), Kulkarni 7-0-59-1 (1w), Pandya 5-0-31-1 (8w), Mishra 10-0-42-2 (1w), Patel 10-0-38-1, Jadhav 8-0-27-0		Total (all out; 48.4 overs)	241
Did not bat: T. Boult, I. Sodhi		=Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Sharma), 2-98 (Kohli), 3-128 (Rahane), 4-135 (Dhoni), 5-154 (Pandey), Jadhav 6-154 (Jadhav), 7-167 (Pandya), 8-205 (Mishra), 9-207 (Patel), 10-241 (Yadav)	
		Bowling: Southee 9-0-40-3, Boult 9.4-1-48-2 (2w), Neesham 6-0-38-2 (2w), Santner 10-0-38-1 (1w), Sodhi 10-1-52-1, Devcich 4-0-22-0 (3w)	
		Result: New Zealand won by 19 runs.	



CHITTAGONG: In this file photograph taken on October 15, 2016, England cricketers Gary Ballance (R) and Moeen Ali run between wickets during the first day of a two-day warm-up cricket match between BCB XI and England XI at The MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong. England's misfiring top-order will be under pressure to deliver in the second and final Test against Bangladesh starting tomorrow, aware that their places could be up for grabs when the team moves onto India. — AFP

'BIG SHOW' TURNS NO-SHOW AS MAXWELL DROPPED FROM STATE

MELBOURNE: Glenn Maxwell's stock in international cricket has continued its slide, with the enigmatic talent left to carry the drinks for Victoria in Australia's domestic Sheffield Shield.

The shock omission for the match against Tasmania at the Melbourne Cricket Ground this week follows his exclusion from the one-day international team for tours of Sri Lanka and South Africa.

The 28-year-old all-rounder had hoped to add to his three tests in upcoming home series against South Africa and Pakistan, or on the tour of India next year.

But he has little chance of convincing national selectors of his worth if unable to sway those at state level. "It's just a matter of balance," Victoria coach Andrew McDonald told local media of his omission.

"There will be some unlucky players," he said. "We've got nearly the full list available and we've selected the team we think can beat Tasmania."

As a buccaneering batsman, a brilliant fielder and a handy spin bowler, Maxwell has long been seen as a player for all formats but has blown hot and cold since his international debut in 2012.

His hard hitting and array of unconventional shots in limited overs cricket saddled him with the unwanted nickname of 'The

Big Show', while also opening him up to criticism for being too flashy during form slumps. Maxwell played a starring role in Australia's World Cup win on home soil last year but he has pined for another chance at test level after failing to make an impression in three matches against India and Pakistan from 2013-14.

Although enjoying a fine season with the bat for Victoria during the last home summer, his test hopes were thwarted by the stability of Australia's top six batsmen during dominant series wins over New Zealand and West Indies.

Few would have seen his steep drop in form in one-day cricket, however, when he scored a total of nine runs in five matches on tour in New Zealand and West Indies earlier this year.

The all-rounder's response to being dropped from the ODI team was classically Maxwell, blasting an unbeaten, match-winning 145 in a Twenty20 international against Sri Lanka, the second highest score in the format.

Following that performance, Maxwell remarked that 2016 was the year he thought he would "break open world cricket". As the year draws to a close, Maxwell faces the far humbler goal of breaking back into his state side. — Reuters



Glen Maxwell



SEPAING: In this Oct. 2, 2016, file photo, Ferrari driver Kimi Raikkonen, of Finland, steers his car out of pit lane following a tire change in the Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix auto race at the Sepang International Circuit in Sepang, Malaysia. Ferrari expected much better than this in 2016. After ending last season with three wins and promises of pulling closer to Mercedes this year, Ferrari instead slid backward. There have been no victories, just one podium in the last nine races and Ferrari is once again fending off questions about discord within motorsport's most popular team heading into this week's Mexican Grand Prix. — AP

FERRARI FLOP: F1'S FAMOUS RED CARS EXPECTED BETTER IN 2016

AUSTIN: Ferrari expected much better than this in 2016. After ending last season with three wins and promises of pulling closer to Mercedes, Ferrari instead slid backward. There have been no victories, just one podium finish in the last nine races and Ferrari is once again fending off questions about discord within Formula One's most popular team.

Just look at last weekend's race at the U.S. Grand Prix: After a disappointing qualifying in which both drivers started on the third row, Sebastian Vettel finished fourth and Kimi Raikkonen didn't finish at all when he was forced to return to the garage after leaving a pit stop with an improperly attached wheel.

Judged by race officials as an unsafe release, Ferrari was hit with a fine. Seeing sparks fly as he pulled away, Raikkonen put the car in reverse for a humiliating return drive back

downhill as Ferrari slipped further behind Red Bull for second place in the team championship, which it hasn't won since 2008.

"Far from ideal" is how the deadpan Raikkonen summed it up. The same could be said about Ferrari's entire season as Formula One heads to the Mexican Grand Prix this weekend. Ferrari landed in Mexico last season full of optimism. Vettel's had scored the non-Mercedes wins all year. He was a regular on the podium and Ferrari was cruising toward a second-place finish in the constructor's championship.

There's been none of the same confidence this year. The Ferrari drivers - both former world champions - have made more noise with their mouths than their cars, with Vettel complaining about slow drivers and he and Raikkonen both criticizing the defensive tactics

of Red Bull's brash Dutch teenager Max Verstappen as dangerous.

Luca Badoer, Ferrari's former chief engineer who left the team after last season, caused a stir around Formula One before the US Grand Prix when he told Italian media that Ferrari leadership had created a "climate of fear." "They are no longer a team, but a group of frightened people," Badoer said. Ferrari team principal Maurizio Arrivabene dismisses external criticism.

"It's an old story. Ferrari in Italy is like the Italian football national team. I think pressure is normal, having tension is normal, having criticism is normal, so you have to live with that. Then, sometimes it's going too far," Arrivabene said. "This is part of the job ... if you work for a brand like Ferrari, you have to accept all of this, like it or not. The atmosphere inside the house

is completely different to what people thought about, or what you are reading sometimes in the newspaper." To be fair, Ferrari is far from the panic that had set in in 2014 when Mercedes blew everyone away with their new V6 turbo hybrid engines. Ferrari had scrapped its way back to best-of-the-rest in 2015, making this season's results so frustrating.

And Red Bull's resurgence has some thinking that's the team to knock off Mercedes in 2017. Red Bull teammates Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo have the only non-Mercedes win this year and those two are considered likely contenders for future world titles.

Ferrari hasn't won a driver's championship since Raikkonen in 2007 and the last time it was seriously in the hunt was 2012 with Fernando Alonso. The pairing of Raikkonen with Vettel, who won four titles with Red Bull,

gives Ferrari a powerful 1-2 punch behind the wheel if they can get competitive cars.

Vettel is under contract with Ferrari through next season and said he won't think about starting negotiations until after this season is finished. "I don't think it's important to look into details as such," Vettel said. "My contract is all fine for next year." The Mexican Grand Prix at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez was not a good experience for Ferrari in 2015.

Brimming with confidence from a good drive in Texas his team's season-long surge, Vettel qualified third but was knocked back by a tire puncture on the first lap, then knocked out when aggressive driving led to a late crash. Raikkonen also didn't finish after breaking a real axle in a bump with Williams driver Valtteri Bottas. It was the first time since 2006 that both Ferrari cars failed to finish a race. — AP



BOSTON: In this Monday, April 21, 2014 file photo, Rita Jeptoo of Kenya kisses the trophy after winning the women's division of the 118th Boston Marathon in Boston. Former Chicago and Boston Marathon winner Rita Jeptoo has had her doping ban doubled to four years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. In a ruling published yesterday the CAS judging panel stripped Jeptoo of her 2014 win in Boston, plus results, prize and appearance money dating back to April 17, 2014. — AP

CHICAGO, BOSTON MARATHON WINNER JEPTOO BANNED FOR FOUR YEARS

GENEVA: Former Chicago and Boston Marathon winner Rita Jeptoo had her doping ban doubled to four years yesterday by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

In its ruling, the CAS judging panel extended Jeptoo's ban until October 2018 and stripped her of her 2014 win in Boston, plus results, prize and appearance money dating back to April 17, 2014. The Kenyan runner previously lost her 2014 Chicago victory. Jeptoo had been due to earn a \$500,000 bonus for leading the World Marathon Majors series standings for the combined 2013 and 2014 seasons. She won back-to-back Boston and Chicago titles in 2013. Now 35, Jeptoo tested positive for EPO in a September 2014 sample given during training for the Chicago race. Last week, Jeptoo spoke of her intention to return to competition once her initial two-year ban expired. But on Wednesday her partner said they were expecting that the punishment might be extended after the IAAF appealed what it felt was a lenient ban imposed by the Kenyan track federation. "They had said they would add two years and she was aware of that," said Noah Busienei, Jeptoo's partner. "There is no other avenue available to appeal the decision and we shall

decide the way forward."

CAS said it upheld the IAAF's appeal to increase Jeptoo's original two-year ban, which was to expire this week. Athletes can be banned for four years over a first offense if there are aggravating circumstances.

"(It) was obvious to the panel that the athlete used EPO as part of a scheme or plan," the panel ruled, citing evidence including her long relationship with the unidentified doctor and "multiple visits to see him" which she hid from her manager and coach. The "undisputed source" of the red blood cell-boosting hormone was an injection by her doctor, the ruling stated.

Jeptoo was also criticized for "deceptive and obstructive conduct throughout the (CAS) proceedings." The athlete provided various differing accounts of the circumstances leading up to the injection and also regarding her relationship with that doctor," the court said in a statement.

Jeptoo is the highest profile of dozens of Kenyan athletes to be banned for doping offenses over the last four years. Her case reflects a common issue in Kenya: Doctors providing athletes with banned substances for cash. — AP

LEBRON LEADS CAVALIERS ROMP AS WARRIORS CRASH

LOS ANGELES: LeBron James led the Cleveland Cavaliers in a season-opening rout of the New York Knicks on Tuesday as the vaunted Golden State Warriors super-team suffered a resounding first night thrashing.

James notched a triple-double as Cleveland trounced the new-look Knicks 117-88 on a night when the Cavs were formally presented with their diamond-encrusted 2015-2016 championship rings. A festive atmosphere inside the Quicken Loans Arena was heightened by the fact that Cleveland's baseball team, the Indians, were hosting and beating — the Chicago Cubs in the World Series Opener also Tuesday.

News of the Indians' opening runs against the Cubs was greeted with deafening cheers and chants of "Let's Go Tribe!" throughout the game.

James, who returned to the Cavaliers in 2014 on a mission to lead his hometown team to NBA glory, addressed the home crowd in the pre-match ceremonies.

"If you're not from here, live here, play here, or get yourself to Cleveland, then it makes no sense for you to live at this point," James said. "Cleveland against the world!"

James, who finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists, later spoke of his pride at being able to celebrate the Cavs crown with the city's fans. "It was a great moment, to be able to relive our accomplishment from last year one more time, something that's always going to be with us. It was an unbelievable atmosphere tonight," he said. "We want to keep our fans on cloud 20. If we can do that we've done our job."

But while the Cavs reflected on a solid night's work, the Knicks were sent back to the drawing board. Having invested heavily in bringing 2011 NBA MVP Derrick Rose and Chicago teammate Joakim Noah to the club in the close season, the Knicks are hoping to mount a serious challenge in the Eastern Conference this season.

Rose however lamented the New Yorkers' lack of a mean streak after the blowout. "Tonight left a bad taste in everybody's mouth," Rose said, saying the team needed to learn to foul tactically. "We've got to put people down. We've got to foul. Not put them down, but for sure we have to foul them in the open court to make sure (James) doesn't get the crowd into the game."

WARRIORS HUMBLD

In Oakland, Golden State's hopes of embarking on another record-breaking start to the sea-

son-following their 24-0 run last year — came to an abrupt end when they were dismantled 129-100 by Western Conference rivals San Antonio.

A night expected to be dominated by Golden State's new signing Kevin Durant ended with the Spurs' Kawhi Leonard stealing the show in a crushing rout of last year's NBA Finals runners-up. Durant enjoyed a solid enough scoring debut — weighing in with 27 points but the Warriors were run ragged by Leonard, who posted a career-high 35 points and LaMarcus Aldridge (26 points).

Leonard, 25, indicated he is ready to step into the leadership vacuum created by the retirement of Spurs legend Tim Duncan earlier this year. "Tim was a great basketball player, led this

team to five championships and I just want to do the same, to get close to that," Leonard said.

"Just keep having a winning culture and keep moving forward from there."

The loss was a chastening defeat for the Warriors and coach Steve Kerr after a close-season dominated by talk of his team's fearsome attacking arsenal. "I'm sure we'll be motivated for our next game," Kerr said. "I think our guys were embarrassed tonight. I know I was."

Warriors star and reigning NBA MVP Stephen Curry described the loss as a "nice little slap in the face." Durant meanwhile said the Warriors should not panic after only one game of the season. "We can't overreact but we can't let these games pile up," Durant said. — AFP



CLEVELAND: Kevin Love #0 of the Cleveland Cavaliers dekes Kristaps Porzingis #6 of the New York Knicks before sinking a jump shot in the third quarter on Tuesday at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. Cleveland defeated New York 117-88. — AFP

FOREIGNER NOT NECESSARILY BEST ENGLAND OPTION: GLENN

LONDON: The Football Association may be reluctant to hire a foreigner as Sam Allardyce's replacement as full-time England manager based on previous painful experiences, FA chief executive Martin Glenn told the BBC yesterday.

Glenn, who admitted he had been personally disappointed by Allardyce's behaviour in which he advised journalists posing as Far Eastern businessmen about circumventing the ban on third-party ownership of players, added the national set-up had not been left in a great state when the foreign managers left. Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson and

Italy's Fabio Capello are the two foreigners the FA have turned to with varying degrees of success this century.

Eriksson-along with Roy Hodgson the only manager to have gone to three major finals with England in the past 20 years-guided England to three successive quarter-finals, losing to Portugal on penalties in two of them.

Capello's reign was far less harmonious and included a woeful 2010 World Cup finals campaign culminating in a 4-1 thrashing by Germany.

"In the past we've gone for foreign managers who'd be attracted as they

might help us win a tournament," said Glenn, who was head-hunted last year to take up the role after a successful career in the food industry.

"They haven't maybe left the international set up in a better place. We want somebody there for the long term." Glenn said one of the biggest conundrums the next manager faced and one that his predecessors had singularly failed to resolve is ridding the players of their demons with regard to donning the England shirt.

"We have been very successful at winning tournaments in the develop-

ment teams," said Glenn. "The under-21s, the under-19s, when we put our boys up against the best in the world we are winning. We're not translating that enough when it comes to the senior team. We think the difference is psychological preparation, this fear factor when you put on the England shirt."

"The manager we hire will really understand that and will have detailed plans to address it."

Glenn said he expected interim manager Gareth Southgate, who impressed in his stewardship of the England Under-21 side but ruled himself out

when Hodgson stepped down after losing to Iceland at Euro 2016, to be a candidate.

Southgate has thus far been in charge for two 2018 World Cup qualifiers, England's 2-0 win over Malta and a drab 0-0 draw against Slovenia.

The former England and Aston Villa centre-back will remain in charge for the qualifier against Scotland at Wembley on November 11 and the home friendly with Spain four days later.

"He will almost certainly be a candidate. It's up to him to decide whether he wants to do it," said Glenn. —AFP

SIX COACHES FIRED IN A MONTH IN ENGLAND

LONDON: For his first managerial job, Jaap Stam hasn't taken an easy option.

A Premier League and Champions League winner as a Manchester United player, the Dutchman has entered the dugout in a league with little job security and where the financial stakes are among the highest in soccer.

Looking around the League Championship, English soccer's second tier, the Reading manager knows his illustrious playing career will count for little if there's a slump in form.

Six of the league's 24 managers have been fired this month as clubs chase a place in the Premier League and a \$200 million-plus jackpot. "I can understand all the teams want to go to the Premier League as quick as they can because there's a big pile of (cash) over there," Stam said. "Managers need to have time to work on the team to get a certain chemistry within the group to eventually be promoted."

Two months into the season, only one Premier League manager has lost his job. Two were booted out by second-tier clubs within a few hours on Tuesday.

Walter Zenga, a former Italy goalkeeper, lasted 87 days at Wolverhampton Wanderers before the club decided being 18th in the 24-team division was not good enough. Gary Caldwell led Wigan back into the League Championship from the third tier but has been dismissed from his first senior managerial role after 18 months.

October started with Aston Villa firing Roberto Di Matteo, who won the Champions League during a brief spell as Chelsea manager in 2013. Alan Stubbs (Rotherham), Nigel Pearson (Derby) and Paul Trollope (Cardiff) joined Di Matteo in the ranks of unemployed coaches.

Every team apart from Rotherham to fire

their managers this month has played in the Premier League. A team can make about 170 million pounds (\$208 million) from the Premier League even if it is immediately relegated again thanks to the valuable television contracts and "parachute payments" to soften the blow for demoted teams.

Thai-owned Reading is one of 11 Championship teams with foreign investors seeking the prestige of a place in the top division. Four of the six teams to fire coaches in October are under overseas ownership, with Wolves and Villa the latest Chinese acquisitions.

Wigan has enjoyed recent success, winning the FA Cup in 2013, but was relegated the same season from the Premier League and plummeted to third tier. Caldwell, a former Scotland midfielder, was fired on Tuesday with Wigan second-from-last after 14 matches.

"We deservedly won the League One title last season," said Wigan chairman David Sharpe, whose grandfather - Dave Whelan - owns the northwest team.

"However, we have not managed to carry on that momentum into this season and, after careful consideration over a period of time, I feel that we need to act now in the best long-term interests of the club."

Reading was relegated from the Premier League in 2013. It is now eighth in the Championship, only a point from the play-off places, so Stam should be safe - for now. A bad run of results can change everything, especially at a team that is working for its fourth manager in two years.

"Everybody working in the Championship knows that that (being fired) is possible," said Stam, who has previously worked on the Ajax coaching staff. "But if you are afraid of getting sacked then you don't need to do this job." — AP



LIVERPOOL: Tottenham Hotspur's Argentinian midfielder Erik Lamela (R) is fouled in the area by Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Lucas Leiva resulting in a penalty for Spurs during the EFL (English Football League) Cup fourth round match between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield in Liverpool north west England on Tuesday. — AFP

STURRIDGE BRACE HELPS LIVERPOOL DOWN SPURS, ARSENAL THROUGH

LONDON: Daniel Sturridge sent Liverpool into the League Cup quarter-finals and gave his manager a reminder of his talents with two clinical goals in a 2-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday.

The England striker has struggled to convince Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp this season, but he was a livewire all night at Anfield where his double put the hosts in charge before Vincent Janssen pulled a goal back with a penalty for the visitors.

Klopp's side are joined in the last eight by Arsenal, who eased past second-tier Reading 2-0 with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain scoring twice, while Newcastle United romped to a 6-0 win over 10-man Preston North End and Hull City won 2-1 at Bristol City.

Leeds United beat Norwich City 3-2 on penalties, while the quarter-final lineup will be completed on Wednesday with three more ties including Manchester United hosting local rivals and holders City in the pick of the fourth round matches.

With no European football to occupy his squad this season, Liverpool manager Klopp raised a few eyebrows by making 11 changes to the side that beat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday.

Spurs are midway through a run of seven games in 23 days and have the Champions

League to worry about, had more justification for retaining only Eric Dier from the side that drew 0-0 with Bournemouth at the weekend.

Liverpool, record eight times League Cup winners and last season's beaten finalists, were ahead after nine minutes when Sturridge, who has started just two of their last six games in all competitions, showed predatory instincts to poke home.

LIGHTNING REACTIONS

While his work rate often comes under scrutiny, Sturridge's eye for goal has never been in doubt and when Marko Grujic's shot deflected into his path, he showed lightning reactions to beat Spurs keeper Michel Vorm to the ball.

"He did what he has to do. It was brilliant, he could have scored three or four," said Klopp, who regularly prefers Brazilian Roberto Firmino in attack in the Premier League.

Sturridge passed up two chances either side of halftime, but he made amends by doubling Liverpool's lead in the 64th minute. Georginio Wijnaldum played him through on goal and Sturridge squeezed his finish through Vorm's legs in front of the Kop.

It had been smooth sailing for Liverpool until that point but Lucas Leiva nibbled the heels of Erik Lamela to concede a penalty, which Janssen slammed home with 14 minutes

remaining. Alberto Moreno was then lucky to avoid conceding a second spot kick after tussling with Lamela again, but the match ended with Liverpool back on the front foot as Sturridge struck the crossbar and substitute Danny Ings had an effort saved by Vorm.

Arsenal, who are unbeaten in all competitions since the opening weekend of the Premier League season, were frustrated for large periods of the first half before Oxlade-Chamberlain put them ahead against Reading after 33 minutes.

He doubled the lead with 12 minutes left when he drove a shot from distance that was deflected in off a Reading boot.

Hull City took a two goal lead at second-tier Bristol City when Harry Maguire and Michael Dawson scored within four minutes either side of halftime before Lee Tomlin pulled back a stoppage-time goal for the hosts.

Newcastle thrashed Preston in an all-Championship battle with Serbia striker Aleksandar Mitrovic and Senegal's Mohamed Diame both scoring twice while Matt Ritchie netted a penalty and Ayoze Perez scored in stoppage time to round off the rout. Ronaldo Vieira scored the winning penalty for Leeds United against Norwich City in another all second-tier contest after the match finished 1-1 at fulltime and 2-2 after extra time. — Reuters

'CHINA'S REAL MADRID' SET SIGHTS ON GLOBAL MARKET

BEIJING: Six league titles in a row and two Asian trophies along the way could be just the start for China's Guangzhou Evergrande, who have drawn comparisons with Real Madrid and Manchester United and are eyeing global recognition.

The team from the southern metropolis of Guangzhou have risen from obscurity and corruption to break new ground for Asian football, becoming China's first AFC Champions League winners in 2013.

That victory earned the sobriquet "Asia's first superclub" as Evergrande's spending power and heavily South American squad, then marshalled by World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi, put rivals in the shade. Another World Cup-winner, Brazil's Luiz Felipe Scolari, joined in 2015 and duly helped them to their second Champions League trophy, plus a fifth straight league title last year before clinching the sixth on Sunday. With the Chinese Super League firmly conquered despite rising competition from other big-spending clubs-and their reputation well established in Asia, Evergrande can target loftier goals.

After Evergrande outlined plans to become one of the world's top clubs, analysts say they may soon be touring Europe-turning the tables on the current situation, where European clubs visit Asia looking to extend their fanbase.

"At this rate it would not be inconceivable for Chinese clubs to be touring Europe in the next decade," Jon Stainer, Nielsen Sport's managing director for the United Kingdom and Ireland, told AFP.

'BE THE BEST FOREVER'

Evergrande are a lesson in what can be achieved with money and determination as just three years before their first Asian title, they were demoted in disgrace from the Super League during a wide-ranging corruption crackdown.

The club was snapped up by Evergrande Real Estate Group, which had become a multi-billion dollar enterprise in China's property boom, and immediately won promotion back to the Super League. They have been national champions every year since. "Six in a row is special for any club," Gary White, head coach of second-tier Shanghai Shenxin, told AFP.

"Guangzhou's motto is 'Be the Best Forever' and they have the resources both financially and emotionally from their stakeholders to become a global brand."

In August, Forbes valued Guangzhou at \$282 million, a figure comparable to many top clubs in Europe-some of which are now being snapped up by Chinese investors.

Shopping empire Suning, owner of Jiangsu, Guangzhou's closest Super League challenger this year, paid around \$310 million for a 70 percent stake in Inter Milan in June. In March, China's official Xinhua news

agency even rated Evergrande as the world's richest club, based on a transaction of the club's shares which implied a market capitalisation of \$3.35 billion, a shade higher than Real Madrid and Manchester United. The ingredients are in place for further success on the pitch: Scolari extended his contract this week and the squad includes Colombian striker Jackson Martinez, Brazilian talents Paulinho and Ricardo Goulart and a number of Chinese internationals.

Evergrande, as well as their wealthy owners, also boast an average attendance of around 45,000 at their Tianhe stadium which is in the midst of the Pearl River Delta, the world's largest and most populous urban area.

FIRST-MOVER ADVANTAGE

Guangzhou were the first of China's big spenders, reportedly making Argentina's Dario Conca one of the world's best paid players when they signed him in 2011.

They have been followed by clubs like Jiangsu, Shanghai SIPG and Hebei China Fortune who, encouraged by President Xi Jinping's drive to make Chinese football great, splashed out \$400 million on players this year. Now, with the Chinese Super League broadcast in more than 50 countries, including Britain, there is a growing awareness of Chinese teams in Europe and elsewhere. —AFP



SAITAMA: This file photo taken on April 5, 2016 shows China's Guangzhou Evergrande head coach Luiz Felipe Scolari looking on during the AFC champions league first round group H football match against Japan's Urawa Reds in Saitama. —AFP

GENOA END 10-MAN MILAN'S BID FOR SERIE A LEAD

MILAN: Nikola Ninkovic, Leonardo Pavoletti and a Juraj Kucka own goal ended 10-man AC Milan's chances of going top of Serie A after crashing 3-0 to Genoa on Tuesday.

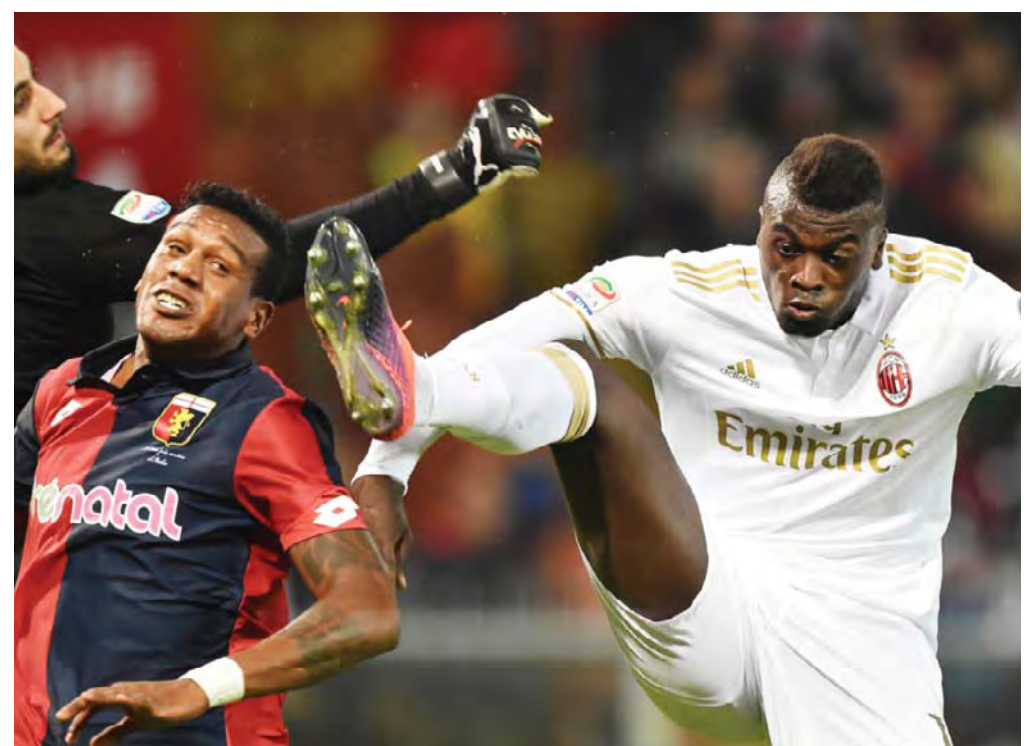
Milan travelled to the Luigi Ferraris buoyed by a weekend victory over Juventus that closed the gap on the Italian champions and Serie A leaders to just two points.

But Genoa had won the last two editions of this fixture 1-0 and by the end fully deserved what was just their fourth win of the season. It moved them up to seventh, six points off the lead, while Milan remain third, ahead of the remaining midweek fixtures on Wednesday and Thursday. Injuries in defence forced Milan coach Vincenzo Montella to turn midfielder Andrea Poli into a makeshift right-back, while Keisuke Honda was given his first start of the season in midfield.

It took Genoa just 11 minutes to find a way past Gianluigi Donnarumma. Ninkovic, on his first start for the club, rushed in to meet Tomas Rincon's chip with a diving header that beat Milan's teenage goalkeeper. Milan defender Alessio Romagnoli produced the visitors' best chance of the half when he unleashed a drive that flashed just wide of the near post, while M'Baye Niang's volley from Carlos Bacca's knock-down flew over. Milan's chances of launching an unlikely fightback collapsed 10 minutes after the restart when Gabriel Paletta lunged with both feet at Luca Rigoni. The veteran defender made little contact with the Genoa forward, but the referee immediately produced a red card.

When Rigoni fired low into the area 10 minutes from the end, Kucka stuck his leg out to deflect the ball past Donnarumma as Pavoletti lingered.

Six minutes later Pavoletti got his name on the scoresheet with a fine curling strike from the edge of the area after turning Romagnoli inside out. — AFP



GENOVA: AC Milan's forward from France M'Baye Niang (R) fights for the ball with Genoa's midfielder from Brazil Andre Edilson during the Italian Serie A football match Genoa vs AC Milan at "Luigi Ferraris" Stadium in Genoa on Tuesday. —AFP

Crosby returns,
leads Penguins
past PanthersSturridge brace
helps Liverpool
down Spurs,
Arsenal through

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N ZEALAND BEAT INDIA BY 19 RUNS TO SQUARE SERIES Page 17



CLEVELAND: Kyle Schwarber #12 of the Chicago Cubs hits a double during the fourth inning against the Cleveland Indians in Game One of the 2016 World Series at Progressive Field on Tuesday in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

INDIANS BLANK CUBS IN WORLD SERIES OPENER KLUBER SETS WORLD SERIES RECORD

CLEVELAND: The Cleveland Indians, lifted by the pitching of Corey Kluber and slugging of Roberto Perez, spoiled the long-awaited return to the World Series by the Chicago Cubs with a 6-0 spanking in Tuesday's opening game.

Kluber became the first World Series pitcher to strike out eight of the first nine outs registered, as he outdueled Jon Lester, while catcher Perez blasted a pair of homers to drive in four runs as Cleveland claimed a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven.

Kluber gave up four hits in six-plus innings, striking out nine with no walks to become only the third hurler to strike out nine without giving up a run in a Fall Classic opener after Cardinals' Bob Gibson (1968) and Yankees' Allie Reynolds (1949).

"There's that extra level of excitement, anxiety but once you get out there and the game starts and you get

in the flow it all disappears," said Kluber, who was pitching in his first World Series game.

"You kind of get in your comfort zone just playing the game." With relievers Andrew Miller and Cody Allen following Kluber to the mound, Indians pitchers registered 15 strikeouts.

Hitting star Perez, who had only three homers in the regular season and said he felt comfortable at the plate, seemed even more enthused by Kluber's performance.

"It's fun, he (Kluber) just attacked hitters," Perez said. "We got ahead of hitters today. He's been doing that the whole year. He's our ace. Every time he steps on the mound I expect big things from him."

"HE WAS AWESOME."

The Indians seized a lead they never relinquished with a two-out, two-run rally in the first inning on two

hits, including an RBI squibbler, two walks and a run that crossed the plate thanks to a bases-loaded hit batsman by Lester.

Cleveland added another run the more conventional way on a line drive solo homer by Perez in the fourth, and a three-run blast in the eighth by the catcher finished off the Cubs, making their first appearance in the World Series in 71 years.

"I thought we came out ready to play. They pitched well," said Cubs manager Joe Maddon. "The first inning, what hurt us was the walks, not even the dribbler or the hit batter. It was the walks prior to that really hurt us."

"Then their nine-hole hitter Perez kicked us. He drove in four points today, so give him a lot of credit."

LESTER PHOBIA

Cleveland, looking for their first Series crown in 68

years, took quick advantage of an unusual phobia of Lester.

The left-hander, who entered the game with a brilliant World Series resume compiled with the Red Sox, has the yips over throwing to first base to hold baserunners on.

Francisco Lindor singled with two outs in the first and with Lester reluctant to throw over to hold him close, took a big lead and stole second base with ease.

The Indians subsequently scored two runs were on their way. Game Two will be on Wednesday in Cleveland before the Fall Classic shifts to Chicago for Game Three tomorrow. The Cubs will start Cy Young winner Jake Arrieta against Cleveland's Trevor Bauer, who left his last start after blood began gushing from his pinky finger that was injured while he was handling his drone.— Reuters

KUZNETSOVA EDGES PLISKOVA IN THRILLER TO REACH SEMIS

SINGAPORE: Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova produced another extraordinary comeback to win her second straight match at the WTA Finals yesterday, sealing a place in the semi-finals. Just two days after she saved a match point to defeat the defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska, Kuznetsova again rallied back from the brink to beat US Open finalist Karolina Pliskova 3-6 6-2 7-6 (8-6) in a heart-stopper at Singapore's Indoor Stadium.

Kuznetsova still has another round-robin match to play on Friday against Garbine Muguruza but is already assured of finishing top of the White Group standings after Muguruza was beaten 7-6 (7-1) 6-3 by Radwanska in Wednesday's late match.

Muguruza is out of the running for the semis after losing her first two matches, leaving Pliskova and Radwanska to battle it out on Friday to see who else goes through with Kuznetsova from the group. With sweat pouring from her face and her muscles aching after she had run herself ragged for more than two hours, the 31-year-old Kuznetsova triumphed through sheer willpower and nerves of steel.

"I play with my heart. I always do," Kuznetsova said. "But maybe I'm starting to believe a little bit more than before. I just hang in there more. "Some things get together and you get confidence. I see opponents fear me more than before because I win matches, I fight, and I'll be there. It doesn't matter if I play like crap and I'm sore, I will just be there." Pliskova, seven years younger than Kuznetsova but with ice in her veins as well after saving a match point to beat Muguruza on Monday, looked poised to end Kuznetsova's inspired run when she recovered from 4-1 down in the deciding third set to lead 6-5.

But the towering Czech squandered her chance to serve out the match, hitting a string of unforced errors as she tried to end the contest quickly, as the relentless Kuznetsova broke back and forced a tiebreaker. The match was still in the balance when Pliskova saved three successive match points to draw level at 6-6 in the tiebreaker when the more experienced Kuznetsova regained her composure and won the next two points to seal victory. "I'm not surprised at all," Pliskova said. "She's won two Grand Slams, so it's not someone who just came up."

"She is very strong woman and she can really play tennis. She has a tough game." With Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova both absent from the prestigious end-of-season championship, Kuznetsova has emerged as the unlikely headline act of the \$7 million tournament, restricted to the world's top eight players. She defied the odds just to qualify for the tournament for the first time since 2009, only sneaking into the elite field after winning the Kremlin Cup in Moscow on Saturday, then hopped straight on a plane and made the long flight to Southeast Asia.

Jet-lagged when she arrived, she seemed to be heading towards defeat in her first match with Radwanska when she asked the umpire for a pair of scissors and began cutting her own hair during a change of ends. She went on and won the match as footage of the impromptu haircut went viral on social media, winning Kuznetsova a legion of new fans, but upsetting her regular hairstylist.

"I took the headband off and I was like, it looks weird," Kuznetsova said. "So I made a picture and I sent it to my hair cutter. He was like, 'I'm going to kill you'." — AFP



SINGAPORE: Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia makes a backhand return to Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic during their singles match at the WTA tennis tournament in Singapore, yesterday.— AP

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CHENNAI: French Minister of State for Industry, Christophe Sirugue (right) views the assembly lines of Datsun Go and Renault Kwid during a visit to the Renault Nissan Automotive India facility in the southern city of Chennai yesterday. — AFP

ZAIN LAUNCHES DIGITAL INNOVATION FORUM IN KUWAIT

TWO-DAY GATHERING AIMED AT SUSTAINABLE AND PROFITABLE GROWTH

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading innovator of mobile communications in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces the commencement of its Digital Innovation Forum, marking the first time this important event is being held in Kuwait over two days. The Forum draws participants from across Zain Group's operational companies, and for the first time in its four-year history, draws representatives from INWI, Zain's affiliate company in Morocco.

Kuwait was selected as the host country of this year's event not only because it is the home market of Zain Group, but also because of the country's rising credentials in digital innovation, where the country's leadership has set a bold focus on investing in technology for the betterment of society. In addition, highly rated digital economy events such as the MIT Enterprise Forum Start-Up competition, Arabnet and the Tmkeen Youth Empowerment Symposium have recently convened in Kuwait, while numerous technology startups in the country have had outstanding commercial success, garnering international attention.

An overriding aim of the Forum is for individual Zain operating companies to be able to share their strategies, experiences, best practices, and challenges with one another and maintain the culture of improvement and forward momentum within the organization. Discussions at the event revolve around relevant industry trends including developments with over-the-top (OTT) players, e-commerce, digital content, e-health, the need for all operations to modify and transform their operating structures, and the requirement to attract and retain talent who have the capability to inject new ideas into the business.

The forum also brought together a selection of key innovation and strategic partners from



Juha Korhonen and Emre Gurkan

Europe, the USA and across the Middle East and Africa to exchange views on key industry developments and successes as well as to seek to forge potential partnership opportunities.

Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "We are delighted to have this event taking place in our home market of Kuwait, given the country's enthusiastic youth and data savvy population, many of whom are aspiring digital entrepreneurs."

We all know how complex and sophisticated the modern telecom sector is today, and gatherings such as this are invaluable for all our mobile operations to maintain their competitive edge when it comes to technology innovation and

services offered to customers. Continual digital innovation is essential to the sustainable and profitable growth of Zain."

The two-day Forum will be led by Zain Group Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer, Emre Gurkan who commented, "Innovation and flexibility are the life-blood of modern technology companies with digital disruption offering huge growth opportunities that will benefit many of our stakeholders including customers. Continuous transformation is a must-have in modern businesses and Zain is well on its way to transforming itself to become a digital lifestyle provider. Inputs from events such as this Forum are imperative to maintain our course to



A group picture of Zain Digital Innovation Forum.

achieving this ambition."

The Forum builds on the establishment of the Zain Digital Frontier and Innovation (ZDFI) business unit in 2014, which is charged with launching Zain into the digital space and the view to growing the company through new innovative business streams that contribute to Zain's financial viability and market capitalization. ZDFI focuses on the areas of innovation; digital services; corporate venturing; and smart cities, with the ultimate aim of Zain becoming a regional innovation trendsetter.

The ZDFI team has been active with more than 400 new innovative ideas being examined and the most appealing of them either imple-

mented by Zain across the operations or in the final stages of negotiation. Successful forays to date include the strategic investments in smart city consulting firm, nEXGen and mobility solutions developer and consultancy firm FOO; investments in three venture capital firms MEVP, EarlyBird and Wamda; the award-winning Group-wide partnership deal with Uber; the partnership with global games provider Zeptolab -Cut the Rope game and the partnership with Booking.com. The company has also been a key sponsor of the MIT Pan Arab Start Up Competition for the past two years and most recently sponsored the global MIT Innovate for Refugees competition.

KFH SEES OPPORTUNITY IN FINANCING GULF DEFICITS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the country's biggest Islamic lender, sees attractive opportunities in financing the budget deficits of Kuwait and other oil exporting countries in the region, its group chief executive said. Mazin Al-Nahedh's comments underline how a growing proportion of banks' money in wealthy Gulf countries is flowing into government debt rather than to the private sector, as governments increase borrowing to cover fiscal deficits caused by low oil prices.

Nahedh said KFH officials met with governments and companies in Gulf Arab countries every month to discuss how state budget deficits could be financed.

The bank holds about 57 percent of Islamic deposits in Kuwait, which are equivalent to 21 percent of total bank deposits, making it an important source of funds for the Kuwaiti government and potentially significant for the regional debt market. Between April and KFH's last disclosure on July 26, it accounted for 51 percent of Islamic banks' financing of Kuwait's budget deficit through securities operations, which totalled KD725 million (\$2.4 billion). Although yields on Kuwait government debt instruments are low in absolute terms, they are

high in relative terms because of the instruments' low level of risk and good liquidity, Nahedh said.

"This combination gives you comfort that you are investing in high-quality, liquid assets ... They are the best assets in Kuwait Finance House," he said. KFH has restructured its business over the last couple of years to focus on banking and core investment activities. In July it agreed to sell its stake of over 50 percent in Aref Investment Group.

Nahedh, however, said that the diversity of KFH's investments was a challenge in the restructuring process, and it was finding it hard to exit assets in some countries. In Kuwait, the market for assets lacks depth, he said. "When you have a company that wants to sell ... the lack of parties who want to buy does not facilitate competition on the price."

KFH's non-performing loans in Kuwait have dropped to 1.8 percent of total loans from 2 percent a year ago, while in the group as a whole, they fell to 2.95 percent from 3.03 percent, Nahedh said. The bank will also restructure its Malaysian unit, which has a share of about 3 percent of the local market, he said. — Reuters

GULF MARKETS WEIGHED BY DECLINING OIL PRICES

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets saw lacklustre trade yesterday as low oil prices and weak earnings weighed on investor sentiment. Crude prices declined for a third day, hovering near \$50 a barrel for the first time in three weeks, amid doubts that OPEC members will agree to a cut output.

"Investor sentiment appears to be weak in general on low earnings visibility," said Vijay Harpalani, fund manager at Dubai-based Al Mal Capital. The potential for an agreement among OPEC producers, the upcoming US elections and a likely Fed rate hike in December have added to uncertainty in the near-term, Harpalani said. Abu Dhabi's index was flat, with trade dominated by stocks due to report third quarter earnings after the market close.

First Gulf Bank, which plans to merge with National Bank of Abu Dhabi, rose 2.8 per cent. Etisalat, the telecommunications operator which directly or indirectly operates in about 17 countries across the Middle East, slipped one per cent. "The overall market is weak and liquidity is every

tight," said Nabil Farhat, a partner at Al Fajer Securities in Abu Dhabi.

Dubai's index slipped almost one percent, dragged down by Emaar Properties which has the largest weighting on the benchmark. The Dubai developer lost 1.9 percent. The Saudi index was also flat as gains by the Kingdom's largest listed lender helped offset losses by petrochemical, cement and retail stocks. National Commercial Bank, the kingdom's largest listed lender, climbed almost five percent.

But Saudi Basic Industries Corp, one of the world's largest petrochemicals group lost 0.6 percent. Saudi Cement, one of the kingdom's largest cement firms by market value, declined 1.5 percent. Saudi Arabian retailer Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair Co was down 2.5 per cent. Kuwait's index rose 0.27 percent, lifted by the country's biggest telecoms operator by subscribers, Zain. Zain jumped 2.44 percent to 420 fils. The ex-monopoly, which operates in eight countries in the Middle East and Africa, has risen

27.2 percent since October 17. A bourse filing from Zain on Tuesday said it had no material information to disclose behind a spike in trading activity on the company's shares.

But yesterday, deputy chairman Bader al-Kharafi told Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV that there was no information about a deal to sell the Kharafi family's stake in Zain. He said trading activity reflected investor confidence in the company, and that a potential sale would depend on the price. Qatar slipped 0.4 percent as weak earnings weighed on investor sentiment. Medicare Group dropped 4.6 percent, leading declines on the bourse. The company reported on Oct. 19 an 85 percent drop in earnings in the third quarter. Petrochemicals, metals and fertilizer producer Industries Qatar lost 3.6 percent. The company on Sunday reported a 28.9 percent drop in quarterly profit.

Al Meera Consumer Goods reported a 4.6 percent profit decline on Wednesday and saw shares fall 2.5 percent. — Reuters

SAUDI FINANCIAL POSITION REMAINS STRONG: MINISTER

ASSAF ADMITS PRESSURE ON BANK LIQUIDITY

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's financial position remains strong despite sinking oil prices, although there is "some pressure" on bank liquidity, the finance minister has said. The kingdom projects a budget deficit of \$87 billion this year as a result of the fall in oil revenues, which still account for most of its income.

Among measures to cover the fiscal gap, Riyadh has drawn on its foreign reserves, issued domestic bonds and last week raised \$17.5 billion in its first international bond offering. "We have been able to maintain a good position in public finances," Ibrahim

Al-Assaf told a seminar, the official Saudi Press Agency reported late on Tuesday.

"We have been able to maintain the stability of government reserves as they are still high. The level of debt remains low." The kingdom's banks still have strong balance sheets and relatively high levels of capital adequacy and liquidity ratios, "despite some pressure on liquidity at the system level in general," he said. A tightening of bank liquidity after the issuance of domestic bonds was the main reason Saudi decided to borrow abroad, an economist has said. Saudi banks' loan-to-deposit ratio rose for the fifth

consecutive month in August, reaching 90.8 percent, because of faster growth in credit relative to deposits, Riyadh's Jadwa Investment said in a report this month.

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

Assaf said officials "continue to periodically review our policies relating to financial stability".

Saudi Arabia has taken a series of austerity measures, including subsidy cuts and

reductions in government salaries. Earlier this year, it announced a wide-ranging plan to diversify its economy.

Assaf and his Gulf counterparts were to meet in Riyadh later yesterday with International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde. On Sunday, Saudi Oil Minister Khaled Al-Falih said the current cycle of falling crude prices is close to an end as market fundamentals improve. Oil prices are hovering around \$50 per barrel after hitting a 10-year low of less than \$30 in January, down from a peak of more than \$100 in mid-2014. —AFP

GENEL ENERGY WARNS OF LOWER-END 2016 REVENUE

LONDON: Genel Energy, one of the main oil producers in Iraqi Kurdistan, warned yesterday that full-year revenue would be at the lower end of its target because of weaker than expected production, sending its shares to a seven-month low.

Production at Genel's main oil asset, the Taq Taq field that has reserves of more than 170 million barrels, fell in the third quarter to 58,600 barrels per day (bpd), against 68,800 bpd in the first half of the year, as output from existing wells declined.

This forced Genel to warn that 2016 revenue would hit the lower end of its \$200 million to \$230 million target, which it had already lowered in July from between \$200 million and \$275 million.

It also said that 2016 production levels would come in at the bottom of its target range of 53,000 bpd to 60,000 bpd. Genel shares were down 11 percent at 83 pence by 0919 GMT, having earlier touched 76.25p, their lowest since March. "We are disappointed to see the continued decline at Taq Taq and the delays in revenue from the KRG have not helped here," said Daniel Slater, research director at Arden Partners, who rates the stock "neutral" with a price target of 93p.

Genel's receivables from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), which pays domestic oil producers for exports, rose to \$437 million at the end of September, compared with \$412 million at the end of June. The KRG, which had been paying foreign producers in monthly instalments for oil exports since September 2015, fell behind on payments this summer, raising concern among oil exporters.

"Despite the recent delay in payments, we remain optimistic that they will continue, facilitating further investment across our KRI assets," said Genel Chief Executive Murat Oezueluel.

Genel said later yesterday that it had received a net payment of \$12.2 million from the KRG for August oil sales from Taq Taq. Fellow Kurdistan producer Gulf Keystone also said on Wednesday that it had received a gross payment of \$15 million from the authority for August crude sales from its Shaikan field. Genel plans to submit a plan next year to expand Taq Taq and said that it has opened a tender to procure a more powerful rig to drill more wells. A spokesman said the extent of the field's expansion will depend on oil export payments. —Reuters



RENTON: This file photo taken on December 8, 2015 shows Boeings first 737 MAX named the "Spirit of Renton" parked on the tarmac at the Boeing factory in Renton, Washington. Boeing reported higher third-quarter earnings and lifted its full-year forecast October 26, 2016 following a solid performance in its commercial airplane deliveries. —AFP

BOEING REPORTS HIGHER EARNINGS, LIFTS FORECAST

NEW YORK: Boeing reported higher third-quarter earnings and lifted its full-year forecast yesterday a solid performance in its commercial airplane deliveries. Net income was \$2.3 billion, up 33.7 percent from the year-ago period and boosted by a one-time tax benefit. Revenues were down 7.5 percent to \$23.9 billion.

Operating profit fell both in Boeing's commercial and military divisions, yet the aerospace giant continued to book major orders for new commercial planes. The company also boosted its 2016 forecast for commercial plane deliveries to 745-750 from the prior range of 740-745.

Commercial airplane deliveries are closely tied to revenues in the aerospace industry.

"Solid operating performance across our commercial and defense and space businesses in the third quarter again generated strong cash flow for Boeing, which continues to fuel investments in our future and enable us to deliver compelling returns to our shareholders," said Boeing chief executive Dennis Muilenburg.

Boeing's earnings translated to \$3.51 per share, compared with analyst expectations of \$2.62 per share. Shares of Boeing rose 1.8 percent to \$141.48. —AFP

News

in brief

NBAD posts flat Q3 net profit growth

DUBAI: National Bank of Abu Dhabi, the emirate's largest lender by assets, yesterday posted flat growth in third-quarter net profit, broadly meeting analysts forecasts. NBAD, which is currently in a merger process with rival First Gulf Bank, made a net profit of 1.32 billion dirhams (\$359.4 million) in the three months ending Sept. 30, according to a statement. This compared to 1.33 billion dirhams in the same period a year earlier, while the average forecast of three analysts polled by Reuters was for a net profit in the quarter of 1.38 billion dirhams. Merging NBAD and FGB, as recommended by the boards of the two lenders in July, would create one of the largest banks by assets in the Middle East and Africa. The deal is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

UAE's First Gulf Bank says Q3 net profit up 31%

ABU DHABI: First Gulf Bank (FGB), the third-largest lender by assets in the United Arab Emirates, beat estimates yesterday as it posted a 31 percent rise in third-quarter net profit. FGB, which is being merged with rival National Bank of Abu Dhabi, made a net profit of 1.86 billion dirhams (\$506.5 million) in the three months ending Sept. 30, it said in a statement. This compared to 1.42 billion dirhams in the same period a year earlier, while the average forecast of analysts polled by Reuters was for a net profit in the quarter of 1.37 billion dirhams. Merging NBAD and FGB, as recommended by the boards of the two lenders in July, would create one of the largest banks by assets in the Middle East and Africa. The deal is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

UAE's Etisalat Q3 net profit up 16%

DUBAI: UAE telecoms company Etisalat's third-quarter profit rose 16 percent after adjusting for the impact of the sale of Sudan's Canar, missing the average forecast of analysts. Etisalat, which directly and indirectly operates in about 18 countries across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, made a net profit of 1.9 billion dirhams (\$517.4 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, it said in a statement yesterday. Three analysts polled by Reuters had on average forecast the company would make a net profit of 2.24 billion dirhams. In August, Etisalat said it had completed the sale of its 92.3 percent shareholding in Sudanese fixed-line operator Canar to Sudan's Bank of Khartoum, receiving 349.6 million dirhams in return for the stake.

Qatar's Aamal Q3 net profit down 3.6%

DUBAI: Qatar's Aamal, a diversified investment firm, reported a 3.6 percent fall in third-quarter net profit yesterday, according to a Reuters calculation. Net profit of 101.2 million riyals (\$27.8 million) in the three months ending Sept. 30 versus 105 million riyals a year earlier. Reuters calculated the result based on financial statements in lieu of a quarterly breakdown. Aamal's nine-month net profit of 356.8 million riyals was up from 325.9 million a year earlier, it said in a bourse statement.

OIL FALLS AS INVESTORS DOUBT OPEC CAN SEAL OUTPUT DEAL

LONDON: Oil fell for a third day yesterday, nearing \$50 a barrel for the first time in three weeks, as investors grew increasingly doubtful that OPEC members will agree to cut output and as US inventories staged a surprisingly large increase. Iraq, the second-largest member of OPEC, does not want to join in with a proposed production cut that the group has said it will approve at a regular meeting in Vienna next month.

With Iran, Nigeria and Libya already expected to be excluded, along with potentially Venezuela and Indonesia, whose state oil producer said on Tuesday it was targeting a 42-percent increase in output next year, traders and investors are growing less confident in the chances for an effective deal.

"The market is definitely in need of some kind of soothing words once again, but it's a 'cry wolf' thing. The talking has to get louder and louder to attract any attention, because skepticism is on the rise and I think rightly so," Saxo Bank senior manager Ole Hansen said.

"No doubt, the difference now compared to earlier this year, back when the market was primarily reacting to verbal intervention, is now something has been promised and if that promise cannot be fulfilled or delivered, then we obviously have a problem," he said, adding that his near-term target for Brent was \$49.40, followed

by \$48.40. Brent crude futures were down 74 cents at \$50.05 a barrel by 1120 GMT, having touched a session low of \$50.02, the weakest level since Oct. 3.

US crude futures also fell 74 cents on the day to \$49.22 a barrel. Iraq, the second-largest producer within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, has argued it needs its oil revenues to fight Islamic State. At the Algiers meeting, Iraq said OPEC had underestimated its output, which it pegged at 4.7 million bpd, compared with the group's assessment, based on secondary sources, of 4.2 million bpd.

"Just the fact that there can be such a huge disagreement over what Iraq is actually producing creates doubts in the market over how OPEC is going to handle a cap on production in terms of verifying that the members are actually adhering to the individual targets," SEB chief commodities analyst Bjarne Schieldrop said.

And unless top world producer Russia, which does not belong to OPEC, joins in, that leaves the onus of a potential cut with Arab producers in the Middle East such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Adding to the pressure on the oil market was data late on Tuesday from the American Petroleum Institute that showed an unexpected rise in US crude inventories. —Reuters

POST-SANCTION IRAN MAKES PLAY FOR ASIAN INVESTMENT

SINGAPORE: Iran yesterday urged Asian companies to invest in the country, saying the lifting of nuclear-linked sanctions had opened vast opportunities, but campaigners warned firms they might end up aiding "terrorism". Central bank governor Valiollah Seif told a business summit in Singapore that reforms put in place since President Hassan Rouhani took office in 2013 helped restore economic stability, while the lifting of sanctions had reintegrated the economy with the rest of the world.

Iran's gross domestic product is expected to grow 5.0 percent this year and next, up from 3.0 percent over the past two years, Seif told businessmen from Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Australia.

Tehran in January signed a historic deal with Western powers to end years of crippling sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, which Iran has long insisted was for peaceful purposes rather than building atomic weapons. The United States and the European Union continue to impose penalties against Iran over its support for armed movements, ballistic missile program and human rights record.

Iran provides financial and military support to Lebanon's Shiite militia Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamist groups, considered by some Western countries as terrorist organizations.

Advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran cautioned foreign companies against doing business with Tehran, running a full-page advertisement in the Financial Times Asia edition Wednesday panning the summit. "Any international company doing business in Iran could find itself inadvertently supporting terrorism—from Hamas and Islamic Jihad to Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen," said Mark D Wallace, chief executive of UANI. —AFP

EU STATES AGREE CAPS ON WHOLESALE ROAMING CHARGES

BRUSSELS: EU states agreed a preliminary compromise yesterday on lowering the caps for how much mobile telecoms operators can charge each other to keep their customers connected while abroad, easing concerns that a flagship EU policy to end retail roaming fees could backfire.

Anxious to revive support for the European Union amid a surge in nationalism of the kind that saw Britain vote to quit the bloc, the EU has trumpeted a scheme that will end the unpopular practice of operators charging additional fees when people make calls or use the Internet in other EU countries.

But the looming end to retail roaming fees next June was accompanied by concerns that, without an agreement to lower the cap on the wholesale charges operators impose on each other to make the roaming system work, some firms might stop offering the service or recoup lost revenue by jacking up prices at home. Wholesale charges for data had been the main sticking point.

EU envoys backed a proposal by Slovakia, which holds the rotating EU presidency, to set a glide path for wholesale roaming data charges that will see them capped at 1 euro cent per megabyte — 10 euros per gigabyte in June and decreasing to 0.5 euro cent per megabyte from June 2021, a spokeswoman for Slovakia said. The average over five years is 0.73 euro cent per

megabyte, lower than the cap originally proposed by the executive European Commission, 0.85 euro cent per megabyte.

Sending a holiday snap can consume about a megabyte. They also backed a Spanish proposal that would let operators hosting EU tourists on their networks charge more than the wholesale cap in exceptional circumstances if they are unable to recover their costs, she said. Breaching the cap will need prior approval from regulators.

However the surcharge will be limited so that the final amount a foreign operator will have to pay will not exceed 8.50 euros per gigabyte, meaning that operators would only have an incentive to levy a surcharge from 2019 onwards, when the wholesale cap dips below that level.

Yesterday's agreement still needs to be confirmed by ministers in December and be approved by the European Parliament before becoming law. The parliament is pushing for lower caps on wholesale charges, meaning the final cap is likely to be lower than that agreed yesterday. Big differences in domestic prices make an EU-wide wholesale cap that suits all 28 member states elusive. Countries in northern and eastern Europe with low domestic prices and generous packages favour lower wholesale caps than those in the tourist-magnet south. "There are no magic numbers," said a diplomat. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.918
Indian Rupees	4.556
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.065
Nepali Rupees	2.850
Singapore Dollar	219.610
Hongkong Dollar	392.020
Bangladesh Taka	3.876
Philippine Peso	6.301
Thai Baht	8.706

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.134
Qatari Riyal	83.565
ani Riyal	790.151

Bahraini Dinar	807.890
UAE Dirham	82.825

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	25.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.629
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	135.590
Jordanian Dinar	428.630
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.027
Syrian Lira	2.0168
Morocco Dirham	31.153

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.050
Euro	333.240
Sterling Pound	371.850
Canadian dollar	228.780
Turkish lira	99.440

Swiss Franc	307.740
Australian Dollar	235.180
US Dollar Buying	302.850

GOLD

20 Gram	258.790
10 Gram	132.310
5 Gram	67.000

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.300
Canadian Dolla	228.025
Sterling Pound	370.815
Euro	332.295
Swiss Frank	303.795

Bahrain 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	2.064
Indian Rupees	4.549
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Bangladesh Taka	3.871
Philippines Peso	6.287
Cyprus pound	160.383
Japanese Yen	3.910
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.840
Malaysian Ringgit	73.910
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.305
Thai Bhat	9.665
Turkish Lira	99.295

US NEW HOME SALES RISE IN SEPTEMBER

WASHINGTON: New US single-family home sales unexpectedly rose in September, pointing to sustained demand for housing even as data for August was revised sharply lower.

The Commerce Department said yesterday new home sales increased 3.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 593,000 units last month, pulling them close to a nine-year high touched in July. August's sales pace was slashed to 575,000 units from the previously reported 609,000 units. "We see tremendous growth potential in new home sales as housing demand continues to grow and a continued shortage of newer vintage homes," said Tian Liu, chief economist at Genworth Mortgage Insurance in Raleigh, North Carolina. "The limiting factor to that growth will be the limited supply of land and labor, and homebuilders' focus on higher price segments."

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast single-family home sales, which account for about 9.8 percent of overall home sales, falling to a rate of 600,000 units last month.

New home sales, which are derived from building permits, are volatile on a month-to-month basis and subject to large revisions. Sales increased 29.8 percent from a year ago. They rose in the third quarter compared to the April-June period, indicating strong demand for housing.

Residential construction, however, likely remained a drag on gross domestic product in the third quarter. The broader PHLX housing index, which includes builders, building products and

mortgage companies, fell 0.44 percent in line with a weaker US stock market.

Shares in the nation's largest home-builder, D R Horton Inc., were trading 1.0 percent lower. Lennar Corp fell 0.75 percent, while Toll Brothers slipped 0.64 percent.

INVENTORY DIPS

Despite rising demand for housing, home building has been lagging, with builders complaining about land and labor shortages. Demand is being driven by rising wages as the labor market nears full employment, as well as by very low mortgage rates. Separately, the Mortgage Bankers Association said applications for home loans for last week fell to their lowest level since January.

Last month, new single-family homes sales surged 33.3 percent in the Northeast and soared 8.6 percent in the Midwest. Sales in the South, which accounts for more than half of new home sales, climbed 3.4 percent. Sales fell 4.5 percent in the West, which has seen a sharp increase in home prices amid tight inventories.

Last month, the inventory of new homes on the market dipped 0.4 percent to 235,000 units. At September's sales pace it would take 4.8 months to clear the supply of houses on the market, down from 4.9 months in August.

The median price for a new home increased 1.9 percent from a year ago to \$313,500. Steadily rising home values are boosting household wealth, which is helping to support consumer spending and prop up the economy. — Reuters

KIPCO REPORTS 8% RISE IN NET PROFIT FOR 9 MONTHS OF 2016

GROUP IS ABLE TO COPE WITH CHALLENGES: ABDULSALAM

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - has announced a net profit of KD 40 million (\$132.7 million) for the first nine months of 2016, an increase of 8 percent on the KD 36.9 million (\$122.4 million) reported for the same period of 2015.

Earnings per share increased 11 percent in the first nine months of the year, standing at 24.62 fils (\$ 8.17 cents) from 22.11 fils (\$7.3 cents) per share reported for the same period in 2015. KIPCO's net profit for the three months ended September 30, 2016, came to KD 12 million (\$39.8 million) from the KD 11.8 million (\$39.2 million), reported for the same period last year. The company's total revenue for the first nine months of 2016 increased by 8 percent to KD 487.3 million (\$1.6 billion) compared to KD 451.4 million (\$ 1.50 billion) reported for the first nine months of last year.

KIPCO's consolidated assets increased in the first nine months of the year to KD 9.95 billion (\$33 billion) from KD 9.58 billion (\$31.8 billion) at year-end 2015.

Tariq AbdulSalam, KIPCO's Chief Executive Officer - Investment, said KIPCO's results in the first nine months of the year demonstrate the

ability of the Group's core companies to cope with the global economic circumstances, as well as the challenges that the region is witnessing:

"The results of the first nine months of the year are in line with our expectations for 2016. Despite the difficult economic conditions we are experiencing locally and regionally, the performance of our core companies will allow us to achieve the forecasted high single digit growth by the end of the year."

KIPCO recently repaid its \$500 million bond, issued under its EMTN Program in 2009. The bond repayment will result in an annual interest saving of approximately KD 6 million (around \$20 million). The company will have no fixed term debt repayments to make until 2019.

The KIPCO Group is one of the biggest holding companies in the Middle East and North Africa, with consolidated assets of US\$ 33 billion as at 30 September 2016. The Group has significant ownership interests in over 60 companies operating across 24 countries. The group's main business sectors are financial services, media, real estate and manufacturing. Through its core companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, KIPCO also has interests in the education and medical sectors.



Tariq AbdulSalam

KENYA AIRWAYS TO RESTRUCTURE ITS FINANCING: NEW CHAIRMAN

NAIROBI: Kenya Airways needs to extend debt repayments and make other changes to restructure its balance sheet, which would take priority over finding a strategic partner, the new chairman of the loss-making airline told Reuters. Shares in the carrier, 27 percent-owned by Air France KLM, have surged 68 percent this month on hopes of a turnaround after four straight years of losses.

The appointment of veteran telecoms executive Michael Joseph as chairman has also lifted sentiment. Pilots had threatened to strike from last week to demand management changes, but called off the action when Joseph's appointment was announced. "Our first priority is to restructure the financing and once we have done that we can start thinking about a strategic investor but it is too early to talk about that at the moment," Joseph said.

Restructuring would aim to secure "longer (credit) terms, changes in interest rates", Joseph said yesterday, his official first

day in the role after replacing Dennis Awori. Asked about the fate of Chief Executive Mbuvi Ngunze who pilots also demanded should go, Joseph said: "The priority is stability in the airline. When you are restructuring your financing, you need continuation of leadership."

He did not elaborate. Kenya Airways, also partly state owned and which carries 12,000 passengers a day in its fleet of Boeing and Embraer planes, has been hit in recent years by falling earnings due to a decline in the number of visitors to Kenya. Tourism has been hurt by security worries stoked by Somali Islamist group al Shabaab's attacks in the country, in apparent retaliation for Kenya's military deployment in Somalia. The airline has been reducing the size of its fleet, selling non-core assets like land and cutting jobs to recover from the losses it incurred after tourism slumped. It has also said previously that it requires fresh capital of 70 billion shillings (\$691 million). — Reuters



BREMEN: Vintage cars of manufacturer Borgward are pictured in Bremen, northern Germany yesterday. Cars bearing the stamp of once-defunct manufacturer Borgward will once again roll off an assembly line in north Germany from 2018, the firm said in a statement yesterday. — AFP

COKE PROFIT FALLS 28%, BUT GLOBAL VOLUME UP

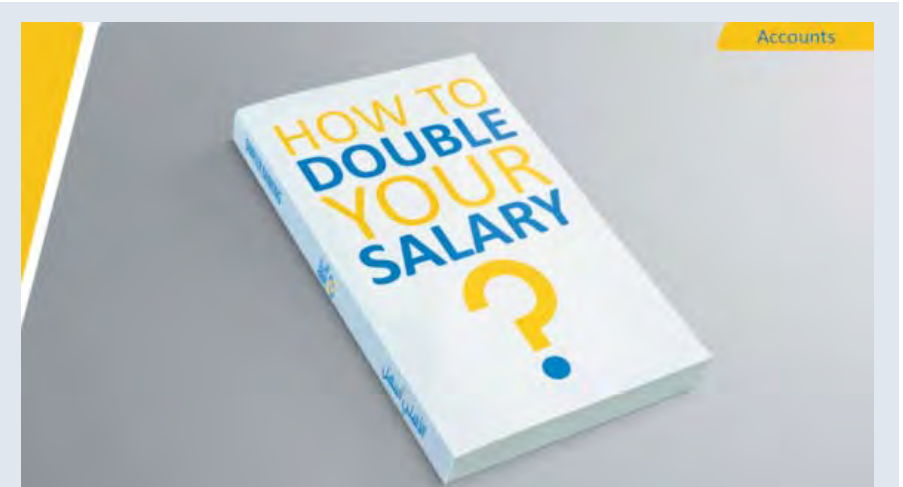


This file photo taken on May 1, 2016 shows a Coca-Cola logo in a restaurant in Washington, DC. — AFP

ATLANTA: Coca-Cola's profit fell 28 percent in the third quarter, but the company behind Diet Coke, Powerade and other drinks also said yesterday that its global volume rose. The Atlanta-based company said global volume rose 1 percent in the quarter, with gains in North America, Asia and Europe and other markets. In the quarter before, the company said global volume was flat.

In North America, volume rose 2 percent, thanks to its water and sports drink brands, which include Dasani and Powerade. The company also reported growth of its Sprite, Fanta and energy drink brands in North America, offsetting a decline in Diet Coke. Overall, Coca-Cola reported net income of \$1.05 billion, or 24 cents per share, in the three months ending Sept. 30, compared with \$1.45 billion, or 33 cents per share, in the same period a year ago. Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring costs, were 49 cents per share, beating the 48 cents per share analysts expected, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue fell 7 percent to \$10.63 billion, also exceeding Street forecasts. Five analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$10.54 billion. Shares of The Coca-Cola Co rose 25 cents to \$42.79 in morning trading yesterday. — AP



ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 26th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 24th October, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017.

The winners of this week are:

- 1) Meshal Khaled Faleh Al-Faer, Jahra 2 Branch
- 2) Al-Zahraa Abouelnadar Hasan Abouhelal, Salmiya Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will

automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 31st October, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 18998999.

LLOYDS CONFOUNDS BREXIT FEARS WITH PERFORMANCE

LONDON: Lloyds Banking Group defied expectations yesterday of a squeeze on earnings after Britain's surprise vote to quit the European Union by reporting third-quarter profits largely unchanged from a year earlier.

Britain's biggest mortgage lender, the first major British bank to report results that fully capture the period after the referendum, said underlying pretax profits were 1.9 billion pounds (\$2.31 billion) versus 1.97 billion a year earlier. Lloyds' Chief Executive Officer Antonio Horta-Osorio said that he had not seen much impact on consumer or corporate activity from Brexit, but that in the longer run investment would be needed to counteract any economic slowdown.

"We strongly believe that the economy requires a fiscal stimulus in terms of infrastructure and housebuilding," Horta-Osorio said, adding that he hoped the government would announce such investment in the chancellor's autumn budgetary statement.

As late as August, some economists were predicting the onset of recession in Britain follow-

ing the June 23 vote, which would likely trigger higher bad debts and poorer lending volumes at banks already challenged by rock-bottom interest rates. But recent data have suggested the economy and housing market remains upbeat, with a better-than-expected Purchasing Managers' Index survey and robust demand for mortgages.

DIVIDEND QUESTION

Lloyds shares, which have fallen by around a quarter since the June referendum, were trading down 3.2 percent at 0755 GMT, after some analysts questioned whether it could continue to generate enough capital to maintain its dividend plan. The bank also booked a higher-than-expected 1 billion pound charge to compensate customers mis-sold loan insurance (PPI) and additional legal and compliance costs of 150 million pounds. Bad loan charges rose by a third to 204 million pounds in an early warning that some customers could be struggling to cope with post-Brexit economic uncertainty.

Lloyds also reported a 740 million pound deficit in its pension fund, which has been hit by falling bond yields. Some analysts said that the bank's 13.4 core capital ratio, up from 13 percent at June 30, had been bolstered by an accounting change linked to how Lloyds valued its bond holdings.

Finance Director George Culmer told reporters the bank would pay its special dividend if the core capital ratio was above 13 percent at the end of the year.

Horta-Osorio is searching for ways to prop up Lloyds' dividend, profits and cash-generating abilities against a more testing economic environment.

The bank has been linked with a possible bid for credit card company MBNA but Culmer declined to comment on the speculation.

Rescued in a 20.5 billion pound taxpayer bailout during the financial crisis, Lloyds said it welcomed a decision by the government to resume selling its remaining 3.6 billion pound stake via a trading plan to institutional investors. — Reuters

AUDI QUILTS LE MANS TO FOCUS ON ELECTRIC-CAR RACING

BERLIN: Audi will quit participation in the Le Mans sports car race and the related world endurance championship next year after almost two decades and shift resources to electric-car racing, it said. Volkswagen-owned Audi, grappling with costs of its emissions scandal, is cutting spending to fund a strategic shift to electric cars and autonomous driving, mirroring plans by parent VW.

"We will conduct the race for the future electronically," Chief Executive Rupert Stadler told workers on Wednesday at Audi's sports-car division, according to a statement from Audi citing the biggest transformation in the brand's history. Audi denied a report by Handelsblatt saying savings from pulling out of Le Mans and the World Endurance Championship would

amount to an annual 300 million euros (\$328 million). A source at Audi said the move would save Audi nearly 100 million euros per year.

Audi has won the 24-hour Le Mans race, one of the greatest tests of endurance for cars and drivers, 13 times in 18 years, a spokesman said. Seeking to boost the share of zero-emission vehicles to at least a quarter of its global sales by 2025, Audi said it will next year start competing in the Formula E electric-car racing championship. The Ingolstadt-based manufacturer said its cars would stay in Germany's DTM competition and it was looking at the possibility of expanding its engagement in the so-called RX World Rallycross championship where electrification will also play a role. — Reuters

OIL PRICE DECLINES WEIGH ON WORLD MARKETS

LONDON: World markets fell yesterday maintaining a gloomy trend set in Asia and the United States, and with concerns about a global glut of oil looming over the market.

Mixed results from the continent's banking sector and losses in the mining sector pushed the pan-European STOXX 600 index down 0.6 percent. The losses came after oil prices fell 1.18 percent yesterday as investors grew increasingly doubtful that OPEC members will agree to cut output and as US inventories staged a surprisingly large increase.

Brent crude futures were down 73 cents

at 1100 GMT, closing in on \$50 a barrel for the first time in three weeks. "There have been rumors that Russia may not be on board with the production cuts and Iraq is also apparently seeking an exemption. The market is starting to question whether the OPEC agreement reached a couple of weeks ago is really as solid as originally thought," Investec economist Ryan Djajasaputra said.

Iraq, OPEC's second biggest oil producer, wants to be exempt from the cut, arguing it needs the revenues to fight Islamic State. Another factor behind European and Asian stock price weakness was disap-

pointing results and forecasts from US companies on Tuesday - most notably with Apple recording declining iPhones sales.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slid 0.87 percent, while Japan's Nikkei reversed earlier losses to close up 0.15 percent as the yen pulled back. European equities were also edgy as investors digested a slew of earnings reports, with commodity-related stocks and with British bank Lloyds under pressure, though well-received results from Santander buoyed Spanish stocks.

Antofagasta led the losses in the mining sector, dropping 6.5 percent.

CARNEY EFFECT

In currency markets, sterling recovered from Monday's lows after Bank of England (BoE) governor Mark Carney said in a speech the central bank could not ignore the effect of sterling's slide on inflation. This increased expectations that policymakers would leave rates unchanged next week, rather than cut them as many had expected.

Sterling rose 0.2 percent against the dollar to \$1.2209, coming off Monday's trough of \$1.2081, which was the lowest level since the Oct. 7 "flash crash". The euro, which slid to a 7 1/2-month low of \$1.0851 on Tuesday, also rose on Wednesday and was up 0.32 percent to 1.0921 at 1100 GMT.

With investors looking ahead to US third-quarter gross domestic product data on Friday, the dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six global peers, fell 0.20 percent to 98.514.

It hit its highest level since Feb. 1 on Tuesday as traders saw a better than 78 percent chance of an interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve in December, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool.

ASIA MARKETS RETREAT

Asian markets mostly retreated yesterday, with energy firms hit by sinking oil prices as fresh fears about a planned output cut by major producers were fanned by a report Russia will not take part. Crude has been in the ascendancy since last month when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting

Countries, and later Moscow, agreed to output cuts in a bid to support prices.

But both contracts tumbled more than one percent Tuesday as the Russia-based Interfax news agency said the country's envoy at OPEC, Vladimir Voronkov, had said output cuts are not "an option for us".

And it extended losses yesterday in Asia, putting pressure on regional energy firms, while eyes are on the release later in the day of US stockpiles figures. The report came days after key OPEC member Iraq said it should be exempted from the final deal as it was fighting a war against the Islamic State group.

"They say talk is cheap and OPEC appears to be approaching the limits of its ability to jawbone oil higher without something concrete to put on the table," Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA, said in a note. Sydney-listed Oil Search sank three percent while CNOOC lost around two percent in Hong Kong and Tokyo's Inpex shed more than one percent.

Broader markets were also well into negative territory, with Hong Kong ending down one percent and Shanghai closing 0.5 percent off. Sydney tumbled 1.5 percent as a surge in inflation tempered expectations that Australia's central bank will cut interest rates any time soon.

Seoul, Wellington and Manila each fell more than one percent, while Singapore was also sharply lower. However, Tokyo reversed morning selling to end slightly higher. —Agencies



Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 14.69	5,403.70	5,389.01	5,405.15	5,388.66
Weighted Index	▲ 4.13	359.38	355.25	360.56	355.21
KSX 15	▲ 14.02	845.40	831.36	851.05	831.23

Volume	167,975,511
Value (KWD)	33,922,308
Number of Trades	4,183

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	92	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	30.0	30.0	1,050	32	1	▲ 30.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	395	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	780	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	43.5	40.5	10,500	438	10	▲ 0.5
GPI	38.0	37.0	2,245,145	84,248	48	▲ 0.0
ABAR	87	85	85,000	7,291	13	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			2,341,695	92,008	72	▲ -0.48

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
SOKOUK	30.0	29.0	41739	1,219	5	▲ -0.5
KRE	52	51	916,000	46,817	19	▲ 1.0
URC	98	96	73,287	7,108	9	▲ 0.0
NRE	83	80	2,383,679	191,836	42	▲ -1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	29.0	27.5	2,831,000	80,082	52	▲ -1.0
ERESCO	40.0	39.0	63,000	2,477	6	▲ 0.0
MABANEE	830	800	1,541,633	1,247,341	39	▲ 10.0
INJAZZAT	68	67	181,000	12,137	3	▲ 2.0
INVESTORS	21.0	20.5	3,643,604	75,467	57	▲ -0.5
IRC	26.0	25.5	194,900	4,970	6	▲ 0.0
ALTIJARIA	79	77	263,717	20,543	12	▲ 1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ALAQARIA	21.0	21.0	5,000	105	1	▲ 1.0
MAZAYA	114	110	2,481,700	275,740	47	▲ -1.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ARGAN	176	170	10,100	1,718	2	▲ -1.0
ABYAAR	20.0	19.5	6,063,700	120,761	67	▲ 0.0
MUNSHAAT	44.5	44.0	357,000	15,779	15	▲ 0.0
FIRSTDUBAI	48.0	46.5	919,826	43,708	46	▲ 0.5
KBT	38.5	37.5	1,845,470	70,131	41	▲ -0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
MENA	19.0	19.0	1,500	29	1	▲ 0.0
ALMUDON	27.5	27.0	835,486	22,894	22	▲ -0.5
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
REMAL	48.5	47.0	555,562	26,569	24	▲ 1.5
AWJ	48.5	48.5	150,000	7,275	6	▲ -0.5
Real Estate			25,358,903	2,274,703	622	▲ 1.56

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
KCEM	375	375	696	262	1	▲ 5.0
REFRI	315	315	12,000	3,780	1	▲ 15.0
CABLE	415	385	1,600,421	643,406	147	▲ -15.0
SHIP	162	154	163,180	25,168	15	▲ 2.0
PCEM	960	930	90,750	85,720	12	▲ 20.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
MRC	66	66	20,000	1,320	1	▲ 6.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
GGMC	345	325	14	5	2	▲ -25.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	44.5	42.0	1,390,478	60,553	57	▲ 2.5
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
GYPSON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	59	55	137,390	7,824	16	▲ 5.0
AGLTY	485	480	740,706	356,383	33	▲ 5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
CLANING	39.0	38.0	188,404	7,210	4	▲ 0.5
KSL	47.5	47.0	100,100	4,705	2	▲ 0.5
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
HUMANISOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
GFC	32.0	32.0	500	16	1	▲ -1.0
MAYADEEN	29.5	28.5	336,000	9,658	8	▲ -0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
MTCC	54	51	8,102	424	7	▲ 0.0
UPAC	680	680	9,000	6,120	1	▲ 10.0
ALAFCO	216	214	550,500	118,607	21	▲ -2.0
MUBARRAD	54	50	301,331	15,671	25	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	74	74	102,544	7,588	6	▲ 2.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
GCEM	78	75	78,745	5,946	3	▲ 1.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
FCEM	78	78	131,000	10,218	2	▲ 0.0
RKWC	91	91	10,000	910	2	▲ -3.0
SPEC	78	78	1,500	117	1	▲ 0.0
Industrials			5,973,363	1,371,610	368	▲ 3.81

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
DANAH	84	80	701,370	58,089	35	▲ 0.0
POULT	176	176	10,000	1,760	1	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,620	2,600	236,429	615,715	7	▲ -20.0
Consumer Goods			947,799	675,564	43	▲ -0.81

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	▲ 0.00

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
KCIN	950	930	503	477	3	▲ -1.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	57	55	224,521	12,380	9	▲ -1.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
OULAFUEL	110	110	4,841	533	12	▲ -2.0
MUNTAZAHAT	71	71	10,000	710	1	▲ -2.0
JAZEERA	860	850	192,000	163,280	7	▲ 2.0
SOOR	110	108	54,304	5,972	9	▲ -4.0
FUTUREKID	106	106	7,500	795	1	▲ 8.0
ALRAI	136	132	196,710	26,323	21	▲ -1.0
ZMAH	46.5	43.0	13,191,476	593,790	251	▲ 4.5
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
Mezzan	1,040	1,000	746,967	763,459	35	▲ 0.40
Consumer Services			14,628,822	1,567,718	349	▲ 17.71

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
ZAIN	435	415	25,011,947	10,725,662	515	▲ 10
OOREDOO	1,100	1,060	18,737	20,485	12	▲ 1,100
HITSTELEC	39.0	37.5	3,496,981	133,187	74	▲ 4.0
VIVA	860	830	102,845	102,433	37	▲ 30.0
Telecommunications			28,640,510	10,981,768	638	▲ 17.71

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change
NBK	610	590	5,243,099	3,151,665	135	▲ 20
GBK	242	232	3,464,263	826,966	99	▲ 4
CBK	395	390	537,307	210,055	11	▲ 0.0
ABK	320	315	45			



AL-BABTAIN GROUP HOLDS NISSAN SALES SKILLS CONTEST 'RACE TO VICTORY, RAISE THE BAR'



KUWAIT: "Race to Victory - Raise the Bar" was the slogan raised in the Nissan Showroom on the Oct 15, 2016 at the annual Nissan Sales skills contest. Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the authorized agent of Nissan in the State of Kuwait, organized the contest to select their best Nissan salesman to represent Nissan Kuwait at the regional contests in Dubai.

The Nissan skills contest is a venue for the best sales executives to showcase their talents and hone their selling skills. Managers and senior supervisors from across Al-Babbain Group acted as customers and judges in four rounds of the contest. The occasion was attended by Al-

Babbain Chief Operating Officer Mohammad Shalaby; Group GM HR & Administration, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babbain; as well as senior management members and other staff. Representing Nissan Gulf was Fatma Zenagui, DGM Training & Dealer Network Development who distributed mementos to top three winners. Mohammed Shalaby, Chief Operating Officer - Al-Babbain Group opened the event with an inspirational speech expressing that "At Al Babbain are extremely proud of the winners' efforts, dedication and skills during this competition, last year was a great success."

Furthermore, Mohammed Shalaby added,



"The contest is not just to choose a champion only, it is a way to show the advancement of their skills and an acknowledgment of their hard work. Keeping knowledge and skills up to date is an essential element to deliver high quality service that meets the expectations of customers and safeguards the reputation of our organization. Nissan Al Babbain owes its success on quality customer service and a dedicated workforce. Group GM HR & Administration, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babbain said "The Nissan Sales skills contest offers the Sales Executives a venue to showcase their talents and get recognized for their contributions to the

organization. It also puts into perspective their proficiency and standards, highlighting areas which need improvement. Al-Babbain is committed to continuous staff training and development programs that increase the service reliability and competency of its workforce."

Following extensive screening processes amongst the dealership's sales executives over two months, top nine sales executives were chosen to compete amongst each other in this year's national contest to decide the champion for the regional contests in Dubai which is scheduled in February 2017. The winner of the regional contest stands a chance to win valu-

able cash prize and receive a gold medal from Nissan Middle East. Last year, Mohamed Samir of Nissan Al-Babbain won the first place and got the champion title; making this year's contest more competitive.

Kuwait champion for this year Nissan Sales Skills Contest is Mohammed Fathy taking home the gold medal and Wael Abu Doleh came in second with the silver medal. The third place was a tie shared by Mohamed Ali Al Sabbah and Rami Saleh Osman. Fathy will now undergo extensive and rigorous training to prepare him for the regional finals where Al-Babbain hopes to repeat its success story.

COURT MAY HELP EU SIDESTEP LONE-WOLF ATTACK ON TRADE DEALS

BRUSSELS: A court ruling early next year may help the European Union out of the kind of embarrassing situation it has just landed in, where a regional assembly in Belgium is blocking a major trade agreement between Canada and the 28 sovereign states of the EU.

The court case could set a legal precedent related to an EU trade pact with Singapore, which may make it easier for Brussels to conclude future deals without needing unanimous backing from every government and parliament. However, it can do little for the Canada agreement.

As it is, the government of Wallonia, with its seat in the ancient fortress city of Namur, has been likened to Asterix the Gaul defying the Romans, for resisting pressure to let Belgian federal leaders sign the EU's CETA deal with Canada today. The CETA treaty concerns not just trade tariffs - a power long centralised with

the EU in Brussels - but also access to services markets, particularly some public services, where national governments jealously guard their authority. That opens it to the wide-ranging veto power of EU states and regions. But a legal opinion by the advocate general as early as December, followed by a ruling by the European Court of Justice next spring, should clarify the situation. It will determine whether a similar treaty with Singapore falls within the "exclusive competence" of the EU or is "mixed", needing approval in national and some regional parliaments.

Trade was once an area of abstruse inquiry for policy wonks. Now efforts to draft an ambitious trade deal with the United States known as TTIP have energised mass campaigns against that pact and CETA, notably by labour unions and environmentalists. The European Commission, the EU executive,

began talks with Ottawa seven years ago under a mandate from the Council of member states. It had wanted CETA to be approved by the Council as an EU-exclusive deal. But pressure from states, including Germany, which sought to appease anti-globalisation protesters, led the commission to accept it as "mixed". Hoping to limit such problems in future and set a legal precedent, the Commission asked the European Court if the Singapore deal, agreed in 2014 but not yet ratified, is EU-exclusive or not.

Wallonia's Socialist-led parliament has stressed the mixed nature of the deal. It cited concern about its impact on public services in twice voting against CETA - exercising its powers under Belgium's highly devolved constitution to prevent the federal government from signing up. Asked last week if it was a mistake to classify CETA as mixed, an irritated Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker made clear he thinks blame for that lies with hesitant EU governments.

The CETA debacle and the court ruling are being closely watched by countries the EU has concluded deals with - Vietnam - or is in free trade talks with, such as the United States and Japan, or those it aims to engage, such as Australia and New Zealand. "We are all waiting anxiously for the outcome," said one diplomat of a would-be EU trade agreement partner.

The EU's Lisbon treaty of 2009 says the EU has exclusive competence in "common commercial policy", meaning trade, and sets out voting rules for member states' agreement. The Commission negotiates but needs the Council of states to agree. If declared an EU exclusive competence, then trade deals like the Singapore agreement would not need to be approved by some 40 national and regional legislative bodies, although Belgium might still feel it had to listen to its regions.

Instead, in principle, a deal could be agreed by the 28 national governments in the European Council, either by a majority vote or, in some cases, by unanimity. "Going mixed means you are going to kill a deal. There's no way you can get through every single parliament," said Hosuk Lee-Makiyama of the Brussels trade policy think-tank ECIEP.

The CETA fiasco threatens further the credibility of the EU, already battered by Britain's vote to leave the bloc and disputes over migrants. It also highlights difficulties that post-Brexit London may face in cutting a trade deal with the EU. Gianni Pittella, the centre-left leader in the European Parliament, whose group includes the Socialists who run Wallonia, urged reforms to prevent EU policy being blocked.

Guy Verhofstadt, former Belgian premier and liberal leader in the EU parliament, called for an end to mixed deals: "The Council can decide that it is a purely European agreement ... That would be a step forward in European



MUMBAI: This file photo taken on June 27, 2014 shows Tata Group Chairman Cyrus Mistry addressing the 10th Annual General Meeting of Tata Consultancy Services in Mumbai. —AFP

INDIA'S TATA IN RACE AGAINST TIME TO SAVE GLOBAL IMAGE

MUMBAI: India's largest conglomerate Tata faces one of the most turbulent periods in its long history after its shock decision to sack its chairman, analysts say, as it battles to save its global reputation. Seventy-eight-year-old patriarch Ratan Tata dramatically returned to the helm of the family business this week after he became upset at the direction Cyrus Mistry was taking the sprawling group.

The abrupt sacking Monday, out of character for the 148-year-old organization, has plunged the \$100 billion conglomerate into acrimony and highlighted its divisions at a time when it faces major financial challenges. "Tata group is going through an economic crisis and most of its businesses are not performing well," G Chokkalingam, managing director at Mumbai-based Equinomics Research & Advisory Pvt, told AFP.

Tata Group's revenue slipped 4.6 percent for the financial year ended March to about \$103 billion. One of its worst performers is Tata Steel, which last month reported a quarterly net loss of almost 32 billion rupees (US\$475 million), as it winds back its European operations. The company announced earlier this year that it was selling its loss-making British assets owing to a global oversupply of steel, cheap Chinese imports into Europe, high costs and currency volatility. Tata Motors' profits have also slowed because of falling sales of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) in China as the country's economy stutters, while IT behemoth Tata Consultancy Services is suffering from cautious client spending in the face of an uncertain global economic outlook. "It was not any leadership problem but economic factors that played out in ousting Mistry," said Chokkalingam, suggesting he had unfairly lost his job over circumstances out of his control. An outstanding payment of almost \$1.2 billion to Japan's NTT Docomo is also tarnishing Tata's reputation abroad. "It could take a new leader 10

years to get control of things and maintain Tata Group's image," Mahesh Singh of corporate advisory firm Singh Advisors told AFP. Tata led the company for 21 years during arguably its most successful period, increasing the group's revenues from around \$6 billion to \$100 billion as he made a string of big-name purchases.

While he travelled the globe buying the likes of JLR, Britain's Tetley Tea and Anglo-Dutch steel firm Corus, Mistry has focused on reducing the sprawling group's \$30 billion debt level by selling assets and refinancing loans. Ratan Tata is said to have become increasingly frustrated by 48-year-old Mistry's focus on divestments, believing the group should hold on to its assets for the long term and not reduce its global reach. But Chokkalingam stresses that Mistry's departure should not mark the end of his more prudent approach, saying Tata has no option but to reduce its size to balance the books.

'Leadership vacuum'

"With no return to the parent companies in recent times due to a weak economic outlook, divestment has become a compulsion. Tata Sons had to either continue with losses or restructure their businesses," said the analyst. Mistry became the first chairman from outside the immediate Tata family when he succeeded Ratan Tata in December 2012. His coronation was carefully planned, with the group announcing Mistry as heir a year beforehand.

He was only the sixth chairman in the history of the conglomerate, which was formed in 1868, and analysts say the unceremonious manner in which Mistry was deposed speaks of a wider malaise. "It highlights a leadership vacuum," corporate governance expert Shriram Subramanian of InGovern Research Services told AFP. Mistry's sudden dismissal following a vote at a routine board meeting has unsurprisingly been acrimonious. — AFP

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF RED, SALARY ACCOUNTS DRAWS



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced winners of both Monthly Salary Account and Red Account draws, which took place on 25 October 2016. The Salary & Red Account have a cash draw prize of KD 1,000 for each account. Abdullah Khaled Farhan Al-Hajri and Soad Abdullah Houran Al-Marzook were announced as the lucky winners of the Salary Account and Red Account draw prize for this month, each of the two winners received cash draw prize of KD 1,000.

New Red Account or Salary Account cus-

tomers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000 each. In addition, the last quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac Escalade.

For further information about Gulf Bank's red and Salary account and other prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at www.gulfbank.com.

AL KOUT MALL IS 70% LEASED WELL BEFORE OCTOBER 2017 OPENING

TAMDEEN GROUP'S NEW SUPER-REGIONAL MALL

KUWAIT: Tamdeen Group - Kuwait's leading mixed-use property developer - has reported 70 percent of the new Al Kout Mall's retail spaces leased out of its total of 260 planned stores. The developer has had an unprecedented and positive response to the new Al Kout Mall.



Ahmed Al-Sarawi

The new mall is part of the overall AL KOUT development in the Ahmadi Governorate. When completed, the development will offer six different experiences including hospitality, shopping, marina, a fishing wharf, leisure and entertainment.

With the signing of major key and anchor tenants such as H&M, Zara, GAP, Victoria's Secret, Sephora, Massimo Dutti,

Banana Republic, Jack Wills, COS, Mamas & Papas, Mothercare and several others, as well as F&B brands like Vapiano, PF Chang's, TGI Fridays etc., leasing of the 260 units for Al Kout Mall is ongoing with huge interest from several leading international and regional players.

In addition, through the redevelopment and expansion of the existing Al Kout mall and its transformation into Souq Al Kout, the project will boast over 100,000 sq.mtrs of retail space, making AL KOUT a super-regional mall and the largest mixed-use waterfront project in southern Kuwait.

Mohammed Jassim Khalid Al Marzouq, Chairman, Tamdeen Group said: "Our objective is to create a vibrant new destination for the south of Kuwait, offering several attractions to our consumers. We want to create a destination for visitors from Kuwait and from outside, particularly the GCC. This grand project is an example of our commitment to creating mixed-use developments which will go much beyond the retail experience."

Fashion will be a major component of the new mall with over 50 percent of the mall catering to a variety of fashion brands. In addition there will be significant entertainment for families including Cinescape Cinemas, the well-established Infunity and a new Sky Zone concept. F&B will also be a significant part of the mix, offering some of the best options in casual dining restaurants as well as a state-of-the-art food court. There will be a special focus on perfumes and cosmetics to cater to specific preferences of the Ahmadi



Al Kout Mall media roundtable

clientele. Ahmed Al-Sarawi, CEO of Tamdeen Shopping Centers, said: "Construction of the mall is on schedule leading to a 5th October 2017 grand opening which will completely redefine the shopping experience for people not just in the Ahmadi Governorate but also for those with weekend homes along the coast. While time is of the essence, the project quality is most important for us. Tamdeen projects are well known for their quality of design and attention to detail. Our contractor, Al Ahmediyah, is fully aligned to meet our objectives."

Managed and operated by GLA Management, a professional mall-management firm, the balance retail space is currently under negotiation with other

ENTERTAINMENT AT AL KOUT MALL

KUWAIT: The 'Family Entertainment Center' (FEC) at Al Kout Mall will feature an immersive entertainment experience that provides a unique setting marked by vitality and excitement for the entire family.

Cinescape: 5,710 sq mtrs

* Al Kout Mall will be home to one of the most innovative and leading edge cinema complexes in Kuwait, courtesy of Cinescape. This new multiplex will be the ultimate destination for a differentiated cinematic experience in comfortable and modern surroundings where moviegoers will enjoy the latest movies in nine state-of-the-art theaters including an IMAX screen. The overall AL KOUT project will have 12 cinemas.

Infunity: 5,180 sq mtrs

* Guests will experience state-of-the-art entertainment programmes that include top-of-the-line rides (Roller Coaster, Drop Tower, Rope Course, Rock Climbing and much more), up-to-date video games, birthday parties rooms and skill redemption games catered to the different tastes and needs of the entire family.

Sky Zone: 5,400 sq mtrs

* Sky Zone, an indoor trampoline park, and the inventors of "fun fitness", will have hundreds of trampolines all connected to form one massive trampoline, literally allowing guests to jump off the walls.

FACTSHEET: New Al Kout Mall

- * Mixed-use, three-level development.
- * Total of 260 stores.
- * 70% of the mall is already leased one year before the opening.
- * Retail component will comprise anchors, restaurants, cafes, food court, entertainment, gym and spa.
- * Over 50 percent of mall catering to fashion brands.
- * Special focus on perfumes and cosmetics.
- * Several new to market brands signed up.
- * Home-grown brands a key feature of the tenant mix.
- * Catchment area of over half a million visitors.
- * Fusion of traditional architecture and modern contemporary design.
- * 12 state-of-the-art cinema theatres including IMAX to be managed by Cinescape.
- * Built at a cost of KD 70 million.
- * The new AL KOUT in southern Kuwait is set to become a new Arabian landmark that will redefine the way Kuwaitis shop, relax and entertain themselves

AL KOUT

AL KOUT is the largest waterfront landmark and lifestyle experience in Kuwait with six different experiences and 100,000 sqm of retail offerings.

- * Al Kout Mall - Retail, shopping, dining, fitness and wellness facilities
- * Souq Al Kout - Retail, cinemas, al fresco restaurants, fresh food market, super market and musical fountain
- * Nag'at al Kout - Thriving fishing wharf for the locals
- * Marsa Al Kout - The marina with a state-of the art yacht club and high-level marina facilities
- * Sahel Al Kout - Beachfront offering for exercising, walks and relaxation. Also has cafes. Includes 1.6 kms of seafront across Fahaheel Beach
- * Al Kout Rotana - 200 suites, 5-star hotel with friendly service in an elegant building will directly connect to all shops and restaurants within the new Al Kout Mall. Will also be home to a signature 3,700 sqm multi-purpose ballroom.

popular brands. Christian Wistrom, General Manager - Leasing, GLA Management, said: "We are absolutely delighted that the project has received so much interest and we anticipate that it will be fully leased well before the opening of the mall in October 2017."

"This strong demand is a reflection of the quality of the project as well as the positive experience of retailers with existing Tamdeen projects."

Beyond existing brands, Al Kout Mall will also boast new to market brands which will be introduced to Kuwait residents for the first time. Some of these innovative brands are Sky Zone, Adidas Originals, Charming Charlie, Kiko and several more to be announced before the

opening. The project is aligned with Tamdeen's strategy of transforming the modern retail sector in the country whilst encouraging high impact retail entrepreneurs to contribute towards innovation in modern retail. Commenting on the complexities of the project, Avijit Yadav, COO - GLA Management, said: "The combination of several components including the malls, a traditional market, a successful marina and 1.6 kms of beach make it a complex project for us to manage. Our reward lies in the fact that we can offer so many fun experiences to our customers." Upon completion of all phases, AL KOUT will occupy a massive 300,000 sq.mtrs of area creating Kuwait's largest waterfront mixed use destination.

GULF AIR AND SWISSPORT SIGN GROUND HANDLING SERVICES CONTRACT IN SAUDI

MANAMA: Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain has signed a ground handling services contract with Swissport Saudi Arabia, a subsidiary of Swissport International, the world's leading provider of ground and air cargo services to the aviation industry. The agreement sees Swissport Saudi Arabia provide ground handling services for Gulf Air's Saudi operations in all of: King Khaled International Airport in Riyadh, King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah and King Fahd International Airport in Dammam.



Commenting on the agreement, Gulf Air Chief Operating Officer Nasser Al-Salmi said: "This is a positive development in support of Gulf Air's operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia giving our passengers more choice and ensuring greater ease of travel when flying to and from our destinations in the Kingdom. We look forward to reaping the rewards of this agreement and further strengthening our relationship with Swissport Saudi Arabia."

Swissport Saudi Arabia's Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Bommer stated "We are proud to be able to assist Gulf Air with professional ground handling services. A key feature of the collaboration with Gulf Air will be a high degree of customer focus and innovation that we intend to bring to the operation. We see a great potential for continuing to expand this partnership in the future as well." To ready the organization across the Kingdom Swissport International has brought in a sizeable number of ground support equipment and recruited an additional 250 experienced aviation staff, besides strengthening the current set-up with a number of key position appointments. Swissport International provides Gulf Air with comprehensive ground handling services including passenger and ramp handling, baggage services, operations coordination and load control. The agreement with Gulf Air followed a rigorous selection process and sees Bahrain's national carrier become the second Gulf carrier to appoint Swissport Saudi Arabia for its ground handling services in the Kingdom.

Gulf Air operates one of the largest networks in the Middle East, with double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from its hub at Bahrain International Airport. Bahrain's national carrier offers over 90 weekly flights to 5 destinations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in addition to regularly providing seasonal frequency and schedule enhancements that cater to greater passenger movement to and from the Kingdom.



BTC PARTICIPATES IN KIU EXPO

EXHIBITING TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED HINO TRUCKS

KUWAIT: Bahrah Trading Company (BTC), one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies participated in the recently held 2016 Expo that was organized by Kuwait Industries Union. The three-day event was represented by 55 local industrial companies and public institutions from different sectors including food, construction and chemical. Minister of Social Affairs Subaih Hind, high ranking government dignitaries were the chief guests and Sheikh



Abdullah Mohamad Sabah Director General of the Environment Public Authority, Chairman of the Factories Union and Diplomats attended the event.

BTC's participation included the display of 2 HINO trucks alongside an exclusive booth for HINO, where the guests interacted with BTC HINO officials exploring various features of the HINO trucks displayed.

According to Melakandy Hamza, General Manager BTC "We are glad to be of our association in a fruitful partnership with KIU and appreciate their efforts towards successfully organizing this important event. The Expo was an effective platform to exhibit HINO, the leading manufacturer of trucks in Japan. HINO 700 and 300 Series that were on display, are designed to reflect quality, durability and reliability and will satisfy the needs of demanding customers in this country. The basic philosophy of Hino Motors is "3S Total Support" to our valued customers. We would like all Hino customers to experience the real values of Hino vehicles,



that's represented by "Maximized uptime" and "Minimized operation cost".

300, 500 and 700 Series from HINO Trucks: 700 series trucks from HINO have been developed to be endowed with superior levels of performance and reliability through tests repeated many times to develop the "ideal" heavy duty trucks based on data gathered from various countries around the world whereas the 300 and 500 series is devel-

oped as a "Global model" designed to be a "Perfect Fit" for all Middle East markets.

HINO has maintained a proven record as one of the world market leaders with representation and presence in GCC and Africa since 1960's. Since its re-launch in November 2014, HINO has witnessed record growth during the past 2 years thanks to the powerful driving performance and trustworthy after-sales service.

SOPHOS PLACED AS A LEADER IN ENDPOINT SECURITY SUITES



Dan Schiappa, senior vice president and general manager of the Enduser Security Group at Sophos

Dubai: Sophos(LSE: SOPH) yesterday announced it has been positioned as a 'Leader' in Forrester Research, Inc's new report, The Forrester Wave(tm): Endpoint Security Suites, Q4 2016. Recognizing that Sophos received the highest scores in the Strategy category, Forrester refers to Sophos Endpoint Protection as delivering "the most enterprise-friendly SaaS endpoint security suite." The report cites that "buyers will appreciate its intuitive administrative interface along with the flexibility and scalability required for most enterprise deployments, both large and small." Forrester also found that overall Sophos customers report a "high level of satisfaction with the product's effectiveness."

Forrester evaluated 15 vendors against 25 criteria and categorizes vendor capabilities into three core needs: attack prevention, detection and remediation. The report recommends that

before purchase, customers should consider a vendor's ability to specifically:

- Prevent malware and exploits from executing
- Detect malicious activity post-execution
- Remediate and contain malicious activity and potential vulnerabilities

The report included vendors who have products with the above capabilities and have demonstrated an enterprise market presence with a high-level of interest for their solutions from enterprise customers. In the report, Forrester also assesses a vendor's strategy. Sophos scored a maximum rating across the board in the cost and licensing model, product roadmap and go-to-market strategy criteria. Forrester cites, "In a field crowded with both new and legacy endpoint security technologies, Sophos' roadmap to develop strong signature lessa prevention and detection capabili-

ties...should make the product highly competitive over the long term."

Sophos Intercept X is a next-generation endpoint security product that stops zero-day malware, unknown exploit variants and stealth attacks and includes an advanced anti-ransomware feature that can detect previously unknown ransomware within seconds. Sophos Intercept X installs alongside existing endpoint security software from any vendor, immediately boosting endpoint protection with signature less detection. Sophos Intercept X is now available and more information can be found on the Sophos Intercept X website.

"This study assesses both traditional and next-generation security vendors against consistent criteria. The placement of Sophos on the strategy axis to the extreme right indicates to us that Sophos is taking the lead by adding next-generation technologies to our

proven endpoint protection portfolio," commented Dan Schiappa, senior vice president and general manager of the Enduser Security Group at Sophos. "I believe that our position as a 'Leader' in this report is a testament to Sophos' continued ability to assess the dynamic security landscape and listen to our customer needs to develop effective endpoint security products that exceed expectations for protection and manageability.

I am proud that our customers benefit from our industry-leading technology, our strategy for both on-prem and SaaS deployment through the Sophos Central cloud-based management platform and our ability to consistently bring innovative security products to organizations of all sizes."

To download the Forrester Wave(tm): Endpoint Security Suites, Q4 2016, please visit the Sophos website.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE'S BALLOT SELFIE HIGHLIGHTS MIXED LAWS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Now even Justin Timberlake has been forced to deal with the question of whether a ballot selfie is legal.

Timberlake flew from California to Tennessee to vote early this week, but his posting of an image of himself at the voting booth on Instagram on Monday drew questions about whether he was breaking the law. A Tennessee law that took effect earlier this year bars voters from taking photographs or video while they're inside a polling location.

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 voting and their ballots.

Federal courts have struck down bans in New Hampshire and Indiana, and on Monday, a judge in Michigan blocked enforcement of a ban on ballot selfies, saying it violates free speech.

Tennessee Secretary of State spokesman Adam Ghassemi said officials are "thrilled Justin can't stop the feeling" but reminded voters to use their phones inside polling locations only to help them vote.

Timberlake lives in California, but grew up in the Memphis area and owns property near Nashville.

How states handle the question :

States where ballot selfies are allowed
CONNECTICUT: No law bans ballot selfies, according to Patrick Gallahue, a spokesman for Secretary of State Denise Merrill. But election moderators have discretion to prohibit activity "that threatens the orderly process of voting or the privacy of another voter's ballot."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: There's no ban. Election officials discourage people

from taking pictures but won't do anything to stop them, said Tamara Robinson, a spokeswoman for the D.C. Board of Elections.

HAWAII: A law passed this year allows voters to share a digital image of one's own marked ballot.

IDAHO: There's no law banning them, the secretary of state's office said.

INDIANA: A federal judge last year barred the state from enforcing a new law prohibiting ballot selfies.

KENTUCKY: Secretary of State spokesman Bradford Queen says state law does not allow people to record the likeness of a voter, but the law does not say whether voters can record their own likeness. Therefore, the secretary of state's office routinely tells county clerks the law does not prohibit ballot selfies.

LOUISIANA: Secretary of State Tom Schedler says ballot selfies are allowed in the state, though he's not a fan of them.

MAINE: The secretary of state discourages ballot selfies because there's a ban on making unauthorized ballot copies, but there's no law against voters posting photos of their marked ballot.

MICHIGAN: A federal judge on Monday blocked enforcement of a ban on ballot selfies, saying it violates free speech. Lawyers for Secretary of State Ruth Johnson predicted "chaos" at polling places and asked the judge to consider freezing her order while they pursue an appeal in a higher court.

MINNESOTA: Allowed as long as they're not shown to fellow voters at the polling place or capture another person in the photo.

MONTANA: Law does not specifically prohibit the use of cameras at polling places, but election administrators and judges have broad authority to limit disruptive activity, according to Emily Dean, spokeswoman for the secretary of state. Sharing photos of absentee ballots is also not banned.

NEBRASKA: Gov. Pete Ricketts signed a bill in April that allows someone to show their marked ballots to others without risking a \$100 fine.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston last month upheld a decision that a ban was unconstitutional, saying it suppresses a large swath of political speech and there was no evidence to support the state's concerns.

NORTH DAKOTA: Photos inside polling places are allowed.

OREGON: All voting is done through mail-in ballots, which voters are free to photograph. A state law prohibiting showing a marked ballot to another person was repealed in 2014, according to Molly Woon, a spokeswoman for Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins.

RHODE ISLAND: The Board of Elections adopted new rules in time for November's election that allow for selfie-taking inside polling places. The updated regulations allow voters to take photos as long as they don't show another person's ballot. — AP



NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE: In this Feb. 9, 2016, photo, provided by Bill Phillips, of Nashua, Phillips takes a selfie with his marked election ballot. — AP



WASHINGTON: In this Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, file photo, Senate Commerce Committee member Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., displays the parts and function of a defective airbag made by Takata of Japan that has been linked to multiple deaths and injuries in cars driven in the United States, during the committee's hearing on Capitol Hill. — AP

DESPITE WARNINGS, EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AIR BAGS NOT REPAIRED

300,000 HONDAS EFFECTED

DETROIT: Owners of more than 300,000 Hondas have yet to get their air bags repaired, despite warnings from the automaker and regulators that the inflators have an extremely high chance of rupturing and causing injury or even death.

Last week authorities said one of those air bags, equipped with an inflator made by Takata Corp., ruptured and killed a California woman, adding urgency to the search for the noncompliant vehicles.

About 69 million Takata inflators have been recalled due to possible rupture. In June, government regulators said testing showed that inflators in 313,000 older Hondas and Acuras had as high as a 50 percent chance of rupturing in a crash. The regulators told owners of the cars to stop driving them and get them repaired. But four months later, only 13,000 of the cars have been repaired. Takata uses ammonium nitrate to create an explosion to inflate air bags. But the chemical can deteriorate when exposed to heat and humidity and blow apart a metal canister, spewing shrapnel. The inflators have killed as many as 16 people worldwide and injured more than 100. The death of the California woman, Delia Robles, was the 11th tied to Takata inflators in the US.

those steps, spokesman Bryan Thomas said. The agency knows that traditional ways of contacting owners haven't been successful, and it's working with Honda on new methods, he said without offering specifics. NHTSA is seeking a rule requiring automakers to notify owners by e-mail and text message, measure that some automakers already take voluntarily.

Wants proof

Thomas said Honda has told the agency that many of the 300,000 cars have been scrapped, but the agency wants proof. Robles, 50, of Corona, California, was killed Sept. 30 when her 2001 Honda Civic was hit head-on by a left-turning pickup truck as she was on her way to get a flu shot. Honda's Martin says she bought the car in mid-2015, likely from a small used-car dealer who purchased it two weeks earlier at an auction, which only dealers normally attend. While most automakers require new-car dealers to fix

used cars subject to a recall, independent dealers don't have to.

Honda mailed Robles multiple notices using an address from California registration data, Martin says. The car was first recalled in 2008, and since then, Honda has sent the four registered owners 20 letters, he says. There's no way for Honda to verify if Robles received the letters. Her son, Jose Contreras, said Friday that she never mentioned them to him. Martin says it's not practical for Honda to visit all the owners with super-dangerous inflators. But he and other Honda employees have gone to some homes.

Last summer in Torrance, California, Martin spotted a 2002 Acura TL with a dangerous air bag parked on a city street. He left business cards and even a personal letter on the windshield, but heard nothing. So he went to the owner's nearby home. She didn't speak English well and had her son speak to Martin. They set up an appointment for later this week to get the inflator replaced. — AP

CONGESTED CAIRO TO BECOME REGIONAL HUB FOR UBER

CAIRO: Ride-hailing service Uber plans to make Cairo a regional hub with an investment of more than \$50 million in the next two years, building on its breakneck growth in the infamously traffic-clogged city, its Egypt general manager said.

The company has committed to investing \$250 million over the next five years in the Middle East, where Cairo, a sprawling city of 20 million, has emerged as the jewel in its growth strategy. "Today, Cairo is the fastest growing city in Europe, Middle East and Africa ... We've seen an uptick starting in 2016, which is the year it started booming," Anthony Khoury said as part of the Reuters Middle East Investment Summit.

Uber has rapidly expanded to more than 450 cities since its San Francisco launch in 2010, fighting a series of battles with local regulators and taxi drivers who have got its services partly or fully banned in several cities worldwide.

Khoury described Egypt, typically associated with crippling bureaucracy, as a relatively smooth ride, though it briefly faced protests early this year from taxi drivers who complained that lower taxes and licensing fees gave Uber an unfair edge.

The government had moved swiftly to draft regulations that cooled the controversy, Khoury said as part of the Summit, taking place in cities across the region.

"The sharing economy in general is a completely new type of economy, so it's usually a bit tricky at the beginning," he told Reuters from his office at the GREEK campus, a hub for Cairo's small but energetic startup scene. "But

Egypt was very quick to see the benefits, create a cross-ministerial committee and start really trying to regulate the operation."

Popular alternative

Uber's fleet of Egyptian drivers has grown to about 35,000 from 30 when its air-conditioned cars first hit Cairo's busy streets in November 2014. Along with fellow ride-hailing service Careem, it has become a popular alternative to riding in often-dusty and dilapidated Cairo taxis, whose drivers are notorious for switching off meters, jacking up fares and chain smoking.

Khoury said more than 2,500 new drivers join Uber's ranks every week, in a country where double-digit unemployment helped stoke an uprising in 2011. "From these 35,000 drivers, 40 percent are unemployed. So it's really an economic empowerment tool ... the other 60 percent use it on a part-time basis and it's really for them to supplement their income," he said.

In a nod to the vast majority of Egyptians who don't have bank accounts, Uber Egypt decided late last year to break from its credit card-only model and allow cash payments, a move that attracted scores of new passengers overnight, Khoury said. The company is building a support centre in Cairo that will serve the Middle East and parts of Africa, with its current staff of roughly 175 expected to reach 1,000 by the end of 2017. "We found that talent was available, and it's really good talent that we were not expecting to find ... at an English-speaking, managerial level," he said. — Reuters

Honda tries it's best

Honda says it has mailed letters, placed Facebook ads, made telephone calls, and in some instances has visited owners. But the results point out that major holes remain in the US safety recall system because owners can be hard to find, particularly when it comes to used cars that have changed hands multiple times. And some owners refuse to get repairs done no matter how many times they are notified.

Safety advocates have called for laws banning the sale of any vehicle until recall repairs are made, or a national requirement that recalls be done before license plates can be renewed. But so far, there are few such requirements.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Florida, says Honda should do more. "No responsible automaker should be so slow in repairing defective vehicles where there's up to a 50 percent chance a driver could be killed or seriously injured if an air bag deploys," he said in a statement last week.

But Honda says it's doing all it can. "It's not for lack of unprecedented effort to try to reach these owners," company spokesman Chris Martin said. Honda will pick up cars and drop off a loaner, says Martin, who adds that Honda has parts ready to repair all the dangerous cars.

Karl Brauer, executive publisher of Autotrader.com, says it's hard for automakers to find owners of low-cost cars that are 10 or 15 years old, because many owners are young and move frequently or are immigrants who may have language barriers. Many cars have had four or more owners, making them harder to find. But because these cars are so dangerous, Brauer says it's time to either go to everyone's home or take all 300,000 off the road.

NHTSA doesn't have legal authority to order

OMA EMIRATES GAINS ISO 9001:2008 QUALITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

SHARJAH: OMA Emirates, a provider of cutting edge technology solutions for the payment industry announced the achievement for its ISO 9001: 2008 Quality Management System across the organization. It reiterates the company's commitment to provide internationally recognized quality and high customer service levels.

The independent evaluation was undertaken by Worldwide Quality Assurance (WQA) and has standardized the company's organizational policies, process flow, Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). While raising the customer confidence and complying with industry standards, it empowers the company with higher efficiency and output.

"Customer satisfaction and solution excellence have been our on-going priority. The ISO 9001:2008 certification further demonstrates our continued efforts to deliver and maintain stringent quality standards and we are already witnessing a higher customer satisfaction index. We are confident that the Quality Management System coupled with a

deeper focus on skills enhancement will boost response to customer requirements and will subsequently have a positive impact on our business growth. I am extremely proud of our team for their all their efforts and dedication in maintaining customer expectations," said, Niranj Sangal, Group CEO, OMA Emirates Group.



Niranj Sangal, Group CEO, OMA Emirates Group



SAMBOJA, EAST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA: In this Oct. 18, 2016 image made from video, workers lift a tranquilized orangutan to be transported to a release site, at Samboja Lestari sanctuary. —AP

REHABILITATED ORANGUTANS FREED IN BORNEO AS SPECIES DWINDLES

KEHJE SEWEN FOREST, INDONESIA: Jamur didn't hesitate as the door of her temporary cramped quarters slid open. In less than a second, the stocky red-haired orangutan was savoring freedom for the first time in nearly two decades.

Her 10-year-old daughter J-Io would join her, along with three more of the endangered great apes.

The long-limbed hirsute primates were the ninth set of Bornean orangutans to be released into natural habitat by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation after years-long rehabilitation from trauma often inflicted by people.

Taken from their sanctuary, Samboja Lestari, to an even remoter spot on the island of Borneo, a journey by road, boat and foot that takes nearly 24 hours, the orangutans bolted from their holding boxes and scaled the nearest trees with astonishing speed and agility. "Because we love them, we have to let them go, to be free in their habitat," said Jamartin Sihite, chief executive of the foundation, after all five orangutans had climbed into the tropical forest canopy.

"They have a right to live in their natural state and not with people as pets." The release of the five last week marked the 25th anniversary of the foundation and was done in conjunction with government conservation officials. It is part of a herculean effort to prevent orangutans from being wiped out.

The species, known for its gentle temperament and intelligence, lives in the wild only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and on the island of Borneo, which is divided among Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Bornean orangutans were this year declared critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature due to hunting for their meat, which kills 2,000 to 3,000 a year, and destruction of tropical forests for plantation agriculture. The only other orangutan species, the Sumatran orangutan, is found only on Sumatra and has been critically endangered since 2008.

The conservation group estimates the number of Bornean orangutans has

dropped by nearly two-thirds since the early 1970s and will further decline to 47,000 animals by 2025. Some conservationists are even more pessimistic, predicting extinction in the wild within 10 years.

The species is protected in Indonesia and Malaysia but deforestation has dramatically shrunk its habitat, with about 40 percent of Borneo's forests lost since the early 1970s and another huge swath of forest expected to be converted to plantation agriculture in the next decade.

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, one of several groups focused on orangutan conservation, has 60-year concession rights to about 86,000 hectares (212,000 acres) of forest in Borneo that it bought from the government in 2011 for 12.9 billion Indonesian rupiah (\$1.5 million at the time), though it says only about 20 to 25 percent of it is suitable orangutan habitat.

"We looked for a place to release them that is very far away from people. We hope that very few people will come to this area in the next 10 or 15 years," said Sihite.

"Nowadays there is only a few of that kind of area left - far away and really difficult to reach." The foundation has released 234 orangutans since 2012. It says 90 percent of those releases are successful.

It typically takes years to return an orangutan to the wild. Finding a suitable location is challenging, as is rehabilitating orangutans so they can survive when returned to natural habitat. J-Io was born in captivity in 2006 and had to learn survival skills such as nest building, identifying predators and foraging.

Kent, also released last week, was an orphaned 2-year-old suffering from dehydration and severe diarrhea in 1999, when he was rescued from a field. He spent several years in forest school and graduated to a halfway house, where the apes are less dependent on humans, in preparation for release into the wild, which happened in 2014. But injuries from fights with another male meant he needed another stint in Samboja Lestari. "We don't have a choice," said Sihite. "We have to do this to save the orangutan." —AP

BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA TO SCALE UP FIGHT AGAINST ZIKA AND DENGUE

LARGE-SCALE MOSQUITO-CONTROL CAMPAIGNS

LONDON: Health authorities in Colombia and Brazil will launch large-scale mosquito-control campaigns using a naturally occurring bacteria known as Wolbachia to fight the spread of dengue and Zika viruses among people.

Small-scale trials of the technique, which involves infecting mosquitoes with Wolbachia to prevent them from spreading the viruses, have shown a significant reduction in their ability to transmit Zika and dengue, prompting donors to back scale-up plans.

"The use of Wolbachia is a potential groundbreaking sustainable solution to reduce the impact of these outbreaks around the globe and particularly on the world's poorest people," said Britain's international development secretary Priti Patel as the larger project was announced in London.

Funded with \$18 million

The control campaigns, scheduled to begin early next year in Colombia's Antioquia and Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, will be funded with \$18 million from the British and United States governments, the Wellcome Trust global health

charity and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Zika has been linked to the birth defect microcephaly, characterized by an abnormally small head, that has been sweeping through South and Central America and the Caribbean and making its way north to the United States.

In February, the World Health Organization declared Zika a global health emergency. The connection between Zika and microcephaly came to light last year in Brazil.

Brazil has now confirmed more than 1,800 cases of babies with microcephaly that it considers are linked to Zika infections in the mothers. The Wolbachia bacteria is found naturally in many insect species worldwide, and research has shown that it can significantly reduce the capacity of mosquitoes to transmit viruses to humans. But it doesn't occur naturally in *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito species largely responsible for transmitting a range of diseases including Zika, dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Over the past decade, international researchers working with the Australian-led non-profit Eliminate Dengue Program (EDP)

have found a way to transfer Wolbachia into *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and get them to pass it on to their offspring.

When mosquitoes with Wolbachia are released into an area, they breed with local mosquitoes and pass the bacteria on to future generations. Within a few months, the majority of mosquitoes carry Wolbachia and the effect is then self-sustaining.

Since 2011, field trials using this method have been carried out in five countries and show that when a high proportion of mosquitoes in an area carry Wolbachia, local transmission of viruses is halted.

Trevor Mundel, head of the Gates Foundation's global health division, said he hoped the large-scale campaigns had the potential to show Wolbachia as a "revolutionary form of protection against mosquito-borne disease".

"It's affordable, sustainable, and appears to provide protection against Zika, dengue, and a host of other viruses," he said in a statement. "We're eager to study its impact and how it can help countries." —Reuters

CHINA VOWS BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING TO IMPROVE HEALTH

SHANGHAI: China aims to create a comprehensive environmental monitoring system by 2030 in its efforts to boost citizens' health and raise life expectancy, the government has said.

Pollution has been identified as one of the biggest threats to public health in China, with smog in the northern region blamed for higher rates of cancer, respiratory disease and premature death. Widespread soil and water contamination have also caused health hazards.

Air pollution killed more than 1 million people in China in 2012 alone, the World Health Organization said in a study published in September. The State Council, or cabinet, said it would set up the "strictest environmental protection system" to oversee construction, noise and atmospheric pollution, soil and water quality and the rural environment.

The new system would identify high-risk pollution zones and establish a unified disclosure platform for environmental information, the cabinet said in its "Healthy China 2030" plan, published late on Tuesday.

It said China aimed to raise average life expectancy to 79 years by 2030, up from 76.3 years in 2015, and would also work to tackle a gender imbalance by setting up a "complete birth monitoring system". It aims to strengthen public sanitation and provide clean drinking water, among the rural health issues tackled.

It will also seek to cut infant mortality, traffic deaths, smoking and alcohol abuse, work to improve cancer survival rates, rein in early deaths from chronic diseases and step up intervention for psychological illnesses, it added.

To help reduce health risks, it would also aim to raise the number of active participants in sport to 530 million by 2030, up from 360 million in 2014, besides promoting the "leading role" of Chinese medicine in disease treatment.

Also on the cards is the creation of "mature" forms of health insurance, with more balanced contributions from government, enterprises and individuals, as part of efforts to cut individual health costs to about a quarter of total spending, versus 29.3 percent in 2015. —Reuters

POLIO WORKER KILLED IN NW PAKISTAN

PESHAWAR: A polio worker was gunned down Wednesday as he was administering vaccines to children in northwest Pakistan, officials said, the latest casualty in the country's long campaign against the crippling disease.

The incident occurred in Jamrud area of the tense Khyber tribal district that borders Afghanistan and was once a haven for Taliban militants, though recent military operations have put the insurgents under pressure there. "A polio worker was shot at as he was administering polio drops in Jamrud area of Khyber," local administration official Asmat Ullah Wazir told AFP.

He said the worker succumbed to his injuries as he was rushed to the hospital. The incident was confirmed by another local administration official who said it was the third day of the anti-polio drive in the province.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the incident but Taliban militants have attacked polio workers in the province in the past. More than a hundred people have been killed in such attacks since December 2012.

Islamist opposition to all forms of inoculation grew after the CIA organized a fake vaccination drive to help track down Al-Qaeda's former leader Osama Bin Laden in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbottabad. He was killed there by US forces in 2011.

Despite the attacks, Pakistan hopes to be removed from the list of polio-endemic countries by 2018 by achieving its goal of no fresh cases for a year. Pakistan is one of only two countries in the world where polio, a crippling childhood disease, remains endemic. —AFP



NEW YORK: In this Feb. 22, 2016 file photo, Bill and Melinda Gates talk to reporters. —AP

GATES FOUNDATION GIVES UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON \$210 M

SEATTLE: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is giving the University of Washington \$210 million to help build a new facility to advance efforts to improve the health and well-being of people worldwide, officials said Tuesday.

The donation from the largest private foundation in the world, located just miles from the Seattle campus, is the biggest single gift in the university's history.

The new building will serve as a research hub for faculty and others working on an ambitious new population health initiative to address challenges such as poverty, health care access, equity and climate change. The total facility cost is \$230 million. "This is really much more than about a building," UW President Ana Mari Cauce said in an interview last week. "The building is really about catalyzing a vision - an initiative that we launched last spring to really be first in the world in terms of population health."

The initiative pulls together research and resources from across campus and disciplines to help people live longer, healthier and more productive lives. The efforts recognize that the health of a person or community is more than about the lack of

disease; it encompasses everything from education, the environment, politics and quality of life including performance arts, Cauce added.

The university has an opportunity as well as an obligation to find solutions to those pressing challenges, and a new building would allow researchers, students and other partners to come together to work on them, Cauce said. "We're in a very privileged position and I think we have the obligation to take this on," she said. "What happens around the world matters to us and vice versa."

Seattle in particular is well-poised to tackle the issues of global health because of the research happening on campus and in the surrounding community, she said. The region, known for its biomedical research, is home to dozens of organizations that work on global and population health and it is also the headquarters for Gates Foundation.

The new building, expected to open in fall 2020, would include space for the UW's School of Public Health, the global health department and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, now located off-campus. —AP



MATSUMOTO, CENTRAL JAPAN: In this Aug. 11, 2016 photo, Japan's Princess Aiko, a granddaughter of Emperor Akihito, arrives at the venue for a national ceremony on Mountain Day. —AP

JAPAN PRINCESS MISSES SCHOOL FOR A MONTH FOR HEALTH REASONS

TOKYO: A granddaughter of Japan's Emperor Akihito is not feeling well and has missed school for a month. Palace officials said Wednesday the 14-year-old Princess Aiko has been staying home since Sept. 26, after complaining of stomach problems and dizziness attributed to fatigue from studying for exams and practicing for an athletic event at her junior high school.

Aiko is the only child of Crown Prince Naruhito, next in line to the Chrysanthemum Throne, and his wife Masako, who has been suffering from a stress-related mental condition for

more than 10 years. Officials say Nobutake Odano, the grand master at Naruhito's palace, told reporters Tuesday that Aiko is recovering but needs more time before returning to school. A palace hospital health check earlier this month found no major problem.

Aiko, known as the princess who rarely smiles, had occasionally missed class while in elementary school. Over the summer, she was seen waving at crowds as she accompanied his parents on hikes and at other public events.

Masako canceled a planned out-of-

town official appointment this month due to fatigue and concern for having to take care of her daughter, the palace said. A Harvard graduate and former diplomat, Masako has had stress-related conditions since soon after giving birth to Aiko, following criticism for not producing a boy.

Concerns about a shortage of male successors have been rekindled after Akihito, 82, conveyed his apparent abdication wish in August, citing his old age and health. Japan's Imperial House Law does not allow female emperors. —AP



NEW DELHI: In this handout photograph taken on October 24, 2016, and released by The Indian Press Information Bureau (PIB), India's President Pranab Mukherjee (front row C) poses with Chefs of Heads of State who are attending The Annual General Assembly of "Le Club des Chefs des Chefs" at Rashtrapati Bhavan. —AFP

WORLD LEADERS' PERSONAL CHEFS MEET IN DELHI

NEW DELHI: The chefs who cook for the world's leaders usually keep a low profile, leaving the limelight to their bosses. But once a year it is their turn to be wined and dined and treated as honoured guests in a foreign country.

Billed as the world's most exclusive gastronomic society, the Club des Chefs brings together the men and women who cook for heads of state to exchange ideas and presumably-insider information on their bosses' tastes.

They have met annually since the club was first established in Paris in 1977 and this year for the first time they are doing so in India, hosted by the president's personal chef, Montu Saini. "The presidents all met each other. I thought it was a good idea to make a sort of G20 of the chefs," the club's founder Gilles Bragard told journalists in Delhi. "If politics divides men, a good table will unite them."

Naturally, the tradition involves trying out local delicacies. But Saini has left little to chance when it comes to the Indian capital's most notorious complaint. Rather than subjecting the chefs to Delhi street food, he has had the kitchen of their five-star hotel recreate golgappas and aloo tikkis—popular fried snacks made of wheat flour and potato and served with sweet and spicy chutneys. "I can't take them to the street because they are foreigners. Their tummies are too sensitive," said Saini. "So I am creating a replica in the hotels."

India excels in the extravagant welcome, and the visiting chefs are treated like the royalty many of them work for.

Arriving in their immaculate chef's whites at Old Delhi's chaotic spice market, even more crowded than usual ahead of the Diwali festival, they were showered with pink rose petals and garlanded with jasmine. "This is fantastic," said Bernard Vaussion, who cooked for six French presidents before he retired, as he pushed his way through the market's packed alleyways.

"I mean it's dirty and noisy, but who cares. It's such an experience." India takes its toll though. By day three one of

the visiting chefs has fallen ill, while another is feeling the effects of Indian cuisine. "After four days of eating spicy (food), you feel it," said Fabrizio Boca, chef to the Italian president. "I think it's only because you have to get used to it."

'More of a philosophy'

Like most of the visiting chefs — 16 men and one woman, America's Cristeta Comerford-Boca is eager to learn more about India's vast range of spices.

Comerford, a Filipino-American, said she saw parallels with the cuisine of the Philippines. "It's not a recipe driven food, it's more of a philosophy," she told AFP. "I would use the analogy of the Philippines, because each household has their own way of doing a certain dish."

For the chefs, the annual gatherings are a chance to exchange ideas and get to know each other. They also have a hotline known as the "blue telephone" that allows them to consult each other on their bosses' preferences before a state visit.

None of the chefs gave away much about their bosses' tastes, although all agreed on the growing importance of seasonality in food, and of making state dinners a lighter, healthier affair. "Looking for more sustainable more local produce has become more prominent," said Mark Flanagan, chef to Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

Given the move towards lighter dishes, it was perhaps doubtful whether the first recipe they tried on arriving in Delhi—the heart-stoppingly calorific Indian sweets known as jalebis, made of deep-fried batter soaked in syrup—would be recreated at home. But Christian Garcia, the club's current president and personal chef to Prince Albert of Monaco, said he might be tempted to ask for the recipe. Princess Charlene, he said, was a big fan of Indian cuisine.

"I thought I knew how to cook Indian food a bit, but now I realize I was completely wrong," he said. "Apart from curry and a few spices, I didn't know how to cook any of the dishes that I've been able to discover during our stay." —AFP

AS MEDICAID LOSES STIGMA, ELECTION MAY CLOUD ITS FUTURE

MEDICAID FACES CONSEQUENCES DEPENDING ON WHO WINS ELECTION

WASHINGTON: Medicaid, often stigmatized among government health care programs, is finally coming into its own. The federal-state program for low-income people has been scarcely debated in the turbulent presidential election, but it faces real consequences depending on who wins the White House in the Nov. 8 vote.

Under President Barack Obama, Medicaid has expanded to cover more than 70 million people and shed much of the social disapproval from its earlier years as a welfare program. Two big industries — insurers and hospitals — have a declared stake in the future of the program, which costs more than \$530 billion a year. Insurers are leading a new "Modern Medicaid Alliance" to educate lawmakers about how the program has moved closer to private coverage.

Medicaid has become "one of the primary mainstream health care programs," says former Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who for decades worked to expand benefits and coverage.

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton would keep that going, trying to persuade 19 holdout states to accept the Medicaid expansion in Obama's health law. The expansion has added millions of low-income adults to the program, including many workers whose jobs don't offer health insurance. Clinton would have to address concerns among state lawmakers about growing costs.

Republican Donald Trump would repeal the overhaul and reverse its Medicaid expansion. Then Trump would go further, putting a brake on the program by replacing open-ended federal funding with a limited block grant. States would get much more leeway to run Medicaid, but it would no longer be a federal entitlement. Even if Trump loses, his party is committed to that general approach.

That may not be good for people such as Nick Novak, a Chicago-area man who represents the changing

face of Medicaid. Novak, in his late 30s, works a couple of part-time jobs, neither of which comes with health insurance. His main work is helping grocery stores remodel and reset shelves.

Illinois is one of 31 states that expanded Medicaid, and Novak said he gained coverage as a result. To qualify, a single adult can make no more than 138 percent of the federal poverty line, about \$16,400.

Medicaid paid for Novak's surgery

The public's views also have evolved

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll last year around Medicaid's 50th anniversary found that more than 8 in 10 people not covered by the program would enroll themselves or a child rather than go uninsured. Sixty-two percent said the federal government should continue to guarantee coverage for low-income people, and only about one-third favored block grants, the Trump approach.

Medicare, more than 70 million compared with 57 million. It's also the most diverse health care program, covering pregnant women and children, low-income adults with no children at home, severely disabled people and many nursing home residents. A large majority of Medicaid recipients are in private managed-care plans, which are trying to reduce patients' use of the emergency room for routine care.

There's a perception that having Medicaid is worse than being uninsured because in most states the program pays doctors significantly less than Medicare or private insurance. But government statistics paint a more nuanced picture. Eighty-one percent of Medicaid beneficiaries ages 19-64 said they saw a doctor at least once in 2015, compared with under half of the uninsured. Still, nearly 10 percent said they had trouble finding a physician, compared with 5 percent of those with private insurance. Independent studies have shown improved financial well-being with Medicaid coverage. Virtually all hospitals accept Medicaid.

Republican-led states that expanded Medicaid have gotten concessions from the Obama administration on issues such as charging modest premiums to beneficiaries and using copays to discourage emergency room visits for routine care. If Clinton is elected, expect more of those sorts of changes as she tries to convince remaining states to expand. Some conservatives would like to see work requirements.

"Republican governors and legislatures unwilling to do the expansion under strict terms would be willing to do it under more favorable conditions," said Jim Capretta, a health care policy expert at the business-oriented American Enterprise Institute. He said if Clinton "is more of a dealmaker than the Obama administration, I think she'd get some takers." —AP



LYNWOOD, ILLINOIS: In this Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 photo, Nicholas Novak poses for a photo. —AP

to widen a constricted urinary pathway, an operation costing more than \$40,000. That allowed him to avoid having to use a catheter for the rest of his life, a less costly fallback that would have left him prone to infections.

"I'm aware of what people think about Medicaid," Novak said. "Honestly, I don't think there's any shame in accepting help like that. It's not like I sit there collecting from the government."

Novak said he had never given much thought to Medicaid before. "Things can change in the blink of an eye," he said. "When you need to depend on it, it will definitely change your views."

Breaking the link between Medicaid and welfare has been a long process, which started in the 1980s with pregnant women and children and was completed under Obama's health law.

"It is no longer a program that is seen as exclusively for people who are not working," said Robert Blendon, a public opinion expert at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "Medicaid now covers so many people from different income backgrounds that it is seen as much broader program that provides health insurance to people of modest incomes."

Medicaid covers a significantly higher number of people than

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



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



APPLEBEE'S NEW BRANCH IN BIDAA'

Julia Stewart is an American businesswoman and the Chief Executive of Dine Equity, America's largest casual dining company. Dine Equity was formed in 2008 when Stewart led IHOP to take over the larger Applebee's.

Kuwait Times spoke with Stewart who visited Kuwait recently to launch a new Applebee's branch in Bidaa'. Daniel del Olmo, President, International at DineEquity, Gary Moore the Regional Vice President & General Manager in the Middle East and Asia and Amin Mohammed Chief Operations Officer at Kout Food Group - Kuwait, attended the opening.

Kuwait Times: Tell us about your beginning with Applebee's.

Stewart: I started with Applebee's as president of the company's domestic division in the United States between 1998 and 2001. I left in 2001 to work in another place but I came back after six years and a half. In 2008, we decided to start "Dine Equity", which merged between Applebee's and IHOP. And that is how we became the largest worldwide restaurant chain.

KT: How has your life experience made you the leader you are today?

Stewart: My very first experience in the restaurant industry was a job as a server at my local IHOP, when I was 16 years old. That is when I began a life-long love affair with the restaurant industry. I found it fun, exciting, and extremely rewarding, but I did not imagine at all that I would be the woman that I am today.

KT: Tell us about the opening of the new branch of Applebee's in Kuwait, which is located in AlBidaa'

Stewart: The new Applebee's prototype is warmer and more modern. This branch is the first restaurant on the "ideal celebration" in the Middle East, but it will not be the last, it reflects a new expression based on a lot of research and cooperation with our partners 'Kout Food Group'. It is based on the idea of providing rear sight for any occasion especially for our guests who are always celebrating in our restaurant. And this is very important because there are many and varied events in our lives that can be celebrated, and this is what you will see successively in all our restaurants in the Middle East, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and in the global market as well. We also opened a branch in Dubai featuring the same similar experience.

KT: Is the menu in Applebee's the same in all countries?

Stewart: In all restaurant Applebee's around the world are keen to market and sell the same brands of foods, we are, for example, world-famous for selling steaks and grilled ribs. So our products that we sell are broadly similar in different markets around the world.

KT: Are the steak slices that are served in the United States the same as those offered in GCC countries?

Stewart: Last Month we created a special grill called "Wood-Fired" in US; we came up with this concept by improving the quality of the steaks, and going to select meat cuts two grades up from where we've been. Perhaps we will bring it to the area. The most important thing is that all our served dishes are Halal in Kuwait.

KT: Do you think that Applebee's will add healthy dishes for athletes?

Stewart: Actually we have a lot of healthy foods

within the current menu. We make more effort in order to make a balanced meal in calories and fat. Our meals also contain a lot of vegetables to be healthy and beneficial to everyone. In addition, we make sure that our dishes are served fresh and made with healthy ingredients.

KT: What is special about Applebee's?

Stewart: Everything is special about Applebee's. We have more than 200 branches around the world; we attract different types of people, so if you have something important to celebrate, Applebee's is the perfect place you will be thinking of to spend time with friends or family because of the high quality of food and service.

KT: Can we say that Applebee's is No.1 in The World's Best Restaurants?

Stewart: We do not care about being the first. But we care about having loyal customers. We always ask ourselves if our customers are excited to be in Applebee's. Are we the best restaurant to our customers? Personally, I think we succeeded in accomplishing that goal.

KT: So Applebee's is eager to communicate with customers and taking their reviews?

Stewart: We certainly do that, in fact, Bidaa' branch is born from customers' opinion and reviews. Most of what you see around you of updates and upgrades of technological innovation is inspired directly from the suggestions of our customers.

KT: What is your future plan?

Stewart: Applebee's qualified and ready to spread around, including airports, universities, small and large cities and shopping malls. We will also provide a delivery service.



Julia Stewart with Amin Mohammed and Daniel Del Olmo



DIWALI FOOD FESTIVAL AT INN & GO KUWAIT PLAZA HOTEL



In celebration of Diwali, the Indian festival of lights, INN & GO Kuwait Plaza Hotel will host an authentic festival from October 28-30 in Al Dallah Restaurant. Diwali is a national holiday in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and many other countries. It is one of the most important festivals of the year and is celebrated in families by performing traditional activities together. Celebrants wear new clothes through the festival and share sweets and snacks with family members and friends. "Diwali is one of the most happiest holidays in India and we are excited to celebrate this joyous time with our guests" said Michael Nielsen Resident Manager of INN & GO Kuwait Plaza Hotel. "Guests will enjoy a 3 days food promotion in the Al Dallah Restaurant where they can taste authentic Indian cuisine, indeed memorable for guests.

SAGGC HONORS PARTICIPANTS IN 'MATH IS LIFE' COMPETITION

Sabah Al-Ahmed Center for Giftedness & Creativity (SAGGC), a KFAS affiliate, recently honored the jury panel, organizers and the schools that hosted the 2nd 'Math is Life' competition. The center also honored the committee responsible for introducing the robot curriculum to MOE and the organizing committee of the 3rd National Robot Competition.

In this regard, SAGGC's strategies and planning first officer, Riyadh Al-Sharaf hailed cooperation with MOE through the participating schools and stressed that

this would help create more interest in scientific subjects such as math and computer studies amongst students.

On his part, SAGGC's math club advisor, Ahmed Al-Enezi announced launching a first of a kind competition for the best teaching aid and said participation would be open for a month starting November 6th for all Kuwaiti and expat math teachers. He also noted that valuable financial prizes would be given to the first winners in appreciation of their role in making math easier for students.

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN KUWAIT

The Embassy will be closed on Sunday 30th October 2016 on the occasion of Deepawali. Emergency consular services will, however be made available to all concerned.



- 04:25 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 When Turkeys Attack
- 06:49 The Vet Life
- 07:36 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 08:00 Meet The Sloths
- 08:25 Preposterous Pets
- 09:15 The Vet Life
- 10:10 When Turkeys Attack
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Preposterous Pets
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 The Vet Life
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 When Turkeys Attack
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 18:25 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
- 19:20 Wildest India
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 22:05 Wildest India
- 23:00 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger
- 23:55 Gator Boys
- 00:50 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
- 01:45 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger
- 02:40 Wildest India
- 03:35 Tanked

- 11:35 You Have Been Warned
- 12:25 X-Ray Mega Airport
- 13:15 Magic Of Science
- 13:40 Magic Of Science
- 14:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 14:30 Storage Hunters
- 14:55 Garage Gold
- 15:20 Gold Divers
- 16:10 Alaskan Bush People
- 17:00 Deadliest Catch
- 17:50 Fast N' Loud
- 18:40 Street Outlaws
- 19:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 19:55 How Do They Do It?
- 20:20 Gold Divers
- 21:10 Storage Hunters
- 21:35 Garage Gold
- 22:00 Sean Conway - Running Britain
- 22:50 What On Earth?
- 23:40 British Treasure, American Gold



- 04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 04:50 Ultimate Survival
- 05:40 How It's Made
- 06:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 07:20 Mythbusters
- 08:00 Kenny The Shark
- 08:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 08:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 09:40 How It's Made
- 10:05 How It's Made
- 10:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 11:20 Mythbusters
- 12:10 Bondi Vet
- 13:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 13:50 Ultimate Survival
- 14:40 How It's Made
- 15:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 16:20 Mythbusters
- 17:10 Kenny The Shark
- 17:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 18:00 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 18:50 Man v The Universe
- 19:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 20:30 How It's Made
- 20:55 How It's Made
- 21:20 Mythbusters
- 22:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 23:00 Man v The Universe
- 23:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:40 Ultimate Survival
- 01:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 02:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 03:10 Man v The Universe



- 04:00 Paranormal Lockdown
- 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 06:24 Southern Fried Homicide
- 07:12 Mansions & Murders
- 08:00 Disappeared
- 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 09:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 10:30 Southern Fried Homicide
- 11:20 Mansions & Murders
- 12:10 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
- 12:35 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
- 13:00 Disappeared
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones

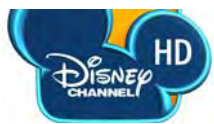


- 04:20 Orphan Black
- 05:05 Eastenders
- 05:35 Call The Midwife
- 06:30 Doctors
- 07:00 Eastenders
- 07:30 Holly City
- 08:30 New Tricks
- 09:25 The Musketeers
- 10:20 Call The Midwife
- 11:15 Doctors
- 11:50 Eastenders
- 12:25 New Tricks
- 13:20 The Musketeers
- 14:15 Call The Midwife
- 15:10 Doctors
- 15:40 Eastenders
- 16:15 New Tricks
- 17:10 The Musketeers
- 18:05 Call The Midwife
- 19:00 Doctors
- 19:30 Eastenders
- 20:05 New Tricks
- 21:00 Holly City
- 22:00 The Detectives
- 22:30 I Want My Wife Back
- 23:00 Friday Night Dinner
- 23:30 Pramface
- 00:00 Pramface
- 00:35 Doctors



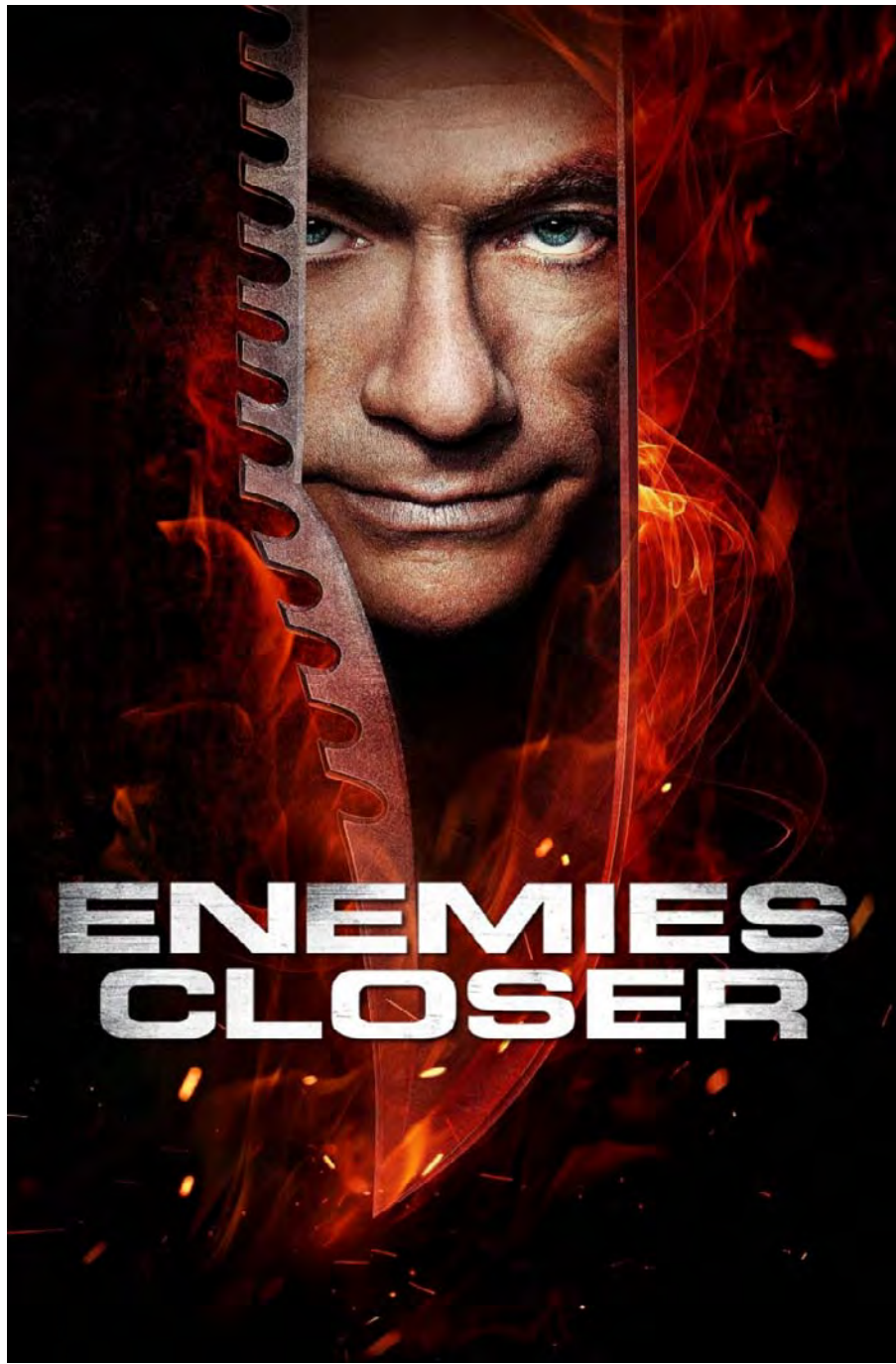
- 04:00 Workaholics
- 04:25 Catch A Contractor
- 04:50 Ridiculousness
- 05:15 Key And Peele
- 05:40 Ridiculousness
- 06:30 Impractical Jokers
- 07:20 Tosh.0
- 08:15 Frankenfood
- 09:05 Ridiculousness
- 09:55 Impractical Jokers
- 10:25 Impractical Jokers
- 10:45 Nathan For You
- 11:10 Nathan For You

- 19:40 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 20:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 21:20 How Do They Do It?
- 21:45 Food Factory
- 22:10 The Science Of Fear And Lust
- 23:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 00:40 Ways To Save The Planet



- 04:15 The Hive
- 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 06:00 Violetta
- 06:45 The Hive
- 06:50 Mouk
- 07:00 Jessie
- 07:25 Jessie
- 07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 08:20 Liv And Maddie
- 08:45 Bunk'd
- 09:10 Austin & Ally
- 09:35 Shake It Up
- 10:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:50 That's So Raven
- 11:15 That's So Raven
- 11:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:30 Jessie
- 12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 13:00 The 7D
- 13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 13:40 Hank Zipzer
- 14:05 Star Darlings
- 14:10 Austin & Ally
- 14:35 Austin & Ally
- 15:00 Liv And Maddie
- 15:25 Jessie
- 15:50 Dog With A Blog
- 16:15 Hank Zipzer
- 16:40 Bunk'd
- 17:05 Star Darlings
- 17:10 Gravity Falls
- 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:00 Backstage
- 18:25 Alex & Co.
- 18:50 Girl Meets World
- 19:15 Stuck In The Middle
- 19:40 Disney Cookabout
- 20:05 Best Friends Whenever
- 20:30 Jessie
- 20:55 Liv And Maddie

- 21:20 Austin & Ally
- 21:45 Backstage
- 22:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 23:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:00 Violetta
- 01:45 The Hive
- 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:40 Hank Zipzer
- 03:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 03:30 Violetta



ENEMIES CLOSER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 16:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 16:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 17:15 Sola The First
- 17:45 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 18:00 The Lion Guard
- 18:30 Goldie & Bear
- 18:55 Unbungleable
- 19:00 Doc McStuffins
- 19:30 Doc McStuffins
- 20:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:00 PJ Masks
- 21:30 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 22:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 22:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 00:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster

- 18:25 K.C. Undercover
- 18:50 Annedroids
- 19:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 19:40 K.C. Undercover
- 20:05 Future Worm
- 20:10 Gravity Falls
- 20:35 Counterfeit Cat
- 21:00 Lab Rats
- 21:25 Supa Strikas
- 21:55 K.C. Undercover
- 22:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 23:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
- 23:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 04:40 Dash Dolls
- 05:35 Dash Dolls
- 06:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 07:00 Botched
- 07:55 E! News
- 08:10 Botched
- 09:10 E! News
- 10:10 Botched
- 11:10 Botched
- 12:05 Botched By Nature
- 13:00 E! News
- 13:15 Botched By Nature
- 14:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 15:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 16:00 E! News
- 16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 17:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 18:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 19:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 20:00 E! News
- 21:00 Rob & Chyna
- 22:00 Catching Kelce
- 23:00 Botched By Nature
- 00:00 E! News
- 00:15 Rob & Chyna
- 01:05 Catching Kelce
- 01:55 Botched By Nature
- 02:50 E! News
- 03:50 Hollywood Cycle



- 04:40 Counting Cars
- 05:05 Counting Cars
- 05:30 Pawn Stars
- 06:00 Time Team
- 07:00 Shipping Wars
- 07:25 Shipping Wars
- 07:50 American Pickers
- 08:40 Pawn Stars
- 09:05 Pawn Stars
- 09:30 American Restoration
- 09:55 Counting Cars
- 10:20 Counting Cars
- 10:45 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 11:10 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 11:35 American Restoration
- 12:25 Time Team
- 13:15 Mountain Men
- 14:05 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 14:55 Counting Cars
- 15:20 Counting Cars
- 15:45 Ice Road Truckers
- 16:35 Shipping Wars
- 17:00 American Pickers
- 17:50 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 18:15 Storage Wars Texas
- 18:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 19:30 Time Team
- 20:20 American Pickers
- 21:10 Pawn Stars
- 21:35 Pawn Stars
- 22:00 Forged In Fire
- 22:50 Barbarians Rising
- 23:50 Time Team
- 00:40 Forged In Fire
- 01:30 Barbarians Rising
- 02:30 Lost In Transmission
- 03:20 Storage Wars Texas
- 03:50 Counting Cars: Best Of



- 04:25 Brief Encounters
- 05:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 06:15 Home Fires
- 07:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 08:05 The Chase
- 09:00 Brief Encounters
- 10:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 11:00 Home Fires
- 11:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 12:50 The Chase

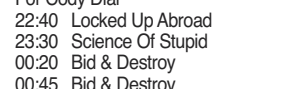
- 12:00 Croatia's Finest
- 12:25 Croatia's Finest
- 12:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 13:15 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 13:40 Fusion Forager
- 14:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 15:00 Eat Street
- 15:30 The Shelbourne
- 16:25 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 16:50 Places We Go
- 17:45 Croatia's Finest
- 18:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:10 Fearless Chef
- 20:05 The Shelbourne
- 20:30 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 21:00 Places We Go
- 21:25 Places We Go
- 21:50 Croatia's Finest
- 22:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 23:05 Fearless Chef
- 23:55 Fusion Forager
- 00:45 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 01:10 Eat Street
- 01:35 The Shelbourne
- 02:00 Bangkok Airport
- 02:50 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 03:15 Eat Street
- 03:40 Baking Good, Baking Bad



- 04:45 Animal Superpowers
- 05:40 Bandits Of Selous
- 06:35 Pythonathon
- 07:30 Bear Nomad
- 08:25 Animal Superpowers
- 09:20 Bandits Of Selous
- 10:15 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 11:10 Caught In The Act
- 12:05 World's Weirdest Animal Faces
- 13:00 The Kill Zone
- 13:55 Black Mamba: Kiss Of Death
- 14:50 Grizzly Cauldron
- 15:45 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
- 16:40 Clan Of The Meerkat
- 17:35 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 18:30 Caught In The Act
- 19:25 Amazing Animal Selfies
- 20:20 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
- 21:10 Clan Of The Meerkat
- 22:00 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 22:50 Caught In The Act
- 23:40 Amazing Animal Selfies
- 00:30 The Kill Zone
- 01:20 Black Mamba: Kiss Of Death
- 02:10 Grizzly Cauldron
- 03:00 Hyena Queen
- 03:50 World's Deadliest Animals



- 04:50 Science Of Stupid
- 05:45 Mystery Files
- 06:40 Bid & Destroy
- 07:35 Brain Games
- 08:30 The Numbers Game
- 09:25 Is It Real?
- 10:20 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
- 11:15 Nazi World War Weird
- 12:10 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 13:05 Looked Up Abroad
- 14:00 Is It Real?
- 15:00 Operation Sumatran Rhino
- 16:00 Brain Games
- 16:30 Brain Games
- 17:00 Nazi World War Weird
- 18:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 19:00 Operation Sumatran Rhino
- 20:00 Science Of Stupid
- 21:00 Nazi World War Weird
- 21:50 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 22:40 Looked Up Abroad
- 23:30 Science Of Stupid
- 00:20 Bid & Destroy
- 00:45 Bid & Destroy
- 01:10 Nazi World War Weird
- 02:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial
- 03:00 Looked Up Abroad
- 03:55 Air Crash Investigation



- 04:05 The Shelbourne
- 04:30 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 04:55 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 05:20 Raw Travel
- 05:45 Raw Travel
- 06:10 Croatia's Finest
- 06:35 Croatia's Finest
- 07:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 07:25 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 07:50 Fearless Chef
- 08:40 Food School
- 09:05 Eat Street
- 09:30 The Shelbourne
- 09:55 The Shelbourne
- 10:20 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 10:45 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 11:10 Raw Travel
- 11:35 Raw Travel



- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 08:00 Heartbeat
- 11:00 The Flash
- 12:00 Heartbeat
- 13:00 Criminal Minds
- 14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 17:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 18:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

- 19:00 Criminal Minds
- 21:00 Blindspot
- 22:00 Lethal Weapon
- 23:00 Empire
- 00:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 01:00 Prison Break



- 04:00 Shark Lake
- 05:45 Enemies Closer
- 07:15 The Berlin File
- 09:30 Airplane vs. Volcano
- 11:15 Faster
- 13:00 Last Knights
- 15:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
- 17:15 The Berlin File
- 19:30 Faster
- 21:15 Unstoppable
- 23:00 Savages
- 01:15 Child's Play 2
- 03:00 The Borderlands



- 05:00 Jack
- 07:00 Forces Of Nature
- 09:00 Just Married
- 11:00 Jack
- 13:00 Hot Pursuit
- 15:00 Passed Away
- 17:00 Just Married
- 19:00 Pixels
- 21:00 Scenes From A Mall
- 23:00 Dom Hemingway
- 01:00 The Five Year Engagement
- 03:15 Pixels



- 05:00 Almost Famous
- 07:45 Roger Waters The Wall
- 10:00 Late Bloomers
- 11:30 Memories
- 13:15 Testament Of Youth
- 15:30 The Guardian
- 18:00 Late Bloomers
- 20:00 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
- 22:30 The Royal Tenenbaums
- 00:30 Men, Women & Children
- 02:30 The Guardian



- 04:00 Tomorrowland
- 06:15 The Love Punch
- 08:00 Before We Go
- 10:00 Tomorrowland
- 13:00 I'll See You In My Dreams
- 15:00 Chloe And Theo
- 17:00 Minions
- 18:45 Inurgent
- 21:00 Pitch Perfect 2
- 23:00 Sisters
- 01:00 The Boy Next Door
- 02:45 The Water Diviner



- 04:00 Egon And Donci
- 05:30 Marco Macaco
- 07:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 08:45 Miffy The Movie
- 10:15 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- 12:00 Bolts And Blip
- 13:45 Egon And Donci
- 15:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 17:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 19:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- 21:00 Blackie And Kanuto
- 23:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 00:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 02:15 Miffy The Movie
- 03:45 Blackie And Kanuto



- 04:00 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgaard
- 06:00 Monsters Inc
- 08:00 Aladdin
- 10:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
- 12:00 A Bug's Life
- 14:00 The Princess And The Frog
- 16:00 Monsters University
- 18:00 Dunston Checks In
- 20:00 Dolphin Tale 2
- 22:00 Ernest Goes To Camp
- 00:00 A Bug's Life
- 02:00 Dolphin Tale 2



THE LOVE PUNCH ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 11:35 Ridiculousness
- 12:00 Catch A Contractor
- 12:25 Frankenfood
- 13:15 Workaholics
- 14:05 Impractical Jokers
- 14:55 Ridiculousness
- 15:45 Frankenfood
- 16:35 Tosh.0
- 17:00 Tosh.0
- 17:30 Nathan For You
- 18:25 Workaholics
- 18:50 Urban Tarzan
- 19:39 Ridiculousness
- 20:27 Impractical Jokers
- 21:13 Coaching Bad
- 22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 22:30 South Park
- 22:54 Brotherhood
- 23:18 Underground With Dave Atell
- 23:42 Whitney Cummings: I Love You
- 00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 01:00 Tosh.0
- 02:15 South Park
- 02:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

- 15:30 Southern Fried Homicide
- 16:20 Mansions & Murders
- 17:10 Evil Stepmothers
- 18:00 Disappeared
- 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 20:30 Southern Fried Homicide
- 21:20 Mansions & Murders
- 22:10 California Investigator
- 23:00 Murder Book
- 23:50 The Haunted
- 00:40 The Haunted
- 01:30 Deadly Sins
- 02:20 Murder Book
- 03:10 The Haunted



- 04:00 Mind Control Freaks
- 04:24 Mind Control Freaks
- 04:48 Ways To Save The Planet
- 05:36 Sport Science
- 06:24 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 07:12 How Do They Do It?
- 07:36 Food Factory
- 08:00 How Do They Do It?
- 08:26 Ways To Save The Planet
- 09:14 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 10:02 Mind Control Freaks
- 10:26 Mind Control Freaks
- 10:50 How Do They Do It?
- 11:14 Food Factory
- 11:38 Sport Science
- 12:26 Ways To Save The Planet
- 13:14 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 14:02 How Do They Do It?
- 14:26 Food Factory
- 14:50 Mind Control Freaks
- 15:14 Mind Control Freaks
- 15:38 Sport Science
- 16:26 Ways To Save The Planet
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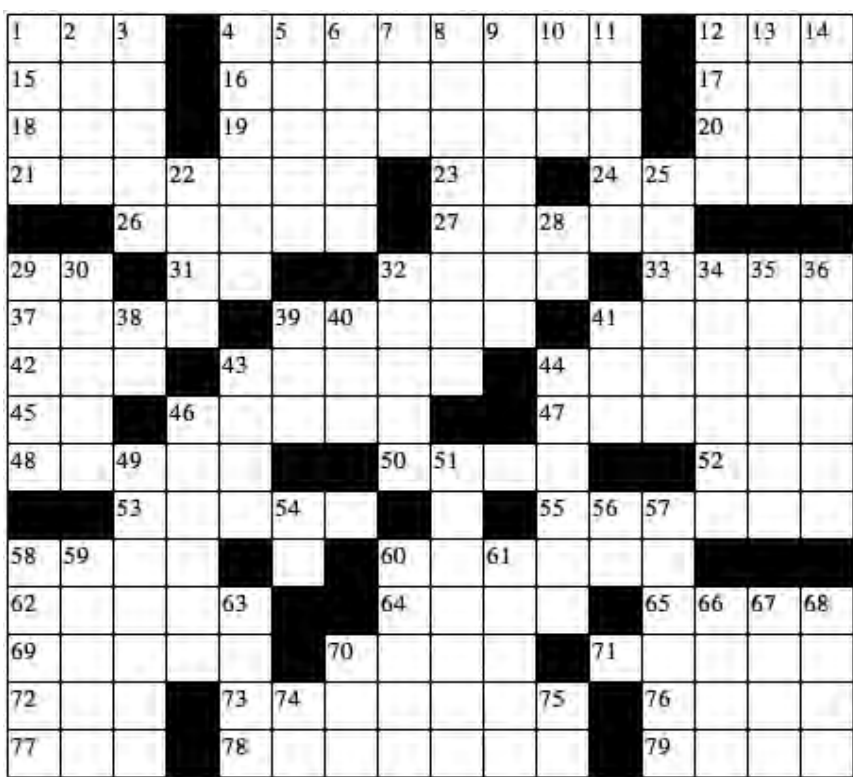


- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopidoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopidoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopidoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 The Hive
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Loopidoo
- 08:40 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:05 Sofia The First
- 09:30 PJ Masks
- 09:40 Goldie & Bear
- 09:55 Doc McStuffins
- 10:10 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 10:20 PJ Masks
- 10:35 Miles From Tomorrow
- 10:45 Doc McStuffins
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:25 The Lion Guard
- 11:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 12:50 The Hive
- 13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 13:30 Doc McStuffins
- 14:00 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 14:15 Sofia The First
- 14:45 Goldie & Bear
- 15:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 15:45 Doc McStuffins
- 16:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons



- 07:00 Boyster
- 07:10 Super Matrak
- 07:35 Super Matrak
- 08:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 08:25 K.C. Undercover
- 08:50 The 7D
- 09:00 Phineas And Ferb
- 09:15 Danger Mouse
- 09:40 Counterfeit Cat
- 10:05 Future Worm
- 10:10 Gravity Falls
- 10:35 Lab Rats
- 11:00 Supa Strikas
- 11:25 Supa Strikas
- 11:50 Danger Mouse
- 12:20 Annedroids
- 12:45 Annedroids
- 13:10 Counterfeit Cat
- 13:35 K.C. Undercover
- 14:00 K.C. Undercover
- 14:55 Lab Rats
- 15:20 Lab Rats
- 15:45 Phineas And Ferb
- 16:10 Disney Mickey Mouse

CROSSWORD 1412



ACROSS

1. (computer science) A measure of how densely information is packed on a storage medium.
4. Having only essential or minimal features.
12. A secret agent hired by a state to obtain (military) information about its enemies or by a business to obtain industrial secrets from competitors.
15. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
16. By a chorus.
17. Towards the side away from the wind.
18. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
19. Giant tree-like plant having edible nuts and leafstalks that yield a refreshing drink of clear watery sap.
20. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
21. Capital of Swaziland.
23. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
24. A virtually extinct Caucasian language spoken exclusively in Turkey.
26. Any of numerous plants of the genus Capparis.
27. A large and imposing house.
29. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
31. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
33. An artificial source of visible illumination.
37. A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
42. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
45. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
47. Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
48. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
50. (Akkadian) Father of the gods and consort of Tiamat.
52. A luminance unit equal to 1 candle per square meter measured perpendicular to the rays from the source.
53. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
55. Someone who is tested (as by an intelligence test or an academic examination).
58. A small constellation near the South Pole between Tucana and Ara.
62. A mountain range in western Russia extending from the arctic to the Caspian Sea.
64. The act of scanning.
65. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
69. Being in competition.
71. Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
72. A user interface based on graphics (icons and pictures and menus) instead of text.
73. An abnormal condition in which a normal opening or tube in the body (as the urethra) is closed or absent.
76. The bags of letters and packages that are transported by the postal service.
77. Standard time in the 5th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 75th meridian.
78. Tall feather palm of northern Brazil

with hard-shelled nuts yielding valuable oil and a kind of vegetable ivory.
79. A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.

DOWN

1. Any of various aromatic resinous substances used for healing and soothing.
2. One of the common people.
3. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
4. A harsh noise made by scraping.
5. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
6. Someone who leads a wandering unsettled life.
7. A strong emotion.
8. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
9. A defeat of the Persian army by the Greeks in 479 BC.
10. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
11. God of the sky.
12. Kill intentionally and with premeditation.
13. An incidental benefit awarded for certain types of employment (especially if it is regarded as a right).
14. Not only so, but.
22. A small cake leavened with yeast.
25. Valuable source of caviar and isinglass.
28. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
30. (sports) Someone in charge of training an athlete or a team.
32. A genus of Ploceidae.
34. Characterized by intense emotion.
35. A person of mean disposition.
36. Of a leaf shape.
38. A soft silvery metallic element of the rare earth group.
39. A decree that prohibits something.
40. Step on it.
41. Something that remunerates.
43. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
44. A landlocked principality in the Himalayas northeast of India.
46. Small space in a tissue or part such as the area between veins on a leaf or an insect's wing.
49. Scandinavian liquor usually flavored with caraway seeds.
51. Strike or tap firmly.
54. A public promotion of some product or service.
56. Half the width of an em.
57. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
59. Type genus of the Ariidae.
60. Widely distributed lichens usually having a grayish or yellow pendulous freely branched thallus.
61. A relation that provides the foundation for something.
63. Block consisting of a thick piece of something.
66. The sixth month of the civil year.
67. Characteristic of false pride.
68. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
70. The ball-shaped capsule containing the vertebrate eye.
74. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
75. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Although responsibilities continue to pile up at work today, you're still tempted to skip out for a long lunch or a walk in the park. You may dream and scheme about running away even if it's not a smart idea. Thankfully, the closer you get to your planned escape, the more you doubt the wisdom of your move. You don't need to do anything drastic to find pleasure now. Sometimes, just visualizing a serene setting is enough to reduce the pressure. Poet Wallace Stevens wrote, "Imagination is the power of the mind over the possibilities of things."



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This morning brings with it good luck and positive opportunities. If you are not learning and adhering to better nutrition, today and tomorrow are good times to begin. You are a very eager person and you may be encouraged to push beyond your strengths or be inclined to exhaust yourself. This may be why there is an interest in nutrition awareness. You may be especially dynamic and assertive just now. There is a lot of energy and drive available later today to accomplish whatever you want. Expect a sense of joint effort from those around you. Talking with a friend this evening may give you new investment ideas. Family members need attention and a face to face chat can become a renewal of support and information.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your thinking is quite clear and natural. Ideas seem to be rapidly flowing. In some circumstances, you may be tempted to chat a little longer than you should-discussing these new ideas. New beginnings are possible now. Any group activity will have much success. You may be chosen to be on the team that is part of creating some new transportation. This is a good day that should find everything running smoothly. Working with rather than against the flow should be easy to do. You may spend part of the afternoon rounding up a group of your friends or family in order to conduct a large garage sale, auction or bazaar for this coming weekend. This will be successful, particularly if you make your plans now. Rewarding days like this day makes up for all the stress that comes with the challenging days.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today is a good time to step back and reevaluate your goals. It is said that every seven years or so allergies and sensitivities tend to change or mutate. In your case, this may be true of you where music and trends of thinking will change. You become more informed and mature from your experiences. At this time you may decide you want to start your own business. Discover where your talents are and keep developing these talents as you seek to become self-employed. Keeping a log of notes as to how you would proceed with your dream regarding your own business will help you become more determined. Keeping in practice with your own talents will give you options if you need options. Some form of laughter is in order tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel like a hero as you come to the rescue of some co-worker friend this morning, and you like the emotion that comes with the feeling that you may have moved up a bit in the social standing of this group at work. Being more involved with co-workers and business partners help you to understand how to interact with your working family and to better understand the needs of your business partners. This can be a very positive thing by helping to increase production and support as well as sharing or respecting the goals of each other. Knowing more about each other's long-term goals will be helpful in sharing information and guidance for and from others. A visitor in your home this afternoon may compliment you on your belongings.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Put a closure on any old business or personal concerns today. Events make it easy for you to find new solutions to old problems. A clean break with the past in some respects is signaled for now. You will be making plans to complete unfinished business and clear away obligations. You may have always wanted to try your luck as a whitewater rafter, television writer, or painter. You may want to save a little more during this adjustment time while you make your plans. You are interested in what sort of work you could really sink your teeth into and what you could see develop into a productive project. Perhaps in shattering old molds you take charge of your life, become energized and take priority. Uniqueness and originality set you apart from others.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have an opportunity to encourage your mate this morning. Perhaps a new job is in the making. In the workplace you concentrate on the challenging ideas. Your ability to solve problems is in fine shape and difficult problems have easy answers with your insight. This afternoon you may find a personal situation has new beginnings-a fresh start, perhaps the establishment of new and positive habit patterns. Spend some time this afternoon to pay bills and adjust your budget to a more reasonable level. Financial investments may also need some review. You can expect the lines of communication to be open. Social situations this evening are favorable. Network whenever possible, particularly if you are in sales.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

An old co-worker friend may come to see you today. Work as well as fun conversations and gossip may take up much of your morning. This is a low-cycle day, allowing you to reassess or revise some of your plans, straighten out problems and refurbish your energies. You could find the afternoon provides you with quiet time to complete any unfinished work. This evening your loved ones will want to be a part of your celebration of life. There is an emphasis on security and a sense of roots. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a bigger part in this area. Others give you a boost-you feel you belong and are needed. Enjoy the day-laugh, sing and hug a friend this evening. By the way... You attract money today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your creative abilities are at the ready and whatever you decide to do will have your own personal signature. Others are impressed by your quick results and your accomplishments-particularly on a short notice. Co-workers or higher-ups may have good news because of your endeavors at this time. You will find the likelihood of a raise or some other means that will increase your standard of living. This afternoon a meeting with friends may produce big plans for a future get-together, perhaps a cooking contest or sports event or hunting expedition. Whatever the case, the plans are perfect for great camaraderie. Life just keeps getting better as you find ways to relate to the people that mean a lot to you. There is a deepening of relationships now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This has been a productive time in that you are ready to move forward with your goals and eliminate any slowdowns that create that feeling of moving backward. Do something this afternoon that makes someone smile. Perhaps you have experienced the results of volunteer work in a worthy area. This is an investment of your time that is meaningful to everyone-a win-win situation. Look around; there may be an opportunity within the workplace to perform this generosity. Good deeds are contagious; before long you could have a whole group helping others. Take advantage of this evening by making some future plans. If others are busy, take this opportunity to play! Busy yourself with one of the many hobbies you have. Do not push issues.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your attitude is positive and with a lot of enthusiasm. You are ready to explore all kinds of new horizons. Professionally speaking, you are in a good place. Take some time this Wednesday to make your plans for this upcoming weekend. Enjoy getting away from your regular routine. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizon open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have special appeal. There is support and recognition from family and friends. You feel comfortable in your home and surroundings and it seems to meet your needs. There is some open time this evening to express yourself creatively; perhaps with poetry. A new leisure pursuit could bring you hours of fun.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today is a good time to request a loan. You are entering a phase of emotional directness and impulsiveness that may be marked by forceful and powerful feelings. Your inner resources and emotions are accented. You may have new thoughts and sudden insights and will likely receive an unexpected boost in the way you think, speak or write. Communications are accented and connections of all kinds, news, etc., are furthered, often at the expense of tradition and established order. Friendships and involvement in group activities play a more important part in your life now. You and a friend may draft a letter to the city council in your town requesting more play areas in your town. A new child in this friend's family may involve a special gift and a visit.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fourth Of July

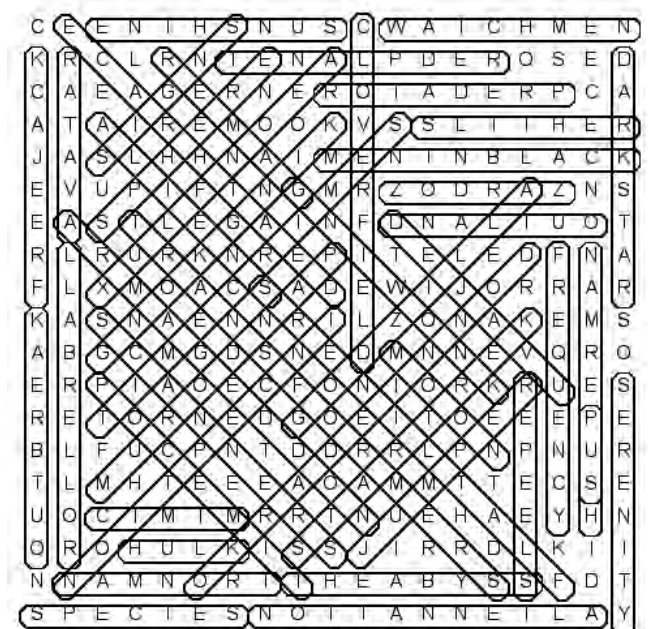
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Abraham Lincoln quotation.



- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BALD EAGLE | CONCERTS | HOLIDAY | PATRIOTIC |
| BALLOONS | DECORATIONS | HOT DOGS | PHILADELPHIA |
| BARBECUE | DEMOCRACY | INDEPENDENCE | PICNIC |
| BASEBALL | FIREWORKS | JOHN ADAMS | RED WHITE BLUE |
| BEN FRANKLIN | FLAG | LIBERTY | STARS AND STRIPES |
| BETSY ROSS | FLOATS | NATIONAL ANTHEM | STREAMERS |
| CAKE | FREEDOM | NATIONHOOD | THOMAS JEFFERSON |
| CARNIVAL | GREAT BRITAIN | PARADE | USA |
| CELEBRATION | HAMBURGERS | PARTY | WHITE HOUSE |
| COLONIES | HISTORY | | |

Yesterday's Solution

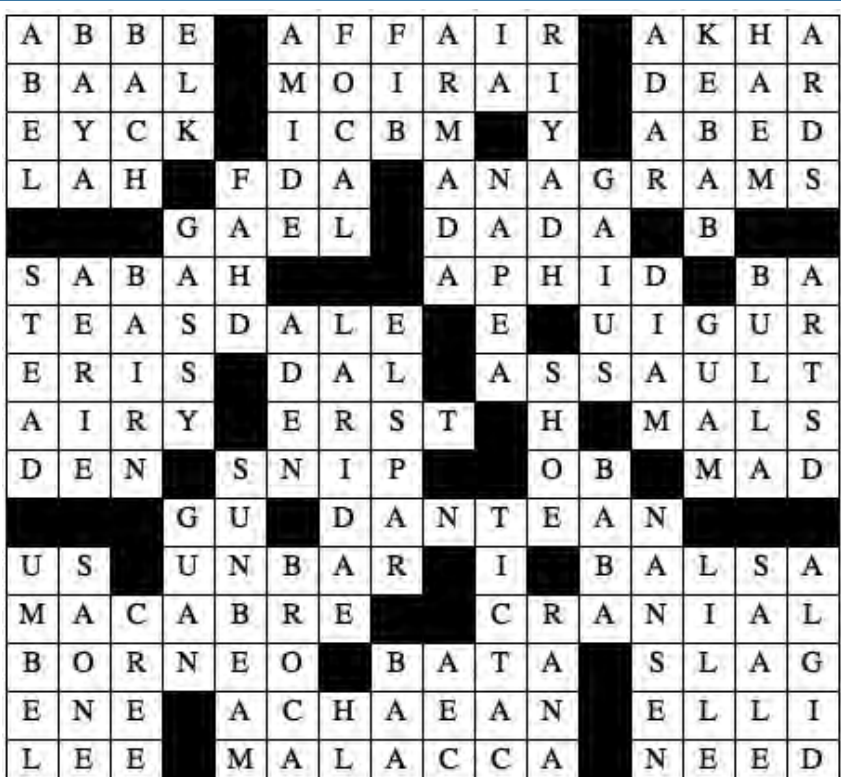
Movies: Science Fiction 2



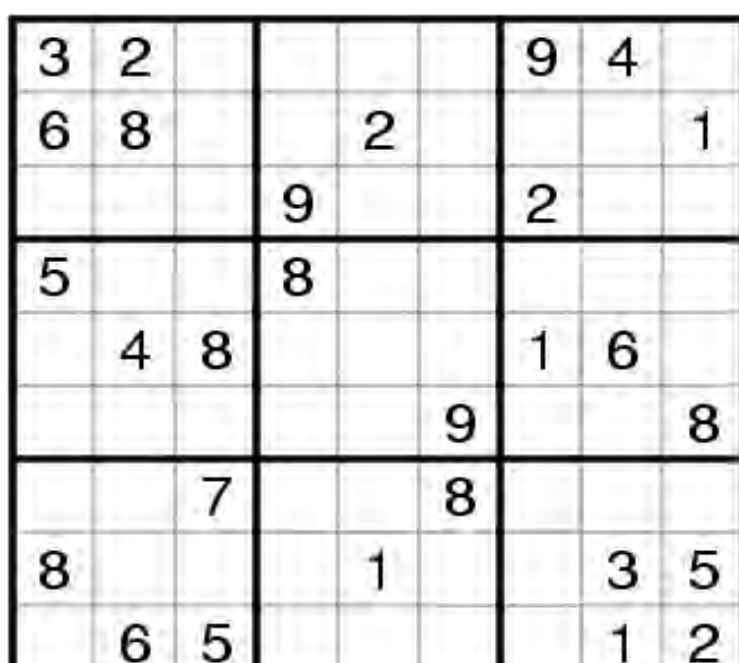
- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| AEON FLUX | FREQUENCY | OUTBREAK | SPECIES |
| ALIEN NATION | GAMER | PANDORUM | SPHERE |
| ALIENS | GODZILLA | PREDATOR | STAR TREK |
| ARMAGEDDON | HULK | PUSH | SUNSHINE |
| AVATAR | INCEPTION | RED PLANET | SUPERMAN |
| CLOVERFIELD | IRON MAN | ROLLERBALL | THE ABYSS |
| DARK STAR | JUMPER | SCANNERS | TIMECOP |
| DEATH RACE | KING KONG | SCENARIOS | TIMECRIMES |
| DEJA VU | KNOWING | SERENITY | TRANSFORMERS |
| DONNIE DARKO | NEW IN BLACK | SIGNS | WATCHMEN |
| FLATLINERS | MIMIC | SLEEPER | ZARDOZ |
| FREACK | MOON | SLITHER | |

Hidden movie: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

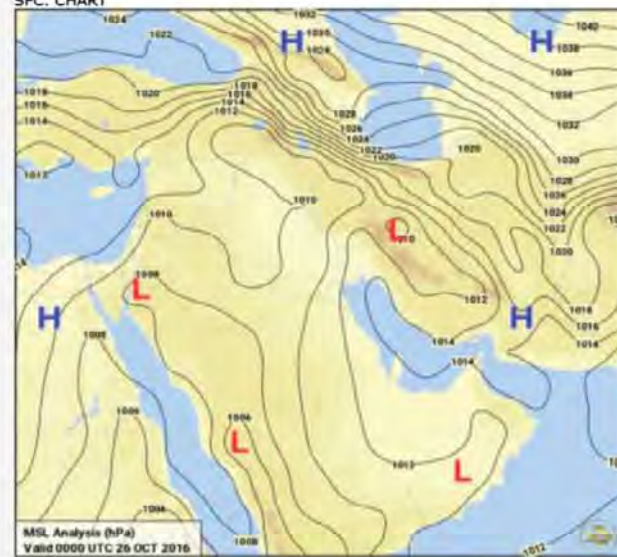
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 26/10/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 36 °C

By Day : Hot and relatively humid weather especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night : Relatively humid weather especially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly to southerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	Hot and relatively humid specially over coasta+high clouds	partly cloudy and relatively humid specially over coasts	partly cloudy and relatively humid specially over coasts	hot + scattered clouds
Min Temp °C	18	19	18	17
Max Temp °C	34	35	35	36
Wind Direction	south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	08 - 26	08 - 28	06 - 26

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	26		34	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	21		36	
ABDALY	21		35	
BUBYAN	23		33	
JAHRA	25		37	
FAILAKA ISLAND	25		33	
SALMIYAH	28		31	
AHMADI	26		32	
JAL ALIYAH	21		34	
QAROH ISLAND	27		31	
UMM AL-MARADEM	27		31	
NUWASIB	18		34	
WAFRA	24		36	
MANAGISH	23		37	
SALMY	20		35	
MUTRIBA	21		37	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	35
Min Temp (°C)	17
Max Rel Hum (%)	76
Min Rel Hum (%)	16
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:57
Sunset	17:07

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:37
Sunrise	05:57
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:43
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:25

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2
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HUGH LAURIE GETS STAR ON HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME

British actor Hugh Laurie, best known for playing a cantankerous doctor in the TV series 'House', received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday. Laurie, 57, was already well-known in Britain in the late 1980s for his role in the comedy series 'Blackadder', and 'A Bit of Fry and Laurie' with his friend and former comedy partner Stephen Fry. He crossed the Atlantic in 2004 to play Gregory House in the eight-year Fox TV series, twice winning the Golden Globe award for best actor in a TV drama. "I have lost count of the number of times, the number of young people I've met who are either studying or practicing medicine because they saw 'House'," Laurie said at the ceremony in Los Angeles. "There are physicians today saving lives, delivering babies and lancing boils because their imagination was ignited by stories and ideas and possibilities that they might not otherwise

have considered," he said. Laurie currently stars in Hulu's thriller TV series 'Chance', playing a forensic neuropsychiatrist. Fry, who met Laurie while studying at the University of Cambridge in England, poked fun at his friend during the ceremony. "It is the tradition in this marvelous town to reward stars by bringing them down to earth, so far down to earth that now Hugh will spend eternity having chewing gum and dog poo trodden into him and very likely worse," Fry told the crowd. "The world was at its feet and now the world's feet are at him," he added. The Hollywood Walk of Fame said on its website that Laurie received the 2,593rd star on the renowned Hollywood Boulevard.



Intruder at supermodel's California mansion charged

An Australian man who jumped the fence at supermodel Miranda Kerr's Malibu home and allegedly stabbed her security guard was charged Tuesday with attempted murder, prosecutors said. Shaun Haywood, 29, faces further felony counts of aggravated mayhem and assault with a deadly weapon, according to Los Angeles County district attorney Jackie Lacey. Haywood allegedly broke into the Australian model's ranch on October 14 in an effort to deliver a letter. When confronted by a security guard, the defendant is said to have grabbed the guard's knife and slashed his face, prosecutors said. The guard then shot Haywood. Both the intruder and the security guard were flown to hospital and were left with serious

but non-life-threatening injuries. Haywood was set to be arraigned on Tuesday with the prosecutor's office recommending bail be set at more than \$1 million. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison. Kerr, 33, married Hollywood star Orlando Bloom in 2010 and gave birth to the couple's child the following year. However three years later Bloom and Kerr announced that they were separating. Neither Kerr nor the boy were at home at the time, according to LA County sheriff's deputies. Australian media reported however that she "no longer feels safe in the house" and is planning to return to Sydney.

Kevin Curran, Emmy winner and longtime 'Simpsons' writer, dies at 59

Kevin Curran, a veteran comedy writer who spent 15 years on "The Simpsons," died Tuesday at his home in Los Angeles after a long illness. He was 59. Curran graduated from Harvard College in 1979, where he served as an editor for the Harvard Lampoon. While at Harvard, Curran met Al Jean, who would go on to become the showrunner of Fox's "The Simpsons." Curran had been on staff at "The Simpsons" since 2001, most recently serving as co-executive producer. "He was one of the funniest guys I ever met," Jean said. "He also had one of the sweetest, biggest hearts. He really was a terrific guy." Notable episodes Curran wrote for "The Simpsons" include "Don't Fear the Roofer" (2005) and "I'm Spelling as Fast as I Can" (2003). He conceived the idea and co-wrote the 2002 "Treehouse of Horror" Halloween episode "The Island of Dr. Hibbert." Curran won three Emmy Awards during his tenure on the show. In addition, Curran won three consecutive Emmys from 1985-87 as part of the writing team on NBC's "Late Night With David Letterman." In the 1990s, he worked on Fox's "Married With Children" and was also an executive producer of the WB Network's "Unhappily Ever After" alongside "Married With Children" creator Ron Leavitt. Curran's other TV credits included the short-lived ABC comedy "The Good Life." Curran is survived by a son and a daughter that he had with his former partner, author Helen Fielding. Friends and former colleagues took to social media to pay tribute to Curran.



If there's a 'Splash' remake, Tom Hanks wants in on it

Tom Hanks wants in on Channing Tatum's gender-swapped remake of his 1984 mermaid romantic comedy "Splash." Ron Howard and Brian Grazer are developing a new take on the film with Tatum starring as a mer-man in the part originated by Daryl Hannah. "No one asked me. I am all in favor of it," said Hanks, who played Allen Bauer in the original film. "Why not? That's fine. Look, I think if they were really going to be bold, I would come back as Allen Bauer, and I would go off with Channing Tatum. That would be a bold movie. And I am suggesting it right now." Howard directed the original based off Grazer's idea and said he laughed when pitched the remake idea by Tatum and Jillian Bell, who would play the role originated by Hanks. "I mean look, it's a bit of an experiment. So we are just going to have to see how the screenplay comes together," Howard said at the "Inferno" premiere in Los Angeles on Tuesday. "We'll see. But it will be a lot of fun even as we're just working on it." The "Splash" project comes amid a rush of gender-swapped remakes and reboots of popular older movies-including this summer's "Ghostbusters," an in-development all-women "Ocean's 11" and more.



Costner takes Chinese Financier to court Over 'Shanghai Sojourners' ousting

Kevin Costner filed suit on Tuesday against Kylin Pictures, accusing the Chinese financier of firing him from the film "Shanghai Sojourners" in breach of their contract. Costner signed on in April to produce the film, a historical romance set amid the Japanese occupation of China. Costner and his production company, Treehouse Films, hired a writer to rewrite the screenplay. Costner himself then rewrote the draft, and had completed 104 pages when he was told to stop working, according to the suit. Kylin Pictures told Costner that he was no longer wanted on the project on Aug. 29, according to the suit. Costner had been promised \$3 million to produce the film. Treehouse Films was promised another \$1 million. Costner received only \$150,000. Though Kylin had used Costner's name to promote the film at the Shanghai International Film Festival in June, Costner alleges that the company had already decided to fire him. Kylin did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Tom Cruise credits his success to Scientology

The 54-year-old actor has over 50 films under his belt and still has producers queuing up to snag him for their forthcoming movies but he's convinced he wouldn't be where he is today if he hadn't taken up the "beautiful" religion - a body of beliefs and practices created in 1954 by American science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard - three decades ago. Speaking to ITV News about the controversial organization, Tom - who rarely comments on his religious beliefs - said: "It's something that has helped me incredibly in my life; I've been a Scientologist for over 30 years. It's something, you know, without it, I wouldn't be where I am. So it's a beautiful religion. I'm incredibly proud." The 'Mission: Impossible' star - who is the most famous star to follow the organization - believes the methods developed by Hubbard have helped him overcome his dyslexia. He said seven years ago of his literacy struggles at school: "I asked myself if I was normal or an idiot. I would try to concentrate but I felt anxiety, frustration, boredom. When I graduated from high school in 1980 I was functionally illiterate." Tom was first introduced to the church by his first wife Mimi Rogers, whom he was married to from 1987 until 1990, while he was still trying to make it as a global star. He then went on to wed



Nicole Kidman, with whom he adopted two children Isabella and Conor, but they later divorced in 2001 following 11 years of marriage. Tom began dating Katie Holmes in 2005 and welcomed their daughter Suri, now 10, into the world in April 2006. They tied the knot over a year later in Italy and the head of Scientology David Miscavige served as the actor's best man at the wedding. After six years of marriage, Katie filed for divorce - the details of which have remained sealed under New York law - from Tom and it's believed he hasn't seen their daughter in public for three years after he was spotted taking to her to Disneyland in 2013. Tom is one of the highest-ranking Scientologists has been hailed by leaders of the faith as the "chosen one" who will spread the word of the religion. The bizarre sci-fi cult's founder Hubbard claimed that billions of extra-terrestrial beings were sent to Earth by Xenu - the dictator of the 'Galactic Confederacy', comprised of 26 stars and 76 planets including Earth - who gathered them around volcanoes and then destroyed the aliens with hydrogen bombs. The aliens' souls attached themselves to chosen humans, known as thetans, who will be one day be saved from their life of spiritual harm.-Agencies

Liam Gallagher: Noel's not only talented member of Oasis

Liam Gallagher says the biggest myth about Oasis is that his brother Noel Gallagher has more talent than him. The 44-year-old singer and his 49-year-old sibling have gone their separate ways since their group disbanded in 2009 following a huge backstage bust-up between before a concert in Paris, France. Since the demise of the 'Cigarettes and Alcohol' rockers, Noel has gone on to release two solo albums, while Liam made two records with new band Beady Eye and his currently recording his own solo LP and although Noel wrote the majority of Oasis' biggest hits the outspoken frontman insists the key to their success was the dynamic between them both. Asked what the biggest misconception about Oasis is in an interview with DorkShelf.com, Liam answered: "I don't know ... I think we wore our hearts on our sleeve. I guess there's one that Noel's the talented one and I'm not. That's a big one." This year, Liam and Noel revisited the band's beginnings in Manchester and journey to their mammoth open-air concerts at Knebworth in 1996 which were attended by 250,000 fans for documentary film 'Supersonic' - directed by Mat Whitecross. The 'I'm Outta Time' songwriter enjoyed looking back but has admitted he doesn't own any souvenirs or mementos from the band's career, preferring to collect items owned by

his musical heroes. He said: "Oasis stuff? Nah. I've got loads of Beatles stuff, Jimi Hendrix, got loads of Bob Marley s**t, pictures, stuff like that." Liam also confirmed he still owns a set of beads that were owned by his idol John Lennon that Noel bought him as a birthday present and claimed he had lost after wearing them on a night out. The 'Some Might Say' singer revealed: "I've still got them. They were beads that he wore when he met the Maharishi. They were in a glass case like what you get platinum albums in, I thought that man they're not staying in there, so I smashed it open and put 'em around me neck."



Cher saves jewelry designer Rodkin after hair catches alight

Cher "saved" jewelry designer Loree Rodkin's life after her hair caught on fire. The 70-year-old singer has admitted she came to the rescue when the Chicago-born entrepreneur's hair went up in flames after she walked past a burning candle at her scented jewelry party. The 'If I Could Turn Back Time' hitmaker announced the news via social media on yesterday. She tweeted: "Well Loree's party was giant Success...&..I SAVED HER LIFE "SHE WAS IN FRONT OF ME,WALKED PAST CANDLE.& HER HAIR WENT UP [in flames] I PUT IT OUT (sic)." And the businesswoman - who has designed accessories for Michelle Obama, Mary J. Blige, Steven Tyler and Madonna - has thanked the brunette beauty and her other guests, including Dita Von Teese for attending the By Kilian launch, although she failed to mention her mishap during the evening. Alongside a photo of Loree with Cher and two other guests, which was shared to the fashion mogul's Instagram account, it read: "Tonight's crew for @bykilianlaunch of our scented jewelry collaboration#diamondsandper-

fumearegirlsbestfriend #loreeodkinjewelry #cher#oliviaharrison #marjoriebach#barbarabach #rumerwillis#pauletteakapaul @loreeodkin@laurielynstark @cher thank you to@Melanie Griffith @ditavontees Victoria jackson @chachawinchester@moonstars @rosarugosa25 for being the girls that u are and coming out for our dinner xoxo (sic)." Meanwhile, Cher is set to perform a series of concerts in Las Vegas and across the US next year, and has admitted she wants to pursue her music career whilst her "voice is still really good", although she isn't a fan of herself. Speaking previously about her forthcoming gigs, she said: "I didn't want to be finished. I didn't want to be through with singing, and I knew that this would probably be the last time. My voice is still really good. "I'm still active and running around. I can still fit into my costumes. I thought that this is probably ... it's now or never. "I've never really been in love with Cher. She's all right, but it's like, I'm not a huge fan. I'm not a Cher fan."

MUSIC & MOVIES

ABBA MEMBERS TO LAUNCH 'NEW DIGITAL EXPERIENCE' NEXT YEAR

The members of ABBA are reuniting for a "new digital experience" next year. The iconic Swedish pop band made the announcement yesterday, but didn't offer much detail. They said they are teaming up with Universal Music Group and entertainment mogul Simon Fuller ("American Idol," "Spice Girls") to "create an original entertainment experience ... that will enable a new generation of fans to see, hear, and feel ABBA in a way previously unimagined."

ABBA includes Benny Andersson, Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Anni-Frid Lyngstad. They formed in Stockholm in 1972 and last performed together 35 years

ago. The four members made a rare joint appearance in January for the opening of a Stockholm restaurant inspired by the "Mamma Mia!" musical. ABBA's hits include "Dancing Queen" and "Take a Chance on Me." — AP

In this March 14, 1980, file photo, the four members of the Swedish pop group ABBA hold Japanese oil paper parasols in a light rain in the Japanese garden of their hotel in Tokyo. — AP



In this file photo, NFL football player Russell Wilson, of the Seattle Seahawks, left, and Ciara arrive at the ESPY Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. — AP

Ciara, Seahawks' Russell Wilson announce pregnancy

Ciara is expecting her first child with Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, three months after the couple tied the knot. Both stars announced the pregnancy by sharing the same photo on Instagram on Tuesday night. Ciara, who turned 31 Tuesday, says she is "excited to finally share one of the Greatest Gifts of All that God could give." Wilson calls the baby, "The Greatest Blessing of All."

This is the 27-year-old Wilson's first child. Ciara has a 2-year-old son from a previous relationship with rapper Future. Wilson and Ciara famously abstained from sex before their July wedding in England. They had been dating since early last year. — AP

Ex-director of Busan film fest convicted of fraud

A South Korean court yesterday convicted the former director of Asia's top film festival of accounting fraud, in what critics have called a politically-motivated case that has damaged the event's artistic independence. Lee Yong-Kwan, who headed the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) until February this year, was given a suspended jail sentence for making fraudulent payments amounting to 27.5 million won (\$24,200) to a firm that brokers sponsorship deals.

Three other current and former BIFF officials indicted on similar charges also received suspended jail terms. The case was brought against Lee earlier this year as the prestigious annual festival was embroiled in a bitter row with state authorities over alleged political interference. The dispute began in 2014 when the BIFF screened a controversial documentary about the Sewol ferry disaster, despite angry opposition by the mayor of the host city Busan.

The film, "Diving Bell," criticized Seoul's botched rescue effort during the tragedy that killed more than 300 people, mostly school children. After it was shown, state funding for the 2015 BIFF was nearly halved and Lee, who was instrumental in getting the documentary screened, became the target of a series of probes by authorities. Lee was forced to step down as BIFF director in February after the Busan mayor—then the chairman of the festival organizing committee—refused to renew his contract.

According to the Yonhap news agency, Lee said he would appeal yesterday's verdict, which an umbrella group of South Korean filmmakers criticized as unfair. "We had expected the court to exonerate Lee given that the charges against him were evidently a political crackdown to tame the festival," the group said in a joint statement. "We will work together to restore Lee's reputation that has been hurt ... in this political revenge." The court case against Lee prompted hundreds of local directors, actors and producers to stage street rallies in protest and boycott this year's festival. — AFP

San Francisco filmmaker won't face criminal charges

A well-regarded San Francisco filmmaker and community activist arrested in connection with a fatal shooting won't immediately face criminal charges, prosecutors said. The district attorney's office found insufficient evidence to immediately press charges against Kevin Epps, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Tuesday. Epps, 48, won acclaim for gritty movies about the violence and poverty plaguing city communities. He is best known for his 2001 film "Straight Outta Hunters Point," which explored the devastation of the neighborhood where he was raised. He followed it with "Straight Outta Hunters Point 2" in 2014.

Epps was arrested Monday afternoon, shortly after a man was found shot dead in his house in the Glen Park neighborhood. Epps was booked on suspicion of murder and being a felon in possession of a gun. Police didn't discuss a possible motive for the shooting at the

time. Epps declined to be interviewed after speaking with an attorney from the San Francisco public defender's office, the Chronicle reported. Friends and family identified the dead man as Marcus Polk, 45, and indicated the two men knew each other, the Chronicle said.

Polk was a registered sex offender with a history of drug abuse and prior convictions for attempted robbery and domestic battery. Epps' arrest had shocked acquaintances. "This is one of the last things I would expect to hear," Stanley Cox Jr., an Oakland rapper known as Mistah F.A.B. who appeared in the filmmaker's 2006 documentary, "Rap Dreams." "He's one of those guys that you idolize," Cox, 34, told the Chronicle. "He became my big brother and mentor because of the work he did in the community." — AP



Photo shows filmmaker Kevin Epps, center, at a de Young Artist Fellows event in San Francisco.



In this file photo, Kenny Chesney performs at the 4th Annual ACM Party for a Cause Festival at the Las Vegas Festival Grounds in Las Vegas. — AP

Chesney to receive Pinnacle Award at 50th CMA Awards

Kenny Chesney will receive the Pinnacle Award during the 50th annual Country Music Association Awards, joining Garth Brooks and Taylor Swift as the only recipients. The award, created in 2005, recognizes an artist who has achieved global prominence through performances and record sales and the highest degree of recognition. Over his career, Chesney has eight CMA awards, including four entertainer of the year awards.

His new album, "Cosmic Hallelujah," comes out Friday and features a hit duet "Setting the World on Fire" with Pink. Chesney has 28 No. 1 country songs and has sold in excess of 30 million albums. He is considered one of music's top touring artists. The CMA Awards will air live from the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville on Nov 2 on ABC. — AP

Bee Gees' Gibb eyes Justin Timberlake collaboration

Sole surviving Bee Gee Barry Gibb is keen to make music with US pop star Justin Timberlake as he pursues a solo career after the death of his brothers. Gibb, who joined Coldplay on stage at England's Glastonbury Festival this year, has recently released a solo album and said he wanted to work with creative people. "I'd love to work with Justin Timberlake. That's always been a thing in my head because I think we would click," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation yesterday.

"You gravitate towards people that are creative and that you hope that something good comes from it." Despite the Bee Gees being one of the world's best-selling groups, Gibb revealed he and his brothers, Robin and Maurice, all wanted to be solo performers. "Ultimately, we all wanted to be solo stars. That's what groups are. Every member of the group wants individual attention," he said.

"I don't balk at that, I'm simply embracing the opportunity to write songs I love and not doing everything by what everyone in the group thinks, you know? So it's a new kind of freedom. I miss them very much but it's a musical new freedom for me." Although British, Gibb and his brothers grew up in Australia, where the band was formed and they performed as the Bee Gees for the first time. Maurice died in 2003 after suffering a cardiac arrest while Robin died in 2012 after a lengthy battle against cancer. A fourth brother, Andy, died from cocaine addiction in 1988.

Gibb, one of the most successful songwriters ever, admitted it had been hard to get back recording again. "For a long time, I didn't want to. For at least six months after Rob passed, that was all of my brothers, Andy at 30, Maurice at 53 and Rob at 63. "It was an exhausting time, not just for me, but for mum and Lesley, my older sister, who still lives in Australia. So, yeah, I didn't want to for a long time. And then my wife told me to get off my backside." — AFP



Justin Timberlake attends the premiere of 20th Century Fox's 'Trolls' at Regency Village Theatre in Westwood, California.

MTV Europe awards plans Facebook bot, virtual reality

The MTV Europe Music Awards, seeking to reach a wide global audience, will feature a first-of-a-kind interactive bot on Facebook Messenger and a virtual reality edition, the network said yesterday. The awards night, the international showcase for the music and youth channel, will take place on November 6 in the Dutch city of Rotterdam with performers to include Bruno Mars and Shawn Mendes. In what MTV described as a first-ever technology for any awards show, the gala will have its own

interactive bot on Facebook Messenger.

Users of the social network's popular messaging service will be able to ask questions about the show and receive live updates that include GIF image files. MTV decided to focus on the Messenger bot as its millions of Facebook fans form a target audience, said Karmelina Parouka, vice president for international digital production at parent Viacom International Media Networks. The EMAs face a complicated task in staying current for viewers across countries in

different languages, she said. "We have to ensure that creative (design), content and technology come together to give our fans everywhere a tailored experience—not an amazing experience in one country and a really terrible one in another," she told AFP.

For the second year, the awards will broadcast in virtual reality with unique content available on the MTV EMA app, augmented by a cardboard viewer. The awards will also feature original material or special editions on leading

social media platforms—Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and Vine, as well as Facebook Live. Giving a more global touch than MTV's signature US-based Video Music Awards, the EMAs will feature Brazilian pop celebrity Hugo Gloss as the night's host on Instagram. Stars set to appear at the EMAs include Bollywood starlet Deepika Padukone and leading house DJ Martin Garrix, who is Dutch. — AFP

FEATURES

THE IMPORTANCE OF USING 'PRIMER'



Every girl is on the hunt for the next best foundation or the latest eye shadow palette, with so many options we end up getting almost all of them because it's impossible to make a choice. However, there's always this specific product that girls seem to just neglect, which is the primer. You're more likely to ignore this product on the counter because you think you don't really need it, truth is, primers are what help you achieve a flawless finish, and what's even more important is that it saves your skin. It's the layer that will make blending your makeup easier, whether it was a face primer or eye primer, it evens out the surface of skin and protects your skin.

I wasn't such a fan of primers, I'd usually go straight in with a foundation and concealer, but I once got a primer as a tester and ever since I used it, I was hooked! I've noticed a huge difference with my makeup and I can never go without it now. The first thing I noticed that a primer does, is that it seals your pores. I don't have large pores but if we all used liquid foundation it always makes them appear larger. Sealing your pores and creating a surface on top is the trick to having smaller

looking pores if you already have larger ones and allows you to use any liquid foundation freely!

Another benefit is that velvet touch and appearance your primer gives you and that a benefit itself, once you use it you just can't go without it, blending your makeup perfectly is the best compliment you can get on your makeup. Most primers are non-comedogenic, which means they won't break your face nor irritate your skin. They also won't clog your pores which is how acne initially starts. Even if you do have acne, primers will help lessen their appearance. Some primers also have anti-aging properties as they smooth out fine lines and wrinkles, so it'll give you a more fresh and youthful glow with your makeup.

Feel flawless

Primers are mainly used to make your makeup last longer, and it's also the layer that'll protect your skin from the environment around you such as dust and water. Primers are applied on the face either by your hands, which I prefer as it's almost like a lotion, or by a beauty blender/brush. It won't

leave your with a gluey feeling nor would you feel like you have a mask on.

At the end of the day, make up application shouldn't only be all about the final result, but instead it should also focus on your skin and how to protect it, because no matter how much make up you put on, you can't mask unhealthy and tired skin. This is where primers come into place, having such a product can cater to both worlds, the beauty world and the health world, as it protects your skin as well as helps you achieve better looking makeup.

We should always look for an alternative that will help our skin to look and feel flawless because this is what will keep our skin feeling and looking healthy. Applying makeup on a daily basis does take a toll on our skin in the long run so neglecting our skin will result in break outs and even acne. Nowadays even young girls are interested in the beauty industry so we must educate ourselves on the products we use to assure ourselves that we are going a step forward for our skin to stay youthful.



An Egyptian woman sits under murals by Egyptian artists Egyptian Alaa Awad, Moataz El-Emam, Alaa Aboul Hamad, and Adel Mustafa, outside her home in Burullus, north of Cairo, Egypt. — AP photos



An Egyptian woman sits in front of a mural by Egyptian artist Alaa Aboul Hamad, in Burullus, north of Cairo, Egypt.



An Egyptian opens his home window recently painted a mural by Portuguese artist Paulina Evaristo in Burullus, north of Cairo, Egypt.

Egyptian fishing town hosts wall art festival

For the third successive year, an Egyptian fishing town has hosted a unique art festival that attracts participants from home and abroad. The annual event in Burullus injects life and color into the town of about 100,000 residents. Artist Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Mohsen, whose non-profit organization is behind the festival, says its objective is to communicate art directly to the townspeople and visitors. "Forty enthusiastic visual artists from 13 countries have volunteered to change the face of the town and raise awareness of beauty and a clean environment," Abdel-Mohsen told The Associated Press in Burullus, a lakeside town linked to the Mediterranean Sea through a narrow strait.

During the festival, Abdel-Mohsen says the town becomes a "touristic attraction with its colored homes and a great view on the Burullus lake." The town offers individual artists different experiences. Egyptian artist and first-time participant Riham El-Saadany painted a small wall next to a grocery store she said was mostly frequented by children.

"I decided to draw a portrait for my daughter Lily, and create a background of water, fish and bubbles," she said. Portuguese artist Paulina Evaristo said her painting dealt with the inner beauty of women, love and God, and that the reaction among Burullus residents was "very positive." "They identified with the painting and the idea of beauty as reflected on the wall is now part of their knowledge," she said. Another participant, Mikica Trujkanovik from Macedonia, said she was instantly inspired by the smiles of the town's children who followed her everywhere she went. "When I saw the magic of Burullus and the painted walls on my first day, I knew I was in the right place," she said. Here is a series of photos by Amr Nabil. — AP



An Egyptian child plays with sand in front of a mural by Egyptian artist Riham El-Saadany in Burullus, north of Cairo, Egypt.



An Egyptian man smokes a water pipe, under a mural painted by Iranian artist Nasser Palangi.



Egyptian children play on a wall painted a mural by Egyptian artist Ali Hassan, in Burullus, north of Cairo, Egypt.



An Egyptian woman hangs her laundry over a mural by Egyptian artist Omar El Fayoumi in Burullus, north of Cairo, Egypt.



This photograph shows 'Dinosaur Princess' Aalia Sultana Babi posing at the entrance to the Balasinor Dinosaur Fossil Park at Balasinor, located some 100 kms from Ahmedabad. — AFP photos



'Dinosaur Princess' Aaliya Sultana Babi holding a fossilized dinosaur egg at her palace in Balasinor.



Schoolchildren gathering beside a wall painted with dinosaur illustrations in a village near Balasinor, some 100km from Ahmedabad.



'Dinosaur Princess' Aaliya Sultana Babi posing with fossilized dinosaur eggs at her palace in Balasinor, some 100 kms from Ahmedabad.



'Dinosaur Princess' Aalia Sultana Babi posing with a fossil at the Balasinor Dinosaur Fossil Park.

India's 'Dinosaur Princess' keeps watch over rare remains

One of princess Aalia Sultana Babi's most prized possessions is a fossilized dinosaur egg she found an unsuspecting villager using to grind spices on her ancestral lands, an area billed as "India's Jurassic Park". Babi rescued the egg and it now has pride of place among her collection of prehistoric fossils, part of a lifelong legacy of protecting the dinosaur remains on the land her family once ruled over. "She didn't know it was a dinosaur egg!" said Babi, 42, who has been dubbed the Dinosaur Princess for her work.

"I lovingly call it my masala (spice) egg," she added of the rare find, a complete Titanosaurus egg belonging to the late Cretaceous period, around 99-65 million years ago. It now sits in her home, in pride of place, wrapped in white silk inside a red velvet jewelry box. Researchers found the 72-acre (29-hectare) sprawling family estate of Balasinor was littered with dinosaur fossils during a routine geological survey of the area situated in Gujarat in Western India, in the 1980s. One find-estimated to be 67 million years old-was of a new species of dinosaur which scientists named Rajasaurus Narmadensis after the Hindi word for king and the local area around Narmada river. A T-rex-like carnivore, the Rajasaurus was a 30-foot (nine-meter) predator characterized by a unique crown of crested horns that feasted on long-necked sauropods-herbivores that also lived in the region. Local experts believe at least seven species of dinosaur once lived in the area.

Untapped potential

Today visitors to the Balasinor Dinosaur Fossil Park can see fiberglass models of the huge beasts. But for Babi, the full potential of the place, is going untapped. It is estimated that around 10,000 fossilized dinosaur eggs were found in the area-but a significant number have been given to other museums. The park now has a somewhat neglected air: To the untrained eye it seems little more than a



'Dinosaur Princess' Aaliya Sultana Babi holding a fossilized dinosaur egg at her palace in Balasinor.

wild expanse of fenced-off scrubland, and without proper markings or explanations, some of the dinosaur remains can be mistaken for ordinary rocks. A single watchman guards the government-owned site against vandalism and local herders seeking grazing for their cattle.

Authorities have built a museum nearby, but it has yet to be completed-at the moment the only exhibits on display are a smattering of dinosaur models and posters. The slow pace of progress is a source of frustration for local villagers, who say the site could be providing them with employment if it was fully developed. "It's good that Balasinor is get-

ting so much attention. But it is of no use to us," says 26-year-old Rajesh Chauhan, who is unemployed. "We want the government to spare some thought for us also. They are worried about animals that are long dead and gone, but have little concern for the living."

'My subjects'

Babi, who conducts guided tours of the park for a fee, has lobbied authorities to do more, but says the fact that three separate government departments are involved means not much happens in a hurry. "There's a lot of potential to this place, it's just that we need to wake up from our slumber and get going," she said. It could be a contender to be given UNESCO Geo Park status, but a lack of coordination between government departments means no submission has been made to the body, local media report. Nonetheless, thousands of tourists visit in the cooler winter months, thanks in part to Babi's efforts.

Passengers on the Maharaja Express, a luxury tourist train, can stay at the royal palace before touring the park-the only place in the world where you can hold a fossilized dinosaur egg, say local geologists. Babi, who featured in the BBC reality show Undercover Princesses in 2009, said her passion for dinosaurs began when she started accompanying foreign geologists to the fossil park because she was the only local person who spoke English. "I got drawn into it as it was something which was very unique and virtually in my backyard," she told AFP. "I started writing to scientists and gathering as much research material as I could. "My affiliation is double-fold, because I feel these are my subjects that I need to protect." — AFP

Iranian carpet makers target US with peace message

Iran's carpet makers are distancing themselves from their government in promoting their handmade work as they seek to regain valuable US sales and protect jobs following the removal of economic sanctions. "Iranian carpets are produced by female and male weavers who are managed by the private sector, so the government does not have a big influence," Hamid Kargar, head of the Iran National Carpet Center, said in an emailed response to questions for the Reuters Middle East Investment Summit.

Years of sanctions had helped Iran's three main competitors in handmade carpets - India, Pakistan and Turkey - establish themselves in many areas, including the US. The world's largest buyer imported more than \$80 million worth from Iran in 2010, before the trade embargo was tightened, he said. Sanctions were lifted in January following an agreement with world powers on Tehran's disputed nuclear program and Iran's drive to regain US market share for carpets mirrors its efforts to repair trade relations for many products.

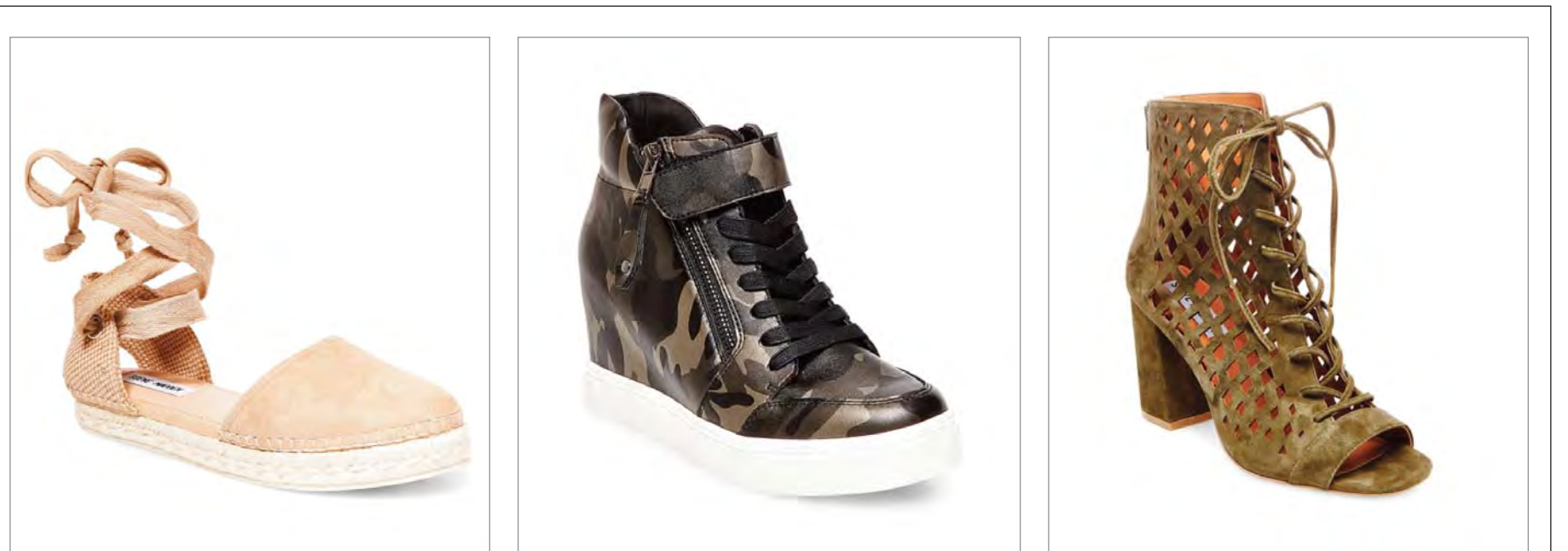
"We are trying to show in our advertisements that Iranian carpets are independent from the government, that they are artistic products that carry a message of peace and friendship to the world," Kargar, who runs the business promotion body that sits within Iran's commerce ministry. Iran's exports are bouncing back, but it is far from regaining all of the market share that it lost, and many banks and buyers remain cautious about engaging with Iran because of lingering political tensions with the West.

Exports rise

Since January when carpet sales to the US resumed, \$49.3 million worth have been shipped there from Iran, Kargar said. Between March and September this year, Iran exported \$134 million worth of handmade carpets, or 2,330 tons, to 80 countries. That was a 17.7 percent increase in value and 10 percent rise in weight compared to a year earlier.

The export performance of the carpet industry may have an impact on Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's efforts to deliver an economic boom, not just because of the industry's monetary size but because it involves so many people. There are almost 1 million carpet weavers in Iran, 700,000 of whom are working full-time, Kargar said. The National Carpet Center now aims to help increase Iran's production capacity by offering assistance arranging loans and insurance coverage for renovation and development of manufacturing centers, and for purchases of raw materials.

During the sanctions years, Iran partially compensated for its loss of market share in the United States and Europe by finding new buyers in Russia, China, South Africa and some Latin American countries. It still holds about 30 percent of the global trade in handmade carpets, Kargar said. — Reuters



STEVE MADDEN USHERS IN AUTUMN /WINTER '16!

For Autumn Winter 2016, Steve Madden is influenced by the history of rock and roll culture in New York City. A celebration of the underground music movement, we're inspired by Steve's New York heritage and rock and roll influences; the intersection of which is brought to life in slick silver pieces, glittering boots, over the knee styles and casual slip on sneakers. Follow us on our journey through the streets of New York, reflecting on the artists who depicted the rich musical past of New York City in the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

This fall, Steve Madden wants you to Walk This Way. **Cool Kicks:** Perfect for pounding the New York City pavement, we're embracing the slip on sneaker trend in a big way. We've adjusted the classic formula by adding sleek metallic details and quilting on the ELEETE, the ELLIAS and the ECENTRCO. The classic high top is streamlined with the cool perforated leather of the LINGO-P. Tie it all together and take it to go with the tonal studded details of the BANALISA backpack. For the self-made Steve Madden guy, the RING WALD is a staple sneaker, with its gently worn-in leather and white soles. The FREY and the KELCE step up his sneaker head game, adding a high ankle attitude to the simple silhouette made for concert wear.

Mod Squad: An impossibly cool assembly of styles are rounding out our collection this season, representative of iconic British-turned-American rock and roll culture. The EDITT and GOLDIE booties are quintessentially mod, with

rounded toes and thick chunky heels. The ESSPECIAL boot has its skinny heel, cutout toe and all over slick leather. The WAILS is a cool, low heeled classic with an ankle strap. Perfect for the New York hustle is the BHAVEN cross body bag, sweet and simple and a mod statement all on its own. This season our Steve Madden guy is a vision of the New York entrepreneur so we designed more sophisticated options like the SPROCKET, JOURNE and HARKEN to take our guy from work to play.

Urban Cowboy: Rooted in western charm but designed for the New York City streets, the ACES boot is replete with cool details, from its low heel to its silver accents. Best friends with your favorite jeans, the NYLIE, NICKELL and PAUZE are subtly unique versions of your go to bootie, out-titted in smooth suede. The MERTA is our demure western mule, an easy slip on essential with just the perfect heel height for walking and dancing alike. Finally, the BBAILEY wallet pulls it all together with its simple shape and playful tassel.

Silver Coated: Everything is better glazed in rich metallic silver. Reminiscent of 70s rock and roll glamour, the slip on loafer sensibility of the TIMBIR is perfectly balanced by the outrageous PEACE bootie, a stunning sterling conversation starter. Taking us from brunch to club is the TINMAN, a modern metallic take on a retro sneaker favorite.

90s Hits: Let loose this fall on the streets of New York with the help of our 90s-inspired favorites. Best reserved for

girl bosses, the PEEP is the classic peep toe pump with a modest platform. Embrace the glow with the LEVELS-G and KIERRA, a celebration of glitter in both casual and dolled up form. Round out that 90s nostalgia with the BROSLIE cross-body bag and its cool combinations of colors and prints. Perfectly pairing with our 90s hits, our Steve Madden guy has rad slip-ons and lace up options. The HERBERT and CRUCIBLE offer smooth leather and a smart toe cap, while the DUBBEL and the DENNNIS are a bit more laid back while still remaining confident and cool.

Thigh High: Over the knee boots have officially made the transition to a way of life for native New Yorkers. The bold velvet BLAZIN boot has us deep in 70s nostalgia while the HARTBRKR's leather/neoprene combination and hot stiletto heel exude party-ready allure. On the more reserved side of things are the GLEEMER and the HEISTT, in soft suede and essential, fall-ready hues. We channeled the adventurous Steve Madden girl when we dreamed up the HOTGIRL, a modern version of the classic over the knee boot with an incredible lucite heel designed for lounge lovers and club kids alike.

Revamp your shoe closet this season with Steve Madden's fabulous AW'16 collection available at The Avenues- The Mall & Sama Mall, Fintas.

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

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India's 'Dinosaur Princess' keeps watch over rare remains



This photo shows visitors walking past a pumpkin lantern show in front of a shopping mall to mark the Halloween in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning province. This year's Halloween will fall on October 31, 2016. — AFP

Denmark's feminist mosque founder challenges norms

The founder of Scandinavia's first female-led mosque is a soft-spoken "imama" who has riled conservatives with her views on marriage but others say her project is not progressive enough. The Mariam Mosque opened in March and held its first Friday prayer in August, when Danish-born imam Saliha Marie Fetteh spoke to around 60 women—just over half of them Muslim—about female scholars in Islam and women's rights. "It was fantastic and very moving," said Ozlem Cekic, a Turkey-born Danish commentator and former lawmaker, who attended the sermon. "I believe it will strengthen Islam." Christian and Jewish community leaders also attended the prayer.



Sherin Khankan of Denmark, the female-led mosque posing for a photo in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Talking about women's rights is not a Western phenomenon, it's an Islamic ideal," Sherin Khankan—one of the five female imams-in-training—told AFP in a sparsely furnished room where the weekly prayers are held. Arabic calligraphy and Islamic literature adorn its white walls, but the sounds of a bustling Copenhagen street permeate into the apartment. An "anonymous donor" is paying the lease of the mosque, located in a building in an area that is one of the most expensive in Copenhagen. The 42-year-old mother of four was born in Denmark. She describes her father, a Syrian political refugee who married a Finnish woman, as "a feminist icon".

Her Christian mother would fast during Ramadan with the rest of the family, while Muslim family members would join her in church on special occasions. Inter-faith dialogue has always been vital to Khankan who earlier this year publicly met with French female rabbi Delphine Horvillour in Copenhagen. In 2001 she founded "Critical Muslims", a group promoting "a democratic and pluralistic approach to Islam." One month later, the 9/11 attacks in New York had a dramatic impact on how Muslims were viewed around the world, and she found herself spending more time

defending Islam. The role of Islam in Denmark came under renewed focus last year after a Danish-Palestinian gunman killed a filmmaker and a Jewish security guard in twin attacks in Copenhagen.

Changing power balance

Not everyone is a fan. Khankan said she had received threats from right-wing extremists on social media. Public reaction from conservative Muslims has been muted, possibly because of the fear of wading into Denmark's high-pitched debate on Muslim immigration, which has often dominated political debate over the past 15 years. "When you are changing structures in religious institutions, you are changing the power balance. You are challenging men's monopoly," Khankan said. "Of course you will meet resistance, that's obvious and we were aware of that. But I think the opposition we have met has been quite moderate," she added.

Representatives from some of Copenhagen's major mosques did not respond to requests for comment. After the opening of the Mariam Mosque, Waseem Hussein, an imam from one of the city's biggest mosques, suggested there was no need for it. "Should we also make a mosque only for men? Then there would certainly be an outcry among the Danish population," he told the Politiken daily. "According to the Quran, men and women are equal spiritual partners," said Khankan, wearing a long, white skirt and a long-sleeved top but no veil, which she said she only wears while praying.

"We are re-reading the Koran according to our times and our society," she added. The mosque is inspired by Sufism, a mystic form of Islam, and mostly caters to Sunni Muslims, although "everyone is welcome".

Female imams have existed in China since the 19th century, and are currently active in a handful

of countries including Germany, Belgium, Canada and the United States, where The Women's Mosque of America opened in Los Angeles last year. Denmark is home to around 284,000 Muslims, according to an estimate by Brian Arly Jacobsen, an associate professor at the University of Copenhagen specializing in religion.

Islamic feminism

Islamic feminism is at the heart of the Copenhagen project, and a concrete example of that was the mosque's marriage contract, Khankan said. The marriage agreement states that women have the right to divorce, polygamy is prohibited, men and women have equal rights to their children in case of a divorce, and that the marriage is annulled in the event of mental or physical violence. Five couples have been married at the mosque, of which two were inter-faith unions. Another three ceremonies are in the pipeline. Khankan admits that she had to compromise on some of her initial plans to avoid "burning bridges" with the rest of the Muslim community. Both men and women are allowed to take part in the mosque's activities, but Friday prayers have been reserved for women, as having a mixed audience would have been more controversial.

"Burning bridges" would only "create chaos," she said. Syria-born Danish lawmaker Naser Khader told Danish media that in a country like Denmark, with its high level of gender equality, barring women from preaching to a mixed crowd was simply not "good enough". But Khankan said the mosque will appeal to "a new generation of young Muslims who feel homeless and who do not feel at home in the existing traditional mosque communities." — AFP



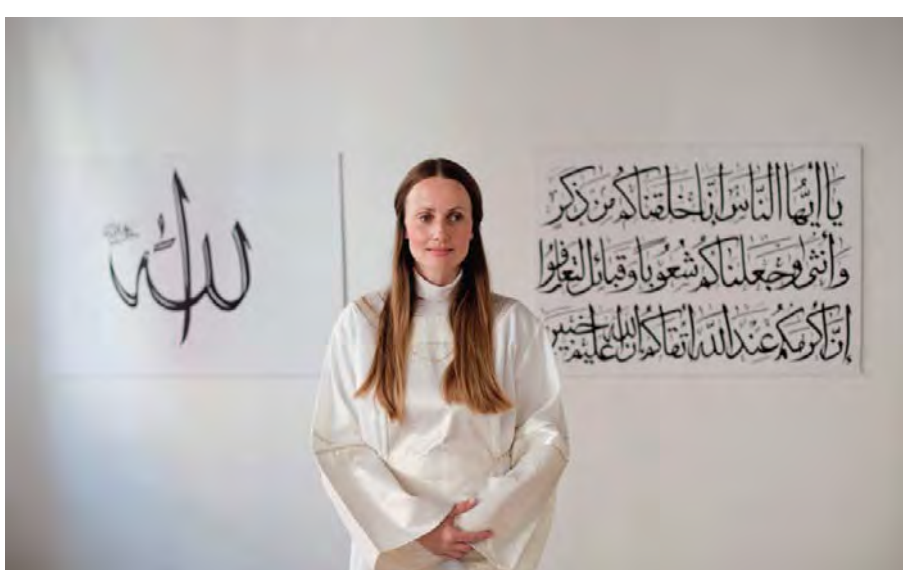
This handout photo released by Artcurial shows a chest of drawers by Australian designer Marc Newson which has sold at auction in Paris for more than one million euros, more than twice its estimate. — AFP

Apple designer's chest of drawers sells for over \$1m

A chest of drawers by the star Australian designer Marc Newson has sold at auction in Paris for more than one million euros, more than twice its estimate. The piece called "Pod of drawers" by the creator who has worked for Apple for the past decade, was bought for 1.019 million euros (\$1.1 million) by an Asian buyer, the auction house Artcurial said Tuesday.

Newson, 53, made the shiny aluminum drawers by hand in 1987 while he was at art school having earlier trained as a jeweller. The creator of the Lockheed Lounge chair has said he was inspired to take up furniture design by the European decorative art magazines his Greek-born grandfather left lying around the house in Sydney. The piece was inspired by French Art Deco designer Andre Groult's famous body-shaped "Chiffonnier Anthropomorphe", Artcurial said.

"Entirely made by hand, the chest of drawers shows the fusion between European decorative arts and his know-how as an apprentice jeweller," it added in a statement. Two of Newson's "Pod of drawers", with their trademark curved lines made from aero-plane aluminium, are already on display in major museums, one at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the other at the Musee des Arts Decoratifs in Paris. All the lots in its "Heavy Metal, 20 Design Masterpieces" sale were sold, Artcurial said, making a total of 2.7 million euros. — AFP



Sherin Khankan of Denmark, the female-led mosque posing for a photo in Copenhagen.



This picture shows Sherin Khankan of Denmark, the female-led mosque posing for a photo in Copenhagen, Denmark. — AFP photos