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Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 18°
Max 38°

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 17033 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

DASHTI REGISTERS BUT STILL FACES APPEAL

'PROMINENT OPPOSITION FIGURES THROW HATS INTO RING'

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The administrative court yesterday rejected a government objection to its ruling to allow former Shiite MP Abdulhameed Dashti to file his nomination papers despite living outside the country for the past seven months. Dashti's elder son Talal immediately went to the election department and registered his father as a candidate for next month's election from the first constituency.

But Dashti still has to wait the appeal filed by the government against the ruling for which the appeals court has set November 1 to start the hearing. The court had based its ruling on a medical certificate stating that Dashti was receiving treatment in Britain and that doctors advised him not to fly back home.

Dashti, who has been outside Kuwait since March, has received jail terms totaling 31 years and six months for insulting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in several cases. He still faces a dozen more cases.

The public prosecution has already issued an arrest warrant against him which means that he will be immediately arrested upon arrival to the country. At least five leading opposition figures and several veteran former MPs were among 55 new candidates who filed nominations yesterday to contest the November 26 early polls.



Abdulhameed Dashti

That raises the number of hopefuls to 412 hopefuls with just one day left for registration. The candidates include more than 40 members of the dissolved house and over 30 former MPs from previous assemblies of whom around 30 are prominent opposition figures.

Opposition figures who signed yesterday included former MPs Jamaan Al-Harbash, Mubarak Al-Waalan, Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, Hamd Al-Matar and Salem Al-Namlan. Harbash, a leading member of the Islamic Constitutional Movement, defended the participation of the opposition in the election after boycotting it for four

years in protest against the change in the voting system.

He said that the situations in the country have deteriorated and staying home is no longer the correct decision for the opposition. Harbash however strongly criticized the single-vote system saying it has harmed Kuwait and promoted tribal primary election and sectarianism. Namlan said that the participation of the opposition has become a necessity because of the deteriorating political situation and after it was proven that the opposition was not the cause of political crises in the country. Waalan said that the opposition should take part in order to stop the government from revoking the citizenship of people without any evidence beside other key issues.

Meanwhile, former Islamist opposition lawmaker Waleed Al-Tabtabai released what he called the election manifesto for the opposition which includes several important issues.

He said the opposition will work to scrap the single-vote system and restore citizenships for Kuwaitis taken away from them by the government. He said the opposition will also work to stop politically-motivated arrests and detentions, scrapping the controversial DNA testing law and revise the controversial electronic publication law. Tabtabai said the opposition will work to prevent the government from raising charges or prices of services and commodities without a law and this will include the prices of petrol.

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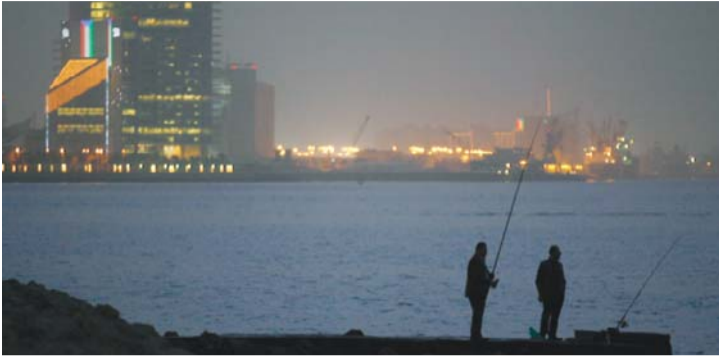
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Gulf Road, Next to Kuwait towers

PHOTO OF THE DAY



KUWAIT: Men fish off of a concrete pier in Kuwait City near the Shuwaikh Port in this file photo. Fishing is popular pastime on weekends, especially during the cooler months. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



وزارة الإعلام

إعلان

إيماناً من وزارة الإعلام بالدور الحيوي الذي تلعبه وسائل الإعلام في إظهار الصورة الحقيقية للديمقراطية الكويتية. وانطلاقاً من دورها المسؤول في خدمة القضايا الوطنية. تدعو الوزارة السادة المرشحين لعرض برامجهم الانتخابية في تلفزيون وإذاعة دولة الكويت ووسائل التواصل الاجتماعي الخاصة بالوزارة. وذلك في بادئة من وزارة الإعلام تهدف من خلالها إلى التأكيد على أهمية الرسالة التي يحملها الإعلام الكويتي في نشر التوعية. والوزارة تؤكد حرصها على توعية الناخب بما له من حقوق وما عليه من واجبات من خلال خلق تواصل مباشر مع المواطنين فإنها تهيب بجميع المرشحين استثمار هذا الحدث الديمقراطي في تأصيل الروح الوطنية وإبراز الصورة الديمقراطية المشرفة لدولة الكويت وعليه تعلن وزارة الإعلام عن تلقي طلبات المرشحين لانتخابات مجلس الأمة 2016 لعرض برامجهم الانتخابية في مدة زمنية متساوية يستطيعون من خلالها عرض وجهات نظرهم وآرائهم التي يرغبون في إيصالها لناخبيهم دون أي مقابل مادي.

وعلى السادة المرشحين الراغبين في عرض برامجهم الانتخابية المبادرة بالاتصال والتسجيل على الأرقام التالية:

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30 / 10 / 2016 إلى 11 / 11 / 2016 مصطحبين معهم ما يفيد بقيدهم

بسجل المرشحين بإدارة الانتخابات.

سائلين الله عزوجل أن يوفق الجميع لما فيه الخير والنماء لكويتنا الغالية

Local Spotlight

LABOR PROBLEM



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Despite the significant role played by expatriate workers in developing Kuwait's economy, it is sad- dening that some problems have emerged for these workers on more than one level, making the crisis sometimes intractable.

The Kuwaiti society is facing two issues to resolve - the imbalance in the ratio of citizens to noncitizens and the excessive number of foreign workers, including domestic helpers. The former issue is acceptable, even if it seems strange, as it exists in most Gulf states with increasing numbers of migrants. The second issue of surplus labor is a social and security risk that needs to be addressed.

In general, some estimates suggest that the expatriate population in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has increased to 14 million people, representing more than 80 percent of the workforce in the UAE, Qatar and Kuwait and about 60 percent in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. In Kuwait, for example, the latest population and employment statistics issued by the General Authority for Civil Information showed that the total population in Kuwait reached about 4.33 million people in June.

The interior ministry's residency affairs department said the total number of expatriates in Kuwait holding valid residency visas is 2,670,000, including 901,000 Indians, followed by 587,000 Egyptians, 202,000 Bangladeshis, 243,000 Filipinos, 39,000 Iranians and 60,000 Nepalese. The number of Syrians has been stable for six months at 145,000. The statistics also showed that 665,000 people hold article 20 visas for domestic work, 108,000 hold article 17 visas for government jobs and 1,350,000 residents working for the private sector hold article 18 visas.

Legal residents like professionals are not and should not be an issue. They are doing a great favor to us all and the path should be paved to support and facilitate their stay, especially with regards to bringing their families, getting driving licenses, etc. It's important to determine who created the excessive labor problem and address it fairly and clearly. The large number of domestic workers constitutes a social danger, because families have abandoned their roles as parents and responsible adults and dumped this on the shoulders of strangers.

It is normal that children who grow up with the maid's habits and values will end up with psychological problems. I always wonder why many Kuwaiti families have a lot of domestic workers - even young, newly-married couples. They show the world how wealthy they are, but this is wrong.

Some reports have consistently criticized Gulf countries, including Kuwait, due to some violations against foreign workers, especially domestic workers. It could be argued at the same time that such violations are due to a lack of regulation of manpower laws, which makes expats vulnerable to exploitation by visa traders. Also, some private companies bring in more workers than they need. I know the ministry of social affairs and labor is trying to track these companies, and this task should not stop for any reason.

A review of manpower policies is essential. Some business owners prefer to hire Asian expatriate workers rather than Arabs or Kuwaitis for material reasons, because Asian workers will accept to work at much lower salaries than Arabs. Regardless if a worker is Asian or Arab, there is a need to reorganize and upgrade their living conditions. The problems of expats require an integrated system of policies and procedures, taking into account many social, economic and security aspects and specific programs to address the problem at its roots.

A CONVERSATION WITH 'DIVORCE'

By Jeri Al Jeri

The alarming rise in the number of divorces in Kuwait and the Gulf countries is a social phenomenon that is novel to our society. In our past, all the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula had various customs and traditions in the way in which couples dealt with marriage. Since the advent of Islam, these customs have uniformed to a certain extent in the way in which marriage problems were treated. Little did families reach out to a divorce settlement as a final solution, and it was only painfully accepted out of necessity. However, in these last few years, divorce rates have accelerated to a shocking degree. Now more than half of all marriages in Kuwait end in divorce and in the UAE, around 46 percent of marriages end in divorce.

What is forcing thousands of families to suffer and bear the pains of divorce? Why are couples crashing and burning? How can they raise children with broken homes? What went wrong in the first place? To find an answer, we have decided to have a short chat "divorce" itself, in an attempt to negotiate a deal with it, to at least halt its acceleration.

I would like to make this meeting as brief and as productive as possible. Dear "divorce", why are you succeeding among us in these days more than you ever did in the past?

Divorce: Well, to answer this question I ought to bring to everyone's attention the countless reasons why I am so successful. Typically financial hardship and moral decline support my success, regardless of educational advancement. But even in today's world when life is more comfortable, when economies are growing and we have insurance, divorce continues to rise. The modern psychology and social media-dominated culture can be credited as well.

Allow me to interrupt. Kuwait and Qatar are tax free, the Emirates treats their citizens like royalty and the Saudis are financially supported as well, it seems to me that every reason for your success is countered by another reason that defuses it, so what is



the key of your soaring rise in the social charts?

Divorce: I might not be able to provide an answer that will satisfy you, but I am enormously empowered by westernization. Younger generations have adapted western clothes and music, education and culture, they are trained and entertained to accept homogeneity. In other words, I am globally successful due to the adaptation of the selfish and materialistic qualities of capitalism. It is inevitable and unavoidable to break the nucleus of families to smaller and smaller units only to meet the demands of homogeneity that mankind has chosen for itself.

I would like to inform you, "divorce", that this answer is not satisfying, because the world is not fully homogeneous, and it will not be. Traditions and cultural heritages of family values and good morals will prevail over this form of homogeneity. Keep in mind that mankind's first stage started homogeneously. Case in point, it's the relentless wheels of social evolution that will always drive mankind to be heterogeneous. However, I ought to ask a final question: Is there a man-to-woman relational concept the polluted the minds and distorted behaviors of this unfortunate generation?

Yes indeed, the unachievable standards of romance, that is like the rest of the goods and services that the "wealth-shocked" gulf has imported, is an unfamiliar idea.

In the past, married couples optimized dignity for their relationship over passion, with age old noble truths such honor and integrity, more importantly, the essence of their marriage was bonhomie and mercy, love was a bonus. But when chivalry announced dead in the west, people gravitated more towards the perception that marriage is just a socially accepted form of "boyfriend-girlfriend" zone. "Divorce", Thank you. Superb answer, I hope to never see you again.

I would like to conclude, that in my personal opinion, that the west cannot be totally blamed as a civilization for the divorce crisis in the Gulf. There is an awkwardness in the adoption of unsynchronized attitudes, such as the need for a young woman to halt her social progression of marriage until she becomes fully independent from all male influences, even from fatherly influences as well is opposite to the traditional way of marriage, in which the late teen immediately got married, to rise together in a warm and friendly soil, to create parity much more early, unlike the marriages of two completely saturated characters unwilling to give and take in the infamous equation of "power games". My point of view is that "halves" should complete each other in the same social soil and traditional climate, only then that we will not only fight "divorce", but beat it.

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AN OPEN LETTER



Nejoud Al Yagout

— Photo by Djinane Alsuwayeh

Dear Parliament Member,

In this letter, I have a few pleas. I address this to you because you have the power to make decisions for us. May the words resonate in your soul.

1. I ask that when you walk into that magnificent work of architecture we call the Parliament, you forget you are Kuwaiti. This might seem counter-intuitive, but when we look at the state of the world, we may as well do everything in the opposite way that we were taught. I ask that you forget you are Kuwaiti, so you can take into consideration the pleas of non-Kuwaitis who are terrified of us. I have been fortunate in that many foreigners open up to me, and I have heard firsthand what they say about us. We need to treat them as equals, in our homes, at work, on the highway, in police stations. We need to implement the laws we have created to protect them. I used to be a patriot, until I realized that when we are nationalistic, we place ourselves before others. And I will be the first to admit that there is absolutely nothing special about me being placed in my country of birth. But we have been taught to believe otherwise. We go to school and salute a piece of cloth dancing in the breeze. And then, something takes over: Pride. Pride at the expense of immigrants, expatriates and those who do not think or act the way we do. And pride is an awful sucker. It takes away liberties, and before we know it we are labeled as arrogant, intolerant and judgmental. I cannot stress this more. It is dangerous to deny this.

2. I also ask that you forget you are a male*. I ask that you forget anything that led you to believe that you have the right to dictate our lives, or ruin our lives, for that matter. I ask that you remember your grandmothers, mothers, wives, daughters and sisters when you make decisions. And remember the love they show you and all that they sacrifice for you. I ask you to remember that violence against women is prevalent and there are

women, such as the trailblazers behind Abolish 153, who are counting on you to assist them. I ask you to recognize that the phrase honor killing is a great misnomer. And speaking of honor, I once read a great article in which the author wonders why a man's honor is tied to the chastity of the women in their family. I agree with the premise of the article. Isn't it tiring enough to deal with our individual honor? Please remember, oh Member of Parliament, that women, like you are here to live, to breathe, to embrace the open sky and to love. Forget you are a male when you walk into that parliament, so we can salute you for being a soul who beckons us toward ascension and transformation.

3. Finally, I ask that you forget you are a human being. Yes, I am aware of the essence of purity in humanity, but let's face it: We can barely see it now. And we have made a royal mess of our world. It is time to forget we are human beings and remember that we are beings, souls. And we share this planet with other beings, although we behave as though the planet belongs solely to us. When you walk into your office as a soul, you will make decisions for the benefit of the world. You will sign on business deals that are eco-friendly, and that benefit animals, insects, the sky, trees, the desert, the sea, the fish. As a soul, you will allow temples, synagogues and other places of worship to be built, because you know that there is the same awareness in nature, man and all sentient beings. We are aiming towards what is higher, and as a soul it matters not how we reach t(he)re. There is nothing more beautiful than love with-in diversity. Each one of us is a unique color in the palette of consciousness. Can you provide us with the canvas on which to paint our dreams?

There are many other things that I may ask you to forget, but this is all I have for now. In the meantime, I, too, will forget that I am Kuwaiti, a female and a human being.

* Only a handful of females are running for Parliament this time and since we are in a patriarchal society, I am addressing males as women are pushing for gender equality and not a matriarchal society.

Love and blessings,
Nejoud Al-Yagout28 FRIDAY
OCTOBER 2016

Open spaces turn into construction sites for Kuwait's '16 elections

With the launch of the electoral campaign for 2016 parliament hopefuls, many open spaces throughout Kuwait's governorates have been transformed into temporary construction sites as workers race with time to set up campaign tents and campaign headquarters as soon as possible and welcome potential voters.

Workers filled these spaces, laying down floors and hammering out installations according to specific designs that would meet candidates' visions, while spots alongside the main roads were reserved for billboards to be used as part of the media campaign of many candidates.

Kuwait's National Assembly elections will be held November 26. They will be the seventh parliamentary polls since 2006. The 50 member parliament are elected for a term of four years.



KUWAIT: Workers race against time in a bid to set up campaign headquarters for the candidate for the 2016 parliamentary elections. — Photos by Ghazy Gaffaf/Kuna

SHEIKH ABDULLAH AL-JABIR AL-SABAH PALACE

The Palace of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jabir Al-Sabah is a heritage site in the State of Kuwait. It is situated in the eastern part of Kuwait city, Dasman area, besides Dasman Palace, near the Arabian Gulf coast.

This site was built in the early Twentieth Century by Sheikh Khazaal Bin Mirdaw, Ruler of Muhammarah (1897 - 1925) on a piece of land which he received as a gift from Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Ruler (1896-1915). After Sheikh Khazaal's death, it was bought by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jabir Al-Sabah who took it as a family residence, thereafter converted it to the first national museum

in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf region, after which it remained as the property of his heirs until it was taken over by the State and rated as a high preservation building.

When it was built and for many decades thereafter, the Palace was reported to be the most magnificent structure in Kuwait. Patterned on regional antecedents, it was large, elaborate two storey structure in coral stone and mud brick in a stark contrast to Kuwait's primarily single storey, austere architecture.

The remains of exotic chateau-like palace built in early twentieth century, emulating a variety of

European and Middle Eastern architectural styles on the desert coast setting of Kuwait within Kuwait City's third wall survives until today as a testimony to a rich heritage representing cultural infusion on a regional and universal scale.

It embodies the collaboration of architectural styles resulting in the development of traditional craftsmanship and a transition into a combination of architectural and building traditions including Persian, French, Arabian and Indian, representing an active cultural exchange between settlements on both sides of the Gulf Region. — UNESCO

ABRAJ AL-KUWAIT

Abraj Al-Kuwait will be nominated as a single monument. It is to be noted that this building is considered to be part of a nation-wide network of infrastructural water supply and reservoirs which consist of 31 more water towers (known as the mushroom towers) that are strategically distributed in groups around the country, and are connected to the distribution grid of the two already built distillation seawater plants.

This ambitious national project was part of the country's large scale modernization process undergoing since the first shipment of oil in 1946, and essential to ensure an effective system of water distribution to a growing population, until then supplied by tank trucks.

A new modern system of fresh water distribution and reservoir was commissioned in 1965 by the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) to the Swedish architectural and engineering firm VBB (Vattenbyggnadsbyran AB), with Sune Lindstrom as Chief Architect for the whole project.



Due to its prominent location at the north east corner of the metropolitan area, overlooking Kuwait bay and the Arabian Gulf, special attention was given to this group of towers; therefore, the architectural work was awarded to architect Malene Bjorn. This group of towers was given the name "Kuwait Towers" which translates to Arabic as Abraj Al-Kuwait, and since its opening on February 26th 1977, has been regarded as a symbol of national identity.

Abraj Al-Kuwait is located on the waterfront on a small peninsula in the northern part of Kuwait City. Such important location made H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah request for an exclusive design that could make a difference in the bay's skyline. In order to achieve the challenge of reconciling the water reservoir function with a pleasant design. Accordingly, VBB asked for the collaboration of the Bjorn & Bjorn Design AB led by the Danish architect Malene Bjorn in 1967. This group of towers became a composition of three spikes of different heights set out of the points of a triangle inside the circular perimeter of a green landscape base, combining a program to store 9000 cubic metres of water with a component of public facilities.

The tallest of the three towers with the height of 185m (at the time considered to be the highest in the Middle East) situates two spheres designed for public use. The largest sphere divided into two halves, the lower half is a water reservoir of 4500 cubic meters, while the upper half consist of an open-plan restaurant connected to other level by a smooth curved stairway that leads to a banquet hall with an interior garden. The second sphere, known as the viewing sphere, with two interior levels, is mostly covered by aluminium trusses fitted with triangular glass pieces which allow a full view of the city, sea and desert at 120m height with a 360° rotating platform. For the viewing and restaurant spheres, the visitor's access is made at the ground level through the base of the tower, revolving the public around the mound across ramps and stairs with elegant balustrades.

The second tower has only one sphere with an exclusive function of water reservation. The third and smallest tower 100 meters tall in the form of an elegant white needle is purely sculptural and holds a floodlight system that illuminates the other two towers.

Constructed of concrete, in pure white, the final image get closes to a sculptural object ornamented by forty-one thousand enamelled steel disks in shades of blue, green, and grey, cladding the spheres, like the mosaic Islamic patterns. The tip of each tower, covered with stainless steel and acts as a lightning arrestor, also suggest the mosque minarets, as the spheres can be associated with domes. This Islamic symbolism together with the value of fresh water in such an arid country, allowed for a wider acceptance of this monumental structure as a national symbol. Abraj Al-Kuwait is a unique and remarkable way of transforming pure engineering into pure architecture, between western technology and Islamic culture, contemporary requirements and ancient traditions, into a highly creative building. — UNESCO

OBITUARY

With deep sadness, we regret to inform you
about the loss of

Mr. Ahmad Deed (Abu Hassan)
who passed away on October 16th 2016.

A funeral will be held on Friday October 28th 2016,
at Ashkanani Husienieh located at; Midan Hawally
area- block 11- in front of Emam Hussain Mosque
from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm for men only.

God bless the deceased, may his soul rest in peace.
Grieving: the Deeb's family.

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

Real estate slump lowers rents



Apartment buildings dominate the skyline in several areas of Kuwait known as 'commercial or investment' areas including Bneid Al Gar, Salmiya, Farwaniya, Fintas, Mahboula, Khaitan and Riggae. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Ben Garcia

According to an economic expert, rents in Kuwait are falling, and the decline will continue until early 2018. Dr Hajjaj Bu Khudoor, also a former Kuwait University professor, told Kuwait Times there are three major factors why residential and investment rentals are down.

"Of course, it is still related to the global financial crisis of 2008, and now after eight years, Kuwait is getting rid of bad assets," he said. Another major factor according to Bu Khudoor is the decline in demand for apartment rentals after the government has provided more homes for locals. "Also, the reality in the market is obvious - we have greater supply and reduced demand," he said.

The downward trend represents a dramatic shift in rental prices which have rose steadily in recent years. Last year saw a 2 percent decline in occupancy of rental apartments from June to December and the real estate market as a whole has remained soft so far throughout 2016. Record show that in 2015, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare for Kuwaitis reported that over 8000 locals applied for housing units and per record in 2016, the number has decreased to 4500. Earlier reports indicate that Kuwait's housing shortfall was expected to narrow substantially

with 25 projects scheduled to be delivered to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) in 2015, and three more projects coming online in 2016 with several thousands of homes to be added to the market.

The rentor's life

Apartment living, however, has become a norm for a large segment of citizens as well as most expats. "The crackdowns in recent years have nothing to do with the current rental decline; because as some expats are deported, more newcomers are welcomed - so this is not an issue at all. Maybe a few families have left because of the so-called high cost of living in Kuwait, but they are few," Bu Khudoor pointed out. He said rents will continue to fall by up to 40 percent, and the real estate sector will stabilize only by mid-2018.

Some families in apartment-dominated areas have already taken advantage of lower rent values. Biju, an Indian expat, shifted with his family to a new building in Farwaniya after he learned that the rent of his old apartment was far higher than a new apartment opposite his building. "The rent here was KD 40 cheaper, and after discussing it with my wife, we shifted the following month," he said.

A Sri Lankan renter in Hawally has a similar story to tell. "I learned about a cheaper flat in another block, so I decided to shift all the tenants of my apartment there," he told Kuwait Times. Six people share his two-room flat, while he has converted the living room for his own use. He used to rent his previous apartment for KD 340, but only pays KD 300 for the new one.

Speaking with the Kuwait Times, a local realtor, named Abu Hussein complained of unprecedented drop of flat rentals in Kuwait. He said the drop of flat rentals could be attributed to little bit of almost everything from expat crackdown to the slump of oil prices, regional instability and wars in neighboring countries.

"I think the drop is related to almost everything. I also see the crackdown has affected the market tremendously because many expats has been deported and few managed to come back. I also see the expats were disappointed on the sudden increase of services, we also noticed that many in the government doesn't really want or welcome expats at all, so it contributed to the growing dissatisfaction of expats in staying in the country. So the result is over supply of buildings and fewer people to occupy the flats," he said.

KUWAIT SEEKS TO LIST LOCAL LANDMARKS IN WORLD HERITAGE

PARIS: Kuwait is diligently seeking to enlist some of its landmarks, namely Kuwait Towers, Failaka Island and Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Palace, in the World Heritage. They have already been included in the preliminary list of the World Heritage Committee, said supervisor of historic buildings at Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Abdullah Al-Bichi, in a statement.

Al-Bichi, speaking after the second meeting of the commission's 40th session, predicted that Kuwait Towers would be the first to be enlisted. Work is underway to nominate an ancient site in Al-Sabbiah (slaves' civilization) and a historic location on Failaka Island, said Al-Bichi, indicating that a lot of work involving several state departments is required for the nomination. He hoped that the Red Palace and Dixon House

would be the next to be accredited by the World Heritage.

On the session meetings, Al-Bichi indicated that the Kuwaiti delegation supported applications for listing the marsh land in Iraq, Lut Desert in Iran, Sudan's Sanganeb marine national park and the marine national park of Dungenab Bay of Mukkawar Island, situated 125 kilometers north of Port Sudan. — Kuna



Beit Dickson



Red Palace

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
management and staff convey their
deepest condolences to

Wael Deeb

General Manager of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Co.

on the sad demise
of his Brother

Mr. Ahmad Deed Abu Hassan

who passed away on October 16th 2016

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

BLACKMAILING JOURNALIST ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested an Egyptian man who claimed to be a journalist for an online news website. He was arrested for allegedly blackmailing and bribing employees of government and private entities and found to be in possession of several

identification cards for different journalists. The department of Relations and Security Information said the suspect writes for an electronic news website. He would take money from people to process their paperwork and then blackmail employees by claiming to be a journalist and threatening to write stories to embarrass them.



Firemen drill

An exercise was carried out at the workshops complex in Rai in the presence of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate, Director General Lt General Khalid Al-Mikrad. The exercise is to check the firemen's competence in operating the high rise fire extinguishing pump which was received recently (Pump K). The machine is capable of pumping water and foam upto 400 meters.

Interior Supermarket board

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt General Suleiman Al-Fahad received new members of the board of the Interior Ministry Supermarket. They are Lt General Mansour Al-Awadhi, Lt General Fahad Al-Shuwaie, Eng Maher Al-Omar, Colonel Ali Al-Wuhaib, Colonel Fawaz Al-Roumi, Colonel Mansour Khalifa.

Road to be closed

The Traffic Department announced yesterday that Abdallah Al-Ahmad Road will be closed in the direction from Al Matabba roundabout to the Mubarak Al-Kabeer cross road near the bourse and Grand Mosque from 1:00 pm (on 29/10/2016) until 5:30 on Sunday

30/10/2016. Also the Ghazali Road from the Free Zone to Jamal Abdul Nasser Street towards the hospital will be closed daily from 1:00 am and will be opened at 5:30 am from 30/10 until 3/11/2016.

Kuwaiti drug suspect

A 29-year-old Kuwaiti was arrested for drug related offences. He was found in possession of an illegal substance 'chemical'. He claimed he brought the 100kg of the drug from China using a courier service. He was sent to concerned authorities for further legal action.



KUWAIT REITERATES ITS FIRM POSITION ON DISARMAMENT

NEW YORK: Kuwait yesterday has reiterated its firm position on the issues of disarmament as well as international peace and security in line with the country's strategy based on respect of international conventions. Speaking at the 71st UN General Assembly's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), third Secretary at the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegation to the UN Ibrahim Faisal Al-Da'i, expressed Kuwait's concern over some of the member states lack of political will to address vital issues on the agenda alluding to the failure of implementing full disarmament measures. Al-Da'i expressed hopes that the participants would successfully face the challenges and realize the major objective, "complete disarmament" worldwide.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has expressed deep satisfaction at the World Heritage Committee's decision to maintain the holy city of Jerusalem and Al-Buraq Wall in the list of global heritage sites. Dr Meshaal Hayat, the State of Kuwait Permanent Delegate to the UNESCO, said the committee decision accounts to a victory for Palestine and the Arab Group at this international quarter.

Speaking following the second meeting of the 40th session of the World



Heritage Committee, Hayat said the 12-article resolution, presented by Kuwait and Tunisia, was approved by 10 countries out of the commission 12 member states. The resolution urges Israel to halt all excavation work in the ancient sector of Jerusalem as such activities breach the UNESCO resolutions for protecting the heritage. It also calls on Tel Aviv to open Al-Rahma Gate, one of Al-Aqsa Mosque gates.

Moreover, it demands unconditional permits for all teams working for preserving the heritage in Jerusalem and lifting restrictions on Muslims praying at Al-Aqsa Mosque. On Kuwait's role as Deputy Chairman of the World Heritage Commission, the permanent delegate pledged that no effort would be spared for safeguarding the Arab historic sites, in addition to backing historic treasures in Africa and Latin America. He hoped that the seat, along with efforts by stakeholders in Kuwait, would boost the bids for enlisting the Kuwaiti sites by the World Heritage Committee.— Agencies



Third Secretary at the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegation to the UN Ibrahim Faisal Al-Da'i

INTERIOR MINISTRY TO 'PENALIZE' VEHICLES IMPEDING TRAFFIC FLOW

KUWAIT: Vehicles found disrupting the flow of traffic will have their registration plates annulled starting on Sunday, the Ministry of Interior's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Fahad Al-Shuwaie said yesterday. Al-Shuwaie, who is also Director General of the General Directorate of Traffic, said that after the registration plates have been revoked, violators will be required to pay a fine to retrieve them. Moreover, Al-Shuwaie noted that this decision has been made due to a palpable increase in traffic violations, adding that the drivers of these vehicles should be held fully accountable for their infractions.

Speaking on this decision, Al-Shuwaie said that it would prove instrumental to remedying misconduct on the road, while further reinforcing the rule of law and easing traffic congestion. He added that all areas with impeded traffic flows have been pinpointed to help fix the problem. Meanwhile, he said that all roads are under continuous surveillance as a measure to bring all plans and goals as it relates to traffic laws, to fruition. The MoI official also urged citizens and expatriates alike to abide by traffic rules for their own safety. — KUNA

ANOTHER 55 CANDIDATES JOIN THE ELECTORAL RACE

KUWAIT: Some 55 candidates joined the electoral race on the ninth day of registration yesterday, a month away from parliamentary elections slated for November 26th. The First Constituency yielded the following nine hopefuls: Iman Hayat, Jassim Al-Zayid, Khaled Al-Shuaaib, Abdulhamid Dashti, Abdullah Ibrahim, Adnan Zahid, Ali Shmo, Mubarak Al-Harees and Mohammad Al-Hadiya. Moreover, the Second Constituency produced candidates, who were: Jamaan Al-Harbash, Hussein Al-Hardan, Hamad Al-Mutar, Hmaid Al-Sulaimani, Khaled Al-Shatti, Salman Al-Azmi, Abdullah Al-Bathali and Abdulwahab Al-Jassar.

Meanwhile, six candidates registered in the Third Constituency. They are: Ahmad Al-Fadhli, Saud Al-Samaka, Ammar Asiri, Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Hisham Al-Baghli and Waleed Al-Ghanim. The Fourth Constituency produced the following

12 candidates: Ahmad Al-Rashidi, Bader Al-Mutairi, Hussein Al-Qallaf, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Shuwair, Shaib Al-Muwaizeri, Abdullah Baqer, Falah Awad, Mubarak Al-Walaan, Mohammad Al-Enezi, Nasser Al-Daihani and Nayif Al-Mutairi.

The lion's share of registration occurred in the Fifth Constituency with 20 candidates including; Al-Saifi Al-Ajmi, Bandar Al-Mekrad, Turkey Al-Azmi, Jarrah Al-Enezi, Hassan Ghloum, Khaled Al-Mutairi, Salem Al-Azmi, Saleh Al-Otaibi, Ali Al-Enezi, Fahad Al-Azmi, Majid Al-Mutairi, Mane Al-Ajmi, Mubarak Al-Ajmi, Mohammad Al-Haddad, Mohammad Al-Hajeri, Mohammad Al-Failakawi, Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Mohammad Al-Huwaila, Wedad Al-Qanei and Yousef Ashkanani. As registration closed yesterday, the number of candidates that have hitherto registered now stands at 413, after the withdrawal of one candidate.

KUWAIT STARTS UP ITS FIRST SOLAR POWER PLANT

UMM GUDAIR: Kuwait began operating its first-ever solar power plant on Wednesday at the Umm Gudair oil field, a landmark for the OPEC member country as it seeks to diversify its sources of energy to meet fast-rising local demand. The KD 30 (\$99 million) project, Sidrah 500, will produce 10 megawatts (MW) of electricity, half of which will be supplied to the public electricity network. The other half will be used to supply the oil field itself, which is owned by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), a subsidiary of state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

Kuwait announced plans last year to generate 15

percent of its energy needs via renewable sources by 2030. Consumption of electricity is rising rapidly in Kuwait, as throughout the rest of the Gulf region. The country's electricity and water minister estimated last year that demand would reach 30,000 MW per day by 2030. In a speech at the project launch, KOC chief executive Jamal Ja'afar told reporters that Sidrah 500 represented the country's first step toward that goal. "We hope that by 2020 we can make 20 percent of the electricity which will be needed to run KOC from alternative energy," he said.

The opening of the plant follows increased inter-

est in renewables in Kuwait and across the Gulf region in recent years, as the scale of the consumption challenge has become clear. The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research signed a contract last year with Spain's TSK to establish the country's first solar thermal energy plant, with a planned production capacity of 50 MW. The institute's Shaqaya initiative is also planning solar and wind projects in the northwest of the country. Abu Dhabi-based green energy firm Masdar has invested more than \$1.7 billion in renewable energy projects since it was established a decade ago. — Reuters

Crime

Report

Man cheated over flat he rented via photos

KUWAIT: A Lebanese man paid for the rental of an apartment that he had only seen via photos. A Lebanese man working in Kuwait saw an ad about an apartment in Salwa so he called the owner and asked to see it. The owner then convinced the Lebanese to meet him in Hawally and showed him several pictures of the flat. The man agreed to rent it and paid the rent in full. The Lebanese man then moved his furniture to the address he was given but upon arrival in Salwa discovered that there was no flat at the location he'd been given. The alleged owner did not respond to phone calls so the man filed a police report. Detectives are investigating the case.

Smuggling attempts foiled

An Asian expatriate was arrested attempting to smuggle 2.5 kg of heroin into Kuwait. Airport customs officers discovered the drugs inside the lining of the man's suitcase. He was sent to Drugs Control General Department. In another smuggling attempt, airport customs officers caught a citizen trying to bring in 10 bottles of alcohol. The woman, arriving from an Asian country, was caught when officers noticed during an X-ray of her luggage a large number of bottles. The cases were opened and the bottles examined and found to contain alcohol. She was sent for investigation.

Man beaten

An Egyptian was beaten by two citizens in Nugra area. The Egyptian told police that the citizens with whom he had differences lured him into an isolated place and beat him until he collapsed. Detectives are working on the case.

Citizen robbed

A citizen who had an illicit relationship with a woman was robbed. The man took the woman to his apartment where they consumed alcoholic beverages. He slept and when he awoke found that the woman was gone and had stolen KD 750 and his iPad tablet. The woman would not answer her phone so the man filed a police report. Investigations are underway.

Rape thwarted

A citizen who was looking to make an investment fell victim to two Syrian men, who attempted to rape her. The 32 year old victim told police she knew the Syrians who told her they would run businesses that bring high returns, so she trusted them and was ready to cooperate. The two men conned her into believing they wanted to show her the location where they run the business but when she was inside the room, they sexually assaulted her. The woman screamed and escaped. Hawally detectives are looking for the duo.

Detective threatened

An ex-convict Syrian called a detective in Nugra and insulted him, then threatened to harm the detective before hanging up. A case of phone misuse was lodged. The detective had earlier worked on several cases in which the Syrian was involved.

Photo

of the day



A seagull catches fish at a beach downtown Kuwait City. — KUNA

THIEVES AND ABSCONDERS ARRESTED



KUWAIT: General Security Department continued its companies and arrested several wanted people in all governorates, under the direct supervision of Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Major General Ibrahim Al-Tarrah. Three male and two female citizens and a Filipina were arrested for previous charges. In another development, two Egyptians were arrested with drugs and paraphernalia, three male citizens, a female citizen, and a Syrian wanted for the Civil Implementation Department were arrested. An Egyptian wanted for criminal detectives for swindling was arrested. Four Indians were arrested for selling liquor.

WOMEN INFLUENCED TRADITIONAL KUWAITI CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

KUWAIT: Traditional children's literature in Kuwait was heavily influenced by an older generation of Kuwaiti women who used to spend their time coming up with songs, poems, and lullabies to entertain and delight children. Despite a lack of academic learning, Kuwaiti women were able to come up with the most catchy songs and poems for children to sing and recite.

Historian Ghanima Al-Fahad said that while most women did not attend school back in the day, they used to be influenced heavily by the language of the Holy Quran which in turn taught

them how to verse their poems and stories. Their outputs were so catchy that once the other ladies of the neighborhood heard them, these songs become anthems to the whole area, said Al-Fahad. She added that these pieces of literature usually focused on subjects that were humors in nature with a hint of wisdom to teach children important values. Most of the material sung in the olden days still survives to this day which is a clear testament of how women influenced generations of Kuwaitis, said the historian. — KUNA



Historian Ghanima Al-Fahad

International

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

**Rapid Response
Division force
advancing on
Mosul**



**Pakistan bans
protest and
rallies in
Islamabad**



**Japan, US, S Korea
agree to step up
pressure on N
Korea**



KALAK, IRAQ: Newly displaced Iraqis who fled from the city of Mosul, Iraq's last major Islamic State (IS) group stronghold, are reunited with their relatives who came two years ago to the refugee camp in the Khazer area on Wednesday. —AFP

UP TO 900 JIHADISTS KILLED IN MOSUL BATTLE, US SAYS

FAMILIES REUNITE

ARBIL: United States said yesterday that up to 900 Islamic State group jihadists have been killed in the offensive to retake Iraq's Mosul, as camps around the city filled with fleeing civilians. Iraqis who fled their homes expressed joy at escaping IS's brutal rule as they were given shelter and assistance, in some cases reuniting with relatives they had not seen in more than two years.

The offensive, launched on October 17, is seeing tens of thousands of Iraqi fighters advancing on Mosul from the south, east and north in a bid to retake the last major Iraqi city under IS control. Backed with air and ground support from a US-led coalition, federal forces

allied with Kurdish peshmerga fighters have taken a string of towns and villages in a cautious but steady advance.

General Joseph Votel, who heads the US military's Central Command, told AFP yesterday that the offensive was inflicting a heavy toll on the jihadists. "Just in the operations over the last week and a half associated with Mosul, we estimate they've probably killed about 800-900 Islamic State fighters," Votel said in an interview. There are between 3,500 and 5,000 IS jihadists in Mosul and up to another 2,000 in the broader area, according to US estimates. The offensive has so far been concentrated in towns and villages around Mosul,

with Iraqi forces later expected to breach city limits and engage the jihadists in street-to-street fighting.

Families reunited

Aid workers have warned of a major humanitarian crisis when fighting begins in earnest for Mosul, which is home to more than a million people, but thousands have already been fleeing surrounding areas.

Iraq's ministry of displacement and migration said yesterday that more than 11,700 people had been displaced since the operation began. "There's been quite a dramatic upturn in the last few days. As the Iraqi troops

get closer to Mosul, more people are getting displaced, there are more populated areas," said Karl Schembri, regional media adviser for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

At a camp in Khazir, about mid-way between Mosul and the Iraqi Kurdish capital Arbil, Massud Ismail Hassan peered through a chainlink fence, looking for family members as peshmerga fighters registered the displaced. "Once all these procedures are finished we will be able to give them food and drink and blankets we brought with us," he said. Other families had already found each other, and tearful relatives clutched hands through the links of the fence. —AFP

WHO COORDINATES EFFORTS TO AID DISPLACED PERSONS FLEEING MOSUL

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO), together with national health authorities and health partners, said on Thursday that it accelerated its response measures for internally displaced persons from Mosul by positioning 46 mobile medical clinics, 45 mobile health teams and 26 ambulances in a number of prioritized areas around the country.

Life-saving medicines and supplies for more than 350,000 beneficiaries have also been prepositioned, including chronic disease medicines, diarrheal disease medicines, and trauma and surgical supplies. To scale up national health capacity, a total of 90 medical staff from affected governorates have been trained by WHO on mass casualty management, with a special focus on treatment and decontamination of people who might be exposed to chemicals agents.

1.5 million people effected

WHO and national health authorities have also expanded the disease early warning and response capacities of new health facilities established to respond to the health needs of newly displaced populations. "More than 1.5 million people living in Mosul have had no to little access to humanitarian aid since June 2014, and living and health conditions are expected to have significantly deteriorated. Limited safe water and sanitation services have increased the risk of outbreaks, and children have not been vaccinated in more than two years," said Altaf Musani, WHO Representative in Iraq. "Humanitarian needs are expected to increase significantly, and the predicted exodus from Mosul over the coming days and weeks could spark yet another health crisis in Iraq."

According to contingency plans, WHO and the humanitarian community estimate that of the 700,000 people fleeing Mosul city and surrounding areas, more than 200,000 people will require emergency health services. These include an estimated 40,000 people who will require urgent interventions and subsequent hospital care due to trauma and injury, more than 90,000 children requiring vaccinations, and some 8,000 pregnant women requiring maternal health and newborn services. A significant number of people will also require mental health services.

To date, safe routes for civilian movements remain limited. As of October 25, almost 10,500 people have been newly displaced and are mainly living within host communities.

WHO and health partners are providing front-line health care services, including vaccinations for children, reproductive health services, referral services and physiological first aid through mobile medical clinics. Medical supplies are being replenished as needed, and hospitals and clinics in towns near the front lines have been provided with surgical kits and medical equipment.

As the numbers of displaced persons increase over the coming days and weeks, it is imperative that emergency life-saving health services are available to those who need them. As part of the Mosul Flash Appeal for Preparedness, USD 35 million was requested by WHO and health cluster partners to cover preparedness activities in anticipation of the projected population displacement. Of this amount, only USD 16 million (45 percent) has so far been received.

"The challenges facing WHO and partners are enormous. Unless urgent action is taken by the international donor community to support an effective and timely response, the people of Mosul, who are already deprived of basic health services, will be exposed to further health risks and undue suffering," said Dr. Ala Alwan, WHO Director for the Eastern Mediterranean. —KUNA

ELITE IRAQI FORCE ADVANCING ON MOSUL

KEY ASSAULT FORCE IN IRAQ

QAYYARAH, IRAQ: Iraq's elite Rapid Response Division, which is now at the forefront of the southern advance on Mosul, has emerged as a key assault force in the country's war against jihadists.

Backed by artillery and trained in a program influenced by American special forces, the interior ministry unit has played a major role in other battles against the Islamic State (IS) group, including in Fallujah.

Now, Rapid Response is "the first force nominated to storm the city of Mosul from the southern front" and is "advancing the units on this front", its commander, Major General Thamer Mohammed Ismail, told AFP. It is the culmination of a major transformation for the force, which was originally made up of "small groups from the provinces" tasked with arresting criminals and fighting terrorism, Ismail said.

Rapid Response is now armed with new Croatian assault rifles, advances in matte green armored Humvees mounted with machineguns, and is backed by its own artillery and rocket units. The changes came "when the mission changed in 2014", after IS rapidly overran swathes of territory north and west of Baghdad, said Ismail.

"The Rapid Response Division needed combat equipment... to implement its assigned duties," he said. The size of the unit has also increased significantly over the years, and it now includes thousands of personnel.

Tough training

To become part of Rapid Response, both officers and enlisted personnel must go through multiple rounds of grueling training. There is one round that focuses on physical training, another on weapons and a third that is known as selection—a term borrowed from American special forces training.

It combines the elements from other



This file photo taken on October 21, 2016 shows forces from Iraq's elite Rapid Response Division.—AFP

rounds with "some special combat skills for advancing and clearing houses and clearing cities and streets, and dealing with bombs, and medicine and communications", among others, Ismail said. The pass rate was previously 45 percent but was increased due to military necessity, and is now around 60 percent, he said. Captain Wissam Ammar, who joined Rapid Response in 2008 and is now deployed in Nineveh province as part of the drive on Mosul, recalled a significantly higher rate of failure during training. "I remember that 800 entered with us in our round, we enter officers and soldiers together. Out of 800... we graduated about 97 people," said Ammar.

American special forces were involved in the training at the time, he said. Anyone from Rapid Response "has the right to be proud... of this force, has the right to be proud of himself", said Ammar. Asked for an experience that stood out from his time in service,

Ammar pointed to several instances of extremely close-quarters fighting against IS.

'Like devils'

"You fight in the same house... not the same area, no, you fight in the same house," Ammar said. Second Lieutenant Hussein Sultani, an officer in a medical unit, joined Rapid Response a year ago and is now also deployed in Nineveh.

During selection, "the officer and the enlisted man enter together, you take off your rank and enter together. This is the American system," said Sultani. Another American influence is a bell placed in the middle of a square that trainees ring to indicate that they give up. "When you want to quit, you... ring the bell, that's it, you go out—it means you can't handle it," said Sultani.

There is a rivalry between the Rapid Response Division and the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS), Iraq's best known special forces unit. — AFP

IN IRAQI KURDISTAN, LITTLE REGARD FOR BAGHDAD BOOZE BAN

ARBIL: Alcohol shops are open for business in Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, where officials have vowed that Baghdad's recently passed ban on booze will not be enforced.

The ban on the sale, import and production of alcohol was slipped into draft legislation on municipalities in Iraq's parliament last week, but the country's president has since called for the law to be revised.

In Iraqi Kurdistan, a three-province region in the country's north that has its own government, security forces and flag, there seems to be another plan: ignore the measure even if the law remains unchanged. "We do not recognize such laws," which "will not be applied in the Kurdistan region of Iraq," said Farsat Sophie, a member of the legal committee in the Kurdish regional parliament.

The region's culture minister also said that the measure would not be enforced, slamming it as an infringement on individual freedom. "This decision is against democracy and against personal freedoms," Khalid Doski said. The consumption of alcohol is prohibited by Islam, but drinking is fairly widespread in Iraq, including in Baghdad, where there are scores of small alcohol shops.

If the ban is not implemented in Kurdistan but is elsewhere, it is all but guaranteed to result in a thriving black market for booze brought from the region into federally controlled areas. Both the federal and Kurdish regional parliaments have legislative powers, but it is unclear which would have primacy in the case of the alcohol issue.

In practice, Baghdad does not have the means to enforce the measure in Kurdistan if its regional government decides not to do so on its own. In Ainkawa, a Christian area of Kurdistan's capital Arbil, cars carrying people coming to purchase booze line up near shops that are packed with whisky, beer and other alcohol.

Raed Basil Hanna, the owner of an Ainkawa alcohol store, said the Iraqi parliament should be focusing on more important issues. The government should pay attention to "the situations of the people and improving their circumstances and taking them out of poverty," instead of "issuing decisions that do not benefit anyone," he said. In addition to fighting an ongoing war against jihadists, Iraq faces myriad other problems, including an economic crisis due to low oil prices and abysmal basic services. — AFP

IN HATS AND T-SHIRTS, TRUMP FANS RALLY IN JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY

JERUSALEM: On a rooftop overlooking the walls of Jerusalem's Old City, around 200 American-Israeli fans of Donald Trump gathered to proclaim their support for the Republican candidate, convinced he will be Israel's best friend if elected. Wearing "Make America Great Again" baseball caps, the small crowd, ranging from Holocaust survivors in their 80s to grinning teenagers in Trump t-shirts, said they didn't care about the sexual assault allegations against the candidate or the online anti-Semitism of some of his supporters. "Trump will let Israel be itself and make its own decisions, that's what I like," David Weissman, a 35-year-old from Queens, New York, who moved to Israel three years ago, said at the event late on Wednesday.

"He's not a saint, but look at his achievements. He's not afraid to identify the enemy as radical Islam, and he's not going to support the two-state

solution," he said, referring to long-standing efforts to forge peace with the Palestinians.

Trump has said that the women who have accused him of sexual misconduct fabricated their stories to damage his campaign. Others at the rally said they liked the fact that Trump was promising to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, officially recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and would not berate Israel for building Jewish settlements in occupied territory.

"It's very important that he becomes president," said Connie Gordner, 82, who moved to Israel from Jacksonville, Florida, 21 years ago. "If Hillary Clinton becomes president, we're dead." The rally was organized by Republicans Overseas Israel, which estimates that there are 300,000 US citizens living in Israel or in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians seek for their own

state. Even if only a third of those cast absentee ballots, organizers believe it could have an impact in some swing states, come Nov. 8. Marc Zell, co-chairman of the non-profit group, believes around three-quarters of American-Israelis support the Republican party and its candidate.

No more pressure

In an impassioned speech to the small crowd, David Friedman, Trump's adviser on Israel, heaped criticism on Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton for her decisions as secretary of state and said Trump was Israel's greatest hope. "Under Trump, the United States will never pressure Israel into accepting a two-state solution or any other solution that is against the wishes of the Israeli people," he said, to whoops, cheers and a few shouts of "Crooked Hillary". While the motley crowd was unabashed in its Trumpian fervour,

polls indicate that most Jewish Israelis favour Clinton over Trump, by 40 per cent to 31 per cent.

The critical element is American-Israelis who retain the right to vote in US elections. Some estimates suggest more than a quarter of them live in settlements, which tend to have a more conservative, national-religious outlook. Trump's messages have been designed to appeal to their sentiments.

On Wednesday, he delivered a minute-long video to the rally, playing up his connections to Judaism through his daughter's marriage, saying it enhanced his respect for the faith.

"My administration will stand side-by-side with the Jewish people and Israel's leaders to continue strengthening the bridges that connect not only Jewish Americans and Israelis but also all Americans and Israelis," he said.

"Together we will make America and Israel safe again."—Reuters

YEMENIS STRUGGLE AS REBELS STOP SALARIES

REBELS HAVEN'T PAID SALARIES FOR TWO MONTHS

SANAA: Abdullah Sarhan laments having to sell his furniture to feed his family, but he is only one of thousands in Yemen struggling since rebels stopped paying salaries two months ago.

The situation gets worse by the day for the inhabitants of Sanaa, controlled by the Huthi rebels since September 2014 and subjected to 19 months of air strikes and a blockade by a pro-government Arab coalition. "I had to sell my furniture to put food on the table for my family and ensure that my two children can continue going to school," said Sarhan. The finances of employees like Sarhan, and those who are retired, deteriorated further in September, when the UN-recognized government transferred the central bank to Aden, the southern city that serves as a temporary capital. President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi sacked the bank's governor and relocated it to the port city after accusing the Iran-backed Huthis of diverting funds from foreign reserves.

A UN report revealed in August said the Huthis were diverting about \$100

million from the central bank per month, and that the foreign reserves had dwindled to \$1.3 billion from about \$4 billion in November 2014.

The measure prompted an immediate halt in salaries payment in Sanaa and other regions under the control of the Shiite Huthis and their allies of renegade troops loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. "How can we continue paying rent if we don't have enough to eat," asked Ibrahim Ahmed, who was forced to move his family to live with his parents in the countryside.

Professor Jamil Aoun said he had to abandon lecturing at Sanaa University and work in a brick factory. "We have to earn our living," he explained. His colleague Abdullah al-Muammar al-Hakimi resorted to selling qat, the mild narcotic leaf popular in the Arabian Peninsula country. "Selling qat... is more honorable than begging or having people's blood on one's hands," Hakimi wrote in a post on Facebook announcing his decision to quit teaching. The suspension of salaries is the latest sign of economic deteriora-

tion in Yemen, which was already the poorest Arab country before the deadly conflict escalated in March 2015 with the intervention of the Saudi-led coalition.

'Disaster' looming

"It is the most dangerous measure as it affects the daily lives of seven to eight million Yemenis," who live in rebel-controlled regions, said Mustapha Nasser, head of the Sanaa-based Studies and Economic Media Centre. "It is a sign of a total economic collapse," he warned, urging the government of Hadi and the rebels to address the situation.

Nasser pointed out that liquidity was a problem even before the relocation of the central bank. "Even before this decision was taken, the Huthis were not able to pay salaries as they did in the past," he said. Last month the insurgents launched a fund-raising campaign aimed at raising funds from the public to cover for the central bank.

But despite images of people queuing to offer their own money, the rebels have so far only collected about eight billion riyals (\$32 million), a fraction of the 75 billion riyals needed to pay two months' of salaries, said Nasser.

Economist Saeed Abdulmomen warned the lack of an alternative to honor financial commitments could lead to "total chaos". "An inevitable disaster is on the horizon," he said. The conflict in Yemen has killed nearly 6,900 people and wounded about 35,000 since it broke out in March 2015, according to the United Nations. An additional three million people have been displaced while millions more need food aid. The World Food Program on Tuesday warned of hunger in Yemen, which already had one of the world's highest levels of malnutrition before the war. "Hunger is increasing every day and people have exhausted all their survival strategies. Millions of people cannot survive without external assistance," said WFP regional director Muhammad Hadi. —AFP



PALERMO, SICILY, ITALY: Migrants wait to disembark from the Siem Pilot ship on October 24, 2016.—AFP

HEROES OF THE HIGH SEAS: THE VIKINGS RESCUING MIGRANTS

ABOARD THE SIEM PILOT: Torch beams from rubber dinghies in the Mediterranean flash an SOS cry for help in the darkness and the Norwegian Siem Pilot does what it does best: Rescuing migrants.

These bearded modern Vikings don protective suits and life jackets and brace for a mammoth nighttime mission that will see them transfer hundreds of people from an oil tanker, pluck others off unseaworthy boats, and help a woman give birth. "Our mission is border control, but saving lives comes above everything," Pal Erik Teigen, the police officer in command of operations who heads the crew, told AFP during a week-long embed. The vessel, part of the European border agency Frontex's Operation Triton, started life as an oil platform supply ship in the North Sea but now patrols the Mediterranean on the look-out for human, drug or weapon smugglers. While suspected illegal activities will be flagged up to the Italian authorities, the Siem Pilot is not built for high-speed chases and does not have the authority to board suspect vessels. But what it can do—at over 80 metres (262 feet) long—is host a lot of rescued migrants.

Most of the rescues take place on the border between Libyan and international waters but Frontex vessels are not deployed there so as not to act as a draw for departures. Ships run by NGOs usually pick up the migrants, and call for back up when needed. That is when the Siem Pilot and its crew of policemen, coast guards and civilians, springs into action.

Part of Triton since April 2015, its crew members serve month-long missions before returning to Norway. The fjords and snow-topped mountains may be a long way from the balmy Mediterranean, or the bustling Sicilian ports where the crew take rest days, but the team encounter glimpses of home where they least expect it. — AFP



SANAA: Yemenis beg drivers for money on a street yesterday.—AFP

CLINTON AND TRUMP ON HEALTH CARE

A LOOK AT BOTH NOMINEES PLANS

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton has been involved in the nation's health care debate for more than 20 years and, as her campaign likes to say, she has the scars to prove it.

The Democratic presidential candidate failed in her 1990s effort to steer her husband's universal coverage program through Congress, as the complex plan collapsed for lack of political support. Since then, she has tacked sometimes to the right on health care, and sometimes to the left.

Clinton is campaigning as the candidate of continuity and would leave all major health care programs in place. She has a long list of tweaks and adjustments that reflect her familiarity with policy and would expand the government's role in health care.

Donald Trump calls President Barack Obama's health care law "a disaster," and vows to seek its repeal. He'd provide a new tax deduction for health insurance premiums, but also limit federal support for Medicaid, which

to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies, and she supports allowing patients to import lower-cost prescriptions from abroad. Medicare beneficiaries represent a big share of the market for medications.

Clinton would also allow people ages 55-64 to buy into Medicare, although her campaign has not released much detail on how that would work.

TRUMP: He promises not to cut Medicare, and has suggested that other Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan made a political mistake by calling for major changes. But it remains unclear how Trump's proposed repeal of "Obamacare" would affect its improvements to Medicare benefits, including closing the prescription drug coverage gap known as the "doughnut hole."

Earlier, Trump spoke approvingly of giving Medicare legal authority to negotiate prescription drug prices, but that idea currently is not mentioned in his health care plan. Instead, he

Medicare or Medicaid. Every other Republican's going to cut."

But his campaign plan would convert Medicaid into a block grant, ending the open-ended federal entitlement and capping funding from Washington. Over time, such an approach is likely to result in a big cut.

Private insurance

About 177 million people under age 65 have private health insurance, with nearly 9 in 10 getting their coverage through an employer. Rising out-of-pocket costs such as insurance deductibles and copayments are a sore point with consumers.

CLINTON: She has proposed a new tax credit of up to \$5,000 per family, or \$2,500 for an individual, for households that face "excessive" out-of-pocket costs. The credit would be refundable, meaning that people who don't owe income tax could still get money back. An independent analysis of her plan defined "excessive" costs as exceeding 5 percent of household income.

Clinton would also require insurers to cover three sick visits to the doctor each year without patients needing first to meet their plan's deductible, the annual amount patients pay before their insurance kicks in.

TRUMP: He has no similar proposals on out-of-pocket expenses but has called for requiring hospitals, clinics and doctors to disclose prices so patients can shop around to reduce costs. And he would expand the use of tax-sheltered health savings accounts, used to pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance.

Prescription drugs

More than half of US adults take prescription drugs, and according to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll most of those patients report no major problems affording their own medications.

But consumers have been alarmed by the introduction of breakthrough drugs costing tens of thousands of dollars a year, along with a spate of seemingly random price hikes for older medications. More than 3 out of 4 say the cost of prescription drugs is unreasonable. A majority favors government action to curb costs.

CLINTON: She has several proposals, including a new government board with the power to penalize drug companies for "unjustified, outlier price increases," a monthly limit of \$250 on patients' copayments for prescription drugs, lowering the period of protection from generic competition for biologic drugs from 12 years to 7 years, and requiring drug companies to provide rebates for medications used by low-income Medicare recipients.

Those ideas are on top of Medicare negotiations and allowing patients to import lower-cost prescription drugs from abroad.

TRUMP: In addition to backing drug importation, he also has called on Congress to remove barriers to competition from lower-price, equally effective medications.

'Obamacare'

The 2010 Affordable Care Act expanded coverage for the uninsured and made carrying health insurance a legal obligation for most people. It offers subsidized private insurance for people who don't have access to a job-based plan, along with a state option to expand Medicaid. —AP



HAVANA: Cuban former president Fidel Castro (R) during a meeting with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa (L) in Havana on October 26, 2016. —AFP

IN CUBA, ONLINE MEDIA PRY OPEN STATE GRIP ON NEWS

HAVANA: Abraham, Elaine and Jose are under 30, and they've pulled off the unthinkable in Cuba—they are producing online news, prying open the state's half-century grip on the media. The Castro government created a crack in the Cuban media wall, allowing this small revolution, when it opened up internet access to the public in 2013.

What followed was a progressive rollout of 200 Wi-Fi hotspots across the Caribbean island of 11.2 million people. Access is limited. Few Cubans can afford the sky-high connections fees of \$2 per hour and the government only rarely authorizes an internet connection at home.

Still, the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists counts about 3,000 blogs and portals dedicated to Cuba that are published on the island or by Cubans living abroad. Sites like The Sneeze (El estornudo), Neighborhood Journalism (Periodismo de Barrio), El Toque and the most well-known, OnCuba, are key voices in this flourishing cyber-media field.

Some of the journalists were educated at the University of Havana's communications school, the traditional launch pad for careers at state media and the Communist Party newspaper Granma. "We all came from classes at the University of Havana, and we were kind of left homeless, in the sense that for us, the state press isn't an option," Abraham Jimenez, the 27-year-old who heads The Sneeze, told AFP.

Jimenez and his colleagues launched the portal in March. Like other independent media, they chase a variety of funding sources, including selling what they can to survive month-to-month. "Internet access is very expensive, we don't have an office or anything," Jimenez explained, saying that articles and photos are sent by email abroad to be put online. "Without state economic support, we must look for other ways to manage finances," said Elaine Diaz, 30, director of Neighborhood Journalism. "Some turn to paid advertising, or payment for content or a service, or partnerships with other media or non-profit organizations, or a cooperative financing group," she said. At times, like at The Sneeze, it takes another job to survive—the price of realizing the dream of being an independent journalist in Cuba.

'Honest' journalism

With sleek homepages, full-screen photos, polished writing and reporting that tends toward features rather than hard news, the publications for the most part are trying to depict the reality of Cubans' everyday lives.

But unlike others, such as 14yMedio launched in 2014 by journalist-dissident Yoani Sanchez, or independent portals published in Spain, like Cuba Daily, or in Miami, Cubanet and CiberCuba, these new media eschew confrontation with the authorities. We present "very honest viewpoints, stemming from life experiences, and we don't want to respond to the combative visions of extremists," said Jose Nieves, 28, the editorial coordinator of El Toque.

The authorities, who block access to the main dissident portals, tolerate these new sites. But the first rumble of a counteroffensive is being detected in the state media and on social networks. In Granma, official blogger Iroel Sanchez recently condemned "journalistic bias, marked by superficiality, lack of context and inaccuracy, which serves the media war and those who hope to dismantle socialism in our country." —AFP



KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA: A supporter of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump holds up a sign referring to Democratic rival Hillary Clinton as Trump speaks during a campaign event at the Kinston Jet Center on October 26, 2016. —AFP

covers low-income people. An independent analysis recently estimated his seven-point plan would cause 20 million people to lose coverage.

Trump's ideas on health care have shifted over time, and his latest plan hews to basic GOP talking points. He's expressed a belief that an economically advanced country like the United States can't have people "dying in the street" for lack of medical care.

Here is a summary of their proposals: Medicare

The government's premier health insurance program covers about 57 million people, including 48 million seniors and 9 million disabled people under age 65. It enjoys strong support from voters across the political spectrum, although its long-term financial outlook is uncertain.

CLINTON: She would authorize Medicare

also supports allowing drug importation.

MEDICAID

The federal-state program for low-income individuals covers more than 70 million people, from pregnant women and children to elderly nursing home residents. Under Obama's health care law, states can expand the program to include more low-income adults. Medicaid has sometimes carried a social stigma, but polls show the program has a solid base of public support.

CLINTON: She'd work to expand Medicaid in the 19 states that have yet to take advantage of the health law. She's proposing three years of full federal funding for those states, the same deal given to states that embraced the law right away.

TRUMP: In 2015 Trump told an interviewer: "I'm not going to cut Social Security like every other Republican. And I'm not going to cut



MIAMI: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton reacts to a reporter's questions about her birthday before boarding her campaign plane at Miami International Airport in Miami, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016, to travel to Lake Worth, Fla. for a rally. —AP

2 STUDIES POINT TO LACK OF CAMPAIGN SUBSTANCE ON NEWSCASTS

NEW YORK: Two studies of US news coverage suggest that this is a presidential campaign with little substance - unless groping women, tax returns and email servers are your idea of major issues.

ADT Research, which monitors content of the ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts, said Wednesday that with two weeks before Election Day, there has been less issues coverage than for any presidential campaign the company has monitored, going back through 1988. The conservative watchdog Media Research Center also counted the campaign topics that have taken up the most time on the newscasts since the end of the conven-

tions. Of the 15 topics with the most attention, arguably only two - Donald Trump's position on immigration and questions about his attitudes toward Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin - could be considered traditional policy issues. "This year's absence of issues is an accurate portrayal of the turf on which the election is being played out," said Andrew Tyndall, head of ADT Research and publisher of the Tyndall Report.

Networks cast doubt on some of the research, saying it overlooks many of their substantive stories. By Tyndall's methodology, the network newscasts so far this year have spent only a third of the time on so-called

issues stories than any of the last eight campaigns. He defines an issues story as one that takes a particular topic like immigration or Mideast policy and outlines the candidates' position. He wouldn't include, for example, coverage of a rally where a candidate talks about immigration.

Referendum campaign

The coverage reflects a campaign that has become a referendum on Trump and Hillary Clinton's fitness for office, he said. But he suggests the broadcasters should be making more of an effort to strike out on their own.

Rich Noyes, research director at the MRC, said Clinton in particular is happy to see so much attention paid to Trump's suitability for office. "Candidates certainly could find imaginative ways to draw attention to policy issues if that's what they wanted to stress," Noyes said. "But the networks could find imaginative ways to cover policy issues that matter most to Americans."

Steve Capus, executive producer of the "CBS Evening News," said that's being done, and the studies miss different ways that substance is being injected into the coverage. For example, CBS did a series this summer interviewing foreign policy experts on the most daunting problems a new president will face. Fact-checking claims made during debates is another way to include specifics, he said.

"It's not just a beauty pageant here," Capus said. "We're talking about substance." ABC pointed to anchor David Muir's coverage of the Syrian refugee crisis and interviews with the candidates.

The most-covered campaign topic by far concerned the way Trump treats and talks about women, the MRC said. That received 102 minutes of coverage, nearly double the second-place issue, concerning questions about Clinton's health.

Other topics that drew attention on the newscasts included Clinton's use of a personal mail server while secretary of state, Trump's refusal to release a tax return and what that says about what he did or didn't pay, the birther issue, Trump's temperament and practices of both the Clinton and Trump foundations. —AP

WHEN HISPANIC TEENS VANISHED, DID NEW YORK POLICE DO ENOUGH?

BRENTWOOD, NEW YORK: Hispanic teenagers began vanishing last winter in Brentwood, a working-class suburb 40 miles east of New York City. Miguel Garcia-Moran, 15, disappeared in February. Oscar Acosta, 19, was reported missing in May. Jose Pena-Hernandez, 18, vanished in June. If police noticed the pattern, they said nothing publicly until September, after two girls at Brentwood High School, ages 15 and 16, were beaten to death in what investigators suspect was an attack by members of the violent street gang MS-13.

Within a few weeks, the missing teens had all been found dead, their skeletal remains hidden in secluded areas of the hamlet, including the grounds of a partly abandoned state psychiatric center. Now, some Hispanic advocates on Long Island are wondering why authorities didn't raise an alarm sooner about the string of disappearances. A spokesman for Suffolk County police says the information disclosed about each case varies, depending on the circumstances.

The county police commissioner isn't saying how many other teens might be missing. "What's become clear to us over the last couple of months - and now we have

evidence with the bodies being found - is the police department has not been taking these cases seriously," said Walter Barrientos, the leader of a Hispanic advocacy group.

Suffolk County police began pouring resources into the cases after the deaths of best friends Nisa Mickens and Kayla Cuevas, who were attacked in a residential neighborhood near an elementary school on Sept. 13.

Detectives suspect all are likely victims of the MS-13 gang, which has roots in El Salvador and outposts in communities across the US. The recent killing of a sixth person in Brentwood, a 34-year-old man, is also under investigation.

Crack downs

The crackdown on suspected gang members has resulted in about 35 arrests. Five alleged MS-13 members are in federal custody, expected to be charged under racketeering statutes. But questions remain about what investigators did to try to find the missing teens months ago. "They did not seem to do that much. ... They would never tell us anything," said Ana Arias, an aunt of Acosta. After he vanished, Arias said she and his mother went to local businesses and his school themselves seeking clues. —AP

NEW YORK'S MOMA ACQUIRES ORIGINAL SET OF EMOJIS

NEW YORK: Back in the day, before cars could drive themselves and phones could send stickers and animations, a Japanese phone company released a set of 176 emojis.

The year was 1999 and the tiny 12-by-12 pixel designs - smiley faces, hearts of the intact and broken variety, cats, and so on - were mainly popular in Japan. In 2010, Unicode Consortium, which now controls emoji standards, translated the emoji into the Unicode standard, which means that a person in France, for example, can send an emoji to a person in the US and it will look the same, no matter what brand of phone or operating system they use.

New York's Museum of Modern Art said Wednesday that it has acquired the original set of 176 emojis. They were a gift to the museum from the phone company, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone. "From the start (in 1929!), part of MoMA's mission has been to display and collect the art (and design) of our time," said Paola Antonelli, senior curator of the Department of Architecture and Design at the museum, in an email. "Our time is lived today in both the digital and the physical space."

The museum's other digital acquisitions have included the "@" symbol and video games. As to how a museum acquires something as ubiquitous as a keyboard symbol or an emoji, Antonelli noted design works differently than art, which in many cases is unique - think of a painting, or a statue. Some design elements, such as the "@" symbol, are in the public domain, which means anyone can use them and the museum can simply display them.

The museum will show the emojis in its lobby through the end of the year, using 2D graphics and animations, and connecting the old emojis with the current generation. Today, the Unicode Consortium recognizes nearly 1,800 emojis. There's wine, a baby bottle, a dancing woman in a red dress, and, of course, poop. There have been emoji-controversies, such as Apple's decision to replace the gun symbol with a bright green toy pistol.

The human faces in emoji have grown more racially diverse in recent years, and over the summer 11 new emojis were added representing female professionals, rounding out their male counterparts, thanks to a proposal from Google.

New emojis are added regularly, and continue to evolve and reflect our changing times. "(Emojis) as a concept go back in the centuries, to ideograms, hieroglyphics, and other graphic characters, enabling us to draw this beautiful arch that covers all of human history," Antonelli said. "There is nothing more modern than timeless concepts such as these." —AP



NEW YORK: This photo provided by The Museum of Modern Art in New York shows the original set of 176 emojis, which the museum has acquired. —AP

NYC FIREFIGHTER STAGES DRAMATIC RESCUE IN FATAL BLAZE

NEW YORK: As roaring flames consumed an apartment building in New York City early yesterday, a firefighter dangling from a rope plucked a trapped person from a window on the fifth floor and safely lowered him to the ground.

Firefighter Jim Lee told reporters at the scene that the rope that colleagues had used to drop him from the roof burned through just 15 seconds after he touched the earth. "I told him to stay calm and when we got down, I said, 'I hope you enjoyed the ride,'" Lee said. "He sort of smiled and he was thankful."

The overnight blaze at the building on Manhattan's Upper East Side killed one person, officials said. Five tenants were injured, one seriously. The fire was reported around 3:30 a.m. in a building on East 93rd Street in the Yorkville neighborhood. Flames quickly spread throughout the building and, at one point, were shooting out the roof, sending burning embers onto nearby buildings.

Some residents of the burning building fled into the streets in their pajamas. Officials don't yet know where the fire started. Seven firefighters were hurt during the response. Firefighters had extinguished the blaze by early Thursday morning. —AP



NEW DELHI: Indian police officials pose with Subhash Jangir (C/L) and Maulana Ramzan (C/R) in New Delhi on October 27, 2016, after they were arrested for alleged espionage activities for South Asian neighbor Pakistan. —AFP

INDIA EXPELS PAKISTANI VISA OFFICIAL FOR 'ESPIONAGE'

NEW DELHI: India announced yesterday it was expelling a Pakistani visa official for suspected spying after he was briefly detained carrying sensitive defense documents, with tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors already running high.

New Delhi police said the official had been recruiting Indian nationals for two and a half years to spy for Pakistan's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in return for cash. "Delhi police crime branch has busted an espionage racket run by a kingpin working in the Pakistan high commission," said Ravindra Yadav, joint commissioner of police on crime.

The official was detained on Wednesday at the Delhi zoo where he had arranged to meet two alleged Indian co-conspirators to exchange information including troop deployment along the border.

"They used to meet once in a month at a pre-decided place to exchange documents and money," Yadav told reporters in New Delhi, adding that the two Indians from the northern state of Rajasthan were arrested.

Police extensively questioned the official, named as Mehmood Akhtar, before releasing him on diplomatic grounds. India's foreign secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar summoned Pakistan's high commissioner to inform him of the decision to expel the official within 48 hours after declaring him "persona non grata".

Tensions between India and Pakistan have soared since a raid last month on an Indian army base near the de-facto border dividing Kashmir killed 19 soldiers, the worst such attack in more than a decade.

India blamed militants in Pakistan and said it had responded by carrying out strikes across the heavily-militarized border, although Islamabad denies these took place. Indian and Pakistani troops regularly exchange fire across the border known as the Line of Control in Kashmir, but sending ground troops over the line is rare.

'False charges'

Pakistan's High Commission in Delhi rejected the "false and unsubstantiated charges" leveled against its official and condemned his "detention and manhandling". "We reject the Indian allegations and deplore the Indian action which is indeed a violation of the Vienna Convention as well as the norms of diplomatic conduct especially in an already vitiated atmosphere," it said in a statement. "Pakistan High Commission has always been working within the parameters of international law and diplomatic norms."

Foreign ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup told reporters the official was "caught literally red-handed while accepting sensitive documents pertaining to vital national security". Yadav said Akhtar was carrying documents that included maps showing deployment of India's Border Security Forces (BSF) and army soldiers. "A list of jawans (soldiers) posted at the border along with soldiers who had retired from service was also recovered," Yadav said.

The two Indian nationals have been charged under the Official Secrets Act and been remanded into custody. One of the men told reporters outside court that he was only "teaching children". Pakistan's High Commissioner Abdul Basit lodged a "strong protest" with the Indian foreign ministry over the affair, a Pakistani diplomatic source said.

The expulsion comes as an Indian soldier died from injuries he received during an exchange of fire with Pakistani soldiers across the border. "A BSF jawan (soldier) was killed today by splinter injuries he received during cross border firing from Pakistan," Indian BSF officer Manoj Kumar told AFP.

Such firings have increased in recent months as relations between the archrivals have plummeted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has warned Pakistan since the army base attack that India would push to make it a pariah state, accusing it of being a "mothership of terrorism".

Tensions were already high before the attack, with deadly violence in Kashmir over the death on July 8 of a popular militant leader. Nearly 90 people, most of them young protesters, have been killed in clashes with security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence from Britain in 1947. Both claim the territory in full and have fought two wars over the mountainous region. —AFP

AL-QAEDA LEADERS IN AFGHANISTAN KILLED

US DRONE ATTACK USED

KABUL: Two top Al-Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan were killed in a US drone attack, the nation's spy agency confirmed yesterday, in a major blow to the group as it seeks to re-establish safe havens in the country.

Washington said the strikes on Sunday targeted Farouq al-Qahtani, Al-Qaeda's emir for northeastern Afghanistan, and his deputy Bilal al-Utubi, calling it the most significant attack against the group's leadership in several years.

Multiple Hellfire missiles "leveled" two different compounds in Kunar province where the men were believed to be hiding, US officials said Wednesday, without confirming if the strikes were successful. Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security offered confirmation of their death yesterday, adding that a third senior member of the group had also been killed. "The attack was carried out in coordination with NDS," the spy agency said in a statement, without naming the third leader.

Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook had earlier said their demise would deal a blow to the militant group's presence in Afghanistan. "Eliminating these core leaders of Al-Qaeda will disrupt efforts to plot against the United States and our allies, reduce the threat to our Afghan partners, and assist their efforts to deny Al-Qaeda safe haven in

Afghanistan," Cook said. The Pentagon had been actively hunting Qahtani for four years. He had longstanding ties with Osama Bin Laden before his death in the 2011 US raid on his Pakistan compound. Qahtani had operated in Afghanistan since at least 2009 and was responsible for planning attacks against US and coalition forces in the country, officials said.

"He was seeking to re-establish (Al-Qaeda's) control in Afghanistan," a US official said. "He was charged with the requirement to establish AQ safe-havens throughout Kunar and Nuristan provinces." His deputy Utubi, was seen as the second- or third-most senior Al-Qaeda leader in Afghanistan, the official said.

'Deadly attacks'

In October 2001, in response to the 9/11 attacks, the US launched military operations to dislodge the Taliban from Afghanistan and capture or kill Al-Qaeda militants they were harboring. Their numbers have since been decimated, but the United States continues to target the remnants of the group.

In June, the White House restored the Pentagon's authority to strike at insurgents.

The new authority has given the US-led NATO troops greater latitude to order air strikes against a web of militant

groups in Afghanistan, including the Taliban, Islamic State jihadists and Al-Qaeda. Qahtani and his deputies were in Hilgal village in Kunar's Ghazi Abad district when they were attacked, US officials said.

They were in two separate buildings a few hundred meters apart and were targeted almost simultaneously by multiple missiles. Provincial spokesman Abdul Ghani Mosamem told AFP last 15 insurgents were killed, including two Arabs. A number of Pakistani Taliban fighters were also among the fatalities, he said.

An Afghan intelligence official in the province also confirmed two Arabs were killed in the strikes. Qahtani and Utubi are well-known senior Al-Qaeda commanders in Kunar, and had been actively involved in recruiting young locals into the group. Qahtani was born sometime between 1979 and 1981 in Saudi Arabia and is a Qatari national. In February, the US Department of the Treasury labelled Qahtani a specially designated global terrorist.

Qahtani "has a long history of directing deadly attacks against US forces... along with plotting Al-Qaeda terrorist operations in the United States and around the world," Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Adam Szubin said at the time. —AFP



QUETTA, PAKISTAN: In this photo provided by Pakistan's Press Information Department, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, right, talks to a survivor of an overnight attack on the Police Training Academy, with Pakistan army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif, left, at a local hospital on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016. —AP

PAKISTAN BANS PROTEST AND RALLIES IN ISLAMABAD

BAN TO LAST 2 MONTHS

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government yesterday banned all political meetings, rallies and protests in the capital, Islamabad, ahead of a planned opposition march against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on November 2nd.

The ban, which also applies to the adjacent garrison city of Rawalpindi, will remain in force for two months, the Pakistani Ministry of Interior said in a statement. The party of cricketer-

turned-politician Imran Khan has threatened to lockdown the capital to force Sharif to step down. Sharif faces mounting public pressure after his family members were named as holders of offshore bank accounts in leaked financial documents from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca.

Sharif has defended his financial record, attempting to explain the details of his family business in parliament and in two televised speeches.

Pakistan's Supreme Court has scheduled a hearing on the scandal on Nov. 1.

Request to investigate scandal

Khan's party is one of the five petitioners who have approached the top court requesting an investigation into the scandal. The court has asked the prime minister to file a reply to the allegations made in the petitions in the Nov. 1 hearing. An Islamabad high court also directed Khan's party Thursday to explain by Oct. 31 what his plans are for the march against the prime minister. The court ordered that no road was to be blocked, either by the protesters or the government.

Sharif's aides are calling on Khan's party to postpone the street protests and wait for the court decision. One of Sharif's allies, parliamentarian Talal Chaudhry, said that Khan's recent statements suggested that his party had plans to paralyze the capital. "We wouldn't allow that," Chaudhry said.

Khan's party has alleged that the police have already started detaining its workers and harassing its leadership. His lawyer Naeem Bokhari said that he and his legal team would review the high court decision to see whether it had the powers to ban the street rallies. He said he would challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court. "No power can stop our rally," Khan said Thursday in a press conference. "It is our legal, democratic, constitutional right."

The first test of the government's ban on rallies comes Friday, when an alliance of religious extremists plans to hold a public gathering in the heart of Islamabad. —AP

INDIA'S TOBACCO INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT FACE OFF

NEW DELHI: India's \$11 billion tobacco industry has urged the government to take a softer line on tobacco control efforts when it hosts a WHO conference in New Delhi next month, but officials say the government will not bow to "pressure tactics".

Delegates from about 180 countries will attend the Nov. 7-12 World Health Organization (WHO) conference on the sole global anti-tobacco treaty: The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). In force since 2005, the treaty aims to deter tobacco use that kills around 6 million people a year.

The industry in India, the world's third-biggest tobacco producer, wants Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to soften its stance on what it says are tough FCTC measures that

threaten livelihoods among the estimated 46 million people linked to the sector.

In documents obtained by a Reuters reporter under India's Right to Information law, industry and farmer groups wrote to officials across government asking to attend the WHO FCTC conference and be part of India's delegation, in an effort to protect their interests.

Global tobacco firms have criticized the biennial event for not being transparent, in part because proceedings have in the past not been open to the public, including industry representatives. The tussle comes at a time when the Indian industry is smarting from measures imposed this year forcing companies to print bigger health warnings on tobacco products. —Reuters

PAKISTAN RADIO SHOW CONFRONTS 'ENDEMIC' OGLING OF WOMEN

ISLAMABAD: For many women in Pakistan, the simple act of leaving the house can be uncomfortable, even intimidating—the probing gaze of the opposite sex is never far away. Fed-up with the constant unwanted attention, broadcaster Anila Ansari decided to bring the touchy subjects of harassment to the airwaves, by launching an "anti-ogling campaign" on her national radio show.

The idea-unprecedented in this conservative Muslim country where misogyny is often legitimized by hardline clerics—came to her at the start of the year when she returned to her country after living for two decades in Great Britain.

Everywhere she went in public spaces, she felt endlessly intimidated by the male gaze—and found she was far from alone. "I went to different offices, restaurants: everywhere I went I could see these eyes following me," she told AFP from the Radio99 office located in the centre of Islamabad. "So I came to my office and started asking my female colleagues and said 'Is it just me or do you experience that as well?', and every woman I spoke with said 'Oh don't even talk about it, it's so endemic.'"

When it came to the men, though, many didn't even realise there was a problem. "They either laugh it off or they get really upset or even annoyed," she explained, adding that some even blamed women for encouraging such attention by their choice of outfit or make-up.

Ansari says she launched the campaign to highlight "how it impacts on a woman's mental health and well being and even her opportunities, academic or employment opportunities."

And her radio station, which claims a listenership of up to 25 million across the country, backed the idea. As part of the campaign, she hosts regular debates on the subject encouraging listeners to call in. She also makes proclamations to underline her point such as: "You wouldn't like it if someone was staring at your sister!"

Najib Ahmed, the radio's director, said he the project had his full support from the outset. "In our country we put these kind of issues under the carpet, we don't discuss them," he said. "It is the basis of everything, the basis of the economy, the women go out of their home and if (women) are not comfortable they won't be able to do their jobs properly with their other colleagues."

'We can't help ourselves'

One afternoon in September, Anila and her colleagues gathered on the pavement outside Radio99's headquarters to spread their message on the streets. Journalists handed out leaflets and made speeches. "Say no to staring. It's unethical!" shouted one of the DJs. Sana Jaffry, a young woman wearing a pink hijab and sunglasses, said the project had her support, adding she too suffers from daily ogling by men on her way to work.

"These men who keep their sisters locked up at home, why do they stare at others?" she said. "They need to appreciate that women who go out are also respectable." Radio99's campaign is a "first step" she says. But, to truly change things, "the matter will have to be taken up by the government".

Nearby, Ayyan Ali, a young man dressed in traditional garb, is far from convinced. Girls, he says "are the honor of their parents". If they don't wear the burqa or clothes that completely cover the body, "they can't complain if someone is staring at them". "If they go out in the street in inappropriate clothes, we can't help ourselves," he adds. —AFP



ISLAMABAD: In this photograph taken on July 26, 2016, Anila Ansari (R), a program manager at Islamabad-based Power 99 FM radio, presents an on air "anti-ogling campaign" with her colleagues at the station. —AFP

INDONESIAN HANDED 20 YEARS IN 'POISONED COFFEE' MURDER

JAKARTA: An Indonesian woman was jailed for 20 years yesterday for murdering a friend from an Australian college with poisoned coffee in a "sadistic" fashion, capping a sensational trial that has gripped the country.

Jessica Kumala Wongso, 28, who is also an Australian permanent resident, was found guilty of murdering Wayan Mirna Salihin by slipping cyanide into her drink at an upmarket Jakarta cafe, sparking applause from spectators in the packed courtroom. The soap opera-style tale of two members of Indonesia's wealthy elite having a dramatic fallout that culminated in murder has captivated the country, with the trial dubbed the "poisoned coffee" case and broadcast live on national TV for months.

The murder, which Wongso carried out in January after becoming angered at 27-year-old Salihin's criticism of her boyfriend, also generated huge interest in Australia, where the women studied together at a Sydney design college. After hours reading the verdict in a courtroom overflowing with hundreds of journalists and members of the public, a three-judge panel declared Wongso guilty of premeditated murder and handed down the lengthy jail sen-

tence. "The defendant's action was deplorable and sadistic because it was committed against her own friend," presiding judge Kisworo, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told the court. "The defendant did not regret her action and claimed she did not do it." Wongso, who denies carrying out the crime, was emotionless as the ruling was handed down, then told the court: "I cannot accept the verdict, it's very unfair." Her legal team said they would file an appeal.

Sobs of relief

Some of Salihin's relatives sobbed with relief after the verdict, with her twin sister Sandy telling journalists: "This is very hard, I am grateful." The victim's supporters had rallied outside court throughout the day waving signs that read "Justice for Mirna", and when the hearing concluded gave out white roses to police and journalists.

After drinking the iced Vietnamese coffee at the cafe in one of Jakarta's fanciest malls, Salihin collapsed and began convulsing, then died soon afterwards in hospital. Prosecutors said Wongso decided to murder Salihin after she advised the defendant to break up with a



JAKARTA: Indonesian murder suspect Jessica Kumala Wongso arrives at the court prior to her trial at the Central court to hear the judges verdict yesterday.—AFP

boyfriend as he was using drugs, saying that the "cruel" crime was planned "meticulously". Police say that she placed bags on the table to prevent CCTV cameras in the cafe from filming her slipping the poison into the coffee. Wongso had vehemently denied murdering her

friend, breaking down in tears as she took the stand during the trial to reject the allegations. She had testified that she could not remember key details about the day and her defense team asserted the case against their client was weak and lacked evidence to prove guilt.—AFP

JAPAN, US, S KOREA AGREE TO STEP UP PRESSURE ON N KOREA

PERSUADING N KOREA TO ABANDON ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS

TOKYO: Senior officials from Japan, the United States and South Korea agreed yesterday to step up pressure on North Korea as they stick to their goal of persuading the communist state to abandon its nuclear weapons.

Their pledge comes just two days after US National Intelligence Director James Clapper publicly called that goal a "lost cause." He said the best hope is capping its capability instead. The deputy foreign ministers who held talks in Tokyo made clear that North Korea now poses a new level of threat and requires broader international pressure and tougher sanctions. US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, after

meeting with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts, said their policy has not changed. "We will not accept North Korea as nuclear state, we will not accept North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons, period," Blinken said. "We are focused on increasing the pressure on North Korea with one purpose: to bring it back to the table to negotiate in good faith. Denuclearization. That is the objective." Getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program has long been a headache in multilateral diplomacy with Pyongyang.

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama, who hosted Thursday's talks, cited North Korea's

recent tests showing the country's missile and nuclear capability had entered a new level of threat. "We need to respond differently than in the past," he said. Officials cited the sanctions and missile defense that have been already in place, but did not elaborate on their different approaches other than fresh sanctions pending at the United Nations and possible separate additional measures by the three countries.

Restarting talks

Meanwhile, South Korea said yesterday it plans to restart talks with Japan on a military intelligence sharing agreement to better cope with threats from North Korea. Information from Japan's network of satellites and other intelligence-gathering systems would be critical in monitoring and preparing against North Korea's fast developing nuclear weapons and missile programs, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

The United States, South Korea and Japan signed a joint intelligence-sharing pact in 2014, but under the frame work Seoul and Tokyo only share intelligence about North Korea's nuclear and missile programs via Washington. A bilateral agreement between South Korea and Japan would enable a quicker transfer of information between the countries in urgent situations. South Korea and Japan nearly signed a bilateral intelligence sharing pact in 2012, but Seoul backed off at the last minute following political outcry at home. Many South Koreans hold resentment over Japan's brutal occupation of the Korean Peninsula before the end of World War II and express uneasiness about the country's military role in the region.—AP



TOKYO: US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, Japanese and South Korean counterparts Shinsuke Sugiyama, center, and Lim Sung-Nam, join hands before their meeting in Japanese foreign ministry's likura guest-house yesterday.—AP



YOKOHAMA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, center, accompanied by Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, right, and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, left, clap their hands at the end of Japan's coast guard drills yesterday.—AP

PHILIPPINE LEADER'S MEETING WITH JAPAN EMPEROR CANCELED

TOKYO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte left Japan yesterday without meeting Emperor Akihito as their scheduled meeting had to be canceled because of the death of the emperor's uncle. Before ending his three-day visit, Duterte proposed joint military exercises with Japan, while reiterating that he will not conduct them with Americans in his presidency. Duterte made the proposal during his visit to a coast guard unit to observe an exercise from one of the patrol vessels Japan pledged to provide the Philippines to upgrade Manila's maritime security capabilities amid South China Sea disputes with Beijing.

The president told reporters in an unscheduled interview that he discussed a possibility of the joint exercise "in general terms" when he held talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday, according to a statement released by the Philippine presidential palace. Duterte also reminded reporters that allowing American military to stay in his country would be "difficult" and that he planned to review the military cooperation agreement and ask them "one of these days" to leave the country.

He did not elaborate on his comment on joint exercises with Japan, which could have mixed implications because of Japan also has tensions with China over East China Sea islands, history and other issues.—AP

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Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

A Halloween prop is offered for sale at Fantasy Costumes in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

My healthy living journey

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MY HEALTHY-LIVING JOURNEY

By Yalda Golsharifi

For the past few years, I've been on a journey of healthy-living and improving my lifestyle and this journey has honestly changed my life. From the food I eat to healthy habits I incorporate into my daily routine, this has all played an important role in enhancing my quality of life. I have gathered my top 5 simple tips that have worked for me to share with you all in this article.

1. Drinking green tea in between meals- Green tea is a great energizer and is great for maintaining your body weight and fat. But, you have to drink it at the right time and you shouldn't drink excessive amount of it. I find drinking green tea a few hours after either breakfast or lunch gives me the most benefits and it has become an essential part of my daily routine.
2. Changing the way you think about food - Eating consistently throughout the day instead of waiting until I'm hungry which causes me to overeat is something that has helped me maintain a healthy weight as well as keep my body fueled and energetic throughout the day. Also, being creative with my healthy meals and recipes is something that really motivates me and excites me for my next meal. Even when it comes to preparing snacks for the kids, I let myself be creative and have fun with it.

3. Making everything (almost) from home - This is something my family and I love to do. From making our own almond milk to home made chicken nuggets for the kids to at-home facemasks and hair treatments, making as much as we can from home encourages a more natural and healthy way of life for the whole family.
4. Infused water - Infused water is something I personally love because it makes the act of drinking water much more interesting and enjoyable. Buy a cute water bottle and add in a few slices of your favorite fruits or vegetable. Not only will this be Instagram worthy but it's also a great way to remind you to drink more water. The extra added fruit or a vegetable is also giving your body the vitamins and minerals that it needs throughout the day.
5. Get some sun - Although we live in one of the sunniest countries in the world, so many people in Kuwait suffer with vitamin D deficiency. Because of the heat, we are so used to avoiding the sun that we forget that we actually need it. I try to go outside and spend time in the garden for at least 15 minutes a day and this really puts me in a better mood. Let's not forget that for centuries the sun was used to heal all kinds of diseases and radiate health.

The perfectly flexible guest room

Hosting houseguests can be a challenge under the best of circumstances. Having a well-designed, private space for them is a huge help, but many homeowners don't have a dedicated room just for that. "Realistically, most people don't have guests every week," says interior designer Betsy Burnham, founder of Burnham Design in Los Angeles, so many create hybrid guest room/home office spaces, or blend a guest room with a playroom or crafting room. The challenge is making the space warm and welcoming to guests but functional for other needs. Here, Burnham, small-space design expert Kathryn Bechen and Brian Patrick Flynn, founder of the design firm Flynnside Out Productions, offer advice:

Create a flexible space

If your home office will double as your guest room, Flynn suggests designing a creative work station that doesn't feel like a corporate office. Instead of putting identical nightstands on either side of a bed or sofa bed, try mixing and matching bedside furniture, he says, "letting one of them be a desk or console table to double as a workstation." And you may not want a queen-size bed dominating your workspace. Burnham notes that there are many comfortable sofa beds these days. Or try a daybed with a trundle attachment. Decorate with structured cushions that give the appearance of a sofa by day, but are easily put aside at night. One great retro option: Burnham says there are modern Murphy beds with innovative designs that work well in smaller rooms.

Color and texture

Another way to make a home office feel like a welcoming guest room is using color "to personalize the space and draw you in to rest,"



This undated photo provided by Betsy Burnham shows a guest room designed by Burnham of LA's Burnham Design. — AP photos

says Flynn. "I use blue-grays and gray-greens because they're soft and relaxing, but not too energetic." He also suggests using a range of textures in upholstery, bedding and floor coverings. For example, "Mix super-nubby textures like boucle that feel good on your feet with sleek ones like silk and satin."

Burnham's new line of furniture, called Wardrobe, is upholstered in cozy, touch-friendly fabrics like soft linen, chambray and denim. If the room has a sleeper sofa or futon with a less-than-luxurious mattress, add softness with plush blankets, bed pillows and high-thread-count sheets. A sheepskin instantly warms up a guest room floor, Burnham says. Too many throw pillows on a sofa or bed, however, can be a nuisance for guests to remove each night and rearrange in the morning. So stick with a few luxurious ones that add beauty and comfort.

Sharing the space

If the room is normally your office, decide whether you'll completely withdraw from using it while guests are in town. If it's possible to work elsewhere in the house for a few days, make that easier by keeping an attractive empty box or basket on hand to gather work items for temporary relocation. If relocating isn't practical, Bechen suggests discussing the subject up front, preferably before your guest arrives. "A lot of people work from home," she says. "So the issue is being considerate and sensitive, and having good communication."

Let your guest know if there are specific hours when you must use the room, so they can plan to go out or just relax elsewhere in your home during that time. To avoid intruding on your guest at other times of day, Bechen suggests using high-end paper and ribbons to make a hand-crafted "Do Not Disturb" sign for the room's door.



Photo shows a guest room designed by Burnham of LA's Burnham Design.

Closet and storage

If the room includes a closet, leave it partially empty so that guests will have a place for suitcases and other items. Deep shelves in a closet are ideal for a guest's clothing. And if the closet is deep enough, Flynn suggest placing a dresser inside. Guests can have access to one or more drawers, and use the top as a vanity. Also consider adding a storage ottoman or trunk to the room for hiding blankets and pillows, so you won't have to gather them from elsewhere in the house when a guest is arriving. All three designers recommend having lots of closed storage so you can stash your things out of sight when someone is visiting.

Final touches

Add an extra power strip so guests can charge digital devices, and print out your wifi password for easy reference. If the visitor is an old friend or relative, create a small photo album of images from your shared past and place it on the nightstand.

Bechen suggests adding some of the details you'd find in a luxury hotel room. Put out a basket with sample sizes of good toiletries. Add a bouquet of fresh flowers and a basket of snacks. If you have space, create a small drink station on a dresser top or table. On a pretty tray, place a small coffee maker, a basket of tea bags and coffee, a few bottles of water, and some glasses and mugs. To complete the hotel feel, Bechen suggests making a little information binder about local sights and activities to help visitors get the most out of their time in your town. — AP



Photo shows a home office designed by Burnham of LA's Burnham Design.

Curves rule the Lagos catwalk

Karl Lagerfeld once sniffed that “no one wants to see curvy women” on the runway, but a wave of Nigerian designers are proving him wrong. The opening night of Lagos Fashion and Design Week on Wednesday featured five designers showcasing plus-size collections in a defiant celebration of all things curvy. “Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but if he was in Africa, he probably wouldn’t make that statement,” designer Aisha Abubakar Achonu said backstage.

Achonu, a regal 32-year-old with feline eyes, said that in Nigeria bigger can be better. “Our culture appreciates plus-size more than other parts of the world,” she said. “No woman should be subjected to looking a certain way.” Most seemed to agree. When the lights went up and the first plus-size model strode onto the runway wearing sunglasses, crimson lips and a ton of attitude, the crowd went wild. Unlike the hesitant, calf-like models before them, the curvy women owned the runway, blowing kisses to the cameras as they shimmied down the catwalk to hoots and cheers. Waiters in pressed white shirts lost their composure, hollering “mama” and whistling. “Oh. My. God,” said a thin woman in the audience with an Afro and gold hoop earrings. “Wow.”

Booming business

Model Olivia Emenike, who is a size 18, stands over six feet tall and counts curvy star Ashley Graham and reality tycoon Kim Kardashian as inspiration, says she felt “fabulous” on the runway and wouldn’t have it any other way. “I’ve never criticized my big bones or thick thighs. No one should feel ashamed of what they have,” said the 25-year-old. “I wanted to be part of this event and show that plus-size women are fashionable.” Plus-size

clothing is shedding its dowdy reputation as more big name stores including Target and Mango introduce larger lines.

US actress Melissa McCarthy introduced her own Seven7 brand after no one would make her a dress for the 2012 Academy Awards, with her manifesto declaring “clothes should flatter our bodies and not just try to cover us up.” Of course, it’s not just about looks: plus-size is big business too. Annual US sales of women’s plus-size clothing — 14 and higher — rose to \$20.4 billion in 2016, according to market research firm NPD Group. With studies showing that waistlines are starting to bulge in Africa too, designers are set to cash in on the growing demand for curvy clothes. “They see someone as big as me and look at



my dresses and say I can relate to that,” designer Makioba Olugbile said. Olugbile, who says she’s a proud size “Africa 16”, showed a dramatic black and white collection inspired by the moon “for how you want to look in the spotlight.” Her business is booming. “You can’t even imagine,” Olugbile said,



Models backstage at the Lagos Fashion & Design Week in Nigeria. — AFP photos

her eyes widening with excitement. “Now people are embracing plus-size.”

A movement is born

The enthusiasm was infectious backstage. “I saw some of them when they were walking, I was like-you go girls!” said 18-year-old model Aduke Shitta-Bey, wearing a white lace robe and her straight black hair in a high pony-tail. “Nigerians appreciate curvy girls, they say why are you so skinny? They say big is healthy, that’s Nigerian beauty.” The curvy collective was brought together by Latasha Ngwube, a 33-year-old former journalist and founder of About That Curvy Life, a lifestyle

website “aimed at inspiring and supporting the plus-size community”.

Ngwube started using the hashtag #AboutThatCurvyLife when she was attending fashion shows. Now her website has 15,000 visitors a week. A “movement” was born, Ngwube said. “It’s not just fashion, it’s body positivity, the freedom to just be allowed to want to be beautiful.” For Ngwube—and many others—curvy fashion is emancipation. “It’s my duty to educate people through the language of fashion,” Ngwube continued. “I think it’s just mission started, but for tonight we’ll take mission accomplished.” — AFP



Competitor performs at the 11th Zhengzhou China International Shaolin Wushu Festival in Zhengzhou. — AFP photos

Hard punches, soft power as China pushes kung fu fighting

ZHENGZHOU, CHINA: When top Dominican martial artist Shannah Robin arrived to train at the Shaolin Temple, the cradle of Chinese kung fu, it was on an expenses-paid trip courtesy of Beijing. His course was part of a lavish government effort to promote the range of fighting disciplines known as “wushu”, the Chinese word for martial arts-or kungfu in the West-and boost the country’s cultural influence. “The whole aim is to take Shaolin martial arts, or China’s wushu, out into the developing countries around the world,” Robin said on the sidelines of an international Wushu festival held in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou.

“Of course it has been my dream from since I was about eight years old to go to the Shaolin Temple.” The festival opened with a huge display at the 1,500-year-old Buddhist institution atop Song mountain, where monks once created elaborate fighting systems and worked as mercenaries. Hundreds of students in red t-shirts lined up to perform elaborate routines in unison, while fighters in gold body paint sparred before spectators.

Over four days of competition, entrants from five continents aged from six to 60 performed intricate acrobatic routines-sometimes involving weapons such as staves and swords. “What’s great about wushu is there are so many ways to do one thing,” said Deems Yee, a competitor from Panama. But he conceded that the discipline has travelled a long way from its martial origins since it was codified by the ruling Communist party in the 1950s. “It looks more now like a show than a martial art that’s applied like taekwondo or boxing.”

‘Soft power’

Wushu’s global sporting popularity pales before karate, judo and taekwondo, but state media reported this month that a “Wushu Cultural Industry Investment Fund” worth \$7 billion has been set up to run tournaments and promote it at home and abroad. Shaanxi province sports official Dong Li was cited as saying it was created “as a channel for China to increase its soft power”. The Chinese government’s development plan for the sport from

2016-2020 says that its aims include “increasing national confidence and boosting national cultural soft power”. The document, which is replete with political slogans such as “Implement the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping’s series of important talks,” also vows to secure the sport’s entry into the Olympics.

The Zhengzhou city sports administration’s deputy director Zhang Jiafu told AFP: “The party and government pays great attention to promoting our Shaolin to the world.” At the festival, many foreign enthusiasts said they encountered the sport through martial arts films featuring wushu experts such as Jet Li.

“First I looked at movies. Of course it was Bruce Lee movies,” said Masoud Jafari, one of some 70 Iranian competitors, who scooped several gold medals between them at the festival. He trained at Shaolin in the early 1990s and has watched his country emerge as a powerhouse of the sport. “Now we are second in the world after China,” said Jafari, whose life story is currently being made into the first Iranian-Chinese co-produced film. — AFP



Photos shows hikers in the northern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Wisconsin with fall colors starting to show in the trees.

Signs of the Ice Age in Wisconsin's Kettle Moraine

The directions I found online for following the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive in eastern Wisconsin seemed daunting. Go south two-tenths of a mile, then north 1.7 miles, then east 1.3 miles - on and on, with dozens of turns, for 115 miles. Adding to my trip-planning anxiety were road names like County ZZ and parenthetical instructions like "Past Old Plank Road Trail." How would I figure this out while driving around a place I'd never been? I not only can't read maps, I can't even follow verbal instructions from my GPS without getting lost. I called the Kettle Moraine State Forest headquarters and asked, "Isn't there an app for this route?"



Photo shows a prairie restoration project in the Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak Unit in Delafield, Wisconsin. — AP



Photo shows wildflowers growing near a sign for the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive in Wisconsin, in the northern unit area for the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

"Just stop at every intersection to look for the signs," a ranger told me. "You'll be fine." Her advice was spot-on. My two-day drive through the Kettle Moraine was wonderful and not at all confusing once I got behind the wheel. The Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive's green-and-white acorn-shaped signs are easy to spot, often tacked to plain wooden posts at the edge of a field where two country roads intersect. Some of the signs looked so picture-perfect - framed by wildflowers, snaking vines and tall grasses - that I stopped to

take a photo. Soon I was thrilled to be freed from the mess of paper maps littering my passenger seat. And it was liberating to shut off my bossy, often incomprehensible GPS device and the tyranny of Siri on my iPhone. Instead, those friendly old-school Kettle Moraine signs became my lodestars, making it easy to follow a meandering route through a rustic landscape of farms, forests, wetlands and prairie. This, I gradually remembered, was how we traveled before apps, GPS devices and websites, and it was a lovely way to enjoy fall scenery in an uncrowded, beautiful part of Wisconsin. It was also a nice contrast to a hectic few days I'd spent rushing around to visit must-sees elsewhere in the state - the Milwaukee art museum, the Madison farmers market, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin and more. My two-day tour of the Kettle Moraine - one day in the state forest's southern unit, another in the northern unit - did not include a list of places to check off.

Towering evergreens

All I did was experience the landscape, stopping dozens of times just to gaze at a lonely farmhouse or take a closer look at a colorful flower swaying in the breeze by the side of the road. I also took a half-dozen short hikes, enjoying places like the Scuppernong Trail near Eagle and the Parnell Observation Tower near Plymouth. I stood beneath towering evergreens, listened to the wind rustle tall stalks of wild grass and noticed how the color green was giving way to autumn's golds and reds in the woods and meadows.

I even learned a little bit about Ice Age geology. The Kettle Moraine's hills, woods, wetlands and prairies were formed thousands of years ago by the movement of glaciers. In addition to signs for the Kettle Moraine, when you drive through the area you'll also encounter signs for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, a 1,000-mile route located entirely within Wisconsin.

I'd never heard the terms esker or drumlin before visiting this region, but they're words that kept coming up in conversations about the Kettle Moraine, and now that I've seen these phenomenon, I understand what they are. On a trail at Butler Lake, just steps from the parking lot, I walked on an esker - a ridge formed by retreating glaciers, with steep slopes on either side of the path and a kettle lake, formed when soil covered a large piece of ice that eventually melted. And from the top of a tower at Lapham Peak, near Delafield, I watched a group of elementary school students identify drumlins in the landscape miles away, and found that I could spot them, too: They're hills that are flat on one side, smashed smooth by a glacial push. The Ice Age ended roughly 20,000 years ago. But here, in the Kettle Moraine, it's everywhere. All you have to do is look for the signs. — AP

Tourism overtakes dairy as New Zealand's top overseas earner



Tourists tour the Hobbit movie set near Matamata, New Zealand.-AP photos

In New Zealand there are twice as many cows as people, but it's the hobbits that are really making hay. According to figures released Wednesday, tourism has overtaken dairy as the nation's top earner of overseas dollars. And tourism officials say the success of the fantasy movie trilogy "The Hobbit" has helped.

The dairy industry is struggling to recover from a slump in prices, while a record 3.4 million visitors arrived in New Zealand in the year ending September. The Pacific nation is particularly popular among tourists from Australia, China and the US.

Spending by international tourists was up by 20 percent in the year ending March when compared with the previous year, according to Statistics New Zealand.

That follows a 17 percent rise the year before. Kevin Bowler, the chief executive of Tourism New Zealand, said people were drawn to New Zealand by its spectacular landscapes and its outdoor lifestyle. The hobbit movies showcased some of that scenery and were heavily marketed overseas.

"The result was a heck of a lot of interest in New Zealand," he said. One survey showed 16 percent of tourists cited the movies as influential in their initial interest in New Zealand. Directed by Peter Jackson, "The Hobbit" trilogy built on the success of his earlier, critically acclaimed trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings." The six movies earned a total of nearly \$6 billion at the box office. Bowler said planned increases in flights from the US and growing economies in Asia boded well for the future. The challenge, he said, would be providing enough accommodation and ensuring tourists can savor their individual experiences.



File photo cows stand in a pen before they are milked on a dairy farm near Carterton, New Zealand.

Tourism is booming

The industry got another boost this week when "Lonely Planet" named the relatively unknown Taranaki region as a place to visit in 2017. The travel guide noted an offbeat gallery there dedicated to the late artist Len Lye. John Matthews, who chairs the Len Lye Foundation, said he was "surprised and delighted" with the inclusion. But while tourism is booming, income from dairy products has fallen by 22 percent over the past two years, Statistics New Zealand says. Dairy farmer Jessie Chan-Dorman, who runs 950 cows on her farm near Christchurch, said most dairy farmers have been losing money in recent years as prices for milk powder have hit record lows.

That's due to softening demand in China for premium infant formula coupled with a glut in the worldwide supply. Prices have begun rising again but Chan-Dorman said she remains cautious about whether that will last. It will take several years for most farmers to recover their losses, but she said she hopes many built more resilient businesses as a result. Some farmers are cashing in on the tourism boom by offering home stays or hunting trips. New Zealanders have long been outnumbered by their farm animals. With a population of 4.7 million people, the nation is also home to 29 million sheep and 10 million cows. And zero hobbits, of course, unless you count those on the big screen. — AP



Tourists take photos during a tour of the Hobbit movie set near Matamata, New Zealand.



Explore the region of
Northern Italy
that's home to prosecco



The Palladian-style mansion of Villa Sandi, a winery in Italy's prosecco country. — AP photos



Photo shows Treviso in Northern Italy.

You know prosecco as the fruity Italian bubbly that's a fun and affordable way to celebrate the holidays as well as a bright accompaniment to a light meal. But this popular sparkling white drink can also be part of your vacation plans. Just like that other famous fizz, drink, it hails from a region that welcomes visitors who like to travel glass in hand.

From exploring hillside villages to strolling beside the tranquil canals of the city of Treviso, there's plenty to do, eat, see and sip in prosecco country. And since this is still a relatively undiscovered spot, prices aren't at the sky-high pitch of better-known places. Here are a few things to know before you go.

Where to go

Prosecco is made in two regions in Northern Italy—the Veneto, also home to Venice, and neighboring Friuli Venezia Giulia. The main city is Treviso, about a half-hour from Venice by train, an hour by car.

You can make this a day trip from Venice, renting a car, booking a trip through a touring company or hiring a guide and meeting at the rental car office. Here is one list of authorized guides. For longer stays, you can either make Treviso a jumping-off point for the surrounding country or plot a course from town to town. A popular trail is the Strada del Prosecco (prosecco route) which winds from the town of Conegliano to the village of Valdobbiadene.

In Treviso, Relais San Nicolo, close to the Treviso train station and Treviso Cathedral, is

comfortable and features unique, period furnishings. Rooms start at about \$100. Check out the wineries and restaurants you plan to visit, as they may have small guest houses attached (see Villa Sandi and Restaurant Parco Gambrinus below).

What to see

Treviso gets upstaged by grand dame Venice, but this city is worth at least an afternoon's stroll. Check out the Knight's Loggia on Via Martiri della Libertà, a 13th century building which still has the remains of frescoes on its walls. In the center of town you'll find the Piazza dei Signori, with its Palazzo dei Trecento (Palace of the 300), home to the municipal council. The building was bombed in World War II; a jagged scar on the restored wall bears testament.

In the palace loggia you'll find the remains of the Fontana delle Tette, a fountain made in the 16th century in the shape of a woman that, you guessed it, sprayed water from each breast. On special days, the fountain dispensed wine.

To see a replica (water only), head northwest on Piazza dei Signori, turn right on Vicolo Podesta and look for the statue to your left in the shopping arcade. It's tucked away in a small courtyard; you may need to ask for directions. Other attractions include the fish market, 22 Via Isola, open mornings except Sundays and Mondays. Also popular, taking a walk or bike ride along the tow path, known as the Resterà, that runs alongside the Sile River. In Treviso, Toni del Spin, 7 Via Inferiore,

is a tavern in the historic center serving traditional food with prices around \$25 for a meal excluding drinks. In Valdobbiadene the Salis Ristorante Enoteca, 52 Strada di Saccol, is set on a hillside with a great view of the vineyards of Cartizze, the premium grape-growing region of prosecco country.

Main courses start at around \$15. In San Polo di Piave, Restaurant Parco Gambrinus, Via Capitello 18, is known for its crayfish, which are served along with substantial bibs and written "commandments" on how best to enjoy them. Main courses start at around \$25. Rooms are also available in the adjacent inn, about \$100 for a double room. — AP



Photo shows a cluster of glera grapes growing in Italy's prosecco country.



Photo shows one of Treviso, Italy's many canals.

Ditch the dairy to make the most flavorful, creamy soup

By Sara Moulton

This time of year, with the weather getting colder, I love to serve soup for supper. It's an easy sell at my house, where The Husband is a soup-aholic. But with a soup this good, I firmly believe you can sell it to anyone. The trick is to amp up the flavor, vary the texture and make it substantial.

Here I started by roasting - not boiling - the cauliflower. Roasting eliminates excess water, brings the natural sugars to the fore and concentrates the flavors (adding some nuttiness in the process). Next, I make sure not to obscure the cauliflower's flavor with too many other ingredients. Yes, there is onion and garlic, but they play only supporting roles. Likewise, the stock, diluted with water, is designed not to overwhelm. The greens - because they're not pureed and not added until the very end - pack a satis-

fyng little punch of their own without compromising the cauliflower taste.

You may notice there's no dairy in this recipe. While it's true that dairy adds luxuriousness to a soup's texture, it also tends to blot out flavor, particularly delicate vegetable flavors. That's why I almost always leave it out.

Similarly, there's no flour or cornstarch here. This soup owes its rich thickness to the pureeing of some of the cauliflower, onion and garlic in the company of a lone Yukon Gold potato (for silkiness). I'd always rather thicken a soup by pureeing some of its ingredients than by adding flour or another starch. Starchy thickeners are distracting.

The right tool for pureeing a soup is a blender. Neither a food processor nor an immersion blender will make it quite as smooth. Just take care not to pack the blender with too much hot soup at

a time. Fill it no more than a third full for each batch, otherwise you may end up wearing it (and that can burn!).

At the end of the recipe, to provide some crunchy contrast to the creamy base, I added roasted cauliflower florets. Finally, there are those garlicky cheese rye toasts - Yum! - that contribute yet more crunch as well as big flavor, whether you tear them up and toss the pieces into the soup or happily munch them on the side. The finished product is a tasty, hearty, healthy and affordable soup for supper. And if you use vegetable broth, it's vegetarian, too. Either way, it's fully capable of standing on its own, or with just a small salad.



ROASTED CAULIFLOWER AND GREENS SOUP WITH CHEESY RYE TOASTS

Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour (35 minutes active)

Servings: 4

1 head cauliflower (about 2 -1/2 pounds)
3 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1 cup sliced yellow onion
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 medium Yukon Gold potato (about 3 to 4 ounces), thinly sliced
3 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
2 cups water
5 ounces baby greens (such as kale, spinach, arugula, mustard or a mix)
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Ground black pepper
4 slices rye bread
1 ounce grated Parmesan cheese

Preparation

Heat the oven to 450 F. Cut off and discard the tough bottom of the cauliflower stem. Separate 3 cups of small cauliflower florets (each about 1/2 inch in diameter) and set aside. Cut the rest of the cauliflower into 1-inch pieces, then mound them on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and sprinkle with about 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Toss well to coat, then spread in an even layer. Roast on the oven's middle shelf, stirring once or twice, until it is golden brown at the edges, 20 to 25 minutes. In a large saucepan over medium, heat 1 tablespoon of the remaining oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add the potato, the roasted cauliflower, the broth and water. Simmer the mixture until the potato is tender, about 15 minutes. While the soup is simmering, on the rimmed sheet pan, toss the reserved florets with 2 teaspoons of oil and about 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Roast until they are golden brown and tender, about 20 minutes.

Transfer the hot soup in small batches to a blender and blend until smooth. Return the soup to the saucepan, stir in the greens and simmer until they are wilted and tender, about 5 minutes. Add the roasted florets and cook for 1 minute. Add the lemon juice, then season with salt and pepper. Adjust the consistency, as desired, with an additional splash or two of water. Brush the rye bread with the remaining tablespoon of oil and toast on the oven's middle shelf until golden, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the toasts and return to the oven and bake for another 2 minutes. Ladle the soup into serving bowls and serve each portion with a toast. — AP

Sweet Cheese & Almond Dumplings:

A signature festive dish

By Sara Moulton

Basically, these are blintzes in wonton wrappers. The filling consists of ricotta, cream cheese, an egg, sugar and spritzes of lemon and vanilla, all combined with almond paste. If anyone in your home is allergic to nuts, just leave out the almond paste.

As noted, the filling is encased in wonton wrappers, which can be found alongside the grocer's Asian produce, or in the dairy or frozen foods sections. They're a great and versatile item, but they tend to dry out quickly. Be sure to always keep them covered in plastic wrap, unwrapping only a few at a time as you stuff them. This recipe won't require a whole package of wrappers. If you

carefully wrap and freeze the unused ones, they'll be good to go in a future recipe.

Shaping the wrappers into triangles is the only time-consuming part of this recipe. You want to be sure to seal the edges of each triangle tightly so the filling doesn't spill out into the hot oil. The glue is provided by the white of a single egg. If one of your triangles should happen to split as it fries, just lift it out gently, park it on the side until you've finished frying the sealed wontons, then give it another shot in the oil. Split triangles seem to reseal themselves as they rest.

As always with deep-frying, be sure that your pan is deep and filled with no more than 2 inches of oil, and that the temperature is maintained at 325 F. Also, don't crowd the pan with too many

wontons it'll make the temperature dip and you'll end up with soggy triangles.

The raspberry sauce is a speedy little delight made from defrosted frozen raspberries that are crushed, then flavored with a bit of sugar. You're welcome to swap in blueberries, strawberries, finely chopped peaches, or any of your favorite fruits. If you have the time and inclination to refine this part of the recipe, you can puree the berries, then put them through a sieve to remove the seeds before adding the sugar. Whatever you do, don't skip the sauce; it provides a tart balance to the sweet wontons.



FRIED SWEET CHEESE AND ALMOND DUMPLINGS

Ingredients

Start to finish: 1-1/2 hours
Makes about 36 wontons
1 cup thawed frozen raspberries
2 tablespoons plus 1 to 2 teaspoons sugar, divided
1-1/2 ounces almond paste
4 ounces cream cheese
1 cup whole milk ricotta cheese
1 large egg, separated
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Hefty pinch table salt
Cornstarch
36 square (3-inch) wonton wrappers
Vegetable or canola oil, for frying

Preparation

In a small bowl, use a fork to mash the raspberries, then stir in 1 to 2 teaspoons of the sugar, or to taste. Set aside. In a medium bowl, use a fork to mash the almond paste. Add half the cream cheese; mash until fairly smooth. Add the remaining cream cheese, the ricotta, remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar, the egg yolk, lemon zest, vanilla and salt; mix well. (There will still be small lumps of almond paste left in the mixture). In a small bowl, use a fork to beat the egg white. Line a baking sheet with kitchen parchment and sprinkle with cornstarch.

On a cutting board or work surface, arrange several wonton wrappers. Mound 2 level teaspoons of the filling in the middle of each wrapper, then use a pastry brush dipped in the egg white to moisten the edges of the wrappers. Fold one of the corners of each wrapper over the filling until it meets the opposing corner

and forms a filled triangle. Press the edges together to form a tight seal, then gently transfer the filled wrappers to the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

In large, deep saucepan over medium-high, heat 2 inches of oil to 325 F. When the oil is hot, use a slotted spoon to carefully lower 4 to 5 dumplings into the oil. Fry, carefully turning them several times, until golden brown, about 4 minutes. Use the slotted spoon to transfer them to paper towels to drain. Repeat with the remaining dumplings. When they are all cooked, you can return them briefly to the hot oil in batches, for about 15 seconds, to reheat before serving. Serve hot with the raspberry dipping sauce. — AP



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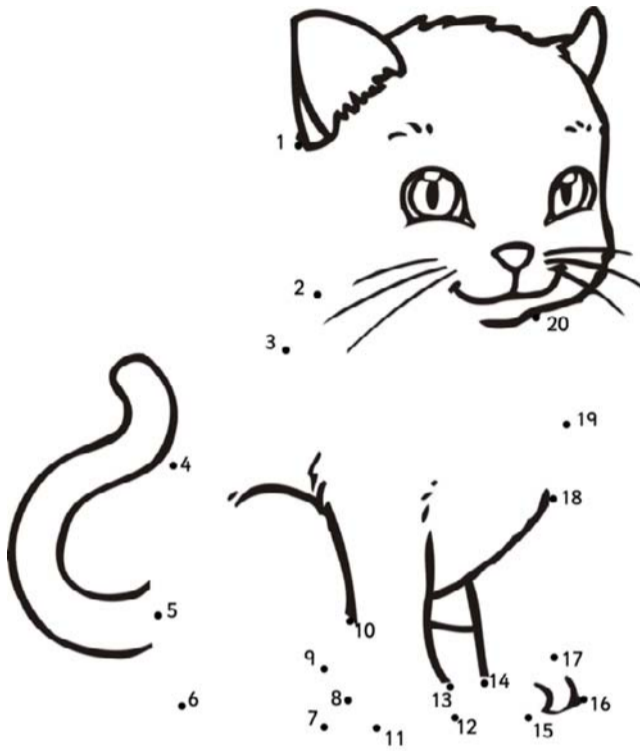
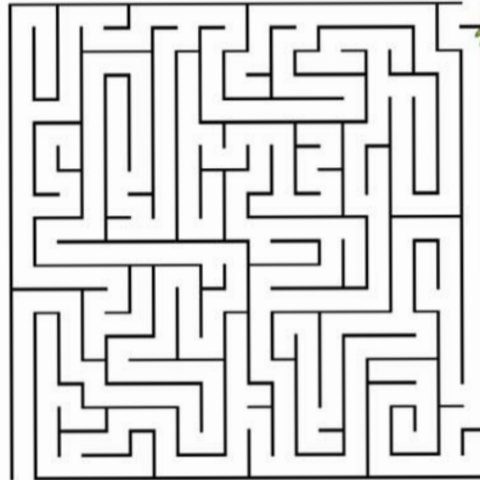
Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

Kids

Hungry Scarecrow!

Can you help the scarecrow find his way to the pumpkin patch?



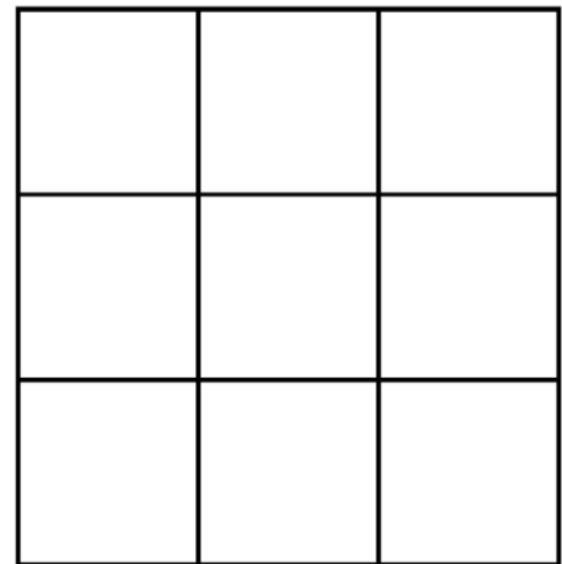
Draw a face and legs on the squirrel!



Ghostly Addition Square

Each ghost represents a number. The numbers in each row and column add to the number given. Can you work out the number each ghost represents? We have provided a blank grid to help you with our working out.

			= 30
			= 15
			= 18



= 18 = 21 = 24

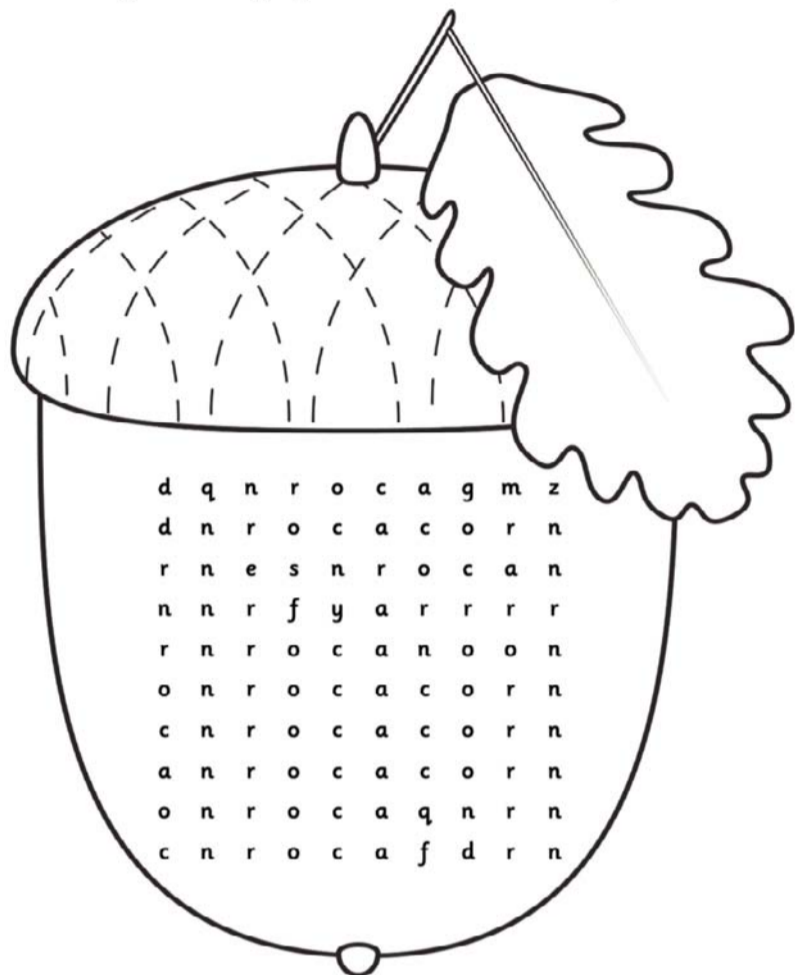
= = =



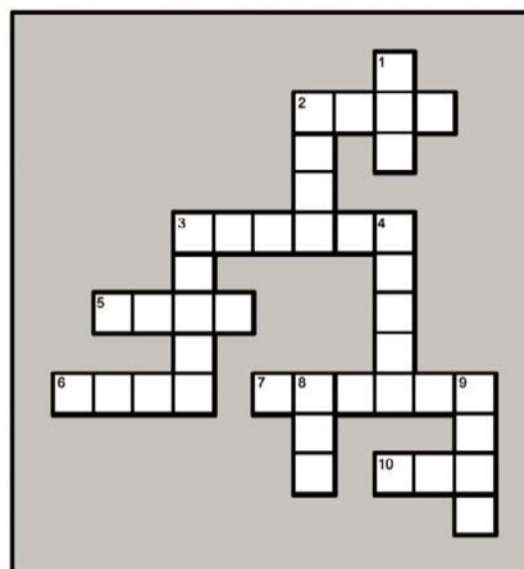


Count the Acorns

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



Seaside Crossword



Across

2. It may have a sail or oars
3. Perhaps you could collect water in this?
5. Watch him scurry down his hole
6. They swim in the sea and have scales and fins
7. She sells sea _____ on the sea-shore
10. I hope this is out for your holiday

Down

1. Carry your beach things in this
2. A good read!
3. The strip of sand along the sea shore
4. Dry yourself with this
8. Wear one of these to keep the sun off your head!
9. It feels funny under your toes

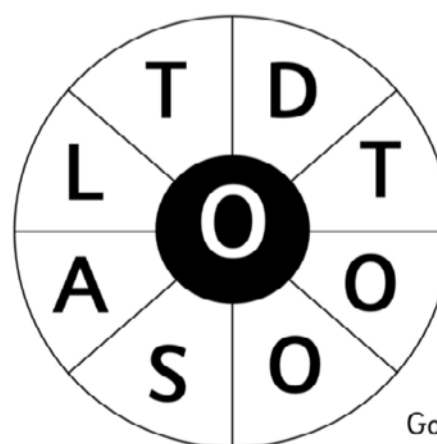
Witch Color by Number



Word Wheel Challenge

Your aim is to create as many words of 2 letters or more using the letters in the word wheel only once in each word, and always including the letter in the centre of the wheel. No proper names are allowed.

Can you find a 9 letter word? _____



Good 14+
Excellent 18+
Outstanding 22+

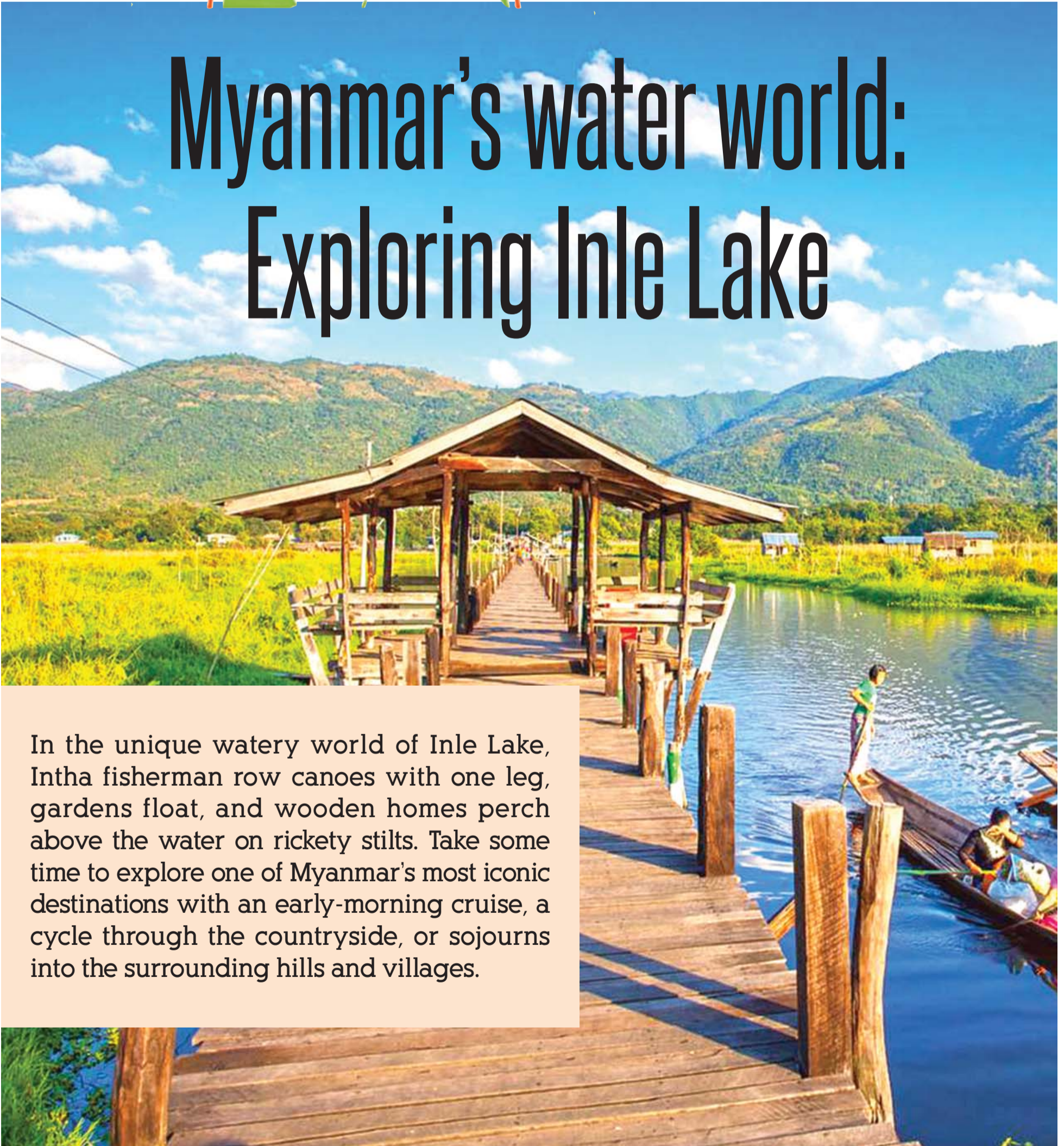
My Total: _____





Myanmar's water world: Exploring Inle Lake

In the unique watery world of Inle Lake, Intha fisherman row canoes with one leg, gardens float, and wooden homes perch above the water on rickety stilts. Take some time to explore one of Myanmar's most iconic destinations with an early-morning cruise, a cycle through the countryside, or sojourns into the surrounding hills and villages.





Take a boat trip

Getting out onto the water is naturally the most popular way to experience Inle Lake. Every morning a flotilla of slender wooden canoes fitted with long-tailed outboard motors surges forth, transporting visitors to various natural, cultural, religious and historic sites. Nyaungshwe, on the northern edge of the lake, is the base for setting out on motorboat trips - every hotel and guesthouse in town can help arrange one, or just wait for a boat captain to approach you in the street.

Trips can be tailored, but tours typically include visits to the famous sights in the northern part of the lake, such as Phaung Daw Oo Paya in Tha Ley, the Nga Hpe Kyaung (Jumping Cat Monastery) in Nga Phe village, and the floating gardens. Make sure to spend time observing the Intha fishermen (most photogenic at dawn) and their unique technique of rowing the boat with one leg while using both hands to fish. Other destinations further afield include villages Thauung Thut, Hmaw Be, and Samkar, and you can also include a visit to Inthein, where crumbing, hilltop pagodas look down on the water.

A standard day trip costs K15,000 to K18,000 (US\$12 to US\$15); or K20,000 with Inthein. The fee covers the entire boat; drivers will carry up to five passengers, who get padded seats and life jackets. Many trips start at dawn, when the light is great for photos. During the day it gets very hot: bring a hat, water and plenty of sunscreen. Sunset trips are also popular, although note it can get chilly on the lake. Most boats provide blankets but you may want a jacket or a wrap.

DIY cycling tour

Inle is not only about the water. It's also possible to explore the perimeter by bicycle and take in some beautiful Burmese countryside. Many sights are clustered around the lake, including hot springs and small villages.

Begin in Nyaungshwe, where bikes can be hired for around K1500 (US\$1.50) per day. Peddle west along an unpaved, bumpy road through farmland. Take a left at the T-junction and head south, following the mountains. After about 8km you will reach the Khaung Daing hot springs, where the water is piped into a series of swimming pools. A soak here costs adults US\$7, or US\$10 for a dip in a private pool.

Continue pedaling south until you reach Khaung Daing, an Intha village producing Shan State's famous tofu. Shan

tofu is made with split yellow pea flour, mixed with boiling and then poured into a mould to set. Thin tofu wafers are set out to dry, and you can enjoy a tofu thoke (tofu salad) for a few hundred kyat.

After lunch, hire a boat for K8000 (US\$6.50) to ferry you and your bike across the lake. You'll be deposited on the eastern side, where you can continue cycling north

through sugar cane plantations and small villages. As you near the north side of the lake you will see Red Mountain Estate winery to the east. Head up the hill for a magnificent view of Inle and the vineyards (you can also taste the wine for K3000). Continue around the north side of the lake, and head into Nyaungshwe before sunset as the roads are not lit.





Journey beyond the lake

It's well worth taking a day or two to travel beyond Inle's most easily accessible sights, or to visit one of the region's villages on market day. Taunggyi, about an hour from Nyaungshwe by pick-up truck, is the administrative capital of Shan State, with a number of historic churches and Burmese-style mosques, and a night market selling cheap-and-cheerful local treats.

Taunggyi is also one of the locations for a rustic market that rotates among about a dozen towns in the Inle Lake region. The market happens every five days (except when there's a full moon), drawing minorities down from the hills to trade livestock and produce. Other market towns include Maing Thauk, near Nyaungshwe; Thaug Thut, at the southern end of the

lake; Pindaya, home of the Shwe Oo Min Natural Cave Pagoda; and Inthein, where the market is popular for its sheer size and photogenic setting. Hotels and guesthouses can advise you where the market will be heading next.

Further afield (and also on the market circuit), about three hours by pick-up from the lake, is Kalaw, a former hill station surrounded by Buddhist pagodas, hilltop viewpoints and the peaceful villages of the Palaung, Danu, Pa-O, Taung Yo and Danaw peoples. Set in a gorgeous landscape of forest-capped hills, Kalaw is a top trekking destination, and the starting point for two- to four-day hikes all the way to Inle. Many restaurants in Kalaw serve food with distinctive Nepali and Indian flavours, thanks to the labourers who came to build the railroad during British rule.

Make it happen

The jumping-off point for Inle Lake is Nyaungshwe, but the town has no bus terminal or airport. If travelling to Inle Lake by air, you'll need to fly to Heho, about an hour away by car (taxi charge K25,000 - US\$20 - from the airport). If arriving by land, take any bus bound for Taunggyi and hop off in Shwenyaung, the junction leading to Nyaungshwe, from where thoun bein (tuk-tuk) drivers can take you the remaining 10km. There is a compulsory K12,500 (US\$10) fee to enter the Inle Lake area, which you must pay on arrival at the permit booth located by the bridge at the entrance to Nyaungshwe. Tickets are valid for one week, although you're unlikely to be asked to pay again if you stay longer.

— (www.lonelyplanet.com)





Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are tired of all the personal and political unrest and may finally decide to do something about it today. You might believe that the best place to start is to address a relationship issue directly. Unfortunately, your well-intended words could have a surprising impact, leaving you rattled and unsure of your next move. Go ahead and share your perspective, but avoid needless accusations and extreme solutions. Control what you can and confront what you can't.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The way you deal with necessities and obligations-health and work in particular-is in a state of transformation. Your job situation may change radically. Improvements are in the works. Environmental contaminants will not be a problem with your scrutiny. This could be a time for new accomplishments, during which insights and breakthroughs in organization are in order. Things are happening and your career or path depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong now. You are able to use good common sense and somehow you know just what, when and how to make all the right moves. You will get ahead by taking a positive action. There is a revolution within the established order of things today, when new ideas become clear.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It is possible that you could run into a snag or become blocked with a situation this morning. Your analytical abilities may come into play and any difficulties, blocks or hot spots that have been building lately can be easily worked through by this afternoon. People come to you because of your ability to mediate. Maybe you should charge for this service in-depth discussions and probing conversations find you successful and achievement oriented. You may begin to feel that this has turned out to be a very lucky day. You are feeling able to cope with whatever comes across your path. By the way, if you think alone in a quiet place, you will be able to see where a lost item has gone and you will be able to retrieve it this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

If you do not stop for a break or have a little refreshment from time to time, your day may result in frustration. Now that you know these things are possible, check your thinking and your patience and rise above the difficult. Test yourself and discover just how many negatives you can turn into positives. Now is the time to act, because it does not get easier if you let the moment slip away. You may find that both your personal growth and your career may depend upon how you can handle sensitive subjects that may be coming up soon. You will benefit from logical insights, getting to the heart of things. This afternoon you might go curtain shopping-there are lots of choices. Tonight you relax and enjoy some fun activity with or without company.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a low-cycle day, allowing you to revise some of your plans, straighten out problems and refurbish your energies. The day could work with you if you would just take a bit of time to relax: laugh, sing and find a friend to hug. Letting go of a relationship may be one of the most important steps you take this month. This is a particularly interesting time for you to plan new weekend visits with friends or relatives that you have not seen in a while. Perhaps they are out of town but not so far that your trip would be stressful. It might be fun to meet halfway and everyone go to some tourist attraction. You will find that you attract money today. You could receive an unexpected surprise regarding your neighborhood or a neighborhood acquaintance.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

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



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your career or life path, the way you make your living or get through life, is perhaps quite unique. Your approach to any problem is always original and you could invent things, discover new places or develop new ways of doing things. Communications, computers and the whole electronic revolution are perfect career choices for you. Close personal relationships are likely to undergo some testing; cement your ties to others with patience and tolerance. Make sure these relationships are rock-solid-because if they are not, they are apt to crack under stress. Fairness with and responsibility to the other people in your life are emphasized now. Strength is your byword, mentally and physically. You teach others to come from the truth through your actions.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will be able to be understanding and handle whatever unstable material may be found. If you are in the detective business, you are able to cut through the red tape and get at what is beneath and behind. If you are a tailor, you are a good one... Your customers give you a good recommendation, particularly for repairs. Recognition comes from higher-ups. There is good fortune and opportunities that open up very naturally-you find answers from a difficult situation, etc. There are plenty of professional situations that you might like to dive into-learn to pace yourself. Some of these opportunities may lead to travel and you will be considering travel the rest of the day. This is a good time in your life to add travel to your work agenda.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today is a great time to work with others. You may be the person that people depend on to put the finishing touches on a contract, talk to the contact people or just in general make most any piece of merchandise look like a most desirable product. This would mean that you do the advertisement or the sales work. You are unusually motivated in new and unexpected directions as new and innovative ideas bring a lot of attention your way. This next birth year will be financially rewarding. Use your time wisely by mapping out a plan for reaching your financial goals. Your own personality and character assets are working with you in whatever you would like to accomplish at this time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Communication of all kinds is enjoyable at this time. You may be ready to learn a language which is new and unusual to you. This could be in radio control, morse code, sign language or some other language that is something that you might like to learn. You have charge of your day, even if your job is to help senior citizens or preschool kids, you charge into your day with absolute joy and people of all ages love to be around you. Your thoughts count now-so use your mind and communicate. You gain new thoughts and sudden insights and you achieve an unexpected boost in the way you teach or help others. Tonight it is your turn to cook and you have a very special dish in mind. An eccentric friend makes you laugh this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have the mind of a lawyer, always able to size up a problem and come up with a solution. Using your mind to negotiate obstacles is something you like to do and you will often find yourself having a full day of counseling. How about you, have you learned to balance stress a stress-free life is not a reality-but balance can be obtained by knowing how to handle stress. You might live near a lake, a river or an ocean and find that there are times that can take a person's breath away when sailing or rowing around in the evening on the water. Enjoy a walk or sailing under the stars this evening-you might teach the constellations to a young person. Bills that you did not think were going to get paid will soon have a chance to get paid this month.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

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

COUNTRY CODES

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

BBC FIRST

04:25 Africa's Trees Of Life
 05:15 Gator Boys
 06:02 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger
 06:49 Wildest India
 07:36 Meet The Sloths
 08:25 Preposterous Pets
 09:15 Wildest India
 10:10 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger
 11:05 Tanked
 12:00 Preposterous Pets
 12:55 Bondi Vet
 13:50 Wildest India
 14:45 Gator Boys
 15:40 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger
 16:35 Tanked
 17:30 Africa's Trees Of Life
 18:25 Big Fish Man
 19:20 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
 20:15 Tanked
 21:10 Africa's Trees Of Life
 22:05 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert

COMEDY CENTRAL

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

Discovery CHANNEL HD

04:40 Fast N' Loud
 05:30 Garage Gold
 06:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
 06:30 How Do They Do It?
 07:00 You Have Been Warned
 07:50 X-Ray Mega Airport
 08:40 Magic Of Science
 09:05 Magic Of Science
 09:30 Railroad Australia
 10:20 Survive That!
 11:10 American Tarzan
 12:00 Driving Wild
 12:50 Extreme Car Hoarders
 13:40 Killing The Colorado
 15:20 Guy Martin: Wall Of Death
 16:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars
 16:35 How It's Made: Dream Cars
 17:00 You Have Been Warned
 17:50 You Have Been Warned
 18:40 You Have Been Warned
 22:00 Wheeler Dealers
 22:50 Guy Martin's Last Of The Vulcans
 00:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
 00:30 Killing The Colorado
 02:10 Wheeler Dealers
 03:00 Guy Martin's Last Of The Vulcans



04:15 The Hive
 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 05:10 Hank Zipzer
 05:35 Binny And The Ghost
 06:00 Violetta
 06:45 The Hive
 06:50 Mouk
 07:00 Jessie
 07:25 Jessie
 07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
 08:20 Disney Cookabout
 08:45 Bunk'd
 09:10 Austin & Ally
 09:35 Shake It Up
 10:00 A.N.T. Farm
 10:50 That's So Raven
 11:40 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 Geek Charming
 20:05 Best Friends Whenever
 20:30 Jessie
 20:55 Liv And Maddie
 21:20 Austin & Ally
 21:45 Backstage
 22:10 H2O: Just Add Water
 23:00 Binny And The Ghost
 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
 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



04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
 04:20 Calimero
 04:35 Zou
 04:45 Loopdidoo
 05:00 Art Attack
 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
 05:35 Calimero
 05:50 Zou
 06:00 Loopdidoo
 06:15 Art Attack
 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
 06:50 Calimero
 07:00 Zou
 07:20 Loopdidoo
 07:35 Art Attack
 08:00 The Hive
 08:10 Zou
 08:25 Loopdidoo
 08:40 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 09:05 Sofia The First
 09:30 PJ Masks
 09:40 Goldie & Bear
 09:55 Doc McStuffins

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



07:00 Boyster
 07:10 Super Matrak
 07:35 Super Matrak
 08:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
 08:25 K.C. Undercover
 08:50 The 7D
 09:00 Phineas And Ferb
 09:15 Danger Mouse
 09:40 Counterfeit Cat
 10:05 Future Worm
 10:10 Gravity Falls
 10:35 Lab Rats
 11:00 Supa Strikas
 11:50 Danger Mouse
 12:20 Annedroids
 12:45 Annedroids
 13:10 Counterfeit Cat
 13:35 K.C. Undercover
 14:00 K.C. Undercover
 14:30 Gravity Falls
 14:55 Lab Rats
 15:20 Lab Rats
 15:45 Phineas And Ferb
 16:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
 16:15 Supa Strikas
 16:40 Supa Strikas
 17:05 Lab Rats
 17:30 Danger Mouse
 17:55 Kirby Buckets
 18:25 K.C. Undercover
 18:50 Annedroids
 19:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 19:40 K.C. Undercover
 20:05 Future Worm
 20:10 Gravity Falls
 20:35 Counterfeit Cat
 21:00 Lab Rats
 21:25 Supa Strikas
 21:55 K.C. Undercover
 22:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 23:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
 23:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

19:45 Emmerdale
 20:45 Coronation Street
 21:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
 22:00 Catchphrase
 22:30 Royal Stories
 22:55 Victoria
 23:50 Emmerdale
 00:40 Coronation Street
 01:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 02:00 Catchphrase
 02:30 Emmerdale



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



04:40 Hollywood Cycle
 06:30 Celebrity Style Story
 07:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
 07:55 E! News
 08:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
 09:10 E! News
 10:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
 11:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
 13:00 E! News
 13:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
 15:05 Fashion Bloggers
 15:30 Catching Kelce
 16:00 E! News
 16:15 Catching Kelce
 17:45 E! News
 18:00 Catching Kelce
 20:00 E! News
 21:00 WAGs Miami
 22:00 Rob & Chyna
 00:00 E! News
 00:15 WAGs Miami
 01:05 Rob & Chyna
 02:50 E! News
 03:50 WAGs



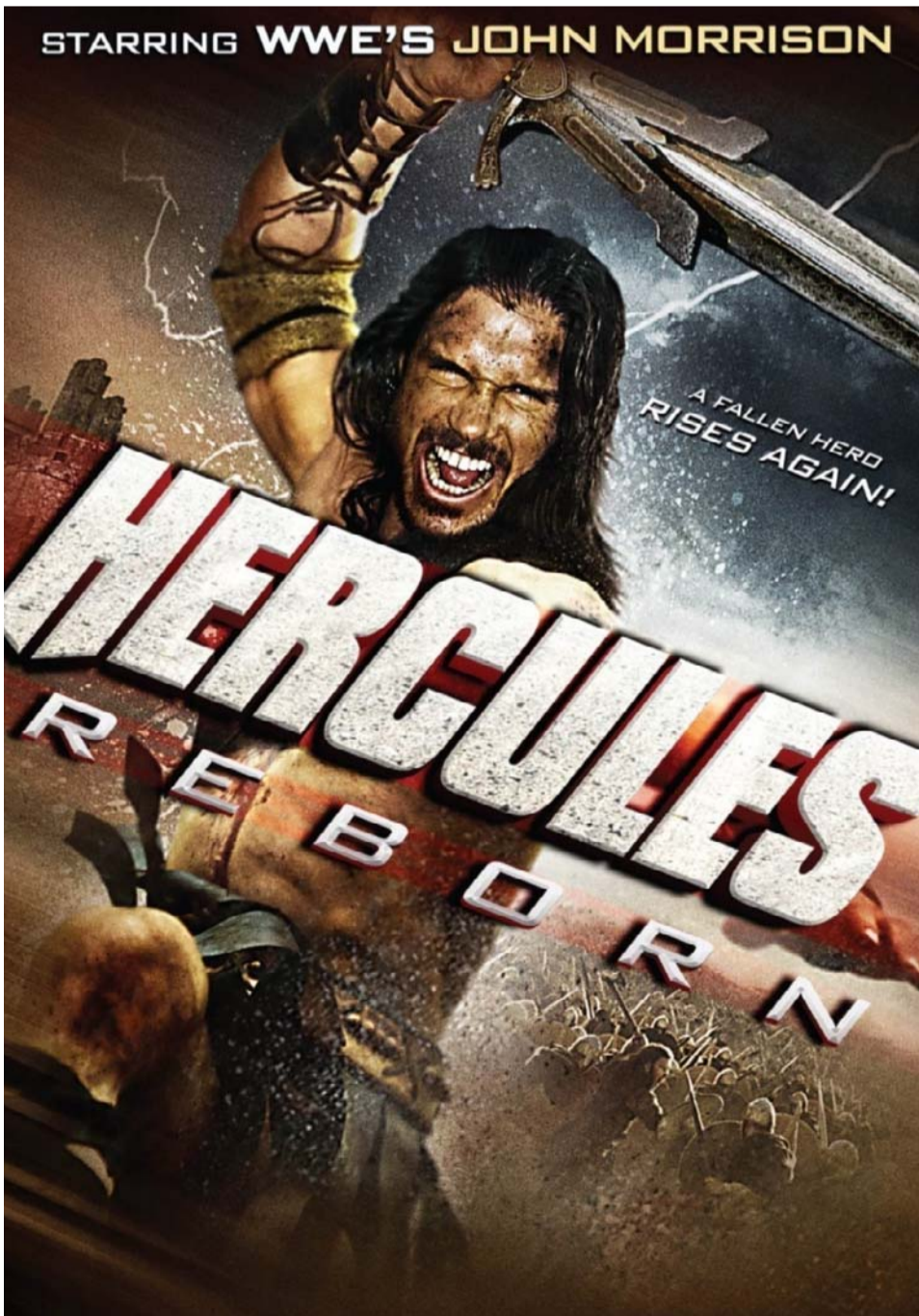
04:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
 05:20 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
 06:15 Home Fires
 07:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 08:05 The Chase
 09:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
 10:00 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
 11:00 Home Fires
 11:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 12:50 The Chase
 13:45 Emmerdale
 14:15 Emmerdale
 14:45 Coronation Street
 15:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 16:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
 17:00 Catchphrase
 17:30 Royal Stories
 17:55 Victoria
 18:50 Home Fires



04:45 Snakes In The City
 05:40 Man V. Cheetah
 06:35 Hyena Queen
 07:30 World's Deadliest Animals
 08:25 Snakes In The City
 09:20 Man V. Cheetah
 10:15 Animal Storm Squad
 11:10 South Africa
 12:05 Bandits Of Selous
 13:00 Squid vs. Whale
 13:55 Predator Battleground
 14:50 World's Deadliest Animals
 15:45 Snakes In The City
 16:40 Monster Jellyfish
 17:35 Animal ER
 18:30 Wild Congo
 19:25 Mission Critical
 20:20 Snakes In The City
 21:10 Monster Jellyfish
 22:00 Animal ER
 22:50 Wild Congo
 23:40 Mission Critical
 00:30 Squid vs. Whale
 01:20 Predator Battleground
 02:10 World's Deadliest Animals
 03:00 Wild Russia
 03:50 Wild Survivor



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



HERCULES REBORN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

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



THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART II ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 04:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 04:50 Ultimate Survival
- 05:40 How It's Made
- 06:05 How It's Made
- 06:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 07:20 Mythbusters
- 08:00 Kenny The Shark
- 08:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 08:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 09:40 How It's Made
- 10:05 How It's Made
- 10:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 11:20 Mythbusters
- 12:10 Bondi Vet
- 13:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 13:50 Ultimate Survival
- 14:40 How It's Made
- 15:05 How It's Made
- 15:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 16:20 Mythbusters
- 17:10 Kenny The Shark
- 17:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 18:00 The Big Brain Theory
- 18:50 Now That's Funny
- 19:40 Man v Expert
- 20:30 How It's Made
- 20:55 How It's Made
- 21:20 Mythbusters
- 22:10 The Big Brain Theory
- 23:00 Now That's Funny
- 23:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:40 Ultimate Survival
- 01:30 Man v Expert
- 02:20 The Big Brain Theory
- 03:10 Now That's Funny



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

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 05:00 Wrath
- 07:00 Unstoppable
- 08:45 Hercules Reborn
- 10:45 The Expendables 3
- 13:00 Jurassic Hunters
- 14:45 Unstoppable
- 16:30 Dragon Blade
- 18:45 The Expendables 3
- 21:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
- 23:00 Ironclad: Battle For Blood
- 01:00 Child's Play 3
- 03:00 Jersey Shore Shark Attack

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 04:00 Ernest Goes To Camp
- 06:00 Monsters University
- 08:00 The Princess And The Frog
- 10:00 Dunston Checks In
- 12:00 Inspector Gadget
- 14:00 The Game Plan
- 16:00 Big Fat Liar
- 18:00 College Road Trip
- 20:00 Oz The Great And Powerful
- 22:15 White Fang
- 00:15 Big Fat Liar
- 02:00 Oz The Great And Powerful

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 04:45 Insurgent
- 07:00 Chloe And Theo
- 10:00 Minions
- 12:00 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- 14:30 Far From The Madding Crowd
- 16:45 Everest
- 19:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
- 22:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
- 00:15 Mad Max: Fury Road
- 02:30 The Curse Of Downers Grove

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 05:15 Passed Away
- 07:00 Just Married
- 09:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 11:00 Passed Away
- 13:00 Pixels
- 15:00 My Girl 2
- 17:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 19:00 Ghostbusters
- 21:00 Cooties
- 23:00 Horrible Bosses 2
- 01:00 The Right Kind Of Wrong
- 03:00 Ghostbusters

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 05:00 Testament Of Youth
- 07:30 Late Bloomers
- 09:30 The Horse Whisperer
- 12:45 The Guardian
- 15:30 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
- 18:00 Beyond The Edge
- 20:00 The Railway Man
- 22:00 Nixon
- 01:15 Breaking And Entering
- 03:30 Beyond The Edge

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 05:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 07:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- 08:45 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
- 10:15 Delhi Safari
- 12:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 13:30 Blackie And Kanuto
- 15:15 Gladiators Of Rome
- 17:00 Barnyard
- 19:00 Delhi Safari
- 21:00 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 22:45 Gladiators Of Rome
- 00:30 Barnyard
- 02:15 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
- 03:45 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 04:15 Oliver's Deal
- 06:00 The Silent Mountain
- 08:00 First Response
- 10:00 Odd Thomas
- 12:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 14:00 Red Wing
- 16:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine
- 18:00 Odd Thomas
- 20:00 Draft Day
- 22:00 Nightcrawler
- 00:00 Twice Born
- 02:15 Every Thing Will Be Fine

OSN MOVIES PREMIERE

- 05:15 Shadow Witness
- 07:00 Stonehearst Asylum
- 09:00 Step Up Revolution
- 11:00 Hello Carter
- 13:00 Interstellar
- 15:00 Step Up Revolution
- 18:00 The Judge
- 20:30 Paper Towns
- 22:30 Lila & Eve

- 00:30 Mistress America
- 02:30 Step Up Revolution



- Discovery Science HD
- 04:00 The Science Of Fear And Lust
- 04:48 Ways To Save The Planet
- 05:36 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 06:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 06:24 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 The Science Of Fear And Lust
- 10:50 How Do They Do It?
- 11:14 Food Factory
- 11:38 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 12:02 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 12:26 Ways To Save The Planet
- 13:14 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 14:02 How Do They Do It?
- 14:26 Food Factory
- 14:50 The Science Of Fear And Lust
- 15:38 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 16:02 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 16:26 Ways To Save The Planet
- 17:14 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 18:02 The Science Of Fear And Lust
- 18:50 Ways To Save The Planet
- 19:40 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 20:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 21:20 How Do They Do It?
- 21:45 Food Factory
- 22:10 Superhuman Showdown
- 23:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 00:40 Ways To Save The Planet
- 01:30 How Do They Do It?
- 01:55 Food Factory
- 02:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 03:10 NASA's Greatest Missions



- 04:35 Oprah's Master Class
- 05:20 Little People, Big World: Conquering Mount St...
- 06:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 07:00 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
- 07:50 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
- 08:40 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
- 09:30 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 10:20 7 Little Johnstons
- 10:45 7 Little Johnstons

- 12:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 13:30 Trophy Wife
- 14:00 George Lopez
- 14:30 Community
- 18:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 19:00 Superstore
- 19:30 The Goldbergs
- 20:00 The Goldbergs
- 20:30 New Girl
- 21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 23:00 The Detour
- 23:30 The Detour
- 00:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



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



- 04:15 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 04:40 Shark Wranglers
- 05:30 American Restoration
- 06:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 07:00 Leepu And Pitbull
- 07:50 Leepu And Pitbull
- 08:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 09:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 09:30 Counting Cars
- 09:55 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
- 10:45 American Restoration
- 11:10 American Restoration
- 11:35 Shipping Wars
- 12:00 Shipping Wars
- 12:25 Car Hunters
- 12:50 Car Hunters
- 13:15 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 14:05 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 14:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 15:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 15:45 Time Team
- 16:35 Counting Cars
- 17:00 Car Hunters
- 17:25 Car Hunters
- 17:50 American Restoration
- 18:15 American Restoration
- 18:40 Shipping Wars
- 19:05 Shipping Wars
- 19:30 Pawn Stars
- 19:55 Storage Wars
- 20:20 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 05:00 Trophy Wife
- 05:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 06:30 George Lopez
- 07:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 07:30 Community
- 08:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 09:00 Trophy Wife
- 09:30 George Lopez
- 11:30 Community



HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

Word Search Puzzles

90's Songs 1

Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| ALL STAR | HOLE HEARTED | MY ALL | SOMEDAY |
| ALWAYS | I WISH | NEVER EVER | SUMMERTIME |
| BLACK VELVET | I ESHA | ONLY YOU | TENNESSEE |
| CARNIVAL | INVISIBLE MAN | PUSH | THA CROSSROADS |
| COME UNDONE | JOYRIDE | RHYTHM NATION | THE ONE |
| DO ANYTHING | JUMP | ROAM | TOM'S DINER |
| EVERY HEARTBEAT | LITHIUM | ROMANTIC | TORN |
| FREAK ME | LOSER | RUN AWAY | VOGUE |
| GLYCERINE | MACARENA | RUSH RUSH | WICKED GAME |
| HAZARD | MMMBOP | SCAR TISSUE | WONDER |
| HEARTBREAKER | MOVE THIS | SENSITIVITY | YOU LEARN |
| HEY LOVER | MR. WENDAL | SHOOP | |

Yesterday's Solution

Fourth Of July

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 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 | | |

The hidden quote is: THOSE WHO DENY FREEDOM TO OTHERS, DESERVE IT NOT FOR THEMSELVES

CROSSWORD 1413

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15				16							17		
18				19		20					21		
22			23		24					25	26		
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69				70			71	72		73			
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78				79	80	81					82		
83				84								85	

ACROSS

- An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
- A clam that is usually steamed in the shell.
- Pan with a convex bottom.
- Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- A needle-like part or structure of a plant or animal or crystal.
- South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
- Large high frilly cap with a full crown.
- The capital and principal port of Tunisia.
- Liquid containing proteins and electrolytes including the liquid in blood plasma and interstitial fluid.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- Functioning correctly and ready for action.
- Seizure of a vehicle in transit either to rob it or divert it to an alternate destination.
- A state in northwestern North America.
- A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
- The 8th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
- Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality.
- Emblem usually consisting of a rectangular piece of cloth of distinctive design.
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
- English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
- American novelist (1909-1955).
- The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- Of or relating to a creed.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- A quantity of no importance.
- Largest known toad species.

- Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
- Sweet dark purple plum.
- Hungarian composer and piano virtuoso (1811-1886).
- An oral antibiotic (trade name Cipro) used against serious bacterial infections of the skin or respiratory tract of urinary tract or bones or joints.
- A Japanese cheer of enthusiasm or triumph.
- Powerfully or vigorously.
- The compass point midway between northeast and east.
- A category in some early taxonomies.
- Mature female of mammals of which the male is called 'buck'.
- The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A kiln used to reduce naturally occurring forms of calcium carbonate to lime.
- The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.

DOWN

- Tropical American tree having edible fruit with a leathery rind.
- 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
- A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
- Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
- Tropical fruit with a rough brownish skin and very sweet brownish pulp.
- A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
- After a negative statement used as an intensive meaning something like 'likewise' or 'also'.
- Sharpness of vision.
- Tough Asiatic grass whose culms are used for ropes and baskets.
- English essayist (1775-1834).
- A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.
- Misery resulting from affliction.
- English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
- Czech novelist who wrote in German about a nightmarish world of isolated and troubled individuals (1883-1924).
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- Widely distributed low-growing Eurasian herb having narrow leaves and inconspicuous green flowers.
- To fix or set securely or deeply.
- Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
- One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- A city in northern India.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage brewed from malt and hops.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Slanting diagonally across the grain of a fabric.
- The sound of sheep or goats (or any sound resembling this) v 1.
- An island of central Hawaii.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- A unit of weight used in Asia.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Extinct order of jawless vertebrates.
- Declare or acknowledge to be true.
- Empty rhetoric or insincere or exaggerated talk.
- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- A city in western Germany near the Dutch and Belgian borders.
- Of great mass.
- Widely distributed lichens usually having a grayish or yellow pendulous freely branched thallus.
- (trademark) An acrylic fiber or the lightweight crease-resistant fabric made with Orlon yarns.
- English poet (1880-1958).
- Great in vertical dimension.
- In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
- Not final or absolute.
- Being one more than two.
- United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
- A metric unit of weight equal to one thousandth of a kilogram.
- A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.

Daily SuDoku

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Yesterday's Solution

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Yesterday's Solution

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SANOFI PARTNERS WITH BRAZIL TO ACCELERATE ZIKA VACCINE WORK

BRAZIL: Sanofi has struck a collaboration deal with a leading Brazilian research institute to speed development of a Zika vaccine, consolidating the French drugmaker's position in the race to defeat the mosquito-borne virus. The deal with the Fiocruz public health centre follows a tie-up in July between Sanofi and a US Army research institute, which gave the drugmaker access to one of the furthest advanced vaccines in development.

Sanofi said yesterday that all three research organizations would now work together to "increase the likelihood of successfully developing and licensing a safe and effective Zika vaccine as quickly as possible". The French company has taken pole position among major drugmakers in Zika vaccine research, reflecting its expertise in developing shots against other so-called flaviviruses, such as yellow fever, dengue and Japanese encephalitis.

Global public health emergency

In February, the World Health Organization declared a global public health emergency because of Zika's apparent link to microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small heads and serious developmental problems. That has galvanized efforts to speed up vaccine development. If all goes well, some experts believe a vaccine could come to market in as little as two years. "It only makes sense for the pursuit of public health that we combine our expertise and resources on Zika with Fiocruz, which is ideally based in Brazil where the heart of the current Zika experience lies," said John Shiver, senior vice president for research at Sanofi's vaccines unit. Fiocruz scientists are expected to help in areas such as pre-clinical and clinical studies, as well as vaccine process development and other technical matters. Even if the current outbreaks in Latin America and the Caribbean burn out by the time a vaccine is ready for deployment, people living in those regions are expected to want protection against a return of Zika.

Tens of millions of travelers from the United States and other wealthy nations could also be in line to get vaccines before visiting areas at risk. Japan's Takeda Pharmaceutical announced last month it was also joining the effort to develop a Zika vaccine, after receiving funding from BARDA, a US government agency that is also backing Sanofi's efforts. —Reuters

BID TO SPEED TRANSPLANTS WITH HEPATITIS C-INFECTED KIDNEYS STRATEGY WILL SAVE LIVES

WASHINGTON: Some patients facing a years-long wait for a kidney transplant are jumping ahead in line thanks to a startling experiment: They're agreeing to an organ almost sure to infect them with hepatitis C.

Knowingly transmitting a dangerous virus may sound drastic but two leading transplant centers are betting the strategy will save lives - if new medications that promise to cure hepatitis C allow use of organs that today go to waste.

Pilot studies are under way at the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University to test transplanting kidneys from deceased donors with hepatitis C into recipients who don't already have that virus. If the research eventually pans out, hundreds more kidneys - and maybe some hearts and lungs, too - could be transplanted every year. "We always dreaded hepatitis C," said Dr. Peter Reese, a Penn kidney specialist who is helping lead the research. "But now hepatitis C is just a different disease," enough to consider what he calls the tradeoff of getting a new kidney years faster but one that comes with a hopefully treatable infection.

Tradeoff

It's a tradeoff prompted by the nation's organ shortage. More than 99,000 people are on the national kidney waiting list but only about 17,000 people a year get a transplant and 4 percent a year die waiting, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). "If we had enough organs, we wouldn't do this," said Dr. Niraj Desai, who is leading the Hopkins study. But, "most patients are pretty open to the idea once they hear what the



EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA: In this photo taken Oct. 13, 2016, Irma Hendricks poses for a portrait with her grandson, C.J., at her home. Hendricks received a kidney transplant from a donor with hepatitis C, and took medications after surgery that cleared away the virus and left her feeling healthy again. —AP

alternatives are." Doctors had told Irma Hendricks, 66, to expect at least a five-year wait for a kidney transplant. Dialysis three times a week was keeping the East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, woman alive but left her with no energy for even routine activities. "I call it the zombie syndrome," she said.

So she jumped at the chance to enroll in Penn's study, even though doctors made clear they hoped for but couldn't

guarantee a hepatitis cure.

"My son said, 'Mom, this is a no-brainer. Just do it,'" Hendricks said. She swallowed an anti-hepatitis pill daily for three months, in addition to the usual post-transplant medications. Testing showed the drugs rapidly cleared hepatitis C out of her bloodstream. And with her new kidney functioning well, she now has enough energy to play with her toddler grandson. —AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT NEWS IN THE ARABIAN WORLD

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (27/10/2016 TO 02/11/2016)

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Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

BRITAIN ESCAPES BREXIT HIT, GETS NISSAN BOOST



Food staples back in Venezuelan markets, but who can afford it?

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RIYADH: Saudi Finance Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf (right) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde arrive for a press conference following a meeting with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) finance ministers in the Saudi capital yesterday. —AFP

OIL-RICH GULF FACES ECONOMIC STRAIN

IMF, US TREASURY CHIEFS VISIT GULF AMID OIL PRICE SLOWDOWN

DUBAI: Oil-rich Gulf countries face further economic strain as crude prices remain low, requiring them to cut back spending and raise money other ways, the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the US Treasury have said in recent visits to the region. Both IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew traveled to Saudi Arabia to speak to the kingdom's rulers, as well as other officials of a regional bloc called the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The nations face increasing strains on their petroleum-powered budgets. Oil prices, above \$100 a barrel in mid-2014, have been halved since and now trade under \$50. That's forced countries in the region to abandon or slow construction projects, cut salaries and benefits and combine government ventures. On Wednesday, Lagarde said more needs to be done in Gulf countries, including lifting expensive government subsidies on fuel and starting a region-wide value-added tax. While every country in the region has cut back some on fuel subsidies, Lagarde warned that prices

remain too artificially low. The region-wide value-added tax also likely remains years away from being implemented.

"The reforms that the GCC countries have been implementing over the past year in response to the decline in oil prices are impressive," Lagarde said in prepared remarks. "Continued fiscal adjustment will be needed over the medium term." Lew yesterday said the challenges provide an opportunity for the GCC "to diversify its economy, expand opportunities for your people and widen the financial base in order to make available additional resources to meet growing development needs." Lew also applauded efforts by Gulf countries to cut funding to militant groups.

US 9/11 law

A United States law allowing victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks to sue Saudi Arabia could have "serious implications" for shared US-Gulf interests, a top Obama administration official said yesterday. US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew made the comments at

the opening of a meeting with finance ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, whose most powerful member is Saudi Arabia. The US Congress voted overwhelmingly in September to override President Barack Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA).

Fifteen of the 19 Al-Qaeda hijackers who carried out the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people were Saudi, but Riyadh denies any ties to the plotters. JASTA allows attack survivors and relatives of terrorism victims to pursue cases against foreign governments in US federal court and to demand compensation if those governments are proven to bear some responsibility for attacks on US soil. Lew said JASTA "would enact broad changes in long-standing international law regarding sovereign immunity that, if applied globally, could have serious implications for our shared interests."

He said the Obama administration has proven its determination to hold people responsible when they commit "horrendous acts", but "there are ways to do that without

undermining important international legal principles." In opposing the law, Obama said it would harm US interests by opening up the US to private lawsuits over its military missions abroad. Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies have also expressed concern about erosion of sovereign immunity, a principle sacrosanct in international relations. But the potential implications go far beyond the Gulf.

Some British, French and Dutch lawmakers have threatened retaliatory legislation to allow their courts to pursue US officials, threatening a global legal domino effect. Riyadh and Washington have a decades-old relationship based on the exchange of American security for Saudi oil. Lew later met King Salman to discuss economic and financial cooperation between the region and the US, the official Saudi Press Agency said. Global oil prices have fallen by roughly half over the past two years, forcing crude-exporting Gulf states to raise local energy prices, control public sector wages, and reduce capital spending in response to fallen revenues. —Agencies



YANGON: Myanmar vendors sell chicken in a market in Yangon yesterday. — AFP

ASIAN MARKETS DOWN

ENERGY FIRMS STRUGGLING AFTER ANOTHER SELL-OFF

HONG KONG: Most Asian markets turned lower for a second day yesterday, with energy firms struggling after another sell-off in oil fuelled by concerns about a planned output cut. Crude prices are slumbering at three-month lows after OPEC member Iraq and non-member Russia suggested this week they would not take part in any limitations, despite a painful global supply glut. Their comments have raised questions about the viability of last month's agreement by oil cartel OPEC to reduce output, that had sent prices soaring. While edging up slightly yesterday, both main contracts have tumbled more than three percent this

week and news that US stockpiles had fallen more than expected last week was unable to provide much support.

"Iraqi demands to join the list of countries exempted from quotas have simply added to the uncertainty" that an output cut can be implemented, Research firm Capital Economics said in a commentary. "We have long been skeptical of the chances of a game-changing deal and continue to forecast that both Brent and WTI will end the year back at around \$45 per barrel." Regional energy firms extended recent losses. Hong Kong-listed CNOOC sank 2.7 percent, with traders also selling on the back of a weak earnings report.

PetroChina lost two percent in Hong Kong, while Sydney-listed Woodside Petroleum was 1.5 percent off and Santos lost two percent.

Samsung profits dive

Among regional markets Tokyo ended down 0.3 percent after closing Wednesday at a six-month high. Japanese IT firm Fujitsu was the standout performer, soaring almost eight percent on news it was in talks to merge its struggling PC unit with Chinese computer giant Lenovo. Shanghai closed down 0.1 percent, Sydney slipped 1.2 percent and Hong Kong shed 0.8 percent-extending a one percent loss Wednesday. Seoul, however, added 0.5 percent, boosted by a pick-up in market heavyweight Samsung Electronics.

The firm confirmed a 30 percent plunge in third-quarter operating profit linked to its Galaxy Note 7 crisis but later announced its heir apparent JY Lee had joined the board, putting him a step towards control of the family-run conglomerate. Lee Chaiwon, chief investment officer at Korea Value Asset Management said JY's bigger role should provide a much-needed boost to the beleaguered company, saying it "will become more market-friendly and will "quicken its restructuring process". The dollar rose against its main peers and other high-yielding currencies as a preliminary survey showing the key US services sector expanded in October reinforced expectations the Federal Reserve will lift interest rates before the end of the year. — AFP

BARCLAYS BANK TAKES £600M HIT OVER INSURANCE MIS-SELL

LONDON: British bank Barclays yesterday said it had set aside an extra £600 million (\$733 million, 672 million euros) to compensate customers mis-sold insurance, a day after rival Lloyds gave a similar update. Barclays said the additional funds needed to cover costs linked to the long-running payment protection insurance (PPI) scandal contributed to it posting almost flat net profit of £414 million for the third quarter. In 2011, British banks lost a high court appeal against tighter regulation of PPI, which provides insurance for consumers should they fail to meet repayments on a credit product such as consumer

loans, mortgages or payment cards.

PPI became controversial after it was revealed that many customers had been sold it without understanding that the cost was being added to their loan repayments. British authorities subsequently banned simultaneous sales of PPI and credit products. To date, British lenders have been forced to set aside around £31 billion to cover PPI compensation costs. The worst affected bank is Lloyds, which on Wednesday said it was setting aside another £1.0 billion for PPI claims and bringing its total cost alone to £17 billion, far higher than any other bank. — AFP

GOLD INCHES HIGHER MARKET SEEKS DIRECTION ON US INTEREST RATES

LONDON: Gold rose marginally yesterday, on track to end the week barely changed as the market waited for more signs about the timing of an expected US interest rate rise from the Federal Reserve. Higher interest rates lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets and boost the dollar, in which gold is priced. Spot gold was up 0.2 percent at \$1,269.21 an ounce by 1130 GMT while US gold futures rose by a similar margin to \$1,269.70 per ounce. It has traded in a roughly \$16 range over the last week. "Trading is really tight. We are in a wait-and-see mode until the next Fed meeting or US elections. We are probably going to trade like this until something substantial happens," Capital Economics commodities economist Simona Gambarini said.

Gold is also often seen as an alternative investment during times of political and financial uncertainty such as the US Presidential elections in November. Bets that the Fed will hike rates have driven the dollar to nine-month highs against a basket of currencies this week and limited gains in gold, which is priced in the US currency. The dollar index was flat yesterday. Higher physical demand from India, the world's second-biggest consumer of gold, is helping prices stay afloat and preventing a selloff ahead of an expected interest rate rise in December, analysts say. Festivals in India, such as Diwali and Dhanteras when gold is traditionally given as gifts, are approaching.

"Physical demand from Asia continues to underpin the market at present, with gold continuing to consolidate for the time being between \$1,250-75," MKS PAMP Group trader Sam Laughlin said. SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, said its holdings fell 1.49 percent to 942.59 tons on Wednesday. The market will look to third-quarter UK GDP data and data from the US later in the day for the latest economic signals. Silver was up 0.6 percent at \$17.69 an ounce, while platinum gained 0.3 percent to \$965. Platinum rose to an over two-week high of \$970.80 on Wednesday. Palladium was flat at \$621.10 per ounce. — Reuters

OIL UP OVER \$50

LONDON: Oil edged above \$50 a barrel yesterday as a further drop in US crude inventories countered investor doubts that OPEC will be able to implement a production cut. Crude inventories posted an unexpected drop of 553,000 barrels last week, and stocks of gasoline and distillates fell more than expected, raising hopes that a long-awaited market rebalancing is finally under way. Brent crude was up 37 cents at \$50.35 a barrel as of 1034 GMT, after falling in the last three days. US crude gained 23 cents to \$49.41. "The global stock overhang must be reduced in order to see higher prices. Whilst such reduction is largely in the hand of OPEC, the rebalancing is already taking place in the US," Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM said.

The market was keeping an eye on escalating protests in Venezuela against the rule of President Nicolas Maduro, although there was no sign of any impact on the OPEC member's oil output. Venezuelan production has been falling this year as low prices hit investment. Doubts about the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' supply cut deal weighed on the market. "The problem of the oversupply will not resolve itself," Commerzbank said. "What will continue to dictate the price will be whether OPEC actually takes counteraction in the form of production cuts - yet there are growing doubts that it will."

OPEC agreed last month its first deal to restrain output in eight years to boost prices. But Iraq on Sunday called for Baghdad to be exempt, adding to the list of members seeking special treatment. A technical meeting at OPEC's headquarters today, and with officials from non-OPEC countries on Saturday, is supposed to come up with recommendations on how to implement the supply cutback to the oil ministers' next meeting on Nov 30. The OPEC plan is designed to speed up the removal of a supply glut that is keeping oil prices at less than half their level of mid-2014, cutting exporters' income and leading to investment cuts by oil companies worldwide. — Reuters



CEUTA: People carry bundles as they cross the El Tarajal border, separating Morocco and Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta yesterday. — AFP

SPANISH JOBLESS RATE DROPS TO LOWEST IN NEARLY 7 YEARS

UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS TO 18.9% IN Q3

MADRID: A record summer for tourism helped push Spanish unemployment down to its lowest in nearly seven years, though the still hefty 18.9 percent level puts Spain's incoming government under pressure to extend the recovery with further reforms. Hiring in the services sector in the third quarter pulled down the jobless rate, data from the National Statistics Institute (INE) showed on Thursday, exceeding economists' expectations.

Cementing the turnaround will be a major priority for politicians expected to finally form a government after a 10-month delay on Saturday, following a deep recession that caused mass layoffs. The number of unemployed still stands at 4.3 million, and the jobless rate is the second highest in Europe after Greece. Labor policy is expected to be the source of big clashes between right and left-wing forces, who will struggle to pass laws in a fragmented parliament.

Mariano Rajoy, leader of the conservative People's Party (PP), is set to return to power this weekend, but his party no longer enjoys an absolute majority. He urged the opposition on Thursday not to try to reverse reforms pushed through when he was last in power, as the Socialist party and anti-austerity Podemos ("We Can") have said they will. A job market overhaul from 2012 which reduced the cost of hiring and firing is credited by economists with helping the labor turnaround, but is unpopular with

many unions and workers. "Undoing the political and economic reforms passed in the last term will not be good for Spain ... that does not mean sensible changes cannot be made," Rajoy told lawmakers.

Temporary hiring

Politicians agree Spain's employers are still overly reliant on short-term hires. Some want a one-size-fits all contract system while others want to reinforce labour inspections to crack down on fraud. The jobs spurt in the third quarter was almost entirely fuelled by temporary hires, chiming with the seasonal recruitment usually driven by restaurants, hotels and resorts during the summer months. The percentage of temporary staff hit almost 27 percent, its highest level since the end of 2008, INE said. That trend could persist in the months ahead, some analysts warned, even as seasonal hiring linked to the tourism boom ends. "Firms could pursue more cautious investment and employment plans in the face of lingering political mess and a widening spectrum of risks triggered by the fallout of the Brexit vote," IHS Global Insight analyst Raj Badiani said in a note.

Company lobby group CEOE welcome the fall in the unemployment rate in the third quarter, but called on leaders to do more. The number of unemployed fell by 253,900 people in the third quarter from the previous three months, or

by 5.5 percent, INE said, a slightly slower fall than the one registered in the same period a year ago. But job creation was stronger quarter-on-quarter than in the same period in 2015, rising 1.24 percent or by 226,500 in July to September, from the previous three months. — Reuters

FRENCH NUCLEAR PROBLEMS SHAKE THE POWER MARKET, BOOST PRICES

FRANKFURT: Deepening setbacks to France's nuclear reactors have shaken confidence in Europe's wholesale electricity markets as traders push winter prices to new highs in anticipation of fresh outages and tight supply. The month-long rally intensified this week after French nuclear safety watchdog ASN warned its sprawling probe into forged quality control reports on reactor parts would turn up more irregularities. This leaves traders guessing as to how many more reactors could be shut.

The scale of forced closures in nuclear power-reliant France 19 reactors offline and 12 more due to shut - is the biggest since the Fukushima disaster in 2011 crippled Japan's entire nuclear sector. It has driven mid-term prices higher and posed questions about the sustainability of long-term supply in Europe as France drains surrounding countries' output via five large power interconnectors. "Overall, I would expect a tight fourth quarter where high prices will stay in place, especially if the weather is cold," said Giacomo Masato, research analyst at brokerage Murex Spectron.

However, he tied price moves to weather patterns, as long cold periods amplify demand whereas wind and sunshine levels play a big role in deciding supply availability from renewable plants. "Weather, both wind generation and electricity demand, will determine the scale of the impact but the market is currently pricing in the risk of a cold or average winter," said James Cox of consultancy Poyry. Traders said other fuels that interact with power such as coal, oil, gas and EU carbon emissions respond to different drivers and were only partially bullish because of the French nuclear situation.

"Panic plays a great role today but the question is how many people are really still short," said a German trader. "Maybe the rallies were exaggerated and will collapse when the winter weather turns out warmer." But concerns are adding up. On Tuesday, a delayed restart at the Civaux-2, Dampiere-3 and Gravelines-2 plants added to nervousness as much as a French government decision to maintain a mechanism under which main utility EDF must sell supply cheaply to rivals. Apart from facilitating speculative re-selling into the tight market, this also stirs more demand. "EDF is in the market to buy to supply to others," one trader said. In addition, there have been more irregularities detected at EDF reactor Gravelines 5. French wholesale 2017 power prices hit a contract high of 45.6 euros per megawatt hour (MWh) yesterday amid gains on coming weeks and months. "Would France stop all the faulty nuclear plants in case it means shutting down factories in the country and have people freezing?" asked one trader. — Reuters

OIL PRICE DROP OFFERS CHANCE TO EXPAND MIDEAST BUSINESS

DUBAI: Dutch bank ING Group is aiming to expand its business in the Middle East where it sees greater demand for bank finance and advisory work after the slump in oil prices, its regional chief executive said. ING has already added several new senior staff in Dubai including Serge Rahman as head of wholesale banking in the region, and Howard Lambert as head of corporate clients. They will aim to tap business in areas like mergers and acquisitions, green finance and commodity, currency and interest rate hedging. Gerald Walker, chief executive of ING in the UK, Ireland and the Middle East, said he hoped that the region, where ING has had a presence since 1978, would contribute a larger proportion of the group's revenues in the coming years, without elaborating.

"There is change as a consequence of the oil price dip and there is consequently a greater role for private finance in this region," Walker told Reuters in an interview. "You see a need for cost constraint across the region, which will

drive decisions." He said this opened up opportunities for ING in finance, divestment of or investment in assets, or helping companies hedge currencies, commodities or interest rates. Last November, for example, ING was among banks that helped to arrange Commercial Bank of Dubai's \$400 million five year bond. More than two years of sluggish oil prices have already led to consolidation among companies in the region as well as fundraising by companies and governments.

National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank announced a planned merger in June and Saudi Arabia has just conducted the largest-ever emerging market bond sale, selling \$17.5 billion of debt in its first international offer. Companies in the region with international business have also been hit by volatility in currency markets. ING "sat on its hands" in the region in the wake of Dubai's debt crisis and in some cases worked through some quite severe problems with its clients, Walker said. — Reuters

CHINESE RIDE-SHARE KING DIDI COULD GO GLOBAL

LAGUNA BEACH: Fresh from forcing Uber to back down in China, ride-sharing king Didi Chuxing plans to put what it knows to work in other parts of the world. "We aspire to be a global company; we think it's our mission," Didi Chuxing president Jean Liu said at a WSJD Live global technology conference that ended Wednesday in Laguna Beach, California. "We feel the expertise and knowledge we build in China can benefit other markets." Didi would like to collaborate with local ride-sharing companies where possible, but will consider launching its own operations in places where such services do not exist, she said. Liu maintained that Didi has good partnerships with Lyft and Uber in the US market.

Didi, which claims almost 90 percent of the China ride-hailing market, announced the tie-

up with Uber nearly three months ago, ending a ferocious battle for market share that saw it and Uber spending billions of dollars on subsidies for drivers and passengers. The structure of the agreement leaves Didi in unquestioned control of the sector in the world's second-largest economy. The transaction gave Uber a 20 percent share in the combined \$35 billion firm. Earlier this year Uber said it had lost \$1 billion annually in China, and Didi was thought to be losing similar amounts of money. Didi lists among its investors Apple and Chinese internet titans Alibaba and Tencent.

Driving data

Liu said that Didi provides 20 million rides daily, three times that of all other ride-sharing

companies in the world combined. Matching such an incredible number of drivers and riders at a rapid-fire pace has made Didi a data company, according to Liu. Didi software mines mountains of data to get to know drivers and passengers, and to anticipate where rides will be needed, she said.

Didi expected having a rich trove of driving data to analyze will also help in adapting to the inexorable introduction of self-driving cars for ride sharing, by helping teach software to handle the roads as people do. Lyft co-founder and president John Zimmer said at WSJD Live that all was well with a partnership made with Didi late last year, before that company's alliance with US arch-rival Uber. "We continue to find ways to work together," Zimmer said during an onstage chat at WSJD

Live. "We have this 'Modern Family' situation with all different relationships," he added. In an apparent reference to a US television comedy series.

For now, Zimmer said, Lyft is focused on the US market and exploring the potential for using autonomous cars in ride sharing. Lyft has a partnership with General Motors on autonomous vehicles. Zimmer has gone on record with his belief in a coming "transportation revolution" stemming from a shift to self-driving cars, and that by 2025 "private car ownership will all but end in major US cities." Uber recently launched driverless cars for its ride-sharing services in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and major automakers and technology firms are racing to be part of the movement. — AFP

FOOD STAPLES BACK IN VENEZUELAN MARKETS, BUT WHO CAN AFFORD IT?

PRICE FOR HALF A KILO OF RED BEANS HITS \$6.40

CARACAS: Food staples like rice and milk are returning to the empty shelves of Venezuelan supermarkets after a long absence but who can afford those eye-popping prices? Delia Mendoza's eyes widen when she realizes that the price for half a kilo of red beans is 4,211 bolivars, or \$6.40 at the highest official exchange rate. This in a country where the monthly minimum wage is around \$100. "Incredible!" she gasps, and returns the beans—a staple of Venezuelan cuisine—to the shelf.

In recent months, the leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro has begun to relax its price control system, allowing food sales at market prices in several Venezuelan states and, to a limited degree, in the capital Caracas. That is a sea change for a country where strict price controls had been imposed since 2003 — a lynchpin of the socialist "revolution" launched by Maduro's late predecessor and mentor, the iconic president Hugo Chavez. "In a way, the government has turned a blind eye to this with all the regulations they have implemented," said Asdrubal Oliveros, head of Ecoanalitica consultants.

"This has allowed many companies, many importers to start bringing in products, and those products are being sold at black market prices." Many economists blame the scarcity on the strict price controls, together with tight currency exchange limits and Venezuela's overdependence on its vast oil reserves, which has made it rely on imports for goods it once made at home. Lacking easy access to greenbacks, businesses are starved for US dollars needed to buy supplies and equipment available only abroad. Now that the price control system is crumbling, Venezuelan businessmen are starting to bring in imports again—but at a high price.

\$17 cooking oil

"There is plenty, but everything is super expensive and imported because nothing is made here," said Mendoza, a 75 year-old retiree, speaking at a supermarket in a posh Caracas neighborhood. "Before, I'd eat a large plate of spaghetti, but now I go for half so that it will last two days," she said. Venezuela is paying a heavy price for neglecting agribusiness and food produc-



CARACAS: People wait outside a state-owned popular market after doing the shopping at the San Jose shantytown in Caracas. — AFP

tion over the years to concentrate on petroleum, the source of 96 percent of its foreign currency. With global oil prices in a slump, the country's economy is in a tailspin and inflation is out of control. The IMF predicts that Venezuela's inflation rate, already the world's highest, will reach 475 percent by year's end—and with no changes, a whopping 1,660 percent in 2017.

The cash-strapped government has even increased the price of household items in government-subsidized markets, which in any case are hard to find. The stores lucky enough to sell imported products like sugar, rice and cooking oil set their prices at the black market rate—where US dollars go for twice the official exchange rate—to recover their investment. At these prices, 500 grams of Italian pasta costs 4,000 bolivars (\$6), a dozen eggs can cost \$3, while a liter of cooking oil costs \$17. While a liter of milk in Costa Rica costs \$1.50, that same product costs nearly \$4 when imported to Venezuela.

Wanted: Food

Regular Venezuelans struggle every day just to find food, much of which is unavailable at any price. A woman named Judith stands in line for long hours at a government-subsidized market, where a bag of beans costs 280 bolivars (\$0.40) when it's even available.

"The problem is that we can't find anything," she says. Judith certainly doesn't make enough to buy food from black-market vendors known as "bachaqueros," who resell scarce products with gargantuan markups, sometimes 40 times the original price.

A family food basket at black market prices can cost nearly 160,000 bolivars (\$242 at the official rate) according to the firm Hinterlaces—or nearly 360,000 (\$535) according to a different group, the Center of Documentation and Analysis. "Sometimes we have nothing to eat, we go hungry because there's nothing," said another shopper, Edith, who stood in line alongside her husband Edward.— AFP

AUSTRALIA RICHEST WOMAN UPS BID FOR CATTLE EMPIRE

SYDNEY: Australian mining magnate Gina Rinehart on Thursday increased her joint offer with a Chinese company for one of the world's biggest cattle estates, to fend off a rival bid by an all-Australian consortium. Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting and Chinese property developer Shanghai CRED raised their offer to Aus\$386.5 million (US\$295 million) from Aus\$365 million for Australia's biggest private landowner-cattle firm S Kidman and Co-days after four wealthy grazier families launched their own Aus\$386 million bid.

The local families had argued their proposal was better as it did not need approval from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB). While the Kidman sale has attracted keen interest from Chinese firms wanting to secure the sprawling pastoral empire, the government has previously rejected two Chinese-led bids, citing the national interest.

The Rinehart-led bid was supported by Kidman's board, which "unanimously recommended" it to their shareholders in the absence of a superior proposal. "Under the Hancock (joint venture) offer the core Kidman business will remain intact and the Kidman staff and legacy will be looked after," Kidman chairman John Crosby said in a statement. Rinehart, Australia's richest woman, also pledged to buy Kidman fully if the Australian-Chinese joint offer—in which Hancock acquires 67 percent of Kidman and Shanghai CRED 33 percent—was knocked back by Canberra or Beijing.

"I stand behind the bid and should FIRB or PRC (China) approvals not be achieved, then Hancock will proceed with the acquisition on a 100 percent basis," Rinehart said in a statement. "I hope this provides shareholders with significant comfort and that when they consider the offer they can do so in the knowledge that there is no FIRB or PRC execution risk, and further that we have the money to invest to properly maintain the stations and their hard-working staff." Shanghai CRED was part of a Chinese consortium involved in the previous offers. The Chinese stake in the new joint bid, if approved, would be significantly smaller than before.

The first Chinese-led bid was rejected last November because the holdings included Anna Creek station, a rocket testing range, which was later removed from sale with Canberra citing its sensitive location. The Australian-Chinese bid will be partly funded by the sale of Anna Creek. Kidman, founded in 1899, holds around 1.3 percent of Australia's total land area, and 2.5 percent of the nation's agricultural land. It is currently 33.9 percent foreign-owned. There has been growing concern in Australia about the purchase of local infrastructure and land by foreign interests. — AFP

BELGIUM BREAKS THE DEADLOCK OVER EU-CANADA TRADE PACT

BRUSSELS: Belgium agreed a deal with its regional parliaments yesterday to approve a landmark EU-Canada free trade agreement, breaking a deadlock that has blocked the pact for weeks. Prime Minister Charles Michel said the heads of the regions had drawn up an addendum to the agreement that answered their concerns over the rights of farmers and governments - an addendum that still needs the approval of Canada and other EU states. Canada called the announcement a "positive development", a cautious welcome echoed by European Council President Donald Tusk, who chairs EU leaders' summits.

But both stopped short of declaring the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a done deal. "Only once all procedures are finalized for EU signing CETA, will I contact (Canadian) PM @JustinTrudeau," Tusk said in a tweet. All 28 EU governments back CETA, which supporters say could increase trade by 20 percent, but Belgium had been prevented from giving its consent because of objections led by its French-speaking Wallonia region. Wallonia, along with the capital Brussels and Belgium's grouping of French speakers, had opposed the deal for weeks, saying it was bad for Europe's farmers and gave too much power to global corporate interests. Belgium's Prime Minister Michel did not give detail yesterday on how Wallonia's concerns had been allayed in the addendum. But the premier of the Flemish region, Geert Bourgeois, said the original 1,598-page text of the trade deal stood. "This is a clarification, the actual treaty does not change," he said. Failure to strike a deal with such a like-minded country as Canada would have called into question the EU's ability to forge other deals and damage credibility already battered by Britain's vote to leave the bloc and disputes over the migration crisis. Canada's trade minister Chrystia Freeland, who walked out of talks in Walloon capital Namur last Friday, had asked, if the EU could not do a deal with Canada, who could it do a deal with. "I'm sorry for all other Europeans and our Canadian partners that they had to wait, but what we managed to get here is important not just for Wallonia but for all of Europe," said Paul Magette, Socialist premier of the Walloon region who has led opposition to the deal. —Reuters

BRITAIN ESCAPES BREXIT HIT, GETS NISSAN BOOST

GDP SLOWS ONLY MODERATELY, BEATING FORECASTS

LONDON: Britain's economy slowed only slightly in the three months after the Brexit vote and carmaker Nissan said it would build more cars in the country, tempering fears about the immediate economic impact of the decision to leave the European Union. The stronger-than-expected growth figures published yesterday further diminished the likelihood of the Bank of England cutting rates as soon as next week, prompting investors to sell British government bonds. But finance minister Philip Hammond sounded cautious, saying he still planned to provide support for the economy as Britain launches tough negotiations with the EU next year.

"I think it is right that we still prepare to support the economy during the coming period to make sure that we get through this period of uncertainty," said Hammond, who is due to announce his first budget plans next month. Official data showed the economy grew by 0.5 percent between July and September, less rapid than the strong growth of 0.7 percent seen in the second quarter but comfortably above a median forecast of 0.3 percent in a Reuters poll of economists. Sterling jumped to a one-week high against the US dollar after the data and the yield on 10-year government bonds hit its highest level since the European Union membership referendum.

Marc Ostwald, a strategist at ADM Investor Services, said the GDP data killed the chance of a rate cut on Nov. 3 and could also prompt the Bank's most stimulus-sceptical policymaker Kristin Forbes to call for an end to its bond-buying. Britain's dominant services industries provided all the growth, helped by a boom in the film and television sector as the latest releases in the Jason Bourne and Star Trek series hit the screens in July along with other blockbusters. Compared with the third quarter of last year, growth picked up to 2.3 percent, the strongest pace in more than a year, according to the preliminary figures from the ONS.

'Come clean'

Brexit supporters said the figures backed their argument that warnings of a big hit to the economy from a Leave vote were little more than scaremongering. Economists for Brexit, a group who disagree with the majority view in their profession that leaving the EU is damaging, said Britain's finance ministry "must now come clean" and admit that its long-term forecasting was likely to be wrong, just as its short-term forecasts were. But many economists are still warning that the real challenge is yet to come. "The adverse consequences of the Brexit vote will become increasingly clear as inflation shoots up and firms

postpone investment over the coming quarters," said Samuel Tombs of Pantheon Macroeconomics, who correctly predicted the quarterly growth rate in the Reuters poll.

The sharp fall in the value of the pound since June is expected to push inflation to around 3 percent next year. BoE Governor Mark Carney this week noted the "fairly substantial" fall in sterling, in a sign that the Bank was no longer expecting to cut rates on Nov 3. Many companies are expected to put investment plans on hold pending the outcome of the two-year process of negotiating Britain's exit from the EU and a possibly longer period for securing the terms of its new relationship with the bloc. But Japanese carmaker Nissan gave Prime Minister Theresa May a boost by saying it will build its new Qashqai model in Britain. A source said yesterday the government had offered support to counter any damage from leaving the EU. The new investment in manufacturing came as the ONS data showed how reliant Britain has become on its services sector, which grew by 0.8 percent from the April-June period. By contrast, industrial production, including manufacturing, and construction both contracted, down 0.4 percent and 1.4 percent respectively. The fall in construction was the biggest since the third quarter of 2012. — Reuters

TATA SHARES FALL ON EX-CHIEF'S \$18 BILLION WRITE-DOWN CLAIM



MUMBAI: India's Tata Group's interim Chairman Ratan Tata (2nd left) leaves Bombay House, the company's head office, in Mumbai. — AFP

MUMBAI: Shares in Tata companies fell yesterday after the Indian giant's ousted chairman Cyrus Mistry warned it may face \$18 billion in asset write-downs and accused directors of wrongfully dismissing him. Tata Motors and Tata Power were down nearly three per cent each, while Tata Steel was nearly two per cent lower in early trade on the Bombay Stock Exchange after details of the email to the holding company's board emerged. In the email, Mistry said India's largest conglomerate may face 1.18 trillion rupees (\$18 billion) in write-downs because of unprofitable businesses he inherited when he took over the job in 2012.

Mistry was the first head of the multinational from outside the Tata family and the group, founded under British colonial rule in 1868, hit headwinds during his time in charge with lacklustre performances at several companies. In his email, a copy of which AFP has seen, Mistry cited the steel arm of the sprawling \$100-billion conglomerate, which is struggling to offload its loss-making British assets, as well as its carmaking business which has long been plagued by weak sales.

He said the small, cheap Nano car spearheaded by the company's leader of 21 years, Ratan Tata, should be scrapped because it was unprofitable. "As there is no line of sight to profitability for the Nano, any turnaround strategy for the company requires to shut it down," Mistry wrote. "Emotional reasons alone have kept us away from this crucial deci-

sion." Tata said on Monday it was replacing Mistry as its chairman after four years, in a surprise announcement. It said the 78-year-old Ratan Tata had been appointed interim chairman until a successor could be found.

Mistry, in his email, said he was trying to turn things around at the group, but found himself in the position of a "lame duck chairman". "I cannot believe that I was removed on grounds of non-performance. I hope you do realize the predicament I found myself in. "Being pushed to the position of a lame duck chairman, my desire was to create an institutional framework for effective future governance of the group," he wrote. Responding to Mistry's claims yesterday, the conglomerate told the Bombay Stock Exchange its financial statements represented a "true and fair view" of the state of affairs.

Mistry succeeded Ratan Tata in December 2012 after being announced as its heir more than a year earlier. He is related to the famous Indian family through his sister's marriage. 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, 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. — AFP

TATA



MUMBAI: An Indian motorist rides past signage of a Tata Motor's showroom in Mumbai. Industrialist Ratan Tata sensationally returned to the helm of India's biggest conglomerate on October 24 as Tata Sons dumped Cyrus Mistry as chairman in a shock announcement that stunned analysts. — AFP

RUSSIAN GRANDMASTER AIMS TO DETHRONE CHESS KING CARLSEN

MOSCOW: Sitting next to an ornate chess board in his home outside Moscow, 26-year-old Russian grandmaster Sergei Karyakin lowers his gaze as he ponders how to beat reigning world champion Magnus Carlsen. "He has to prove that he's better than me," Karyakin said. "If he tries too hard, I can beat him on the counterattack. That's my plan." Next month Karyakin will have his stab at dethroning Carlsen, 25, in New York as he takes on the Norwegian phenomenon in a 600,000-euro (\$668,000) match some are hyping as a clash between East and West that echoes the Cold War.

The showdown, the youngest ever by cumulative age, has drawn parallels with the 1972 world championship

match between American grandmaster Bobby Fischer and Soviet star Boris Spassky as it comes during another surge in tensions: this time over Ukraine and Syria. "We want to bring back the chess fever of the Fischer-Spassky era," Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, the Russian president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE), told reporters in Moscow. "Back then it was the USSR versus the US, and now it's the European Union and the US and their sanctions against Russia."

From Ukraine to Russia

For Karyakin the geopolitics surrounding the match could have a special dimension. Born on the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, he grew up play-

ing for Ukraine until he moved to Moscow seven years ago and took Russian citizenship. But despite supporting Moscow's takeover of his home region from Ukraine in 2014, he dismisses any comparisons with the Spassky-Fischer clash and insists it's all just a matter of sporting pride.

"I don't see the same kind of rivalry," said Karyakin, who shied from discussing politics further. "But of course we all want to show that our chess school is stronger." Ranked ninth in the world, Karyakin qualified for the world championship in March by upsetting third-ranked Fabiano Caruana of the United States at the Candidates' Tournament in Moscow. The youngest grandmaster in history at the age of 12

years and seven months, Karyakin was a stronger player than Carlsen as a child but now admits that he is the clear underdog against an opponent he says has "practically no weaknesses". Carlsen has lost only two of 27 games against Karyakin since late 2007. The pair have known each other for while-sparring together over the board-and Karyakin jokes they enjoy "diplomatic relations" and sometimes talk by Skype. And while Carlsen has enjoyed the backing from some major names in the West including Microsoft, Karyakin's path has been a little more circuitous. "He had strong support," Karyakin said of his opponent. "He could train with Garry Kasparov and other top world chess players. He had it easier than I did." — AFP



CLEVELAND: Roberto Perez #55 of the Cleveland Indians throws the ball after forcing out Willson Contreras #40 of the Chicago Cubs at home plate during the seventh inning in Game Two of the 2016 World Series at Progressive Field on October 26, 2016. — AFP

CUBS RIP INDIANS 5-1 TO LEVEL WORLD SERIES

CLEVELAND: Chicago's Jake Arrieta was almost unhittable and the middle of the Cubs lineup delivered at the plate in a 5-1 Game Two win over the Cleveland Indians on Wednesday which leveled the best-of-seven World Series. Dazzling Cy Young winner Arrieta used his repertoire of fastballs, cutters, sinkers and sliders to baffle the Indians as he threw 5-1/3 innings of no-hit ball before Jason Kipnis doubled with one out in the sixth.

While Cubs manager Joe Maddon hailed his "great stuff", Arrieta said he had focused on throwing with less effort. "I wanted to come out and pitch my game. I tried not to pitch with over-effort, trying to take my foot off the gas a little bit and throw some quality breaking stuff," said Arrieta. "I was able to spin the ball in the zone, and in and out of the zone well and keep them off balance with the sinker pretty much all night." Arrieta and relievers Mike Montgomery and Aroldis Chapman combined on a four-hitter on a chilly night on the shores

of Lake Erie to ensure the Cubs headed back to Chicago for the next three games with the series all square.

Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist and Kyle Schwarber, the numbers three through five hitters in Chicago's lineup, combined for five hits, four runs scored and four runs batted in after the hard-hitting Cubs were blanked 6-0 in Game One in Cleveland. In contrast to the overpowering pitching from the Cubs, Cleveland used six relievers after removing starter Trevor Bauer in the fourth. The seven Indians pitchers issued a combined nine hits and eight walks with the normally reliable second baseman Kipnis making two errors. "There was traffic all night," Indians manager Terry Francona said of all the baserunners for the Cubs. "For us to win, we generally need to play a clean game and we didn't do that."

First run

After being shut out in the opener, the Cubs scored their first run of the World

Series in the first inning. Kris Bryant, who before the game received the National League Hank Aaron Award as most outstanding offensive player, stroked a one-out single and dashed around the bases to score when Anthony Rizzo followed with a double to right. Chicago extended their lead to 2-0 after two outs in the third. Rizzo fell behind 0-2 but worked a walk and Zobrist, who had three hits in Game One, singled up the middle.

Facing a 3-0 pitch from Bauer, slugger Kyle Schwarber was given the green light and drilled a single to center to score Rizzo and double Chicago's advantage. The Cubs sent nine batters to the plate in a three-run fifth that broke the game open, with the middle of the lineup coming through again. Rizzo walked and scored when Zobrist tripled into the right-field corner off Zach McAllister before Schwarber singled home Zobrist. The Cubs tacked on another run when Bryan Shaw walked Addison Russell with the bases loaded to make it 5-0. — Reuters

GLOBAL TALENT EYES BRAGGING RIGHTS IN THE WORLD CLASSIC

CLEVELAND: Even while trying to help the Cleveland Indians win their first World Series since 1948, shortstop Francisco Lindor is checking out Puerto Rican talent for next March's World Baseball Classic. The fleet-footed infielder, among 14 players from outside the United States playing in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final, wants his homeland to capture global bragging rights after settling for second to the Dominican Republic in 2013.

"We're thinking about our plan for the World Baseball Classic. It's going to be fun. I'm looking forward to it," Lindor said. "It's pretty cool for the people in Puerto Rico. They are very excited. And they should be. We are doing it for them." Lindor went 3-for-4 against the Chicago Cubs in game one of the World Series while countryman Roberto Perez, a catcher for the Tribe, smacked two home runs.

"It's awesome. Seeing Perez, how he stepped up for us, it feels pretty good," Lindor said. But Lindor admitted he watched Cubs third baseman Javier Baez with thoughts of how well they might work together in Puerto Rico's infield next March. "Seeing Baez on the other side, every time he walks to the plate he looks like he's mad," Lindor said. "I watch everything he does and I'm thinking, 'This guy is pretty cool.'" The Classic features top-level talent from Major League Baseball and the top leagues around the world. Japan won the first two titles in 2006 and 2009 but settled for third in 2013. Puerto Rico opens March 9-12 at Guadalajara in a first-round group against Mexico, Italy and Venezuela while the Dominicans open at Miami on the same days against Canada, Colombia and the United States. Asian first-round groups will play March 7-10 in Seoul with South Korea, Taiwan, Israel and the Netherlands and Tokyo, which features Japan, Cuba, China and Australia. Two teams from each site advance to second rounds in Tokyo and San Diego with the last four deciding the crown in Los Angeles on March 20-22.

Classic global key for MLB

Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred said he was encouraged by plans and support for the Classic and saw little hope for major league talent in the Olympics should baseball ever win reinstatement to the Games. "We had a very positive meeting with ownership two days ago about commitment to the WBC and support for the event is absolutely unanimous," Manfred said.

"Given the difficulties associated with playing major league players in the Olympics, I think it's important for baseball to continue to have a premier international event. We need to work hard to make sure that the WBC is that event." And the Classic is key to expanding the major league brand globally. "It's imperative that our sport continue to develop a broader international footprint," Manfred said. "Players need to be prepared to go to different countries because it's crucial to building the popularity of the game in other countries." "The Americans have never won the Classic, despite so much major league talent, in part because the timing of the event, pre-season training for North American clubs, affects choices on US players. "It's definitely something all of us have thought about," Indians pitcher Cody Allen said. "It's definitely a pride thing being able to represent your country." — AFP

LAST SEASON'S TITLE RIVALS TO RESUME BATTLE

LONDON: A few months after duelling for the Premier League title, Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City have yet to rediscover last season's killer consistency and both have a point to prove in Saturday's clash at White Hart Lane. With Leicester flailing in midtable, having won three of their opening nine games, and Spurs having drawn their last two league encounters, both will crave a morale-boosting victory in north London.

For Mauricio Pochettino's Spurs, who sit fifth in the table but just one point off the summit, victory will refuel a title challenge that has stuttered with draws to West Bromwich Albion and Bournemouth in their last two league

matches. A defeat to Liverpool, albeit with a much-changed side, in the League Cup fourth round on Tuesday, left them without a win since the start of the month when their title credentials looked rock solid after a 2-0 home victory over Manchester City.

For Claudio Ranieri's champions, Saturday's encounter will give them an opportunity to win back-to-back Premier League games for the first time since April and fire up a title defense that has looked forlorn in the opening months of the season. Heavy defeats to Chelsea, Manchester United and Liverpool, added to a narrow opening-day loss to Hull City, have left them nine points off the pace and looking a shade

of the side that relentlessly pursued wins against the odds last season.

When the two sides last met in league at White Hart Lane in January, Leicester's 1-0 victory, courtesy of Robert Huth's late header, was seen as a sign that Ranieri's side had the mettle and stomach for a title challenge. Having lost all four of their away league games this season, another defeat would be taken as further proof of their demise since they lifted the trophy in May. With only one point separating the top five teams, a number of sides will have their eye on climbing to the summit over the weekend. Manchester City are currently heading the pack, courtesy of a better goal difference over Arsenal and Liverpool.

Yet Pep Guardiola's side visit West Bromwich Albion on Saturday looking to win their first match in seven in all competitions after they were knocked out of the League Cup by rivals Manchester United 1-0 on Wednesday. United manager Jose Mourinho shrugged off a mini-crisis with Wednesday's victory and will now look to win his first league match in four and rebound from last weekend's dismal 4-0 defeat at Chelsea when they host Burnley on Saturday. Arsenal, who are unbeaten since the opening weekend of the season, visit Sunderland on Saturday, when Liverpool, who have also not tasted defeat since August, play at Crystal Palace.—Reuters

KERBER, CIBULKOVA REACH SEMI-FINALS

SINGAPORE: Angelique Kerber eased into the last four of the WTA Finals with an unbeaten record when the world number one thrashed Madison Keys 6-3 6-3 in the Red Group finale at the Singapore Indoor Stadium yesterday. The 28-year-old German won all three of her round robin matches and her straight sets triumph over Keys ensured Dominika Cibulkova would join her in the semi-finals after the Slovak had earlier ground out a 6-3 7-6(5) victory over Simona Halep.

Kerber has enjoyed a breakout season with grand slam victories at the Australian and U.S. Opens, and her baseline hustling and resilient defense proved far too strong for an erratic Keys, who was broken six times in nine service games. "It's always tough to play against Madison so I was focused on playing my best and going for it when I had the chance," Kerber said. "I moved and returned well and it feels incredible to be in the semi-finals for a first time."

The first set featured five consecutive service breaks before the German took control by neutralising Keys's powerful forehand. Kerber staved off another break point in eighth game to edge 5-3 ahead and the German claimed the first set when Keys was unable to hold serve for a fourth straight time. The American's high-risk aggressive game is vulnerable against a defensive master like Kerber but after hitting too many unforced errors in the first set, Keys found her range at the start of the second to open a 2-0 lead with an early break.

Determined Cibulkova

Her revival was short-lived, however, as the tenacious Kerber stepped up another level to reel off five straight games and set up an ultimately routine victory. Kerber will face either defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska or Karolina Pliskova, a rematch of last month's US Open final, in Saturday's semi-finals while Cibulkova is set for a showdown against White Group winner Svetlana Kuznetsova.

After losing round robin matches to Kerber and Keys, the Slovak needed a straight-sets win to have any chance of advancing. She stayed alive with a determined display before the German world number one completed a perfect day for Cibulkova. In the early match, the busy Cibulkova came out all guns blazing, looking far more composed than her opponent, harrying Halep on every point and breaking to love at the first opportunity as she raced to a 3-0 lead in less than 10 minutes.

Halep, whose left knee was heavily taped, was struggling to get a foothold in the contest and Cibulkova rode the confidence of a 13-point streak to build a 5-2 lead before sealing the opening set with a big serve that her opponent returned long. The world number eight started the second set as she had the first but Halep stood firm and recovered an early break to prevent her opponent from running away with the match. Cibulkova, however, was still on the front foot and calling the shots but after breaking her opponent twice in a row towards the end of the set, the hobbling Halep came storming back but was unable to contain the hyperactive Slovak in the tiebreak.—Reuters



SINGAPORE: Germany's Angelique Kerber plays against Madison Keys of the US in their women's singles match during the WTA finals tennis tournament in Singapore on October 27, 2016.—AFP

SOWETO'S DERBY SUMS UP SOUTH AFRICA SOUL

JOHANNESBURG: The sprawling township of Soweto outside Johannesburg is famous as the crucible of the often violent struggle against apartheid—and also home to a fierce footballing rivalry. Matches between neighboring Soweto clubs the Orlando Pirates and the Kaizer Chiefs ignite fierce passions across South Africa, a country with a notorious reputation for violence and crime. But any overseas visitor attending Saturday's derby will likely witness a fun, family-friendly carnival at which rival fans mix freely and the biggest competition sometimes appears to be over who wears the craziest fancy dress. The two teams will meet, for the first time this season, at the elegant FNB Stadium built in Soweto for the 2010 World Cup.

The 94,000-seater venue is set to be sold out and the deafening Vuvuzela horns that blew their way to worldwide notoriety in 2010 will provide the unmistakable monotone soundtrack to every minute of action. Veteran

football journalist and analyst Thomas Kwenaithe describes the derby as "the life and blood of South African football". "Both teams can't afford to lose to each other because there are bragging rights and a lot of pride at stake," he said. "This is what drives both teams whenever they come against each other."

Tragic past

The derby-like South Africa itself has survived a turbulent modern history. As recently as 2001 tragedy struck when a stampede killed 43 people outside the Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg as fans jostled to get into the already full ground. Another stampede killed 42 people at a pre-season friendly at a small provincial stadium in 1991. Today, the matches—which move around the country—are well-organized and policed by hundreds of stewards to ensure safe crowd control.—AFP

LAKERS SHOOT DOWN ROCKETS

THUNDER SPOIL EMBIID'S SIXERS DEBUT

LOS ANGELES: Jordan Clarkson scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and the Lakers won coach Luke Walton's debut, holding off the Rockets. D'Angelo Russell scored 20 points and Julius Randle added 18 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the young Lakers, who got off to an exciting start in the franchise's first season without Kobe Bryant since 1995. With a revamped roster coming off the worst season in the 16-time champion team's history, Los Angeles surged in the fourth quarter of an auspicious opener under Walton, the 36-year-old former Lakers forward. James Harden had 34 points, a career-high 17 assists and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who lost in former Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni's debut on the Houston bench.

Pacers 130, Mavericks 121

Myles Turner scored 30 points, tied his career high with 16 rebounds and made a 3-pointer with 1:18 left in overtime to start an 8-0 run that allowed the Indiana Pacers to close out a 130-121 victory Wednesday night over the Dallas Mavericks. Three-time All-Star Paul George added 25 points, including another 3 with 55 seconds left to seal Indiana's fifth season-opening win in six years. Deron Williams scored 25 points, while JJ Barea and Dirk Nowitzki each added 22 as the Mavs lost their fifth straight in the series. They still haven't won in Indianapolis since February 2014. Dallas didn't tie the score or take a lead until the fourth quarter, yet still forced overtime when Harrison Barnes' open 3-pointer made it 115-all with 2.3 seconds left. Turner could have won it with a long buzzer-beating 3, but it bounced off the back of the rim.

THUNDER 103, 76ERS 97

Russell Westbrook had 32 points, 12 rebounds and took over late to lead the Thunder to a victory over the 76ers. Westbrook scored the decisive points on opening night for the Thunder in their first game since franchise star Kevin Durant left in free agency and signed with the Golden State Warriors. Joel Embiid scored 20 points in 22 minutes in his first game for the Sixers since they made him the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 draft. Embiid had sat out the last two seasons with foot injuries. He received a roaring ovation when he was introduced and fans went wild on every shot.

NUGGETS 107, PELICANS 102

Jusuf Nurkic scored 23 points, Will Barton added 22, and the Nuggets survived a dominant performance by Anthony Davis to defeat the Pelicans. Davis had 50 points, 16 rebounds, seven steals, five assists and four blocks. His production helped New Orleans trim a deficit as large as 14 late in the second quarter down to two points in the waning minutes. He simply didn't have enough help. The rest of the Pelicans combined to shoot 21 of 58. Tim Frazier scored 15 for the Pelicans. E'Twaun Moore added 10 points, but missed a 3-point attempt that could have tied it with 24 seconds left. Danilo Gallinari scored 15 for Denver and Wilson Chandler added 12 points.

HORNETS 107, BUCKS 96

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 23 points and 14 rebounds in his return from a shoulder injury, Roy Hibbert added 15 points, and the Hornets opened their season with a victory over the Bucks. The Hornets led by as many as 24 points in the third quarter before fending off a late charge from Milwaukee. The Bucks, who looked lackluster for much of the game, drew energy from Greg Monroe's hustle in the paint and Jason Terry's floater that cut the lead to 93-85 with 5:08 left. But the Hornets held on down the stretch, getting a straightaway 3 from Marvin Williams for a 12-point lead with 3:21 left. The 7-foot-2 Hibbert had a couple of rim-rocking dunks in the third quarter that helped build the 20-point lead. Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 31 points.

HEAT 108, MAGIC 96

Miami center Hassan Whitehead had 18 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots and point guard Goran Dragic added 16 points as the Heat cruised to a season-opening victory over the Magic. The Heat, taking advantage of the one-game suspension of Orlando center Bismack Biyombo, dominated inside all game with Whiteside and Willie Reed off the bench. Neither Nikola Vucevic nor Serge Ibaka could match the athleticism and strength of the 7-foot Whiteside inside. The new-look Heat, playing without Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh this season, outscored the Magic in the paint 74-36 and outrebounded



LOS ANGELES: Houston Rockets guard Eric Gordon, right, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers forward Larry Nance Jr. defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016 in Los Angeles. — AP

them 52-44. Vucevic finished with 17 points and 14 rebounds while Evan Fournier added 20 points. Ibaka, making his debut with the Magic, managed 14 points on 6-of-17 shooting.

CELTICS 122, NETS 117

Isaiah Thomas had 25 points and nine assists, Jae Crowder added 21 points and Al Horford pitched in 11 in his Boston debut as the Celtics survived a late scare to beat the Nets. Bojan Bogdanovic scored 21 for Brooklyn, including a 3-pointer to make it 120-117 with 47 seconds left after the Nets erased most of a 23-point deficit against the Boston bench. But he missed one with a chance to tie it after Joe Harris intercepted Thomas' cross-court pass, and the Celtics were able to hold on. Justin Hamilton came off the bench to score 19 points and grab 10 rebounds for the Nets in coach Kenny Atkinson's debut.

RAPTORS 109, PISTONS 91

DeMar DeRozan scored 40 points and Jonas Valanciunas added a career-high 32 as the Raptors opened their season with a victory over the Pistons. DeRozan made a career-high 17 field goals on 27 shots and was a perfect 6 for 6 from the free throw line, while Valanciunas was 10 for 15 from the field to go along with 11 rebounds. Valanciunas' previous career high was 31, also against the Pistons, on Jan. 12, 2015. Tobias Harris had 22 points and Marcus Morris had 17 points and nine rebounds for the Pistons, who lost for the eighth time in their last 11 games against Toronto. DeRozan broke Vince Carter's opening-night record of 39 points, set against the-then New Jersey Nets in 2003. Alvin Robertson is the only other Toronto player to

record a 30-point opening-night game, in the franchise's first-ever game, also against New Jersey, in 1995.

GRIZZLIES 102, TIMBERWOLVES 98

Mike Conley scored 24 points, Marc Gasol added 18 and the Grizzlies overcame a slow start for a victory over the Timberwolves. Conley and Gasol led a push down the stretch as the Grizzlies erased a 90-86 deficit the final 2:44. Zach Randolph had 19 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis. Andrew Wiggins led the Timberwolves with 25 points, while Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 21. Zach LaVine added 19 points. The game was the debut of two coaches with new teams, Tom Thibodeau for Minnesota and former Miami Heat assistant David Fizdale with Memphis. Both teams had big runs in the game, Minnesota at the start and Memphis to open the second half. Then the game settled into a tight affair in the fourth quarter.

KINGS 113, SUNS 94

DeMarcus Cousins scored 24 points, Rudy Gay added 22 and the Kings beat the Suns in the season opener for both teams. The Kings won an opener for the first time in three years and gave coach Dave Joergel a victory in his Sacramento debut. Sacramento used an 18-1 first-half run to take control and was up by as many as 26 points in the third quarter. Devin Booker, plagued by foul trouble, scored 18 points for the Suns. Eric Bledsoe added 16 and TJ Warren had 14. Dragan Bender, the 18-year-old fourth overall pick in this year's draft, scored 10 points for Phoenix, all in the second half. — AP

GALAXY, TORONTO ADVANCE IN MLS PLAYOFFS

LOS ANGELES: Emmanuel Boateng scored twice to lead LA Galaxy to a 3-1 win over Real Salt Lake in Major League Soccer's Western Conference playoffs on Wednesday, while in the East Toronto beat Philadelphia Union by the same score to advance. Alan Gordon also scored for the Galaxy, who will host the Colorado Rapids on Sunday in the first match of the West's two-leg semi-final series. Joao Plata scored for Real Salt Lake, who ended the season with an eight-game winless streak.

Boateng broke a 1-1 tie in the 26th minute. The midfielder from Ghana received Gordon's short pass,

accelerated past three defenders into the penalty area and converted an 8-yard shot inside the left post. Boateng's goal compensated for his foul that enabled Real Salt Lake to tie the score. Boateng tripped Javier Morales in the penalty area in the 19th minute, and Plata converted the ensuing penalty kick two minutes later. Boateng added his second goal in the 34th minute, when he sped past defender Demar Phillips and fired a 12-yard shot with his left foot from the right side of the penalty area inside the far post.

In Toronto, Sebastian Giovinco, Jonathan Osorio

and Jozy Altidore scored to produce a 3-1 win over Philadelphia at BMO Field. Giovinco scored in the 15th minute, Osorio in the 48th and Altidore five minutes from time as Toronto earned their first-ever playoff win in their 10-year existence. Alejandro Bedoya scored in the 73rd minute to bring Philadelphia back within a goal, but Altidore banished all hopes of a comeback when he scored on the counterattack in the 85th minute as Philadelphia pushed for an equalizer. Toronto will next take on New York City FC over two legs, the first on Sunday at BMO Field. — Reuters

HIGUAIN ADDS EVEN MORE SPICE TO THE JUVENTUS-NAPOLI RIVALRY

MILAN: Gonzalo Higuain will face former club Napoli for the first time tomorrow since his acrimonious departure for Juventus, adding even more spice to the fierce rivalry between the two sides. The brooding Argentine scored a record 36 league goals for Napoli last season as he led them to the runners-up spot behind Juventus who won a fifth successive Serie A title. But instead of staying on to lead another attempt by Napoli to end Juve's recent domination, he triggered a 90 million euro (\$98.31 million) buyout clause in his contract, which had two years still to run, and moved to the Turin club.

Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri, who brought out the best in Higuain last season, gave a light-hearted answer when asked about the meeting with his former marksman, who has scored six league goals for Juventus so far. "Higuain did well with me and was always hard working in training. How will I greet him tomorrow? In the same way that a father would with a son who made him angry," he said after Wednesday's 2-0 win over Empoli.

Napoli fans, however, have been less forgiving, clearly feeling betrayed by a player who in May said how much he enjoyed playing for their club. "This season I have felt the love. I feel loved here more than I did at any other club I've been," Higuain said. When news of his move first emerged, supporters gathered in the city centre to tear up pictures of the Argentine and set fire to replicas of his number nine shirt. A banner bearing his photograph was tied to a dustcart.

Even at recent games, it was possible to buy toilet rolls with Higuain's photograph on the packaging. Juventus go into tomorrow's match as Serie A leaders and are four points ahead of third-placed Napoli. More than any other fixture in Italian football, Juventus against Napoli has come to be seen as a clash between the rich, industrial wealth of the north and the much poorer south. The city government of Turin is so worried about possible trouble that it has banned the sales of tickets in the Naples region for the second time in a row.

The fact that Napoli have emerged as one of the few teams to genuinely threaten Juve's dominance, finishing as runners-up twice in the last four seasons, has only intensified the rivalry. The last meeting in February proved a pivotal moment in the title race. Napoli went into the fixture top of the table with a two-point lead, dominated the match yet lost to a late goal by substitute Simone Zaza. The win took Juventus top of the table and they stayed there for the rest of the season, winning 11 of their last 13 matches. — Reuters



TURIN: Juventus' Giorgio Chiellini (right) scores during a Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Sampdoria at the Juventus stadium in Turin, Italy on Wednesday, Oct 26, 2016. — AP

DZEKO AT THE DOUBLE AS ROMA STICK TO JUVENTUS

RELIEF FOR DE BOER AS ICARDI GIVES INTER LATE WIN

MILAN: Edin Dzeko hit his ninth and 10th league goals of the season as Roma stayed in hot pursuit of leaders Juventus with a comprehensive 3-1 win at Sassuolo on Wednesday. Juventus were given an extra incentive to move further clear of their scudetto rivals when AC Milan, who stunned the champions 1-0 last weekend to close the gap to two points, crashed 3-0 at Genoa on Tuesday.

Roma turned pre-match predictions on their head by handing Sassuolo their second-biggest home defeat of the season to walk away with the spoils, although their seventh win of the campaign was tempered by Alessandro Florenzi crumbling to the ground with a suspected serious knee ligament injury. Although Juventus underlined their credentials with a classy 4-1 win at home to Sampdoria, which saw Mario Mandzukic hit his maiden goal of the season and defender Giorgio Chiellini hit a brace, Roma remain just two points in arrears.

A Napoli win against Juve on Saturday could see Roma go top if they beat Empoli away, but Dzeko played down sugges-

tions they are now Juve's biggest rivals. He told Sky Sport: "All we're thinking about is winning our next game, but we're happy for this win." Napoli capitalised on Milan's earlier collapse to move up to third at four points adrift ahead of the sides' clash in Turin this Saturday. Thanks to a battling 2-0 home win over Empoli, with Dries Mertens crucially breaking the deadlock six minutes after the restart, Maurizio Sarri's men are now just two behind Roma.

"The squad is doing well, if you consider we lost the league's top scorer over the summer, and his substitute in September," Sarri told Premium Sport in reference to Gonzalo Higuain's move to Juventus and the serious knee injury suffered by his replacement, Arkadiusz Milik. Milan dropped to fourth with Lazio moving up one place to fifth after a 4-1 rout of Cagliari that included a superb double from Ciro Immobile and a great, final goal from Felipe Anderson. Elsewhere, embattled Inter Milan coach Frank De Boer saw his survival hopes boosted by Mauro Icardi's 88th minute winner in a 2-1 home win over Torino that, nevertheless, saw the nervous

Nerazzurri miss chance after chance.

Icardi on target

De Boer was given the backing of club bosses earlier on Wednesday, but will remain concerned at his side's inability to finish the easiest of scoring chances. Roma travelled to Sassuolo wary of the Tuscans' formidable home form, and were initially proved right when Paolo Cannavaro fired a bullet header past Wojciech Szczesny on 12 minutes after being left unmarked on the edge of the box.

Roma missed a series of chances to pull the match level, Radja Nainggolan's screamer coming off the crossbar and Dzeko also thumping the bar from a low Emerson cross before the interval. Dzeko made amends in the 57th minute, latching on to Mohamed Salah's superb cross-field ball to beat Andrea Consigli with a crisp angled drive. Salah then saw an attempt cleared a metre before the line by Gregoire Defrel moments later, but Roma were soon in the driving seat after Pol Lirola came off the bench to clumsily barge into Dzeko. — AFP

CELTIC BOSS RODGERS DELIGHTED BY FRINGE BENEFITS

GLASGOW: Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers declared himself delighted with the strength of his squad after a side packed with fringe players helped the Hoops to a 4-0 win over Ross County on Wednesday. The Hoops made eight changes from the starting 11 who defeated rivals Rangers in their League Cup semi-final clash on Sunday. Only Craig Gordon, Mikel Lustig and Erik Sviatchenko survived as Rodgers utilised his squad ahead of crunch clashes with Aberdeen and Borussia Monchengladbach within the next seven days. Patrick Roberts gave Celtic a second minute lead before a late goal rush saw Stuart Armstrong and substitutes Scott Sinclair and Moussa Dembele round off the scoring.

The win—their eighth in nine league games—extended Celtic's lead at the top of the Scottish Premiership to seven points with a game in hand over nearest rivals Aberdeen, whom the Hoops face at Pittodrie on

Saturday. "Our thinking going into the game tonight was that prior to this we had played a lot of games," Rodgers said. "I've got great trust in my players because I see them every day and they're working very hard. In terms of our methods of how we play they have to work intensely in training because if they can't do that then you can't put them into the game. "Even with all the changes I thought we were great. Some of the guys come into the game having not played for a while and I thought they were outstanding.

"The intensity I ask the players to play at needs to be at a high level with that variety in the game and the young players that came in delivered.

"Emilio Izaguirre and guys like that haven't played for a long time and I thought they were outstanding. Ryan Christie came in and did very well and young Patrick Roberts has been out of it for a while but showed his qualities tonight in creating and scoring

goals. "It was a very pleasing performance with so many chances and again it shows the depth of the squad. "The rest of the players will be fresh for the game at the weekend. That was the plan for tonight so it couldn't have gone any better."

Ross County had a number of chances to equalize before Celtic's late goals added some gloss to their victory and Rodgers praised his side's opponents. "It was a very tough game for us. Ross County are one of the best teams we have played," the former Liverpool boss said. "But I thought our attacking play was very strong and defensively I thought we were excellent as well. "When it is 1-0 you always have to be careful with the ball and obviously defensively. But again our fitness came into the game along with our physicality. "The intensity and tempo of the game got us our goals late on. It was 4-0 and we kept a clean sheet but we had to fight all the way right to the end." — AFP



MUNICH: Augsburg's midfielder Dominik Kohr (left) and Bayern Munich's French midfielder Kingsley Coman vie for the ball during the German Cup DFB Pokal second round football match FC Bayern Munich v FC Augsburg in Munich. — AFP

SECOND-STRING BAYERN POUND AUGSBURG 3-1 IN GERMAN CUP

HANOVER SCORED FOUR GOALS IN 19 MINUTES

BERLIN: Holders Bayern Munich scored twice in the first half to beat Augsburg 3-1 in the Bavarian derby and reach the German Cup third round on Wednesday despite failing to hit top form and missing a penalty. A second-string Bayern team took the lead through captain Philipp Lahm in the second minute and Julian Green doubled it before the break.

The visitors had the chance to cut the deficit but Manuel Neuer saved Koo Ja-cheol's penalty before Bayern's Thomas Mueller fired his spot kick well over the bar on the hour. South Korean Ji Dong-won made amends for his team mate's earlier miss, completing a quick break with a fine shot from a tight angle to beat Neuer in the 68th but Augsburg did not threaten again. David Alaba made

sure of their spot in the third round with a long range effort in stoppage time. Borussia Dortmund keeper Roman Weidenfeller saved two penalties against Union Berlin to help his team advance 3-0 on spot kicks after the game had finished 1-1 following extra time.

Dominant Dortmund took the lead with the first goal from teenager Jacob Bruun Larsen before substitute Steven Skrzybski shocked the hosts with an 81st minute equalizer to force extra time and then penalties. The game had started with a 15-minute delay after fans tried to force their way into the stadium and police were called in to restore order. Schalke 04 raced to a 3-0 lead against Nuremberg but had to sweat it out for a nervous 3-2 victory after the hosts pulled two goals back in the second

half. Hanover 96 scored four goals in the opening 19 minutes to crush Fortuna Duesseldorf 6-1 and book their spot in the next round.

Martin Harnik struck twice as Hanover killed off the tie early on and the Austrian then set up Felix Klaus to put Hanover 5-1 up heading into the break. Second division Greuther Fuerth snatched two late goals to fight back from 1-0 down and beat Mainz 05 2-1 while regional league side Walldorf Astoria FC, the only amateurs left in the competition, staged the biggest upset when they beat Bundesliga club Darmstadt 98 1-0. VfL Wolfsburg's Mario Gomez struck early in the second half to steer the 2015 Cup winners to a 1-0 win over second division side Heidenheim. — Reuters

REAL MADRID RUN RIOT IN 7-1 SPANISH CUP ROMP

LEON: A much-weakened Real Madrid went goal crazy in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday, smashing third-division minnows Cultural Leonesa 7-1 away from home in the first leg of their last-32 encounter. Marco Asensio and Alvaro Morata each struck twice in a one-sided match, but Spanish international Morata should have had at least a hat-trick as Real ran riot, ensuring the return leg at the Santiago Bernabeu is effectively a dead rubber.

Real Madrid's forgotten man Fabio Coentrao made his return following seven months out injured on a routine evening for the Champions League winners. "I'm very pleased with the match. We started strongly and took the game seriously. That's the most important thing for me, taking it seriously and respecting the opponent," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane. "But we haven't won anything, we're going to keep going because this is a long-term thing, in the Copa del Rey, the Champions League or any other competition." Real, who have won the Copa del Rey 19 times, were thrown out of last season's competition after fielding the ineligible Denis Cheryshev in a tie with Cadiz. — AFP



LEON: Deportiva Leonesa's defender David Fornies (center) vies with Real Madrid's midfielder Lucas Vazquez (right) during the Spanish Copa del Rey (King's Cup) round of 32 first leg football match between Deportiva Leonesa and Real Madrid. — AFP

VIOLENCE RETURNS TO HAUNT ENGLISH GAME

LONDON: Snarling football supporters pelted each other with ripped-up seats and coins at West Ham United's game with Chelsea on Wednesday, in the very stadium where peaceful athletics fans cheered Britain's Olympic heroes four years ago. The eruption of hooliganism, a phenomenon the English game hoped it had consigned to history, has worried the Football Association enough to launch an investigation. It will ask whether the scenes reflect a problem with the former Olympic stadium itself or are indicative of a wider malaise.

The trouble was not on the scale of the violence that scarred English football in the last century, but its location is particularly sensitive for a sport keen to brand itself as forward-thinking and open to the whole family. After years of negotiation, West Ham finally moved into the £701 million stadium at the start of the season, leaving their traditional home, the Boleyn Ground, after 112 years. Their sign-off game last May had also been marked by violence, when Manchester United's team bus was pelted by missiles outside the stadium, but the scenes were largely dismissed as stemming from the emotion of the occasion.

While most supporters welcomed the move to the

60,000-seat stadium, a minority remained unhappy at what they saw as a sanitized new environment far removed from their traditional home three miles down the road. Sporadic violence has also broken out at home games against Watford, Middlesbrough and Sunderland this season, sometimes caused by arguments among West Ham's own supporters over standing at the all-seater stadium, a contentious issue at many grounds.

Segregation

Segregation of rival supporters lies at the heart of the problem. Former West Ham player Tony Gale is among those suggesting that a ground built with wide gangways for 80,000 athletics fans cannot safely be adapted to keep warring football fans apart. "The fans were very close to each other. The ground is making it easier for those who want to make trouble to do so," he said on Sky Sports. "It's going to take a helluva lot of money to police that place because it is so so big." The situation has been complicated by the fact that West Ham, which pays £2.5 million per season rent, does not own the stadium, which remains the property of the London Legacy Development Corporation and

Newham council. As anchor tenants, West Ham is not in charge of security. That is handled by London Stadium 185, the company in charge of stewarding. The club has complained that too few stewards were employed at earlier games. London Stadium 185 said around 1,000 were on duty on Wednesday, more than double the level recommended for Premier League games. The stadium has also been hit by radio problems, with the system used by police to communicate not due to be fully operational until February, 2017.

That led to a refusal by the Metropolitan Police to deploy officers inside the stadium on health and safety grounds, although riot police were sent in at the height of Wednesday's trouble. As the club, company and football authorities sought to come up with a strategy to prevent a repeat, one lawmaker suggested on Thursday that West Ham should play without a crowd. "If there is a repeat of the violence, the next two or three home games for West Ham should be played behind closed doors." London and Westminster Conservative MP Mark Field, vice-chairman of the all-party parliamentary football group, told the Evening Standard. West Ham's next home game is against Stoke City on November 5. — Reuters



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Paul Pogba (centre) challenges for the ball with Manchester City's Pablo Maffeo (left) and Manchester City's Raheem Sterling during the English League Cup soccer match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford stadium on Wednesday, Oct 26, 2016. — AP

MATA SINKS CITY AS WEST HAM STUN CHELSEA IN LEAGUE CUP

MANCHESTER: Juan Mata's second-half strike earned Manchester United a 1-0 win over holders Manchester City on Wednesday as Jose Mourinho's resurgent side reached the English Football League Cup quarter-finals. Humiliated 4-0 by Mourinho's former club Chelsea at the weekend, United got back to winning ways and claimed a measure of revenge for their 2-1 loss to Pep Guardiola's City in last month's league derby. The result at Old Trafford gave Mourinho only his third victory in 13 encounters with Guardiola, who has gone six games without victory for the first time in his glittering managerial career.

"The players did everything and deserved to win. We are happy," Mourinho said. "In the last week everything went

against us, but we are professionals. "The fans felt deeply such a negative result and today was a good chance to clear that feeling, because a derby knockout and to win gives everyone a better feeling." United will now entertain West Ham United, who claimed a 2-1 upset win over Chelsea, while Southampton's reward for overcoming Sunderland 1-0 is a trip to Arsenal.

Mourinho previously won the competition three times at Chelsea and with City, Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur all falling by the wayside in the fourth round, his path to the final is clearing once again. While City remain top of the league, on goal difference, and although Guardiola selected a much weaker team than Mourinho, their early season momentum has deserted

them. Mourinho used his program notes to say "sorry" to United's fans for the result at Chelsea and his decision to make only four changes to his starting XI showed his eagerness to make amends.

Guardiola, in contrast, made nine changes, notably handing starts to youngsters Pablo Maffeo and Aleix Garcia. His side should have gone ahead in the second minute when Kelechi Iheanacho headed over from Jesus Navas's cross and they might have had a penalty when Michael Carrick caught Garcia near the byline. With Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba both wasteful, United struggled to establish a foothold in City territory and when they did, the visitors' defenders were on hand to block. — AFP

MOURINHO CHARGED WITH 'MISCONDUCT'

LONDON: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho was yesterday charged with misconduct over comments he made about the referee in charge of this month's Liverpool game, the Football Association has announced. United's outspoken Portuguese boss faces a disciplinary hearing after questioning referee Anthony Taylor's suitability to take charge of the October 17 game at Anfield. The Altrincham-based official's appointment for the Premier League derby had led former English top flight referee Keith Hackett to claim the appointment would place undue pressure on Taylor.

And when those comments were put to Mourinho ahead of the match, the United boss said: "I think Mr Taylor is a very good referee but I think somebody with intention is putting such a pressure on him that I feel that it will be difficult for him to have a very good performance." The FA released a statement confirming: "Jose Mourinho has been charged with misconduct in respect of comments he made relating to the appointed match referee, prior to the Liverpool v Manchester United fixture on Monday 17 October 2016.

"It is alleged his comments were improper and/or brought the game into disrepute contrary to FA Rule E3(1)." Mourinho has until Monday to respond to the charge, the governing body added. New rules were introduced in 2009 in an attempt to crack down on pre-match comments about officials which could be viewed as intimidatory or influential. After the drab goalless draw Mourinho praised the performance of Taylor, whose four bookings in the match all went to United players. "Can I speak about the referee without being punished?" he asked the club's press officer.

After being given the go-ahead, the Portuguese added: "He had a good game and I am happy for him because people with responsibilities put a lot of pressure on him and it was very difficult for him to have a good performance, which he had." When manager of Chelsea Mourinho was given a suspended stadium ban and a £50,000 (\$76,000) fine for his critical comments about referee Robert Madley after Chelsea's defeat at home to Southampton on October 3 2015. — AFP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016

Friday Times

Sports

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LONDON: Chelsea's English mid-fielder Nathaniel Chalobah (right) clashes with West Ham United's Irish goalkeeper Darren Randolph during the EFL (English Football League) Cup fourth round match between West Ham United and Chelsea on October 26, 2016. — AFP



United sink City; Chelsea stunned