

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

THULHIJJA 1, 1437 AH

NO: 16982

Firemen put out fire in Shuaiba sponge warehouse



Blast kills 10 as Duterte visits hometown



Serena, Murray storm through on rainy day



KUWAIT CRIMINALIZES CHEMICAL DRUG 'SPICE'

MOVE TAKEN AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS



150 Fils



Min 30°
Max 47°



DUBAI: An autonomous 10-seater minibus is pictured during a trial run along Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard on Thursday. — AFP

DUBAI DEBUTS DRIVERLESS MINIBUS

DUBAI: Dubai has unveiled its first driverless bus service, launching a month-long trial period for the electric vehicle with a view to expanding it across the futuristic Gulf city state. The 10-seat vehicle made its first trip on Thursday along a 700-m stretch of road in downtown Dubai, near to the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower. Developed jointly by French group Easy Mile and Dubai-based Omnix, the minibus is powered by an electric motor and can hit speeds of 40 km per hour.

But, thanks to cutting-edge guidance technology, its developers say the bus can adapt its speed to the surrounding environment and even come to a complete halt if a pedestrian were to cross its path. It can be programmed to navigate between Dubai's main tourist attractions, including the Burj Khalifa, the Dubai Mall, Dubai Opera and the Souk Al-Bahar shopping center, the emirate's Road Transport Authority (RTA) said in a statement.

Thursday's test run was "the first and very important stage in our efforts to introduce this type of vehicle into Dubai's transport network," RTA official Ahmed Bahrozian told AFP. Mattar Al-Tayer, the RTA's director general, said it aimed to have a quarter of all Dubai transport automated by 2030. Dubai is a leading tourist destination in the Gulf, attracting 14.2 million visitors in 2015. — AFP



Dubai residents board the autonomous minibus during the trial run.

KUWAIT: Trading or dealing in the drug known as "Spice" has been classified as a criminal offense in Kuwait. Assistant under-secretary for legal affairs at the Ministry of Health Mahmoud Al-Abdulhadi told KUNA yesterday that the ministry's senior officials along with their counterparts at the Ministry of Interior held several intensive meetings, which ended by criminalizing the substance.

Dr Abdulhadi said that Minister of Health Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi signed and issued the order two days earlier, and that it will be published in the official gazette next week. He added "the substances that are used by some of our youth have been categorized into six chemical groups, while the derivatives have reached 1,500 substances extracted from the drug". Abdulhadi noted that these substances were legal in the past. However, "now their usage has been criminalized like other drugs such as cocaine, heroin, Captagon and pethidine". — KUNA

UZBEK PRESIDENT KARIMOV DEAD

MOSCOW: Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov died yesterday, the government announced, ending more than 25 years of his iron-fisted rule in the Central Asian nation with no clear successor lined up. "Dear compatriots, it is with huge grief in our hearts that we announce to you the death of our dear president," a state TV presenter said, reading an official statement. Authorities said Karimov, 78, was pronounced dead at 8:55 pm local time (1555 GMT) following days of speculation that authorities were delaying the confirmation of his death after he reportedly suffered a stroke over the weekend.

The strongman's funeral will be held in his home city of Samarkand today as the country begins three days of mourning, the statement said, with Uzbekistan now facing its greatest period of uncertainty in its post-Soviet history. Loyalist Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev will head the committee charged with organizing his funeral, suggesting that he could be in line to take over from Karimov. Karimov's youngest daughter Lola wrote on Facebook that "he has left us...I am struggling for words, I can't believe it myself".

Long condemned by rights groups for brutally crushing dissent, Karimov has ruled landlocked Uzbekistan since before it gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Born on January 30, 1938, Karimov was raised in an orphanage in the ancient city of Samarkand, before studying mechanical engineering and economics and rising up the ranks of the Communist Party to become head of Soviet Uzbekistan in 1989. — AFP



Islam Karimov



FIREMEN EXTINGUISH FIRE IN KUWAIT'S AL-SHUAIBA DISTRICT

KUWAIT: Firemen put out a huge fire that erupted at a 3,000-square-meter sponge warehouse in Western Al-Shuaiba district yesterday and took effective precautions to prevent the blazes from spreading to a nearby plant for manufacturing combustible substances.

At noon, operations room of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) was informed about flare-up of the huge fire at the sponge warehouse in Western Al-Shuaiba, prompting the department to order prompt dispatch of several fire brigades to the scene, the KFSD

Public Relations and Information Department said in a statement. The firemen arrived at the scene in three minutes and promptly worked on isolating the burning store from nearby factories and plants including one that manufactures flammable oils. The blazes were put out quickly after securing the site.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah arrived at the scene to inquire about the losses and the firemen well-being. Several senior officers of the fire department quickly came to oversee the operation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (right) and Director General of KFSD Lieutenant General Khalid Al-Mekrad watch over operations to extinguish the fire. — KUNA

OFFICERS, SUSPECT INJURED IN RAID

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A lieutenant colonel and two officers were injured during a raid of a Taima house, while a bedoon man was hit by a bullet. A security source said Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives went to the house of a bedoon to arrest a wanted man, but those in the house resisted and injured the detectives. The injured were taken to hospital, and the rest were arrested.

Debris removed

The Municipality's Public Relations Department said the trash and debris removed by the cleanliness and road occupancy unit at Mubarak Al-Kabeer amounted to 3,800 truckloads. The report said the number of hauled loads of organic material was 1,400, scrap and trees 1,200 and construction debris 1,200 loads. The report said 45 abandoned and displayed vehicles were removed. The report said the total amount of money collected from fees and violations reached KD 4,600.

Licenses renewal

Kuwait Municipality Public Relations said the number of new billboard licenses or renewed ones during the second third of August reached 153, and collected fees reached KD 21,202. These numbers reflect records made during a campaign launched by the municipality under to help renew licenses. Director of the licenses department in Farwaniya municipality Talal Al-Azmi said the number of new licenses issued are 31 and KD 4,176 were collected, while the number of licenses renewed is 122, and fees collected were KD 17,026.

MAN SOLD MOM'S JEWELRY FOR DRUG MONEY

KUWAIT: A citizen stole his mother's jewelry and sold them to get money for drugs, before being discovered and arrested by Fahd Al-Ahmad police. A woman told police her jewelry worth KD 5,000 was stolen from her house, but did not accuse anyone. Policemen suspected her son, who denied anything to do with the theft, then collapsed and confessed to the theft. The source said he led them to part of the money - KD 2,000 - while he had used the rest.

Theft

A citizen jogging in Rumaithiya found his car broken into, and his phone and wallet stolen. The citizen left his car near the walking lane and went for a run, then when he returned to the car, he found the window broken and things in it stolen. A security source said the citizen lodged a complaint at the police station.

Man loses apartment

A citizen who returned from treatment abroad was surprised when he was unable to open his apartment, then a stranger came out to tell him that he had rented the apartment from the Egyptian building manager. The citizen called her, and she told him that he was late in paying the rent. She said she also informed his brother, who did not respond. When he asked her about his furniture, she told him the new tenant stole it. The citizen went to the police station and lodged a complaint.

Harasser caught

A citizen's misbehavior led him to be jailed inside Salmiya police station, as he harassed a female citizen, then made indecent gestures at her when she admonished him. The woman called police for help as the man was chasing her. Police stopped him, then took him to the station, where the woman admonished him, so he spat at her. Policemen arrested him for further legal action.

Scam

A citizen fell victim to a contractor twice, as when the latter received money to do work in his house under construction in Sabah Al-Salem, he also took a quantity of steel and disappeared. A security source said the citizen sought the help of police and told them that after he agreed with a Syrian construction contractor to work in his house, he gave him money as down payment, but he was surprised by him disappearing, then discovered he stole some steel too before escaping. Police are working on the case.

Dispute

A Syrian woman accused a taxi driver of pulling a knife at her following a dispute between the two. The woman told Adan police that she had worked with the driver for some time, but after a dispute took place between them, the driver pulled the knife and threatened to hurt her. Police are working on the case. — Al-Rai

691 SITES VIOLATED NOON WORK BAN

KUWAIT: Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Abdullah Al-Mutoutah said a ban on working in open areas from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm is over. The ban started on June 1 and ended at the end of August. Mutoutah said inspection teams toured worksites in all governorates to make sure project owners complied with the ban. He said the total number of violating sites was 691, with 705 workers registered to them.



US SET TO APPROVE SALES OF BOEING FIGHTERS TO QATAR, KUWAIT: SOURCES

DOHA/BERLIN: The United States is poised to sell \$7 billion worth of Boeing Co fighter jets to Qatar and Kuwait after years of delays, and it may start notifying US lawmakers as early as next week, four US- and Gulf-based sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The sales had stalled amid concerns raised by Israel, Washington's closest Middle East ally, that equipment sent to Gulf Arab states would be used against it. US officials have criticized Qatar for alleged ties to armed Islamist groups.

Boeing said it was encouraged by continued progress and hoped to see movement on the two big arms sales soon. The State Department said it could not comment on any ongoing government-to-government arms sales requests.

A senior US administration official said it was US policy not to comment on proposed US defense sales until they had been formally notified to Congress, but Washington remained committed to the security and stability of the Gulf region.

"For decades, we have demonstrated this commitment through continual efforts to enhance our diplomatic relationships and build defense capacity across the region, particularly through promotion of security agreements, foreign military sales, exercises, training, and exchanges," the official said.

Delays in the process have caused frustration among US defense officials and industry executives, who have warned that Washington's foot-dragging could cost them billions of dollars of business if buyers grow impatient and seek other suppliers.

Relations with Gulf allies

The expected approval of the fighter jet sales comes as the White House seeks to shore up relations with Gulf Arab allies who want to increase their military capabilities. "It is imminent. We expect a decision next week," said an official from Qatar's defense ministry, who declined to be named as he was not authorized to speak publicly.

An adviser to Qatar's military also said the deal was

moving ahead. Neither commented on the cost or number of jets that would be delivered. The Pentagon and the State Department have been considering the sale of 36 Boeing F-15 fighter jets to Qatar valued at around \$4 billion. They are also considering the sale of 28 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, plus options for 12 more, to Kuwait in a deal valued at around \$3 billion.

Sources said officials at both agencies had largely agreed to the deals some time ago, but had been awaiting final approval from the White House, which is now on board. "A decision by the administration is very close," said one of the sources, who was not authorized to speak publicly.

Once the White House gives its formal approval, US officials will start to informally notify US lawmakers before sending a formal notification to Congress 40 days later, at which point the deals will be publicly announced. A third deal, the sale of F-16 fighters built by Lockheed Martin Corp to Bahrain, remains under consideration, but approval is not as far along, said one of the sources. — Reuters



FIFA PROTESTS SEIZURE OF FOOTBALL OFFICE IN KUWAIT

ZURICH: World governing body FIFA has written to the Kuwait Football Association giving a new warning over the "escalation" of a power struggle between the government and the Gulf state's sports authorities, a spokesperson said yesterday. FIFA added its voice to the International Olympic Committee's protest over the government's seizure of the KFA and Kuwait Olympic Committee offices in a letter sent this week, the spokesperson said.

Kuwait has been suspended by the IOC and FIFA since October last year over laws which have increased government powers over Kuwait's sports bodies. International sports bodies normally reject political interference. "In the letter, FIFA expresses its concern regarding the recent escalation of events, which led to the 'dissolution' of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the KFA by government authorities," the spokesperson told AFP. The letter also protested over "the alleged seizure by the police of their offices and property". In "strongly condemning" the government action, FIFA said that it would continue to recognize the ousted KFA president, Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Sabah who was ousted by the government. — AFP

CO-OP WARNED FOR RAISING PRICES

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry summoned officials of a cooperative society in Hawally governorate for selling vegetables and fruits at higher prices compared with other co-ops. The co-op will be cited and told to sell at the same prices as nearby co-ops. The ministry has on Thursday stressed the importance to maintain the prices on food commodities and end any unnecessary price hike after the increase of fuel prices. The ministry said in a press release, after its officials held a meeting with the Union of Cooperative Societies, discussing ways to intensify monitoring the market and enforcing the law to stop any kind of commercial fraud which will affect consumers.



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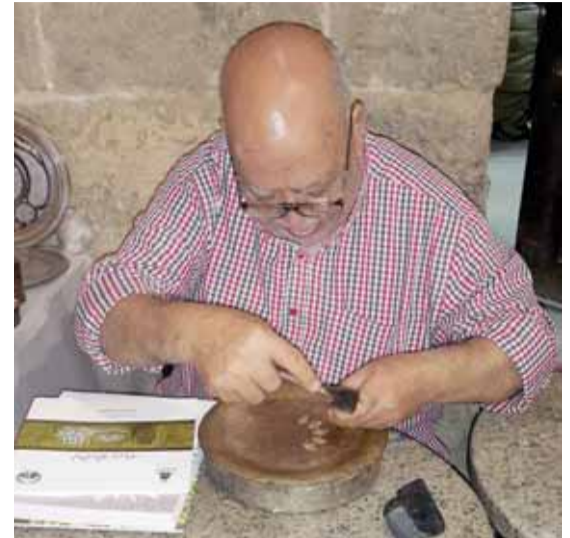
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Chairman of Kuwait Islamic Arts Center Farid Al-Ali

KUWAIT GUEST OF HONOR AT CAIRO CRAFTS FESTIVAL

CAIRO: Chairman of Kuwait Islamic Arts Center Farid Al-Ali on Thursday affirmed that his country plays an active role in highlighting the significance of Islamic arts and traditional handicrafts. "The State of Kuwait, represented by the Islamic Arts Center, is selected as a guest of honor at the festival of 'man faat kadimoh taah' (Lost is the person who forgets his/her past). This selection is a source of pride for the center and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs since it coincides with Kuwait selection as Capital of Islamic Culture this year," he said on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the festival.

The festival, being held at Bayt Al-Sinnari historical building in the neighborhood of Sayeda Zeinab in Cairo, lasts until

August 9; it provides a venue for cultural diversity and social interaction, and sheds light on the role of crafts in the cultural and tourist exchanges.

Ali highlighted the importance of such cultural activities in bringing people close to each other and promoting knowledge about the heritage of our ancestors. Regarding the activities of Kuwait Islamic Arts Center, he said the center played an important role in conserving the Islamic arts, including the crafts, on regional and international scales over the last decade. Kuwait hosts an international Islamic art forum on a bi-annual basis where creative artists from around the globe showcase their innovations in the various applica-

tions of Islamic arts, he added.

In similar statements, Khaled Azab, head of the projects sector of Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Library of Alexandria), commended as exceptional the role of Kuwait Islamic Arts Center in reviving the Islamic arts, including decoration, sculpture and architecture.

"The ongoing festival is meant to showcase various experiments of Egyptian cities in conserving their heritage, national identity and handicrafts," he added. The agenda of the festival includes workshops on the development of handicrafts such as sewing, inscription, pottery and the making of carpets and metalwork. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) recently concluded the 18th edition of the children and juniors' cultural festival, with a play performed by LoYAC Performing Arts Academy students. — KUNA





KUWAIT: UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi and United Nations Ambassador Jane J Chigiyaal sign the agreement. — KUNA



UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi and United Nations Ambassador Jane J Chigiyaal are pictured after signing the agreement.

KUWAIT, MICRONESIA SIGN AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait and the Federated States of Micronesia have signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations and enhance friendly and cooperative relations between the two governments and peoples in the political, economic and cultural fields at national and international levels.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of Kuwait by its Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi and by Micronesia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Jane J Chigiyaal at the headquarters of the permanent delegation of the State of

Kuwait to the United Nations.

Otaibi on this occasion expressed his happiness for signing the agreement with Micronesia on Thursday, adding that the signing is part of Kuwait's continuation of its approach to establish relations and open up to all countries of the world for the sake of cooperation and coordina-

tion on many international issues and challenges on the agenda of the United Nations. The Federated States of Micronesia is a country spread across the western Pacific Ocean comprising more than 600 islands. Micronesia is made up of 4 island states including Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap. — KUNA

MINISTRY DENIES REPORTS OF BUYING GIFTS AWAY FROM STATE AUDIT APPROVAL

KUWAIT: The Foreign Affairs Ministry Thursday denied social media reports that its purchase of gifts was not in line with proper state auditing procedures, and underlined that such measures were scrutinized by Audit Bureau and Finance Ministry.

A ministry source was reacting to reports that a company, owned by a brother of an Ambassador, won a bid to supply the Foreign Affairs ministry with gifts. The selection of companies is taking place through a bidding process, via which the least bid is selected, said the source.

The company in question, which was not named, offered the cheapest bid and the difference in prices with other firms was 'large and clear,' underlined the



source. This company is specialized in general trading and contracting, and specialized in selling gifts, said the source. The purchase of gifts needs approval of financial authorities and the process complied with all requirements, underlined the source. — KUNA

KUWAIT HOLDS MEDICAL CONFERENCE TODAY

KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital will host today 'the first conference on blood clotting and rheumatism,' with participation of local and foreign physicians and experts. Dr Aqeel Mehanna, in charge of the rheumatism ward at the hospital, said that the planned conference aims at shedding light on modern methods for treating such illnesses, establishing channels of coordination between veteran physicians and newly-graduated medical students. The daylong convention will include lectures about Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and blood clots.

The convention hosts Dr Munther Khamashta, of Spain, who serves at Saint Thomas Hospital in London. He will address the event about the blood clotting cases.



Head of the rheumatism ward at the hospital Dr Aqeel Mehanna

Among the participating local physicians are Dr Faisal Al-Sayegh, Dr Huda Al-Sahhaf, Dr Al-Muhaini and Dr Hassan Abdullah. — KUNA



ANKARA: The new Kuwaiti Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi presents a copy of his credentials. — KUNA



A group photo taken after the new Kuwaiti Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi presented a copy of his credentials.

NEW ENVOY TO TURKEY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO FOREIGN MINISTER

ANKARA: The new Kuwaiti Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi presented yesterday a copy of his credentials to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Turkey.

Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Turkey said in a state-

ment that Ambassador Al-Zawawi praised during a meeting with Director General of the Department of Protocol in the Turkish Foreign Ministry Ambassador Shawki Metwally Ihsanoglu depth of Kuwaiti-Turkish relations, stressing keenness on strengthening and upgrading them to new horizons of constructive cooperation.

Meanwhile, the Turkish official expressed satisfaction with the level of relations between Kuwait and Turkey, stressing that Kuwait enjoys a precious status to the Turkish political leadership. Ihsanoglu expressed his best wishes for the new Kuwaiti ambassador in his new assignment. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A group picture for participants in a meeting that discussed the humanitarian crisis in Syria. — KUNA photos

EIGHTH MEETING OF 'KEY DONORS FOR SYRIA' UNDERWAY

KUWAIT: A meeting of nations concerned with the humanitarian crisis in Syria aims to examine conditions in the war-torn nation and lay out plans to deal with the crisis, Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq said Thursday.

Matouq was speaking at the eighth meeting of 'Key Donors for Syria,' with representatives of nations neighboring Syria, United Nations (UN) coordinators and a representative of the World Bank in attendance. Moreover, Matouq, who is also the UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs, said that the meeting has been called to follow the latest happenings since the fourth International Syria Donors Conference in London in February. "This meeting is held as some parties involved in the conflict insist on perpetuating violence, where residential areas are being shelled and innocent lives killed, particularly, in Aleppo," Matouq said.

Furthermore, Matouq added that "there are more than a mil-



Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Rashid Derbas



Deputy Foreign Minister Jamal Al-Ghanem

lion people living in Aleppo amidst worsening humanitarian conditions that continue to deteriorate each day, as around 300,000 people are trapped by the violence since July."

Speaking on a solution to the conflict, the IICO Chairman noted that "humanitarian work is not suffice to overcome these challenges," as he pressed the international community to push for a halt in violence. In addition, he called on nations concerned with the crisis in Syria to keep their end of the bargain to ensure progress in humanitarian conditions there.

Military escalation

Deputy Foreign Minister Jamal Al-Ghanaim said that the crisis in Syria has seen persistent military escalation as the number of fatalities continues to rise. "UN statistics show that there are a total of 4.8 million Syrian refugees, in addition to 13.5 million people in dire need of humanitarian aid," he noted.



Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq

Ghunaim also underscored that "Kuwait's contributions to donors' conferences for Syria amounted to \$1.6 billion," as he called for the need of diligence to put an end to the misery of the Syrian people. For his part, Rashid Khalikov, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Partnerships with Middle East, Central Asia, addressed the conference saying in part that recent escalatory military action in Aleppo inflicted further destruction in houses, civil installations and turned thousands of civilians homeless.

Humanitarian assistance that has been allotted so far is not enough because Syria, daily, witnesses destructive attacks and relocation of some 5,000 civilians, Khalikov said, affirming that the UN is seeking greater aid for the civilians in the war-torn country.

Continuation of the crisis increases challenges in face of volunteers and the UN partners that have been seeking to secure help for some 13 million people in need.

This meeting, Khalikov, stated, is an opportunity to inform the stakeholders about the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Syria, Khalikov added. It is aimed at rallying support to find solutions to the humanitarian crisis, urging states that had pledged to grant donations for the Syrian refugees to honor their obligations during the previous conferences.

Humanitarian role

Meanwhile, Rashid Derbas, Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs, praised in his statement the great, effective and humanitarian role undertaken by the State of Kuwait, namely the Government and His Highness the Amir, toward the Syrian crisis.

Lebanon a small country of a four million population is hosting nearly two million Syrian refugees who share the locals the necessities in shadow of deteriorating conditions, Minister Derbas said. He warned that the hosting countries, in case the Syrian crisis lasted for a long time, would ultimately suffer equal hardships.

The Lebanese official proposed building "secured zones" on Syrian territories to lure the refugees return to their homeland. "This measure is less costly and much more useful," he added. The coordination convention, now in its 8th session, comprises representatives of refugees' hosting nations, namely Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, representatives of the World Bank and other international humanitarian agencies. — KUNA



A general view of the meeting in progress.

International

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

10,000 more people sacked
in Turkey post-coup purge

9

Hurricane hammers Florida,
barrels toward Atlantic

11

Melania Trump sues
Daily Mail, blogger

13



PESHAWAR: Pakistani police officials carry an injured blast victim at a hospital yesterday following a suicide bomb attack at a district court in Mardan. — AFP

14 DEAD IN PAKISTAN COURT BLAST

MARDAN, Pakistan: At least 14 people were killed and more than 50 wounded after a suicide bomber attacked a court in the Pakistani city of Mardan yesterday, police said, the latest assault targeting Pakistan's legal community. The bomber shot his way through the main gate leading to the district court, before throwing a hand grenade and detonating his suicide vest among the morning crowds, senior police official Ejaz Khan told reporters. Rescuers picked their way through scattered human remains and bloodstained office equipment and files to collect survivors, witnesses said.

Amir Hussain, president of the Mardan Bar Association, said he was in a room nearby when the bomb detonated. "There was dust everywhere, and people were crying loud with pain," he said. His suit drenched in blood, he added: "I started picking up the wounded and putting them in cars to take them to hospital. I did not know if the people I was rescuing were dead or alive." Lawyers were being targeted because they are "an important part of democracy, and

these terrorists are opposed to democracy," he said. "Our morale is not dented. It is still high," he added.

Nasir Khan Durrani, provincial police chief, told AFP the death toll had reached 14, with at least 58 people wounded, three of whom were critical. Officials said the bomber had up to eight kilos of explosives packed into his vest, while the dead included lawyers and police. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, which comes three weeks after a massive suicide blast killed scores of lawyers in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, in Balochistan.

Christians targeted

Yesterday's blast came as security forces fended off four suicide bombers who were trying to attack a Christian colony near the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial capital of Peshawar, 60 km to the west of Mardan. All four attackers were killed along with a guard at the entrance to the colony, an army statement said. Yesterday's attacks were "a horri-

fic reminder that Pakistan's authorities must do more to ensure vulnerable groups are protected," said Amnesty International South Asia director Champa Patel. "Armed groups are seeking to undermine the rule of law by targeting both the people who defend it in court and the people it should protect."

The Pakistani Taliban in particular routinely target minority groups and soft targets such as courts and schools. Taliban militants stormed a school in Peshawar in December 2014, killing more than 150 people, mostly children, in Pakistan's deadliest-ever terror attack. The army launched an operation in June 2014 in a bid to wipe out militant bases in the tribal areas and so bring an end to the bloody insurgency that has cost thousands of civilian lives since 2004. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned yesterday's attacks, adding that militants were on the back foot and were "showing (their) frustration by attacking soft targets". "They shall not get space to hide in Pakistan," he added. — AFP

DAVAO BLAST KILLS 10

MANILA: An explosion at a market in the home city of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte killed at least 10 people yesterday and wounded dozens more, officials said, but the cause of the blast was not immediately clear. Duterte was in Davao yesterday, but was safe and at a police station after the explosion, his son Paolo Duterte, who is vice mayor of the city, told Reuters. The incident took place at a street market outside the high-end Marco Polo hotel in Davao, in the southern Philippines, a military spokesman told reporters by phone. A police official said at least 30 people had been taken to hospital.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, speaking to CNN Philippines, described the blast as an "unspecified explosion". "There is nothing definite about it but it has resulted in the death of 10 persons, at least 10 persons, and injury of about 60," Abella said. Duterte's son Paolo told Reuters his father was far from the location of the blast when the explosion took place. Duterte had earlier given a televised news conference in the city. Five men and five women were killed, Paolo Duterte said. — AFP

FROM RAQQA, IS CELL 'WAGES WAR' IN TURKEY

GAZIANTEP, Turkey: As US-led coalition jets from a Turkish air base began to pound Islamic State targets in Syria in the summer of 2015, Ilhami Bali passed on what appeared to be an order from the militant group's leadership in Raqqa: Unleash war on Turkey. Bali, identified by Turkish prosecutors as the most senior Islamic State figure in Turkey, asked a fellow militant in the border city of Gaziantep to draw up a list of potential targets. Cash, suicide bombers and equipment would be sent from Syria, he said.

"Turkey has waged war on us ... so we're waging war back," the Turkish national wrote in an email from Syria, according to documents prepared by Ankara prosecutors and reviewed by Reuters. "I asked who should we hit and they say it does not matter; be it PKK (Kurdish militants), be it Turkish soldiers, be it tourist spots. Whatever you have planned."

The email was sent to Yunus Durmaz, who prosecutors say co-founded Islamic State's Gaziantep cell along with Bali. Durmaz provided a long list of possible targets, including NATO Patriot missile batteries, foreign missions, UN offices and a popular nightclub in the Mediterranean resort of Antalya. Documents that form part of a judicial investigation into the cell, which Turkish prosecutors say carried out at least two major bombings last year, give a rare insight into the genesis and operations of the wider Islamic State net-

work in Turkey. Islamic State has grown increasingly active in Turkey, according to the government which blames it for seven suicide bombings across the country over the past year, though the group has not claimed responsibility for the attacks. The prosecution documents show how suspected members of the Gaziantep cell set up safe houses to accommodate fighters, facilitated the passage of some to Syria, rented depots to store weapons and ammunition, paid salaries, kept records of expenses and made bombs and suicide vests with components purchased inside Turkey.

Having a strong presence in Turkey has been crucial to Islamic State's Middle Eastern battle plans and their attempts to strike at the West, as they use the NATO country as a transit route for fighters and equipment. Hundreds of Turks have been recruited to fight in Syria, while weapons experts say Turkey has become the most important source for components to make improvised bombs used by Islamic State forces.

Turkey has also been used as the gateway between the group's territory, in Iraq and Syria, and Europe - where it has carried out attacks in countries including France and Belgium. The country is also traditionally a popular destination for Western tourists, who have been struck in at least two of the Turkish bombings blamed on Islamic State earlier this

year. The documents regarding the Gaziantep cell were prepared by prosecutors based on suspects' testimonies, email exchanges, security camera footage and digital evidence collected during police raids. An official at Ankara's main courthouse verified the documents were genuine. The Ankara prosecutors' office could not be reached for comment on the cell or the investigation.

Home-Made Explosives

Turkey, initially seen by Western allies as a reluctant partner in the fight against Islamic State, stepped up its campaign in July 2015 by opening by its Incirlik air base to the US-led coalition, making bombing raids on the group's positions in northern Syria easier and more frequent. The country then became a primary target. "The planes are hitting us here more," Bali wrote to his fellow Turkish national Durmaz in the email last summer. "I know you have a tough job, but console the hearts of devout Muslims. Hit them ... so we can be happy." The Turkish attacks blamed on Islamic State have been a factor in Turkey's decision to send troops and tanks into northern Syria for the first time last month in an attempt to drive back the group from its border. Bali and Durmaz's Turkish cell carried out at least two major bombings, the prosecution documents say: one in July 2015 in the southeastern town of Suruc, where 35 mostly Kurdish activists

were killed, and a twin suicide attack in Ankara last October, when more than 100 people died.

Durmaz was also the mastermind of two more attacks carried out earlier this year, Gaziantep governor's office said in a statement on Thursday. The two men, helped by a core of around a dozen accomplices, trained at least 150 fighters for attacks across Turkey, according to the documents. Their cell ran at least two safe houses and four depots in Gaziantep. The group bought at least 1.5 tonnes of ammonium nitrate - a chemical used in agriculture but also to make bombs. Police have also seized hand grenades, machine guns, ammunition and bombmaking components such as fuses, ball bearings and explosives in raids on the cell since last October. "Data points to Turkish Islamic State members manufacturing explosives inside Turkey, including the vests used in at least three, but perhaps more, attacks inside Turkey since 2015," said Aaron Stein, a Turkey specialist at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based international affairs think-tank. "The vests are far better constructed than the ones used by Islamic State in France and Belgium. These guys are far better trained in bombmaking." A February report by the UK-based Conflict Armament Research said Turkey was a hub for acquiring bomb-making components which can then be shipped to Syria and Iraq. — Reuters

300 SYRIANS LEAVE REBEL TOWN UNDER GOVT DEAL

MORE EVACUATIONS PLANNED

MOADIMAYET AL-SHAM, Syria: More than 300 Syrians living in a rebel held town near Damascus were evacuated yesterday under a deal with the government, state media reported. The agreement between the regime and the rebels had already seen thousands of civilians and opposition fighters leave the town of Daraya, southwest of the capital, after a four-year government siege. Civilians evacuated yesterday from nearby Moadimayet al-Sham had been living there for around three years after fleeing fighting in Daraya. Moadimayet al-Sham is also under government siege, but after a truce deal signed in late 2013 has been spared the heavy fighting that has rav-

aged other rebel-held areas around the capital. Negotiations are underway to secure a deal under which rebel fighters in the town will also leave, though civilians will reportedly remain, parties to the talks told AFP.

The evacuees walked to the edge of Moadimayet al-Sham, where eight buses were waiting to take them to reception centres elsewhere in Damascus province, an AFP photographer reported. Soldiers searched their suitcases as they left, and checked their names against a list. State media said 303 residents of Daraya were leaving Moadimayet al-Sham and would be taken to Hrajeleh, a regime-held district, for processing. State television said

they consisted of 162 children, 79 women and 62 men.

"I've been taking refuge here for three years and I hope that life in the reception centre will be better than here," said Roueida, a mother of seven, as she left. The evacuation follows the implementation of the deal in Daraya itself, which saw the town emptied of rebels and civilians and retaken by government forces. Opposition fighters said they were forced to accept the deal, under which rebels and their families were given safe passage to the rebel-held northwestern city of Idlib, because the blockade and constant bombardment by the army had made the humanitarian situation untenable. The opposition has criticized such deals and UN's Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura also voiced concern that the Daraya agreement was part of a wider strategy by the regime to empty rebel enclaves that would soon be extended to other areas. He said there were "indications that after Daraya we may have other Darayas." "There is clearly a strategy at the moment to move from Daraya" to other besieged areas "in a similar pattern", he told reporters in Geneva on Thursday.

Negotiations are underway between the government and rebels, as well as the local council in Moadimayet al-Sham, for the evacuation of fighters in the town, sources involved in the talks told AFP. Akram al-Jamili, a member of the reconciliation committee for Moadimayet al-Sham, said the deal would differ from the Daraya agreement. "All the civilians will stay. The army will take control of the town. — AFP



MOADIMAYET AL-SHAM: Syrian civilians from the town of Daraya prepare to be evacuated from this rebel-held town yesterday to be taken to a shelter in the government controlled town of Hrajeleh. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi (left) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pose for photographers at the start of a meeting yesterday. — AP

INDIA, EGYPT AGREE TERROR A PRIORITY

NEW DELHI: India and Egypt have agreed to boost cooperation in security and anti-terror efforts, with their leaders yesterday calling terrorism one of the gravest threats their countries face. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi said they will cooperate more in defense and exchange more information that might help in rooting out radicals. The two leaders "considered terrorism to be one of the gravest threats to international peace and security," a joint statement said.

The Egyptian leader told a news conference that the two countries are "required" to bolster relations "due to the sizable threats and common challenges as we face, starting from the dangers of terror and extremism that entails concerted efforts at all levels, to issues of climate change and sustainable energy sources for future generation."

The two sides also signed an agreement on maritime shipping cooperation and spoke of the importance of boosting bilateral trade, which in the past year reached \$4.76 billion, making India Egypt's sixth-largest trading partner. President Sisi, accompanied by government ministers and business leaders, arrived Thursday night for a three-day visit during which he also met with US Secretary of State John Kerry. No details of that meeting have been released. Kerry had delayed his planned departure from the Indian capital on Thursday. The US Embassy said he plans to join President Barack Obama in China for the weekend G-20 summit. — AP

JUNGLE MIGRANT CAMP TO BE CLOSED 'IN STAGES'

CALAIS, France: France will gradually dismantle the sprawling "Jungle" migrant camp in the northern port of Calais, the interior minister said ahead of a visit to the site yesterday. Bernard Cazeneuve told regional paper Nord-Littoral he would press ahead with the closure "with the greatest determination" and that the site would be dismantled "in stages". Accommodation for thousands of migrants will be created elsewhere in France in an attempt "to unblock Calais", Cazeneuve said.

France has made repeated efforts to shut down the camp of tents and temporary shelters, which authorities say is currently home to nearly 7,000 migrants following a surge of new arrivals in recent months. Charities helping the migrants in the camp say the real figure is as high as 10,000. The migrants gather in Calais hoping to smuggle themselves aboard lorries crossing the Channel to Britain either through the Channel Tunnel or on ferries. Earlier this year, authorities cleared shelters in parts of the site in a bid to persuade migrants to move into more permanent accommodation or camps elsewhere on the northern coast. Calais mayor Natacha Bouchart claimed the camp could soon contain as many as 15,000 migrants if authorities took several months to dismantle it. "We want to call for this dismantling but not in the way that it has been announced," said Bouchart, who has often clashed with the government

over the "Jungle". "If we accept this situation (of a gradual dismantling), then in six months' time there will be not 9,000 migrants but 15,000." Calais residents will stage a protest on Monday over the effect the presence of thousands of migrants has had on their livelihoods. And crowding at the camp is causing fresh tensions. Two migrants were seriously hurt on Tuesday in what appears to have been a fight between Sudanese and Afghan residents. The Jungle's population also includes large numbers of Somalis, Kurds and Syrians. Cazeneuve also announced that 200 more armed police would be deployed to the site to prevent near-daily attempts to stow away on lorries heading for the ferry port, bringing the total number of police in Calais to 2,100. Since last October, more than 5,500 asylum seekers have left Calais for 161 special accommodation centers set up around France.

Political Hot Potato

Franck Esnee, head of the Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) branch working at the camp, agreed that the Jungle should be dismantled but said the proposed alternatives were "insufficient". Additional permanent accommodation is needed, he said, adding: "The government needs to encourage initiatives by local mayors who are proposing to take in migrants in their towns." The government should also encourage the requisitioning of



LONDON: British actresses Vanessa Redgrave (center) and Juliette Stephenson lay flowers during a rally held outside the Home Office yesterday, where campaigners delivered a petition signed by 75,000 Britons calling on the government to help vulnerable refugee children in Calais. — AFP

public buildings to house migrants, he said. The fate of the Jungle is already featuring prominently in campaigns for next year's presidential election. Former president Nicolas Sarkozy has called for Britain - the country the migrants want to reach - to take responsibility for the migrants over the Channel. "The English should examine the requests of all those who want to go to England and they should do it in England," he told a rally last Saturday in the nearby coastal resort of Le Touquet. Meanwhile the British

government has dismissed as a "complete non-starter" a proposal by Xavier Bertrand, the president of the region including Calais, to allow migrants to lodge British asylum claims on French soil. After Cazeneuve met British counterpart Amber Rudd in Paris on Tuesday, the ministers presented a united front. "We are committed to working together to strengthen the security of our shared border (and) to strongly diminish the migratory pressure in Calais," they said in a joint statement. — AFP

10,000 MORE PEOPLE SACKED IN TURKEY POST-COUP PURGE

THOUSANDS OF CONVICTS FREED

ANKARA: Turkey has sacked another 10,000 police officers, judges, prosecutors and academics, according to a decree published yesterday, as the state continued a purge within public services following July's failed coup. A total of 7,669 police were dismissed in the latest swoop on suspected coup plotters or supporters, along with 323 personnel in the gendarmerie, which looks after domestic security.

A further 543 prosecutors and judges were also dismissed, bringing the total of those removed from the judiciary to 3,390, NTV channel reported. The state's post-coup crackdown on higher education also continued, with 2,346 academics getting the sack, along with 28,000 others in education, including thousands of teachers. Turkey accuses US-based Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen and his Hizmet movement of ordering and implementing the failed putsch which left nearly 270 dead, including 24 coup-plotters.

Since then, tens of thousands of people within the judiciary, military, education system and police force have been removed, detained or arrested after being accused of links to Gulen's movement or the coup itself. Scores of journalists have also been arrested. Also yesterday, the justice minister said tens of thousands of convicts who were jailed before the putsch had been freed, under an initiative apparently aimed at relieving pressure on prisons which are burst-



ANKARA: Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim chairs an evaluation meeting of the "First Hundred Days of the 65th Government" at the Cankaya Palace yesterday. — AFP

ing with coup suspects. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accuses Gulen of running a "parallel state" in Turkey and has vowed to rid the country of the "virus" of the preacher's influence. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, strongly denies any involvement with the bid to overthrow Erdogan. The EU and UN have criticized the Turkish crackdown, as well as the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP)

which has accused the government of "going too far."

To fill the gaping holes left in the judiciary, the state has invited judges and prosecutors who took early retirement to apply to return. The latest sweep also involved the dismissal of more than 800 military personnel, most of whom were already under arrest. A total of 4,451 military personnel have been sacked since July, including scores of generals. — AFP

GERMANY TAKES STEP TO SOOTHE TURKEY IRE OVER ARMENIA VOTE

BERLIN: Germany yesterday reiterated that a parliamentary resolution on Turkey's World War I-era massacre of Armenians was non-binding but denied it was distancing itself from the vote to appease Ankara. Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said it had always been clear that the June vote calling the Ottoman-era mass killing a "genocide" had no legally binding character, a question he said was of great interest to Ankara.

But Seibert rejected as "misleading and wrong" a report by news site Spiegel Online that, by reiterating this point, Merkel's government was seeking to appease Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "There is a false assertion that the German government wants to distance itself from the resolution of the Bundestag. This is absolutely not true," he said. He added that parliament, as a sovereign body, had the right to issue statements on political issues of its choice, "even if they are not legally binding, as it says on its website". A Spiegel reporter fired back, tweeting that Seibert "is doing exactly what it says in the report which he is denying: explicitly pointing out that the resolution is non-binding".

'Many Areas of Friction'

Already tense relations between Berlin and Ankara took a nosedive after the vote three months ago. Erdogan angrily charged that the 11 German lawmakers with Turkish roots who backed it should undergo "blood tests" to see "what kind of Turks they are". Turkey has since then denied German lawmakers the right to visit their national troops on the NATO air base of Incirlik, used by Western allies to fight jihadists in Syria. There are also fears the rising discord could imperil an EU-Ankara agreement under which Turkey has moved to halt the mass flow of refugees and migrants into Europe.

Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier also said yesterday, when asked about the Spiegel report, that the German parliament "has the right and freedom to comment on political issues but, as the parliament says itself, not every resolution is legally binding". — AFP

WHO IS THE 'TERRORIST' LEADING IS IN SOMALIA?

NAIROBI: A middle-aged Somali-born cleric with a bright orange beard was this week put on a US terror list, accused of heading the Islamic State group in East Africa. The US State Department on Wednesday said Abdulqadir (also Abdiqadir) Mumin is "the head of a group of ISIL-linked individuals in East Africa," using another term for IS, and branding him a "global terrorist". Here's what we know about the man, and the threat he poses.

British Links

Mumin was born in the semi-autonomous Somali region of Puntland and lived in Sweden before moving to the UK in the 2000s, where he was granted British citizenship. In London and Leicester, he developed a reputation as a firebrand preacher at extremist mosques and in videos posted online. Monitored by MI5, Britain's domestic intelligence agency, Mumin is thought to have known Mohamed Emwazi, the IS executioner nicknamed 'Jihadi John', and Michael Adebolajo, one of two people convicted over the 2013 murder of British soldier Lee Rigby in London. In 2010, Mumin

travelled to Somalia to join the Shabaab, the Al-Qaeda-aligned militant group - which both Emwazi and Adebolajo had tried to do, but were unsuccessful. On arrival, he reportedly burned his British passport then served as a Shabaab propagandist and imam - "an ideologue not a commander," according to Matt Bryden, director of Sahar Research, a Kenya-based think tank.

Defection to IS

Mumin was dispatched to mountainous eastern Somaliland on the border with his home region of Puntland in 2012 to bolster the fervor of fighters under the command of local Shabaab leader and Warsengili clan militia leader Mohamed Said Atom. Atom surrendered to the Somali government in 2014 and Mumin eventually took control of the Puntland faction which, separated from the bulk of the Shabaab in Somalia's south, has always been an orphan group. Largely abandoned in the inhospitable Golis mountains, Mumin reimagined himself as a commander, despite lacking any experience on the battlefield, and announced his defection to IS,



Abdulqadir Mumin

along with a handful of fighters, in an audio message last October. In the following months, his small group of fighters was harried and attacked by the Shabaab loyalists with local Puntland media describing him as being "on the run".

Little Support

Mumin's motivations remain opaque. In a briefing note, the International Crisis

Group think tank suggested his departure may have been "a pre-emptive attempt... to lay claim to the spiritual leadership of a future IS franchise in Somalia". The switch to IS has not won him much support - neither in manpower, money nor material - with most observers believing he has between 20 and 100 followers, predominately from his own Majerteen clan.

Washington said Mumin has "expanded his cell of ISIL supporters by kidnapping young boys aged 10-15, indoctrinating them, and forcing them to take up militant activity". Even so, as a bid to take over Shabaab territory, Mumin's gambit appears to have failed dismally. A video released in April showed Mumin at a small training camp with a handful of supporters in headscarves and grey tunics carrying a variety of assault rifles, grenade launchers and machine guns. The remoteness of the Golis mountains has so far saved Mumin from the fate of other defectors who were hunted down and killed, or chased into exile, by the Amniyat, the Shabaab's intelligence unit that has crushed IS attempts to take control of the East Africa jihad. — AFP

CLASHES LEAVE TWO MORE DEAD IN CRISIS-HIT GABON

OPPOSITION, CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS DETAINED

LIBREVILLE: Two people died after overnight post-election violence in Gabon, witnesses said yesterday, raising to five the number of people killed since riots erupted after President Ali Bongo was declared the winner of a disputed vote. Bongo's government pressed a fierce crackdown, with security forces rounding up around 1,000 people nationwide, including two dozen opposition leaders, since riots first swept across the capital Libreville on Wednesday. Bongo was declared the winner of a weekend poll by a razor-thin margin of just under 6,000 votes, though his main challenger, Jean Ping, said the vote was rigged. Protestors clashed with security forces again on Thursday night. Bekam Ella Edzang, a 27-year-old law student, died of his wounds in hospital on Friday morning after he was shot in the abdomen, an AFP journalist said. "He was injured at around 9:00 pm (2000 GMT) by the Republican Guard, who were firing tear gas and live bullets," a childhood friend of the victim who identified himself only as Geraud told AFP at the hospital.

In the Libreville district of Nzeng Ayong, another AFP correspondent saw dozens of protesters carrying the body of a 30-year-old wrapped in the flag of the central African nation. His mother told AFP he was shot in front of his home on Thursday night. The latest deaths bring to five the number killed in the post-poll violence.

'No Legitimacy'

Also yesterday, 27 opposition and civil society leaders said police were still detaining them outside Ping's headquarters, which security forces raided



LIBREVILLE: A woman cries over the body of Axel Messa, 30, wrapped in the flag of Gabon, on the ground in a street in the district of Nzeng Ayong yesterday. — AFP

late Wednesday. "We are cooped up outside like cattle," the leaders said in a joint letter to heads of the international community. They said such a "frontal attack" on the opposition revealed "the government's desire to cover up the electoral theft it just committed." "We slept on the ground, amid mosquitoes and the sound of gunfire," one of those held, Paul-Marie Gondjout, Ping's representative at the election commission, told AFP. He added that the public prosecutor had visited, and that he had said no charges were being brought against the opposition leaders. In their joint letter, the leaders said their "only crime was to oppose a regime that no longer has any legitimacy." The interior ministry

on Thursday said up to 1,000 people have been detained in the nationwide post-coup crackdown. A government spokesman has said the aim of the security operation was to catch the "criminals" and "looters and thugs" responsible for setting the parliament building on fire on Wednesday night.

In several districts of the coastal economic capital Port Gentil, youths barricaded shops to deter further looting, according to an AFP journalist there. Other youths blocked minor roads and threw stones at police, who replied by lobbing tear gas canisters. Using car-mounted loudspeakers, police urged parents to tell their children to stop putting up roadblocks. — AFP

MOZAMBIQUE GIRLS FORCED INTO SEX WORK

BEIRA, Mozambique: Bemusa was only eight when her parents died of tuberculosis and she was left in the care of an "aunt", who made ends meet by working as a prostitute in Mozambique's second city, Beira. By the time Bemusa reached puberty, her aunt wanted the girl to join her as a sex worker on the streets of Beira, a city known for its faded colonial grandeur, busy port and sleazy nightlife. "My foster mother would push a blue candlestick laced with pepper into my vagina when I was 13," said Bemusa, who agreed to be interviewed on condition that her real name was not used. "Each time she scolded me, 'you must bleed and lose it.'" When the sexual initiation failed, Bemusa's aunt sent two boys to sleep with her to ensure she lost her virginity. Men paid less to have sex with "inexperienced" girls, her aunt said. At the time, food was scarce and rice, a staple, had become too expensive to buy. "My aunt said, 'lose that virginity, it's a meal ticket,'" said Bemusa, who is now 18. Bemusa now earns on average \$7 a day "on a good day" selling sex to truckers, foreign traders and Chinese tourists passing through Beira, a major trading point on the Mozambique Channel for goods coming in and out of Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia.

'Ungrateful'

Women's rights campaigners say scores of mostly orphaned girls in Mozambique have suffered similar sexual initiations at the hands of their guardians, who offer them to rich, older men in exchange for food, clothes, cash or even a goat. Many orphans lost their parents to HIV/AIDS which has claimed some 800,000 lives in the southern African country over the past decade. "To refuse is seen as a taboo," said Bemusa, who drinks tea brewed with Mudzpete leaves, a hallucinogenic drink that blunts the painful memories of her experience. "Resisting brings violent beatings and intense shame especially when you are an orphan. You appear ungrateful."

The teenager, who has long abandoned her dream of becoming a nurse and getting married, blames her aunt for tricking her. "She said rich men in Mozambique pay more cows for wives who are 'easy', with no tight genitals. I was young, hungry, naïve." Disasters in recent years, such as drought and floods, have driven poor Mozambican families deeper into destitution, and more women into prostitution, local activists say. The UN children's agency UNICEF has also recognised the threat, warning in July that drought exacerbated by El Nino could lead to a spike in new HIV infections in southern Africa as more women and girls turn to sex to survive. — Reuters

'BIGGEST DEMO IN DECADES' PRESSURES MADURO

CARACAS: Opponents of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro claimed to have mobilized a million demonstrators Thursday in the biggest rally in decades, vowing weekly mass protests to demand a referendum on ousting him from power. Police deployed in their hundreds to keep anti-government protesters angry at food and medicine shortages apart from Maduro's supporters, who vowed to defend his "socialist revolution". The rallies raised fears of violence in the oil-rich South American state, where anti-government protests in 2014 led to clashes with police that left 43 people dead.

The leader of the opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable, Jesus Torrealba, told AFP it was the "biggest rally in recent decades" with "between 950,000 and 1.1 million people" taking part. Demonstrators dressed in white marched in the east of the capital, yelling "Venezuela is hungry" and "This government is going to fall." "We either come out to march or we will die of hunger. We are no longer afraid of the government," said one demonstrator, Ana Gonzalez, 53.

The rallies come at a highly volatile time for Venezuela, where a plunge in prices for oil exports has led to shortages, violent crime and outbreaks of looting. "This is a historic

march. Today begins a definitive stage in this struggle," Torrealba said.

'People' for Maduro

Thousands of Maduro supporters in red T-shirts and caps meanwhile rallied in the central Plaza Bolivar yelling to their leader: "The people are with you." Maduro estimated his supporters' turnout at up to 30,000. "Today we have defeated a coup d'etat," he told the crowd. "They have failed once again. The victory is ours." The opposition blames Maduro for the economic crisis and wants a referendum on removing him from power. He has branded the effort a right-wing "coup". "We are here at the call of our president, to defend the revolution," said 37-year-old housewife Carolina Aponte at the pro-government rally.

The authorities arrested three opposition leaders in the days ahead of the march. Senior opposition figure Henrique Capriles said on Thursday that two mayors had also been arrested. Thursday's marches remained mostly peaceful, finishing in the mid-afternoon, but isolated clashes between demonstrators and security officers did occur, with some violent incidents reported in other cities. After the protest, state security agents fired tear gas against protesters who tried to block the main



CARACAS: Opposition activists march in the capital on Thursday. — AFP

highway of the city after a group of masked men threw stones at some officers. Opposition leaders and human rights organizations also reported outbreaks of violence in Maracay and

San Cristobal. The MUD said in a statement it would hold two further nationwide demonstrations: at electoral offices on Sept 7, and a "national mobilization day" on Sept 14. — AFP



STEINHATCHEE, Florida: People walk pass debris and boats scattered across the road after Hurricane Hermine passed the area yesterday. — AP

HURRICANE HAMMERS FLORIDA

HERMINE BARRELS NORTH TOWARD ATLANTIC COAST

TAMPA, Florida: Wind and rain from Hurricane Hermine toppled trees and power lines along Florida's northern Gulf Coast, inundating coastal areas with storm surges before it weakened to a tropical storm over land and plowed toward the Atlantic Coast yesterday. Hermine made landfall early yesterday near St Marks, Florida, 20 miles south of the capital of Tallahassee, dumping heavy rains and packing winds of 80 mph (130 km/h), leaving tens of thousands of households without power along Florida's Gulf Coast.

No injuries were immediately reported. It was the first hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma more than a decade ago. A weakening Hermine moved across southern Georgia, blowing winds of 60 miles per hour (95 km) at 8 am EDT, (noon GMT), according to the National Hurricane Center. The tropical storm was expected to reach the coastal Carolinas later yesterday, then move offshore from North Carolina today. Forecasters said it could restrengthen over the sea.

In Cedar Key, an island community in northwest Florida, waters rose more than 9.5 feet (2.9 meters), among the highest surges ever seen, according to the National Weather Service (NWS) in Tallahassee. "It is a mess," Virgil Sandlin, the Cedar Key police chief told the Weather Channel television network. "We have high water in numerous places."

Some 170,000 people were without power in the affected region yesterday morning, WCTV television in Tallahassee reported. More than half of Tallahassee had lost power, the

NWS said. By Friday morning, the storm barreled across southeastern Georgia, where thousands were without power. On its current path, the storm could dump as much as 15 inches (38 cm) of rain on coastal Georgia, which was under a tropical storm watch, and the Carolinas. Forecasters warned of "life-threatening" floods and flash floods. The governors of Georgia and North Carolina declared emergencies in affected regions.

A tropical storm watch extended north to New Jersey with Hermine expected to be felt over the US Labor Day holiday weekend by tens of millions of Americans living along the Atlantic Coast. Yet as it made its way north, the storm whipped up heavy rain across Florida's Gulf Coast yesterday morning. Communities as far south as Tampa shut roads due to flooding. Schools in 35 of the state's 67 counties were closed, Florida Governor Rick Scott said on Twitter. In advance of the storm, he had declared a state of emergency in 51 counties. As the sun rose yesterday morning on Hudson Beach, just north of Tampa, cars sat askew in the middle of flooded out roads. Palm fronds, tree branches and garbage cans were scattered about. Overnight, Pasco County crews rescued 18 people and brought them to shelters after their homes were flooded in Hudson Beach and nearby Green Key. Richard Jewett, 68, was rescued from his home in nearby New Port Richey, around 1:30 am EDT (730 GMT) yesterday as emergency workers carried out a mandatory evacuation. — Reuters

SCOTTISH LEADER LAUNCHES DRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE

STIRLING, United Kingdom: Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon yesterday launched a major new survey on independence, saying the Brexit vote had changed the conditions that existed when Scotland voted against secession in 2014. "Brexit raises afresh the issue of independence... It would allow

us to take control of our own destiny," Sturgeon told lawmakers from her Scottish National Party, which favors breaking off from the rest of Britain. Centre-left leader Sturgeon said the survey would be conducted through a website and by polling party members, aiming to reach two million people, or around half the electorate. The results are due by St Andrew's Day on Nov 30 - celebrating Scotland's patron saint. "I believe it is right that our party does now lead a new conversation on independence. It will be a new debate, it will not be a re-run of 2014," she said. Scots are deeply divided on the issue and a new poll by YouGov published on Friday found 54 percent were against independence and 46 percent in favor. In Scotland's independence referendum two years ago, 55 percent voted against and 45 percent in favour. But Sturgeon said she believed support for separation would increase once the effects of Brexit become clear and argued that the weakness of the main opposition Labour Party meant the center-right Conservatives could be in power for decades to come. She called the Conservative government's failure to prepare for a "Leave" victory in the June EU referendum "reckless and irresponsible" and warned the result would badly damage the Scottish economy.

"I am not prepared to stand by and watch that happen without a battle," Sturgeon said, adding that she would seek extra powers from London for Scotland to preserve EU ties to help businesses and universities. Addressing Prime Minister Theresa May she said: "You do not have a clear mandate to take any part of the UK out of the single market" of the European Union. May has spoken out against Scottish independence and promised to involve Scotland in negotiations on Britain's future relationship with the EU. Britain as a whole voted to leave the European Union by 52 percent to 48 percent but in Scotland the result was 62 percent to 38 percent in favor of staying in the EU. — AFP



Nicola Sturgeon

UNIV WEIGHS FREE SPEECH VS CRACKDOWN ON HECKLERS

CHICAGO: Disruption of a local prosecutor's speech at the University of Chicago by hecklers unhappy with her handling of a police shooting may have been the last straw for administrators at one of the country's most prestigious schools. After years of tolerating dissenters who shouted down unpopular speakers on campus, the school is now considering a policy of meting out suspensions, expulsions or other punishment for those it sees as violating free speech rights.

"I think the university is now signaling that we mean business here," said Jerry Coyne, an ecology and evolution professor and an outspoken critic of dissident students who he says are acting "entitled". "What they're basically saying is, 'We have the right to harass anybody we don't like,'" Coyne, who is not a member of the faculty committee, said about the disrupters. University rules already bar interfering with campus activities, but faculty and students said they could not recall them ever being enforced.

The panel is seeking ways to streamline a "cumbersome" student disciplinary system that dates back to the era of Vietnam War protests, according to a memo sent to faculty in June. The aim is to protect "freedom of expression, inquiry and debate" from interference, the memo says. The proposal is the latest volley in a battle on US university campuses over what constitutes free speech in an academic environment. When does a student have a right to heckle

and shout down someone with an offensive point of view? Should a school cancel a speech that generates too much controversy? Does a student have a right to be warned before attending an academic lecture that may prove upsetting? On the last question, the University of Chicago came out strongly last month in favor of giving faculty the right to decide if and when to warn students whenever lecture material might upset or offend some of them.

Students, for instance, have been known to object to lectures on novels containing scenes of sexual assault. In August the dean of students, Jay Ellison, sent a letter to incoming students saying that such "trigger warnings" were strictly optional. He vowed the university would not cancel a talk or presentation no matter how much controversy it generated or how strongly some students objected. Some students defend their right to heckle speakers they consider morally objectionable. They say that authority figures such as the prosecutor who spoke in February at the University of Chicago, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, have many opportunities to speak their minds.

Alvarez, who took more than a year to charge a white police officer who fatally shot a black teenager in 2014, has drawn harsh criticism in Chicago from Black Lives Matter supporters. "In a world that is consistently silencing black voices, I think it's important to make ourselves heard in a way that we cannot be

ignored," said Mary Blair, a University of Chicago sophomore who was part of the Alvarez protest. In March, Alvarez lost a primary election. Her office did not respond to interview requests.

Located in the third-largest US city, the University of Chicago, which dates to 1890, is highly ranked academically, lending its name to the "Chicago School" of economics. President Barack Obama, who taught law there, has stood up for campuses hosting divisive speakers. "If you disagree with somebody, bring them in and ask them tough questions," Obama told Rutgers University's commencement in May. He said students should not "shut your ears off because you're too fragile."

Rutgers in New Jersey is one of many US schools that have canceled speeches in the face of protests in recent years. In March, hecklers shut down an event for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump at the University of Illinois at Chicago. At the University of Chicago, the chairman of the faculty committee, due to make recommendations by Dec 15, said he is keeping an open mind about how to change the disciplinary system. "We're not opposed to protest. We're opposed to disruption," said Randal Picker, a law professor. "These are university campuses; there should be a lot of activity on them."

Some students blasted the creation of the committee, calling it an attempt to discourage left-leaning causes. — Reuters

UNIV TO GIVE ADMISSIONS EDGE TO SLAVE DESCENDANTS

GEORGETOWN APOLOGIZES FOR SLAVERY PAST

WASHINGTON: Georgetown University on Thursday announced measures to atone for profiting from the sale of nearly 300 slaves in the 19th century, giving an edge in admissions to their descendants. University President John DeGioia promised an official apology that would come in the form of a "mass of reconciliation in which we will seek forgiveness for our participation in the institution of slavery."

Georgetown is also renaming school buildings to honor those enslaved, creating a new institute for the study of slavery and building a memorial honoring slaves whose work benefited the university. Georgetown, a Jesuit school founded in 1789, is one of the oldest universities in the United States. In 1838,

the sale of 272 slaves who worked on Jesuit plantations in nearby Maryland helped finance the university's operations. The sale was worth about \$3.3 million in today's dollars, and the slaves were sent off to Louisiana.

The school used about \$500,000 in today's dollars of the proceeds to pay off the school's growing debt. Nearly two centuries after Georgetown's slave sale, America is still grappling with the legacy of slavery, which was formally abolished in 1865. The reconciliatory moves are the outcome of a year-long, 16-member working group at Georgetown including students, faculty, staff and alumni. It found that many of the slaves were later resold. "This community participated in the institution of slavery. This original

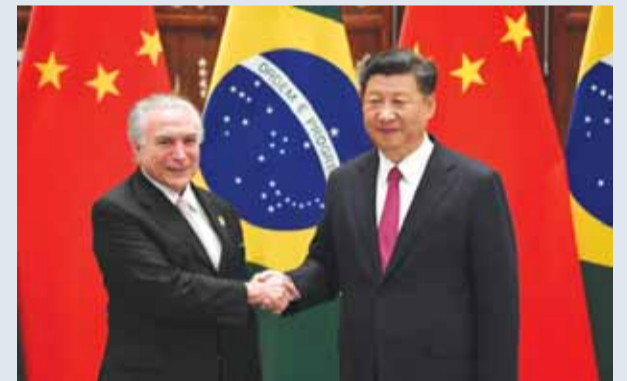
evil that shaped the early years of the republic was present here, and we have been able to hide from this truth, bury this truth, ignore and deny this truth," DeGioia said during a speech on the campus in the US capital Washington. "As a community and as individuals, we cannot do our best work if we refuse to take ownership of such a critical part of our history," added DeGioia, who met with descendants over the summer in several cities of Louisiana and in Spokane, Washington.

Descendants will be given "an advantage in the admissions process", the working group recommended. But the university stopped short of suggesting they be given financial aid. "While we acknowledge that the moral debt of slaveholding and the sale of the enslaved people can never be repaid, we are convinced that reparative justice requires a meaningful financial commitment from the university," its report said. Several descendants of slaves who toiled at and for Georgetown also spoke. "Our goal is to unshackle the hearts and the minds of those who were never physically in bondage but nevertheless work under the vestiges of our nation's slavery," one read from a joint declaration, calling for more involvement in the reconciliatory process.

Other top American universities - including Brown, Columbia and Harvard - have also publicly recognized their own ties to the slave trade. While hailing Georgetown's admissions moves as "new" compared to those of its competitors, historian Craig Wilder, who has studied universities and slavery, warned "it will take decades for it to have any significant impact." — AFP



WASHINGTON: Deja Lindsey, 20, a junior at Georgetown University, talks on her cellphone in front of Healy Hall on campus on Thursday. — AP



HANGZHOU, China: Brazil's new President Michel Temer (left) and Chinese President Xi Jinping greet each other before a meeting at the West Lake State Guest House yesterday. — AP

BRAZIL 'TURNED A PAGE': TEMER

SHANGHAI: Brazil has turned a page on years of crisis, the country's new leader Michel Temer said yesterday as he made his international presidential debut in China only a day after being sworn in to replace Dilma Rousseff following a bitter impeachment fight. "Even though we suffered from political and economic upheaval, as well as economic downturn, this page has been turned," Temer said in a speech yesterday in the Chinese commercial hub Shanghai. "Brazil has put all the economic and political instability it suffered in the past few years behind us."

Temer, 75, came to China for the G20 summit which starts in nearby Hangzhou on Sunday, and is seeking to consolidate his position after senators in Brasilia voted Wednesday to convict Rousseff on charges of having illegally manipulated government accounts. His Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping called him an "old friend" when they met on the shores of the city's landmark West Lake, adding: "China and Brazil make up together the East and West's two biggest developing countries."

Temer said it was an "honor" that his first presidential trip was to China, adding: "I am even more honored to hear you say that we are friends." Earlier, with Shanghai mayor Yang Xiong, Temer witnessed the signing of nine agreements covering projects from infrastructure to agriculture and said that China was now "Brazil's most-needed cooperative partner." Brazilians "need China's support, we need China's cooperation," he added. — AFP

MELANIA SUES DAILY MAIL, BLOGGER OVER 'DEFAMATORY' STORIES

WASHINGTON: Melania Trump, the wife of US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, sued the Maryland-based publisher of the Daily Mail Online and a blogger on Thursday over stories about her past she believes were "tremendously damaging", her attorney said in a statement. Late Thursday, the Daily Mail retracted a story in a posting on its website. "To the extent that anything in the Daily Mail's article was interpreted as stating or suggesting that Mrs Trump worked as an 'escort' or in the 'sex business'... is hereby retracted, and the Daily Mail newspaper regrets any such misinterpretation. A Daily Mail story last month cited a Slovenian magazine's report that a modeling agency that Trump worked with in New York in the 1990s also served as an escort business, linking wealthy clients with women for sexual services. Trump had notified the British newspaper and other news organizations on Aug 22 that she would take legal action, Trump's attorney, Charles Harder, said in an email at the time, calling the reports "outright lying".



Melania Trump

"These defendants made several statements about Mrs Trump that are 100 percent false and tremendously damaging to her personal and professional reputation," he said in a statement on Thursday. The lawsuit was filed in state circuit court in Montgomery County, Maryland. The lawsuit alleges that the Maryland blogger, Webster Griffin Tarpley, published "false and defamatory statements" about Trump, including that the former model had suffered from "a full-blown nervous breakdown." "Defendants' actions are so egregious, malicious and harmful to Mrs Trump that her damages are estimated at \$150 million dollars," her lawyer's statement said. — Reuters

OBAMA VISITS MIDWAY ATOLL SYMBOL OF CLIMATE, ASIA LEGACY

MIDWAY ATOLL: US President Barack Obama snorkeled on Thursday in the electric-blue water off Midway Atoll, a remote coral reef that serves as a reminder of both modern global climate challenges and the United States' dominance in the Pacific since its World War Two victory there. The journey was aimed at sending a message about the need to protect vulnerable species and spaces from the ravages of climate change. But it was also timed as Obama makes his way to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and other world leaders in his last visit to Asia, having sought to refocus US defense and trade policy on the region.

"It's a signal, it's a message saying the United States is committed to staying in the Pacific, and not sort of backing away," said naval historian Tom Hone, who has studied the Battle of Midway. Zipping around the island in an 18-golf-cart motorcade filled with Secret Service, aides and camera crews, Obama stopped to see several endangered green sea turtles lazily paddle in to bask on the white sand beach. "When I grew up, we'd see these turtles all the time. You almost never see them beaching like this, just basking in the sun," said Obama, who grew up in Hawaii, more than 1,100 nautical miles to the southeast. Obama, whose presidency comes to an end in five months, has tried to use his time in office to make Americans more passionate about climate change. Less than 5 percent of American voters say the environment is the most important issue facing the country, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling between July 24 and Aug. 21, and 35 percent say climate change will not affect the way they vote in the Nov. 8 election to pick Obama's successor.

The island visit bookends Obama's trip last year to Alaska, where he hiked on a shrinking glacier. "These aren't 'photo ops' - I think these are real opportunities to help the American people understand," said Carol Browner, a former head of the Environmental Protection Agency who advised Obama on climate issues in his first term. "He can get a level of attention that nobody else can get," Browner said. Last week, Obama quadrupled the size of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National



US President Barack Obama tours Midway Atoll in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Pacific Ocean on Thursday. —AFP

Monument to create the world's largest marine monument, protecting the area off the coast of Hawaii from commercial fishing and drilling. "This is going to be a precious resource for generations to come," said Obama, his dress shirt undone an extra button in the sauna-like heat.

"This is hallowed ground," he said near a beach where young soldiers hunkered down under pillboxes, awaiting Japanese fighter planes during the World War Two Battle of Midway, one of the most-studied battles in military history. "Had it not been for the courage and the bravery of those airmen, we might have not seen the tide turn in the battle of the Pacific," he said.

In June 1942, US forces, tipped by code-breakers that the Japanese navy was planning an attack, sank four Japanese aircraft carriers and a heavy cruiser in a giant air and sea battle. Obama's golf cart motorcade bumped over a tarmac pockmarked by shrapnel from the battle, passing old hangars and a "bone yard" of scrap metal, old office chairs, and broken appliances. — Reuters

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PAK ARMY KILLS 4 BOMBERS AT CHRISTIAN COLONY

PESHAWAR: Four suicide bombers who were trying to attack a Christian colony in Pakistan were killed yesterday during a gunfight with security forces outside the northwestern city of Peshawar, the army said. Soldiers backed by army helicopters exchanged gunfire with militants in suicide vests who had tried to attack the colony near Warsak Dam, just north of Peshawar, the army said. "Four suicide bombers with arms and ammunition entered the Christian Colony at Warsak after hitting a security guard at 5.50 am (00:50 GMT)," the Pakistan army said in a statement.

"Security forces promptly responded and surrounded the area. Exchange of fire took place and all four terrorists were killed," it said, adding that two paramilitary soldiers, a policeman and two security guards were wounded in the gunfight. The "situation is under control", the statement said, adding that troops were now carrying out a house-to-house search of the area.

Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), a faction of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attempt, with a

spokesman telling journalists in Peshawar they had killed many "infidels" in the assault. The militants regularly exaggerate their claims. JuA claimed it was behind Pakistan's deadliest attack this year, a bombing that also targeted Christians in a crowded Lahore park that killed 75 people on Easter Sunday. And the group has said it was behind an attack on a hospital in the southwestern city of Quetta last month that killed 73.

Islamic State had also said it carried out that attack, though the Pakistani military said Thursday there was no evidence to support the claim. Discrimination and violence against religious minorities is commonplace in Pakistan, where Muslims account for more than 90 percent of the population. The Pakistani Taliban in particular routinely target minority groups, and in 2011 gunned down Shahbaz Bhatti, a Christian who was federal minister for minority affairs.

Taliban militants stormed a school in Peshawar in Dec 2014, killing more than 150 people, mostly children, in Pakistan's deadliest-ever terror attack.



PESHAWAR: Pakistani soldiers cordon off a street leading to the Christian colony following an attack by suicide bombers yesterday. — AFP

The army launched an operation in June 2014 in a bid to wipe out militant bases in the tribal areas and so bring

an end to the bloody insurgency that has cost thousands of civilian lives since 2004. — AFP

RUSSIA, JAPAN SEEK TO END ISLAND ROW

ABE HOLDS TALKS WITH PUTIN

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was keen to resolve a territorial dispute with Japan as he met yesterday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, but a deal appears far off. Tokyo-Moscow relations are hamstrung by a row dating back to the end of World War II when Soviet troops seized the southernmost islands in the Pacific Kuril chain, known as the Northern Territories in Japan. "We are not talking about some kind of exchange or some kind of sale," Putin said in an interview with Bloomberg News aired yesterday. "We are talking about finding a solution where neither party will feel... defeated or a loser."

The tensions have prevented the countries from signing a peace treaty formally ending wartime hostilities, hindering trade and investment ties. Putin said that signing a peace treaty with Japan was a "key issue" and that Moscow "would very much like to find a solution to this problem with our Japanese friends."

Abe's visit to Russia - his second this year - comes days after the Kremlin announced that Putin will travel to Japan in December, his first trip to the country since 2005. Over the years, leaders from the two nations have tried to make headway on resolving the row but a solution has proved elusive.

Rapprochement Efforts

Both sides have confirmed that the disputed islands will be addressed in yesterday's talks, taking place on the sidelines of an economic forum in the far eastern Russian city of Vladivostok. "I'm resolved to make progress on the peace treaty and territorial issues by holding candid and thorough talks with President Putin," Abe told reporters before he set off for Vladivostok. Experts view recent rapprochement efforts as a positive development for Moscow's trade ties with stalwart US ally Tokyo, but doubt that they will result in a resolution of their territorial dispute.

"The two parties are likely to show that they are in favour of a peace treaty but will try not to publicly express their disagreements about the Kuril islands," Russian political analyst Konstantin Kalachev said. "Japan is not ready to drop its claims to the islands and Russia will by no means recognize them." Foreign minister Lavrov said earlier this year that Russia wants to "move forward" its ties with Japan but is not prepared to budge on the "result of World War II".

Russia has angered Japan recently by building new modern compounds for its troops stationed on two of the disputed islands. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev infuriated Tokyo last year when he visited the islands, which are home to some 19,000 Russians.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said ahead of the talks that the territorial dispute was "far from the main issue on the agenda", adding that efforts to boost trade ties would be their main focus. — AFP



VLADIVOSTOK: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a meeting on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum yesterday. — AFP



JAFFNA: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon carries a four month-old baby at the resettlement village of Veeman Kamam on the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday. — AFP

UN CHIEF URGES LANKA TO REDRESS WRONGS OF WAR

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka: UN chief Ban Ki-moon Friday toured Sri Lanka's former killing fields and met with war-battered minority Tamils after urging Colombo to reduce the army's presence to ease tensions following decades of ethnic bloodshed. The UN Secretary-General held talks with the main opposition politicians in the northern town of Jaffna, 400 km north of Colombo on the final leg of the two day visit. The region saw some of the bloodiest battles during the 37-year war with the entire Jaffna population of 800,000 displaced at various stages of the fighting, with many still refugees in their own country.

Dozens of Tamil civilians held pictures of their loved ones still unaccounted for seven years after the war ended and staged a silent demonstration outside the Jaffna public library where Ban met with local politicians. "About 100 people from my village signed the petition asking him (Ban) to help us get back our property," Tamil fisherman, Joseph Rasanayagam, 59, told AFP before the UN diplomat's visit.

Over 100,000 Tamils cannot access their homes in the region, either because they were destroyed in the fighting that ended in 2009, or because the land is still occupied by the military. Tamil groups maintain 32 camps for internally displaced persons in the Jaffna peninsula. Giving a public lecture in Colombo earlier, Ban welcomed what he called symbolic steps taken by the new government to ensure ethnic reconciliation but called for more momentum to ensure lasting peace. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

Asian markets wobble;
oil and gold pull away

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Unemployment rate
holds steady at 4.9%

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Millions strike in
India over wages

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LINTHICUM: Passengers prepare to check bags at a Delta Air Lines counter at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in Linthicum, Md. Delta Air Lines is rolling out new technology to better track bags throughout its system. — AP

THE QUEST TO END LOST AIRLINE LUGGAGE

LINTHICUM: Victor DaRosa stands under a scorching afternoon sun, loading bags onto a jet heading to Detroit. As each suitcase climbs up the conveyor belt into the plane, a small computer verifies that it actually belongs on that flight. If one bag didn't, a red light would flash and the belt would stop until somebody acknowledges the mistake and reroutes the luggage. This is the future of baggage handling. Delta Air Lines is investing \$50 million to soothe one of air travel's biggest headaches: lost and delayed luggage.

Delta carried nearly 120 million checked suitcases last year, collecting \$25 in fees, each way, for most domestic bags. For that price, fliers expect their suitcase to be waiting on the carousel when they arrive. Delta already has one of the airline industry's best luggage handling records - just 1 out of every 500 bags failed to arrive on time - but hopes that by deploying a RFID, or radio-frequency identification, tracking system globally it can improve further.

If the system works, other airlines are likely to follow. Ultimately the bag tag might be replaced with permanent RFID readers in our suitcases, reducing the chances fliers in the future will start a vacation missing their swimsuit. "It's a very smart move," says Henry Hartevelt, founder of travel consultancy

Atmosphere Research Group. "It's one that will help increase customer confidence that their bags will arrive with them." RFID wirelessly identifies tags attached to items. The technology is widely used at warehouses to track goods but Delta's rollout is the first global use for passenger bags.

Unique 10-digit number

To better understand the technology, think about your local supermarket. If every grocery item had an RFID tag, cashiers wouldn't have to scan each product at checkout. Instead, the groceries would pass by a scanner and be instantly registered. Shoppers could even leave everything in their cart, having it all tallied at once. The same principles apply to checked luggage. Most airlines today use barcodes on tags to identify each suitcase - each tag has its own unique 10-digit number - and make sure it is loaded onto the right plane.

But reading each barcode with a handheld scanner is time consuming. Often, a bag or two aren't scanned or error messages are missed by workers focused on getting planes out on time. Delta designed its system to stop those errors. At the airline's 84 largest airports - accounting for 85 percent of its passengers - Delta will have 1,500 special belt loaders with RFID readers built in. Those loaders - like the one DaRosa

was using - stop when a bag for a different flight is accidentally placed on the belt.

"It's amazing technology," says DaRosa, a ramp supervisor who has been testing the technology at Baltimore Washington International Airport. "It's going to totally eliminate a bunch of careless little errors." Replacing handheld scanners allows ramp workers to use both hands to lift bags, reducing injuries and speeding up the loading and unloading process. RFID also shortens the time needed to find and remove a bag from a plane at the last second. All of that means more on-time flights.

Delta is also using RFID to track bags through the labyrinth of conveyor belts below terminals. If bags fall off a belt at a particular curve or get stuck at a junction, Delta will now have enough RFID readers - about 5,200 globally - to pinpoint the trouble spot and fix it. The Atlanta-based airline says it plans to have the system online in 344 airports by the end of August. The new tags look like traditional ones. But if held up to the light, passengers can see a fingernail-size chip and a credit card size antenna inlaid inside.

By the end of this year, fliers will be able to track their bags through the Delta smartphone app, getting push notifications at each step of the journey. If a bag misses its flight, passengers are also notified instantly. That way passengers

"aren't standing at a baggage carousel waiting for the last piece of luggage to come off to realize their bag isn't there," says Sandy Gordon, Delta's vice president of airport operations for the eastern US.

Most passengers' bags do arrive on time. But there are so hiccups, with 1 out of every 500 bags Delta carried last year failing to do so. It's a record surpassed by only Virgin America and JetBlue Airways, which both have smaller and simpler route networks. Twice as many were delayed last year on American Airlines, according to statistics reported to the Department of Transportation. Bags often get delayed when bad weather forces tight connections or passengers are rerouted onto new flights.

Baggage problems

Of the 245,000 bags Delta mishandled last year, 208,000 of them arrived within three hours, according to the airline. Another 25,000 were reunited with passengers within 12 hours. The remaining 12,000 were either lost or took more than 12 hours to be delivered. Installing RFID isn't going to solve all of Delta's baggage problems. But the airline estimates a 10-percent reduction in delayed bags. That means about 25,000 fewer bags the airline has to deliver to passengers' homes, offices or hotel rooms. — AP

SPAIN'S JOBLESS NUMBER INCHES UP

MADRID: The number of people registered as unemployed in Spain rose by 14,435 to 3.69 million in August from a month earlier, its first increase since February, the Labor Ministry said yesterday. But the number of jobless was down by 370,459 people from the same month last year, the ministry said in a statement, which called it "the best figure for the month of August since 2009". Spain's economy relies heavily on tourism

and August is usually a weaker month for the job market as summer hiring by hotels and restaurants tails off, factories slow and teaching contracts end.

All sectors saw an increase in unemployment in August although the rise was more pronounced in the services and industrial sector. The increase in unemployment comes as politicians are still struggling to form a new government following two

inconclusive elections in December and June which resulted in a hung parliament. Spain's unemployment rate, which is calculated separately by national statistics institute INE, is still the highest in the euro-zone after Greece's. It stood at 20 percent in the second quarter of 2016. But it has fallen significantly from a peak of 26.9 percent in early 2013 as the country struggled with the fallout of the collapse of a property bubble in 2008. — AFP

BRITAIN STRIKE-PRONE SOUTHERN RAIL RISKS FURTHER PUBLIC IRE

LONDON: British transport company Go-Ahead, parent of strike-hit Southern rail company, reported a 17 percent rise in annual profit yesterday, potentially adding to the anger of London commuters that use its cancellation-prone train services. Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), which is 65 percent owned by Go-Ahead alongside France's Keolis and operates Southern, has faced widespread criticism from passengers, politicians and the media after months of strikes, cancellations and delays on trains into London.

Some workers say they have even lost their jobs because they could not get to work on time. Go Ahead's Chief Executive David Brown apologized to customers on Friday in a statement, and said he did not want to be considered for an annual bonus this year and had declined a salary increase. But he defended the group's higher profits, which sent the company's shares up as much as 9 percent. "I can't apologize for doing what I set out to do in other parts of the business because that's where the profits have come from," he told Reuters after the results release. Go-Ahead's annual adjusted operating profit of 157.4 million pounds (\$209 mln) topped an average analysts' forecast of 153.6 million pounds, after growth in the group's bus unit and two smaller rail contracts offset GTR's performance.

Brown said GTR was a problem franchise which does not contribute to profits and which was being subsidized by the group's London buses and trains in central England and elsewhere. "We're putting more and more resources into it (GTR) to try to meet the performance targets and that's removed our profit margin," Brown said. Disruption on the GTR network has been due to the redevelopment of London Bridge station, a major London train hub, which has been more complex than expected and caused many more delays than forecast. That forced Go-Ahead to warn in June that the seven-year rail contract would produce margins nearer to 1.5 percent, not the 3 percent it previously expected.

Shares in Go-Ahead, whose rail services carry about a third of all passengers across Britain, were up 8 percent at 2,154 pence at 1047 GMT, having slumped by as much as a quarter since mid-June on the warning over margins and negative headlines. "Operational challenges continue for GTR but we think bus activities alone should be worth about 2,500 pence per share," Jefferies analyst Joe Spooner said in a note.

Britain privatized its rail services in the 1990s but poor service on networks like GTR and perceptions of unreasonably high fares have led to public anger and the leader of the opposition Labour party, Jeremy Corbyn, is calling for the railways to be renationalized. While big profits are likely to further sway Britons against transport companies like Go-Ahead, Brown said the outlook for growth was not as rosy for next year. "We think it's going to be very steady and very similar to this year," he said when asked about next year's bottom line. The company brought its results forward so that they did not coincide with another strike on the Southern network due to start on Sept 7. — Reuters



TOKYO: A man walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Most Asian markets were listless yesterday as investors awaited key US job data that could influence the Fed's interest rate policy. — AP

ASIAN MARKETS WOBBLE OIL, GOLD PULL AWAY FROM LOWS

TOKYO: Asian stock markets wobbled and the dollar was on the defensive yesterday as investors awaited US job data later in the day which could give clues on whether the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates as soon as this month. Spreadbetters expected Britain's FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC to open a touch higher as caution prevailed.

The dollar, which was bullish much of the week, nursed losses after downbeat US manufacturing data tempered recent optimism on the US economy that had revived expectations for a near-term rate hike by the Fed. A report from the Institute of Supply Management (ISM) on Thursday showed US factory activity contracted for the first time in six months in August, as new orders and production tumbled. The ISM index was 49.4.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was barely changed, spending the day swaying in and out of the red. Shanghai fell 0.2 percent while South Korea's Kospi eked out a 0.3 percent gain. Australian stocks lost 0.8 percent and Japan's Nikkei was down 0.1 percent. "Some market participants had bet the Fed may raise US rates as early as this month, but because of the weak ISM data and poor US auto sales, such expectations seemed to have changed," said Hikaru Sato, a senior technical analyst at Daiwa Securities.

"The US is moving towards tightening, and that direction is the same, but the dollar-yen moves also show that people stepped back from expectations for an imminent hike." Asian equity markets took few cues from overnight moves on Wall Street, where stocks were flat with gains in the tech sector offsetting sluggish US factory activity data and lower oil prices. The markets will look to non-farm payrolls to see if the Fed can risk raising rates this month or later this year. Economists polled by Reuters expect the US economy to have added about 180,000 jobs in August.

"While the US manufacturing ISM did undershoot expectations by quite a margin, it is worth remembering that the Fed hiked last year when the ISM manufacturing was at 48.0 and had been sub-50 for three consecutive months," wrote Sharon Zellner, a senior strategist at ANZ. "There is therefore potential for markets to whip-saw should we see robust US jobs data tonight, going into the US Labor Day holiday weekend." The dollar was nearly flat at 103.355 yen after coming down from a one-month high of 104.00 overnight. The euro traded little changed at \$1.1198 after bouncing about 0.3 percent on Thursday. The common currency was at a three-week low of \$1.1123 earlier in the week.

The greenback had surged against its peers following a relatively hawkish speech by Fed Chair Janet Yellen last Friday, which raised expectations the US central bank was moving closer to a hike. Sterling inched up 0.1 percent to \$1.3283 after jumping 1 percent overnight on purchasing managers' index (PMI) data showing the British manufacturing sector staged one of its sharpest rebounds on record in August. The post-Brexit surprise boosted the pound as it could prompt the Bank of England to rethink the need to cut interest rates again if other surveys confirm the trend.

Commodities like oil and gold rebounded on the weaker dollar, which favors non-US buyers of greenback-denominated commodities. US crude was up 0.6 percent at \$43.41 a barrel after sliding 3.4 percent overnight to a three-week low as a growing glut from US crude stockpiles soured market sentiment. Brent rose 0.6 percent to \$45.73 a barrel after shedding more than 3 percent on Thursday. Spot gold was steady at \$1,312.70 an ounce, having rebounding from a two-month trough of \$1,301.91 the previous day. Gold has been dogged by the prospect of higher US interest rates which would diminish the appeal of the non-yielding metal. — Reuters

MAROONED HANJIN VESSELS SPARK SHIPPING CRISIS

SEOUL: South Korea giant Hanjin Shipping said yesterday about a third of its cargo fleet—some forty vessels—is marooned at sea or has been seized at ports, as the industry staggers after its biggest ever bankruptcy filing. On Wednesday, Hanjin Shipping, South Korea's largest and the world's seventh-largest shipping company, filed for court protection after its creditors, led by the state-run Korea Development Bank (KDB), rejected its self-rescue scheme. The company is foundering under a debt estimated at some six trillion won (\$5.37 billion), posting a net loss of more than 473 billion won in the first half of this year after racking up total net losses of about 1.2 trillion won over the past three years. The crisis has badly hit the oversupplied international shipping industry, suffering from its worst downturn in six decades, and sent ripples as far as the US economy, with retailers fearing it may damage Christmas trade. "Forty-five of our 144 vessels are unable to operate in the

normal fashion in some 10 countries," a Hanjin spokesman said.

"Some of them are being impounded, others being barred from docking or discharging," he said. Since last month, Hanjin's vessels, sailors and cargo have been stuck in a maritime limbo as ports, wary they will not be paid for their services, refuse to let them dock, as well as refusing to handle or free cargo already landed. Also affected are ships not owned by Hanjin but contracted by it or belonging to its alliance members, along with cargo and containers on board those vessels.

US retailers, bracing for fallout from Hanjin's woes as they stock up for the crucial Christmas holiday sales season, have asked Washington to step in to help resolve a growing crisis, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. Ten Hanjin vessels were either seized or denied access at Chinese terminals in Shanghai and Tianjin over the past 48 hours, according to local media reports, with another vessel seized in Singapore

earlier the week. An estimated 540,000 containers are expected to face delivery delays, according to the reports.

Hyundai to the rescue

Hanjin officially entered court receivership Friday, the Seoul Central District Court announced. The court will decide whether to keep Hanjin afloat under a recovery program including debt rescheduling or to declare it bankrupt. Hanjin Shipping's assets will in the meantime remain frozen, and the court-appointed new management is required to come up with a new rehabilitation plan by November 25. South Korean financial authorities reportedly are considering letting South Korea's No 2 Hyundai Merchant Marine Co take over Hanjin's good assets, such as its global marketing networks and personnel as well as its own 59 ships.

Financial Supervisory Commission Yim Jong-Yong on Friday met with KDB and Hyundai Merchant Marine officials

and asked Hyundai to help ease cargo disruptions, Yonhap news agency said. Accordingly, Hyundai plans to deploy a total of 13 vessels to the US and Europe, Yonhap added. Hanjin faces a cash shortage of about one trillion won (\$900 million) needed to roll over debts. But major creditors including the state-run Korea Development Bank decided Tuesday not to offer more help.

They said the firm failed to present a viable plan to turn around its business, which has been in the red every year since 2011 amid slowing demand in China and rising charter fees to shipowners. Seoul, as part of a state-led drive to restructure ailing industries, has pressed Hanjin and Hyundai Merchant Marine to revamp their business and persuade creditors to extend loan terms. Hyundai Merchant Marine avoided bankruptcy after reaching an agreement with creditors on a debt restructuring plan in May. But Hanjin failed to convince creditors. — AFP

MYANMAR WORKERS SUE THAI FOOD TITAN FOR LABOR ABUSE

BANGKOK: A group of Myanmar migrants filed a lawsuit yesterday against a major Thai food exporter over allegations of forced labor on a chicken farm, as accusations of abuse dog the kingdom's multi-billion-dollar poultry industry. Thailand's seafood sector has gained global notoriety for using trafficked labor and subjecting boat crews to slave-like conditions. But the poultry industry, which exports around a third of its broiler meat to Europe, has largely evaded scrutiny.

Fourteen migrant workers are now demanding \$1.3 million in compensation for being overworked and underpaid on a Thai chicken farm, said Migrant Worker Rights Network (MWRN), a group that helped them launch the case. The laborers said they were forced to work gruelling 20 hour days that included sleeping in chicken rearing areas on the Lopburi farm that supplied meat to Betagro—a Thai food conglomerate with clients around the globe. Their suit, filed at a labor court in Saiburi province, demands compensation from Betagro, the supplier farm-Thammakaset Farm 2 — and Thai officials, said Andy Hall of MWRN. Betagro declined an AFP request to comment. The food giant cut ties with the supplier farm after the workers' allegations first surfaced in June. But Hall said the company has since refused to provide adequate assistance to the workers. "We need to push this case to hold Betagro responsible for what's happening in their supply chain," he said.

Thailand's seafood sector—for years marred by gruesome stories of abuse—is far "more aware" of the labor issues in its factories and fleets, he added. "The chicken industry has managed to avoid this attention... many companies are still not paying the minimum wage and the workers are essentially powerless," Hall said.

The 14 workers also alleged unlawful salary deductions and said they were only permitted to leave the farm for two hours a week on a monitored market visit. The isolation of Thailand's chicken farms has helped shield the sector from scrutiny, according to rights groups. Thailand has a long history of grubby exploitation of its millions of migrant workers. Much of the workforce remains undocumented, despite recent government efforts to register all migrant laborers. That leaves many migrants vulnerable to abusive employers and traffickers. — AFP



NEW YORK: Buttermilk Bakeshop owner Katie Rosenhouse carries a wholesale order to a customer at her bakery, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. — AP

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HOLDS STEADY AT 4.9%

US NONFARM PAYROLLS RISE LESS THAN EXPECTED

WASHINGTON: US employment growth slowed more than expected in August after two straight months of robust gains and wage gains moderated, which could effectively rule out an interest rate increase from the Federal Reserve this month. Nonfarm payrolls rose by 151,000 jobs last month after an upwardly revised 275,000 increase in July, with hiring in manufacturing and construction sectors declining, the Labor Department said yesterday. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent as more people entered the labor market.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls rising 180,000 last month and the unemployment rate slipping one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.8 percent. Last month's jobs gains, however, could still be sufficient to push the Fed to raise interest rates in December. The rise in payrolls reinforces views that the economy has regained speed after almost stalling in the first half of the year.

The report comes more than two weeks before the US central bank's Sept 20-21 policy meeting. Rate hike probabilities for both the September and December meetings rose after remarks last Friday by Fed Chair

Janet Yellen that the case for raising rates had strengthened in recent months. The Fed lifted its benchmark overnight interest rate at the end of last year for the first time in nearly a decade, but has held it steady since amid concerns over persistently low inflation. The step-down in employment comes after the economy created a total of 546,000 jobs in June and July.

With the labor market near full employment and the economy's recovery from the 2007-09 recession showing signs of aging, a slowdown in job growth is normal. Yellen has said the economy needs to create just under 100,000 jobs a month to keep up with population growth. The smaller-than-expected rise in payrolls also likely reflects difficulties adjusting the data for seasonal fluctuations. Over the last several years, the government's August payrolls estimates have been weak only to be subsequently revised higher. The timing of the next rate hike could also be determined by wage growth. Average hourly earnings increased three cents or 0.1 percent in August after a solid 0.3 percent rise in July.

The moderation in gains, which reflects a calendar quirk, pulled down the year-on-

year gain to 2.4 percent from 2.6 percent in July. Americans worked fewer hours last month, with the average workweek dipping to 34.3 hours from 34.4 hours in July. Other details of the report showed the labor force participation rate, or the share of working-age Americans who are employed or at least looking for a job, unchanged at 62.8 percent last month. The participation rate remains near multi-decade lows, in part reflecting demographic changes, and economists say this partially explains why wage growth has been sluggish.

The solid payrolls gain added to July consumer spending, residential construction and durable goods orders in suggesting a pick up in economic growth after output rose 1.0 percent in the first half of the year. The Atlanta Fed is forecasting gross domestic product rising at a 3.2 percent annual rate in the third quarter. Last month, manufacturing sector employment fell 14,000 after rising for two straight months. Construction payrolls slipped 6,000, while mining shed a further 4,000 jobs in August. Government payrolls rose 25,000 in August, extending the streak of job gains in the public sector to four months.— Reuters

MILLIONS STRIKE IN INDIA OVER WAGES, ECONOMIC REFORMS

NEW DELHI: Millions of public sector workers went on strike across India yesterday protesting against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plans for greater privatization and a proposed minimum wage hike they say is inadequate. Up to 150 million workers from sectors including nursing, banking, manufacturing and coal mining as well as hawkers and daily wage laborers are expected to take part in the 24-hour nationwide strike, organizers said. Ten major unions called the strike after talks with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley broke down, with leaders rejecting his offer to raise the minimum wage for unskilled workers from 6,396 rupees (\$95) per month to 9,100 rupees (\$136).

"This strike is against the central government, this strike is for the cause of the working people," Ramen Pandey of the Indian National Trade Union Congress said. "Our strike will be 100 percent successful... we will prove that this strike is the world's largest ever." Workers are also demanding the government dump plans to shutter unproductive factories, raise foreign investment caps in some industries and sell off stakes in state-run companies-over fears that creeping privatization will jeopardize jobs.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions said workers were "demanding an end to the all-

round attack launched by the government against their lives, livelihood and dignity" and that 150 million people were expected to lay down tools. It accused the government of a "vile conspiracy... to privatize the public sector

and invite foreign capital in some parts of industry". Unions are seeking the introduction of universal social security as well as an increase in the minimum wage to 18,000 rupees a month because of rising prices.



Stray dogs walk near parked trucks alongside National Highway 31 at the village of Gaisal some 120 kms from Siliguri yesterday, during a nationwide strike called by 10 major trade unions over wages and economic reforms. — AFP

It was not possible to independently verify the number of workers on strike. Banks, shops and schools shut down in several parts of the country including southern Karnataka and Kerala states where public transport stopped running, stranding commuters and travelers. Television footage showed flag-waving protesters squatting on railway tracks in the states of Orissa and West Bengal, which has a long history of left-wing union activism. More than 20 protesters were arrested after they damaged two government buses in West Bengal, senior police official Anuj Sharma said.

India's power minister Piyush Goyal said the strike would not have any impact on coal supplies as there is "no shortage of coal anywhere in the country". Modi won a landslide election victory in 2014, promising a string of business-friendly reforms to attract foreign investment and revive the economy. According to the latest budget, the government aims to raise some 560 billion rupees (\$8.3 billion) through privatization in 2016-17 and shut down some state-run firms, after losses exceeded \$4 billion in the last financial year. Previous strikes have brought cities to a standstill and cost the Indian economy millions of dollars in lost production.— AFP

FISCAL PUSH STILL ELUSIVE AS G20 SEEKS TO SPUR GLOBAL ECONOMY

CENTRAL BANKERS INSIST MONETARY POLICY ALONE NOT ENOUGH

LONDON: World leaders heading to a summit in China this weekend are likely to renew their promises to use tax and spending policies to invigorate the sluggish world economy, but the chances of a meaningful new pro-growth push look slim. As concerns grow about over-reliance on central banks to deal with the hangover of the financial crisis, there are some tentative signs of a more relaxed approach to public spending.

The European Union has taken a softer stance with some member states over its budget rules. And Britain, which until recently wanted to turn its big deficit into a surplus by 2020, is considering fiscal stimulus to offset the shock Brexit vote. The United States, frustrated that the slow global economy is holding it back, hopes its calls for governments to do more to spur growth will gain new urgency when G20 presidents and prime ministers meet in Hangzhou in China on Sunday and Monday.

"I am not saying that we are going to see every country in the world jump on the bandwagon and declare that they are using their fiscal tools, but if you look at the facts, more fiscal tools are being used," US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew told the Brookings Institution in Washington on Wednesday. In 2015, the G20 leaders said they would use fiscal policies to help growth but also stressed the importance of cutting debt. Japan, which has been trying to revive its economy for about 20 years, announced last month a 13.5-trillion-yen spending plan which includes infrastructure payouts to low-income households.

But with public finances still weak in many countries, there has been little major action to spur growth. Nearly 10 years after the financial crisis began, many central bankers sound exasperated that their bold stimulus attempts have not

been followed up by governments. "Monetary policy is not well equipped to address long-term issues like the slowdown in productivity growth," US Federal Reserve Vice Chair Stanley Fischer said on Sunday, calling on Washington to invest more in infrastructure and education to juice up the slowly recovering US economy.

Share the burden

The frustration of central bankers is even more palpable in Europe where growth is weaker than in the United States, despite the European Central Bank cutting rates below zero. Many euro-zone governments are still struggling with the legacy of debt and deficits left by the financial crisis. Germany, sitting on a record budget surplus, is most able to spend but frugality is an obsession in Berlin and keeping the budget balanced is a cornerstone of Chancellor Angela Merkel's 2017 election campaign.

France and Italy are already pushing their spending limits under EU budget rules, so attempts to revitalize their economies would have to come from potentially painful labor reforms that would anger influential interest groups and be slow to have an impact. "What we have seen since 2007 is half-baked and half-hearted structural reforms," ECB Executive Board member Benoit Coeure said at last weekend's meeting of central bankers from around the world at Jackson Hole, gathered in the wilds of Wyoming.

Extra spending this year to cover the cost of the euro zone's refugee crisis will evaporate in 2017 given the unwillingness of the bloc's big countries to reform or spend more. In Britain, where new finance minister Philip Hammond has talked about a possible fiscal policy "reset" later this year after the Brexit vote shock, the size of any stimulus will

depend on the scale of the post-referendum slowdown. So far, data suggests the economy has been more resilient than forecast.

It's not just central bankers who are urging governments to take advantage of their record-low borrowing costs to act. The International Monetary Fund has estimated that a sustained increase in economic growth of 1 percentage point could bring debt ratios in advanced economies to their pre-crisis levels within a decade. It called on Thursday for G20 leaders to take much stronger action. And big long-term investors such as pension funds and insurers see promise in a deeper market for higher-yielding infrastructure-linked assets. "There is an alignment of interests from monetary policymakers who want to have the burden shared to support economic activity ... to governments that have to keep on supporting job creating and investors gladly complementing the public sector," Nannette Hechler-Fayd'herbe, head of global investment strategy at Credit Suisse, said. Yet the longer it takes for governments to develop new ways to support their economies, the more some investors are worried about the dangers of continued low growth, high debt, weaker banks and growing asset price bubbles. Mohamed El-Erian, chief economic adviser to Allianz, said time was short to respond to the global economy's malaise. In an article published in the Financial Times, he called for an urgent shift toward a more holistic approach, including higher infrastructure spending among other pro-growth reforms. "If the policymaking approach does not evolve into a more comprehensive response, low growth will turn into periodic recessions, inequality will increase and artificial financial stability will give way to unsettling financial disorder," El-Erian said. — Reuters

KOREAN FIRM BURNS FOREST FOR PALM OIL IN INDONESIA

JAKARTA: A South Korean-owned company is cutting down primary rainforests for timber and then setting fires to clear the land to plant oil palm in apparent violation of Indonesian law, according to an investigation by environmental groups. The investigation points to "systematic and widespread use of fire" by the Jakarta-based Korindo Group PT, which adds to the pall of smoky haze choking large parts of Southeast Asia during the annual dry season, the environmental groups said in a report published on Thursday.

Korindo has already cleared more than 50,000 hectares of tropical lowland forest for palm oil plantations in the remote provinces of Papua and Maluku, and at least 75,000 hectares are at "immediate risk" of being cleared, the report said. "I've never seen evidence so strong to prove that a company intentionally burned," AidEnvironment Indonesia senior consultant Erik Waker told Reuters in a telephone interview. One of Korindo's main customers, Wilmar International Ltd., told Reuters the company has stopped buying palm from Korindo for violating its "no deforestation" policy, the company said in an emailed statement.

Korindo blamed local people living near its timber concession area for "lighting fires for hunting wild animals living in the forests". "Accusations that the Korindo Group were a big contributor to the smoke and haze in 2015 and consequently had an impact on the economy and damaged the environment in Indonesia are not true," the company said in a statement. Indonesia's environment ministry has sent a team to Papua "to collect material and information", after they were presented with the findings from the report, the ministry's law enforcement director Muhammad Yunus told Reuters.

\$16 billion in losses

Indonesia is home to the world's third-largest area of tropical forests. It is also the world's fifth-largest emitter of the greenhouse gases widely blamed for global warming, largely due to deforestation. Korindo holds a total of 160,000 hectares of oil palm concessions in eight areas of Papua and Maluku, according to the report, and an estimated 900,000 hectares of logging areas that could also be converted. It is one of the largest plantation companies in eastern Indonesia. Around 90 percent of the world's palm oil crop grows in Malaysia and Indonesia. Indonesia's President Joko Widodo in April imposed a moratorium on expanding palm oil plantations, with the industry under mounting pressure from global companies that use palm oil in products, ranging from soups to soaps and chocolates, to adhere to environmentally sustainable plantation practices. — Reuters

GOOGLE SHELVES PLAN FOR PHONE

SAN FRANCISCO: Alphabet Inc's Google has suspended Project Ara, its ambitious effort to build what is known as a modular smartphone with interchangeable components, as part of a broader push to streamline the company's hardware efforts, two people with knowledge of the matter said. The move marks an about-face for the tech company, which announced a host of partners for Project Ara at its developer conference in May and said it would ship a developer edition of the product this autumn. The company's aim was to create a phone that users could customize on the fly with an extra battery, camera, speakers or other components.

A spokeswoman for Google declined to comment on the matter.

While Google will not be releasing the phone itself, the company may work with partners to bring Project Ara's technology to market, potentially through licensing agreements, one of the people with knowledge of the matter said. Axing Project Ara is one of the first steps in a campaign to unify Google's various hardware efforts, which range from Chromebook laptops to Nexus phones. Former Motorola president Rick Osterloh rejoined Google earlier this year to oversee the effort. Google sold Motorola Mobility to Lenovo Group in 2014.

Modular smartphones have generated great enthusiasm in the tech community for their poten-

tial to prolong the lifespan of a device and reduce electronic waste. But the devices are difficult to bring to market because their interchangeable parts make them bulky and costly to produce, said analyst Bob O'Donnell of TECHanalysis Research, adding that he was not surprised to see Google halt the project. "This was a science experiment that failed, and they are moving on," he said. Project Ara was one of the flagship efforts of Google's Advanced Technology and Projects group, which aims to develop new devices, but it had various stops and starts. Last year, the company shelved plans to sell the modular phone in Puerto Rico with Latin American carriers. — Reuters



File photo, depicts a part of a \$100 bill. The US federal government is borrowing about one out of seven dollars it spends and steadily piling up debt - to the tune of about \$14 trillion held by investors. Over the long term, that threatens the economy and people's pocketbooks. — AP

DOLLAR TRENDS WATER AS ALL EYES TURN TO US JOBS REPORT

LONDON: The dollar held steady yesterday as investors awaited the most closely watched data set of the month, the US non-farm payrolls report, for clues as to whether the Federal Reserve is to raise US interest rates this year. The greenback was flat against a basket of major currencies at 95.72, having fallen 0.4 percent on Thursday, its worst performance in two weeks, after a surprise contraction in US manufacturing that cast some doubts on the strength of US economic growth.

The result was a setback for dollar bulls, who had bet solid US data this week would cement the case for a Fed rate hike as soon as September. "(Thursday's fall in the dollar) tells us that there still is a lot of scepticism over imminent rate hike by the Fed in the market," said Commerzbank currency strategist Thu Lan Nguyen, from Frankfurt. "There is still room for some dollar weakness." Some analysts said that news that the world's biggest company, Apple, would repatriate billions of dollars of global profits to the United States next year would lend support to the dollar at the margins, but Nguyen was skeptical about that.

"Yes, if they move a large amount, that might move the market at some point in time, just because liquidity has become thinner, but all in all I'm very doubtful that a single corporation is able to sustainably move an exchange rate such as the US dollar." The greenback rose 0.4 percent to 103.62 yen, close to the five-week high of 104 yen hit on Thursday. The euro hit a fresh five-week high against the Japanese currency, at 116.02 yen. The main focus of the day was the US jobs data, due at 1230 GMT. Employers are expected to have added 180,000 jobs in August, according to the median estimate of 91 economists polled by Reuters. "I would think markets will gradually price in a rate hike unless the payrolls come below 150,000," said Minoru Uchida, chief currency analyst at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ in Tokyo. Markets are pricing in a less than 1 in 4 chance of a tightening at the Fed's next meeting on Sept 21-22, according to CME FedWatch, despite recent comments from Fed officials suggesting a hike is imminent. Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester, a voting member on the Fed's policy-setting committee this year, was the latest to join the chorus on Thursday, saying the US labor market is at full strength and the Fed needs to be on a path of gradual interest rate increases. — Reuters

CONSUMER GIANTS COURT MUSLIMS WITH HALAL CREAMS AND SHAMPOOS

COMPANIES TAILORING OTHER GOODS FOR MUSLIM LIFESTYLES

LONDON: Some of the world's biggest consumer groups are making halal face creams and shampoos for Indonesia ahead of a new labeling law, part of a broader push to cater to growing Muslim populations as sales in many Western markets slow. Unilever, Beiersdorf and L'Oreal are among the multinationals converting their supply chains for the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation. The law, the first of its kind, requires food to be labeled halal or not in 2017, followed by toiletries in 2018 and medicines in 2019.

The companies say demand for beauty products that are halal, or target specific issues like veiled hair, will grow as the Muslim middle class grows. They note that Indonesia could influence other countries such as Malaysia where halal products made locally or by small, niche companies are also popular. Halal certification is official recognition that a product was manufactured in keeping with Islamic Sharia law. This means it must not contain traces of pork, alcohol or blood, and must be made on factory lines free of contamination risk, including from cleaning.

Makers of cosmetics and toiletries say the burden is more administrative than financial, and therefore see compliance as unlocking new revenue streams. "It's an enabler to do business in certain areas of the world," said Dirk Mampe of German chemicals company BASF, which sells ingredients to toiletries manufacturers and now has 145 of them certified halal. The halal ingredients do not carry premium price tags, he said. "There is a trend that these halal products are being requested more and more, and the importance of being able to supply them is increasing."

More than 1.5 billion people around the world are Muslim, accounting for about a quarter of the global population. Halal cosmetics were estimated to make up 11 percent of a global halal market worth more than \$1 trillion in 2015, according to Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting. Market research firm TechNavio sees

halal personal care products' sales growing 14 percent per year until 2019, outpacing the broader market.

Not-so-secret formula

French cosmetics giant L'Oreal already has a halal-certified factory in Indonesia that supplies the domestic market and its Southeast Asian neighbors. Most products under its Garnier brand, from face washes to skin lightening creams, are halal-certified, a spokeswoman said. The personal care industry already depends largely on plant-derived ingredients, so the rules for halal often affect production more than formulation.

But certification can get complicated. For example, the maker of an Indonesian skin cream with a dozen ingredients from around the world would need to give Indonesian authorities proof from other certification bodies that each ingredient was made in a halal way.

Malaysia-based DagangHalal has made a business from that complexity by establishing an online database of halal certificates to ease their exchange and expedite the process for applicants. As of February, it said 38 out of over 120 certification bodies worldwide had signed up.

The company, which also runs a halal e-commerce site, reported 2015 revenue of 5.6 million Malaysian ringgit (\$1.4 million), up 64 percent year-on-year. It raised 3.6 million pounds (\$4.7 million) from this year's London stock listing, and is betting that halal cosmetics will gain traction beyond their current strongholds of Indonesia and Malaysia. "Halal certification is a requirement that might be put in place by other countries in the future," Joerg Karas, general manager of Schwan-Stabilo Cosmetics, said in a statement last month.

The German company, which is ready to offer halal-certified products to customers such as L'Oreal and Procter & Gamble, said it is "well-equipped for this niche market".

Non-halal products will remain available in Indonesia following the labeling law, but may meet a backlash. "The average Muslim consumer in Indonesia is not going to buy

something that effectively says prohibited on it," said Abdalhamid Evans of halal consultancy firm Imarat Consultants.

Unilever, which owns five of Indonesia's top ten beauty and personal care brands, says all nine of its factories there already meet halal standards and that it is currently working with third-party suppliers of imported ingredients. Alan Jope, who runs Unilever's personal care business from Singapore, told Reuters the cost of certification was "not material".

Muslim values

Competition with homegrown rivals steeped in local tradition can be fierce, especially when it comes to regulation. But Jope said the key for multinationals like Unilever-with global marketing and development teams-is understanding Muslim values generally and how they influence habits in specific markets with different cultures and ethnicities.

"Some (values) are common across Muslim countries," he said, noting that about 90 percent of Muslim consumers say faith influences their brand choices. "But there's quite substantial differences between how a Muslim woman in Indonesia and a Muslim woman in Saudi Arabia express their faith and how that impacts their beauty regimes."

He guessed that one third of the top twenty markets for Unilever's 20 billion euros-per-year business were countries with large Muslim populations, from India to Nigeria. He said better meeting their needs was a top strategic priority.

To that end, Unilever has introduced products such as a gel body moisturizer that absorbs quickly beneath long undergarments and a long-lasting toothpaste appealing to those fasting for Ramadan. Like rival Henkel, it sells a line of shampoo for veiled hair, but Jope said the industry needs to improve its advertising, such as by featuring more women in hijabs. "We need to be doing a better job reflecting Muslim values in our brand communication," he said. — Reuters

BIG BOOST TO GERMAN NEW CAR SALES

FRANKFURT: German new car registrations, a key indicator of consumer demand, saw a steep rise in August, industry data showed yesterday. With 245,076 new cars on the road in August 2016, the figure was 8.3 percent higher than the same month in 2015, the KBA transport authority said. The result was boosted by two additional working days in August compared with 2015, the German Association of the Automobile Industry (VDA) said.

"Positive overall economic development in Germany and the good employment situation are also contributing at the moment," VDA president Matthias Wissmann said in a statement. Analysts at

consultants Ernst & Young noted that correcting for the calendar effects, the increase in registrations was smaller, at 4.3 percent. August's result marks a return to growth for car sales after a blip in July, when fewer cars were sold than over the same month in 2015 — which the VDA also put down to calendar effects.

The KBA said that 836 plug-in hybrid cars and 895 all-electric vehicles were registered in August, representing increases of 46.7 percent and 7.7 percent over August 2015. Figures for electric car sales are under close scrutiny after the government introduced subsidies of up to 4,000 euros (\$4,500) for pure electrics and 3,000 euros for plug-in hybrids earlier this year.

German carmakers saw a seven-percent increase in registrations overall to 169,800 in August, the VDA reported, while foreign manufacturers' share rose by 11 percent to 75,300.

Among German brands, Volkswagen, Mercedes, Porsche and Mini all recorded double-digit percentage increases over August last year. Volkswagen remained the biggest-selling brand in Germany, accounting for 19.9 percent of all new cars registered in August. "Volkswagen was able to stop its downwards trend in August and win back market share," the EY analysts noted, after months in which the manufacturer had suffered from the blow to its reputation over a diesel emis-

sions cheating scandal revealed in September 2015.

Taking into account the VW group's other brands-ranging from lower-end Skoda to luxury Audi-the group accounted for 37.1 percent of the registrations last month, they calculated. August's figures bring the total number of new cars registered in Germany since January to just under 2.3 million - 6.0 percent higher than the same period in 2015. Over the first eight months of the year, German carmakers produced almost 3.9 million vehicles - 2.0 percent more than over the same period in 2015 - and exported almost 3.0 million, a rise of 1.0 percent, the VDA said. — AFP



DUBLIN: A protestor dressed as Snow White (center) demonstrates outside the parliament buildings in Dublin in support of the EU ruling to take 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) in taxes from Apple, the US tech giant yesterday. The Irish government is expected to recall parliament next week for a crisis vote on whether to appeal an EU order mandating Ireland to collect €13 billion in taxes from Apple. — AFP

APPLE APPEAL WOULD BREAK NEW GROUND

TAX BILL COULD BE REDUCED BY COURT

LONDON: Apple CEO Tim Cook has said he will appeal the European Commission's ruling that his company received an unlawful 13 billion euro (\$14.5 billion) subsidy when Ireland gave it preferential tax deals and that he was confident the decision would be reversed. But over a dozen lawyers, including three advising companies on appeals, told Reuters it was impossible to predict how EU courts would rule in an area that has not been tested before.

State aid cases have up until now centered on targeted tax laws that countries introduce with an obvious aim of attracting investment and jobs by reduced tax bills. In the Apple case, and several others, the Commission has been investigating whether member countries' tax authorities were secretly giving tax breaks by being too generous in their application of accepted tax principles. The Commission believes some member states allowed companies to shift profits into untaxed subsidiaries by approving inappropriate transfer prices-the prices subsidiaries of multinational companies charge each other

for intra-group transactions.

Most experts said the EU judges dealing with any Apple appeal to overturn the ruling would be focused on whether the European Commission has strayed too far into dictating national tax policy by rejecting Ireland's view of transfer pricing. "What Apple and Ireland have done sounds really outrageous but the last word has not been spoken as to whether the Commission can use transfer pricing rules to identify what a subsidy is," said Herwig Hofmann, Professor of law at the University of Luxembourg.

"There's a good argument to be made that if you want to do that, actually you have to harmonize tax laws and you don't have the power to do that." EU law says only governments can approve a harmonization of tax systems. The Commission has also been investigating tax transfer pricing at Fiat, McDonald's, Starbucks and Amazon.com Inc. The companies and the countries which gave the rulings all deny special treatment was given and have launched, or are considering, legal appeals.

No special advantage

Some lawyers say that Apple's arrangement was legal in Ireland and theoretically available to any company and so the California-based company could not have received an advantage that was selective - key factors in most state aid cases. "There's nothing that I have seen in any of the cases that have been taken by the European Commission that suggests there is selective application of the rules," Tim Wach, Global Managing Director at international tax advisors Taxand.

However, other lawyers note that Apple's unusual tax structure - involving companies which are tax resident nowhere - means its tax rulings are unlikely to have many close comparators. And the rulings lead to a less than 1 percent tax rate-something most other companies don't enjoy. "If I had to bet my dollar on something here, I think Apple could have a hard time overturning the selectivity argument," said Georg Berrisch, a partner at Baker Botts in Brussels. — Reuters

SEGRO PLC BUCKS PROPERTY BLUES WITH WAREHOUSE FUND-RAISING

LONDON: Segro Plc, Britain's largest listed industrial property developer, shook off wider Brexit concerns yesterday, raising 325 million pounds (\$433 million) to develop new logistics warehouses as "e-retailing" grows across Europe. Property was one of the sectors hardest hit by Britain's June 23 referendum to leave the European Union, with companies that own offices and retail blocks seeing their stocks plunge and investors pulling money from commercial funds.

Segro's share placement took place at a 4.4 percent discount to the company's Thursday closing price of 455.2 pence. One of its bookrunners had earlier said investors were buying at discounts of 4.4 to 5.5 percent. Both current and new investors bought shares, a company spokeswoman said, adding this was indicative of a strong appetite to fund warehouse development. Some types of commercial property have continued to do well despite fears over the impact of Brexit on the British economy and the financial services industry in London.

Segro has seen demand for warehouses continue to rise, with retailing and delivery companies needing more space as they expand their door-to-door services to cater for an increasing number of people going online to purchase everything from clothes to air conditioners. Over the last 10 years, the retail sector has accounted for over 40 percent of all the warehouse space rented, according to property consultant Savills Plc.

According to a CBRE index that focuses on the modern warehousing property industry in the UK, total returns for logistics in the first six months outperformed industrial and property sectors collectively. Segro, which operates mainly in the UK, France, Germany and Poland, said it had not seen any impact on occupational demand since the vote and that it had signed pre-let deals that will generate annualized rents of 6 million pounds since June-end. Recent data showed British consumer morale improved last month after suffering in July.

E-retail boon

The Brexit vote is expected to considerably reduce commercial property development in the UK, as investors forego riskier projects in an uncertain market. However, for projects such as warehouses, lenders will even back projects with lower levels of pre-lets, as demand from e-retailers and delivery firms is not expected to be dented by Brexit. Warehouse development activity has not halted since the referendum, as national vacant rates of just 7.1 pct are way below long-term averages, according to Savills.

Segro had development projects approved, contracted or under construction totalling 629,108 square feet, representing 198.9 million pounds of future capital expenditure as of Aug 25. The company placed about 9.9 percent of its issued share capital to fund an identified pipeline of mainly pre-let developments. As of Thursday's close, the placing would have been worth about 340 million pounds. BofA Merrill Lynch and UBS Ltd acted as joint bookrunners for the placing. "The industrial and logistics sector will continue to benefit from strong occupier demand as retailers upgrade their supply chains/respond to the demand for internet shopping," Stifel analysts wrote in a note. — Reuters

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Weekend

Kuwait Times

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2016



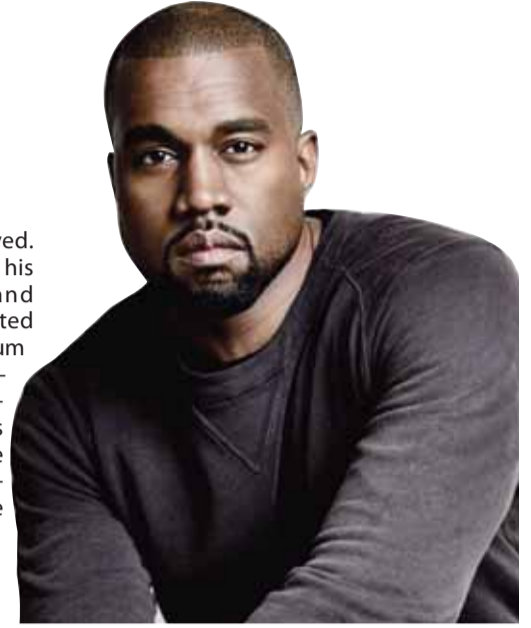
Actress Amy Adams and her husband Darren Le Gallo arrive for the premiere of the movie "Nocturnal Animals" presented in competition at the 73rd Venice Film Festival yesterday at Venice Lido. — AFP

Kanye wants two slushie machines on tour rider

The 39-year-old rapper has ensured he will be able to sip frozen cocktails backstage at his shows after requesting the specialist equipment, one of which will dispense his beloved Hennessy cognac with coke, and the other Grey Goose vodka and lemonade. According to TMZ, the vodka was requested by Kanye for his wife Kim Kardashian West. Kim had shown off the cocktail machines backstage at the 'Famous' hitmaker's Toronto show, and they will be a regular fixture at each of the gigs on his tour. Last year, Kanye's hotel rider was leaked and showed he insists on having cylindrical vases,

a discontinued speaker and black towels in all his suites when on the road. He also requests mint dental floss and Kashi Go Lean cereal, as well as \$3,200 worth of liquor, including three bottles of Paradis Hennessy. While he doesn't have specific requirements for his three-year-old daughter North or eight-month-old son Saint, his friend and former 'Watch the Throne' tourmate Jay Z insists his four-year-old daughter Blue Ivy's needs are met, thanks to the addition of organic whole milk on his rider. And all the '99 Problems' hitmaker's suites must be childproofed with all corners, sharp edges, and electrical outlets covered, and stat-

ues, lamps, and breakable objects removed. Jay - who is married to Beyonce - insists his accommodation is heated to 71°F and requires three \$80 Mayan tuberose-scented candles. He also requests staff don't vacuum near his room and, to "avoid embarrassment", they must not ask for concert tickets. Though the rapper doesn't request as much liquor as Kanye, he does insist on Ace of Spades champagne. However, his contract specifies he can't be charged for the fizz as he owns the company.



Lohan's lawsuit against GTA dismissed

The 30-year-old actress previously filed a case against Take-Two Interactive and its subsidiary Rockstar Games, claiming that the character Lacey Jonas in 'Grand Theft Auto V' was modeled on her without her permission. Legal proceedings had been rumbling on two years but now the New York County Supreme Court has thrown the case out. The 'Mean Girls' actress had tried twice to sue the game creators after her lawyers argued that Rockstar "used Lohan's bikini, shoulder-length blonde hair, jewelry, cell phone" and "signature peace sign pose" in one image, and used Lohan's likeness in another image by appropriating "facial features, body type, physical appearance, hair, hat, sunglasses, jean shorts, and loose white top". But even if Lohan had been used as a template for the character - a Hollywood diva escaping from paparazzi - the court ruled that because her name, portrait or picture wasn't

used, she has no case. The game is protected by First Amendment - normal parody laws that protect TV shows, movies and every other media in the US. The judge stated: "This video game's unique story, characters, dialogue, and environment, combined with the player's ability to choose how to proceed in the game, render it a work of fiction and satire." Rockstar Games previously claimed Lindsay filed her case "for publicity purposes" when they asked for the case to be dismissed. Lindsay isn't the only celebrity who has tried to sue Rockstar Games; 'Mob Wives' star Karen Gravano claimed the publisher copied not only her look but also her life story - being a mobster's daughter whose dad wouldn't let her go on a reality TV show. But her case was also thrown out for the same reason.



LOPEZ AND ANTHONY'S CHILDREN WANT A DUET

The 47-year-old singer joined her ex-husband during his concert at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City last week to sing their Spanish hit 'No Me Ames' - which was released in 1999 - and the former couple's twins, eight-year-old Max and Emme, were in the audience and were delighted to see them on stage together. Jennifer said: "I don't think they remember the last time; they were little... It was awesome. They just sat there and they were hearing the crowd... It was so moving... It was great." And the former 'American Idol' judge - who divorced Marc in 2014 - was pleased to be able to join her former spouse for the show. She told 'Extra': "We haven't been onstage together for about five years. It was good. You know, he came to my show in Vegas, to see it; we've been talking about doing something. "He said, 'I'm doing Radio City, will you do one of the nights with

me?' I was like, 'Yeah, I'll be in New York, I can do it,' so it just worked out really well." The two stars had such a good time, they may even be heading back into the recording studio together. Jennifer said: "We're talking about doing some stuff together... We don't have anything to announce at this moment, but soon." Meanwhile, it was recently revealed the 'On the Floor' hitmaker will portray notorious drug lord Griselda Blanco in an HBO movie and Jennifer - who recently split from boyfriend Casper Smart - admitted the role is "intense" and "scary". She said: "When we announced the role, I actually had anxiety for a couple of nights... It's intense. It's scary to go into those places sometimes. I know what it is to do that as an actor, what it takes."

Slater insists he is not his on-screen persona

The 47-year-old actor has enjoyed playing wild alter egos such as JD in 'Heathers' and Mark Hunter in 'Pump Up The Volume', but he insists he is very different in "real life". Speaking to America's GQ magazine, he said: "I love getting the opportunity to play those characters. I think in the real world I'm certainly a little bit more soft spoken." "I don't know if I've ever been particularly verbal or had anarchistic type thoughts." However, Christian hasn't necessarily always been as "soft spoken" as he claims he is now. In the earlier days of his career he turned to drugs and alcohol and ended up with stints in both rehab and jail, but the actor insists he has changed a lot now and he doesn't want to dwell on the past as he no longer even thinks about his

previous wild antics. He said: "Here I am living my life and it's just this calm set of leaves and resting on a nice pool of water, and then a journalist comes in and says let's go, let's stir it up, let's think about things you haven't thought about in 25 years." Now, the actor is working on the thrilling drama series 'Mr. Robot', which sees him play the anarchist role yet again, in the form of the titular character. And Christian couldn't be happier, admitting his first day on set with co-star Rami Malek, and the show's creator Sam Esmail was "perfect". He said: "We were just having a great time. I was getting to know Sam. I was getting to know Rami. And it was sort of a perfect—it was a day exactly like this."



Dornan says none of his friends have seen '50 Shades of Grey'

The 34-year-old actor plays billionaire sadomasochist Christian Grey opposite Dakota Johnson as his lover Anastasia Steele in the erotic movie. Dornan has a close group of pals from back home in Belfast, Northern Ireland, but they have so far avoided seeing him get his clothes off in the film and he agrees with their decision because he would do the same if they were stripping off on screen. He said: "I'm just thinking about some of my mates here and I would never want to go to see them in that movie! It would be no different. Why would they want to see me like that? None of them have seen it. I think a couple came to the premiere in London actually but with wives and girlfriends." Dornan will reprise the role in two more movies with the next instalment being 'Fifty Shades Darker', and the franchise has made him a global star. The big screen hunk believes his Irish background means his better equipped to deal with the potential pitfalls of fame because his family and friends keep him grounded. During an appearance on Irish TV programme the 'Late Late Show' which will air on Friday (02.09.16) he told host Ryan Tubridy: "The fame aspect that comes with being a working actor does not intrigue me in the slightest. I think something like being Irish helps, and my friends. There's just no allowance for it ... in your life, no matter what happens or how much notoriety you gain through your work, the fundamentals of your life don't change."

Sharon Osbourne once spent \$2m for a ring

The 'X Factor' judge likes to use her wealth to spoil herself every once in a while, and her most expensive splurge was on the bling band from Tiffany & Co. Speaking to The Sun newspaper, she said: "The most I ever spent on myself was probably a ring I bought about 12 years ago for about \$2 million. I bought the ring from Tiffany's." It's no surprise that Sharon likes to treat herself as she has to work with Simon Cowell, and be the head of her busy family which includes husband Ozzy Osbourne - who she recently reconciled with following his treatment for sex addiction - son Jack Osbourne and daughters Aimee and Kelly Osbourne. The family previously starred in their own MTV reality show 'The Osbournes' which documented their home life and recently Sharon has been thinking about a Hollywood movie about her clan. She said: "If there was a movie about the Osbournes I would be played by Meryl Streep. If she could play Margaret Thatcher then she could do me! I reckon the Osbournes' life would make a fantastic film." Sharon, 63, and Black Sabbath rocker Ozzy, 67, are putting their marital troubles behind them and working hard to get their relationship back on track following his multiple infidelities. Speaking previously, Sharon said: "He's working at it (his sex addiction). It's hard because it affects the whole family. And, it's quite embarrassing to talk about. "Somehow drugs and drink is more acceptable I think. When it's somebody that has a sex addiction, it's embarrassing. "He's come out and admitted it finally. It's very, very hard. It's been going on for at least six years."



Mariah Carey's brother calls her a 'monster'

The 'Hero' hitmaker has been accused of only caring about herself by older sibling Morgan Carey, 51, who called on her to do more to help their sister Alison, who was arrested for prostitution last week. He told 'Inside Edition': "Mariah doesn't care about anyone other than herself and it's always been that way. "I would hope Mariah could find it in her heart to forgive Alison her transgressions and step up, create a trust, let's make sure Alison's needs are met." A spokesperson for the 46-year-old singer insisted she had done a lot over the years to help Alison. They said in a statement: "Through the years, Mariah has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars supporting Alison and her children." However, Morgan claimed her actions had done more harm than good. He said: "I will always be puzzled why Alison, a heroin addict, has always been given large sums of money from Mariah her whole life. You can't put large sums of cash into the hands of a drug addict." Morgan and Mariah - who haven't spoken for six years - used to be very close and the music producer and model even takes the credit for her success. He claimed: "There wouldn't be a Mariah Carey today if it hadn't been for me." But Morgan now fears a backlash after speaking out against the star. He said: It's about protecting this fiction she has created, this image she has created, it's about keeping the darkest secrets covered up." Alison - who is HIV positive - has pleaded not guilty to charges of prostitution and has been released on bail. She was detained in Saugerties, New York, last week by an undercover officer, who posed as a man paying for sex. She was arrested after "soliciting money in exchange for sexual favors," after she allegedly advertised her services online and used lyrics from Mariah's hits to lure customers. — Bangshowbiz



Longoria's 'Devious Maids' has been cancelled



The 41-year-old 'Desperate Housewives' star worked as an executive producer on the Lifetime TV show but the network has now announced it won't be renewing the programme for a fifth series. The show followed the lives of a group of friends comprised of Marisol (Ana Ortiz), Rosie (Dania Ramirez), Carmen (Roselyn Sanchez) and Zoila (Judy Reyes), who were brought closer by their jobs and life struggles. 'Devious Maids' was created by Marc Cherry, who worked with Eva previously on his show 'Desperate Housewives'. Before the show found its home on Lifetime, it was developed and piloted by ABC. The decision to axe 'Devious Maids' has come after the fourth series saw a drop in viewing figures. When it first aired, figures peaked at around three million, compared to less than one million by series four. Despite these seemingly low ratings, the show attracted twice the viewership of Lifetime's only other original scripted drama 'UnReal', however, rave reviews from critics had kept the drama safe from the chop. Eva doesn't seem to be letting the news get her down though, as she's recently been involved in directing an episode of 'Jane The Virgin', and says she loves to try her hand at almost every job on a film set.



In this image released by Disney, Stormtroopers appear in a scene from, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," in theaters on December 16. — AP photos



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Tom Hanks, left, and Felicity Jones in a scene from "Inferno," in theaters on October 28.

Fall Movie Preview

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

There's something for everyone in movie theaters this fall. The calendar is jam-packed with romance, spectacle and jaw-dropping true life stories. Some of our most familiar franchises take bold leaps into undiscovered areas of their universes: Marvel side-steps into the metaphysical with the Benedict Cumberbatch-led "Doctor Strange" (Nov 4), JK Rowling's Harry Potter world gets new life in "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" (Nov 18), and we find out just how those rebels stole the Death Star plans in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" (Dec 16). A monthly rundown of fall highlights:

SEPTEMBER

"Sully" (Sept 9) - Director Clint Eastwood takes audiences behind the scenes of the investigation around the Miracle on the Hudson, with Tom Hanks as Capt. Chesley Sullenberger.
 "The Magnificent Seven" (Sept 23) - Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt head to the old West in Antoine Fuqua's remake of the John Sturges film, itself a remake of "Seven Samurai."
 "Deepwater Horizon" (Sept 30) - Discover the true story of what happened to the men and women on the oil rig that caused the catastrophic Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell and Gina Rodriguez star.
 "American Honey" (Sept 30) - Go on an atmospheric road trip through the Midwest with some drifting teens, including a revelatory Shia LaBeouf.

OCTOBER

"The Birth of a Nation" (Oct 7) - Controversy surrounding

writer, director and star Nate Parker aside, his film tells the fascinating story of Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion.

"The Girl on the Train" (Oct 7) - Emily Blunt stars in this adaptation of Paula Hawkins' best-selling thriller about a divorced woman who becomes entangled in the mysterious disappearance of a woman she'd watched from afar.

"The Accountant" (Oct 14) - Who said accounting was boring? A math whiz with some dangerous clients gets in over his head in the new Gavin O'Connor thriller. Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick and J.K. Simmons star.

"Moonlight" (Oct 21) - Director Barry Jenkins tells a lyrical coming of age story set in the underbelly of Miami's drug scene with the help of Naomie Harris and Janelle Monae.

"Inferno" (Oct 28) - Tom Hanks reprises his role as symbologist Robert Langdon in the Dan Brown series.

NOVEMBER

"Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" (Nov 11) - A young Iraq veteran returns home for a victory tour in Ang Lee's adaptation of Ben Fountain's acclaimed novel.

"Arrival" (Nov 11) - Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner star in director Denis Villeneuve's mind-bendingly intelligent alien encounter drama.

"Manchester by the Sea" (Nov 18) - Kenneth Lonergan spins a poetic tale of family and tragedy in a film that's been pegged as an Oscar contender since January. Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams and Kyle Chandler star.

"Moana" (Nov 23) - Disney Animation takes us back thousands

of years to the South Pacific for a story about young woman who sets sail for a fabled island. Dwayne Johnson voices a demigod, of course.

"Rules Don't Apply" (Nov 23) - After a 15-year hiatus from films, Warren Beatty returns to the form with an ode to 1950s Hollywood and riff on prudish mores with Lily Collins and Alden Ehrenreich. Beatty plays Howard Hughes.

DECEMBER

"La La Land" (Dec 2) - A moody musician (Ryan Gosling) and an aspiring actress (Emma Stone) fall in love while pursuing their dreams in this musical dreamscape from "Whiplash" writer-director Damien Chazelle.

"Fences" (Dec 16) - Denzel Washington directs himself and Viola Davis reprising their Tony-winning roles in this August Wilson adaptation.

"Passengers" (Dec 21) - Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt are jolted out of hypersleep 60 years early in a spacecraft traveling to a distant planet.

"A Monster Calls" (Dec 23) - Get transported away from life's hardships to a land of monsters and magic in director JA Bayona's fantastical adaptation of Patrick Ness's children's novel, with Liam Neeson as the tree monster. — AP



This image released by Fox Searchlight Pictures shows Nate Parker as Nat Turner, left, and Aja Naomi King as Cherry in a scene from, "The Birth of a Nation".



This image released by Disney shows Benedict Cumberbatch in Marvel's "Doctor Strange".

Venice Movie Preview

'ARRIVAL'

It has been almost 40 years since Steven Spielberg made "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." That's not a Spielberg film that people tend to revisit the way they do "Jaws" or "Raiders" or "E.T." In its time, though, "Close Encounters" cast a spell of majestic awe that still reverberates through pop culture. There have, of course, been any number of alien-visitation films since, but whenever one comes along—"Contact," "Signs," "District 9," "Interstellar," Spielberg's own "The War of the Worlds"—it always feels, at the time, like a major event, and then in hindsight it ends up seeming like a rerun. "Close Encounters," with its obsessiveness and mystery, its spaceship of light that seemed as big as a city, is still the film that set the template—that made the prospect of an extraterrestrial visit look as wondrous and eccentric and ominous and spectacular as we imagined it might be.



So you have to say this for "Arrival," a solemnly fantastic tale of a highly enigmatic alien visit that premiered today at the 73rd International Venice Film Festival: The film has been made, by the intensely gifted director Denis Villeneuve, with an awareness that we've already been through this more than enough times, and that the definition of an alien movie—or, at least, one that's trying to be a serious piece of sci-fi, and not just a popcorn lark like "Independence Day"—is that it's going to hypnotize us with something that appears extraordinary because it's altogether unprecedented.

For a while, "Arrival" succeeds in doing that. Villeneuve, the director or "Sicario" and "Prisoners," has made a grounded, deep-dish authenticity his calling card, and in the early scenes of "Arrival" he hooks us by playing the news of spaceships hovering over earth in the most low-key, randomly unsensational way possible. There are TV anchors blaring news reports in the background, a dulling sense of chaos and fear, but mostly we're taking it all in through the eyes of Dr. Louise Banks (Amy Adams), a linguistics professor who has to cut her class short and then wanders through the parking lot in a daze.

The aliens have parked spaceships in 12 locations around the world (including America, Russia, China, and Pakistan), and Louise is taken to the one in the United States: A vast green meadow in Montana, surrounded by hills and rolling clouds, where the ship hovers like a silent, mile-high version of a smooth obsidian egg that's been cut in two. The images are stately and vast, with an almost super-earthly clarity. It's Louise's job to draw on her language skills to find a way to communicate with the aliens, and to that end she's teamed with Dr. Ian Connelly (Jeremy Renner), a theoretical physicist with a cut-and-dried view of things.

Villeneuve builds our anticipation with great flair, as the two world experts stand beneath the

ship, waiting for it to open. They are then ushered into what looks like an abandoned elevator shaft with walls made of carbon, where gravity disappears (they walk straight up and sideways). At last they come to a rectangle of light, which turns out to be a clear pane behind which the aliens appear, shrouded in billows of smoky white.

Do I even have to say "spoiler alert"? that Villeneuve stages with maximum cunning. No, the aliens aren't anthropomorphic creatures who speak in subtitles. They are tall black squid-like figures with seven spindly legs—at least, that's what they look like from the bottom; for a long time, we don't see their top halves—and those legs, up close, look like giant bony hands with their fingers pointed down and planted on a table.

All this time, there's a relatively conventional brink-of-war drama transpiring in the background, ratcheted up by Internet paranoia and a Rush Limbaugh-like figure barking away on YouTube. Given that the whole global-military thing has been at the forefront of virtually every alien-invasion thriller, you're grateful that it is in the background. Unfortunately, it doesn't stay there; Villeneuve has just figured out a way to hold off the conventionality by downplaying it for a while. As intriguing as the alien language is (a cross between hieroglyphs and smoke signals), the way that Louise actually starts to comprehend it is murky and abstract. She acquires a primitive vocabulary of circular signs, at which point the aliens seem willing to communicate their big message, which is something to the effect of "Offer weapon."

True to its title, "Arrival" makes an absorbing spectacle of the initial alien set-up, alternately stoking and sating our curiosity. The aliens don't quite have personalities, but there's still something tender and touching about them. There are also, frankly, elements of familiarity. The experimental musical score—low moans louder than a pipe organ—echoes the sounds made by the ship in "Close Encounters." When we first see the aliens' squid-like legs, they look a lot like the alien tentacles in "The War of the Worlds," and the more closely we look at them, the more they look like gigantic versions of E.T.'s fingers. The point being that even though Villeneuve is a bold filmmaker, when it comes to this subject, Spielberg's vision is hard to get away from; it still somehow infuses everything.

The audience's reaction to this is likely to fall somehow on the spectrum between "Whoa!" and "Huh?" In "Arrival," it's a muddled idea, intriguing but not really developed. Yet the film ties it in with a backstory that frames the action, about Louise and the daughter who (in an extended prologue) she watched grow into adulthood and die. There's a surprise circularity to the structure of "Arrival" that some may find pleasing, but there's also a circular logic to it: The aliens have come to offer a weapon, which isn't really a weapon, it's a new way to order time, but the only one it seems to apply to is Louise, which makes the whole purpose of their visit seem an awfully far-fetched conceit. At its best, "Arrival" has an eerie grandeur, but if the film starts off as neo-Spielberg, it winds up as neo-Christopher Nolan meets neo-Terrence Malick—it turns into an ersatz mind-bender. You feel you've had a close encounter with what might have been an amazing movie, but not actual contact. — Reuters



From left : Actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson, director Tom Ford, actress Amy Adams and actor Jake Gyllenhaal attend the photocall of the movie "Nocturnal Animals" presented in competition at the 73rd Venice Film Festival on September 2, 2016 at Venice Lido. — AFP

Tom Ford hypnotises Venice
with 'Nocturnal Animals'

Ex-fashion designer Tom Ford enthralled the Venice film festival Friday with a gripping tale of betrayal and revenge, unveiling two films in one with his hotly-anticipated "Nocturnal Animals". The romantic thriller, Ford's second feature film after "A Single Man" (2009), spooked and stirred in equal part, with arresting performances from US stars Amy Adams and Jake Gyllenhaal as lovers gone awry.

From the first scene—wildly obese women dancing naked—to the bittersweet close, the former Gucci designer produced a visually stunning and richly complex evocation of human frailty and retribution. "Loyalty is important to me. The story is about when you find people in your life, you hang on to them. This is a cautionary tale about what can happen in your life when you let them go," Ford told journalists on Venice's Lido. Adams, 42, plays Susan, who lives a privileged but lonely life in Los Angeles with her oft-absent husband. One day she receives a novel, "Nocturnal Animals", written by her ex-husband Edward, played by Gyllenhaal.

'Haunting'

Edward's note, which asks her to read the novel and contact him, comes out of the blue, 19 years after she left him. It sparks a bout of soul-seeking from Susan, with flash-backs of her life with Edward, and unveils a dark secret. "There was a rumble beneath the screenplay. Tom told me he absolutely had to tell this story and I couldn't say no," said Gyllenhaal, 35, who described playing a man impotent in the face of horror "wonderfully frustrating".

The narrative takes on a second strand as the violent events in the novel are played out as pictured in Susan's head as she reads, and she discovers the story is a channel for Edward to express the heartbreak she caused. In the novel, Tony Hastings—also played by Gyllenhaal—is stopped by a creepy trio of joy-riders while driv-

ing across Texas at night, and his red-headed wife and daughter (resembling Susan and daughter) are abducted.

Hastings is left to try and track down the gang's ringleader, psychopathic Ray (played brilliantly by Britain's Aaron Taylor-Johnson), with the help of detective Bobby Andes (Academy Award nominee Michael Shannon). Ford, who adapted the screenplay from Austin Wright's 1993 book "Tony and Susan", said "if it doesn't stay with you, haunt you, challenge you, it's not a successful film for me"—not a concern he should have here.

'Very scary indeed'

He added that there was a lot of himself in all three characters—Susan, Tony and Edward. Susan "with her lack of self-confidence", Tony and Edward who are sensitive rather than dominant. "They do not possess the stereotypical traits of masculinity that our culture often expects, yet in the end they both triumph. As a boy growing up in Texas, I was anything but what was considered classically masculine. "Many things from my own life have worked their way into the screenplay for the film, just as details from Susan and Edward's life together seeped into Edward's story," he added.

Adams manages to make troubled Susan sympathetic, something she found difficult: "it was a tricky one to prepare because when I first started exploring Susan, I didn't like her, and I can't play a character I don't like". For his part, family-man Aaron Taylor-Johnson, 26, said he did a lot of research for his role, including extensive reading on American serial killer, kidnapper, rapist, and necrophile Ted Bundy. The result, Ford admits, is "scary, very scary indeed". — AFP



A picture taken on August 3, 2016 shows employees working in the kitchen of the Training Cafe in Almaty. — AFP photos



A picture taken on August 3, 2016 shows a waitress carrying a tray of food at the Training Cafe.

Cafe kicks stigma with mentally disabled staff

With its simple menu and casual atmosphere, the Training Cafe looks like many other local eateries in Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty. But unlike the others, its 40-person staff is exclusively composed of patients from local psychiatric institutions. The novel initiative aims to fight the stigma that surrounds people with disabilities in the ex-Soviet Central Asian state and to improve their access to the labor market. "I have learned a lot working here," said a shy 26-year-old waitress named Zhuldyz Abdykarimova during a lunchtime rush.

She has spent her adult life in a local mental institution for a learning disability. And like her fellow workers with either learning disabilities or mental illness, had little hope of finding employment until she landed the job at the cafe. Despite recent government efforts to improve living conditions for the disabled, Kazakhstan is still struggling to shed Soviet-era attitudes about their ability to function in society.

In the Soviet period, people suffering from minor cognitive disabilities were often sent to mental institutions, while those with more severe illnesses were sometimes incarcerated in high-security facilities. "You practically never saw anyone in a wheelchair on the street in those days," said Asiya Akhtanova, who heads the Almaty-based Association of Parents of Disabled Children, which was founded during the collapse of the Soviet Union. "The idea that these people could work, attend ordinary schools and even obtain some form of higher education never entered anyone's mind."

Experts say that more than 700 psychiatric patients—many of whom present no danger to the public and are capable of working—remain living in institutions in Almaty, a city of 1.5 million in southeastern Kazakhstan. Government data shows that only three percent of disabled people in the country are employed. In all, some 200,000 people are on a state registry of those with chronic

mental health disorders in this country of 17 million, local media reported this year.

A part of society

The eatery, which serves traditional Kazakh and Russian dishes, receives financial support from the New York-based Open Society Foundations founded by American millionaire George Soros. In a sign of support for the initiative, Kazakh Health Minister Tamara Duseynova dropped in for a quick bite in November.

Kazakhstan last year ratified the UN Convention on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities, and there have been small signs of change in public attitudes, especially in the vast country's larger cities. In 2014, a film director from Almaty produced Kazakhstan's first movie starring a disabled person, an adaptation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" that starred actors with cerebral palsy. The government's vigorous promotion of Paralympic sports during its bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics—which it ultimately lost to Beijing—saw people with disabilities propelled to the centre of public attention.

In February, the government announced that more than 4,400 people with disabilities had been integrated into the workforce last year. "There is progress. The government has made real efforts to ensure some jobs are available for people with disabilities," said Almagul Seisenova, who works for an Almaty charity that prepares people with disabilities to enter the workforce.

Looking forward

But Seisenova, who says she fears for the future of her 20-year-old mentally disabled son, deplored that the Training Cafe is the only initiative of its kind in her city. "How many capable people still spend their days inside the walls of these mental institutions?" she asked. Calls for more projects like the Training Cafe have resonated with one of its founders, psychologist Rasima Temerbayeva. She says there are plans to open affiliates in other Kazakh cities as well as in the neighboring countries of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. "In Kazakhstan, people with disabilities are forced to exist within tight boundaries," she said as waitress Abdykarimova totaled up the bill. "And this is a place where those boundaries don't exist." — AFP



An employee working in the kitchen.



A waitress carrying a tray with dirty dishes.



An artwork by French artist Jean-Michel Pancin which replicates by way of the original door and exact dimensions the prison cell of author Oscar Wilde when he was incarcerated in Reading prison during an exhibition at the prison. — AFP photos



Copies of books by author Oscar Wilde sit on a shelf in a cell.



An artwork title "The Winter" 2016 by Steve McQueen stands in a cell.



A woman looks at an artwork by French artist Jean-Michel Pancin which replicates by way of the original door and exact dimensions the prison cell of author Oscar Wilde.



Visitors look at the prison cell of author Oscar Wilde.

The exhibition of Reading Gaol: Wilde's prison opens doors

Reading Gaol broke Oscar Wilde during his two-year incarceration but 120 years later, the prison is welcoming the Irish writer back this time through his works, in an exhibition on isolation. Her Majesty's Prison Reading, west of London, is also hosting works from the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei and British visual artist Steve McQueen for the exhibition entitled "Inside". It would be hard to find a better place to discuss separation, deprivation and despair than within the Victorian prison's walls.

Opened in 1844, it closed in 2013 but is now open to the public for the first time. The barbed wire on the walls and the tiny cells leave visitors in no doubt as to its past. At the height of his fame Wilde was convicted of gross indecency over his homosexuality and sentenced to two years of hard labor, and was locked up in the jail between 1895 and 1897. He was in isolation for 23 hours a day, in cell C33. "In 1895, Oscar Wilde was one of the great celebrities of his time," said James Lingwood, co-director of exhibition organizers Artangel.

'Brutal' prison broke Wilde

"He had plays on in the West End, he lived a glittering social life. Three months later he found himself in Reading Gaol. The prison regime here at the time was absolutely brutal, it broke Wilde," he told AFP. "Someone who lived a life he had in the salons of London and Paris was in no way ready for the harsh physical regime here." Wilde never recovered from his spell in Reading Gaol. Three years after he was released, he died in exile in Paris at the age of 46.

"The experience in Reading broke Oscar Wilde but at the same time also made him," said Lingwood. "Here he produced his last and arguably one of the greatest pieces of prison writings, that still speaks to people today," he said of "The Ballad of Reading Gaol". He also spent three months writing a 55,000-word letter to his lover Lord Alfred Douglas, in 1897. It will be read each Sunday over four and a half hours by artists including the US punk singer Patti Smith, the British actor Ralph Fiennes and the

Irish novelist Colm Toibin, in the prison chapel. The main focus of the exhibition is found in the paintings, writings and works of contemporary artists displayed in the cells. Nine of them have written letters on the theme of separation from a loved one. Among them, Ai and the Northern Irish author Danny Morrison can speak with authority, having served time in prison. In other cells, visitors can find the works of McQueen, German photographer Wolfgang Tillmans or US sculptor Robert Gober.

Of the artists contacted by Artangel, "almost without exception they felt drawn to the idea of making new work, installing work in Reading prison," said Lingwood. "To honor Oscar Wilde and the brutal experience he had here, but also the way that he made something extraordinary resonant and still contemporary out of his terrible time here." Listed as a building of national importance, the empty jail's future remains uncertain, sitting on a prime piece of land in the commuter town's centre. In the meantime, the prison continues to radiate the sense of oppression and confinement which fits the bill of rediscovering Wilde in his darkest hour. The exhibition runs from September 4 to October 30. — AFP



A letter written by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei sits on a desk at Reading prison.



Peace conference delegates from the Akha ethnic group from eastern Shan State wearing traditional costume adorned with silver ornaments attend the session. — AFP photos

Quills, coins and dragons: Myanmar's tribal fashions



Natalina, a peace conference delegate from the Akha ethnic group from eastern Shan State wearing traditional costume adorned with silver ornaments departs after a session at the convention center in Naypyidaw.

From porcupine quills and fruit, to silver coins and beads, the ethnic costumes on parade in Myanmar's capital this week showed off the country's diversity and added sartorial splendor to the cold detail of talks to end decades of rebellion. Bedecked in an elaborate headdress of feathers, quills and shell-studded tassels, Aye Aye Mu said her traditional outfit carried a hard political message to Naypyidaw.

"I am wearing (this costume) because I want to show how many different ethnicities there are in this country," the ethnic Chin lawmaker in the state's lower house explained. "Porcupines have quills as a kind of weapon to protect themselves-in the same way, our people use it as a symbol to protect our rights," she added. "We used to wear this costume on victory day and for other traditional events."

She was among the hundreds of dele-

gates from Myanmar's border states kitted out in ancestral dress who gathered for talks aimed at ending nearly 70 years of bloody conflict with the central authorities. Minority lawmakers already wear traditional headwear in parliament, but for many the full outfits were a statement of cultural distinction to the ethnic Bamar majority who have dominated Myanmar's politics for decades.

As the seat of power, Naypyidaw, the junta's "Abode of Kings" as its name translates, has come to represent the callous disregard for the country's ethnic people. The highly symbolic talks, which end on Saturday, are an attempt by de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi to set the framework for a binding nationwide peace deal. But no resolution is expected this week-experts predict a years-long tussle complicated by ownership issues over land and resources



A peace conference delegate from the Akha ethnic group from eastern Shan State wearing traditional costume adorned with silver ornaments attends the session.



Peace conference delegates from the Lahu ethnic group wearing their traditional costumes looks at his mobile phone at the convention.



Two peace conference delegates from Lisu ethnic group from the upper Kachin State wearing round hats studded with circular patterns and beads of the Lisu people - as a symbol of solidarity with other minorities.

as well as disarmament of rebel groups and political autonomy.

Some groups have already agreed cease-fires, but conflict rumbles on in several border areas that have displaced tens of thousands. The meeting was marred by ongoing skirmishes in Shan and Kachin states and a walkout Thursday by representatives of the Wa-a heavily armed militia who live in an area bordering China accused of large-scale drug production. Despite the hurdles, a glance around the assembly hall gave a glimpse into the kaleidoscope of cultures in Myanmar.

An Akha delegate, of eastern Shan state, wore a headdress covered with Indian rupee

coins, a heavy silver chain dangling below her chin and a brightly-coloured woven bag-worth up to \$10,000. "It is really difficult to maintain as it's very expensive. However, I am wearing it here because it is so valuable to our people," Natalina, whose ethnic group do not carry a surname, told AFP. Nam Kham Wah of the PaO, one of Myanmar's largest ethnic groups, said her elaborate turban and the dragon insignia on her shirt told the story of her people. "Our turban is part of our folklore," she said. "We believe our first father was a powerful saint and the mother, a dragon, so our turban is like a dragon head." — AFP



Two peace conference delegates from Lisu ethnic group from the upper Kachin State wearing round hats studded with circular patterns and beads of the Lisu people - as a symbol of solidarity with other minorities.



Peace conference delegates from the Akha ethnic group from eastern Shan State.

NEW PLASTIC CLOTHING TO KEEP PEOPLE COOL

WASHINGTON: American researchers have created a low-cost textile made of a plastic base that could cool the body when woven into clothing. The engineers suggested in the US journal *Science* that the textile could become a way to keep people living in hot climates cool without using air conditioning. "If you can cool the person rather than the building where they work or live, that will save energy," said Yi Cui, an associate professor of materials science and engineering and of photon science at Stanford.

Scientists blended nanotechnology, photonics and chemistry to develop the material, which cools the wearer in two ways. Like cotton, the textile allows sweat to evaporate through the material, but the new development allows it to also let through

heat the body gives off as infrared radiation. The latter is a characteristic of polyethylene, the clear, clingy plastic already used as kitchen wrap. All objects—including our bodies—discharge heat as infrared radiation in the form of invisible light wavelengths. Clothing traps those wavelengths close to the body, but the new plastic textile lets them through.

"40 to 60 percent of our body heat is dissipated as infrared radiation when we are sitting in an office," said Shanhui Fan, a professor of electrical engineering. "But until now there has been little or no research on designing the thermal radiation characteristics of textiles." To test the cooling capabilities of the experimental material, researchers

put swatches of the plastic material and cotton fabric on bare skin and compared skin surface temperature. "Wearing anything traps some heat and makes the skin warmer," Fan said. "If dissipating thermal radiation were our only concern, then it would be best to wear nothing."

The cotton fabric made the skin 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) warmer than the new material, suggesting that wearing the "cooling textile" might make people less likely to resort to turning on fans or air conditioners. The scientists said they will continue working to add more colors, textures and cloth-like traits to their product. "If you want to make a textile, you have to be able to make huge volumes inexpensively," Cui said. — AFP

ISRAELIS FEAR SATELLITE LOSS MAY HARM SPACE INDUSTRY

JERUSALEM: The launchpad destruction of an advanced Israeli communications satellite may have dealt a blow to the country's aerospace industry, the Israel Space Agency (ISA) said yesterday. The unmanned SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket exploded during a test in Florida on Thursday, destroying the Israeli-built and -owned Amos 6 satellite that Facebook planned to use to beam high-speed internet to sub-Saharan Africa. Dramatic footage broadcast by ABC News showed the rocket burst into a ball of flame amid what appeared to be a succession of blasts sending its payload tumbling to the ground as a dense plume of black smoke filled the air. ISA chairman Yitzhak Ben Yisrael said the blast's shock waves could reverberate far beyond Cape Canaveral. He said the incident could jeopardize a pending deal for the sale of private Israeli firm and Amos-operator Spacecom to China's Xinwei group, reportedly worth \$285 million (255 million euros) and conditional on the satellite successfully entering service. "This is the second blow, ahead of the Chinese deal," he said, recalling the blackout of the Amos 5 satellite, which like Amos 6 was owned and operated by Spacecom.

Communication with the Franco-Italian made Amos 5 was lost in November 2015, four years after it was launched from Kazakhstan. "There is a major question about the launch and I very much hope that Spacecom is strong enough to overcome these things and to order a new satellite," Ben Yisrael told Israeli public radio. "If it orders a new satellite, it will take between two and three years to fill the gap."

'Strategic' business for Israel

Amos 6 manufacturer Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) said the satellite was "the largest and most advanced communications satellite ever built in Israel." "Obviously, we are disappointed about this incident in the launch vehicle and are ready and willing to assist Spacecom in any manner," it said. "The communications satellite business is strategic for IAI and the State of Israel."

The Israel Space Agency, part of the country's science ministry, said that "support for the space industry in Israel will continue with the aim of continuing at the forefront of technology." It said Science Minister Ofir Akunis would convene industry leaders on Sunday for "an emergency debate and situation report." David Zusiman, former project manager for the Amos 3 and 4 satellite projects and involved with the early stages of Amos 6, said the explosion was a setback but not necessarily a disaster.

"Amos 6 can be replaced by an identical satellite which it will be possible to order immediately, thanks to the insurance money they will get," he said in an interview on public radio. "The insurance is supposed to cover the cost of a complete satellite, including a new launch." The Amos 6 has an estimated value of \$200 million and \$300 million, according to John Logsdon, former director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University.

"The problem is that Amos 6 was supposed to replace Amos 2 which is now quite old and needs replacing," Zusiman said. "There are a number of satellites on the international market which could match Amos 2, they are also old but they could still work for a few more years," he added. "The clients who bought the extra capability of Amos 6 could suffer damage because it sets back their programs by two to three years. I don't know if the image of the Israeli space industry will be harmed. —AFP



LONDON: Sitting in front of screens showing Syria's Saidnaya military prison, recreated in harrowing 3D detail, architectural researcher Stefan Laxness (L) and Principal Investigator Eyal Weizman (R) pose for a photograph in their office at Goldsmiths, University in London. — AFP

LONDON LAB RECREATES HORRORS OF WAR WITH 3D TECHNOLOGY

LONDON: Starvation, torture and rape: The grim daily realities of prisoners inside Syria's Saidnaya military prison have been recreated in harrowing 3D detail by a London-based agency, established to highlight claims of rights abuses. Human rights campaigners Amnesty International are the latest organisation to call on Forensic Architecture's (FA) expertise, creating the first navigable model of the jail as part of a drive to raise awareness about political prisoners in Syria.

Israeli activist and architect Eyal Weizman, 46, created FA in 2011, and it is now based in the leafy streets of south London, on the campus of host institution Goldsmiths, University of London. Its interdisciplinary laboratory specializes in producing analysis and evidence to be used in human rights cases brought to international courts, with architecture a key tool in helping to accurately recreate events occurring in chaotic surroundings.

Before FA, no surveillance groups or journalists had been able to "access" the notorious prison, located 25 kilometers north of Damascus, used by the regime of Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad. The laboratory pieced together testimonies given to Amnesty by former prisoners with satellite images found on the Google search engine and other publicly available online material.

Sunlight clues

"It's about unraveling the facts based on small details," explained architectural researcher Stefan Laxness. "Picking up on the spatial details inadvertently mentioned by the detainees, using that to build up what they experienced helped us also understand how the prison might be structured, and we started to notice a pattern in the trajectory each detainee has throughout the building." One detainee described how sunlight illuminated a certain part of his cell at a certain time of day, helping the team to verify his account.

"When he placed the cell in space with a certain orientation, and then you run a sun simulation... lo and behold their testimony actu-

ally corroborates with the physical parameters. In some sense that validates the interviewee and his story," Laxness said. Researchers also travelled to Istanbul to interview "hearing witnesses" who were either blindfolded or not able to see directly other parts of the prison.

These former detainees did not have detailed visual information of the prison, but provided valuable evidence based on aural accounts of the rhythms of life inside, the routines of torturers and even mundane occurrences such as water leaks. Laxness said the former detainees were not necessarily familiar with 3D technology but "very quickly" understood how it worked and wanted to talk about their experiences and contribute to the model.

Urban warfare

Other studies conducted by the agency include reconstruction of the August 2014 bombing of Gaza, Guatemala's Ixil genocide of 1978-1984 and the 2011 sinking in the Mediterranean of a boat carrying 63 migrants from Libya. FA is currently the only provider of such analysis, working with Human Rights Watch, international courts and the United Nations with key evidence.

The work combines traditional disciplines, such as mapping, ecology and law, with new technologies like 3D, as well as the testimonies of victims and prominent witnesses. But the changing nature of war is bringing other disciplines to the fore in untangling events. "Architecture provides a crucial look, vital to understanding contemporary conflicts," said Weizman, explaining that the migration of conflicts towards urban environments demanded a fresh approach. "The city is a dense media environment," he added. "There are a lot of journalists and more and more citizens are filming what is happening around them." To understand and build a picture from all these sources, you need to build architectural models and place all these videos in space, to reconstruct the narrative of events," he said. — AFP

IF 1 LENS ON A PHONE CAMERA IS GOOD, ARE 2 LENS BETTER?

NEW YORK: Apple isn't saying much about its next iPhones, but there's been plenty of speculation that the giant Plus model will have two camera lenses side by side on the back. Why? A second lens could make photos sharper or give amateur shutterbugs blurring techniques more common in full-bodied SLR cameras. Apple isn't revealing anything until its product event in San Francisco next week. For now, though, people can look at how a few other smartphone makers are using two lenses.

MOTOROLA MOTO Z

The three Moto Z phones get amazing zoom with a second lens that comes in the form of an optional attachment. Motorola unveiled its third Moto Z model and the attachment, called Hasselblad True Zoom Mod, at the IFA tech show in Berlin on Wednesday.

An accessory normally wouldn't count, but in this case, it's an integral part of the phone once you attach it with powerful magnets. The Moto Z has a mix-and-match design that makes it possible to remove its back and replace it with a speaker, a projector or a zoom lens that offers 10-fold magnification - better than what many point-and-shoot cameras offer. You'd be wrong to think smartphones already offer zoom capabilities by pinching out on the screen. That's just a software trick that leaves images fuzzy. The camera lens itself is fixed; you need an attachment for true zoom.

With it, a statue of Alexander Hamilton in New York's Central Park looks as sharp from afar as it would closer up. By contrast, the same statue taken with the regular lens from afar looks dull. It's possible to make out a New York University logo on a beanbag toss game board shot with the second lens from across the lawn; with the regular lens, it's just a blob of purple. This functionality will cost you, though. The module alone will start at \$250 when it comes out in mid-September, or at the high end of what point-and-shoots cost. That's on top of \$400 for the cheapest Moto Z. Motorola says the attachment will appeal mostly to photography aficionados, but the company believes that's a sizable market.

The results are indeed remarkable, but not flawless. It takes a second or so to focus and shoot, enough to miss a moving subject. Faces can look distorted near the edges of the image, and the second lens doesn't do extreme close-ups, known as macros. That's one thing stand-alone cameras still do better. And the attachment is

about as heavy and bulky as a point and shoot. But the module gives you amazing zoom shots that you can easily share via the phone. That's not a simple task with most cameras.

LG G5

The G5's second lens offers an impressive 135-degree wide angle, compared with 78 degrees on the normal one. That's the difference between getting the entire Colosseum in Rome into a single shot, as opposed to just some of it. At St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City, the wide angle gets you not just Michelangelo's dome but also the ornate columns holding it up. With most cameras, you're shooting as though you lack peripheral vision. With a wide angle, the photo frame expands to almost match your real-life field of view. Wide angles aren't always desirable.

If you're shooting an elephant in front of you, you want more of the elephant and less of its surroundings. But wide angles are great when you're shooting a large landmark or a large group of people from close up. As with other wide-angle lenses, though, LG's produces distortion around the edges of the image. Think of how warped fisheye shots look. Columns inside St Peter's Basilica look curved rather than straight. Distant objects look even farther away. The regular lens is what you'll want most of the time. Of course, you can get something close to a wide-angle shot by installing apps or using built-in panorama features, but it takes time to pan across the landscape, rather than snap once. That software approach also doesn't work for video.

HUAWEI P9

One lens captures images in color, the other in black and white, or monochrome. The dedicated lens produces sharper monochrome shots than you can get by letting software bleach out the color from an ordinary image. Huawei says it also lets in more light. In practice, though, the differences are subtle. Images of colorful street art in New York often look cleaner, with better contrast, using the monochrome lens than by running comparable color shots through a black-and-white software filter.

While this will matter to artists, it probably won't to most users, especially since people rarely take black-and-white shots anyway. But that monochrome lens promises to help color shots as well. By using sensors for the two lenses in conjunction, the phone can restore some of the detail and light lost to filters in the color sensor. The result is a camera that's among the top in the class - though recent iPhones and Samsung Galaxy phones do just as well or better with just the color lens.

And despite promises of better lighting, the Galaxy S7 often produced better night shots than the P9. The dual lenses offer one neat trick: They sense depth, so you can blur out the background to highlight something in the foreground, mimicking an SLR technique done by adjusting the lens aperture. The P9 isn't available in the US yet, but Huawei is taking a similar dual-lens approach with the just-announced Honor 8. — AP



The LG G5 dual-lens phone is displayed, Wednesday, Aug 31, 2016, in New York.— AP



NEW YORK: In this Aug 25, 2016, photo taken in New York, the Samsung S3 classic version, left, displays a series of apps, including Uber, and the frontier version displays Samsung Pay. — AP

SAMSUNG UPDATES SMARTWATCH WHILE LENOVO DITCHES KEYBOARD

NEW YORK: Samsung's next smartwatch will come with GPS capabilities and the ability to call or text for help by triple-tapping a side button. The new Gear S3 retains the circular design of the current S2 model, but is slightly larger. Samsung will still sell last year's S2 to those who consider the S3 too big on their wrist. As with the S2, the outer ring of the watch face rotates to let you scroll through notifications and apps. Interface improvements include the ability to accept or reject calls with the ring rather than a swipe of the screen.

The S3 will come in three flavors. One has LTE cellular capabilities, allowing people to make calls, receive notifications and check weather without a companion phone nearby. A data plan costs extra. The other two models lack LTE and differ primarily in style. Samsung said prices will be announced closer to the devices' availability later in the year. Samsung announced the new watch lineup Wednesday at the IFA tech show in Berlin. The Gear smartwatches have had impressive designs and battery life, but have been hampered largely by a dearth of apps, as many developers write for Apple Watch and Android Wear devices instead.

All three S3 models will have GPS, making them more accurate for workouts. In the S2, GPS was limited to a pricier model with cellular capabilities (on the slower 3G network). GPS, so far, isn't common in smartwatches, allowing Samsung to stand out with the S3. Although GPS tends to drain battery quickly, Samsung expects at least three days of battery life in the S3.

Meanwhile, the emergency-calling feature echoes the "SOS" feature coming to the Apple Watch this fall. Where the Apple Watch will call 911 or the relevant emergency service elsewhere directly, though, the S3 will call or text emergency contacts, such as friends or relatives. These will be pre-recorded or pre-written messages. For an extra recurring fee, which has yet to be announced, S3 users will also be able to make a live call to ADT's security dispatchers, who would then be able to call 911 or offer other help. The S3 also comes with expanded ability to make payments at stores through Samsung Pay. And the watch's

always-on feature improves with a display of millions of colors, rather than just 16 before.

Something missing in a laptop

Also at the IFA tech show, Lenovo unveiled a twist on the laptop: Its new Yoga Book won't have a physical keyboard. It's an odd choice, given that Apple, Samsung and other tablet makers are pushing professional tablet models with keyboard accessories. Those companies are hoping to appeal to businesses and individuals looking to replace their laptops.

In Lenovo's case, the 10-inch Yoga Book retains the clamshell design of the laptop, but puts a second touch screen where the keyboard normally goes. People can type on a touch-screen keyboard there, or just write or draw on that second screen with an included stylus. You can even use a regular pen or pencil, though you'd want to put a sheet of paper over the screen to avoid damage. Although Lenovo calls Yoga Book a tablet, the keyboard part isn't detachable, making the device a laptop. The keyboard, though, can fold all the way to the back to make the device feel more like a tablet.

Jeff Meredith, a Lenovo vice president, said the Yoga Book might not be appropriate for extensive typing, but should be suitable for people - especially younger people - who now use the phone's touch screen to respond to email at night or even take notes in classrooms. He added that when BlackBerrys were still popular, people couldn't imagine getting rid of physical keyboards on their phones, either. The Yoga Book will start shipping in the coming weeks. An Android version will cost \$500, and Windows will be \$600.

The unveiling came hours after rival computer maker Acer unveiled what it calls the world's first laptop to measure less than a centimeter. The Swift 7 is 9.98 millimeters (0.39 inch) to be exact. But Lenovo says the Yoga Book is thinner, at 9.6 millimeters, or slightly more than the thickest iPad at 7.5 millimeters. Acer, meanwhile, unveiled a laptop with a curved screen, something traditionally limited to computer monitors for desktops. The Predator 21 X is designed for video games and comes with eye-tracking technology that promises to let players aim, identify enemies and take cover by gazing at the screen. — AP



03:35 Ideal
04:05 I Want My Wife Back
04:40 Father Brown
05:30 Doctors
09:30 Eastenders
11:30 Doctor Who
12:35 Doctor Who: The Husbands Of River Song
13:35 Casualty
14:30 Doctors
15:30 Father Brown
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 New Tricks
21:00 An Inspector Calls
22:35 Thirteen
23:30 Doctors
00:10 Eastenders
00:40 New Tricks
01:35 An Inspector Calls

11:25 Hungry Investors
13:05 Tosh.0
14:20 Impractical Jokers
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Workaholics
16:55 Key And Peele
19:03 Tattoo Disasters
19:50 Lip Sync Battle
20:37 I Live With Models
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 South Park
21:54 Broad City
22:18 Tosh.0
23:05 Inside Amy Schumer
23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition
00:00 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula
00:50 South Park
01:15 Broad City
01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
02:05 Tosh.0
02:30 Broad City

23:30 Worst-Case Scenario
00:45 Venom Hunters



03:00 Mega Builders
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 Race To Escape
05:24 How The Universe Works
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Food Factory
09:26 Smash Lab
13:26 How Do They Do It?
15:26 Extreme Engineering
16:14 Mega World
17:02 Mega Builders
17:50 Industrial Junkie
18:15 Industrial Junkie
18:40 Mega Engineering
19:30 How The Universe Works
23:40 Extreme Engineering
00:30 Mega World
01:20 Mega Builders
02:10 Industrial Junkie



003:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Backstage
09:00 Alex & Co.
09:25 Girl Meets World
09:50 Bunk'd
10:15 Mako Mermaids
10:40 Toy Story
12:10 The 7D
12:20 Bunk'd
14:25 Jessie
15:15 Girl Meets World
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:00 Gravity Falls
17:25 Cheetah Girls
18:55 The 7D
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Mako Mermaids
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



3:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Jungle Cubs
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:40 PJ Masks
09:10 Doc McStuffins
09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:00 Sofia The First
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:30 Gummi Bears
13:00 Sofia The First
14:55 Goldie & Bear
15:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:50 The Lion Guard
18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 Aladdin
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Gummi Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster

23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
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01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 Booster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy
08:15 Supa Strikas
08:40 Kirby Buckets
09:10 Mighty Med
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Lab Rats
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 K.C. Undercover
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Supa Strikas
12:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
13:00 Cars
15:00 Phineas And Ferb
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Kirby Buckets
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Annedroids
18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Pickle And Peanut
20:00 Lab Rats
20:25 Supa Strikas
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse



03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 Siba's Table
10:30 Siba's Table
11:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Man Fire Food
16:00 Guy's Big Bite
17:00 Siba's Table
18:00 Ace Of Cakes
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Kitchen Inferno
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Ace Of Cakes
23:00 Chopped
00:00 Kitchen Inferno
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Ace Of Cakes



03:15 EJ NYC
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 E! News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 E! News
14:05 Just Jillian
15:00 Botched

17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Just Jillian
23:00 E! News
00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 New Money
02:20 E! News



03:40 Swamp People
04:30 American Restoration
05:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 Ice Road Truckers
07:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
08:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
08:30 Car Hunters
08:55 Ax Men
09:45 American Restoration
10:35 Leepu And Pitbull
11:25 Fifth Gear
12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island
13:05 American Pickers
13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
14:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
14:45 Time Team
15:35 American Restoration
16:00 Fifth Gear
16:50 American Restoration
17:40 Shipping Wars
18:05 Shipping Wars
18:30 Pawn Stars
18:55 Storage Wars
19:20 American Restoration
20:10 The Curse Of Oak Island
21:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
21:50 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
22:40 Time Team
23:30 The Curse Of Oak Island
00:20 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
01:10 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
02:00 Fifth Gear
02:50 American Restoration



4:00 Life In Pieces
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bill Engvall Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Life In Pieces
10:30 The Bill Engvall Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 George Lopez
12:30 Life In Pieces
13:30 The Bill Engvall Show
15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
16:00 Grandfathered
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 The Simpsons
18:30 Uncle Buck
19:00 Baby Daddy
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
21:30 Grandfathered
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:00 Family Guy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
01:00 Grandfathered
02:30 Family Guy



03:00 Vinyl
04:00 Tell Me You Love Me
05:00 All The Way
07:00 Shot In The Heart
09:00 Cinema Verite



S.W.A.T. ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

- 11:00 An American Girl: Chrissa Stands Strong
- 13:00 Introducing Dorothy Dandridge
- 15:00 Warm Springs
- 17:15 An American Girl: Chrissa Stands Strong
- 19:00 Legends
- 20:00 Six Feet Under
- 21:00 The Bastard Executioner
- 22:00 Angry Boys
- 22:30 The Brink
- 23:00 One Night Stand
- 23:30 Def Poetry Jam
- 00:00 Legends
- 01:00 Six Feet Under
- 02:00 The Bastard Executioner
- 22:00 Graceland
- 23:00 Mad Dogs
- 00:00 Castle
- 01:00 Chicago Med
- 02:00 Graceland



- 03:00 Outlander
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Shark Tank
- 07:00 Castle
- 08:00 Quantico
- 10:00 Chicago Med
- 11:00 Castle
- 12:00 Quantico
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Shark Tank
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Shark Tank
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Quantico
- 19:00 The Night Shift
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 Chicago Med
- 22:00 Graceland
- 23:00 Mad Dogs
- 00:00 Castle
- 01:00 Chicago Med
- 02:00 Graceland



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 ON OSN MOVIES HD



- 04:00 Reclaim
- 05:45 Hours
- 07:30 The Fugitive
- 09:45 The Expendables 3
- 12:00 Apocalypse Pompeii
- 13:45 Hours
- 15:30 The Fugitive
- 17:45 Heatstroke
- 19:30 Armageddon
- 22:00 S.W.A.T.
- 00:00 Kiss The Girls
- 02:00 Heatstroke



- 04:00 Father Hood
- 06:00 Mr. Destiny
- 08:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 10:00 Father Hood
- 12:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 14:00 The Proposal
- 16:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 18:00 Easy A
- 20:00 Let's Be Cops
- 22:00 The Starving Games
- 00:00 Kick-Ass 2
- 02:00 Easy A



- 03:00 You're Not You
- 05:00 Cas & Dylan
- 07:00 The Silent Mountain
- 09:00 Don't Wake Mommy
- 11:00 Young Ones
- 13:00 A Stranger In Paradise
- 15:00 Anna
- 17:00 Don't Wake Mommy
- 19:00 Serena
- 21:00 71

- 23:00 Cold In July
- 01:00 Anna



- 03:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
- 06:30 The Lone Ranger
- 09:00 Into The Woods
- 11:00 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
- 13:00 Ratatouille
- 15:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
- 17:00 Gulliver's Travels
- 19:00 Bedtime Stories
- 21:00 The Rookie
- 23:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
- 01:00 Gulliver's Travels



- 03:45 The Fisher King
- 06:00 The Horse Whisperer
- 09:00 God Help The Girl
- 11:00 The Guardian
- 13:30 The Truth About Emanuel
- 15:15 The Apostle
- 17:30 God Help The Girl
- 19:30 Low Down
- 21:30 Calendar Girls
- 23:30 The Hidden Face
- 01:15 The Apostle



- 03:00 Home
- 05:00 The Grand Seduction
- 07:00 The Good Lie
- 09:00 Love, Rosie
- 10:45 Tomorrowland
- 13:00 Hotel Transylvania 2

- 15:00 Madoff Part 1
- 16:30 Madoff Part 2
- 18:00 A Birder's Guide To Everything
- 19:45 Blackhat
- 22:00 Knock Knock
- 23:45 Ex Machina
- 01:45 Cut Bank



- 04:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 06:00 Pixies
- 08:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 10:00 Snow Queen
- 11:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 13:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 14:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 16:00 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 18:00 Snow Queen
- 20:00 Echo Planet
- 22:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 23:30 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 01:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 02:45 Echo Planet



- 04:30 Tracers
- 06:15 Some Girls
- 08:00 Jackie & Ryan
- 10:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 12:00 Upside Down
- 14:00 Diana
- 16:00 Jackie & Ryan
- 17:45 Pompeii
- 19:45 Unbroken
- 22:15 Montana
- 00:15 The Woman In Black 2: Angel Of Death
- 02:00 Pompeii



- 03:40 Ancient Impossible
- 04:30 Decoding The Past
- 05:20 Ancient Aliens
- 06:10 The Universe
- 07:00 Dogfights
- 08:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 09:00 The Universe
- 10:00 Ancient Impossible
- 11:00 Decoding The Past
- 12:00 Ancient Aliens
- 13:00 Dogfights
- 14:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 15:00 The Universe
- 16:00 Ancient Impossible
- 17:00 Decoding The Past
- 18:00 Ancient Aliens
- 19:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
- 23:00 Secret Access: The Vatican
- 01:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History



- 03:05 Emmerdale
- 03:55 Coronation Street
- 06:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 06:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 08:30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 09:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 11:00 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 11:50 Grantchester
- 12:40 Vera
- 14:20 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 15:10 It's Not Rocket Science
- 16:00 Together
- 16:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 17:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 19:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...

- 19:55 Together
- 20:25 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 20:50 It's Not Rocket Science
- 21:45 Grantchester
- 22:40 Coronation Street
- 01:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 02:00 Coronation Street



- 03:45 Wild Hawaii
- 04:40 Man V. Monster
- 05:35 Hunter Hunted
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 Dr. K's Exotic Animal
- 09:15 Zoo Confidential
- 10:10 Make You Laugh Out Loud
- 11:05 Fish Tank Kings
- 12:00 Wild Case Files
- 12:55 Dead Or Alive
- 13:50 Natural Born Monsters
- 14:45 Wild Scotland: Highlands
- 15:40 Man V. Monster
- 16:35 Man V. Lion
- 17:30 Expedition Wild
- 18:25 Animals Gone Wild
- 19:20 Wild Scotland: Highlands
- 20:10 Man V. Monster
- 21:00 Man V. Lion
- 21:50 Expedition Wild
- 22:40 Animals Gone Wild
- 23:30 Wild Case Files
- 00:20 Dead Or Alive
- 01:10 Natural Born Monsters
- 02:00 Wild Japan: Snow Monkeys
- 02:50 Animal Armory



- 03:50 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge
- 04:45 Shark Men

- 05:40 Wicked Tuna
- 06:35 The Great Human Race
- 07:30 Wild Hawaii
- 08:25 Dog Whisperer
- 10:15 Laverstoke Mill
- 11:10 Street Heat: High Speed Justice
- 12:05 World's Toughest Fixes
- 13:00 Hacking The System
- 14:00 Machine Impossible
- 15:00 Science Of Stupid
- 16:00 Engineering Connections
- 17:00 Mega Factories
- 18:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 19:00 Breakout
- 20:00 Engineering Connections
- 20:50 Mega Factories
- 21:40 Locked Up Abroad
- 22:30 Breakout
- 23:20 Engineering Connections
- 00:10 Mega Factories
- 01:00 Science Of Stupid
- 02:00 Machine Impossible
- 02:55 Wicked Tuna



- 303:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Breadwinners
- 09:00 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways



The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) honored distinguished participants of the 18th edition of the children and juniors' cultural festival, which concluded on Thursday.



FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Steve Monserrate, beloved son of Constancio (cozzy) and Elizabeth, brother/brother-law of Colin/Lavina and loving uncle of Leroy passed away after a brief illness on 2nd September, 2016 in Mumbai. Funeral will be held today at 4:30pm at Our Lady of Health Church, Sahar village, Andheri East for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.



Kuwait University's Rector Dr Hussein Al-Asari met recently with Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait Tatang Budie Razak. The two sides discussed improving cooperation between Kuwait University and Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta.



Kuwait University's College of Computer Science and Engineering organized a training program titled 'Network+' with support from Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.





HONG KONG: This picture shows a mooncake in Hong Kong. It is a time of year when sugar and fat-laden 'mooncakes' fill shelves and shop windows in Hong Kong-but city authorities have sent a warning to residents not to over indulge. — AFP

HONG KONG ISSUES WARNING OVER FESTIVE 'MOONCAKES' 'MAINTAIN A BALANCED DIET'

HONG KONG: It is a time of year when sugar and fat-laden "mooncakes" fill shelves and shop windows in Hong Kong-but city authorities have sent a warning to residents not to over indulge. The pastries are consumed in vast numbers during the mid-autumn festival, which is celebrated by Chinese communities around the world later this month. However, the dense cakes pack a calorific punch with heavy fillings of sweet lotus seed paste and egg yolks.

The city's Centre of Food Safety has reminded people to "maintain a balanced diet and avoid excessive eating of mooncakes". "People should consider their health condition and consume mooncakes in an appropriate amount during mid-autumn festival," it said in a statement this week which advised peo-

ple to share them. Government tests showed 100 grams of the classic lotus paste mooncake with two egg-yolks were almost a third sugar, with 22.3 grams of fat, the statement said.

One popular brand's double-yolk mooncake, weighing 184 grams, contains a whopping 776 calories, according to nutritional information on its packaging. That is almost half the recommended daily calorie intake for women in Hong Kong, and around one third for men. But despite the warning, shopper Elaine Cheuk, 32, said Hong Kongers would be unlikely to cut back their mooncake habit. "It's still a food that marks the mid-Autumn festival," said Elaine Cheuk. "They will keep eating it if they like it," she said. One young fan said he would do his best to hold back.

"I usually eat four to five mooncakes each year-I may cut that down to 1-2 this year," said the 11-year-old, who gave his name as Edgar.

The festival is the second largest in Hong Kong behind lunar new year and is based on the legend of Chang E, the mythical moon fairy who lived in a crystal palace and came out only to dance on the moon's shadowed surface. The most famous story linked to mooncakes is that they were used to conceal secret messages sent among Chinese revolutionaries who plotted the overthrow of the Mongol invaders in the 14th century. In modern times, families gather for large meals on the eve of the new moon which falls on September 16, followed by an evening walk usually with a decorative lantern in hand. — AFP

DOGS USE SAME PARTS OF BRAIN TO PROCESS SPEECH AS HUMANS

BUDAPEST: "Super, well done," her trainer says, and Maya, a Hungarian golden retriever, happily holds up her left paw, responding to the praise. Maya works with a group of Hungarian researchers at the Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, who have scanned the brains of 13 dogs, finding that dogs process words and intonation to work out messages similarly to humans.

The study showed that dogs, like people, use the left hemisphere of their brain to process words, and a right hemisphere brain region to process intonation. Praise activates dogs' reward centre only when both words and intonation match. "We showed dogs praise words and non-praise words, in both praising and non-praising intonation, and we found that dogs just like humans can separately process word meaning information ... in the speech signal and intonational information," lead researcher Attila Andics of the Department of Ethology told Reuters.

And they do it in a way that is similar to how it is done in the human brain," he said, adding that the research was unique because how animals process human speech has not been analysed this way elsewhere. In the research, 13 dogs of different breeds, including border collies, golden retrievers, a Chinese crested dog and a German shepherd, were trained to lie completely motionless in an MRI scanner for seven minutes so that researchers could measure their brain activity while they listened to words from their trainers. They had headphones on, and heard praise words in praising intonation like "super", "well done," "good boy," Andics said.

Dogs heard praise words in praising intonation, praise words in neutral intonation, and also some neutral conjunction words, meaningless to them, in praising and neutral intonations. — Reuters

AUSTRALIA POLICE CAPTURE GIANT CATTLE-EATING CROC

SYDNEY: An "angry" giant saltwater crocodile hunting cows at a northern Australia cattle station has been captured and relocated to a breeding farm, authorities and reports said. Wildlife officers had laid a trap in a waterway near where the "salties" was reported to have been taking cattle at the station in the island continent's tropical north.

But they had to wait several days before it could be wrangled out of the enclosure earlier this week as it was too "angry", the NT News reported. "Got a big one," an official exclaimed in a video posted on Facebook by the Northern Territory Police on Wednesday as he peered into a cage floating in the water where the croc was trapped. It took several rangers and officers to haul the 4.33-metre (14.2-foot) predator onto land before it was tied up and taken to a Darwin farm, with police quipping on the social media site that it was "just another day in the outback". "It was a bit of an unorthodox extraction from the cage due to the situation where it was in a waterhole with limited access," Remote Sergeant Mark Berry said. "He got a little bit away from us but we ended up getting hold of him. — AFP

ITALIAN FERTILITY CAMPAIGN RECALLED FOR 'TREATMENT'

ROME: An Italian government campaign urging young couples to "get on with it" to boost the country's flagging birthrate has been pulled after a furious backlash on social media. Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin said Friday she had ordered changes to the online campaign after a series of captioned images intended to promote an upcoming Fertility Day were slammed as patronizing, sexist and hectoring.

The biggest outcry was over an image of a fraught-looking young woman touching her stomach with one hand and holding an egg-timer in the other, with the sand running away. "Beauty has no age. But fertility does," said the caption, widely criticized for implying women delaying pregnancy had only themselves to blame if they ended up childless. Men were not treated any more sensitively. A picture of rotting banana skin was deployed to make the point that: "Male fertility is much more vulnerable than you might think."

That was making a similar point to a picture of a man holding a cigarette with the warning: "Don't let your sperm go up in smoke." Another image shows a wading bird on the

edge of a nest, imploring surfers to: "Get a move on! Don't wait for the stork." The tweets, released to promote a Fertility Day planned for September 23, quickly went viral-the initial incredulous reaction being amplified by a swell of support for Lorenzin from pro-family groups.

'Demographic suicide'

Criticism of the campaign focused on the numerous obstacles to having children in Italy, including high unemployment, low wages, weak maternity rights and inadequate childcare provision. One of the most popular tweets was a cartoon by Virgilio Natola showing a female hand holding up a pregnancy test kit bearing the result: "Go abroad and find yourself a job." Others cited Italy's falling birthrate as a serious problem.

"The criticisms of #fertilityday are ridiculous," tweeted Comitato Articolo 26, one of the groups involved in organizing recent "Family Days" in opposition to legislation on gay civil unions. "In the country of demographic suicide, a lot, lot

more should be done." Announcing a review of the campaign, Lorenzin said: "We did not intend to offend or provoke anyone. If the message has not gone across as we would have liked, we will change it." Lorenzin, a practicing Catholic, was left looking isolated after Prime Minister Matteo Renzi appeared to criticize the campaign. "As far as I know, none of my friends had their kids after seeing an advert," he said in a radio interview on Thursday.

Italy has the lowest birthrate in the European Union and one of the lowest in the world, with only eight babies born for every 1,000 residents in 2015, according to EU figures released in July. A total of 485,000 babies were born in the country last year, a record low and less than half the level of the 1960s. Lorenzin warned earlier this year that the current "catastrophic decline" would reduce the number of newborns to 350,000 within a decade unless action is taken to reverse the trend. She has proposed doubling "baby bonus" child benefits to encourage more couples to start families and existing parents to expand theirs. — AFP

**RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS:
JAPANESE MAN WINS
URSINE KARATE BATTLE**

TOKYO: A Japanese man who came face-to-face with a snarling bear took things into his own hands—and unleashed his karate skills on the beast. The 63-year-old was fishing in a mountain creek when the 190-centimetre (6-foot 3-inch) creature set upon him in what he said was an unprovoked attack. In scenes seemingly reminiscent of Leonardo Di Caprio's epic tussle with an angry bear in the Oscar-winning film "The Revenant"—Atsushi Aoki was bitten and scratched repeatedly, including on his head.

"The bear was so strong, and it knocked me down," Aoki told Tokyo Broadcasting System. "It turned me over and bit me right here," he added, pointing to his bandaged leg. But instead of trying to outrun the beast—an Asian black bear—the fisherman decided he would use his well-honed karate skills. After assuming a fighting stance with his right fist in front of him, Aoki jabbed at his attacker's eyes, which sent the creature scrambling away into the woods. "I thought it's either 'I kill him or he kills me,'" Aoki told public broadcaster NHK.

The plucky fisherman managed to get back to his car and get himself to a hospital in Gunma, northwest of Tokyo, despite the mauling that left him with injuries to his head, arm and leg. "He drove himself to hospital, and he even remembered to grab the fish that he had caught," a local police officer said. The ursine adventure was hailed in the Japanese press as a man-versus-nature tale of triumph. "Man fights off bear with bare hands!" the Nikkan Sports tabloid screamed. — AFP

**PACIFIC TUNA MEET FAILS
TO AGREE ON CUTBACKS**

TOKYO: Pacific island states and countries failed yesterday to strike a deal to protect shrinking supplies of tuna and adopt cutbacks following a regional conference, officials said, sparking condemnation from conservationists. The Pacific Ocean is the world's largest tuna fishing ground, accounting for almost 60 percent of the global catch. But supplies are dwindling and conservationists say urgent action is needed to ensure populations remain viable.

The 10 participants "could not reach an agreement" on proposed regulation after five days of talks at the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) annual conference, Japan's Fisheries Agency said in a statement. The participants, which include Japan, China, the United States, Fiji, Vanuatu, Canada, South Korea, the Philippines, the Cook Islands and Taiwan, agreed to the conference in the Japanese city of Fukuoka after sharp declines in bluefin tuna brood stock last year.

Japan, which consumes roughly 70 percent of the global bluefin tuna haul, has suggested introducing cutbacks if stocks drop for three consecutive years. But the Japanese proposal was opposed by other participants at the meeting, including the US, that want tougher measures to protect the species, fisheries agency official Kazuya Fukaya said. Fukaya added that the issue will be discussed again at the committee's next annual meeting in South Korea. Environmental groups expressed frustration over the stalemate, with Greenpeace calling it "extremely regrettable as the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is in a state of emergency."

"Japan, the world's largest consumer of



TOKYO: A prospective buyer inspects the quality of fresh tuna before the first auction of the year at Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo. — AP

bluefin tuna, bears the responsibility to strengthen domestic rules (on fishing)," Greenpeace said. The conservation group has proposed an immediate two-year moratorium on all commercial fishing. "The latest stock assessment for Pacific bluefin, released in 2016, found that the population has been

heavily depleted to just 2.6 percent of its historic unfished size by nearly a century of over-fishing," Greenpeace said in its proposal. Conservation group World Wide Fund for Nature has recommended the ten countries introduce a catch limit and adopt a long-term bluefin tuna recovery plan. — AFP

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PAGE**



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248 33 199

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (01/09/2016 TO 07/09/2016)

SHARQIA-1
MORGAN 11:30 AM
MORGAN 1:30 PM
SKIPTRACE 4:00 PM
MORGAN 6:30 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 8:30 PM
MORGAN 10:45 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 3:30 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 6:30 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 9:45 PM
MORGAN 1:00 AM

SHARQIA-2
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS -3D 11:30 AM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS -3D 1:45 PM
BLOOD FATHER 4:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 6:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 8:15 PM
BLOOD FATHER 10:15 PM
BLOOD FATHER 12:15 AM

SHARQIA-3
HELL OR HIGH WATER 1:00 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 3:15 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 5:15 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 7:30 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 9:45 PM
HELL OR HIGH WATER 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-1
HANDS OF STONE 11:30 AM
HANDS OF STONE 1:45 PM
HANDS OF STONE 4:00 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 6:15 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 8:15 PM
HANDS OF STONE 10:15 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:30 AM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 4:00 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 7:15 PM
THU+FRI+MON 10:30 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu

MUHALAB-2
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 1:00 PM
MORGAN 1:30 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 3:30 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 5:45 PM
MORGAN 8:00 PM
MORGAN 10:00 PM
MORGAN 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-3
BLOOD FATHER 11:30 AM
AKIRA- HINDI 1:30 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 1:30 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 4:45 PM
BLOOD FATHER 7:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 9:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 11:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 1:00 AM

FANAR-1
AKIRA- HINDI 12:45 PM
AKIRA- HINDI 3:45 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 3:30 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 6:45 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 10:00 PM
AKIRA- HINDI 10:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 1:15 AM

FANAR-2
MORGAN 11:30 AM
MORGAN 1:45 PM
MORGAN 4:00 PM
SKIPTRACE 6:00 PM
MORGAN 8:15 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 10:15 PM
MORGAN 12:30 AM

FANAR-3
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 11:45 AM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 2:00 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 4:15 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 6:30 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 8:45 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 10:45 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:45 AM

FANAR-4
BLOOD FATHER 11:30 AM
BLOOD FATHER 1:30 PM
BLOOD FATHER 3:30 PM
BLOOD FATHER 5:30 PM
BLOOD FATHER 7:30 PM
BLOOD FATHER 9:45 PM
BLOOD FATHER 12:05 AM

MARINA-1
MORGAN 12:00 PM
SKIPTRACE 2:00 PM
MORGAN 4:15 PM
SKIPTRACE 6:45 PM
MORGAN 9:00 PM
MORGAN 11:00 PM
MORGAN 1:00 AM

MARINA-2
BLOOD FATHER 12:15 PM
BLOOD FATHER 2:15 PM
BLOOD FATHER 4:15 PM
BLOOD FATHER 6:30 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 8:30 PM
BLOOD FATHER 10:45 PM
BLOOD FATHER 12:45 AM

MARINA-3
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 11:30 AM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 1:30 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 3:45 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 5:45 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 8:00 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 10:15 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:30 AM

AVENUES-1
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 1:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 3:15 PM
ABU SHANAB 5:30 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 8:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 10:15 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 12:30 AM

AVENUES-2
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX 12:15 PM
THE BFG -3D- 4DX 2:30 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX 5:00 PM
THE BFG -3D- 4DX 7:15 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX 9:45 PM
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX 12:05 AM

AVENUES-3
HELL OR HIGH WATER 11:30 AM
SKIPTRACE 1:45 PM
AKIRA- HINDI 4:00 PM
HELL OR HIGH WATER 7:15 PM
SKIPTRACE 9:30 PM
SKIPTRACE 11:45 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 4:00 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 7:15 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu 10:30 PM

360° 1
BLOOD FATHER 12:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 2:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 4:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 6:00 PM
BLOOD FATHER 8:15 PM
BLOOD FATHER 10:30 PM
BLOOD FATHER 12:45 AM

360°- 2
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 1:15 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 3:30 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 5:45 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 8:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 10:15 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND 12:30 AM

360°- 3
AKIRA- HINDI 11:30 AM
AKIRA- HINDI 2:30 PM
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi 5:30 PM
AKIRA- HINDI 8:30 PM
AKIRA- HINDI 11:30 PM

AL-KOUT.1
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 11:30 AM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 2:00 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 4:15 PM
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS 6:30 PM
BLOOD FATHER 8:45 PM
BLOOD FATHER 10:45 PM
BLOOD FATHER 12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.2
MORGAN 11:45 AM
MORGAN 1:45 PM
MORGAN 3:45 PM
MORGAN 5:45 PM

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Sivachandiran** S/o Arjunan, holder of Indian Passport No. L6182781 & Civil ID No. 291012302869, has changed my name from Sivachandiran to Imran, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Imran. (C 5210) 3-9-2016

Old name: Shaikh Imam Saheb, sur name: Shaikh Madar, Passport No: P0377626, date of birth: 01-01-1954, place of birth: Bhagam Palli, A.P., Civil ID No. 254101101142. Change of name, surname: Pathan, given name: Haroon Khan, S/o Pathan Azeez Khan. Door No: 28/83, Bhavani Nagar, Bethol Colony, Rayachoty, Cuddapah (Dt), A.P. (C 5209) 1-9-2016

I, **Mukilarasan** Lingesan S/o

Lingesan, holder of Indian Passport No. G9180281 and Civil ID No. 287070104885 has changed my name from Mukilarasan Lingesan to Abdul Rahaman, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Abdul Rahaman. (C 5208) 31-8-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS



Fajr: 04:05
Shorook 05:26
Duhr: 11:47
Asr: 15:20
Maghrib: 18:08
Isha: 19:27

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 3/9/2016			Departure Flights on Saturday 3/9/2016							
Airlines	Flt	Route	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	KAC	792	Madinah	17:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
THY	772	Istanbul	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
JZR	239	Amman	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
CLX	852	Luxembourg	SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
FDB	069	Dubai	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	RJA	649	Amman	10:15
DLH	635	Doha	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	FDB	1071	Doha	10:35
QTR	1086	Doha	KAC	620	Cairo	18:30	SAW	704	Dubai	10:40
JZR	539	Cairo	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	KAC	501	Damascus	10:45
SAI	441	Lahore	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	KAC	561	Beirut	11:00
KAC	1802	Cairo	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	KAC	165	Amman	11:20
PGT	858	Istanbul	IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45	KAC	679	Rome/Paris	11:25
RJA	642	Amman	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	KAC	214	Muscat	11:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	KAC	856	Luxembourg	18:55	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
THY	1464	Istanbul	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
MSC	501	Alexandria	KAC	104	London	19:00	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
KKK	6506	Istanbul	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
UAE	853	Dubai	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
THY	768	Istanbul	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
OMA	643	Muscat	JAV	621	Amman	19:25	KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
RJA	644	Amman	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	067	Dubai	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSR	612	Cairo	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
QTR	1076	Doha	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10	RJD	133	Abu Dhabi	13:50
KAC	544	Cairo	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
KAC	514	Tehran	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	1416	Bursa	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
JZR	555	Alexandria	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
FEG	931	Alexandria	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
THY	770	Istanbul	KAC	174	Munich	20:55	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
SYR	341	Damascus	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
JZR	529	Asyut	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
BAW	157	London	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
JZR	1541	Cairo	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
FDB	5061	Dubai	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
JZR	503	Luxor	FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40	MSC	508	HRG	15:45
KAC	382	Delhi	QTR	1082	Dubai	21:40	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	KAC	564	Amman	22:05	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
FDB	053	Dubai	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	344	Chennai	KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	352	Kochi	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
KAC	362	Colombo	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
UAE	855	Dubai	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	JAD	301	Amman	23:45	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
QTR	1070	Doha	ETH	3612	Addis Ababa	23:59	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
RJA	648	Amman					QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
FDB	055	Dubai					KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
SAW	703	Damascus					UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
UAE	873	Dubai					IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
GFA	213	Bahrain					SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
IRM	1188	Mashhad					SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
RBG	553	Alexandria					GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	165	Dubai					JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
IAW	157	Al Najaf					JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
FDB	075	Dubai					KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
MSC	401	Alexandria					QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	241	Amman					JZR	238	Amman	19:15
UAE	871	Dubai					JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
FEG	933	Sohag					SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
MSR	610	Cairo					MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
RJD	132	Abu Dhabi					KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
THY	766	Istanbul					FDB	064	Bahrain	19:50
BON	101	Sarajevo					ABY	124	Dubai	19:50
KNE	231	Riyadh					KAC	361	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	672	Dubai					IRM	1181	Colombo	19:55
QTR	1078	Doha					CLX	856	Mashhad	20:00
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh					JAV	622	Hong Kong	20:20
FDB	057	Dubai					FDB	060	Amman	20:25
GFA	221	Bahrain					UAE	876	Dubai	20:30
JZR	779	Jeddah					JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	512	Mashhad					KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
MSC	507	HRG					DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh					ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	788	Jeddah					KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KNE	529	Jeddah					KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KNE	683	Madinah					KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi					KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
OMA	645	Muscat					MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
ABY	127	Sharjah					OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
UAE	857	Dubai					JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
NIA	251	Alexandria					MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
RJA	640	Amman					QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
FDB	051	Dubai					DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1072	Doha					FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
JZR	535	Cairo					ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
JZR	257	Beirut					ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KNE	531	Jeddah					UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
JZR	787	Riyadh					KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
KAC	562	Amman					THY	1413	TZX	22:25
KAC	680	Muscat					KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	118	New York					KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
SAW	705	Damascus					KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
IRA	669	Mashhad					GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
SVA	510	Riyadh					KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
JZR	357	Mashhad					ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
GFA	215	Bahrain					NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
							FDB	8054	Dubai	23:15
							KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
							QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
							KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
							KNE	534	Jeddah	23:35

Word Search Puzzles

Gardening

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 27 letters spell a Lady Bird Johnson quote.

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

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| ANNUALS | GARDEN | ORGANIC | SEEDS |
| BEANS | GERANIUMS | PEAS | SHOVEL |
| BEETS | GLOVES | PERENNIAL | SOIL |
| BIENNIAL | GNOME | PETUNIAS | SPADE |
| BROCCOLI | GREENHOUSE | PINWHEEL | SUNSHINE |
| CARROTS | GROW | PITCH FORK | TOMATOES |
| COMPOST | HOES | PLANTING | TROWEL |
| CULTIVATE | HORTICULTURE | RAIN | TULIPS |
| DAISIES | HOSE | RAKE | VEGETABLES |
| DIGGING | HYDRANGEA | RELAXING | WATER |
| FERTILIZER | LILACS | ROSES | WEEDS |
| FLOWERS | LILIES | ROWS | WHEELBARROW |
| FUCHSIA | MARIGOLDS | | |

CROSSWORD 1362



ACROSS

- The basic unit of money in Bulgaria.
- A failure to maintain a higher state.
- The center of an object.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
- An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
- Characteristic of a mob.
- Arranged or displayed systematically in table form.
- Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
- An indistinct shapeless form.
- Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
- A wooded plateau in the Champagne-Ardenne region of France.
- Brightest star in Centaurus.
- French symbolist poet (1844-1896).
- North American plant having large leaves and yellowish green flowers growing in racemes.
- Become ground down or deteriorate.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- A crease on the palm.
- Act of departing.
- Of or relating to Attica or its inhabitants or to the dialect spoken in Athens in classical times.
- Suffering from a partial loss of memory.
- Two items of the same kind.
- Dance the slam dance.
- A Russian river.
- Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
- Norwegian explorer of the Arctic and director of the League of Nations relief program for refugees of World War I (1861-1930).
- Any of various orchids of the genus Bletia having pseudobulbs and erect leafless racemes of large purple or pink flowers.

- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- Characterized by friendship and good will.
- A light touch or stroke.
- A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- The last few hours before death.
- Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.

DOWN

- Young sheep.
- An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
- A town of Denmark in north central Jutland.
- Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse.
- A soft cotton or worsted fabric with an open mesh.
- Open to change.
- A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
- Flattery intended to persuade.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- An earring with a pendant ornament.
- Ancient city is southeastern Italy where Hannibal defeated the Romans in 216 BC.
- Of or relating to Oman or its people.
- Cause to ripen.
- Remove from memory or existence.
- Top part of an apron.
- Late time of life.
- Relating to or characteristic of the Celts.
- The state of existing and being localized in space.
- A Mid-Atlantic state.
- True gudgeons.
- A republic in southeastern Europe on the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.
- Any of several large deciduous trees with rounded spreading crowns and smooth gray bark and small sweet edible triangular nuts enclosed in burs.
- Bringing death.
- Clearly apparent or obvious to the mind or senses.
- Not out.
- Sexually transmitted urethritis (usually caused by chlamydia).
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- Dutch navigator who was the first European to discover Tasmania and New Zealand (1603-1659).
- A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
- Not of the nobility.
- An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
- Source of a tough elastic wood.
- An informal term for a father.
- Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
- Being derived from.
- Group of people related by blood or marriage.
- Located on a side.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- The month following September and preceding November.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
- A state in midwestern United States.

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
 Beatles Songs 1 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| ANOTHER GIRL | HONEY PIE | SUN KING |
| BIRTHDAY | I WILL | TAXMAN |
| DAY TRIPPER | IN MY LIFE | TELL ME WHY |
| DIG A PONY | JULIA | TICKET TO RIDE |
| ELEANOR RIGBY | LADY MADONNA | TWO OF US |
| FLYING | LOVELY RITA | WAIT |
| GET BACK | NO REPLY | YESTERDAY |
| HEY JUDE | OH DARLING | |

Daily SuDoku

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

hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

BIG HITTERS SMASH BRAVES TO 9-6 WIN

ATLANTA: Freddie Freeman homered and the Atlanta Braves broke it open with a five-run fifth inning, beating the San Diego Padres 9-6 on Thursday to complete their first three-game sweep at Turner Field this season. One day after Minnesota dipped below Atlanta to the worst record in the majors, the Braves kept on winning behind six solid innings from Mike Foltynewicz (8-5) and another strong showing from their hitters. They scored at least seven runs for the fifth straight time at home. Freeman put Atlanta up in the third with his 28th homer, a two-run liner into the right-field seats off Jarred Cosart (0-2). After Hector Sanchez homered for the Padres in the fifth, the Braves finished off Cosart in the bottom half. Freeman walked with the bases loaded, followed by two-run singles from both Matt Kemp and Anthony Recker. The Padres scored three runs in the ninth off Chaz Roe before Jim Johnson came on to get the final out for his 14th save.

MARLINS 6, METS 4

Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer that helped Miami beat shaky Jacob deGrom to end its season-worst five-game losing streak. Yelich homered and singled twice, drove in four runs and stole two bases. He also made a dashing, diving catch in center field with the bases loaded and two outs. That made up for him later dropping a routine fly for an error. Jose Urena (3-5) outpitched deGrom (7-8) as Miami averted a four-game sweep. Down 6-1, the Mets made it close, boosted by pinch-hitter Asdrubal Cabrera's two-run homer in the ninth off Fernando Rodney. The Mets fell two games behind idle St. Louis for the second wild-card spot, with the Marlins another game back.

CUBS 5, GIANTS 4

Addison Russell hit a two-run single with the bases loaded in the seventh inning to lead Chicago. The Cubs spoiled a shaky Jeff Samardzija's return to Wrigley Field and started September on a winning note after going 22-6 to match the 1932 team for the best August in franchise history. The major league leaders also moved a season-high 39 games over .500 and 15 1/2 games ahead of St. Louis in the NL Central - their largest lead in the standings since the 1907 team finished 17 games ahead of Pittsburgh, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The Cubs were trailing 4-3 going into the seventh when Hunter Strickland (3-2) gave up a lead-off single to Dexter Fowler and walked Kris Bryant. Will Smith walked Ben Zobrist with one out to load the bases before retiring Jason Heyward on a pop fly. But Russell then blooped a two-run single to left off Cory Gearrin. That gave Chicago a 5-4 lead and made a winner of Joe Smith (2-4), who worked two scoreless innings in relief after returning from a strained left hamstring.

TWINS 8, WHITE SOX 5

Byron Buxton homered in his return to the majors, and Trevor Plouffe continued his resurgence with a two-run shot as Minnesota ended a 13-game losing streak. Minnesota got to Chicago starter Jose Quintana, who entered the day leading the American League with a 2.77 ERA. Quintana (11-10) allowed seven runs and seven hits in five innings and saw his ERA rise to 3.05. Ervin Santana (7-10) escaped trouble to win for the fourth time in five decisions. He gave up 11 hits and two walks, but allowed just two runs as the Twins snapped their losing streak, one off the franchise record for a season. Brandon Kintzler recorded his 13th save in 14 chances. — AP



ATLANTA: Mike Foltynewicz #26 of the Atlanta Braves is congratulated by teammates after scoring a fifth inning run against the San Diego Padres at Turner Field. — AP

MLB results/standings

Atlanta 9, San Diego 6; Miami 6, NY Mets 4; Chicago Cubs 5, San Francisco 4; Minnesota 8, Chicago White Sox 5.

American League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	76	57	.571	-
Boston	74	59	.556	2
Baltimore	72	61	.541	4
NY Yankees	69	63	.523	6.5
Tampa Bay	56	76	.424	19.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	76	56	.576	-
Detroit	72	61	.541	4.5
Kansas City	69	64	.519	7.5
Chicago W Sox	63	70	.474	13.5
Minnesota	50	84	.373	27
Western Division				
Texas	80	54	.597	-
Houston	71	62	.534	8.5
Seattle	68	65	.511	11.5
LA Angels	59	74	.444	20.5
Oakland	57	76	.429	22.5

National League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Washington	78	55	.586	-
NY Mets	69	65	.515	9.5
Miami	68	66	.507	10.5
Philadelphia	60	73	.451	18
Atlanta	51	83	.381	27.5
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	86	47	.647	-
St. Louis	70	62	.530	15.5
Pittsburgh	67	64	.511	18
Milwaukee	57	76	.429	29
Cincinnati	55	77	.417	30.5
Western Division				
LA Dodgers	74	59	.556	-
San Francisco	72	61	.541	2
Colorado	64	69	.481	10
Arizona	56	77	.421	18
San Diego	55	78	.414	19

EXCITED LAKERS PROVIDE EARLY LOOK AT NEW TRAINING CENTER

EL SEGUNDO: After Kobe Bryant's retirement and the worst season in team history, the Los Angeles Lakers' quest to rebuild a championship franchise is finally beginning in earnest. Seems like the perfect time to get excited about moving into a shiny new home. The Lakers provided an early look at their \$80 million training complex Wednesday while announcing a naming rights deal with UCLA Health, the multi-hospital academic medical center.

Just eight months after construction began in earnest, the Lakers are on schedule to open the 120,000-square-foot UCLA Health Training Center during the 2017 offseason. "This was really an effort to make sure we had not only everything we needed, but also everything we were going to need in the future," Lakers President Jeanie Buss said.

The Lakers will spend the next year just two blocks away at the Toyota Sports Center, their home since February 2000, before moving into the state-of-the-art complex in El Segundo, near Los Angeles International Airport. Coach Luke Walton and the Lakers' last

three draft classes also took a break from working out down the street to tour the complex. D'Angelo Russell, Brandon Ingram, Julius Randle, Jordan Clarkson, Larry Nance Jr, Ivica Zubac and Anthony Brown all donned hard hats, fluorescent orange vests and safety goggles to check out the concrete-and-drywall shell of their new home.

"We have a place that players will want to come into," said Walton, the former Lakers forward, who recalled hour-long waits to use the single-person ice baths at their current training complex. "It's a place that offers the best of everything, all the best capabilities. It's a part of creating that culture that you want for a franchise. It's nice to have this place in our future."

Although none of the Lakers' youngsters has known any home except their current cramped quarters, they were still impressed by the project centered around a large gym that will also house the team's D-League affiliate. The Lakers' players will have a spacious weight room and locker room along with three rehab pools, a cryogenics chamber, a theater, a lounge, a large kitchen and a barbershop. — AP

VERSTAPPEN HANDED A 'GENTLE WARNING'

MONZA: Formula One's governing body has given Red Bull's Max Verstappen a "gentle warning" about his driving after a controversial Belgian Grand Prix, team principal Christian Horner said yesterday. "(FIA race director) Charlie (Whiting) was keen to show him a replay of Spa," Horner told Sky Sports television at the Italian Grand Prix. "It was a gentle warning to say 'that'll be a black and white flag'...a bit of a warning."

A black and white flag can be waved, once only, at a driver during a race to warn him that he has been reported for unsporting behavior. If the driver does it again, a black flag will be shown which tells him he has been excluded and must return immediately to the pits. Verstappen tangled with Ferrari drivers Kimi Raikkonen and Sebastian Vettel at the start in Spa and then aggressively defended against Raikkonen when the Finn tried to pass later in the race. Raikkonen, the 2007 champion,

accused the 18-year-old of forcing him to brake by changing position and expressed concern that he had acted in that way as payback for what had happened earlier.

The Formula One paddock has been divided by Verstappen's actions, which were not punished by race stewards at the time, with some feeling the Dutch youngster had done no wrong while others condemned him. "In the middle of the straight you are allowed to do one move as long as the other car is not alongside you," commented McLaren's double world champion Fernando Alonso, who felt Verstappen had not broken that rule. Whiting met the two Ferrari drivers on Thursday and will talk to all of them later on Friday in the regular pre-race briefing. Horner said Verstappen, the youngest race winner in the sport's history and already attracting a considerable following as a rare talent and rising star, cared little about what the others thought. — Reuters



SAN DIEGO: Colin Kaepernick #7 of the San Francisco 49ers poses for photos with fans after a 31-21 win over the San Diego Chargers during a preseason game at Qualcomm Stadium. — AP

KAEPERNICK DEFIANT AFTER ANTHEM PROTEST BOOED

SAN DIEGO: San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick vowed to maintain his boycott of the US national anthem on Thursday after being roundly booed for once again refusing to stand during a rendition of the song. Kaepernick has triggered furious debate in the United States for his protest of "The Star Spangled Banner" which he hopes will draw attention to the plight of blacks in America.

The 28-year-old crouched on one knee during the anthem on Thursday as the 49ers faced the San Diego Chargers at the Qualcomm Stadium in Southern California. His latest protest—which drew support from teammate Eric Reid, who also knelt—came on a night when the Chargers honored US military personnel in a "Salute to the Military." After a pre-match ceremony loaded with military pageantry — 240 sailors, Marines and soldiers presented a US flag while the anthem was sung by a Navy petty officer—Kaepernick was booed relentlessly every time he took to the field. A banner in the crowd read: "You're an American. Act like one."

However, the jeering did little to deter Kaepernick, who impressed during

two quarters, leading his team on a 16-play opening drive for an early touch-down to put the 49ers ahead. Kaepernick's protest has divided opinion, with many decrying his actions as disrespectful or unpatriotic. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump described Kaepernick's anthem boycott as a "terrible thing," suggesting the player should move to another country.

'I love America'

Speaking after the game, Kaepernick brushed off the charges of not being patriotic. "I'm not anti-American, I love America, I love people. That's why I'm doing this. I want to help make things better," he told reporters. "And I think having these conversations helps everybody have a better understanding of where everybody is coming from." Kaepernick's stance has won applause from veteran civil rights campaigners and sporting icons including Tommie Smith, the sprinter who was ostracized for his clenched fist salute alongside John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games.

Military veterans have also rallied to his

cause, with many pledging support on Twitter under a #VeteransforKaepernick hashtag. Citing the high rates of suicide amongst US military veterans, Kaepernick added: "This country will let those vets go and fight the war for them but when they come back they won't do anything to try to help them. That's another issue. These issues need to be addressed."

Kaepernick meanwhile said he was not sure when he may call time on his protest, but said he had been inspired by messages of support urging him to press ahead. "As far as how long this goes, I'm not sure," he said. "I want to be able to effect change and I think there are a lot of other people that want to do that as well. I think there are conversations happening not only in NFL locker rooms, but around the country. I've had friends that aren't on football teams say 'I respect what you're doing, I support you.'" "I've had more conversations about human rights and oppression and things that need to change in the past week than I've had in my entire life," he added. "The fact that those conversations are happening is a start." — AFP

FAA PROBES JETS' BUZZ OF STADIUM

ATLANTA: Four Georgia-based jet pilots who buzzed Charlotte's professional football stadium are restricted from flight duty while the incident is reviewed, US Air Force officials said. The Carolina Panthers were practicing on Monday when the A-10 "Warthog" attack jets swooped low, alarming some inside and outside the stadium.

It's unclear whether the pilots of the A-10C Thunderbolt IIs, based at Moody Air Force Base in south Georgia, find themselves in a danger zone because of their actions. "As professional airmen we take aviation safety very seriously," Air Force Col. Thomas Kunkel said in a statement to The Associated Press. The team was "most certainly caught off-guard," as players wondered what was happening, Carolina Panthers Coach Ron Rivera said. But it was "pretty awesome" to see, he added. Workers in nearby office buildings criticized the flyby on social media, assuming the pilots were mavericks.

However, it turns out the pilots had requested permission for a flyover from the tower. Specifically, the Federal Aviation Administration is looking into reports that the pilots made a "low-altitude pass" over Bank of America Stadium after air traffic controllers approved the pilots' request to fly over the National Football League venue, the FAA said in a statement Thursday. The statements released by the Air Force and FAA include no indications that the pattern was full or that a "negative" to the pilots' request was in order. But that doesn't mean no rules were broken in this particular engagement.

"As we look into the circumstances of this incident we are working with the FAA to ensure both civil and military aviation instructions were complied with," Kunkel said. Some Air Force pilots do flyovers at NFL games, but the Charlotte team had no knowledge of any practice flyovers, Panthers spokesman Steven Drummond said. While much of the social media reaction saw the flyover as a circus-stunt, the team didn't appear to label the pilots as jesters. "I like the fact that they waved at us as they went over," Rivera said.

The pilots from the Georgia base were "conducting routine navigation training from Charlotte to Moody" and were not participating in the Air Force's partnership with the NFL to provide flyovers, Kunkel's statement said. The planes had taken off from Charlotte Douglas International Airport moments before flying over the stadium, Air Force officials said. They are part of the 74th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, which is near Valdosta, Georgia. The aircraft are used to support troops on the ground, and are sometimes known by their nickname "Warthogs," according to descriptions from Moody. Their maneuverability and capability for short takeoffs and landings help them operate near front lines in battle. The planes can carry a variety of bombs, missiles, rockets and guns to defeat a wide variety of targets on the ground, including tanks, officials said. — AP

BRADY PLAYS A HALF IN PATRIOTS' PRESEASON

EAST RUTHERFORD: With his "Deflategate" suspension days away, Tom Brady played the first half in the New England Patriots' preseason finale against the New York Giants. Brady completed 16 of 26 passes for 166 yards, a touchdown and an interception as New England took a 6-3 halftime lead. He was sharpest on his fourth series, leading the Patriots team on a nine-play, 77-yard drive. The two-time NFL MVP hit 6 of 7 passes and scrambled for 10 yards on the march, which ended with a 7-yard TD toss to a wide-open Keshawn Martin.

The 39-year-old Brady had New England at the Giants 19 on the next series after a 38-yard pass to Aaron Dobson. However, running back D.J. Foster fumbled a screen pass two plays later, ending

the drive. Brady took a knee on the final play of the half. Brady begins a four-game suspension Saturday for his role in the use of deflated footballs in the 2014 AFC championship game. The three-time Super Bowl MVP won't be eligible to rejoin the active roster until Oct. 3, leaving the team in the hands of Jimmy Garoppolo.

Brady's absence will mark the first regular-season game he's missed since 2008, when he suffered a torn ACL in his left knee in the season opener. Brady is not allowed to have contact with the Patriots or utilize team facilities during his suspension. The 17-year veteran will be allowed to work with his close friend, personal trainer and health guru Alex Guerrero. They are partners in a sports therapy center near Gillette Stadium. — AP



EAST RUTHERFORD: New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) looks to pass as New York Giants strong safety Nat Berhe (29) and Jermelle Cudjo (76) rush during the first half of a preseason NFL football game. — AP

BANGLADESH HIRE SAMARAWEEERA AS BATTING GURU

DHAKA: Bangladesh yesterday named former Sri Lankan cricketer Thilan Samaraweera as their batting consultant for next month's home series against England. Samaraweera's appointment came a day after former West Indies great Courtney Walsh agreed a three-year term to become the specialist pace bowling coach of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

BCB president Nazmul Hassan said the board was

in the process of appointing more coaching staff ahead of a flurry of international cricket, including a tour to New Zealand in December-January and maiden Test in India in February. "We have confirmed the service of Samaraweera as our batting consultant for England series," Hassan told reporters. "Fielding coach Richard Halsall will now work as the assistant coach. We are also looking for a spin bowling coach."

Bangladesh recently terminated the contract of

the national team's Sri Lankan assistant coach Ruwan Kalpage after he failed to turn up for a training camp. England will arrive in Dhaka on September 30 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals. The tour was called into question after an attack on a Dhaka cafe in July in which 20 hostages were killed, including 18 foreigners. However, the England and Wales Cricket Board said last week that the tour would go ahead as planned. — AFP

BAIRSTOW WANTS A ROLE FOR KEEPS

LEEDS: Jonny Bairstow is determined to nail down a place in England's one-day team after his latest 'supersub' display helped condemn Pakistan to a defeat on his Headingley home ground. First-choice Test wicket-keeper Bairstow was only told he was playing by England coach Trevor Bayliss just over half an hour before the start of Thursday's match after regular one-day glove-man Jos Buttler suffered a hamstring injury in the warm-up. Bairstow responded with an assured display behind the stumps.

He then made a brisk 61 and helped Ben Stokes (69) add 103 for the fifth wicket as England, who had stumbled to 72 for four chasing a target of 248, eventually won by four wickets to go 4-0 up in this five-match series. Last year Bairstow guided England to a one-day series clinching win over New Zealand—a key-staging post in their recovery from a dismal first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup—with an unbeaten 83 at Chester-le-Street after Buttler was ruled out with a hand injury.

There has been talk of England, the hosts of both the 2017 Champions Trophy and 2019 World Cup one-day tournaments, playing both Buttler and Bairstow in the same white-ball side, with one of them featuring as a specialist batsman. But in the meantime Bairstow, who has already scored nearly 1,000 runs in Test cricket this year, is desperate to make the most of any one-day chances he gets, however late they come.

'Special group'

"It was about 32 minutes before the start," Bairstow said after being asked when he knew he was playing in front of his adoring Yorkshire public on Thursday. "Trev came over and just said, 'You're in.'" However, with England on the up in one-day cricket, Bairstow wants to be more than a white-ball 'reserve'. "It's a special group of players and we believe we can go a long way in world competitions and series," he said. "But naturally I'm frustrated not to be in that XI week in week out."

"Every time I get an opportunity I want to try to impress and that's all I can do. "Whether that be keeping wicket, just playing as a batter, batting at one or 11 — every time you go out there you try to do your best. "You've just got to take it on the chin, crack on and hope you take the opportunity when it does come along," added Bairstow ahead of Sunday's series finale in Cardiff. Bairstow, the son of late former Yorkshire and England wicket-keeper David Bairstow, looked considerably younger than his 26 years on Thursday, having shaved off his beard after receiving a message from his mother, Janet, a Headingley administrator. "I got told off by my Mum," said Jonny. "My Grandma had been on the phone." — AFP

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST TEST PLAYER DIES

SYDNEY: Australia's oldest surviving Test cricketer, Len Maddocks, has passed away aged 90, Cricket Australia said yesterday. Maddocks, a batsman and wicket-keeper, played seven Tests for Australia between 1954 and 1956, and managed the Australian cricket team on its 1977 tour of England. He played 112 first-class matches, representing Victoria and Tasmania, and was also a national selector and a Victorian Cricket Association board director. "Len made an outstanding contribution to cricket in his lifetime within state and national ranks, both as a player and administrator," Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said. "We were deeply saddened to hear of Len's passing this week and are truly appreciative of his dedication to assist in building the game to what it is today." — AFP



LEEDS: England's Jonny Bairstow (L) celebrates reaching his 50 during play in the fourth one-day international (ODI) cricket match between England and Pakistan at Headingley cricket ground. — AFP

STOKES AND BAIRSTOW SEE OFF PAKISTAN IN 4TH ODI

LEEDS: Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow both made fifties as England beat Pakistan by four wickets in the fourth one-day international at Headingley on Thursday. England, now 4-0 up in this five-match series, slumped to 72 for four pursuing a target of 248. But Stokes (69) and wicket-keeper Bairstow (61), only playing on his Yorkshire home ground after Jos Buttler was ruled out in the warm-up with a hamstring injury, got the innings back on track with a fifth-wicket partnership of 103.

Neither batsman was in at the finish of this day/night fixture, with Moeen Ali (45 not out) hitting Pakistan captain Azhar Ali for six to win the match with 12 balls to spare. "I'm pleased to get a go," Bairstow told BBC Radio. "It's unfortunate that Jos suffered an injury, and I got told 32 minutes before the start that I was playing so to contribute was nice. "We thought it was an attainable target and if we're honest, we cruised home. There was no panic at any point in that chase," he added.

England were chasing a target that seemed all the more modest after their world ODI record total of 444 for three during a 169-run win in the third match at Trent Bridge on Tuesday. But they lost four

wickets inside 15 overs of their reply to a Pakistan total of 247 for eight built on Azhar's 80 and all-rounder Imad Wasim's unbeaten 57. "It was a bit more of a competitive game," said Azhar at the presentation ceremony. "Again we were a few runs short...The wicket was turning but it was still a good pitch. But we lost wickets frequently."

Giant fast bowler Mohammad Irfan, a late-call up to the squad, marked his first match of the series by removing both England openers. The 7ft 1in (2.16m) Irfan produced a rising delivery that Jason Roy (14) could only edge and Mohammad Rizwan held a fine catch diving to his left at second slip. Alex Hales, who had made an England ODI record 171 at Trent Bridge on Tuesday, then fell for eight when he was caught behind off Irfan, who was twice warned for running on the pitch.

'Cramping up'

Irfan took two for 25 in five overs but then twice went on and off the field and bowled only one more delivery, a wide, before, after pulling up in delivery stride, he walked off for the final time. "Irfan on his comeback game bowled well with the new

ball, but his calves were cramping up," said Azhar. "We would have loved for him to bowl a second and third spell. A few more wickets and the game could have been different," he added. Joe Root, bidding for a new outright England record of six consecutive ODI fifties, again looked in superb touch while making 30.

But Root, one of five Yorkshire players in the side, fell when his top-edged pull off Hasan Ali was safely caught at fine leg by Irfan. England captain Eoin Morgan then gave his wicket away on 11 when he guided Umar Gul straight to Sharjeel Khan at slip. Left-hander Stokes went on the offensive by driving Wasim for six over long-on. Man-of-the-match Bairstow followed suit by skipping down the pitch to drive Mohammad Nawaz, Pakistan's other left-arm spinner, for another six.

Stokes, with England 116 for four, was fortunate on 35 when a diving Nawaz at backward square could not hold a top-edged sweep off Wasim. He went on a run-a-ball fifty, including five fours and a six. Stokes was out when he slog-swept Wasim to Babar Azam at mid-wicket. Bairstow completed a 64-ball fifty with his fourth four, a fierce drive off Nawaz. — AFP

JAPANESE PROBE FINDS NO BRIBERY IN TOKYO 20 BID

TOKYO: A formal investigation found no evidence of bribery by Japanese officials on Thursday after probing a \$2 million payment made during Tokyo's successful bid to host the 2020 Olympics. French prosecutors said in May that they were investigating the 2.8 million Singapore dollar (1.8 million euros, \$2 million) payment to a Singapore-based consultancy. Shortly after, the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) set up an investigative panel of three lawyers to look into the payment, which has been linked to a son of disgraced ex-world athletics chief Lamine Diack.

Diack, whose son Papa Massata Diack has denied receiving the money, was an International Olympic Committee (IOC)

member at the time. "The investigation concludes that (the bid committee's deals) are not in violation of any of the laws of Japan," the panel's report said. "In addition, the investigation team concludes that it does not form any crime under the penal code of France, and furthermore, that no violation of the IOC code of ethics can be found."

Japanese officials have consistently denied wrongdoing and have said that the payment was for consulting services related to the bid. "What was most important for the team was to probe whether the bid committee in fact bribed someone," Yoshihisa Hayakawa, the lawyer who led the investigation, told reporters. "We think the investigation cleared the

group of any suspicion in this regard." But Hayakawa stressed the probe's limitations and its inability to interview key people—such as the Diacks and the head of the now defunct consulting company. "As a team without authority for compulsory investigation, we have done all we can within our ability," he said.

The money was sent in two tranches to the now-defunct, Singapore-based Black Tidings company, either side of the International Olympic Committee vote which awarded Tokyo the 2020 Games. Japan beat Istanbul and Madrid in the race to host the Summer Games in the vote held in 2013. Black Tidings was headed by consultant Ian Tan Tong Han, an associate of Papa Massata Diack since the

2008 Beijing Olympics.

"There was no one (in the Japanese bid committee) who knew Mr Tan was close to Mr Papa Massata Diack" when Japan hired the consultant, said Hayakawa. Eisuke Hiraoka, JOC secretary general, stressed that the organization had done all it could, though acknowledged the possibility there could be "factors that are not fully clear". He said that neither French nor Japanese authorities had attempted to contact the JOC for questioning. The World Anti-Doping Agency initially raised the alarm about the bidding process in January, after uncovering evidence during an investigation into claims of widespread use of performance-enhancing drugs. — AFP



NEW YORK: Serena Williams of the US hits a return against Vania King of the US during their 2016 US Open Women's Singles match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. — AFP

SERENA, MURRAY STORM THROUGH ON RAIN-FILLED DAY AT US OPEN

NEW YORK: Wimbledon champions Serena Williams and Andy Murray raised the roof at the US Open on Thursday, powering into the third round with decisive straight-sets victories. World number one Williams defeated fellow American Vania King 6-3, 6-3, her 306th Grand Slam singles match win tying her with Martina Navratilova for the most ever for a woman. "This one's kind of cool," she said of her latest milestone, "to win 306."

There could be more history in store for Williams as she seeks a seventh US Open title and a 23rd Grand Slam singles crown, both of which would be Open Era records. She fired 13 aces, with a total of 38 winners against 87th-ranked wild card King, and said the troublesome right shoulder that has hindered her since Wimbledon wasn't a problem. "So far, so good," said Williams, who was cheered on by rap mogul Jay Z and his pop superstar wife Beyonce as she booked a meeting with 47th-ranked Swede Johanna Larsson for a place in the last 16.

Despite wrapping up the victory in just 65 minutes, Williams said there was plenty of room for improvement. "I feel like I made

a lot of errors," Williams said. "What really matters is I got the win. Hopefully I'll just get better." By the time Williams opened the night session the rain that prompted organizers to close the new roof on Arthur Ashe stadium had tailed off. Murray had played with it drumming on the roof, adding to the noise the US Open is famous for.

"You can't hear anything, really," said Murray, who downed tenacious Spaniard Marcel Granollers 6-4, 6-1, 6-4. "I mean, you could hear the line calls, but not so much when he was hitting the ball or even when you're hitting the ball, really, which is tough." Nevertheless, after needing seven set points to seal the first frame, Murray broke Granollers twice in the second set and once in the third to move through to a meeting with Italian Paolo Lorenzi, a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-7 (1/7), 7-6 (7/3) winner over France's Gilles Simon. Juan Martin del Potro, who has undergone four wrist surgeries since lifting the US Open trophy in 2009, closed out the action on Ashe with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-2 victory over 19th seeded American Steve Johnson. Del Potro, ranked 142nd in the world as he battles back from the injuries

that nearly cost him his career, is back in the Open as a wildcard after a sparkling run to a silver medal in the Rio Olympics.

Wawrinka in straight sets

As the showers lingered, a batch of doubles matches scheduled for outside courts were cancelled. Among those who didn't have the luxury of the roof, 2014 finalist Kei Nishikori of Japan waited out a third-set rain delay en route to a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory over 20-year-old Russian qualifier Karen Khachanov. Third-seeded Swiss Stan Wawrinka, a two-time semi-finalist, was also up against a qualifier, advancing with a 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 victory over 243rd-ranked Italian Alessandro Giannessi.

Eighth-seeded Austrian Dominic Thiem downed Lithuanian Ricardas Berankis 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 to line up a meeting with Spain's Pablo Carreno-Busta, who rallied from two sets down to beat Serbian Janko Tipsarevic 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4. Australian Nick Kyrgios, the 14th seed, put on a serving clinic, firing 27 aces and winning 45 of 48 first-serve points in a 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Argentina's Horacio Zeballos. — AFP

ZHANG SHUAI SORRY FOR BEATING BEST FRIEND

NEW YORK: China's Zhang Shuai apologized for knocking her best friend Samantha Stosur out of the US Open on Thursday, hailing the former champion for talking her out of quitting the sport last year. Zhang eased to a 6-3, 6-3 second round win over the 2011 US Open winner but said she had wished the two friends, who are also doubles partners, had faced each other later in the tournament.

"Everyone knows we are good friends, we train together a lot of the time. When we came to New York, we practiced together at the same time on this same court," said the 27-year-old after her 70-minute win on the new Grandstand. Zhang revealed that Stosur convinced her not to quit tennis when they met for a meal in Beijing last year. At the time, she was at 186 in the world rankings.

The chat seemed to work as just a few months later Zhang reached the Australian Open quarter-finals, ending a sorry-looking 0-17 record at the majors. "She helped me a lot last year when I thought about retiring. She told me to keep going and not give up. She tried to help me by playing doubles. "It's a tough feeling playing her and I feel sad for Sam. She always tries her best, she loves the game. I hope that next time we will meet later in the tournament."

Zhang, now ranked 51st, had lost to Stosur in the second round of the French Open in May. "I didn't think I could beat her, it's very hard to defeat a former champion," said Zhang after seeing off the 16th seeded Australian. Zhang is the only Chinese player left in the singles draw in New York. She goes on to face Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan for a place in the last 16.

Win or lose, she has achieved her best result already at the season's last Grand Slam. She lost in the first round in 2008, 2011 and 2014 and failed to get out of qualifying on six other occasions. "I am very excited. I love New York. Now I want to focus on my tennis and not on the fact that I am the last Chinese woman left in the competition," she said. Zhang's win on Thursday was the first time she had claimed back-to-back victories since Indian Wells in March. Meanwhile, Zhang and Stosur will be on the same side of the net on Friday when they face Russia's Elena Vesnina and Ekaterina Makarova in the second round of the women's doubles. — AFP



QINHUANGDAO: In this Monday, Aug. 1, 2016, photo, Yanbian, China, coach Zhang Yanmao gives instructions to his team during halftime of a game against a team from Myanmar in a youth soccer tournament.



QINHUANGDAO: Yanbian, China's Lin Taijun, left, knocks the ball away from a Myanmar player during a youth soccer tournament. — AP Photos

CHINA'S FOOTBALL REVOLUTION BEGINS

BEIJING: As coaches take notes, teenagers dribble footballs through a course of cones on Ritan Middle School's gleaming artificial field in eastern Beijing, part of a massive program to promote soccer as a pillar of China's rise to global prominence. The 14-year-old boys and girls were being scrutinized under a newly added section of Beijing's high school entrance exam, which beginning this year includes an elective football skills test in addition to such standards as Chinese, math, and English.

While the skills tests comprise only a small part of the placement exam, the fact education officials tweaked a notoriously rigid standardized test is one sign of how thoroughly China is mobilizing under President Xi Jinping's drive to overhaul the game domestically and turn the Chinese team into a World Cup winner by 2050.

The football revolution spans from schoolyards to the top professional league. Local officials tout how thousands of high schools are becoming government-designated football "priority" schools. Cities announce hundreds of football complexes being built every week. Chinese clubs are paying record fees to woo stars away from Europe and boost interest in the domestic league. And in the past year alone, Chinese investors have spent a staggering \$3 billion to buy stakes in European clubs, with the stated aim of bringing football know-how back to China.

"We've talked about football under several top leaders but until now, there has never been this will," said Pang Xiaozhong, former director of the Institute of Sport Science, an arm of China's state sports program. "It's unprecedented." Boosting China's standing in the game is part of Xi's push to raise China's global prestige. With the national men's team ranked No. 78, a turnaround would be nothing short of cathartic. While the women's team has often found international success, China's men have qualified for only one World Cup, bouncing out of the 2002 competition without scoring a goal.

Soviet-style sports juggernaut

Decades after China's government successfully created a Soviet-style sports juggernaut, emphasizing highly technical disciplines such as diving, the question is whether the sports-by-diktat approach can work for the world's most popular game. Unlike sports such as gymnastics, in which elite state academies develop selected prospects from a young age, commentators say football success will require a huge player base and vibrant, structured youth leagues - all of which China is trying to create practically from scratch.

In May, the cabinet issued a 50-point plan

that called on local and provincial governments to promote football by setting up school programs, creating amateur leagues, offering tax breaks for pitch construction and recruiting foreign coaches with the goal of establishing 70,000 new fields and producing 50 million school-age players by 2020. In a top-down system under which the ruling Communist Party still issues five-year economic plans, this state-led mix of infrastructure investment and mass grassroots mobilization is precisely what Beijing sees as needed to bring home a World Cup trophy.

"In China, the role of the government is always the biggest and most effective," Pang said. "Football is something we can grasp if we're methodic." Although the government has not released cost estimates for its development plan, analysts say hundreds of millions could be spent over the next five years on facilities alone. What has been made public, however, is the \$300 million this year that Chinese Super League clubs have splashed out recruiting stars such as Ramires, Alex Teixeira, Ezequiel Lavezzi, Jackson Martinez and former Arsenal striker Gervinho. And that does not include the wages on offer at Chinese clubs, which are now some of the highest in the world.

Clubs have also splurged on high-profile coaches, including ex-Real Madrid and Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini, former Brazil boss Luiz Felipe Scolari and one-time England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson. Jonathan Sullivan, director of the China Policy Institute at the University of Nottingham, said there's no reason to doubt China could become a regional football superpower. But he warned there were similarities with the government's approach to



BEIJING: Boys high-five coach Juan Varela, center, as they run past him during an exercise drill at soccer training camp at Ritan Middle School.

economic planning that, despite its successes, can lead to inefficiency or graft. One example is the wave of interest that followed the 2002 World Cup run, which quickly fizzled out when the domestic league was hit by rampant corruption scandals.

Huge ambition

"The leadership sketches a hugely ambitious and yet ambiguous vision and people lower down the chain - government bureaus, provincial governments - and those hoping to curry

favor, especially in business, pick it up and run with it," Sullivan said. "The problem is everyone often runs in different directions." Chinese football investors are already scrambling to buy into storied clubs such as Inter Milan and AC Milan, sometimes speaking of those deals as patriotic buyers. In a recent interview, Jiantong "Tony" Xia, who took over England's Aston Villa in May, said a main objective was to eventually field Chinese players and establish academies. "It's been proven that buying foreign firms with know-how and then bringing that back to the domestic industry has been the most efficient route," Xia said.

As China's most powerful leader in decades, Xi's personal influence on the promotion of football has been enormous. The president makes no secret of his love for the game which he picked up as a child playing alongside the scions of other Communist Party leaders at the elite Beijing 101 Middle School. A 1983 exhibition match between China and English club Watford was said to have left a particular impression on Xi. China was then just opening up to the outside world after decades of Maoism, and when Watford trounced the Chinese national team, Xi left the Beijing Workers Stadium fuming, childhood friend Nie Weiping recalled in an interview years later with state media. "He felt hurt watching the match," Nie was quoted as saying. "But he's continued to always follow Team China." — AP



BEIJING: Boys perform an exercise drill during a soccer training camp at Ritan Middle School.

DUTCH WOES TO CONTINUE AS GREECE TAKE SCALP

EINDHOVEN: The Netherlands suffered a fifth successive home defeat as their miserable form continued with a 2-1 defeat to fellow strugglers Greece in Eindhoven on Thursday. Both sides were top seeds for Euro 2016 qualifying but neither managed to make it to the French showpiece as the Netherlands finished fourth in their group while Greece managed to come bottom of a pool including the Faroe Islands.

Just five days before opening their World Cup qualifying campaign, Danny Blind's Oranje remain in

crisis after this debacle. They have not won at home since defeating Spain, at the time the European champions, 2-0 in March 2015. Although they came into this match on the back of wins against Austria (2-0) and Poland (2-1) on their travels, the Dutch are suffering from a deficiency of confidence at home. Liverpool forward Georginio Wijnaldum opened the scoring for the hosts on 13 minutes, converting a cross from Vincent Janssen, but for the most part he was isolated on his own up front.

Captained by Wesley Sneijder, the Netherlands

seemed in control until Kostas Mitroglou was left unmarked to head home on 29 minutes. Greece were organized in a rugged defensive display and waited for their opportunities on the counter-attack. When one came on 73 minutes, they struck as Giannis Gianniotas lashed home on the volley after a mistake from goalkeeper Jeroen Zoet. Blind will be hoping for more backbone from his side when they begin their qualifying campaign away to Sweden on Tuesday, while Greece are buoyed going into their trip to minnows Gibraltar the same day. — AFP



BARI: France midfielder Blaise Matuidi (R) vies for the ball with Italy's defender Andrea Barzagli during the friendly football match between Italy and France on September 1, 2016 at the San Nicola stadium. — AFP

DONNARUMMA DEBUTS AS VENTURA BEGINS REIGN WITH FRANCE DEFEAT

MILAN: Italy coach Giampiero Ventura handed teenaged AC Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma his debut but began his reign with a 3-1 defeat to France in Bari on Thursday. Ventura replaced Antonio Conte last month and pledged to carry on the good work of the current Chelsea manager following the Azzurri's impressive march to the quarter-finals of Euro 2016. But goals from Manchester United striker Anthony Martial, his first for his country, and Arsenal's Olivier Giroud either side of Graziano Pelle's 21st minute strike gave France a 2-1 half-time lead.

After Donnarumma replaced Juventus legend Gianluigi Buffon for the second period, the 17-year-old made one impressive stop before making his first major error for the national side. Barely 10 minutes before the final whistle, Donnarumma came off his line at his near post to anticipate a Layvin Kurzawa drive across the Italian goalmouth, only for the Paris Saint-Germain left-back's strike to spin into the far corner of the net for his first international goal.

Ventura admitted he was "fairly satis-

fied" with his side's performance given he had spent "only three days working with the squad". He also gave Donnarumma a gentle hint that he could be well on the way to replacing Buffon in the near future. "He's a player with huge potential. I wasn't going to bring him with us just to sit on the bench," said the 68-year-old coach. "He's young, but full of talent and it's only right he gets to experience the Italy dressing room."

'Can do better'

It was France's first outing since Les Bleus lost the Euro 2016 final on home soil to Portugal. And coach Didier Deschamps said: "I'm happy, we can always do better but it's not too bad when you put three (goals) past an Italy side that gives little away." Italy, ousted at the quarter-final stage of Euro 2016, begin their 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign on Monday away to Israel in Haifa. They looked comfortable in the early stages but a defensive mix-up between Juventus pair Andrea Barzagli and Giorgio Chiellini allowed Martial to pounce on the gift and beat Buffon one-on-one.

Yet Italy hit back almost immediately, Inter Milan striker Eder flying past N'Golo Kante down the right to deliver for Pelle to spin around Raphael Varane and beat rooted keeper Steve Mandanda on 21 minutes. The goal, Pelle's fourth in his last seven Azzurri appearances, must have calmed his fears that a recent move to the Chinese Super League would harm his Italy chances. But France were soon back in front, Chiellini losing sight of Giroud on a corner for the Gunners marksman to beat Buffon with a well-taken volley.

Donnarumma became the youngest ever goalkeeper for Italy and the youngest Azzurri player since 1911 when he replaced Buffon at half-time, and didn't have to wait long to be called into action. Donnarumma was quickly down to smother a Dimitri Payet effort that bounced in front of him. Ventura then introduced Marco Verratti, the PSG midfield star making his first Azzurri appearance since qualifying for Euro 2016, which he missed through injury. But his arrival failed to produce the desired effect as Pelle nodded Antonio Candreva's cross over the bar. — AFP

SILVA DOUBLE BLASTS SPAIN PAST BELGIUM

BRUSSELS: Spain earned a World Cup qualifying boost by beating Belgium 2-0 in an international friendly on Thursday thanks to a David Silva double. Both sides were on the rebound from disappointing Euro 2016 campaigns with new coaches Roberto Martinez for Belgium and Basque Jolen Lopetegui for Spain. Chelsea's Diego Costa teed up Silva to fire home confidently from the left of the penalty area on 34 minutes before the lively Manchester City midfielder converted a penalty on the hour.

The Brussels crowd booed the home side as Spain out-passed them and as Belgium resorted to defending deep, a section of the crowd even chanted the name of former coach Marc Wilmots. On his first outing in the Belgium hotseat, former Everton boss Martinez asked for patience from the fans. "You can't expect major change in just three days and this result has no real meaning. What I do want to see, though, is passion and pride in wearing the national team jersey," he said.

However, his side had produced just one shot on target during the 90 minutes and looked a pale imitation of even the team that fell to Wales in the Euro quarter-finals. "Spain were much better than us. We lacked concentration and intensity," moaned Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who plies his club trade for Chelsea. "We were starved of the ball and played too many poor passes. And when it comes to mentality, it wasn't great. "We need to play a lot better." For Spain, who played without injured playmaker Andres Iniesta, Costa linked up well with Sevilla left winger Vitolo, who played in the cross that set up Spain's opener. And such was the domination of the Spaniards that Belgium's own playmaker Eden Hazard was pulled into his side's deep defensive play. Spain begin their World Cup qualifiers against Lichtenstein on Monday while Belgium travel to Cyprus for their own opener. — AFP



BRUSSELS: Spain's Luca Vazquez (L) vies with Belgium's Jan Vertonghen (up) during the friendly football match between Belgium and Spain, at the King Baudouin Stadium. — AFP

BECKENBAUER CANCELS SWISS TRIP AMIDST INVESTIGATION

BERLIN: Franz Beckenbauer yesterday cancelled a public appointment in Zurich, amidst the on-going investigation by Swiss prosecutors into corruption allegations over the awarding of the 2006 World Cup to Germany. The German football legend, who owns a South African winery, cancelled an appointment to attend a public wine tasting in a Zurich hotel to present his own brand of 'The Kaiser's Wines'.

Beckenbauer, 70, is being investigated, along with three other members of the 2006 World Cup organising committee-Hans-Rudolf Schmidt, Theo Zwanziger and Wolfgang Niersbach, by the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland. The court in Bern on Thursday announced that prosecutors have been investigating the four Germans since November last year, the month after German magazine Der Spiegel first broke the cash-for-votes scandal.

The quartet are being investigated over allegations of fraud, criminal mismanagement, money laundering and misappropriation. Searches were carried out at eight locations on Thursday and German daily Bild reported that officials spent two hours searching Beckenbauer's Salzburg home. "Franz Beckenbauer supported the investigation by the Swiss authorities, since he had prior knowledge of it (the search) and will continue to co-operate with all the authorities involved," Beckenbauer's lawyer told Bild.

According to the paper, for whom Beckenbauer writes a regular column, the home of Urs Linsi, the former General Secretary of world football's governing body FIFA, was also searched. Beckenbauer captained Germany to the 1974 World Cup and coached the side that won the trophy in Italy in 1990. The cash-for-votes scandal has hung over German football since October

2015 when German magazine Der Spiegel claimed that a secret fund of 10 million Swiss francs was used to buy the hosting rights of the 2006 World Cup.

The money allegedly came from the late Robert Louis-Dreyfus, ex-boss of Adidas, at Beckenbauer's request, and was handed over in 2000, just before Germany were awarded the 2006 finals by a narrow vote. In March, FIFA's Ethics Committee opened formal proceedings, which are still ongoing, against Beckenbauer regarding the awarding of the 2006 finals. In May, an independent inquiry commissioned by the German Football Association (DFB) said it could not rule out that Germany bought votes to secure the 2006 World Cup. In July, FIFA's ethics committee banned Niersbach, the ex-president of the DFB, for one year over misconduct surrounding the 2006 bid. — AFP

POGBA'S FINANCIAL RIPPLE SPREADS ACROSS EUROPE

BERLIN: Premier League clubs hunting the likes of Paul Pogba spent ten times as much as French Ligue 1 counterparts during the transfer window, but envious rivals are nervously laughing all the way to the bank. The 20 English Premier League clubs laid out 1.165 billion pounds (1.38 billion euros/\$1.54 billion) in two months up to Wednesday, provoking delight and fright in equal measures amongst Europe's other leagues.

In comparison, Italy's Serie A clubs spent about £590 million, the German Bundesliga £460 million, Spain's La Liga £400 million and France's Ligue 1 just £165 million, according to the Deloitte consultancy. The world record £89 million that Manchester United paid Juventus caused a "Pogba effect" that helped the Italian team buy Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain for an Italian record 90 million euros. Germany's Bundesliga reaped the most benefit of the English raids.

About 190 million euros of the Premier League spree landed in the bank accounts of German clubs. Another 176 million euros went to Spanish clubs and 161 million euros to Italian sides, according to the transfermarkt.de website. Enriched by a £5.14 billion domestic TV rights deal, 13 of the 20 Premier League clubs broke their transfer records this year and most of those mega fees went on foreign players like Algerian Islam Slimani, who joined English champions Leicester City for an estimated £29.7 million. Christian Heidel, sporting director for Germans Schalke, who sold Leroy Sane to Manchester City for 42 million euros, said this week that prices rise as soon as an English club comes knocking. "If English managers are on the phone, then the (transfer) sums are automatically higher," he said.

NBA effect

But Javier Tebas, president of La Liga warned this year that there is a risk of the Premier League becoming "the NBA of football, and that would not be good for us, not for the sport". Despite the presence of Real Madrid and Barcelona in the Spanish top division, its revenues from television and other sources are less than half that of the Premier League. "We do not want the Premier League as a leader one step ahead of the rest," Tebas said.

Television revenues are the main cause of the difference between England and France. At 726 million euros a year, Ligue 1 domestic rights are less than half those of the Premier League. But Spain is showing the way to catch up, according to Tim Bridge, a senior manager at Deloitte's sports business division. "The key for me is the development of the Spanish league," Bridge told AFP.

"They have gone out to sell TV rights centrally and seen an initial rise in how much they can generate, which is significant. "In the future, we predict the Spanish league will come second to the EPL and there is no reason why they can't kick on and generate the same amount in TV money." Bridge insisted "there will be a closing of the gap" between England and Spain, although other European leagues have not yet found a formula to rival the Premier League.

"If you watch the EPL now it is a product. They have created something. The grass is the greenest it can ever be, the stadia are always full, or nearly full, and the product is very attractive," said the analyst. La Liga has in recent months taken action to cut back on empty seats in stadiums. "They are trying to create a product that is more available and appropriate for a global audience which is what is driving the value alongside what is going on the pitch," said Bridge. — AFP



NICE: Nice's football club new signing Italian forward Mario Balotelli thumbs up as he poses on September 2, 2016 at the Allianz Riviera stadium. — AFP

NO PRIVILEGES FOR BALOTELLI AT NICE

PARIS: Mario Balotelli turned down offers from other European teams before joining Nice because he was looking for playing time. But his new coach has already warned the former Liverpool player that his superstar status won't guarantee him a spot in his starting lineup.

Balotelli joined the French club on deadline day this week for an undisclosed fee after being offloaded by Liverpool, hoping to revive his chaotic career at the Riviera club. The 26-year-old Italian - the biggest name in the French league since Zlatan Ibrahimovic left Paris Saint-Germain at the end of last season - managed only four goals in 28 appearances for Liverpool and spent last season on loan at AC Milan, where he found the net once in 20 league appearances.

'I am not a risk'

"I've told Mario what I expect him to

do," Nice coach Lucien Favre said Friday. "I told him I don't make any difference between my players, only the best play. Mario needs to get back down to work. He went through four difficult years and it will be a long-term endeavor. But he has enormous skills. When you look at his highlights, he does amazing things." Given Balotelli's antics on and off the field, Nice president Jean-Pierre Rivere acknowledged that he "took a risk" by signing the striker.

"I think that my career is different from what has been written," said Balotelli, who was presented to the media on Friday. "For me there is no risk, it's just that I have been hampered by physical problems over the past two years." Balotelli then refused to take a question from a journalist who asked if the numerous night clubs in and around Nice could be a distraction.

Rivere said that the striker also turned down a last-minute offer that was more attractive financially than the deal he ultimately sealed with Nice. "My priority is to play, that's why I chose the Nice project," Balotelli said through a translator. "To be happy, I need to play." Balotelli was signed by then-Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers late in the 2014 transfer window for 16 million pounds (then \$27 million) as a replacement for Luis Suarez. But the gamble never paid off, with the former Manchester City player better known for his controversies than his goals. "Part of my job is about improving the players," Favre said. "We don't know where (Balotelli) stands physically and we've got a lot of work to do because this is the foundation for playing good football. I'm not worried about the rest: his technical level and his efficiency in front of goal." — AP

Sports



Serena, Murray storm through at US Open

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MENDOZA: A fan who invaded the pitch kneels in front of Argentina's Lionel Messi, center, as Uruguay's Gaston Silva looks on during a 2018 Russia World Cup qualifying soccer match. — AP

MESSI MAKES SCORING RETURN

JESUS HELPS BRAZIL SINK ECUADOR

MONTEVIDEO: Lionel Messi scored the winning goal on his return from a short-lived international retirement on Thursday as Argentina defeated Uruguay to take control of South America's 2018 World Cup qualifying race. Messi had stunned the footballing world in June after vowing to never play for Argentina again following an agonizing defeat to Chile in the final of the Copa America Centenario. But that tearful farewell was a distant memory at Mendoza's Estadio Malvinas on Thursday as the Barcelona superstar orchestrated a 1-0 victory over the two-time World Cup winners.

Messi, showing no sign of the groin injury which had placed a question mark against his participation, lashed home the winner on 42 minutes, with his low shot taking a wicked deflection to deceive Uruguay goalkeeper

Fernando Muslera at the near post. Afterwards Messi paid tribute to the rapturous applause he received throughout.

In the dying minutes one young fan sprinted onto the pitch and nearly flattened the five-time world footballer of the year with a congratulatory hug. "I am grateful to the people for the treatment, for the love," Messi said, insisting his retirement announcement in June was genuine as he digested a third defeat in a final with Argentina in as many years. "I wasn't trying to cheat anyone, I said what I felt. (Now) I feel happy," Messi said.

Argentina's new coach Edgardo Bauza meanwhile saluted Messi's commitment in returning to play despite his nagging groin problem. The coach hinted Messi may be rested for Argentina's next match, against Venezuela on Tuesday. "If he's not right we won't risk him," Bauza said. "I

know how painful it is to suffer a groin injury-but Messi's character meant he was always going to stay on the pitch tonight." Argentina's win came after a superb backs-to-the-wall defensive effort in the second half when they had been reduced to 10 men following the dismissal of young Juventus striker Paulo Dybala just before half-time. Dybala, 22, was escorted from the pitch in tears after the red card.

Jesus the savior for Brazil

Argentina's win leaves them in first place in South America's marathon round-robin qualifying campaign with 14 points from seven games. Elsewhere Thursday, there was an impressive win for Brazil over Ecuador in the thin air of Quito, which is situated a dizzying 2,850 meters (9,350 feet) above sea level.

Brazil had never won a qualifying game in the Ecuadoran capital before, but two goals from teenage prodigy Gabriel Jesus and a penalty from Neymar handed the five-time world champions a 3-0 victory. Jesus, the 19-year-old who signed for English side Manchester City from Palmeiras in August, was outstanding, underscoring his status as the brightest talent in Brazilian football.

Jesus won the penalty for the first goal after bursting into the area and drawing a foul from Ecuador goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez. Neymar duly converted before Jesus doubled Brazil's lead three minutes from time with a sublime flicked finish from Marcelo's low cross to make it 2-0. Jesus, who like Neymar had played in Brazil's gold medal-winning Olympic football campaign, then added a third in stoppage time with a crisp finish into the top corner. — AFP