

MP demands 'sorting' expatriate population



Black Lives Matter protesters shut London airport for hours



Slain Kashmir rebel becomes what India long feared



Maxwell fires Australia to world record 263



AMIR PARDONS PRISONERS, MAY 'INCLUDE POLITICAL ACTIVISTS'

NO BAN ON TWITTER • MPs SEEK EMERGENCY SESSION



Min 33°
Max 43°
High Tide 02:48 & 15:31
Low Tide 09:27 & 21:29



POLLS: CLINTON, TRUMP RUNNING NECK AND NECK

WASHINGTON: The race between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump for the White House has tightened with two months to go before Election Day, as a series of new polls yesterday shows them essentially in a dead heat. Trump has edged ahead of Clinton in a new CNN/ORC poll, at 45 percent to 43 percent among likely voters, while an NBC News poll of registered voters meanwhile shows Clinton's lead holding at six percentage points - 48 percent to 42 percent. And another survey, this one by The Washington Post looking at all 50 states, shows Clinton with a solid lead in terms of electoral college votes, and even strength in some traditional Republican strongholds.

The various polls show how close the race is looking to Nov 8, and makes the battle for the so-called swing states all the more important. Clinton was headed to Florida yesterday to appear at a voter registration event, while the billionaire real estate mogul was due in Virginia for a town hall meeting and in North Carolina for an evening campaign rally. "Thank you! #AmericaFirst," Trump tweeted with the new CNN poll results. The candidates have less than three weeks to go before the first of three scheduled presidential debates - expected to be the most watched moments of what so far has been a raucous campaign. — AFP (See Page 9)



MAKKAH: Muslim pilgrims circle Islam's holiest shrine, the Kaaba, at the Grand Mosque in this Saudi holy city yesterday. The annual hajj pilgrimage begins on Sept 10, and more than a million Muslims have already flocked to Saudi Arabia in preparation for what will for many be the highlight of their spiritual lives — AFP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday issued a pardon for a number of prisoners who have served part of their jail terms and reduced the terms of others, on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. No names were mentioned in the brief announcement made by the Amiri Diwan, but activists said it could include political prisoners, mostly opposition activists who were handed down jail terms for criticizing HH the Amir. But this has not been officially confirmed.

Activists said on social media that prominent opposition leader and former MP Musallam Al-Barrak, currently serving a two-year jail sentence for insulting HH the Amir, could be pardoned. Barrak's nephew Ali said on Twitter that his uncle and other political activists are among those pardoned, but Barrak's lawyers said they had no clue if he was included.

Separately, the communication and information technology commission refuted rumors that the social media messaging service Twitter will be blocked in the country. Jamming Twitter goes against freedom of speech and opinion, the commission's vice chairman Khaled Al-Kandari told KUNA yesterday. The commission is an avid supporter of freedom of expression, he stressed. No social network will be blocked in the country, he said, adding that these rumors are utterly "untrue". He pointed out that all social networks function under laws and no action will be taken against any of them unless it goes through proper legal channels.

In another development, a number of MPs have started collecting signatures on a motion calling to convene an emergency session of the National Assembly to discuss the hiking of petrol prices and its impact on Kuwaiti citizens.

Continued on Page 13



RABAT: A general view taken on Monday shows the As-Sounna mosque in the Moroccan capital. — AFP

COP22 HOST MOROCCO'S MOSQUES GOING GREEN

RABAT: Two months before it hosts the COP22 climate conference, Morocco is preparing to launch an ambitious project to turn its mosques green as a commitment to clean energy. The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs announced a tender in mid-August to modify 64 mosques initially in six of the kingdom's cities to reduce the energy they consume. Its goal is a 40-percent reduction in energy costs at 15,000 mosques around the country that consume an average of 90 kilowatts a day, said the SIE state energy investment company.

Studies have shown that energy consumption can be cut by 60 percent, with estimates showing savings of as much as 68 percent at Rabat's majestic As-Sounna mosque. This can be achieved through energy-saving lighting, photovoltaic electricity generation and solar water heating, and without harming the appearance of the mosques. The upgrades will also benefit the faithful, with access to hot water for washing and air conditioning available in prayer rooms, said SIE.

Another upshot would be the "strong social impact" through the creation of 5,000 jobs and a new growth market, it said.

Continued on Page 13

DUBAI KEEPS ROLLING OUT PROJECTS

BRITISH MP RESIGNS OVER SEX SCANDAL

LONDON: A senior British lawmaker resigned from his position as head of an influential parliamentary committee yesterday after becoming embroiled in a scandal involving drugs and male prostitutes. Keith Vaz from the opposition Labour Party, a married father of two and one of the first British Asian ministers, was recorded paying two escorts for their services, according to a report in the Sunday Mirror. "Those who hold others to account must themselves be accountable," Vaz said in a statement.



Keith Vaz

He said he was stepping down to allow the committee's "important work" to be carried out "without any distractions whatsoever". "I am genuinely sorry that recent events make it impossible for this to happen if I remain chair," he said. Vaz, a 59-year-old former Europe minister under ex-premier Tony Blair, chairs a powerful home affairs parliamentary committee which conducts probes into immigration, drugs policies and sex workers.

The story, recounted in lurid detail typical of Britain's aggressive tabloid press, has provoked a debate about whether the newspaper intruded unfairly into Vaz's private life. The Sunday Mirror has justified its reporting on the basis that there is a public interest in exposing Vaz given his role in scrutinizing legislation on sex workers and drugs.

Continued on Page 13

DUBAI: Dubai developers are rolling out their scale models for the city's latest grandiose property projects despite continued falls in real estate prices. Shimmering skyscrapers, golf-course villas and houses in sprawling communities are on show at Cityscape, a fair with a growing reputation as the venue for launching the emirate's mega projects. The centerpiece of this week's fair is Jumeirah Central, an entire district with a mixture of residential and office blocks, hotels and a mall, along the city's Sheikh Zayed artery. The project is being developed by state-owned Dubai Holding - the maker of the luxurious, sail-shaped Burj al-Arab hotel.

Emaar South is another new development announced on the eve of Cityscape by Emaar Properties, which built Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, among other Dubai landmarks. It is to be erected in Dubai South, a vast desert that hosts Dubai's second airport Al-Maktoum which is touted to become the world's largest and replace Dubai International as the base for Emirates Airline. "It is really amazing to get the chance to keep expanding this city," Emaar chairman Mohamed Alabbar said at the launch. "Keep in mind that we are (only) 40-plus years old... We are really young as a country and as a city and there is a lot to do," he added.

Continued on Page 13



DUBAI: Visitors gather near a model of the center of the Jumeirah district at the annual Cityscape show yesterday. — AFP



DUBAI: Ahmad Taher, food and beverage manager of Citymax Hotels, celebrates with his crew after he won the attempt of the world's longest domino drop shot on Monday. — AP (See Page 40)

OBAMA CANCELS DUTERTE SHOWDOWN

PHILIPPINES SCRAMBLES TO SOOTHE TENSIONS AFTER SLUR

VIENTIANE: US President Barack Obama cancelled a meeting at a regional summit yesterday with foul-mouthed Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte after being insulted. The pair had been due to meet in the Lao capital of Vientiane at a gathering organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, an annual event meant to foster harmony but which often highlights regional rows. This year's edition was launched with a spectacular fallout between the United States and the Philippines, longtime allies that have seen relations plunge under a barrage of insults from Duterte since he came to office on June 30.

Obama's aides announced that his planned meeting with Duterte yesterday afternoon had been called off following a fresh tirade by the Filipino leader the previous day. Shortly before

flying to Vientiane, Duterte warned he would not be lectured by Obama over a war on drug crime in the Philippines that has claimed nearly 3,000 lives in just over two months - an average of 44 a day.

"You must be respectful. Do not just throw away questions and statements. (Expletive), I will curse you in that forum," Duterte told reporters when asked about his message for Obama. Duterte, who has quickly earned a global reputation for his acid tongue, then used typically colorful language to describe their planned meeting if rights issues came up. "We will be wallowing in the mud like pigs if you do that to me," he said.

Duterte was elected to office in a landslide this year after pledging to kill 100,000 people in an unprecedented war on crime. Following

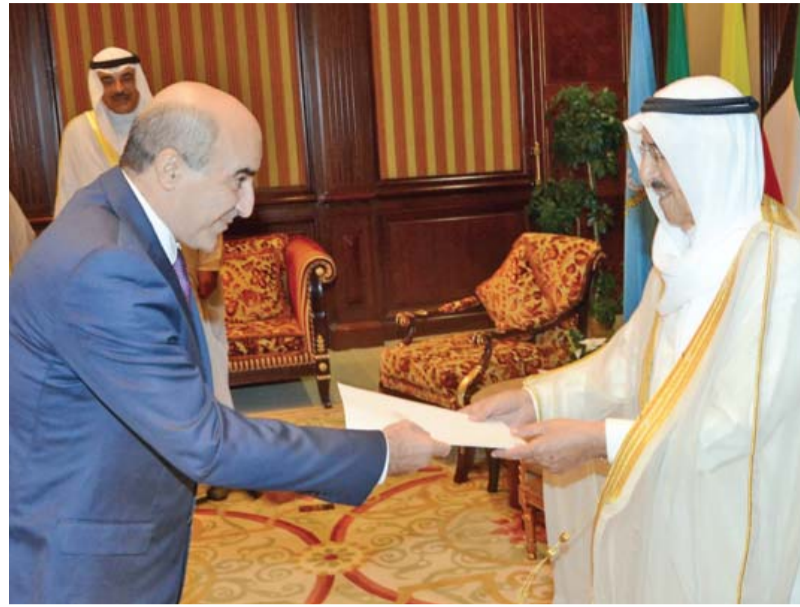
the Obama backlash yesterday, Duterte struck a rare moment of contrition, albeit qualified. "While the immediate cause was my strong comments to certain press questions that elicited concern and distress, we also regret that it came across as a personal attack on the US President," he said in a statement.

The United States also sought to ensure there was no enduring fallout with one of its most important allies in Asia and former colony. Top Obama aide Ben Rhodes told reporters in Laos yesterday evening the broader relationship with the Philippines "has been and remains rock-solid". He also said Obama would likely hold an informal discussion with Duterte in Laos today or tomorrow, though formal talks remained off the table.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Greece to Kuwait. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Cyprus to Kuwait.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Yemen to Kuwait.

AMIR RECEIVES NEWLY-APPOINTED AMBASSADORS



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Bulgaria to Kuwait.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Austria to Kuwait.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Armenia to Kuwait.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Eman Al-Shammari.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received credentials of a number of newly-appointed ambassadors to Kuwait. The new envoys are ambassadors of Greece, Cyprus, Yemen, Armenia, Bulgaria and Austria.

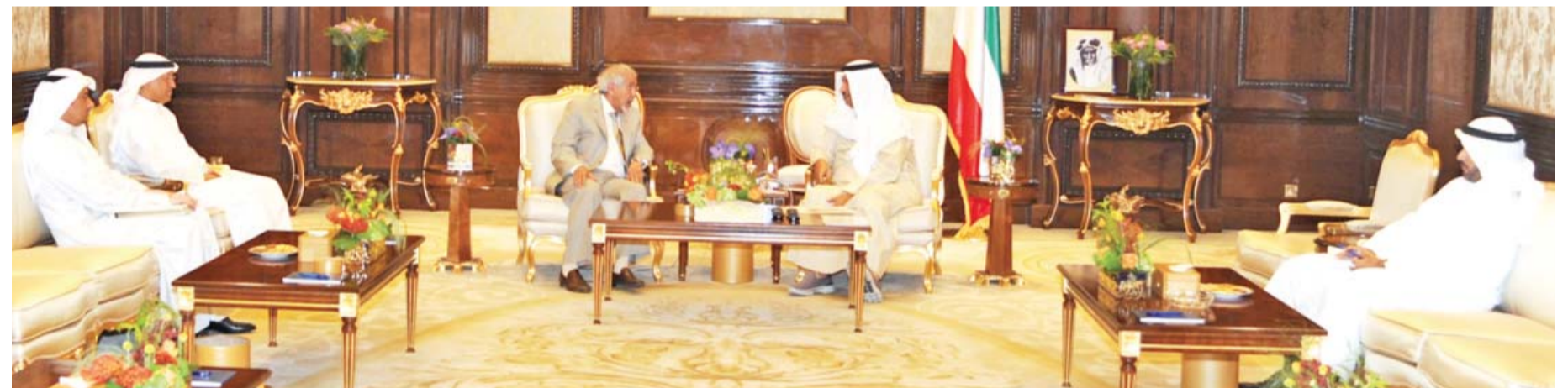
The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Advisor Lt Gen Khalid Abdullah Boodai, Head of His Highness the Amir's Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Abdullah Abu Al-Hassan, Chief of Amiri Protocol and chamberlains Sheikh Khalid Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran and Amiri Guard Commander Brigadier Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Zaid. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih.

received Dr Eman Al-Shammari, who presented to him a certificate on Kuwait's entry to Guinness World Records for the largest digital album against bullying and a book on the power of electronic hashtag.

Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih. His Highness also received State Minister for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and Kuwait's Ambassador to Armenia Nawaf Al-Enezi. Also yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Helal Al-Sayer and a number of Board members. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Helal Al-Sayer.

KUWAITI WOMEN ENRICH DEMOCRACY: MP NISF

CAIRO: Kuwaiti women's entering the parliament has enriched the democracy in the Gulf country, MP Rakan Al-Nisf said yesterday on the sidelines of a preparatory meeting of the woman and child affairs committee in the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU).

Nisf affirmed that the Kuwaiti women made a major achievement when they joined the elections of 2006, and won representation in the Kuwaiti Cabinet the same year. In 2009, they secured four seats in the parliament. He asserted that there is

absolutely no discrimination between man and woman in Arab States' constitutions. Meanwhile, President of the woman and child affairs committee in the AIPU Naama Al Sharhan said in a press release that discussions, during the committee meeting, tackled women issues, namely their participation in parliamentary caucuses, training and activating their role in serving the community. Moreover, she stressed on the necessity of presenting equal opportunities to men and women. Women, she said, should be given all their rights. — KUNA



MP Rakan Al-Nisf

KUWAIT OFFERS FREE TREATMENT FOR OPHTHALMIC PATIENTS IN IRAQ

RELIEF AID SENT TO SUDAN FLOOD VICTIMS

IRBIL/KHARTOUM: Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday announced offering free medical treatment to ophthalmic patients of displaced Iraqis in a private hospital in Irbil. KRCS Director General and its mission chief in the region, Abdulrahman Mohammad Al-Oun, said that the KRCS, under supervision of Consulate General of Kuwait in Irbil, paid for the medical treatment cost for 18 displaced Iraqis residing in Irbil, located in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

These patients will undergo ophthalmic surgeries. Families of the patients, who were displaced from Mosul and its suburbs, have no financial capability to cover expenses of such critical operations, he added. He thanked charities in Iraqi Kurdistan for offering donation and help to ensure success of KRCS humanitarian work in the region.

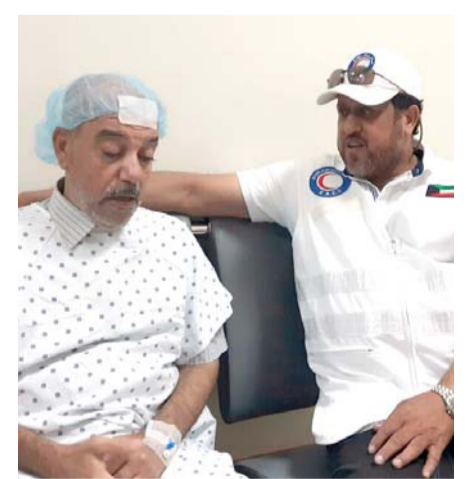
This initiative comes upon instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to alleviate suffering of displaced Iraqis, besides other humanitarian projects.

The region is witnessing an increasing number of relocated Iraqis, reaching millions, who are in need for various kinds of aid namely medical care.

Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil Omar Al-Kandari stressed on Kuwait's keenness on offering humanitarian aid for those in need in the region. Director of the hospital Dr Noor Al-Dein thanked to Kuwait for the generous donations to cover expenses of these surgeries.

Aid convoy

Separately, Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) sent Monday a relief aid convoy to Sudan to help victims of heavy rains and floods that have been sweeping through the country since July, killing, so far, 76 people and



IRBIL: KRCS Director General and its mission chief in the region, Abdulrahman Mohammad Al-Oun with one of the patients. — KUNA

affecting over 160,000 others.

Sending the convoy was a fast upon the directions of Amiri Diwan Advisor and UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq to aid victims of floods in Sudan, said Ahmad Al-Sanousi, Chief of the IICO Office in Sudan.

The Convoy will distribute sheltering materials and food, including sugar, flour, oil, and lentil to 500 families in Om Ramta district of White Nile state, southern Sudan, which has been affected heavily by the floods, Al-Sanousi said, adding that food should be sufficient enough to each family for an entire month.

It will also distribute the aid to 500 other families in Manaqel district of Al-Jazirah, central Sudan, he noted, expressing his gratitude to the Kuwaiti people for their constant and continuous stand by the Sudanese people in throughout various times of crisis and difficulties. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs General Vijay Kumar Singh. — KUNA

KUWAIT, INDIA DISCUSS BOOSTING TIES

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with the visiting Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs General Vijay Kumar Singh. During the meeting, they discussed

bilateral relations in all fields and ways to enhance the ties, in addition to regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Assistant

Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister Office and Acting Foreign Minister Saleh Salem Al-Loughani, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs Musaed Saleh Al-Thuwaikh and the delegation accompanying the Indian Minister. — KUNA

EQUATE DENIES RUMORS: FALSE ALLEGATIONS AIMED AT SHAKING PILLARS OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, said that recently there have been statements, social media posts and text messages which included claims, lies and



EQUATE's President and CEO Mohammad Husain

false allegations against the company as a whole, as well as state officials at the highest levels. EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "It is clear that the initiators of these rumors are aiming at shaking trust in the pillars of national economy by targeting one of Kuwait's most successful companies to harm its international status, in addition to the reputation of its entire staff."

Husain affirmed, "Through its board, executive management and all staff, EQUATE has and still maintains absolute transparency with all its employees and every official body. EQUATE is fully aligned with all laws and regulations in Kuwait as they are the basis of EQUATE's policies that ensure the integrity and professionalism of all conduct."

Husain said, "The initiators of these rumors did not approach or attempt to approach official legal and regulatory bodies. That alone proves the invalidity of these rumors, as well as the realization of their baselessness and lack of evidence by the initiators."

Husain noted, "The Company affirms that it will not disregard these false accusations. It will implement its legal rights to defend its reputation and status through pursuing all those involved in false claims and rumors before relevant authorities."



A group photo for NBK and PACI officials at the ceremony.

NBK SIGNS PROTOCOL WITH PACI FOR COOPERATION TO ACTIVATE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE FEATURE

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) signed a mutual cooperation protocol for electronic signature, aiming towards the facilitation of banking transactions for NBK's clients. This is considered an important and complementary step in the field of electronic connectivity between institutions in Kuwait to keep pace with technological development.

The agreement was signed at PACI, between Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO at National Bank of Kuwait and Musaei Al-Asousi Director General of the Public Authority for Civil Information, in the presence of Dimitrios Kokosioulis, General Manager, Group Head of Operations and Information Technology and top executives of NBK and PACI. The Memorandum of Understanding included the provision of electronic signature to NBK's employees, the establishment of a service counter at NBK's branches to service the bank's clients, activating the service on the bank's forms, and civil ID information update for NBK's clients through electronic channels. The protocol enables NBK's clients to carry on their financial transactions without the need to visit the branches in person, thus saving them a substantial amount of time and effort.

Milestone

Bahar commented that this latest cooperation with PACI is considered a milestone in electronic connectivity between the public and private sectors, indicating that it aims at developing the nature of the service provided to clients; by facilitating their transactions and saving both time and effort required for their execution.

Bahar added that NBK always welcomes all initiatives supporting high quality service, which aim at keeping up with technological development according to the highest safety and quality standards, to ensure clients' convenience.



KUWAIT: Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO at National Bank of Kuwait (right) and Musaei Al-Asousi Director General of the Public Authority for Civil Information shake hands after signing the agreement.

According to the protocol, NBK's clients will be able to perform all transactions electronically, with ease, speed, and flexibility.

Framework

Asousi affirmed that this cooperation with NBK fits within the framework of enhancing electronic connectivity between the public and private sectors; and shifting towards the electronic execution of transactions.

Asousi commended the efforts exerted by both PACI and NBK in order to accomplish this initiative, and overcome the obstacles and impediments to get it completed, indicating that this protocol is set to benefit a vast number of NBK's clients, eliminating the need to visit a branch to complete their transactions, which in turn should contribute towards releasing the work load pressure of the branches and ensure speedy completion of the services.



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad chairs the meeting.

KUWAIT TO MOBILIZE OFFICERS TO COPE WITH SCHOLASTIC YEAR'S TRAFFIC

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has crafted a new strategy to ensure traffic flow with onset of the new scholastic year. The ministry said in a statement issued yesterday that Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad, during a meeting with field assistant undersecretaries, noted that according to the plan, the largest number possible of ranking officers of the police and traffic police would be stationed at key locations and intersections to ensure traffic flow during schools' hours.

He urged the senior officers who took part in the meeting, particularly devoted for examining the strategy, to be patient and deal with any trivial or surprise matters and

situations that may impede the traffic.

"Broad smiles and patience must be the marks of the security personnel during the mission, where they should act to solve small accidents and deal promptly with surprise situations that may happen on the roads to prevent traffic obstruction," the Undersecretary said during the meeting.

Start of the scholastic year is usually distinguished with congestions on the roads, a situation that also warrants cooperation on part of the motorists, Lt Gen Fahad stressed. He indicated that roads close to schools are expected to witness the highest congestions; thus such locations should be overseen by the officers in particular. — KUNA

KIB CONCLUDES SUMMER TRAINING COURSE FOR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS

AS PART OF ITS PIONEERING CSR PROGRAM



Zainab Al-Saffar



Dana Al-Naqeb



Badriya Ashour



Fedha Al-Wahaib



Mounira Al-Sharida



Fatema Al-Zahraa Al-Sairafi

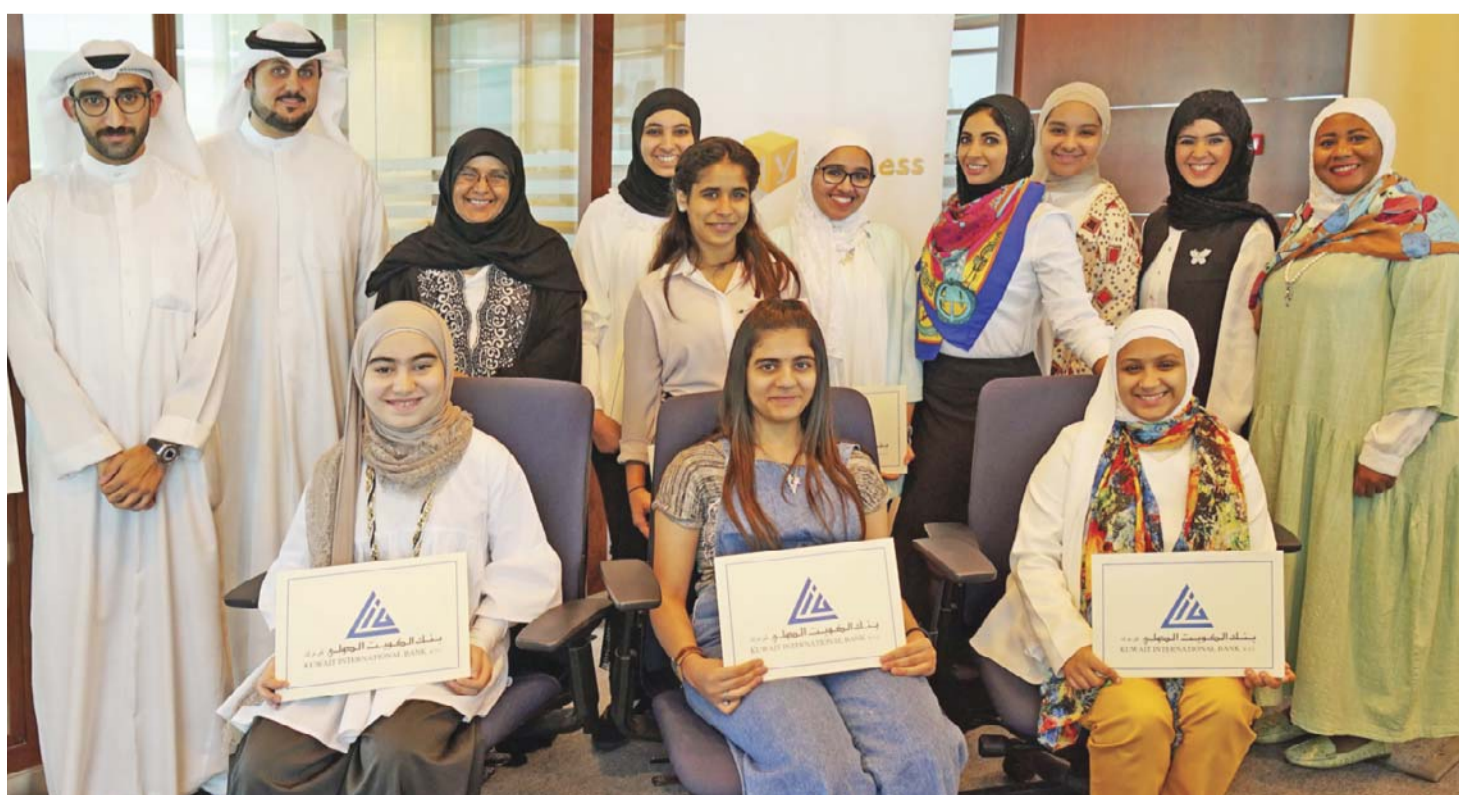


Sara Al-Rashdan

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) concluded its summer training course for the 3rd group of intermediate grade students, which was held at the Call Center 'Al-Dawli Weyak' (KIB with you), as part of its pioneering social responsibility program that supports the local educational sector.

The Call Center Manager, Shorouq Al-Hazza, stated that the summer training courses are specially designed to educate students and give them a bigger picture of the banking sector in general and the duties of the 'Al-Dawli Weyak' Call Center in particular. The program aims at developing their skills and knowledge, as well as training them to acquire the skill of how to deal with customers in a friendly way and as per the highest standards.

Participants also had a say in this training course. Student Muneera Mansour Al-Shareeda said, "The experience was very enriching, as I got the chance to explore the nature of work in 'Al-Dawli Weyak.'" Student Dana Khaled Al-Naqib stated, "I got to know the basic tasks of the agents working in the call center and how to deal with customers and meet their needs", while student Badria Mohamed Ashour commented, "I was trained on how I can cater to customers' needs and answer their queries as per the highest quality standards." On the other hand, Sarah Mutlak Al-Rashadan expressed her gratitude for



KUWAIT: KIB's Call Center Manager Shorouq Al-Hazza with the students.

receiving customers' calls and answering their questions while providing them with all required information about the bank's products and services. She added that they learned how to get customers' complaints, suggestions and comments and be forwarded to the concerned people to solve these issues. Student Fedda Salem Al-Wahaib pointed out that she got introduced to the systems in the Call Center and how to use such systems to answer calls. Student Zainab Ahmed Al-Saffar said that getting the right training in banking helped develop her know-how in this field. Last but not least, student Fatima Al-Zahra Ammar Al-Sairafi said that she was glad to go through this priceless experience and plans to do it again in the upcoming holidays, as it positively affected her personality and improved her skills.

It is worth noting that this course was held in cooperation with 'My Business' Program for future entrepreneurs and this initiative stems from the bank's responsibility towards the society in general and students in particular, as KIB strives to support schools, colleges and educational institutions' various activities and initiatives by paying regular visits to their premises. In addition to welcoming students at the bank's head office, in its aim to have direct interaction with them efficiently and regularly to achieve the bank's social goals.



(From left) Dr Majdi Bin Eissa from Tunisia, Dr Youssef Al-Hasan from UAE, Salawa Bakr from Egypt (the moderator), Dr Nahla Al-Jemzawi from Jordan, Dr Abdulqader Ahmad Saad from Sudan and Dr Ahmad Sharrak from Morocco.

SYMPOSIUM: TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR CULTURE IN THE ARABIAN REGION

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ARAB WRITERS UNION

By Bader Abu Raghahah Al-Otaibi

DUBAI: The General Conference of the Arab Writers Union, in association with Sultan Bin Ali Al-Oais Cultural Foundation, organized a symposium titled 'Towards a Strategy for Culture in the Arabian Region' on September 4, 2016, as a first research session at the Foundation of Sultan Al-Oais premises in Dubai.

Salawa Bakr, the acclaimed Egyptian short story writer, novelist and literary critic chaired and moderated the program who welcomed the guests, scholars and audience in the beginning of session. Then, she introduced the five participants to the audience who presented their papers respectively: Dr Abdulqader Ahmad Saad from Sudan, Dr Youssef Al-Hasan from UAE, Dr Ahmad Sharrak from Morocco, Dr Nahla Al-Jemzawi from Jordan and Dr Majdi Bin Eissa from Tunisia.

The first speaker was the well-known Sudanese poet, Dr Abdulqader Ahmad Saad who pointed out directly "there is no specific strategy for culture in the Arab world" and added that the Sudanese society is known for its diversity as a mix of cultures ranging between Arabs and Africans.

The second participant was the noted Emirati minister, former ambassador, author and commentator on international and cultural affairs, Dr Youssef Al-Hasan, who talked in depth as a researcher in international relations and he highlighted this strategy as a dream in the Arab League corridors since its formation in 1945 and the huge efforts behind promoting this idea among Arab leaders at that time.

Dr Hassan has several publications to his credit including: The Christian Fundamentalist Movement in the USA, Towards a Contemporary Arab Diplomacy, The Future of the Welfare State in the Gulf and The Islamic - Christian Dialogue.



Emirati poet, litterateur and writer Habib Al-Saiyegh, the General Secretary of the Union of Arab Writers and the Chairman of the Emirates Writers Union.

Spread of chaos

The Moroccan sociologist and writer, Dr Ahmad Sharrak was the third speaker at that session. He talked in length about the French origin of term strategy and warned the audience from the spread of chaos which leads to the violence in the end. Then, he praised GCC countries' leaders for their concerns for their people as good examples for welfare nations.

The fourth speaker was the Jordanian short story writer and researcher Dr Nahla Al-Jemzawi who focused on the history of leftists in the Arabic culture and she traced the Leftism from French revolution till date in Arab world, also she highlighted the role of progressive ideas in terms of challenges that face Arab nation from the past to nowadays.

The Tunisian poet and novelist, Majdi Bin Eissa was the fifth and last participant, he underscored the history of cultural diversity

speech in his homeland Tunisia, elaborated the experiences of late leaders, scholars and intellectuals such as Muhammad pasha bai, bayram, Abdulaziz Al-Thaalubi, Al-Taaher Al-Haddad and Al-Habib Bu Rughaiyah.

Bin Eissa was featured in the fourth season's episodes of the prestigious competition show (2011) Prince of Poets on the United Arab Emirates television network, Abu Dhabi TV, the satellite channel which is currently dedicated and promoted the importance of classical Arabic poetry and its value among the young poets in the Arab world.

Renowned litterateurs

Many renowned Arab writers and litterateurs were present in the program and some of them participated by their questions in a brief interactive session followed the symposium such as Bahraini Dr Rashid Najm (The General Secretary of Bahrain Writers), Sudanese poet and lieutenant general Dr Omar Ahmad Qadour (The Chairman of the National Union for Sudan Litterateurs and Writers), Emirati author Dr Abdulkhaleq Abdullah (PhD from Georgetown university in Washington), Lebanese scholar and critic Dr Wajih Fanous the General Secretary of Lebanon Writers Union (Doctoral degree in literary criticism from university of Oxford), Algerian researcher and novelist Dr Al-Yameen Bin Toumi, Yemeni poet and literary critic Dr Mubarak Salmeen (the General Secretary of Yemeni Writers Union), Kuwaiti researcher Talal Al-Rumaidhi (the General Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association), Iraqi researcher and literary critic Najeh Al-Maamouri (The General Secretary of Iraq Writers Union), Kuwaiti poet Khalaf Al-Khutaimi Al-Khaldi and Omani writer Bader Al-Aameri.

The Emirati poet, litterateur and writer Habib Al-Saiyegh was present as a General Secretary of the Union of Arab Writers as well as Chairman of the Emirates Writers Union, and he has been

honored by Sultan Bin Ali Al-Oais Cultural Foundation before he proposed the vote of thanks to the audience and participants.

As a poet, Habib Al-Saiyegh has more than 12 collections of poetry to his credit including: I Call Death My Son, Broken Rhythm, Tomorrow, The Flower of Old Age, Poems following the Rhythm of the Sea, Features, Mayari, Poems to Beirut, The Final Statement by the Official Spokesman for Himself, Here is the Bar of Bani Abs Tribe, Open House and A Graph for Towers of Giraffes as well as his published Complete Poetical Works in two volumes.

News

in brief

Kuwait guides citizens visiting Bosnia

KUWAIT: Kuwait Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina called on Kuwaiti tourists to abide by the laws and regulations of the country, namely residency permits that must not exceed 90 days in six months. As for juveniles below 15 years old travelling without their caretakers, they should provide a written approval on their travel to the country by their caretakers, said the embassy in a statement yesterday. Citizens must also carry their passports when moving out of Sarajevo borders. When leaving the country, it is only allowed to carry no more than 2,500 euros without the need of a document on the source of money. However, if the amount exceeds the stated number, a document must be presented and the amount should not be beyond 5,000 euros, it added. The embassy stressed on the importance of reporting any lost passports to the embassy on phone number 38733569020, avoid carrying large amounts of money or wearing expensive jewelry and advised the nationals to keep children at sight. — KUNA

Deputy FM to attend Arab meeting

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah is due to leave for Cairo, Egypt, today to attend the upcoming 146th Arab League Ministerial meeting. The meeting will focus on political issues related to Palestine, Syria, and Yemen. The Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting consists of Foreign Minister Assistant for the Foreign Minister's office affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Foreign Minister Assistant for Arab Countries' Affairs Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani. — KUNA

SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS AT AVERAGE PRICE: UNION

KUWAIT: The sacrificial animals are at an average price this year compared to previous years, circling between KD 80 to 130, according to Kuwait's Livestock Union. Since the beginning of 2016, Kuwait has imported about 600,000 sheep, 122 camels and 424 goats, compared to 1.5 million sheep and 2,100 camels last year, the union's chairman Mohammed Al-Bughaili said yesterday.

The higher prices are a normal occurrence due to the lack of local produce of livestock and the increasing rate of imports, said Bughaili. He added that price differs depending on the weight, size and type of sacrificial meat.

Joint projects

Meanwhile, the chairman noted that the union and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have agreed upon several joint projects to develop livestock in Kuwait and achieve food security. The consumption of meat is rising in Kuwait due to the growing population, leading the union to establish about 600 centers to raise cattle in Al-Abdali area. In the meantime, deputy chairman of livestock at

the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Yousif Al-Najim said the authority is strictly following the rules and terms of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to prevent the import of sick animals and contain any infectious diseases. Kuwait is cooperating with the GCC countries to protect and improve livestock, he said, mentioning in this matter the establishment of the GCC early warning center against diseases, headquartered in Kuwait.

Slaughterhouses ready

Separately, Farwaniya Municipality's Director Mohammed Sarkhouh stressed that Farwaniya slaughterhouses are ready for the upcoming Eid Al-Adha. The municipality is exerting all possible efforts to facilitate the slaughtering process and decrease pressure on the slaughterhouses by establishing temporary slaughterhouses, he said. He also stressed the importance of the presence of veterinary doctors in each temporary slaughterhouse, along with food and hygiene inspectors during Eid Al-Adha. — KUNA



INTERIOR MINISTER OPENS NEW OFFICES

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah opened yesterday the new traffic department office in Jabriya and the new Public Department for Immigration office in Subhan.

Minister Mohammad Al-Khaled, in a press statement, stressed necessity to improve the quality of service given to people by the offices to accomplish their paper works and comfort them by using all new technology and equipment needed and by also updating employees' skills

by training them to benefit the people in the best ways possible.

Meanwhile, he affirmed the importance given by the government for the Small Projects offices which will receive and accomplish all the paper work needed for small investors to start their business in the private sector as soon as possible to benefit the country. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled toured the buildings to check on all preparations, and he checked all plans concerning the working mechanism in the offices to assist the people. — KUNA



FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE DROPS CHARGES AGAINST BARRAK

COURT REVIEWS REQUEST TO SUSPEND PETROL PRICES' HIKE

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Former Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council Chancellor Faisal Al-Mershed yesterday dropped defamation charges he had pressed against former MP Musallam Al-Barrak, said informed judicial sources, noting that the misdemeanor court had set a hearing to pass its sentence in the case on Oct 3. Barrak is already serving a two-year jail sentence for insulting His Highness the Amir.

Petrol prices

The administrative court is scheduled to review a case filed by a local lawyer demanding undoing the decision to increase petrol prices that already took effect on Sept 1. In his lawsuit, the lawyer argues that as an oil derivative, petrol is one of the country's natural resources, and accordingly, any price increases should be made by a legislation passed by the parliament as it is the body responsible for organizing the management of the country's natural resources. "This increase is unconstitutional," the case brief stressed, demanding suspending the increase immediately until KPC annuls its decision.

Shops' licenses

A court yesterday issued a final decision rejecting a case filed by citizens living in Bida'a demanding withdrawing licenses and stop building restaurants and commercial cafes near their houses in the area because of the disturbance those places' customers cause.

Bedoons' children

Some Ministry of Education's educational zones have violated a ministerial decision to accept the children and grandchildren of bedoon military personnel who had worked for the ministries of defense and interior, said informed sources. The sources added that the rejection was over not presenting a letter from the social security, which many applicants tried to get but found no records of their fathers

there. The sources also noted Education Minister Bader Al-Essa has received many complaints in this regard and promised to look into them.

Two schools

Municipal Council member and chairman of Farwaniya committee Nayef Al-Sour strongly hailed the minister of education's decision on offering two tenders for bidding to build two intermediate schools in Sabah Al-Nasser at a total cost of KD 7.5 million. Sour stressed that the decision was made as a result of previous demands and that the area still needs more schools.

Manipulation

Chairman of Kuwait Farmers Federation (KFF) Hadi Hajed Al-Watri urged Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih to stop what he described as the manpower authority director's manipulation of sentences passed by Kuwaiti courts concerning empowering the current KFF board of directors to run the federation. "All parties should respect law sentences," he stressed, urging Subaih to have the manpower authority director stop interfering in KFF's current board of directors' work and refer the matter to the fatwa and legislation authority.

Shrimp prices

Yesterday's fish auction at Sharq fish market witnessed the largest shrimp catch offered for sale since the shrimp season started, where 1,066 shrimp baskets including 24,500 kg of shrimp were on sale for prices varying between KD 55-60 for large sizes and KD 25 for smaller ones.

Retirement

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation's director Fawwaz Al-Farah said that he has filed a request to retire after long years of service, to be effective by the beginning of October.



KUWAIT: This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows four persons arrested for mugging in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.



Fire department and National Guard officers examine the site of a fire reported at Samoud Camp.

MAN DEAD, 5 HURT IN SECOND RING ROAD WORKSITE ACCIDENT

FOUR ARRESTED FOR MUGGING IN JLEEB

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 28-year-old citizen was killed and five laborers hurt when a car plowed through them at a worksite on Second Ring Road. Police are making sure if the company had taken the necessary safety measures for workers and road users. The workers were slightly injured, while a quantity of steel fell on the citizen's car. Separately, a security source said an image circulating on social media yesterday showing a man that appears to be dead is that of an Arab shepherd who was killed by a landmine. The source said there is no foul play involved. In another case, a 36-year-old Kuwaiti citizen drowned in a house swimming pool. His brother rushed him to Adan Hospital.

Gang of thieves busted

A statement by the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said criminal detectives arrested a Syrian gang that robbed people in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The statement said many complaints were received from expats in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh about being robbed of their money and their phones by unidentified persons. Detectives who took over the case noticed a man hiding between cars in an open area, so he was stopped and questioned. He confessed that he along with three others would stop expats returning from work and rob them at knife-point. The four arrested are Syrians, and were sent to concerned authorities.

Youngster stabbed

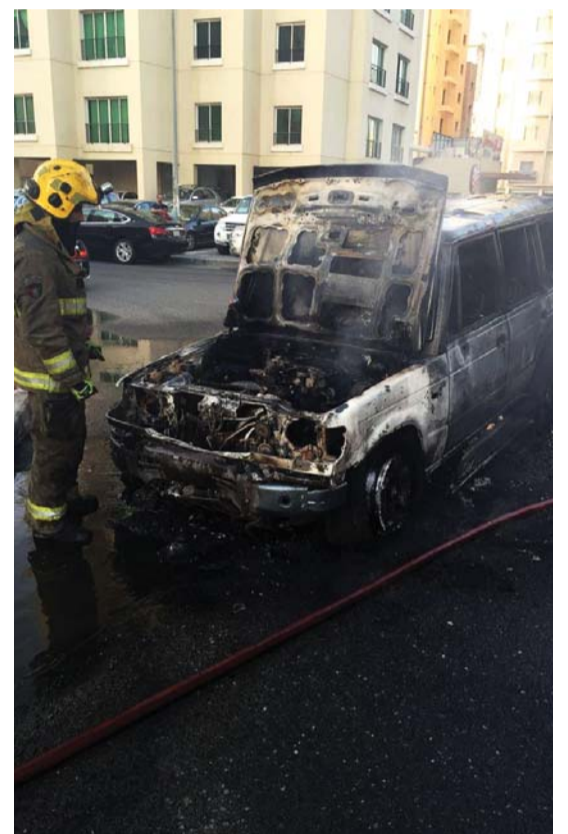
A bedoon told Taima police his son was stabbed, and gave them a medical report stating that the victim is in shock and his general condition is bad. He said the suspect is also a bedoon and there were others with him.

Warehouse fire

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) Public Relations and Information Department said that six fire centers in addition to the National Guard fire center put out a blaze in a warehouse of the supermarket of the National Guard at Samoud Camp. Responding to a call, industrial Shuwaikh, Ardiya, Capital, Salmiya, Subhan and backup centers in addition to the National Guard fire center fought the fire. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Separately, fire broke out in a vehicle in Salmiya, prompting Salmiya fire center to respond. The fire was put out, and no injuries were reported. An investigation was opened to reveal the causes of the fire.

Municipality campaign

Capital Municipality's public cleanliness and road occupancy department carried out a campaign in Bneid Al-Gar and Jaber Al-Ahmad, resulting in removing 54 abandoned cars and two mobile grocery shops. The public relations department said it will continue such campaigns through concerned departments. The mobile groceries were removed from Jaber Al-Ahmad.



A firefighter extinguishes a blaze in a vehicle in Salmiya.



Faisal Al-Mershed



Musallam Al-Barrak

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KD 2.250

Noor Sunflower Oil 1.8Ltr 2's+750ml

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KD 1.190

Lipton Tea Bag 100's+ 24 Tea Bag Free

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Al Maral UHT Milk 1Ltr 4's (Full Fat/Low Fat)

KD 2.690
KD 1.690

Royal Dansk Cookies 454gm 2's

KD 2.100
KD 1.795

Nutella Chocolate Spread 750gm

KD 5.040
KD 3.895

Galaxy Jewels 400gm 2's

KD 1.190

Kellogg's Corn Flakes 375gm 2's+ Sipping Bowl Free

BEST OFFER

KD 1.960
KD 0.995

Perdix Whole Chicken 1 kg x 2

KD 2.100
KD 1.595

Sadia Chicken Drumsticks / Thighs 900gm x 2s

KD 2.250
KD 0.995

Perdix Chicken Breast Boneless Skinless 450gm x 3

KD 0.600
KD 0.375

Nada Fresh Yoghurt 170gm 6's

KD 2.990

King Fish Medium /kg

BEST OFFER

KD 2.395

Tide Washing Powder 2.5kg 1+1Free

KD 4.490
KD 2.990

Velvet Baby Diapers 60,70,76's

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Crime

Report

WORKER DIES OF SUFFOCATION

KUWAIT: An Egyptian man lost his life as he suffocated while working in a manhole, while his colleague was taken to the ICU. Police and firemen rushed to the scene and the two victims were taken to hospital, but one of them died en route.

Thieves caught

Farwaniya detectives interrogated three Syrians to find out the magnitude of their crimes after confessing they robbed an Asian and took KD 200 from him, as he identified them in a lineup. A security source said the three confessed to a number of crimes in various areas, and their victims are being summoned, adding that some of victims did not report what happened because they are in violation of the residency law. He said there are crimes the gang confessed to commit that were not on the record.

Lawbreaker arrested

"Your son has not been kidnapped; rather he is a lawbreaker and is detained at the traffic department holding cell." This is what operations told a citizen who called them to say his son was kidnapped from Mina Zour from his car. A security source said police investigated the matter and found that the man was driving recklessly, and was chased and forced to stop, and was found without a license. So police arrested him to send him to concerned authorities.

Pedestrian mugged

The Hawally prosecutor ordered a theft complaint lodged on behalf of an Indian man, then detectives were asked to look for the suspect. The Indian told Maidan Hawally police that he was waiting for a taxi when a man in a luxury car ordered him to get in, then demanded his wallet. The Indian gave the wallet to him with KD 360 in it. He then he asked the Indian to get out. The suspect then sped off.

Woman assaulted

A citizen in her 30s told Rawda police that she was beaten by a person. She gave his details, and a complaint was lodged. The woman also submitted a medical report stating her injuries. Police are looking for the suspect for questioning. —Al-Anbaa



CBK SUPPORTS COOP'S ACTIVITIES

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently presented a financial contribution to support the social, charity, humanitarian, cultural, educational and sports activities organized by Sabah Al-Salem Cooperative Society for the area residents. The financial support's check was handed over to the coop's director Dr Khaled Bin Naji by CBK's regional director of individual banking services Bedour Bo Khamseen.



MP DEMANDS 'SORTING' EXPAT POPULATION

BAN ON BANGLADESHI WORKERS' RECRUITMENT REINTRODUCED

KUWAIT: A lawmaker proposed a 'roadmap' to help address Kuwait's demographic imbalance problem by 'sorting' the expatriate population based on expats' financial and legal positions. According to the proposal, expats' bank accounts should be examined to identify their income levels, and they should undergo training courses in their field of specialty. "Whoever passes stays and is required to pay fees, and whoever fails for two times is deported," MP Dr Abdurrahman Al-Jeeran told Al-Rai.

The lawmaker reiterated the importance of improving the living condition of expatriate workers in Kuwait, and establishing a system in which only the qualified can stay in the country. "If it is possible, we can force them to enroll in performance enhancement courses based on their fields of specialty," Jeeran suggested. "If he passes the courses, then he would be required to pay fees. And if he fails, he is given a second opportunity to pass the course. If he does not in the second chance, he is deported."

On what kind of fees he is proposing, Jeeran explained that they would be fees collected on service provided by the government, and are different from taxes according to the Islamic Sharia standpoint. "Fees are allowed but taxes are haram (forbidden)," the Islamist lawmaker said while explaining his point of view from a Sharia standpoint. "Fees that residents pay in exchange for state service they enjoy is required and common in all countries," he said. "In Cairo for example, [foreigners] pay

double the fees for hotels, transportation and other services compared to what the Egyptian citizen pays for the same services."

Priority

Jeeran was quoted earlier this week suggesting that Kuwait's demographic imbalance should be dis-



MP Dr Abdurrahman Al-Jeeran

cussed as a priority when the National Assembly resumes sessions late October. "Does Kuwait need 800,000 Indians and 500,000 Arabs with below average educational levels?" Jeeran wondered. He called for controlling the number of expatriates "which has become a concern for citizens and expats themselves."

Jeeran further called for examining workers' categories in order to

identify the country's needs for expatriate manpower "instead of flooding the [labor] market with workers that the country does not need, and instead increase the state's social, economic, security and health burdens." He suggested more control over the number of domestic workers and laborers based on their jobs, while making sure that only highly trained workers are recruited to carry out development project.

In addition, Jeeran stressed the need for setting a reasonable minimum wage, saying that there are foreigners working in Kuwait for very low salaries through which they cannot meet their families' financial demands if the standard of living continues to increase.

Bangladeshi workers

In other news, the Interior Ministry reintroduced a ban on recruitment of workers from Bangladesh after months from reopening it under certain controls, including that the employer must own a house. Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah made the decision Monday after viewing statistics which showed that the number of the Bangladeshi community in Kuwait reached 200,000 as of the end of last week, Al-Anbaa daily reported yesterday quoting a security source. It is not known whether Sheikh Mazen would reconsider his decision in the future or would announce more controls to regulate the recruitment of workers from Bangladesh, the sources added. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

THEIR ELECTIONS AND OURS

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

The American elections are getting very heated nowadays between the presidential candidates, and are limited between a candidate who is flirting with American citizens' feelings, scaring them from terrorism and declares his willingness to sever relations with countries he sees as a source of terrorism, while at the same time he is concentrating on exaggerating the weakness points in the other candidate! Meanwhile, the other candidate is going too far in political flirting with Israel to gain the Israeli lobby's votes, and launched a scathing attack against some Arab and Muslim countries, while another candidate is using a language that is less severe than the other, but the common language between candidates is an address to the American people, which no matter how loud are the screams in support or opposition, the battle, despite its harsh nature, will not reach personal enmity.

The speech weapon reaches the point of political insults and sometimes doubting integrity, and resulting in promises - some are realistic, and others are not - not in form or subject, which is a very effective weapon in a democratic system that accommodates all and allows them absolute freedom of opinion, and this is what distinguishes that system.

Appeals are made that the Democratic candidate is better with visions, while the Republican candidate seems as if he is always in a constant delirious condition to a point that makes one laugh and cry at the same time, because he is not presenting policies, not dealing with economic issues, education or employment, and all what he says is that he has a plan that will make America stronger! How?! Nobody knows - not the party, the media or the voter, and despite this it seems that rubbing feelings over various subjects may succeed in democratic countries.

The economy, of course, plays an integral role in the political game or election contentions between a voice that claims to take the American economy to new unprecedented highs, and another voice that claims America will make new leaps by him and no one else.

The American elections, despite their heated nature, remain under the umbrella of accepting the other opinion and freedom of expression, under a partisan democratic system that deals with various aspects of life, and it is a system that grew in election campaigns that operate according to media and political principles even if they include promises full of deep illusions. Yet they remain promises in the elections campaign and are subject to the voters and party's questioning after the elections are over.

In Kuwait, despite the constitutional democracy, the political game is different than in America, where interests and feelings dominate the election process, in addition to the tendentious rumors in which sometimes official parties and political and business personalities are involved for the sake of certain interests, and in exchange of temporary projects from which a group benefits at the expense of the country and people as a whole.

The most important absent matter is the popular awareness of citizens' rights and duties in questioning candidates and holding them accountable even after they are elected. The electorate is most of the time controlled by quotas, tribalism and factionalism, and most often with government blessing that is materialized in hidden support of some candidates, while the official method of quotas continues in ministerial formations!

It is sad that this phenomenon is instilled in the political scene to become a public and repeated matter that instills despair and frustration in the silent majority that is searching for a promising future for Kuwait's constitutional democracy, and be proud of gains that our forefathers paid for with their souls and steadfastness in exchange of what we are enjoying today, despite the election system.

It is also sad that the influence of this on minds will lead to carelessness and the shrinking of freedom of expression, and the regression of media platforms from their patriotic role. The major responsibility is that of the voting citizen, so either it is the country and Kuwait's future in the long run, or it is the sect and factional interest, and temporary personal benefit in the short run. —Translated by Kuwait Times



Hessa Al-Najadah Senior Officer Public Relations with Dr Elham Al-Hamdan.



BURGAN BANK SUPPORTS FAWZIA SULTAN REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

NEW INTERACTIVE MEDIA ROOM TO PROMOTE ACTIVE LEARNING

KUWAIT: As part of its commitment and strategy towards corporate social responsibility and through its sponsorship of RunQ8 marathon, Burgan Bank has recently sponsored Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute's (FSRI) new media room through financial support to provide a safe environment for children while interacting with useful tools that promote learning and active development.

The sponsorship of the media room included providing them with an interactive floor, where children can develop their skills using creativity and within media environment, guided by FSRI therapists. Other fresh technologies in the room include the latest TV screens in addition to highly developed virtual reality games, to promote gross motor skill development, such as jumping, running and doing different arm movements while also enhancing hand-eye coordination and visual perceptual skills. Moreover,

Computer tablets were provided in order to help therapists encourage and engage the children in different activities, providing an alternative and engaging tool to promote a positive therapeutic environment. Voice recorders were also made



available to the media rooms to record children's speech and assess the improvement and progress of it.

Caring for a child with a physical and/or cognitive disability has significant emotional, physical and financial effects on a

family, with many postponing treatment for the child due to financial reasons. FSRI's goal is to provide much needed specialized support to affected children, regardless of their family's financial constraints and in doing so give all children in Kuwait a chance to develop and grow as naturally as possible.

It is worth mentioning that Burgan Bank's support to this initiative falls under its recently launched full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.



KFH LAUNCHES EID AL-ADHA COMPETITION ON INSTAGRAM

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched Eid Al-Adha competition on its account on Instagram (@KFHGroup) in efforts to increase communication with its clients and followers in all occasions.

The competition, which lasts until the third day of Eid Al-Adha, gives followers the chance to win valuable prizes. The questions of the competition revolve around the occasions of Eid Al-Adha and Hajj in an attempt to increase followers' interaction and raise their awareness of the rituals and duties of Hajj not to mention other related subjects. The valuable prizes are up to KD 200 vouchers for each winner to be redeemed at luxurious restaurants and commercial outlets.

It is worth noting that KFH followers' interaction on social networks reflects the strong confidence in the bank and its products and services. KFH's media and advertisement materials play a significant role in spreading awareness and reinforcing values among the society.

KFH utilizes social network channels to get closer to its clients, yet to allow them to express their points of view and suggestions in a transparent manner at any time. KFH's social media team communicates with clients online and helps them solve any problems they face. The team answers their questions promptly in coordination with the concerned sectors at the bank, which affirms the bank's keenness to prioritize customer service as one of the most important pillars of the bank and a major theme of KFH's strategy.



Bomb kills three at school in Thailand

BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTERS SHUT LONDON AIRPORT

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE VOWS TO EAT MILITANTS

CRIME WAR CLAIMING 44 LIVES A DAY: POLICE

VIENTIANE: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has vowed to personally tear apart and eat Abu Sayyaf Islamic militants, in a bloodthirsty vow of revenge for deadly attacks. "They will pay. When the time comes, I will eat you in front of people," Duterte told an audience of Filipinos late on Monday night while in Laos for a regional summit. "If you make me mad, in all honesty, I will eat you alive, raw." Duterte often hurls abusive insults at critics and is waging a brutal war on crime in which nearly 3,000 people have been killed since he took office on June 30.

His aides often urge reporters against taking Duterte's comments literally, cautioning that the 71-year-old former lawyer speaks in a crude language of the people. During the election campaign earlier this year Duterte attracted widespread criticism for saying he had wanted to rape a "beautiful" Australian missionary who had been

sexually assaulted and murdered in a Philippine prison riot. Duterte, 71, also claimed to keep two mistresses in cheap boarding houses who he took to short-stay hotels for sexual encounters.

Duterte on Monday offered a particularly vivid description of how he would like to eat Abu Sayyaf militants, who killed 15 soldiers last month and are accused of a bombing in his home city last week that claimed 14 lives. "I will really carve your torso open. Give me vinegar and salt and I will eat you. I'm not kidding," Duterte said, according to an official video of his speech posted yesterday. "These guys are beyond redemption." The Abu Sayyaf is a small band of Islamic militants based on remote southern islands of the mainly Catholic Philippines and are listed by the United States as a terrorist organization. They are notorious for kidnapping foreigners to extract ransoms, and this year beheaded two Canadian hostages.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

International condemnation

Meanwhile, an average of 44 people are being killed each day in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's war on crime, according to police data released yesterday that showed the death toll surging to nearly 3,000. The new figures came after Duterte vowed on Monday to defy a wave of international condemnation and continue killing until every drug trafficker in the Philippines was dead. "More people will be killed, plenty will be killed until the last pusher is out of the streets," said Duterte, who scored a landslide election victory in May largely on his promise to fight crime.

"Until the (last) drug manufacturer is killed, we will continue and I will continue." Police have killed 1,033 people in anti-drug operations since Duterte was sworn into office just over two months ago, according to the national police

update yesterday. Another 1,894 people have died in unexplained deaths, police said, which rights groups believe are largely due to out-of-control security forces and hired assassins. The total of 2,927 is more than 500 higher than the figure released by police on Sunday, and equates to an average of 44 a day since Duterte took office on June 30.

US President Barack Obama was planning to raise concerns about the war on crime with Duterte at a meeting in Laos yesterday afternoon. But Obama cancelled the meeting after Duterte warned he would not be lectured to, and branded the US president a "son of a whore." Philippine police insist they are killing only in self defense. "They have guns, they are drug-crazed. Our policemen are just defending themselves," national police spokesman Dionardo Carlos said. — Agencies

BRAZIL'S TAURUS SOLD ARMS TO TRAFFICKER FOR YEMEN WAR

PORTO ALEGRE: Brazil's Forjas Taurus SA, the largest weapons manufacturer in Latin America, sold guns to a known Yemeni arms trafficker who funneled them into his nation's civil war in violation of international sanctions, according to charges in court documents reviewed by Reuters. Federal prosecutors in southern Brazil charged two former executives of Forjas Taurus in May with shipping 8,000 handguns in 2013 to Fares Mohammed Hassan Mana'a, an arms smuggler active around the Horn of Africa for over a decade according to the United Nations.

The handguns were allegedly shipped by Taurus to Djibouti and redirected to Yemen by Mana'a, according to court documents. Alexandre Wunderlich, a lawyer for the two former Taurus export executives, Eduardo Pezzuol and Leonardo Sperry, said the accusations in the sealed indictment "do not reflect the facts of the matter." Yemen has been consumed since early last year by a brutal civil war killing thousands of people as Iran-backed Houthi rebels challenge a Saudi-allied government.

Mana'a, who served from 2011 to 2014 as governor of Sa'dah, a Houthi stronghold, could not be reached for comment. A Brazilian court issued a public summons for Mana'a in May as part of a case citing him, Sperry and Pezzuol as defendants. Taurus declined to answer detailed questions on the weapons case due to legal confidentiality but said it was "helping the courts to clarify the facts." Following the Reuters report, the company confirmed in a securities filing on Monday that two of its former executives had been charged for an alleged 2013 arms shipment destined for Yemen.

After learning about suspicions surrounding the Yemeni arms dealer, Taurus said it halted another shipment he negotiated. The case, currently sealed by a judge in the southern city of Porto Alegre, near Taurus' headquarters, may draw legal scrutiny to the company, a major supplier of firearms to Brazil's police and military and one of the top five makers of handguns in the US market, where it sells nearly three-quarters of its production. Brazil is the world's fourth-largest exporter of small arms.

Prosecutors say the two former Taurus executives were negotiating another shipment of 11,000 guns with Mana'a last year when police uncovered the plot and raided the company's offices in November. Prosecutors have not brought charges against Taurus but said evidence seized in the raid included dozens of emails showing it knew of UN sanctions against trading arms with Mana'a and Yemen but sought ways to skirt them. "Taurus clearly made use of a notorious international arms trafficker to triangulate its merchandise to other countries, especially Yemen," the documents said.

"There is no way Taurus and its employees can claim to be unfamiliar with acts attributed to Mana'a, since Leonardo Sperry testified it is standard for Taurus to do an internet search on people they invite to Brazil," they said. Sperry and Pezzuol gave testimony to federal police in October 2015 as the investigation got underway. The executives left Taurus late last year, according to their LinkedIn résumés. "All of the acts covered in the case were carried out entirely within the company and within legal limits," their lawyer said in an email. He declined to answer other questions, citing the confidentiality of the case.

Fueling war

Prosecutors said ties between Taurus and Mana'a stretch back to 2007, without elaborating in the court documents. They said the relationship went quiet for a couple of years after the UN Security Council leveled sanctions against Mana'a in 2010 for violating an arms embargo in Somalia. The UN sanctions banned any weapons sales or financing for Mana'a, and ordered an asset freeze and travel ban for him and others suspected of selling arms in Somalia's civil war. US President Barack Obama also named Mana'a and ten others in a 2010 executive order banning business with individuals and groups accused of contributing to unrest in Somalia.

Yet prosecutors said the sanctions did not stop Taurus from re-engaging with Mana'a as violence broke out in Yemen. Yemen's 18-month old conflict has drawn in regional powers and killed at least 10,000 people, including nearly 4,000 civilians, according to the United Nations. In an undated email cited by prosecutors, who did not name the recipients, Pezzuol wrote that "if Taurus decides to sell to Yemen, the path appears to be through Mohamad Mana'a," adding that he had set up a route through Djibouti, just across the Mandeb Strait from Yemen. — Reuters

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AFTER SETBACKS, IS DIGS IN WITH FOCUS ON DEADLY ATTACKS

BEIRUT: Despite major setbacks including the loss of access to the Syria-Turkey border and the assassination of several top leaders, the Islamic State group remains a potent force, analysts warn. The increasing pressure on IS, including Turkey's decision to launch an operation against it in northern Syria, has seen the organization lose ground at an unprecedented pace. But the jihadist organization still has the capacity to obtain weapons, attract recruits and dispatch fighters to carry out devastating attacks abroad, according to experts.

On Sunday, the Turkish operation reclaimed the last stretch of the Syria-Turkey border from the jihadist group, sealing off its self-styled "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq and forcing it to rely on smuggling networks instead. It was just the latest setback for IS, which is now under attack from Syrian and Iraqi troops, but also Kurdish fighters, Syrian rebels, Turkish forces, Russian warplanes, and a US-led coalition.

US officials say the group has lost around 20 percent of the territory it once held in Syria, and 50 percent of its territory in Iraq. Last month, the jihadists lost Jazirat Al-Khaldiyyeh, an area in Iraq's western Anbar province that was a key crossroads, dealing a major blow to its mobility. And in Libya, the group is on the verge of losing its

stronghold of Sirte. The territorial losses have been accompanied by a series of high-profile assassinations of its key leaders, including senior commander Omar al-Shishani, and spokesman and top strategist Abu Mohamed al-Adnani.

'Shouldn't be underestimated'

The setbacks paint a picture of decline for IS, once deemed the world's richest "terror" group, able to attract a flood of foreign recruits with its army-like prowess and a pledge to "remain and expand". But analysts warn that the group is far from finished, and that its focus may simply be shifting from territorial expansion to consolidation of population centers like Syria's Raqqa and Iraq's Mosul and new attacks against civilians in the region and the West.

"IS has faced a campaign of exponential pressure that has steadily constrained their capacity to fight, to operate, to earn and to credibly claim an 'expanding' caliphate," said Charles Lister, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute think-tank. "But it remains a highly adaptable organization with extensive asymmetric reach-it should not be underestimated." While the loss of the border with Turkey will hamper the

group's ability to import new weapons and recruits, as well as to export resources such as oil, that challenge is hardly new.

"IS's access to the border has been dramatically reduced for a while now," said Syria expert Thomas Pierret, a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. Pressure from Kurdish forces and a Turkish crackdown on the border had already forced IS to mainly rely on smuggling networks instead, he said. And for weapons, it has always relied to some degree on purchasing from corrupt individuals among its enemies, or capturing arms from defeated opponents. "All of that will certainly be sufficient to ensure the group's survival as an insurgency, but keeping afloat a proto-state in these circumstances will become more problematic," Pierret said.

'Uptick in terror attacks'

Given that difficulty, IS is likely to continue a trend experts say is already under way: "consolidating core urban, populated territory and rebuilding the asymmetric capabilities that allow it to carry out incessant bombings", Lister said. IS still holds the key cities of Raqqa and Mosul, with long-running talk of operations to recapture them yielding little in the way of military action so

far. In the interim, the group has claimed a steady trickle of attacks in the West, including the shooting of two police officers in Copenhagen last week, and unleashed a wave of suicide bombers in Syria and Iraq.

On Monday IS claimed a series of bombings across mostly government-held Syria that killed at least 48 people, as well as a car bomb in central Iraq that killed at least seven. "The trajectory is characterized by an overall downward trend in military influence and ability to preserve its territory in Libya, Iraq and Syria, along with an uptick in launching terrorist operations against civilian targets," said Charlie Winter, an associate fellow at the Hague-based International Centre for Counter-Terrorism.

The shift has already been reflected in IS's media output, said Aymenn Al-Tamimi, a jihadism expert at the Middle East Forum. "We see this in the overall decline in non-military-related IS propaganda, along with a lack of claims of new 'wilayas' (provinces) abroad, but focus instead on claiming attacks," he said. That leaves IS looking like a different, but still dangerous, force, said Winter. "I think we have seen it at its strongest militarily, but in terms of overall influence... it is still a great cause for concern." — AFP



LIBREVILLE: Relatives gather outside the Palais de Justice (law courts) in Libreville, waiting for news of their relatives who were arrested following post-election chaos in which three killed and 105 wounded. — AFP

FRANCE URGES GABON VOTE RECOUNT AS MINISTER QUILTS

PRESSURE MOUNTS ON PRESIDENT ALI BONGO

LIBREVILLE: Pressure mounted on Gabon's President Ali Bongo yesterday over his disputed poll victory as his justice minister resigned over the results and former colonial ruler France suggested a recount. With Bongo claiming victory by a wafer-thin margin of some 6,000 votes, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls proposed recounting the ballots. "There needs to be a clear electoral process," he told French radio station RTL yesterday, saying there were "some doubts." "It would be wise to do a recount."

France has already joined the European Union and the United States in calling for the results to be published according to each polling station, but until now had stopped short of demanding a recount. The move came just hours after Justice Minister Seraphin Moundounga, who is also a deputy prime minister, resigned late Monday, demanding "a recount of the votes, polling station by polling station, and registry by registry". Bongo's defeated rival Jean Ping, a veteran diplomat who has held a top African Union job, on Monday called

for a general strike to force "the tyrant" out.

"We cannot accept that our people will be killed like animals without reacting," Ping wrote on Facebook. "I propose to cease all activity and begin a general strike," said Ping, who has denounced the vote as fraudulent. "We must use all means of resistance to topple this tyrant and believe me, he is on the verge of falling." But his appeal appeared to go largely unheeded in the capital Libreville yesterday like the previous day when banks and shops reopened after being shuttered since last week due to post-election violence, and taxis returned to the streets.

'Foreigners involved'

Communications minister and government spokesman Alain-Claude Bilie-By-Nze meanwhile called demands for a recount a "plot" and said that foreigners were trying to manipulate the results. He said an Ivorian national had been arrested in Ping's headquarters on Monday, adding: "We are not saying that Ivory Coast is involved but

some highly-placed Ivorians are." According to an AFP count, post-election chaos has claimed at least seven lives in the oil-rich central African nation, ruled by the Bongo family since 1967. Gabonese authorities, however, said Monday the toll was three killed and 105 wounded, with the government saying some deaths had previously been incorrectly attributed to the clashes.

Valls yesterday also called on the Gabonese authorities to establish the whereabouts of around 15 French nationals who have been missing since the violence began. "It's true that we have no news of around 15 French citizens, who are in many cases French-Gabonese bi-nationals. We ask the Gabonese authorities that everything be done to find them," he said. Gabon's foreign ministry confirmed the authorities had arrested some Franco-Gabonese nationals, saying the justice ministry would answer any questions from concerned families. But it also said bi-nationals living in Gabon would be subject to Gabonese laws.

800 arrests

Some 800 people have been arrested in recent days in the capital, with the authorities accusing them of looting, while lawyers say they are being held in "deplorable" conditions. Several prisoners told AFP they had been beaten, denied food and water or questioned harshly by authorities. "There were no toilets. We slept in our pee," said a man who asked that his name be given as Matthieu to protect his identity. Meanwhile, a high-level African Union delegation including heads of state is ready to be dispatched to Libreville to help calm the situation, AU chairman and Chad President Idriss Deby said. UN chief Ban Ki-moon spoke to both Bongo and Ping on Sunday and "deplored the loss of life", a UN statement said, adding that he "called for an immediate end to all acts of violence." The country had previously enjoyed relative political stability, mainly because France helped Bongo rule for 41 years. After he died in June 2009, his son Ali won an election but opposition media claimed he had essentially been installed by France. — AFP

News

in brief

Emirati terror suspect tried to kill US citizen

DUBAI: State-owned media in the United Arab Emirates is reporting a 29-year-old Emirati man faces charges after trying to kill a US citizen with his car. The National newspaper of Abu Dhabi reported yesterday that the man had allegedly pledged his support to the Al-Qaeda-linked militant group Jabhat Fatah Al-Sham in Syria, which was formerly known as the Nusra Front. The newspaper reports the man had allegedly plotted other attacks, including "bombing the headquarters of Sky News Arabia in Abu Dhabi and Al Arabiya in Dubai." The state-run WAM news agency also reports that the man had his first court hearing Monday. Neither report named the accused nor the US citizen attacked. The UAE, a federation of seven emirates, is a close political and military ally of the US.



Fethullah Gulen

Turkey arrests teachers for using the 'Gulen app'

ISTANBUL: Turkish prosecutors yesterday issued arrest warrants for almost 150 teachers who allegedly used an encrypted messaging app employed by followers of the US-based Muslim preacher authorities blame for the botched coup bid, state media said. Police in the central Anatolian city of Kayseri launched an operation with 400 officers in a bid to detain 147 teachers accused of using the app ByLock, the Anadolu news agency said. The teachers, who had already been suspended in the wake of the July 15 coup attempt, are accused of "breaching the constitution", "attempting to bring down the Turkish government", and "membership of an armed terrorist organization," according to the report. Some of the suspects were detained, it said, without providing any exact number. The report did not give further details on what messages were exchanged via the app. Turkey says Fethullah Gulen masterminded the failed coup from his compound in Pennsylvania, using followers in Turkey who had built up a top-level presence within state institutions over several years.

Veiled mothers barred from entering school

MARSEILLE: Two Muslim mothers wearing headscarves were accosted and prevented from entering a nursery school on the French island of Corsica on Monday by two other parents, officials said. The incident happened as parents were dropping off their children at the start of the school day in Bonifacio, on the island's southern tip. The two women, wearing Muslim headscarves, "were stopped by two men, two brothers, who thought it wasn't right that their children are not allowed to wear emblems of their religion at school and yet these women could enter with their veils," said local prosecutor Eric Bouillard, confirming a report in the Corse-Matin newspaper. Bonifacio mayor Jean-Charles Orsucci said his education official "had intervened to allow normal entry to the school". Police and a schools inspector were also sent to the scene "and the situation calmed down. There was no violence, no threats, and therefore no laws broken," said Bouillard.

Australian prisoners strike for better pay

SYDNEY: Inmates at an Australian jail housing murderers and drug dealers have gone on strike demanding better pay, claiming their wages are not enough to cover living costs in the top-security prison. Dozens of convicts have downed tools and are refusing to work, claiming the lack of inflation-indexed pay is disrespectful. Inmates at Barwon prison must work as part of their sentence and are currently paid between Aus\$6.50 and Aus\$8.95 a day, depending on what they do. But they want more. "The wages paid are a lot less than in other states in Australia and it doesn't meet their increasing costs," said Brett Collins, a spokesman for prisoner advocate group Justice Action. "There's been a lack of any CPI (inflation) indexation, which has left them with less buying power. They feel resentful and that they haven't been treated respectfully. This is a last act of desperation." The government-run Corrections Victoria said all prisoners were required to perform tasks including gardening and maintenance and those who refused had been confined to their cells.

Worker ground to death in Japan's recycling plant

TOKYO: A Japanese worker suffered a grisly death after becoming caught in a waste milling machine at a recycling plant, news reports said yesterday. Police found human flesh mixed with waste on Monday after plant officials told police an employee working near a conveyor was missing, Kyodo News and the Sankei Shimbun daily reported. Police suspect the 45-year-old worker, whose name was not released, became caught in the machine at the wood recycling plant in the western prefecture of Nara, the reports said. Fragments of his safety helmet were also found in the compacted waste. A 56-year-old worker died in August at the plant after he was crushed between a loading shovel and a truck, news reports said. And a 67-year-old worker was killed at a related factory in another part of the prefecture also last month after he was caught in a conveyor, they said.

BOMB KILLS THREE INCLUDING A 4-YEAR-OLD AT THAI SCHOOL

NARATHIWAT: A four-year-old girl and her father were among three killed yesterday when a bomb hidden in a motorcycle's fuel tank exploded outside a school in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south. The device went off as pupils and teachers filed into the school in the Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province for the start of the day.

Two of the dead were father and daughter, local police detective Noppdol Kingthong said, adding that the bomb was set off by radio control as the pair neared the school gate. A 23-year-old man later died in hospital and around a dozen other adults were being treated for injuries, according to a hospital worker who said the dead were Muslim. Ethnic Malay insurgents in the kingdom's so-called "Deep South" have for years targeted schools and teachers, which are seen as symbols of Thai state power in the culturally distinct Muslim-majority region.

More than 6,500 people—the majority of them civilian—have been killed by rebels and Thailand's Buddhist-majority security forces since 2004. Debris from the blast was strewn across the area while an abandoned child's school bag lay on the road, according to an AFP journalist at the scene. UNICEF's Thailand representative Thomas Davin said the agency was "shocked and saddened" by the bombing. "No children nor any caretakers or education professionals should live or learn under fear of such attacks," he said in a statement.

Police and soldiers routinely accompany teachers and children to and from schools in the region's most dangerous "red zones". Dozens of teachers have been killed by rebels, some in front of pupils. The rebels appear to have returned to attacking "soft" civilian targets in recent weeks, following several months in which violence was aimed at security officials. — AFP



NARATHIWAT, Thailand: Relatives and mourners perform burial rites during a funeral for a father and his four-year-old daughter killed by a blast in front of a school by suspected separatist militants in the Takbai district of Thailand's restive southern province of Narathiwat yesterday. — AFP



VIENTIANE: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (center) holds hands with business leaders during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Business and Investment Summit in Vientiane yesterday. — AFP

US 'MORALLY OBLIGED' TO HEAL LAOS WAR WOUNDS

VIENTIANE: President Barack Obama pledged yesterday to dramatically increase US efforts to clear millions of bombs secretly dropped on tiny Laos by American planes a generation ago, saying the clean-up was a "moral obligation". Laos became the world's most-bombed country per capita from 1964 to 1973 as Washington launched a secret CIA-led war to cut supplies flowing to communist fighters during the Vietnam War. Much of the country is still littered with ordnance, including millions of cluster munition "bomblets" that maim and kill to this day. The issue has long dogged relations between the United States and Laos, a cloistered and impoverished communist nation.

But both sides have moved closer in recent years and Obama's visit—the first by a US president to Laos—is being hailed as a landmark opportunity to reset ties. On the first day of his two-day trip, Obama announced \$90 million for Laos over the next three years to address the impact

caused by unexploded ordnance. "Given our history here I believe the United States has a moral obligation to help Laos heal," Obama told a crowd of delegates, including communist party leaders, students and monks, during a speech in the capital Vientiane. The figure dwarfs Washington's previous commitments to Laos in the last 20 years it had given a total of \$100 million.

But it mirrors what happened in Vietnam as ties warmed between the two former foes during the early 2000s. As in Vietnam Obama stopped short of issuing any kind of apology for American military action, but recognized the suffering it had caused all sides. "The remnants of war continue to shatter lives here in Laos," he said, adding many Americans were still unaware of their country's secret carpet bombing of the country. "Over the years thousands of Laotians have been killed or injured. Farmers tending their fields, children playing. The wounds, a missing leg or arm, last a lifetime." — AFP



CABO SAN LUCAS: Boats wait to be taken out of the water as they prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Newton in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. — AP

HURRICANE SMASHES INTO MEXICO RESORT

LA PAZ: Hurricane Newton battered Mexico's northwestern resort of Los Cabos yesterday, tearing down trees and blowing away tin roofs as thousands of tourists and locals hunkered down. The powerful storm packed 90 mile per hour winds when it made landfall before dawn at the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, two years after Hurricane Odile ravaged the region. The US National Hurricane Center said Newton was "pounding Baja California Sur with hurricane-force winds and heavy rains."

"The winds are very strong," Los Cabos civil protection director Marco Antonio Vazquez told AFP by telephone. "We don't have light right now." For now the damage includes a lot of branches, a lot of fallen plants, many trees," Vazquez said, adding that he also saw telephone cables as well as tin roofs from poorer neighborhoods on the streets. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Some 14,000 tourists are in Los Cabos and about 1,000 elsewhere in the region. There was no immediate information about the situation at hotels. Some 1,500 people took refuge in shelters in Los Cabos, Vazquez said.

Local airports closed late Monday while small boats were barred from using the ports, with a storm surge expected to hit low-lying areas. Schools were shut down. In La Paz, the capital of the state of Baja California Sur north of Los Cabos, locals put tape on shop windows and filled their cars with gasoline as the hurricane approached. The US hurricane center's latest bulletin placed the eye of Newton 50 miles northwest of Cabo San Lucas, one of the region's resorts. It was just five miles from the town when it made landfall. Los Cabos, famed for its beaches and nightlife, was pummeled in September 2014 by Hurricane Odile which left six people dead and caused \$1 billion in damage.

Second landfall

The eye of Hurricane Newton is forecast to cross Baja California Sur before moving into the northwestern Mexico mainland today morning. The US center said the storm should still be at hurricane strength when it makes landfall a second time after crossing over the Gulf of California, which lies between the peninsula and the Mexican mainland. The government of the state of Baja California Sur opened shelters with room for 16,000 people after the tropical storm was reclassified as a hurricane. The storm is due to produce up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain in Baja California Sur and as much as 10 inches in several Pacific coast states, which could trigger life-threatening flash floods and mudslides, the US hurricane center said. A "dangerous" storm surge was expected to cause significant coastal flooding, it added.

Damage in Acapulco

Newton threatened to cause more mudslides and flooding in eight states along the Pacific coast, Mexican authorities said, adding that thousands of shelters were ready. The weather system caused damage in the country's south over the weekend before it became a tropical storm, with heavy rain blamed for three deaths in the southern state of Chiapas. Floods and landslides damaged or affected some 70 homes and schools and trapped around 200 people in Acapulco, the resort in the southwestern state of Guerrero. Torrential rain that began Saturday morning flooded some 1,400 homes and caused more than 30 landslides on highways in Guerrero, civil protection authorities said. Heavy rainfall trapped around 200 people in a housing complex, prompting air evacuations by police, marines and the army. — AFP

MIGRANT CRISIS HANGS OVER VOTES IN HUNGARY, AUSTRIA

ONE YEAR AFTER MASSIVE INFLUX, RESIDENTS WARY

VAMOSSZABADI: On a warm morning in late August, two dozen migrants carrying stuffed plastic bags and backpacks boarded a bus outside a refugee centre in Vamosszabadi, a village in north-west Hungary. Escorted by police on what was meant to be a short shopping trip organized by the Hungarian immigration office, the men, women and children should have spent a few hours shopping in the nearby city of Győr before returning to their makeshift homes.

Half of the group, however, slipped away to a park where they were met by a man. He led them through an underpass to the railway station and they jumped on a train headed for the Austrian capital, Vienna. Their whereabouts now is unclear. One year after the border between Hungary and Austria became a focal point of a mass influx of refugees to Europe, many of them heading for Germany, officials in both countries say the situation is largely under control.

But, as the events witnessed by Reuters show, migrants continue to make their way into Hungary and across the border into Austria from areas of the Middle East, Afghanistan and Africa hit by conflict and poverty. The situation has left many Hungarians and Austrians on edge and could shape the outcome of two votes on Oct 2, when Austria elects a president and Hungary decides whether to accept mandatory European Union quotas for resettling migrants. "Clearly this is a polarizing issue that has stoked a lot of fears," said Austrian Defense Minister Hans Peter Doskozil.

Like many people in Austria, a country of 8.5 million that has taken in about 110,000 asylum seekers since last summer, he sees a risk that the migrant crisis could worsen again. Although there is little evidence of it happening, he believes Austria could become the destination for migrants making their way from Africa through Italy. "That must be stopped," Doskozil said. Such concerns could work in favor of far-right candidate Norbert Hofer in Austria's election runoff. The first ballot, narrowly won by former Greens party leader Alexander Van der Bellen, was annulled because of technical irregularities.

Similar fears could also help Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban persuade voters to reject the EU quota system following an aggressive government campaign in which billboards have been erected linking migrants to assaults and terrorism. Election of a far-right president in Austria and rejection of the quota plan in Hungary would be likely to damage the unity of the EU, which is already struggling to articulate a common vision after Britain's vote on June 23 to leave the bloc.

'Big shock'

Few communities have felt the impact of the migrants influx more than Nickelsdorf, a town of 1,800 in the eastern border region of Burgenland

surrounded by sunflower and corn fields. It was near Nickelsdorf that the corpses of 71 refugees were found in an abandoned truck, shortly before Austria and Germany threw open their borders to migrants on Sept 4 last year. Burgenland is a traditional stronghold of Chancellor Christian Kern's Social Democrats. But two thirds of voters there backed the eurosceptic Freedom Party's (FPÖ) Hofer in the presidential run-off in May that was annulled.

"The Freedom Party promotes a very restrictive immigration policy and the people who live here in Nickelsdorf, who were confronted with this wave of 300,000 people a year ago, do not want it to happen again," Gerhard Zapfl, Nickelsdorf's SPO mayor, told Reuters. "The pressure valve is the election." Carmen Imnitzer, a 46-year-old housewife who helped distribute food and clothes to migrants, says she would never vote for the Freedom Party. But she describes the influx as a "big shock" for the town. "A lot of people are scared. They view everything that is foreign, everything they don't understand, as scary," she said. Debate has been clouded by an EU deal with Turkey granting Turks visa-free travel to the bloc, she added. Kern has accused the FPÖ of fanning fears about minorities and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said politicians are using the refugee crisis for political gain.

Image 'tarnished' by camp

Many migrants also arrived last year in

Vamosszabadi, 65 km from Nickelsdorf, on the other side of the border. A refugee camp in the village designed for about 200 people housed nearly 800 migrants at one point in 2015, and many more were camping outside. Hungarian officials say many migrants disappear within days and the authorities lose track of them. Livia Vajda, the mayor of Vamosszabadi, said the camp had tarnished Vamosszabadi's image and should be closed. "This is an open reception centre, people can move freely in and out, they can do anything they want and we live here next to them and we don't know who they are," she said. Orban opposes the EU quota plan and hopes the Oct. 2 referendum will strengthen his hand in dealings on the migrant issue with the EU and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The UN refugee agency has condemned Hungary's refugee practices but criticism of the referendum and Orban's stance on refugees has largely been limited in Hungary to small opposition and rights groups. Merkel and then-Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann suspended EU migration rules last year to allow in thousands of refugees who reached those countries via Hungary. Faymann quit in May after losing his party's support, partly because of his handling of the crisis. Merkel has also faced problems and her Christian Democrats lost a regional election on Sunday to an anti-immigrant party. — Reuters

CANADA PRIME MINISTER HAILS 'NEW FRIENDSHIP' WITH CHINA

HONG KONG: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said yesterday that ties with Beijing had entered a new era following a charm offensive which saw 56 business deals signed. Speaking in Hong Kong following a week-long trip to China, where he met President Xi Jinping and attended the Group of 20 summit in Hangzhou, Trudeau said the "hot and cold" nature of relations with Beijing was over and that ties had been "revitalized".

Trudeau said his trip had been about more than signing the deals, which he said were worth more than CAD\$ 1.2 billion (\$929 million). "We needed to renew and deepen the relationship between the people of Canada and people of China for the long term and I think it's safe to say we have accomplished just that," Trudeau said at a business lunch in Hong Kong, calling for a "solid framework of engagement" to enhance commercial opportunities. Canada said last month it would apply to join the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Trudeau said he had also raised contentious subjects, including

issues of rule of law and corruption, but did not say how China had responded. Asked about how a major Hong Kong election-which saw politicians advocating a break from China become lawmakers Monday-would affect relations he said Canada would work with "whoever gets elected and forms government in foreign jurisdictions".

Trudeau also met Hong Kong's richest tycoon Li Ka-shing, posting a picture of himself with the billionaire on Twitter, and the city's leader Leung Chun-ying. Earlier yesterday, Trudeau honored those who died in World War II at a city cemetery. Hong Kong fell to the Japanese after 18 days of desperate fighting in 1941. About 290 Canadians were among the roughly 2,100 allied troops killed in the battle. Hundreds of survivors endured years of abuse and starvation as prisoners of war, leading to more than 260 additional Canadian deaths. "We remember the sacrifice and service of so many who stood and fell for our shared values, so far from home," Trudeau wrote in the guest book, seen by an AFP reporter. — AFP



MOLINE: Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton enters a car after a flight aboard her new campaign plane in Moline, Illinois. — AFP

CLINTON AND TRUMP KICK OFF THEIR RACE TO ELECTION FINISH

CLEVELAND: Rivals Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump sprinted out of the campaign blocks Monday to begin their two-month dash to the US presidential election, descending on Ohio as ground zero of their 2016 battle. The candidates used Labor Day-the traditional launch of the home stretch of the presidential campaign-to push their arguments that they would be best for working-class Americans. Democrat Clinton maintains an edge over Trump in national polls, has dramatically deeper ground operations in swing states, and trounced Trump in August fundraising.

But the Republican flagbearer's unorthodox White House bid, including his campaign's apparent imperviousness to criticism about his harsh rhetoric, assures a tight contest for the next 64 days. "I'm not taking anybody, anywhere for granted," Clinton told a crowd of more than 1,000 at a picnic in Cleveland. Highlighting the intensity of the fight for battleground states like Ohio, Trump was already on the ground in Cleveland for his own campaign events when Clinton landed, their planes parking about two football fields apart on the tarmac.

"I'm ready. I'm more than ready," she said of the intense two-month battle ahead as she attempts to become the first female US commander in chief. But after a few days of rest from campaigning, Clinton coughed her way through portions of her Cleveland remarks. Suffering one of her worst coughing bouts of the race, she paused to sip water, her

voice reduced to a crackling whisper at times. That's sure to fuel critics' claims that Clinton, 68, has serious health problems. Clinton dismissed such "conspiracy theories," saying her coughing was just from seasonal allergies.

Clinton debuted her new campaign plane-with the slogan "Stronger Together" emblazoned on the side-and brought the press corps aboard her jet for the first time. Under extensive criticism from her rival and journalists for not holding a full press conference in nine months, she answered questions for more than 22 minutes on several topics, including tensions with Russia over accusations of cyber-espionage. Clinton expressed "grave" concern about reports that Russia has been interfering in the US electoral process through invasive cyber attacks on the Democratic Party and an apparent attack on voter registration systems in Arizona. And she implied Moscow was trying to help get Trump elected. "I think it's quite intriguing that this activity has happened around the time Trump became the nominee," she said.

Republican messenger

On Monday, Trump followed Clinton's lead, inviting some journalists aboard his private jet where he discussed his immigration platform. Just a week after traveling to Mexico for his first international trip as the nominee, and then returning across the US border to deliver a nativist

immigration speech, he assailed Clinton for having "no plan" on immigration. "What her real plan is, she has total amnesty" and a pathway to citizenship, he said, reiterating his opposition to such a legalization process without undocumented immigrants leaving the country first.

Under Clinton, "people can pour across the border and it doesn't matter who the people are." Clinton shot back by recalling Trump's meeting with Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto and their clash over Trump's plan to have Mexico pay for a border wall. Trump "can't even go to a friendly foreign country without getting into a fight," she said during a campaign stop in Hampton, Illinois. Trump, who visited a Cleveland diner to meet with union members, is seeking to capitalize on simmering frustration among blue-collar workers over jobs and wages.

He and his running mate Mike Pence also dropped in on the Canfield County Fair in working class eastern Ohio, where several attendees clapped and chanted Trump's name. "I love you Donald!" a teenage boy shouted. Trump, 70, dominated last week's political messaging and imagery that included his visit to an African-American church in Detroit. And while Sunday's CBS News Battleground Tracker shows Clinton, 68, leading Trump in two key states-by eight points in Pennsylvania and four points in North Carolina-recent polls show the race tightening nationally. — AFP

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ARSONISTS BLAMED FOR SPANISH WILDFIRES

JAVEA: Arsonists were blamed yesterday for a spate of wildfires along Spain's eastern coast near the popular resort of Benidorm that have forced the evacuation of 1,400 people. Hundreds of firefighters backed by water-dropping aircraft were battling the largest of several fires which began on Sunday near the resort of Javea, up the coast from Benidorm on Spain's Costa Blanca.

Another blaze was underway yesterday morning near the mountain town of Bolulla, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Javea, while Spanish emergency services faced a third one on the Mediterranean island of Menorca. Most of Spain has faced an "extreme risk" of wildfires since Sunday due to a heatwave, with temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in some parts. "There is one or several arsonists," Jose Maria Angel Batalla, an emergency services chief responsible for the Costa Blanca area, told radio Cope, referring to the fire near Javea.

Gasoline cans have been found and there were "three or four" outbreaks of fire on Sunday just a few hours before the sun set, giving firefighters little time to act before visibility dropped, he added. The main blaze roared through scrubland along the coastline near residential areas around Javea, sending thick plumes of grey smoke into the air. It has razed more than 800 hectares (1,900 acres) of land, according to the regional government, and has charred several buildings in the area which is popular with British and

German holidaymakers.

A wall of flames could be seen moving towards a row of white-washed villas in images broadcast on Spanish television. Officials have evacuated around 1,400 people, including tourists, with many spending the night on cots in local schools or at local residents' homes. Many said they fled with just the clothes they were wearing. "We heard people shouting and telling us to flee and I got a pain in my chest from the shrieks," holidaymaker Isabel Segura Valencia told local daily newspaper Las Provincias at a Red Cross shelter set up in a high school.

'Evolving favorably'

Firefighters said intense heat, low humidity levels and strong winds which changed direction fuelled the fire on the Costa Blanca but they were starting to gain the upper hand. "The fire is evolving favorably," tweeted Juan Carlos Moragues who is responsible for security in the region. The wildfire on the Mediterranean island of Menorca on Spain's Balearic Islands broke out on Monday near the towns of Cala Moli, Na Macaret and Addaia, a local emergency services official said.

Around 600 people were either evacuated, or ordered to stay in their home or hotels because of the blaze, which firefighters said remained active but was now "stable". Among those who were ordered to remain indoors were the guests of the 180-room Marina Parc hotel at Arenal d'en Castell. "Everything is fine and the



JAVEA: A seaplane drops water over a wildfire next to a residential area along the coastline near the Spanish resort of Javea, Valencia region. — AFP

situation is under control," a hotel receptionist said. Most of the guests were British tourists, the receptionist added. The fire has so far destroyed around 50 hectares

of land but it is one of the largest blazes in recent years in Menorca, a mostly rural island with rolling fields and wooded ravines. — AFP

MERKEL'S RULE COLLAPSING?

DON'T WRITE HER OFF YET, ANALYSTS SAY

BERLIN: For an outsider looking in, Germany's press appeared to suggest that Chancellor Angela Merkel is on her way out as leader of Europe's biggest economy after a vote debacle in her home state. "Merkel's rule collapses," declared the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, while a Spiegel Online headline charged that "Merkel is past her zenith" after voter anger over her liberal refugee stance left her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) trailing a rising populist party in Sunday's state poll.

But with a year to go until general elec-

tions and no convincing competitor within her centre-right alliance or from elsewhere within Germany's fragmented political landscape, analysts said it was too early to write off "Mutti". Chancellor since 2005, Merkel commanded approval ratings as high as 75 percent early last year. She looked near invincible and earned accolades worldwide for her decision last September to open Germany's doors to those fleeing war and oppression.

But a year on, it's a different story. Popular fears over how to integrate the mil-

lion people who sought refuge in Germany in 2015 alone most recently played out in the local polls at the north-eastern, ex-Communist state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The CDU recorded its worst score in Germany's least populous and poorest state, overtaken by the anti-migrant and Islamophobic Alternative for Germany (AfD).

'Past her zenith'

Now just 44 percent of voters want Merkel to seek a fourth term as leader of the country, a post she has held for over a decade, according to a survey published by Bild am Sonntag. Horst Seehofer, who leads the CDU's Bavarian sister party CSU, heaped on the pressure after Sunday's polls, saying "the situation is a serious threat for the Union". "The people no longer understand how policy is made in Germany," Seehofer told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily. "They feel like they are not included." And Sigmar Gabriel, who leads the CDU's junior coalition partner the Social Democratic Party (SPD), also stuck in the knife, accusing Merkel of empty words. "Mrs Merkel seemed to be happy to leave it at the 'We can do it' stage. Our criticism is centred on repeating 'We can do it' without actually doing it," he said, in reference to the German leader's rallying call for her refugee policy.

Anyone for the throne?

But for all the talk, no one has emerged as a serious alternative to lead the EU heavyweight. In the popularity stakes,

Gabriel fares even worse, with a recent survey showing only 16 percent want him as chancellor. Fellow party member Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany's foreign minister, did better but, at 38 points, is still behind Merkel's 44 points. There is no one in sight within Merkel's conservative alliance, either. Seehofer garnered just 26 percent while Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen came in with 15 percent in polls carried out last week.

"It's a really funny situation... because actually nothing changes at all," Hans Kundnani, a political analyst at the German Marshall Fund said. "There's no threat to Merkel really—partly because there is no real alternative, and her opponents within the CDU know that... she is probably still the best election winner that the CDU has." The only thing that has shifted is Germany's political landscape, which over the past decade has been dominated by consensus in centrist politics, but has become "more unpredictable" with the rise of the AfD, said Kundnani.

Still the strongest

Hajo Funke, a political analyst at Berlin's Free University, said Sunday's result was an "attack on Merkel's refugee policy." "But can one then come to the conclusion that she is no longer good for the CDU?" he asked. "Very clearly: No. That would be too exaggerated." Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is a small state," Funke wrote in the Berliner Zeitung. "She is, as before, the strongest person in the party. Anyone who wants to be her successor would be weaker." — AFP



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a session of the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) yesterday in Berlin. — AFP

PROSECUTIONS FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES HIT RECORD HIGH

LONDON: Prosecutions for domestic abuse, rape and sexual offences against women in England and Wales hit a record high in 2015/2016, according to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which also reported the first cases of "revenge porn". Women's rights groups attributed the rise to victims' growing confidence in the justice system as the CPS revealed yesterday that more than 117,000 cases of domestic abuse, rape and sexual offences went to trial in 2015/2016, a 10 percent increase on the previous year.

The number of convictions for such crimes also reached a high with more than 87,000 defendants found guilty of them in 2015/2016, an 11 percent rise on the year before. "Today a rape, domestic abuse, sexual offence or child abuse case is more likely to be prosecuted and convicted than ever before," said Alison Saunders, director of public prosecutions, in a statement.

The CPS said more than 100,000 domestic abuse cases were prosecuted in 2015/2016, resulting in more than 75,000 convictions. Prosecutions and convictions for rape in 2015/2016 also hit highs of more than 4,600 and almost 2,700 respectively. Saunders said training for prosecutors and greater resources for specialist units handling rape and serious sexual offences including child sexual exploitation had contributed to the rise in the rape conviction rate.

Chief Executive of Women's Aid, Polly Neate, said survivors of domestic abuse were starting to have more confidence in the criminal justice system, leading to more prosecutions and convictions. "However, we know that much more work is still needed, particularly in understanding of the nature and impact of coercive control, right across the criminal justice system," Neate said in a statement. The disclosure of private sexual images without consent, known as "revenge porn", was made a criminal offence in April 2015. Since then there have been more than 206 related prosecutions, the CPS said.

"The use of the internet, social media and other forms of technology to humiliate, control and threaten individuals is rising," Saunders said. Activists like Rachel Kryss, co-director of End Violence Against Women Coalition, welcomed the CPS figures but said more needed to be done. "... it is still the case that the majority of women and girls subject to these crimes do not report them to the police, and the specialist services which support them are fighting for survival," she said in a statement. — Reuters

FIRST PARIS REFUGEE CAMP TO OPEN IN MID-OCTOBER

PARIS: Paris will open its first refugee camp in mid-October, Mayor Anne Hidalgo said yesterday, unveiling plans to take hundreds of people off the streets as France struggles to accommodate migrants. The emergency shelter, which will have an initial capacity of 400 and be solely for men, will be housed on an old railway site in the north of the French capital, Hidalgo said. Asylum-seekers will be allowed to stay there for "five to 10 days" and receive medical care while waiting for a place in a refugee hostel, the Socialist mayor told reporters.

France has not been on the front-line of the vast influx of migrants to Europe in the last 18 months, with many refugees seeing it mainly as a transit country to other destinations in northern Europe. But it has an acute shortage of accommodation for asylum seekers, with leaving many people to fend for themselves.

Hidalgo said a second centre, for women and children only, will be opened in Ivry-sur-Seine to the south-east of Paris by the end of the year, she added.

The 6.5-million-euro (\$7.2 million) Paris shelter will open in an area where hundreds of migrants have been sleeping rough, on the pavement or under railway bridges. By the end of 2016 it will have 600 beds. The camp will be located not far from Paris's Gare du Nord train station, which is the main terminal for Eurostar trains to London. The women's shelter will have 350 places. Hidalgo, who had announced in May that she would set up a camp in Paris, called it a "first for Europe" and said it was France's duty to accommodate migrants in "humane" conditions.

'Change of tack'

Hostility towards migrants, partic-



PARIS: Philippe Bouyssou (left), the mayor of Ivry sits next to French Minister of Housing Emmanuelle Cosse (center) and the Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo during the announcement of the opening of Paris' first refugee camp yesterday. — AFP

ularly Muslim migrants, has been growing in France in recent months. A new reception centre in the Essonne area south of Paris was torched on Monday night, investigators said. The centre for Sudanese and Afghan men had been due to open in October. Many of those in Paris are bound for the port of Calais on the Channel coast, where they hope to stow away on a truck crossing to Britain. On Monday, dozens of truckers and farmers blocked the main routes in and out of the busy port to call for the closure of the town's sprawling "Jungle" migrant camp.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve promised during a visit to the Jungle last week to close the camp down "as quickly as possible" but said it would be done in stages. Hidalgo has been critical of the government's approach to the refugee issue, accusing the state of not giving people fleeing war and misery "a fitting welcome". As she was speaking yesterday, police were clearing a makeshift camp set up in the middle of a busy avenue in northeast Paris, where hundreds of migrants had been sleeping rough. "I'm alone here, I have no family, I don't know where they're taking us," Asam, a 21-year-old Sudanese refugee who stood watching the police with a mattress under his arm said.

Since June 2015, the authorities have dismantled around 20 such camps around the city, taking migrants to refugee hostels, hotels or gyms acting as temporary migrant centres. Hidalgo said it was time for a "change of tack". "That means setting up a reception centre where migrants can rest and get a medical check-up and psychological help as well as advice on their status and what they can expect," she said. "If we need to create other sites, we'll do it," she added. Around 80,000 people applied for asylum in France last year, 20,000 more than in 2014, but only a fraction of the one million asylum requests received by Germany. — AFP

News

in brief

Mexico arrests drug cartel honcho 'wanted' in the US

MEXICO CITY: Mexican authorities have arrested a suspected lieutenant of the Sinaloa drug cartel who is wanted in the United States, officials said Monday. National Security Commissioner Renato Sales said the suspect, Martin "N," was arrested on Friday in Zapopan, western Jalisco state. Sales said the suspect crashed his vehicle and injured a police officer when he was captured under a warrant to extradite him to the United States. While he did not fully identify the suspect, Sales said the US Treasury Department declared in October 2011 that the man and his two brothers ran a drug distribution network and money laundering businesses in Culiacan, Sinaloa state. The Treasury Department identified him as Martin Guadencio Avendano Ojeda, who allegedly worked under Sinaloa leader Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada. The arrest is a new blow to the Sinaloa drug cartel led by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who was recaptured in January after escaping from prison last year.

IS announces death of an Australian jihadist

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group has announced the death in Syria of an Australian jihadist convicted over a 2005 plot to bomb the Melbourne Cricket Ground, in a new English-language magazine. Ezzit Raad, who travelled to the Middle East after serving time in jail, died fighting for IS in Manbij near the battleground city of Aleppo in northern Syria, according to the online propaganda magazine Rumiyaah released on Monday. The first edition also featured calls for lone-wolf attacks in the West, singling out targets in Australia in a biography of the Australian jihadist of Lebanese origin, also known as Abu Mansur Al-Muhajir. The 38-page magazine was released simultaneously in seven languages, including English, French, German, Russian and Turkish. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said last week that more than 60 Australians have so far been killed in Iraq and Syria, while around 200 people back home had been investigated for supporting militant groups.



MARSEILLE: Hammou Hassen (left) and Haouaria Hadj-Chik, members of the group "Trop jeune pour mourir" (Too young to die), attach a poster with the slogan "Drop the weapons" against the settling of scores in the La Bricarde district yesterday. — AFP

Spike in Marseille drug violence kills 24 so far

MARSEILLE: A shootout in Marseille that claimed two lives has brought the death toll in drug-related violence in the southern French city to 24 so far this year, according to an AFP tally. Two men were shot dead in a bar in the centre of the port city late on Monday in an apparent settling of scores, police said. One of the dead men, 41-year-old Patrick Esposito, was known to police, but the other victim was a barman who had no criminal links, Marseille prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux said. Murders linked to illicit drug dealing in the Marseille area totalled 19 last year but this summer has been especially deadly, with 10 people killed since August 7. Police admit they are almost powerless to prevent the drug murders. "These settling of scores are very hard to prevent," an official of the police union Alliance said last week. "They can happen anywhere, any time." France's second largest city, the Mediterranean port has a long-running reputation for violence linked to the drugs trade.

Ex-Guantanamo inmate declares hunger strike

MONTEVIDEO: A former Guantanamo inmate resettled in Uruguay in 2014 has declared a hunger strike after being deported from Venezuela in a failed attempt to reunite with his family in Turkey. Jihad Diyab, a 45-year-old Syrian, has clashed repeatedly with the authorities in Uruguay since being resettled here as a refugee nearly two years ago along with five other former Guantanamo detainees. The six men have had a running dispute with the Uruguayan government over housing and living allowances, and Diyab says Uruguay is not doing enough to reunite him with his family. He caused alarm in June when he went off the radar, apparently evading border control and sneaking into Venezuela. He showed up at the Uruguayan consulate in Caracas in July asking to be taken to his family in Turkey. He was arrested and held in what his lawyer condemned as unacceptable conditions before being deported back to Uruguay on August 30.

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BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTERS SHUT LONDON AIRPORT FOR HOURS

LONDON: Black Lives Matter protesters chained themselves together on the runway of London's City Airport, forcing all flights in and out of the business travel hub to be diverted for six hours. Police were called at 5:40 am local time (0440 GMT) after protesters "erected a tripod and... locked themselves together," according to a statement from London police. "Officers negotiated with the protesters and specialist officers arrived to 'unlock' the protesters," the statement said.

The process of removing the protesters began at 9:30 am, but it was not until around 11:30 am that the runway was finally cleared, blocking all flights for six hours. Police arrested nine people were arrested on suspicion of aggravated trespass, being unlawfully airside and breaching London City Airport bylaws. Tweeting that the runway had reopened. London City Airport apologized for the disruption and advised travellers to check with their airline for flight information.

The Twitter page of Black Lives Matter UK claimed responsibility for the protest, saying it was to highlight the "UK's environmental impact on

black people". "7/10 of the countries most affected by climate change are in sub-Saharan Africa," said another tweet. Pictures from the airport showed the protesters lying down on the tarmac beneath a wooden tripod, next to a sign reading: "Climate Crisis is a Racist Crisis."

All flights due to land at the airport were diverted to Southend and Gatwick airports, near London. London City Airport is located in the former docks area east of the city center, close to Canary Wharf, one of the twin centers of London's finance industry. The airport offers short-haul flights to locations in Britain and mainland Europe, and served over four million passengers last year, many of them travelling for business.

Its sole runway is surrounded by water, but it was reported that the protesters were able to either swim or use a dinghy to cross the wharf, raising questions about security. Activists from Britain's Black Lives Matter movement blocked the main road into London Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, last month as part of a nationwide day of protests against racism. — FP



LONDON: Emergency services surround protesters from the movement Black Lives Matter after they locked themselves to a tripod on the runway at London City Airport yesterday. — AFP



This undated photo shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un looking through a binoculars at the site of a ballistic missile launching at an undisclosed location in North Korea. — AP

N KOREAN LEADER HAILS MISSILE TESTS, CALLS FOR NUKE BUILD-UP

US DISCUSSES PYONGYANG'S LATEST PROVOCATION

SEOUL: Kim Jong-Un labeled North Korea's latest missile tests "perfect", state media said yesterday, as he called for the isolated state to build up its nuclear arsenal. Hours before the UN Security Council was set to meet to discuss Pyongyang's latest military provocation, the country's supreme leader hailed Monday's firing of three mid-range weapons. Kim supervised a drill by artillery units "tasked to strike the bases of the US imperialist aggressor forces in the Pacific operational theatre in a contingency," Pyongyang's KCNA news agency said.

"The units' capability for fighting a real battle and the combat performance of the rockets were appreciated as perfect," it said. "He stressed the need to continue making miraculous achievements in bolstering up the nuclear force one after another in this historic year," it added. South Korea's defense ministry said the tests were of Rodong missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometers. It said they had been fired over the Sea of Japan (East Sea) without warning.

The Rodong is a scaled-up Scud variant with a maximum range of around 1,300 kilometers, bringing most of Japan within range. The launches came

as world leaders gathered in neighboring China for the G20 summit, sparking condemnation from Japan and the United States, which blasted them as "reckless". In spite of tough global sanctions, Pyongyang continues to defy the international community's calls for a halt to its weapons program. Those calls were set to intensify later when the 15-member UN Security Council convenes in New York to consider a response to the latest in a series of tests, which has also included the detonation of a nuclear bomb in January.

'Annihilating nuke fire shower'

Despite the global chorus of disapproval, Pyongyang was unrepentant. Kim expressed "great satisfaction over the successful successive firing drill of the ballistic rockets", which showed his military's capability to launch "a preemptive attack on the enemies any time and from any place", KCNA said. The strategic artillery unit was "full of military might" to strike the US and its forces with "annihilating nuclear fire shower", it said.

The North's top newspaper Rodong Sinmun car-

ried nine photos of the test, including one of a beaming Kim standing in front of a map surrounded by smiling officials. Melissa Hanham, an expert on North Korea's weapons program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California, said it was difficult to determine so far if there had been any technical progress. "The most obvious difference from the last test is the change in warhead," Hanham said.

Last month, North Korea fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile from the northeastern port of Sinpo. That flew 500 kilometers towards Japan, far exceeding the range of the country's previous sub-launched missiles. Kim described the August test as the "greatest success" and said it put the US mainland within striking range. The launch was widely condemned by the US and other major powers, but analysts saw it as a clear step forward for North Korea's nuclear strike ambitions. A proven submarine-launched ballistic missile system would allow deployment far beyond the Korean peninsula and a "second-strike" capability in the event of an attack on the North's military bases. — AFP

RUSSIAN LEADER LAYS FLOWERS AT UZBEK STRONGMAN'S GRAVE

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday laid roses at the grave of late Uzbek leader Islam Karimov, whose death last week after 27 years in charge sparked fears of instability in the Central Asian nation. Footage broadcast by Russian state television showed Putin kneeling at Karimov's flower-covered grave in the historic city of Samarkand after he made a detour to ex-Soviet Uzbekistan on his way home from the G20 summit in China. Putin also held talks with Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in a further sign that he is the frontrunner to replace Karimov, who was announced dead at 78 on Friday after a stroke with no clear successor.

Long lambasted by rights groups for brutally crushing dissent, Karimov portrayed himself as a bulwark against radical Islam on the border of Afghanistan and played off Russia, the West and China against each other. But the Russian leader praised Karimov for maintaining "stability" and said Russia would "do everything to support the Uzbek people and the Uzbek leadership." "You can count on us fully, as you can on your most faithful friends," Putin said, according to Interfax news agency.

Mirziyoyev—a Karimov loyalist known as a tough-guy enforcer—told Putin that Uzbekistan's ties with Russia were "completely strategic" and that Tashkent would look to "continue to develop" them, Interfax said. "Your visit today says a lot and we are very grateful to you," Mirziyoyev told Putin, calling it the "shoulder of a real friend" during a "difficult time". Footage also showed

Putin greeting Karimov's black-clad widow Tatyana and younger daughter Lola inside a marble-lined hall before bowing his head in front of a large portrait of the deceased president.

Jihadist fears

Karimov was one of the Communist Party bosses who managed to cling to power after the collapse of the Soviet Union, crushing Islamist groups at home as he imposed his iron-fisted rule. During his time at the helm, he kept the cotton-rich nation of 32 million balanced between Moscow and the West, at one stage hosting a US base for its operation in neighboring Afghanistan. Analysts say that Moscow is keen to see an orderly transfer of power in the impoverished country given fears of the threat from jihadists close to its southern flank and could be hoping to exert more influence over Uzbekistan.

"Russia has always viewed stability on its southern border as a priority and especially so these days because of fears that (the Islamic State group) could exploit a power vacuum," Scott Radnitz, a regional expert at the University of Washington said. The Kremlin could try to draw Uzbekistan closer by offering a better deal for the roughly two million migrant workers from the impoverished country living in Russia or a generous loan, Radnitz said, but ultimately the new leadership is likely to keep treading its own course. "As before, it will not put all its eggs in the Russian basket," he said. — AFP



SAMARKAND: Russian President Vladimir Putin pays his respects at the grave of late Uzbek leader Islam Karimov in the Shaki Zinda cemetery in Samarkand yesterday. — AFP

BUDDHISTS BOO EX-UN CHIEF

SITTWE: Hundreds of Buddhists jeered former UN chief Kofi Annan as he arrived in Myanmar's troubled Rakhine state yesterday to examine a bitter religious conflict that has displaced tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingyas. Annan has been tasked by the de facto leader of Myanmar's new government, Aung San Suu Kyi, to head a commission charged with finding ways to heal wounds in the poor western state. But in a sign of the passions surrounding the issue, protesters turned out as he landed in the state capital Sittwe. Many booed and shouted "No Kofi-led commission" into loudspeakers as they swarmed around his convoy, carrying signs that read, "No to foreigners' biased intervention in our Rakhine State's affairs."

"We want decisions to be made by our own people. I don't want foreigners to make decisions, that is why I am peacefully protesting here," May Phyu said. Rakhine, which borders Bangladesh, has been scarred since 2012 by bouts of communal violence between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and the minority Rohingya Muslim population. Their plight threatens to poison democratic gains in the former army-run country and has damaged Suu Kyi's reputation as a defender of the downtrodden.

More than 100 people have been killed—the majority of them Muslims—while tens of thousands of the stateless Rohingyas have spent the past four years trapped in bleak

displacement camps with limited access to health care and other basic services. The Rohingyas are despised by hardline Buddhists, who say they have no right to citizenship and label them "Bengalis", shorthand for illegal immigrants. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, has disappointed rights groups who accuse her of failing directly to address the plight of the Rohingyas in a sop to Buddhist nationalist sentiment. Last month she asked Annan to lead the advisory commission on solving the state's troubles.

Listen first

The envoy, who has vowed to be impartial, met local Rakhine leaders and civil society groups in Sittwe shortly after his arrival. Recognizing the highly-charged nature of the divisions in the state, he said his advisory commission would listen to all sides. "This first visit is an opportunity to listen and learn from you, the local people," he said, as protesters continued to chant slogans outside the building where he made his brief remarks. The Ghanaian diplomat is also expected to meet Muslim leaders and visit a camp where tens of thousands of Rohingyas languish in poverty. But the region's largest political group, the Arakan National Party, has ruled out meeting the former UN secretary-general and mounted a push in parliament yesterday to disband the commission. — AFP

GLOBAL CHARITY ATTACKED IN WAVE OF VIOLENCE IN KABUL

KABUL: Explosions rang out yesterday during an hours-long attack on an international charity in Kabul, the latest assault in a wave of violence in the Afghan capital that has killed at least 24 people and wounded dozens. The assault on CARE International began late Monday with a massive car bombing, just hours after the Taliban carried out a brazen double

suicide attack near the defense ministry.

A plume of smoke rose over the upscale neighborhood of Shar-e Naw after the raid on the charity, located next to the office of Afghanistan's former intelligence chief Rahmatullah Nabil. It remains unclear which compound was the intended target of the attack, which left piles of rubble and shards of

broken glass strewn across the area. "An armed group launched an attack on what is believed to have been an Afghan government compound located close to the Kabul office of CARE," the charity said, adding that its staff had been safely evacuated.

"The incident continued through the yesterday morning with damages sustained to the CARE compound." The interior ministry said 42 people including 10 foreigners were rescued and added that no one was killed in the attack, revising its earlier toll of one fatality. "Our new investigation shows... only six people were wounded," the ministry said in a statement, adding that all three assailants had been gunned down by Afghan forces.

No militant group has so far claimed responsibility for the raid on the charity, but it comes as the Taliban ramp up their nationwide offensive against the US-backed government. The attack had been preceded by twin Taliban blasts that killed at least 24 people during the city's rush hour on Monday, including high-level officials, and left 91 others wounded. The second of the two explosions struck just as soldiers, policemen and civilians hurried to help the victims of the first blast, which occurred on a bridge near the ministry. High-level defense officials were among those killed, including a young military officer—and further compounding the tragedy, his mother also died as soon as she heard of his death. — AFP



KABUL: Afghan security personnel and residents walk at the site of a car bomb blast that targeted the CARE International compound at Shar-e Naw in Kabul yesterday. — AFP



An aerial view shows the Clock Tower and the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah yesterday. Muslims from across the world have gathered in Makkah for the annual hajj pilgrimage, which is a pillar of Islam. — AFP

COP22 HOST MOROCCO'S MOSQUES GOING...

Continued from Page 1

"The return of the investment made will be based on the energy savings achieved." German development organisation GIZ, which supports the project, describes it as a "win-win" situation that will also raise awareness of renewable and efficient energy in Morocco. "It is based on the idea that Moroccan companies... involved in these mosques will be repaid through savings made by the building manager," says GIZ's Jan-Christoph Kuntze.

All of the technology needed is "already available on the local market," he said, adding that this gave the project the potential to create jobs. "The mosques can play a multiplier role" of raising awareness about the need to save energy and adapt to cleaner sources. King Mohammed VI has pushed a proactive policy of environmental awareness in the northwest African country of nearly 34 million people, 99 percent of whom are Muslim.

Marrakesh will host the next world climate conference, COP22, from Nov 7 to 18. One of the main challenges for Morocco, which hosted COP7 in 2001, is to rat-

ify the Paris Agreement signed last year by 195 countries to fight global warming. COP22 will "highlight the country's commitment to work for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to continue to support developing countries... affected by the impact of climate change", Mohammed said in a speech in June.

The king was behind an ambitious plan launched in 2009 to develop renewables and enable the country bereft of hydrocarbons to support nearly half of its energy needs this way. The ultimate aim is to raise the share of renewable energy to 52 percent of all consumption. Central to this was the opening of Noor I - the first stage of what will be the largest solar power plant in the world - near Ouarzazate on the edge of the Sahara desert. As Morocco counts down to COP22, its people are being exposed more and more to events and initiatives showcasing the country's involvement in protecting the planet. Its "green mosques" project is expected to take center stage in the drive for change being highlighted at the conference. — AFP

BRITISH MP RESIGNS OVER SEX SCANDAL

Continued from Page 1

In a statement to the Mail on Sunday, Vaz attacked the journalists while adding: "I am genuinely sorry for the hurt and distress that has been caused by my actions."

Vaz was filmed and recorded meeting the escorts at a flat he owns near his home in north London last month, according to the report. In one conversation with an escort published in the tabloid and its sister publication

the Daily Mirror, Vaz reportedly offered to buy cocaine for a later date, although he said he would not take any himself. He also asked an escort to bring the party drug poppers with him for their encounter. Vaz has previously said in parliament that he would vote to ban poppers if the drug was proved to be harmful. Vaz, who was born in Yemen to parents from the Indian state of Goa, was first elected to parliament in 1987 for Leicester East in central England. — AFP

OBAMA CANCELS DUTERTE SHOWDOWN

Continued from Page 1

The setback in US-Philippine relations comes at a crucial time in the region, with China seeking to cement control over the contested South China Sea. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have competing claims to parts of the sea, but have watched China expand its presence by building artificial islands in key locations. An international tribunal ruled in July that China's claims to the waters through which \$5 trillion in global shipping trade passes - had no legal basis.

The verdict was widely seen as a sweeping victory for the Philippines, which filed the suit under the previous administration of Benigno Aquino. But China has vowed to

ignore the ruling. The South China Sea issue is expected once again to be discussed at the three days of meetings hosted by ASEAN, which will be attended by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. Leaders of Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, New Zealand and Russia will also be in Vientiane.

Laos is the final Asian visit of Obama's eight-year presidency, during which he has sought to refocus American military, political and economic resources on the region. It is also the first visit by a sitting US president to Laos, which the United States secretly carpet-bombed for nearly a decade in the Vietnam War, killing or injuring tens of thousands of people. Obama on Wednesday announced greater help in clearing the bombs, saying it was a "moral obligation". — AFP

AMIR PARDONS PRISONERS, MAY 'INCLUDE...

Continued from Page 1

Three MPs have already signed the motion, which requires at least 32 lawmakers to sign to force the government to attend the session. The motion calls to hold the session on Sept 22, one week after the long Eid Al-Adha holidays.

MPs Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi, Awdah Al-Awdah and Mohammad Tana have signed the motion initiated by Qudhaibi, who criticized lawmakers who have threatened to grill ministers over the petrol price hike, saying that such threats are election maneuvers. The hike in petrol prices, the first since 1998, went into effect on Sept 1 despite protests by a large number of lawmakers and campaigns by activists on social media.

MPs have demanded that the government should accompany its decision by compensating Kuwaiti citizens by implementing a series of economic reforms that protect citizens from the impact of lifting subsidies to meet the budget deficit. The government has so far ignored the requests, but a measure to appease lawmakers ahead of crucial parliamentary election is not ruled out.

The motion demanded that the emergency session will debate the government's decision to reduce subsidies on

petrol and its impact on citizens and prices in general. It also wants to discuss the reasons that made the government rush with the decision despite an agreement with the Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee to delay the decision until further studies. The motion also wants the session to debate measures adopted by the government in implementing the economic reform package.

But MP Faisal Al-Kandari criticized the motion, saying that the time of negotiations and discussions with the government has gone by and insisted that it was time for action. The lawmaker said that he is determined to file requests to grill ministers over the petrol price hike, claiming that the emergency session is intended to protect the government and more specifically a minister. He did not name him.

A number of lawmakers have already announced their intention to grill at least three ministers immediately after the start of the next parliamentary term in early October. The ministers targeted include those of commerce, finance and health. Kandari said that by raising petrol prices, the government broke a pledge it gave to lawmakers not to rush the decision, adding that questioning the government over this issue is inevitable.

DUBAI KEEPS ROLLING OUT PROJECTS

Continued from Page 1

On the first day of the fair, Nakheel - the developer behind the man-made archipelago of Palm Jumeirah - announced an apartment complex that it says will "dominate" the skyline. Dubai became a magnet for property investments when it opened the sector to foreigners in 2002, standing out in a region that mostly confines freehold ownership to citizens. The value of property surged at breakneck speed until the global financial crisis hit the debt-laden emirate in 2009, sending prices into free-fall.

A recovery led by tourism, trade and transportation pushed prices up again between 2012 and 2014 and stirred fears of yet another bubble, before they headed south again at a slow pace. Prices had dropped by about 15 percent since peaking in mid-2014, according to a report by property consultancy Jones Lang LaSalle. Another consultancy, Cluttons, said prices "continued to soften" across the residential market in the second quarter of 2016, losing an average 2.4 percent.

Cluttons said the average price per square foot now stands

at 1,375 dirhams (\$375), which it said was almost 25 percent below the last "market peak" in the third quarter of 2008. "We see the residential real estate market bottoming out by the end of this year," said John Stevens, managing director of Asteco real estate services. "We've seen some slight decline but certainly we expect the market to be stable," he told AFP.

Transactions amounted to 57 billion dirhams (\$15.5 billion) in the first half, according to official statistics, with Emirati nationals topping the list with deals worth 14.5 billion dirhams. The rest were snapped up by foreigners led by Indian investors, with transactions worth seven billion dirhams, while Saudis and Britons clinched deals totalling four billion dirhams each. "External factors over the years have always affected the appetite from certain countries," said Stevens.

These included the impact of the falling Russian ruble last year and the British pound this year, following the Brexit vote. But interest is still coming from elsewhere. "You've seen interest coming from other marketplaces. Certainly in the past 12 months, we've seen much greater interest from China, for example," said Stevens. — AFP



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Issues

PHONES PROTECTING
SEX WORKERS FROM
POLICE HARASSMENT

By Neha Wadekar

When Fatia, 25, leaves her home to sell sex in the grungy hotels and hastily parked cars of the Ugandan capital, Kampala, she keeps her hand clenched around her phone. After three years, her biggest fear is not violent clients or exposure to HIV, but harassment from Kampala's police. "The police start charging you. They say it (prostitution) is not allowed in the country," Fatia, who declined to give her full name, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview. "Some policemen even use you (for sex). They don't pay you and then still they take you to the station."

If arrested for prostitution, Fatia knows what to do. Call the emergency number for Lady Mermaid's Bureau (LMB) - a sex workers' advocacy organization - and beep once. A representative from the bureau soon arrives at the station to gently remind the police that harassment or bribery of any citizen, even a sex worker, is illegal. If that fails, she may invoke the name of one of Fatia's influential clients to scare the police into releasing her. Gentle persuasion generally works. Ugandan police spokesman Andrew Felix Kaweesi denied systemic police harassment. However, he said instances of misconduct by individual officers was possible. "The police have no policy of harassing the prostitutes on the streets," Kaweesi said. "Those who are victims should report to our professional standards unit ... Absolutely nobody will punish them. We will listen to their complaints and follow it up."

Vulnerable

In Uganda, sex work is illegal and highly stigmatized, making women like Fatia vulnerable to unlawful arrest, rape, bribery, beating and murder, rights groups say. The Indigo Trust, a UK-based foundation under the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, gave Lady Mermaid's Bureau a grant in 2014 to help Ugandan sex workers fight abuse using technology. It has provided around 1,000 sex workers across Uganda with information-loaded digital memory cards so they can use their phones to learn how to protect themselves against violence, HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies.

The material is available in multiple languages, and in written and video format, to maximise the number of women who can access it. "They read them, follow them and do their work safely," said Oliver Musoke, executive director of Lady Mermaid's Bureau and a former sex worker. The cards make it easier to reach larger numbers of women than through face-to-face counselling. "Some women are not open (to meeting us)," said Musoke, who founded the organisation in 2002 to improve sex workers' access to medical, psychological and legal services and to educate them about sexual health and the law. "They can read and take the information for themselves."

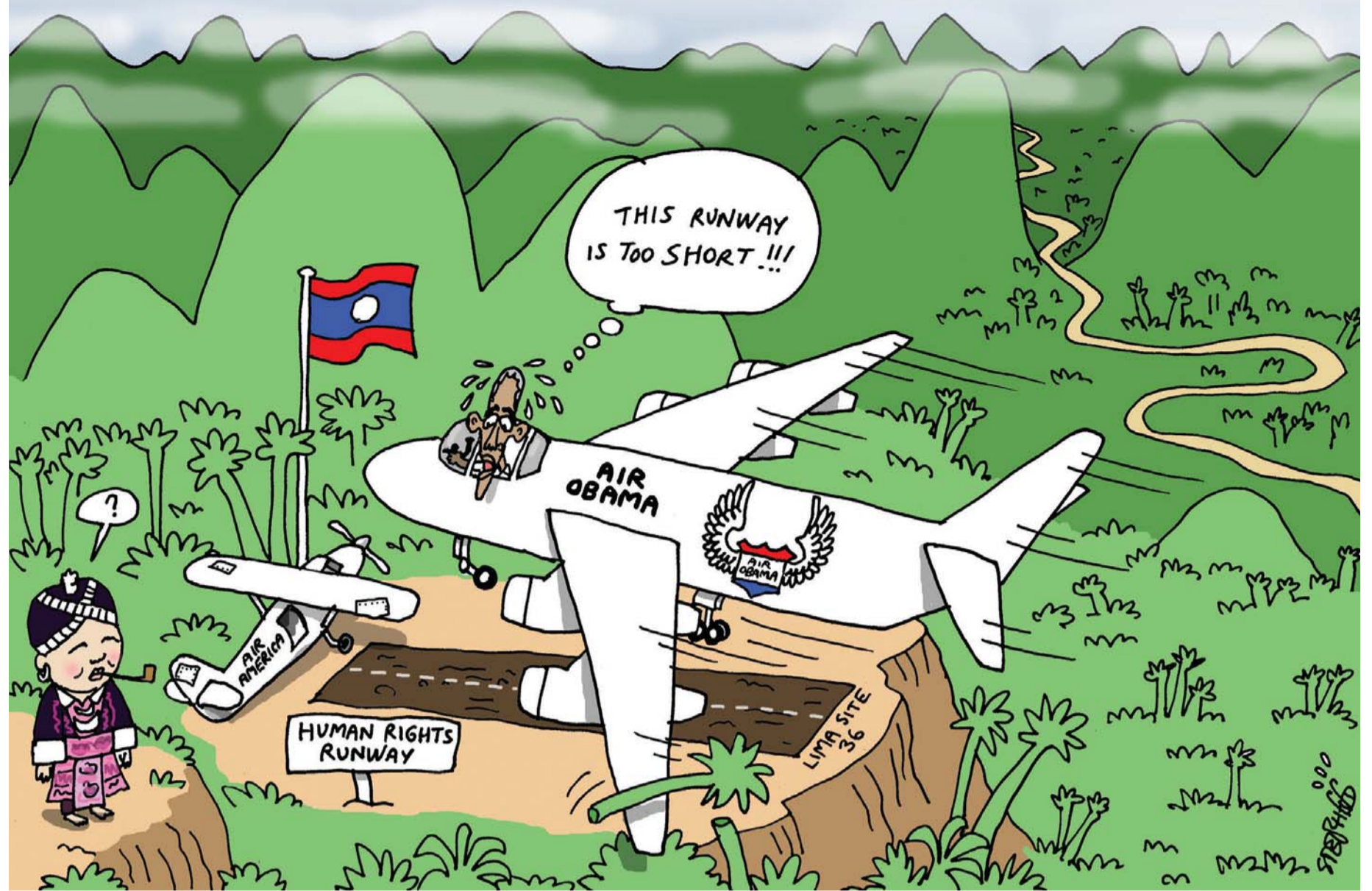
Harassment

The criminalization of sex work in the conservative East African nation makes it difficult for those living on its margins to learn about their rights. Fatia began selling sex hoping to save her earnings for a year and go into business, selling baby clothes. But she continues to work the streets because she cannot earn enough to escape. Most days she gets one or two clients; some days, none. "When you use protection, they give you very little money," she said. "It's not a good job at all."

Anyone who engages in prostitution is liable to seven years in jail, according to Uganda's 1950 Penal Code. The Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity, Simon Lokodo, a former Catholic priest, has vowed to crack down on both sex workers and their clients. But it is largely poor women who are targeted. "Harassment occurs any time because sex work is illegal," said Daisy Nakato Namakula, a former sex worker who heads the Women's Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA), which promotes sex workers' rights. WONETHA has received 85 reports of sex workers being arrested and harassed by the police since January, but says many more cases go undocumented.

Officers sometimes threaten to publish sex workers' faces in the media and refuse to allow those with HIV/AIDS who are arrested to be brought their medication, Namakula said. Ugandan police spokesman Kaweesi denied these allegations. "(All) suspects have full rights of access to their relatives, access to medical attention, access to meals," he said. Musoke of Lady Mermaid's Bureau, which has worked with more than 12,000 sex workers across Uganda, believes she is slowly changing Ugandans' attitudes. One policeman recently asked for a memory card to learn more about the situation of sex workers in the community, LMB reported. "I have passed through that life," Musoke said. "I know their problems... That's why I decided to create (Lady Mermaid's Bureau), to let them know that they are also human." —Reuters

OBAMA IN LAOS



DEAD KASHMIR REBEL BECOMES WHAT INDIA FEARED

By Tim Sullivan

Go to the villages of south Kashmir and they'll tell you stories about Burhan Wani, the militant commander shot by security forces as he tried to escape through the backdoor of an isolated hideout. They say Wani would slip out of the forests sometimes just to visit, a 22-year-old with an AK-47 and an easy way of talking that made him so different from earlier generations of Kashmir's insurgents. They say he'd play cricket with village boys, and visit orphanages. They say he'd pay for the weddings of poor young women.

In the weeks since Wani was killed on July 8, the stories have grown into such a mythology - the polite teenager who left home to become a Himalayan Robin Hood, the powerful insurgent commander who remained a man of peace - that it's no longer clear how many are true. But in death, Wani has become something that India has long feared: a homegrown militant openly lionized across the embattled region, a powerful symbol against Indian rule who has united Kashmir's many factions. Today, rock-throwing high school students paint his name on shuttered storefronts - "BURHAN OUR HERO" - while everyone from fearsome insurgents to moderate politicians mourn him.

Wani had already rejuvenated Hizbul Mujahideen, the largest of Kashmir's militant groups, attracting dozens of new recruits with postings on Facebook and other social media sites. Young, handsome and charismatic, he looked more like a college student than a gunman. He sometimes posted photos of himself in the forests, a smile on his face and an assault rifle in his hands. If he was more a savvy recruiter than a menacing fighter, that only made him more popular.

But his killing, and the public fury it set off, now threaten to give new life to a Kashmiri militant movement that had withered in recent years, reduced to just a couple hundred fighters in scattered rebel outfits. Wani's death sent tens of thousands of protesters into Kashmir's cities and villages, beginning a cycle of protest-and-crackdown that has left more than 70 civilians dead - most killed by government forces - and thousands injured. Strikes, curfews and intermittent communications blackouts have effectively shuttered the region for more than seven weeks.

Militancy

It has also helped make the militancy, which had once been at the extreme end of the Kashmiri independence movement, into something mainstream. Villagers, who had learned long ago to hide any sympathy they felt for fighters, now speak of them openly with reverence and warmth. Wani has become the face of the militants' cause. "He was a good man, a gentle man," said Abdul Majeed, a farmer and elder in the village of Shaar-i-Shalli. "That's why people cared about him."

Late one night in mid-August, Indian soldiers had forced their way into dozens of homes in Shaar-i-Shalli, driving dozens of men into the town square. Over the next five hours, they beat the men

Kashmir has been at the center of the conflict between India and Pakistan since they became independent in 1947. The Himalayan region is divided between the two countries, though both claim it in its entirety.

Militants have been fighting since the late 1980s for independence for Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in India, or its merger with overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan. At its height, in the 1990s and early 2000s, a seemingly never-ending series of bloody insurgent attacks and brutal crackdowns by Indian security forces had given Kashmir the feel of an occupied state, a place of informers, torture centers and soldiers on nearly every corner. The attacks of Sept 11, 2001, and sub-

real estate prices and increasing wealth (fed, in part, by Kashmiris working elsewhere in India or abroad). It's a place where you can buy high-end electronics or go shopping at Babelicious Fashions, but where you rarely go more than a few minutes without passing a heavily armed soldier or an armored military vehicle.

Increasingly, many Kashmiris see the recent uprisings as unsuccessful. "In 2008 there were non-violent protests, and no change. Then after the 2010 protests what happened? Nothing at all," said a young protest leader who identified himself only as Mohammed, and who hinted at ties to Hizbul Mujahideen, saying he could find a Hizbul fighter "in a few minutes" if he wanted. "This generation grew up with the idea of nonviolence, no guns. But we got nothing" from that, he continued. "What can we do but take up the gun?" While Wani's killing sparked the current wave of unrest, it has also been fed by widespread unemployment, especially among young people, and political frustration. Most Muslim Kashmiris have been deeply distrustful of state politics since 2014, when a local political party vaulted itself to power by forming an alliance with the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which has long advocated a hard-line response to any call for increased Kashmiri autonomy.

The latest protests, and the open support for insurgents, deeply worry India's security establishment, which can no longer say the militant movement is a Pakistani creation. The uprising has also gone on far longer than security officials expected. While most hope it will begin to fade after the upcoming Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha, some worry it could last until the winter cold hits the region in November or December.

A high-ranking Indian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to talk openly, worries that the brutality of India's clampdowns, and its ineptness with such basic concerns as traffic enforcement and criminal investigations, have left Kashmiris with no trust at all in the government. Instead, the public ends up glorifying men like Wani, and the stone-throwing teenagers. They are young men with nicknames like "Bunker," for his courage in attacking armored cars, which are often called bunkers, or "Discovery," who acts as a scout for stone-throwers. "This generation, it's like gunpowder ready to explode," the official said. "When you make boys like this into heroes, then you have a big problem." —AP



In this July 9, 2016 photo, Kashmiri villagers carry the body of Burhan Wani, chief of operations of Indian Kashmir's largest rebel group Hizbul Mujahideen, during his funeral procession in Tral, some 38 km south of Srinagar. —AP

so brutally that one villager died and a general was forced to apologize. The soldiers, military officials later said, were offended that village elders had not wanted to meet with them. On a recent morning, Majeed and more than a dozen other men from the village crowded into the home of the dead man - Shabir Ahmed Mangoo had been a literature teacher at a nearby college, and his wife had just had their first baby - to talk about what had happened. A scowling young man also named Shabir Ahmed (many men in the village share the same name) suddenly interrupted Majeed. He had jet black hair and a long beard, and could barely control his fury. "People used to be afraid to say that they support the militants. But with the death of Burhan we have overcome that fear," he said.

sequent US pressure on Pakistan to rein in militants based there, were a major setback for the insurgent movement. Indian security forces largely crushed the militancy after that, though popular demands for "azadi" - freedom - remained deeply ingrained in Kashmiri culture. In the last decade the calls for freedom have shifted to unarmed uprisings, with tens of thousands of civilians repeatedly taking to the streets to protest Indian rule, often leading to street battles between rock-throwing residents and Indian troops. Immense protests, some lasting for months, shook Kashmir in 2008 and 2010.

Contradictions

Today's Kashmir is an often-contradictory place where bloody clashes mingle with skyrocketing

HOMS' WAR-RAVAGED ANCIENT MARKET REEMERGES

By Maher Al Mounes

In the heart of the Syrian city of Homs, workers clear rubble and clean the blackened walls of the war-ravaged old market in a bid to restore its former glory. Much of Homs lay in ruins when its Old City was recaptured from rebels by government troops in 2014 after a two-year siege and near-daily bombardment. Now a UN-backed project is trying to restore the ancient souk, or market, in the central city, dubbed the "capital of the revolution" because of the enormous anti-regime protests that erupted there five years ago.

Near Clock Square, where the frontline ran during the fighting, engineers inspect leaking pipes with electrical wires dangling overhead. Built in the 13th century under the Ayyubid dynasty founded by legendary Muslim ruler Saladin, the market was further developed during the Mamlouk era and Ottoman rule. It was seized by rebels in 2012, and retaken by the army in 2014, under a deal which saw opposition forces quit Homs and calm return to most of the city. "The armed men used it as a transit point more than a battlefield, which is why the souk isn't more badly damaged," an official from the local governorate told AFP.

Homs's souk is similar to the famed ancient markets of Damascus and Aleppo, though much smaller, with around 1,000 shops, according to Maamoum Abdulkarim, director of Syria's antiquities department. It is just one of many historic

sites in Syria that have been damaged or destroyed in the conflict that has killed more than 290,000 people and displaced over half the population.

A 'Champs-Elysees'

The majority of the souk's shops are abandoned for now, with some missing locks or doors, while the walls of others have been blackened by fire or pockmarked by shrapnel or bullets. "Forty years ago, it was the equivalent of the Champs-Elysees for a small town. You could find everyone there. It was where you found all those who specialised... in wood, copper, silver, fabric merchants, perfume sellers," recalled Anis Nacrou, the former

EU representative in Damascus, who is originally from Homs. "In the evening, coming back from school, we'd pass through just to breathe the air, especially as there were excellent sweet shops and delicious fresh fruit juice stands," Nacrou told AFP. "We'd go in a group or with family to see and be seen," the French diplomat said. Now though, some of the market's alleyways are blocked with rubble, and in others weeds are pushing up through the destroyed pavement.

Ghassan Jansiz, a 44-year-old architect, is supervising the work being undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme, and estimates the project will take around two years. He says there are four steps involved: "Cleaning, documen-

tation, renovation and reconstruction." "We're still in the first stage," he told AFP. "Removing the rubble is a dangerous process. We've found bombs and explosives," he explained. "We are trying to restore the souk to how it was 100 years ago, and the cost is expected to be several hundred thousand dollars." At the moment, around 70 people are working on the project, which envisions the installation of four main gates, the restoration of 200 shops, and the documentation of the history of the site.

'A Real Challenge'

Some businesses have already reopened, eager to resume trade in the ancient market. "I just got my 200th customer" since reopening, said chocolate seller Abdel Salam Salqini with a smile, as he piled up his wares. "I reopened in April and you can't imagine my delight when I saw my old clients coming back from Beirut, Damascus and Tartous," he told AFP. "They came when they heard I was back in business," added Salqini, who inherited the chocolate shop from his father. "I used to have 11 employees, but now it's just me," he said, admitting that he was only seeing two or three customers a day. "Every holiday, I would come to town to buy chocolate from him," said one customer, Um Mamoum, greeting Salqini warmly. "But I hadn't done so since the beginning of the war." Abdulkarim hopes to see the souk fully restored. "This is an important project for a town that has had a key role from Roman times through to the Ottoman era," he said. "Saving the souk of Homs will be a real challenge." —AFP



A picture taken on Aug 14, 2016 shows Syrian men walking in an alley at the ancient market in the heart of the mostly government-controlled Syrian city of Homs. —AFP

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SLUMPING ANA IVANOVIC SHUTS DOWN 2016 SEASON

NEW YORK: Slumping former world number one Ana Ivanovic shut down her 2016 season yesterday after an injury-hit campaign ended with a first round loss at the US Open. The 2008 French Open champion said she had taken the decision to stop playing until 2017 on medical advice. "Unfortunately due to my recurring wrist injury, I have been advised by my doctor to take some time off court in order to recover and regain my full strength," the 28-year-old Serb said in a statement. "I have also been delaying surgery on my toe which I broke at the Australian Open last year and this is something I will need to take care of in the coming weeks. As a result, I am sad to say that I will not be able to continue this season. I had to make this difficult decision so that I can fully recover and play injury-free next year." Ivanovic lost 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 to Denisa Allertova of the Czech Republic at the US Open last week in what was her fourth successive defeat. He last win was in Mallorca in June with her form since that time hampered by her wrist injury. — AFP

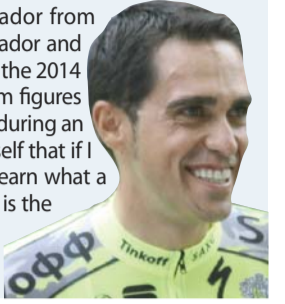


HORTELANO STABLE AFTER HAND OPERATION

MADRID: Spanish athlete Bruno Hortelano is in stable condition after undergoing a three-hour operation in a Madrid hospital to reconstruct his right hand following a car accident. Hortelano, the 200 metre gold medalist at the European Championships in Amsterdam in July, was in the passenger's seat at the time of Monday's accident and suffered severe damage to his right hand. "Bruno is stable considering the severity of the injury but after the first operation, we are very happy," Hortelano's agent Alberto Armas told reporters. "The operation lasted around three hours. Once progress is made, a second operation will need to be done. The hand was the most affected area and it has been reconstructed. The little finger is the only one that hasn't been fully reconstructed. It's too early to make a full evaluation but he is in good spirits. The important thing now is that his hand does not get infected." The 24-year-old Hortelano went to the Rio Olympics but failed to qualify for the 200 metres final. — Reuters

CONTADOR PREDICTS QUINTANA'S TRIUMPH

MADRID: Three-time Vuelta winner Alberto Contador expects Colombian rider Nairo Quintana to win his first Tour of Spain in Madrid on Sunday. Movistar Team rider Quintana holds an advantage of three minutes and 37 seconds over nearest rival, Tour de France winner Chris Froome with five stages remaining, including Friday's individual time trial. "Unless Quintana has a bad day, he is the winner of La Vuelta," Contador told Spanish radio Cadena Ser. Contador is fourth in the general standings, four minutes and two seconds behind Quintana. Five seconds separate Contador from third-placed Johan Esteban Chaves of Colombia. To beat Contador and win La Vuelta would be a significant achievement for Quintana, the 2014 Giro d'Italia champion. "I've had to learn a lot very quickly from figures like Contador," Quintana told Marca. "I followed his movements during an epic stage of his at Fuente De (four years ago) and I said to myself that if I wanted to be someone important in cycling, I would have to learn what a rider like Contador did. There is still some way to go." Tuesday is the second rest day of La Vuelta before the riders go on a 117.5km ride from Castellon to Lucena today. — Reuters



GATLAND SET TO STEP INTO THE LIONS' DEN AGAIN

LONDON: Warren Gatland will face arguably the toughest challenge of his career should he be appointed coach for the 2017 British and Irish Lions tour of New Zealand.

The combined side, made up of the best players, from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, are due to name their coach at a press conference in Edinburgh today, with New Zealander Gatland set to be put in charge for a three-Test against the All Blacks in June and July next year.

Wales boss Gatland, who has also coached Ireland and English Premiership side Wasps, as well as New Zealand's Waikato, after a playing career that saw the hooker appear for the All Blacks without winning a Test cap, guided the Lions to a 2-1 series win in Australia on their last tour in 2013. That success ended the Lions' run of three straight series defeats. The Lions, however, have won just one series in New Zealand, back in 1971, and there is a widespread belief that whoever is appointed coach for the 2017 tour faces rugby union's equivalent of mission impossible.

Next year, the Lions' first match in New Zealand takes place early in June, just a week after the English Premiership and Celtic League finals. With many potential squad members set to be involved in those matches, the Lions coach will have reduced preparation time with key players prior to the Tests. Mark McCall, director of rugby at English Premiership champions Saracens, has labelled the Lions' schedule "ludicrous" and concerns over their fixture programme are compounded by the knowledge they will be up against a superb All Blacks team, even by the exacting standards of New Zealand rugby union.

'RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB'

The world champions recently saw off Gatland's Wales 3-0 in a three-Test series in New Zealand. But Wales' performance looked positively encouraging after the All Blacks subsequently overpowered

Australia, a team that gave them a scare in last year's World Cup final, 42-8 and 29-9 to win the Bledisloe Cup. With the contracts of Ireland coach Joe Schmidt and England's Eddie Jones whose Six Nations Grand Slam champions are set to be well-represented in New Zealand-not allowing for secondment to the Lions, officials appeared to have opted for Gatland over Scotland's Vern Cotter without much hesitation.

Ian McGeechan, who had the 52-year-old Gatland as his assistant when coaching the 2009 Lions in South Africa, was in no doubt his former deputy should be in charge next year.

"He (Gatland) will be named as the head coach today and I think he is undoubtedly the right man for the job," McGeechan wrote in his Sunday Telegraph column.

"Gatland will have some tremendous players at his disposal...If they can have a real clarity of thinking in their game plan they can challenge New Zealand.

"All this talk about the players being smashed because they have to play 10 games is misleading. Not every player will play in every game." Since Gatland took charge of Wales in 2008, they have won just two out of 33 Tests against the 'big three' of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

That has led to accusations that Gatland, who has led Wales to two Grand Slams, is too reliant on a limited tactical game plan built on a rush defence.

But former England and Lions fly-half Stuart Barnes, writing in The Times, said: "I remember talking to Paul O'Connell about the Kiwi Welshman and his methods.

"The Irish great rated him an ideal Lions coach; a half hour with Gatland and the team knew their game plan. With time at a premium, short-hand coaching is as crucial as previous Lions experience." Barnes also highlighted Gatland's "guts" in dropping Ireland great Brian O'Driscoll for the 2013 series-decider in Australia, saying it proved he can "handle the pressure that comes with being a Lions coach". — AFP



NORTON: Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, walks on to the 18th green during the final round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Monday. — AP

RORY MCILROY ENDS DROUGHT WITH DEUTSCHE BANK CROWN

BOSTON: Rory McIlroy shot a superb six-under-par 65 to end his 16-month PGA Tour title drought with victory in the Deutsche Bank Championship on Monday. The Northern Ireland star laid the foundations for a two-stroke victory over England's Paul Casey with a bewitching front nine performance, sinking five birdies to be five under at the turn.

Two more birdies and a bogey on the back nine at TPC Boston sealed a deserved win for the 27-year-old, whose last win on the PGA Tour came at the Wells Fargo Championship in May 2015. The win earned McIlroy another \$1.53 million and will see him move up to third in the next set of world rankings. It also catapulted him from 38th to fourth place in the standings for the lucrative FedExCup post-season series.

The win completed a remarkable turnaround for McIlroy, who had got off to a disastrous start in his opening round on Friday to be four over par after his first three holes.

"It's amazing in this game how things can change so quickly," McIlroy said. "From three holes in - four over par - there were a lot of

things going through my mind, and one of them was not winning this tournament," he added. "So 69 holes later - I played some great golf and holed some great putts.

"I'm just really proud of myself, how I hung in there on the first day and then got some momentum on Saturday. Then I just went with it. It's nice to get that first win in the States this year and hopefully I can take this momentum into the next couple of weeks and ultimately the Ryder Cup."

WILTING ROSE

Third round leader Casey had begun the day three shots clear, but saw his challenge unravel after posting four bogeys in a two-over-par 73 to finish second.

PGA champion Jimmy Walker finished three adrift of McIlroy after shooting a 70. Australia's world number six Adam Scott was alone in fourth place after a six-under-par 65, but had left himself too much work to do to challenge for the lead.

Patrick Reed, James Hahn and Argentina's

Fabian Gomez all tied for fifth place, 10 under for the tournament, five behind McIlroy. US Open champion and world number two Dustin Johnson recovered from his disastrous third round 75 with a 66 to claim a share of eighth place with six others players at nine under.

World number one Jason Day finished with a closing 67 in a six-way tie for 15th at eight under. Meanwhile Olympic champion Justin Rose who had started the day level with McIlroy on nine under-endured a miserable day at the office, plummeting down the leaderboard after an eight-over-par 79. Rose's round collapsed on the back nine, when two triple bogeys left him in a tie for 57th place.

McIlroy meanwhile was left hoping Monday's win was an omen. His last victory at the Deutsche Bank in 2012 was followed by another win at the BMW Championship at Crooked Stick, Indiana-the same venue for this year's tournament. "It's funny, four years on, and I win here, and going back to Indy where I have great memories from four years ago," McIlroy said. "I just had positive vibes going in there." — AFP



Warren Gatland

BRIEFS

Thomas Bach to miss Paralympics ceremony

RIO DE JANEIRO: IOC President Thomas Bach will miss today's opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games in order to attend a state event in Germany. The International Olympic Committee said yesterday that Bach would attend the official state mourning ceremony today for Walter Scheel, the former West Germany president. Bach has named IOC member Sam Ramsamy of South Africa to represent him at the opening ceremony at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Biles to release autobiography

GRAND RAPIDS: Four-time Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles is ready to tell the full story behind her rise from prodigy to champion. Biles, who won five medals overall at the 2016 Olympics, will release her autobiography "Courage to Soar" on Nov. 15. The book will reveal "how challenges in her childhood have shaped her into the young woman and role model she is today. She shares the ups and downs of her life, insights into her positive mental approach, and her inspiring journey to the pinnacle of her sport." The 19-year-old Biles is one of the most decorated American female gymnasts of all time, with 14 world championship medals to go along with her haul in Rio. She is taking a break from competition before deciding whether to make a push toward the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. The book includes a forward from 1984 Olympic champion Mary Lou Retton.

Juventus fail in multimillion appeal

MILAN: A Rome court yesterday rejected a 444-million-euro lawsuit by Italian champi-

ons Juventus over damages suffered by the loss of their 2006 Serie A title and consequent demotion to Serie B. Juventus were handed the sanctions following their role in the "Calciopoli" match-fixing affair which rocked the world of football in the weeks leading up to the 2006 World Cup, won by Italy. Although one of five clubs involved in the scandal, Juventus were handed the stiffest punishment after police wiretaps caught Juventus official Luciano Moggi influencing the selection of supposedly partial match referees. Juventus, then coached by Fabio Capello, were stripped of the 2005 and 2006 league titles and demoted to Italy's second division. Italian media reports did not say why the club only appealed its 2006 title loss. Juventus, detailing loss of income and damage to the club's reputation, cited the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) in its appeal to the TAR (Administrative Regional Tribunal), a court with powers to rule on such appeals.

Eriksen signs new Tottenham contract

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Christian Eriksen has signed a four-year contract extension, the Premier League club announced yesterday. Eriksen had been in negotiations with Tottenham since early last season and those talks have finally yielded an extended deal worth a reported £75,000 per week (\$100,000, 90,000 euros). The 24-year-old had been linked with Manchester United, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus while the discussions dragged on. But Denmark international Eriksen, signed from Dutch club Ajax in August 2013, admitted he was relieved to have committed his future to the north London team.

TIETJENS RETIRES AFTER 22 YEARS AS NZ SEVENS COACH

WELLINGTON: Gordon Tietjens is retiring as New Zealand's rugby sevens coach after 22 years during which he played a major role in the development of a sport which made its Olympics debut this year.

The 60-year-old Tietjens told a news conference yesterday it was time for someone with new ideas to take charge of the New Zealand team. His retirement follows New Zealand's unsuccessful campaign at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. New Zealand was widely considered as a strong medal chance but lost its opening match to Japan before being eliminated by gold medalist Fiji in the quarterfinals.

While New Zealand, under Tietjens, has won the Sevens World Series 12 times since its inception in 1999, it has not won the title for the past two years. Tietjens also coached New Zealand to four Commonwealth Games gold medals and is credited with spotting and developing a number of top players, including the All Blacks greats Jonah Lomu and Christian Cullen.

He received a New Zealand knighthood for his services to rugby in 2013 and was the first sevens coach to be inducted into the International Rugby Board's hall of fame. But he struggled to maintain his record of success in recent seasons as international sevens became more competitive. Fiji focused its resources on the sevens program, aiming for its first Olympic medal, under English coach Ben Ryan. And nations which had previously taken the sport lightly began to devote more resources to its development after it became an Olympic sport.

Tietjens was also left to cope with a dwin-



Gordon Tietjens

ding supply of players in New Zealand as many top players shunned the game to concentrate on their 15s international or Super Rugby careers. The prospect of an Olympics was thought likely to lure leading players back to sevens but Sonny Bill Williams and Liam Messam were the only All Blacks to commit to the Olympic campaign.

Tietjens has been a significantly influential figure in the evolution of world sevens and many other coaches have copied his tactics and training methods. But it was also clear in the last two years that the game has continued to evolve

beyond him.

His concentration in recent seasons on size over pace has not been effective and was part of the reason for New Zealand's failure at Rio de Janeiro. Tietjens still sees the Olympics as the high point of his coaching reign. "That was the pinnacle of my career," he said. "I was certainly going to consider retiring after then. I had probably done my time and it was time for someone else to come through.

"It has been a great, great journey obviously with a lot of success along the way and a lot of great, enjoyable times." — AP

DE VILLIERS BACK FROM INJURY TO FACE AUSTRALIA

CAPE TOWN: South Africa's talismanic captain AB de Villiers has recovered from injury and been included in the Proteas squad for the one-day series at home against Australia starting later this month.

De Villiers missed the recent two-test series with New Zealand due to an elbow problem, but is on track to be fit for the five-match series against Australia, Cricket South Africa said yesterday.

Seamer Andile Phehlukwayo has

received his first call-up to the 50-over squad for the series, while fast bowler Dale Steyn and hard-hitting middle-order batsman David Miller return after missing the triangular series in the Caribbean against Australia and West Indies in June.

Morne Morkel and Rilee Roussouw were not considered due to injury and lack of match fitness respectively. "Andile was our leading wicket-taker for South Africa A in the recently concluded quadrangular

series in Australia," convenor of selectors Linda Zondi said in a statement from CSA.

"He has been knocking on the door for some time following his strong performances in last season's (domestic) One-Day Cup." South Africa play a one-off ODI against Ireland on Sept. 25 in Benoni ahead of the Australia series, with test batsman Temba Bavuma and uncapped all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius included in the squad for that game only.

"As far as Temba Bavuma is concerned we want to see what he can do in the ODI format after the extremely successful run he has had in the test squad where he has averaged 66 during the current calendar year," Zondi said. The series with Australia gets under way on Sept. 30 in Centurion and finishes Oct. 12 in Cape Town.

Squad to play Ireland: AB de Villiers (captain), Temba Bavuma, Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, JP Duminy, Faf du Plessis,

David Miller, Chris Morris, Wayne Parnell, Aaron Phangiso, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada.

Squad to play Australia: AB de Villiers (captain), Kyle Abbott, Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, JP Duminy, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, David Miller, Chris Morris, Wayne Parnell, Aaron Phangiso, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Dale Steyn. — Reuters

AHMED GRATEFUL FOR MISBAH INSPIRATION

LONDON: Sarfraz Ahmed hopes to put the lessons he has learnt from playing under the "inspirational" Misbah-ul-Haq to good use when he leads Pakistan in their Twenty20 international against England at Old Trafford. The match will be the wicket-keeper/batsman's first in charge since he was appointed Twenty20 captain five months ago after Pakistan's early exit from the World Twenty20 in India where England reached the final only to lose to the West Indies in a last-over thriller.

The 29-year-old Ahmed has been one of the Pakistan's standout performers in both Test and one-day cricket during their tour of England. He led the way with a fine innings of 90 as Pakistan gained a consolation win in the fifth ODI in Cardiff on Sunday, although England still took the five-match series 4-1.

It was a much closer contest during the preceding four-Test campaign, with Pakistan coming from 2-1 behind to finish all square at 2-2. Victory in Manchester today would see Pakistan finish their tour with a flourish, even if England have already wrapped up the multi-format Super Series. "I am really excited about the captaincy," Ahmed told an Old Trafford news conference yesterday.

"Representing the country is a big achievement, but I am really excited to lead. I am trying to lead everything and to play positive cricket and win tomorrow." Under Misbah, who no longer plays white-ball cricket, Pakistan have risen to the top of the world Test rankings.

But it has been a different story in ODIs where, with top-order batsman Azhar Ali as their skipper, Pakistan are a lowly ninth in the standings and in danger of failing to qualify automatically for the 2019 World Cup in England. Ahmed, a mainstay in all three international formats, was heartened by Pakistan's performance in Cardiff.

The Test team is very settled—they have played six years together," he said.

"After the World Cup, we are trying to develop a new ODI team and the morale is high after Cardiff. "It's a positive thing for us to win from 4-0 down—a great achievement chasing 300 outside of Asia.

"We are very confident. We are trying to develop a new team with youngsters and play Twenty20 like England and Australia."

In the meantime Ahmed will try to follow in the footsteps of Misbah, widely praised for uniting a Pakistan side who have not played a Test series in their own country since an armed attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore in 2009. "I think Misbah is an inspiration for all the team - he inspired me," he said. "I have developed something from him and will try my best." Whatever the result of Wednesday's match, the tour has already seen an enterprising Pakistan side do much to restore a reputation damaged in the eyes of both their own fans and England supporters by the spot-fixing controversy that blighted their last visit in 2010.

"We have enjoyed this tour and found people have been welcoming," said Ahmed. "We hope we win the match and end on a high note." — AFP



Kevin Pietersen

PIETERSEN WARNS MORGAN AGAINST BANGLADESH NO-SHOW

LONDON: Former England captain Kevin Pietersen has told current limited-overs skipper Eoin Morgan he will be putting his international future in jeopardy if he opts out of the upcoming tour of Bangladesh.

The future of the tour was in the balance after an attack on a Dhaka cafe in July saw 20 — mostly foreign-hostages killed, with the Islamic State group claiming responsibility.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said last month that the tour, which includes three one-day international and two Test match fixtures in October and November, would go ahead as planned.

The confirmation followed a visit to Bangladesh by an ECB delegation led by their long-serving security chief Reg Dickason.

England coach Trevor Bayliss has confirmed he has no qualms about touring Bangladesh, although Moeen Ali is the only England player to so far state publicly, and without qualification, that he will go if selected.

However, reports in the British press have suggested Test skipper Alastair Cook, who no

longer plays white-ball cricket for England, will travel to Bangladesh as well.

"Eoin Morgan has no choice but to go to Bangladesh," Pietersen explained in his Daily Telegraph column published yesterday.

"It is a case of one in, all in so if he does not go he will have a red cross next to his name as far as the bosses at the England and Wales Cricket Board are concerned," added Pietersen, England's captain when they continued with their 2008 tour of India following the Mumbai terror attacks. Morgan, speaking last week, denied he was "reluctant" to tour, with the Irishman saying: "I think when so much information is thrown at you within two months of a terrorist attack you need to digest everything and be settled within yourself so you can go there and concentrate on cricket."

'HAUNT HIM'

But Pietersen, whose brilliant career as an England batsman ended following the fall-out from the team's 5-0 Ashes thrashing in Australia in 2013/14 following several run-ins with coach-

ing staff and officials, said the ECB would not take kindly to their security advice being rejected by a senior player.

"When Alastair Cook is willing to lead the Test squad it puts huge pressure on Eoin as captain of the one-day team. He may still decide not to make the trip, and it is his right to take that personal choice, but it will be held against him at some stage in the future, despite any assurances to the contrary. "When everyone else says they are willing to go why do you think you are more important than the others? That will be the unsaid message. "People at Lord's have long memories. They will not forget that he went against their advice and refused to captain England on a tour. It might not damage his standing with fellow players but it certainly would with the hierarchy in St John's Wood.

"When the going gets tough for him in the future, with the team losing, or a run of personal low scores, then he will find that the loyalty from his bosses will not be the same because he went against them. "That is just the way it is. In the end it will come back to haunt him." — AFP



Sarfraz Ahmed

FORMER ENGLAND BOSS MOORES NEW NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COACH

LONDON: Former England boss Peter Moores has been appointed head coach at Nottinghamshire, the struggling English county announced yesterday.

Moores, who has been a consultant to the Trent Bridge club since July 2015, will take up the newly-created position on October 1 after signing a three-year deal with the Midlands side.

He will take over the daily running of the 1st XI from Mick Newell, who will now broaden his remit while continuing as Nottinghamshire's director of cricket.

Moores, 53, had two spells as England coach, from 2007 to 2009 and again from 2014 to 2015. The first ended the fall-out from Kevin Pietersen's resignation as England captain and the second following the team's embarrassing first-round exit, sealed with a defeat by Bangladesh in Perth, at last year's 50-over World Cup.

However, Moores—who was also the director of the England and Wales Cricket Board's National Academy for two years from 2005 — is well respected at domestic level after guiding both Sussex (2003) and Lancashire (2011) to the first-class County Championship title.

"To be offered the chance to become head coach of a club like Notts, at a venue as special as Trent Bridge, is a terrific honour," said Moores in a club statement.

"Working with cricketers one-to-one for the last year has been an ideal way to get me back in to county cricket, and it means I already know this group of players very well, which will give me a head

start in some ways.

"The passion for being a head coach again is there and the club has the ambition to be competing for trophies across all three formats of the game, so it's a fantastic opportunity," added the former Sussex wicket-keeper.

Nottinghamshire appear destined for relegation from the First Division of the County Championship but Moores has decided to stay at Trent Bridge rather than make a bid for the upcoming vacancy at county champions Yorkshire, whose coach, Jason Gillespie, will return to his native Australia at the end of the season.

Newell, a former Nottinghamshire batsman, has been in charge of the club's 1st XI since 2002 and guided the side to County Championship titles in 2005 and 2010. "Having a director of cricket and head coach working in partnership is something that's happening a lot in county cricket, and we feel the time is now right to introduce it at Notts," added Newell, who is also an England selector.

"Peter will run the professional squad his way, he'll pick the team and we'll now work closely together in reviewing everything we do in relation to our playing and coaching, to ensure that we're ready to bounce back strongly from what's been a disappointing season. "It's also vitally important that we work on our player pathway, ensuring that we're doing everything right to develop our professional and international players of the future." — AFP

UNDER-PRESSURE GUPTILL GIVEN PASSAGE TO INDIA

WELLINGTON: The faith that Martin Guptill will eventually transfer his limited overs mastery into the test arena has granted the embattled opener yet another reprieve but the patience of New Zealand's truest believers may finally be wearing thin.

The 29-year-old was retained in the 15-man squad named yesterday for the tour of India despite bringing scores of 7, 8 and 0 from the test series defeat in South Africa. Selectors have long ignored the calls of media pundits to cast Guptill aside and again backed the batsman to blossom against the red ball in the subcontinent. "Guppy has experience in subcontinent conditions and we still believe if he plays his natural game and transfers that white ball style across to tests he can be a very successful test match cricketer," selector Gavin Larsen told local media. But Larsen's encouragement was tempered by an explicit

warning that the batsman's place remains on shaky ground. "He's got three very big tests in front of him," he added. "The reality is this is a really important test series for Martin, his numbers are down, but we do believe this is an environment in which Martin Guptill can prosper." Averaging 29.59 in 44 tests since his 2009 debut, Guptill has not been short of chances and clawed his way back into the team last year after a two-year absence. His continuing dominance in the shorter formats, meanwhile, has only exacerbated frustrations. His past 12 innings in one-day cricket has produced two hundreds and five half-centuries but the swashbuckling confidence and clean hitting has evaporated when facing the red ball.

"For a period of time now, Martin's brief from the coach, captain and the batting coach has been to play his natural game," said Larsen.

"That is the frustration for everyone, including Martin probably, he just hasn't quite been able to nail that role or style down."

Guptill has been afforded some room to save his career in India, with selectors declining to add a replacement opener. Uncapped Auckland batsman Jeet Raval was included in a 16-man squad for the test tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa but dropped for India along with fast bowler Matt Henry. Selectors also believe that paceman Tim Southee can dig himself out of a hole after his form woes continued in Africa where he was outperformed by third seamer Neil Wagner. Southee was retained but will also be under pressure to hold his spot should selectors opt to play an extra spinner in the tests or select recalled all-rounder James Neesham as a third pace bowling option. — Reuters



Martin Guptill

LIVERPOOL READY FOR SPECIAL DAY AT EXPANDED ANFIELD

ANFIELD: Liverpool will play in front of their biggest home crowd in 39 years when Anfield's main stand is reopened for the Premier League visit of champions Leicester City on Saturday.

Although ground capacity has yet to be confirmed by the local council, a full house of about 54,000 is expected to see Jurgen Klopp's side play their first home game of the season.

The new three-tier stand will contain an extra 8,500 seats and be a significant step in the club's attempts to narrow the gap in match-day revenues on their competitors.

The latest figures from 2014-15 put Manchester United on £108.1 million (\$145.16 million), followed by Arsenal on £100.2 million (\$134.55 million), Chelsea on £71 million (\$95.34 million) and Liverpool on £50.9 million (\$68.35 million). Liverpool expect their increased capacity to boost revenue by £20 million (\$26.86 million) with the possibility of more to come if the club go ahead with the redevelopment of the Anfield Road End for which they have planning permission. That would further boost capacity by 6,000 to about 60,000, putting them

on a par with London clubs West Ham United, who have just moved into the 2012 Olympic Games stadium, and Arsenal but still way below Manchester United (76,000).

Anfield's 18-month redevelopment took longer than scheduled, meaning Liverpool's opening Premier League fixture against Burnley was switched to their opponents' Turf Moor home.

Now, though, the famous old ground is preparing to house its biggest crowd since 55,675 watched Liverpool play West Ham on the final day of the 1976-77 season.

It promises to be another special Anfield day with more than 40 banners and flags, dating back from 1940 through to the present day and featuring tributes to memorable moments in Liverpool's history, being displayed.

They will include the tribute to defender Joey Jones at the 1977 European Cup final against Borussia Moenchengladbach in Rome, which read memorably: "Joey Ate The Frogs Legs, Made The Swiss Roll, Now He's Munching Gladbach."

Liverpool defender Joel Matip said he was relishing hearing the club's famous

anthem of You'll Never Walk Alone at the stadium, which has been the club's home since its formation in 1892. "I've been waiting the whole pre-season to make my first steps at the stadium," he said.

"I think Liverpool is famous for its stadium, for its atmosphere. To hear 'You'll Never Walk Alone' for the first time at the stadium will be a special moment." Liverpool's record attendance, set before the introduction of all-seater stadiums, is 61,905 for an FA Cup tie against Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1952. — Reuters



NEW YORK: New York Yankees' Jacoby Ellsbury swings at a pitch during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in New York, Monday. Ellsbury had three hits in the game, including a two-run home run during the first inning, as the Yankees won 5-3. — AP

ELLSBURY'S 3 RBIS BACK TANAKA AS YANKS BEAT BLUE JAYS 5-3

NEW YORK: Jacoby Ellsbury overcame a first-inning deficit against R.A. Dickey with a two-run homer on the knuckleballer's third pitch of the game, then added an RBI single to lead the New York Yankees over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 Monday. In a matchup of teams fighting for playoff berths as the season passed Labor Day, Masahiro Tanaka (12-4) settled down after a shaky first to win his fifth straight decision. New York (71-65) matched its season high of six games over .500 but remained on the periphery of contention, 3 1/2 games back for the AL's second wild card. The AL East-leading Blue Jays (77-60) started the day one game ahead of Boston. Dellin Betances, the Yankees' sixth pitcher, got three straight outs for his ninth save. Dickey (9-14) allowed five runs and seven hits in four innings on a blustery afternoon. He is 0-6 in his last nine starts at Yankee Stadium.

TIGERS 5, WHITE SOX 3, 11 INNINGS

Justin Upton hit a three-run home run in the 11th inning to lift Detroit over Chicago for its 11th win in 14 games. Miguel Cabrera homered twice and had four hits off Chris Sale, and Justin Verlander struck out 11 in seven innings as the Tigers stayed tied with Baltimore for the second AL wild card. Chris Beck (1-1) issued consecutive two-out walks to Victor Martinez and J.D. Martinez before Upton crushed a 1-2 fastball to right for his

21st home run. It was his second game-winning homer in two days after connecting in the eighth inning Sunday against Kansas City. Cabrera became the fourth player to reach 300 homers with the Tigers with a liner to right in the first. Alex Wilson (2-0) gave up one hit in the 10th and Francisco Rodriguez gave up a run in the 11th before securing his 39th save.

ASTROS 6, INDIANS 2

Rookie Alex Bregman continued his hot hitting with a two-run homer in the third inning and Houston ended Cleveland's six-game winning streak. Bregman has hit all seven of his homers and driven in 22 runs over his last 19 games for the Astros, who remain two games out of the second wild-card spot in the AL. Mike Fiers (10-6) allowed two runs in five innings and defeated the Indians for the second time this season. The Indians took struggling right-hander Josh Tomlin out of the rotation last week, forcing them to go with eight pitchers Monday in what amounted to a bullpen game for the AL Central leaders. Mike Clevinger (2-2) allowed a run in the first and was pulled after 1 2/3 innings.

MARINERS 14, RANGERS 6

Robinson Cano homered during a five-run first inning and Seattle knocked out starter Cole Hamels early and pulled away with a six-run sixth inning. Cano's 32nd homer of the sea-

son is one off his career high set in 2012 while with the New York Yankees. The two-run shot also set the tone for Seattle's largest offensive output since scoring 14 in a win over Toronto in late July. Franklin Gutierrez drove in four runs, including a solo home run in the second inning and finished a triple short of the cycle. Hamels (14-5) was knocked around for the second time in a week by the Mariners and failed to make it through two innings for just the second time in his career. Felix Hernandez (10-5) made it through 5 2/3 innings and gave up six runs before being lifted.

CARDINALS 12, PIRATES 6

Adam Wainwright drove in three runs and survived five occasionally bumpy innings to pick up his first victory since mid-July. Wainwright hit an RBI-double off Chad Kuhl (3-3) in the second and added a two-run single in the fourth as the Cardinals held on to the second wild card spot in the National League by sending the Pirates to their seventh straight loss. Wainwright (10-8) allowed four runs and struck out five as his ERA rose to 4.61. He hardly needed to be sharp as the Cardinals battered Pittsburgh's beleaguered pitching staff.

ORIOLES 7, RAYS 3

Ubaldo Jimenez threw a two-hitter for his first complete game since 2011, leading Baltimore to the win. Jimenez (6-11) struck out six and walked one. He retired 25 of 26 - the lone baserunner coming on a fourth-inning walk - after giving up Logan Morrison's three-run homer in the first. Chris Davis homered and drove in three runs for the Orioles. Rays slugger Evan Longoria left with soreness in his right hand. He was hit by a pitch in the first but remained in the game until being pulled after the fifth inning. The Rays said X-rays on Longoria's hand were negative. Matt Andriese (6-7) lost his seventh straight decision, allowing seven runs and nine hits in five innings.

METS 5, REDS 0

Bartolo Colon pitched six innings of five-hit ball and Matt Reynolds homered as the Mets won for the sixth time in eight games. Kelly Johnson also went deep in New York's 12th straight victory over Cincinnati. Colon (13-7) improved to 4-1 with a 2.25 ERA in his last seven starts.

The Reds put a runner on third with nobody out on two occasions, and Colon wiggled out of the jam each time. Jay Bruce went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his first game in Cincinnati since the Reds traded him to the Mets on Aug. 1. Robert Stephenson (2-1), one of Cincinnati's top prospects, struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings. He allowed two runs and six hits, but fell short in his bid to become the first

Cincinnati pitcher since Wayne Simpson in 1970 to win each of his first three major league starts.

DODGERS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Adrian Gonzalez and four others combined to homer five times off Zack Greinke in his first road start against his former team and Los Angeles beat Arizona for its third straight victory. Kenta Maeda (14-8) allowed one run and three hits in 6 1/3 innings, struck out eight and walked one to tie Kazuhisa Ishii and Hyun-Jin Ryu for the second-most wins by a Los Angeles rookie, trailing only Rick Sutcliffe's 17 in 1979. The Japanese right-hander has won six of his last seven. The Dodgers increased their lead in the NL West to a season-high four games over San Francisco. They have won four of five. Greinke (12-5) imploded in his return to Dodger Stadium for the first time since spurning the team as a free agent last December.

ROYALS 11, TWINS 5

Brian Dozier hit three home runs for Minnesota, but the Royals used homers by Kendrys Morales and Eric Hosmer to get the road win. Jarrod Dyson had three hits and scored three times for Kansas City, which won for the second time in six games and stayed on the edge of the AL wild-card race. Dozier homered on the first pitch from Ian Kennedy (10-9), and then hit a two-run shot in the third and a solo drive into the upper deck in the eighth. Dozier became the sixth Minnesota player to hit three home runs in a game, and the first to do it at home. Morales hit a three-run drive off Jose Berrios (2-5) in the fifth for a 5-4 lead. Hosmer, who had four RBIs, belted a three-run homer in the eighth.

ROCKIES 6, GIANTS 0

Chad Bettis threw a two-hitter for his first career complete game, Carlos Gonzalez hit a grand slam and the Rockies beat the slumping Giants. Bettis (12-7) was perfect until Eduardo Nunez singled with two outs in the fifth inning. The right-hander struck out seven and walked none. San Francisco intentionally walked Nolan Arenado to face Gonzalez in the third. Gonzalez lined a fastball from Matt Moore (9-11) over the fence in right-center for his second grand slam of the season. The Giants had the best record in baseball at the All-Star break. But they are a major league-worst 16-31 since then and are now trying to hang on to a wild-card spot.

CUBS 7, BREWERS 2

Major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks threw six strong innings and the Cubs pulled away for the victory. Pinch hitter Chris Coghlan delivered a go-ahead single in a two-run sev-

enth. He stayed in the game and got a two-run single in a four-run eighth for the NL Central leaders. Hendricks (14-7) gave up one run - on Chris Carter's 33rd homer - and five hits in six innings, and left with a 2.07 ERA. He is 5-0 with a 1.30 ERA over his last seven starts. Ryan Braun hit his 25th homer in the ninth for Milwaukee. Zach Davies (10-7) was charged with three runs, two earned, and six hits in 6 2/3 innings.

NATIONALS 6, BRAVES 4

Trea Turner and Chris Heisey each homered during a five-run third inning. Max Scherzer pitched seven strong innings for his 16th victory and Washington beat Atlanta. Scherzer (16-7) scattered seven hits and yielded two runs to win his fourth consecutive start. He has a 2.45 ERA in that span. Ryan Weber (1-1) lost his first start of the season for Atlanta.

PADRES 2, RED SOX 1

Edwin Jackson struck out 11 in seven scoreless innings to outpitch former Padres ace Drew Pomeranz. Adam Rosales hit a two-run homer and San Diego edged Boston. Jackson (4-5) gave up four hits and ended his three-start losing streak. Pomeranz (2-4 for Boston) was an All-Star for the Padres this season and 8-7 in the NL before being traded to the Red Sox in mid-July. Brandon Maurer worked the ninth for his eighth save in 13 chances.

PHILLIES 6, MARLINS 2

Freddy Galvis hit a two-run homer and the Phillies snapped a six-game losing streak. The Phillies' run total was their highest since Aug. 14. They rank last in the majors in runs, and managed only 11 while going 0-6 during a homestand last week. The Marlins lost their fourth game in a row and are 11-22 since Aug. 1. They fell two games below .500 for the first time since April 27 and could be headed for a seventh consecutive losing season. Philadelphia's Jerad Eickhoff (10-13) allowed the first two batters to score and then settled down to pitch six innings. The Phillies have won five of his past six starts. Miami's Jake Esch (0-1) allowed three runs in five innings in his second major league start.

ANGELS 10, ATHLETICS 7

Kole Calhoun hit a solo home run in the second inning. Albert Pujols had a two-run double in the fourth and Los Angeles held off Oakland. Jose Valdez (1-1) earned his first major league win before former A's closer Andrew Bailey finished for the Angels in a second straight game. It was just his second save since 2013. Raul Alcantara (0-1) plunked three batters in the first inning alone and allowed five runs in four innings. — AP

MLB results/standings

NY Yankees 5, Toronto 3; Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 3; Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 2; NY Mets 5, Cincinnati 0; Philadelphia 6, Miami 2; Kansas City 11, Minnesota 5; Washington 6, Atlanta 4; LA Angels 10, Oakland 7; St. Louis 12, Pittsburgh 6; Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 3 (11 Innings); Colorado 6, San Francisco 0; Seattle 14, Texas 6; San Diego 2, Boston 1; Houston 6, Cleveland 2.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	77	60	.562	-	Washington	80	57	.584	-
Boston	76	61	.555	1	NY Mets	72	66	.522	8.5
Baltimore	75	62	.547	2	Miami	68	70	.493	12.5
NY Yankees	71	65	.522	5.5	Philadelphia	61	76	.445	19
Tampa Bay	58	78	.426	18.5	Atlanta	54	84	.391	26.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	79	57	.581	-	Chicago Cubs	89	48	.650	-
Detroit	75	62	.547	4.5	St. Louis	72	64	.529	16.5
Kansas City	71	66	.518	8.5	Pittsburgh	67	68	.496	21
Chicago W Sox	65	72	.474	14.5	Milwaukee	60	77	.438	29
Minnesota	51	87	.370	29	Cincinnati	57	79	.419	31.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	82	56	.594	-	LA Dodgers	77	60	.562	-
Houston	73	64	.533	8.5	San Francisco	73	64	.533	4
Seattle	70	67	.511	11.5	Colorado	66	71	.482	11
LA Angels	62	75	.453	19.5	Arizona	58	79	.423	19
Oakland	58	79	.423	23.5	San Diego	57	80	.416	20

EUROPEAN CLUBS TARGET 2024 UEFA DEAL TO BLOCK SUPER LEAGUE

GENEVA: European clubs are set for fresh talks with UEFA that should block a breakaway Super League until at least 2024.

Two weeks after UEFA and the European Club Association agreed on Champions League entry slots and prize money models through 2021, both sides said on Tuesday that negotiations for the next three-year cycle will start within months. "This is a kind of guarantee that the clubs stay united under the umbrella of UEFA," Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the ECA and Bayern Munich chairman at a news conference.

Rummenigge spoke after two days of closed-door meetings that revealed disunity and unhappiness among clubs from lower-ranked national leagues which will be squeezed by the Champions League

deal agreed last month.

A breakaway, American-style closed league for rich, storied clubs is typically threatened before UEFA begins signing Champions League broadcasters and sponsors to three-year contracts. Total revenue in the 2015-2018 seasons for the Champions League and Europa League tops 2.2 billion euros (\$2.47 billion) annually. An ECA-UEFA working cooperation agreement also expires in 2021, opening the chance for a split.

Still, Rummenigge assured yesterday, "We will cooperate in the future with UEFA, there is no doubt about that." The latest Champions League deal was agreed on last month in Monaco after months of raised tension fueled by influential clubs including Juventus and Real Madrid.

Italian and Spanish clubs were among winners in changes agreed for the 2018-2021 Champions League.

Italy is among the top-four ranked national leagues - with Spain, Germany and England - which will each get four guaranteed places in the 32-team group stage. Italy has two teams in the current qualifying system. Spanish clubs which go deep into the competition will get more prize money, because broadcast revenues from the richest TV markets will be spread across all successful clubs instead of being targeted at clubs from that country.

The current model ensured Manchester City topped the prize money last season - getting about 75 million euros (\$84 million) from UEFA - despite losing in the semifinals to eventual winner Madrid.

"I believe that was not fair and serious," Rummenigge said. Another change to prize money distribution will reward storied clubs for their past titles.

Rummenigge said this decision - skewing future money away from newcomers like Leicester toward traditional clubs like AC Milan - was made by UEFA. UEFA told clubs in Monaco last month to expect "significantly" increased prize money in the 2018-21 seasons.

The 153 clubs attending yesterday were told to expect a 30 percent rise in club competition revenues, a projected total of 3.2 billion euros (\$3.6 billion).

Delegates from lower-ranked clubs declined to speak publicly about the influence of elite clubs who cash in most from the Champions League, and would likely

be part of a Super League.

Real Madrid's ECA board delegate, Pedro Lopez Jimenez, noted sharply that marketing analysis suggested the best model for the Champions League would include only 24 clubs. The 32-team group stage this season has room for clubs from Bulgaria, Denmark and Poland.

Rummenigge insisted European fans are a priority, despite demand from broadcasters worldwide to provide more matches involving top teams at times to suit non-European audiences.

"Our will is to make (supporters) happy first, and not playing, I would say, at crazy kickoff times," the West Germany great said. "We never talked about to play in the afternoon or at noon to make our Asian friends or whoever else happy." — AP

MURPHY'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL GOAL GRABS DRAW FOR IRELAND

BELGRADE: Daryl Murphy's first ever international goal secured the Republic of Ireland a 2-2 draw against Serbia in an entertaining 2018 World Cup qualifier on Monday. Murphy had come on only four minutes before he restored parity after the hosts who have mounted a revival and are unbeaten in five games under 63-year-old coach Slavoljub Muslin had recovered from 1-0 down to lead 2-1. Ireland coach Martin O'Neill was delighted with his side's performance. "I think we fought back magnificently," said the 64-year-old Northern Irishman.

"It is a good result and we would have taken a point before the game." O'Neill reassured those watching that he wasn't going to walk away from the job even though he has yet to sign a new contract and been linked with the full time post at Premier League side Hull.

"I shook hands on the contract before the Euro 2016 finals," he told Sky Sports. Jeff Hendrick, whose impressive Euro 2016 performances earned him a move to English Premier League side Burnley last week, opened his account for the Irish in the third minute before the impressive Filip Kostic levelled with what was also his first goal for his country just after the hour mark. Playing in front of a half-empty stadium as fans registered their disdain for their woeful form which has seen them fail to qualify for the past three major finals, Serbia took the lead through a penalty from Southampton's Dusan Tadic, and he celebrated by sucking his thumb to welcome the recent birth of his second child.

"I had a second child, a daughter, just a few days ago and I would like to dedicate this goal to her," he told Sky Sports. "It is a pity it could not be a victory for us but we dropped too deep after we took the lead."

Hendrick struck the opener as his shot from just outside the box took a significant deflection off Serbian skipper Branislav Ivanovic after the hosts had struggled to clear a free-kick.

Irish veteran John O'Shea, playing his

115th game for his country, found Shane Long and his lay-back to Hendrick was well hit even if it ended up getting help from Ivanovic.

SUSPENSION

Serbia, with stars Aleksandar Kolarov and Nemanja Matic missing through suspension, took time to gel-understandably given there were only three players remaining from their last Euro 2016 qualifier. They should really have gone in on level terms at the break though, as with their final attack Tadic put in a wicked low cross which Darren Randolph could only beat out to the feet of Newcastle United striker Aleksandar Mitrovic. However, he failed to control the ball and the Irish were able to clear-the Serbs exiting to the jeers of the supporters who had turned up. Kostic though levelled matters just after the hour mark. O'Shea got completely outfoxed by Tadic in the box and, with Irish skipper Seamus Coleman having drifted off marking Kostic, the 23-year-old Hamburg midfielder made no mistake from close range.

Kostic was at the centre of the 68th-minute penalty award as he burst into the area and went down as if he'd been clipped by Jon Walters. Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai didn't hesitate in pointing to the spot. Tadic showed no nerves in converting it.

The Irish were hugely fortunate not to go 3-1 down minutes later as Randolph made a mess of catching a shot and the ball fell to substitute Andrija Pavlovic, but with just the 'keeper to beat and only yards out he hit the crossbar.

The Irish sparked back into life after those reverses and Murphy drew them level 10 minutes from time, meeting Robbie Brady's corner with a powerful header.

Serbia stormed back and Ivanovic should have done better after being found on his own in the box. Randolph did well to block his effort and although the ball rebounded off an Irish defender, Coleman was on the line to clear. — AFP



CARDIFF CITY: Wales' Gareth Bale, right, controls the ball during the 2018 World Cup qualifying group D soccer match against Moldova at the Cardiff City Stadium, Wales, Monday. — AP

BALE FIRES EURO STARS WALES IN MOLDOVA STROLL

CARDIFF: Gareth Bale scored two goals and created another as Euro 2016 sensations Wales crushed Moldova 4-0 in their opening 2018 World Cup qualifier in Cardiff on Monday. The Real Madrid forward teed up Sam Vokes for a 38th-minute opener and then scored his 23rd and 24th international goals after Joe Allen had registered his first.

Chris Coleman's Wales reached the semi-finals at Euro 2016 before losing to eventual champions Portugal and are seeking to qualify for their first World Cup since 1958.

"We had to get off to a good start in the first game," said Wales manager Coleman. "It was going to be tough and we had to be patient and disciplined, and we were. "We had a good level of professionalism and the supporters were great. The players got the ball and could have scored more." Victory at the Cardiff City Stadium made Wales the early pace-setters in UEFA qualifying Group D, which also features Austria, Serbia, the Republic of Ireland and Georgia.

Wales tackle Austria in Vienna in their next game on October 6. Bale, 27, is now the second-highest scorer in Wales history, four goals

behind former Liverpool striker Ian Rush.

"We know these games are very difficult," Bale told Sky Sports. "The teams can be difficult to break down, but we're learning to cope with that sort of play. "We enjoyed the past, but it's history now and it's time to make some more."

'CHILDISH MISTAKES'

Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey missed Wales's Euro semi-final defeat by Portugal through suspension and he was absent again against Moldova, this time due to a hamstring injury. Coleman made only two changes to the team that had lined up in Lyon, with Ben Davies suspended that evening-and Vokes replacing James Collins and Hal Robson-Kanu.

Ranked 165th in the world and having never reached a major tournament, Igor Dobrovolski's Moldova accepted the role of would-be party poopers with relish. The visitors packed men behind the ball in a 5-4-1 formation and exploited Israeli referee Liran Liyan's leniency by breaking up Wales's rhythm with cynical fouls.

But a flash of Bale's left boot yielded the breakthrough, the Real Madrid star whipping a

glorious cross into the box from the right that Vokes steered past goalkeeper Ilie Cebanu with his head. It was 2-0 before half-time as Stoke City new boy Allen broke his international duck in the 44th minute.

After shovelling a shot from Bale around his right-hand post, Cebanu flapped at Joe Ledley's corner and Allen clipped the loose ball through a thicket of players and into the net.

Bale added a third early in the second half, seizing upon a calamitous back-pass by Ion Jordan and racing through to loft a shot over Cebanu. Robson-Kanu, scorer of the goal that inspired Wales's Euro quarter-final victory over Belgium, came on as a late substitute for Vokes to make his first appearance of the season.

After Cebanu had thwarted Robson-Kanu, Bale made it 4-0 from the penalty spot in stoppage time after he had been bundled over inside the box.

"If Wales had been so much better, I'd congratulate them," said Moldova coach Dobrovolski. "But they scored four times because of our mistakes. In games like this, you can't make such childish mistakes." — AFP



BELGRADE: Serbia's Branislav Ivanovic (C) vies with Ireland's goalkeeper Darren Randolph (R) and Richard Keogh (L) during the World Cup 2018 qualifying football match Serbia vs Ireland in Belgrade on Monday. — AFP

European zone World Cup qualifying tables

PARIS: World Cup qualifying tables from the European zone after Monday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group D			Group C				
Wales	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Austria	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Ireland	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Serbia	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Georgia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Moldova	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Group G			Group E				
Spain	1	1	0	0	8	0	3
Italy	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Macedonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Liechtenstein	1	0	0	1	0	8	0
Group I			Group F				
Croatia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Finland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Iceland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Turkey	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ukraine	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Kosovo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Germany	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Azerbaijan	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Cze Republic	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
N Ireland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
San Marino	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Norway	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Denmark	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Kazakhstan	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Poland	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Montenegro	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Romania	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Armenia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Scotland	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
England	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Lithuania	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Slovenia	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Slovakia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Malta	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

INFANTINO OPEN TO 40-TEAM WORLD CUP

GENEVA: FIFA President Gianni Infantino is open to a 40-team World Cup in 2026, with several countries serving as co-hosts. With key World Cup talks due next month, Infantino's comments Tuesday show that FIFA will consider co-hosting by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The North American neighbors have long been expected bidders for 2026, even competing against each other, because the CONCACAF region is favored to host for the first time since 1994. Then, 24 teams played in the US.

In his presidential election campaign, Infantino supported expanding the tournament and hosting across a region. "These two topics will certainly be on the table for discussion," Infantino said, looking ahead to a meeting of the FIFA Council he will chair on Oct. 13-14 in Zurich.

Asked about a potential US-Canada-Mexico project for 2026, the former UEFA general secretary noted that his previous organization chose to hold the 2020 European Championship in 13 different host nations.

"So, there is, I would say, no limit to whatever is good for football," Infantino said on the sidelines of a meeting of European clubs. "We will see, but it's true that CONCACAF did not have the World Cup for a long time."

FIFA rules currently bar back-to-back hosting by continents, ruling out Asian bidders for 2026 after Qatar hosts in 2022, and has previously weighed requiring confederations to sit out two bidding contests. Infantino declined to suggest if UEFA could encourage its members to skip the 2026 process with Russia hosting the 2018 World Cup. The 2026 World Cup hosting vote is set for 2020, with FIFA member federations choosing from a shortlist drafted by the ruling council.

"For the moment I think everything is open. My opinion on the 40 teams has not changed," Infantino said after meeting the European Club



GENEVA: FIFA President Gianni Infantino listens to a speech, during the opening plenary general assembly of the European Club Association, ECA, in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

Association, many of whose members oppose releasing more of their players to an expanded World Cup.

While at UEFA, Infantino also helped oversee an expanded Euro 2016 with 24 teams for the first time instead of the 16-team format "We have seen it again at the Euro in France with eight more teams, what kind of enthusiasm this generated in many, many countries," he said. "We need to realize that these kinds of events are more than just a competition, they are real social events in the whole world." In Zurich next month, Infantino will lead the first meeting of a FIFA Council being expanded to include 36 members elected by the six confederations.

Two European members have been scrutinized in recent weeks by the FIFA ethics committee. Wolfgang Niersbach of Germany cannot attend in Zurich while he serves a one-year ban, imposed for failing to report suspected wrongdoing by 2006 World Cup organizers. Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko was implicated by a World Anti-Doping Agency inquiry report in covering up soccer players' doping cases. FIFA ethics investigators said it would get the report and "examine it thoroughly." "I have no concerns at all with the council," Infantino said. "It is our job not to let ourselves be distracted from what we have to do, which is implement the reforms and show we are a new FIFA." — AP

KLINSMANN PLEADS PATIENCE OVER PULISIC AS US FACE TRINIDAD

MIAMI: United States coach Jurgen Klinsmann has called for patience as the clamour for rising star Christian Pulisic to be given a starting berth reaches fever pitch.

Borussia Dortmund teenager Pulisic produced a sparkling two-goal cameo last Friday as the USA demolished St. Vincent and the Grenadines 6-0 in Kingstown.

The result left the USA needing only a draw against Trinidad and Tobago in Jacksonville, Florida yesterday to be sure of progressing to the final round of CONCACAF qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup.

However a massive advantage over Guatemala on goal difference means the

USA could probably afford to lose and still advance alongside Trinidad, who have already assured themselves of qualification. That healthy goal difference has left Klinsmann with room to experiment with his line-up and fuelled hope that the 17-year-old Pulisic may start.

Pulisic, who has now scored three goals in seven appearances for the USA since making his debut earlier this year, is widely regarded as one of the brightest talents in American soccer for years.

English side Liverpool are reportedly circling the youngster, who became the youngest ever player to score for the USA when he netted on his third international

appearance against Bolivia in May.

But while applauding the youngster's form, Klinsmann emphasised that the attacking midfielder would be developed gradually, hinting that he may have to wait longer to be named in the starting line-up.

'ONE STEP AT A TIME'

"Christian came against St. Vincent and did a fantastic job. He kind of really made it look all easy," Klinsmann said during a question and answer session on Facebook. "Obviously we know he has tremendous talent and that's why he's with Borussia Dortmund. We're going to build him one step at a time," the German World

Cup winner added. "A lot of people are anxious that we start him from the beginning. That day will come there is no doubt about it.

"But for us it's important that we build him with patience, with not too much hype and expectation either.

"We are thrilled that he's growing and that he's getting more mature. We'll take it one step at a time."

Klinsmann has said he will not confirm his starting line-up until shortly before kick-off. While Pulisic may have to wait for a start, Klinsmann has confirmed however that veteran goalkeeper Tim Howard will return today for what will be his 110th cap.

It will be Howard's record 32nd appearance in a World Cup qualifier for the USA, surpassing Kasey Keller's haul of 31 amassed between 1996 and 2005. Klinsmann meanwhile said there is no question of the USA playing for a draw as they aim to wrap up qualification.

"On paper it looks easy, one point would be enough, we have a good goal difference," he said. "But I've tried to make it very clear to the players that this is still a big game for us. It's a World Cup qualifier so we can't take it lightly.

"We only need one point but we would love to win this game so we can finish first in our group." — AFP

ALBANIA BEAT MACEDONIA IN RESUMED GROUP G QUALIFIER

SHKODRA: Resuming a day after play was suspended by rain, Bekim Balaj scored in the 89th minute yesterday to give Albania a 2-1 win over Macedonia in a World Cup qualifying match.

Balaj scored with a header from a free kick as the teams played out the final 15 minutes of the Group G match. "It was very difficult to play in two days, very difficult to bring players on the pitch with the proper intensity," Albania coach Giovanni de Biasi said. "Let's enjoy the victory as we are leading the group together with Italy and Spain." The match was abandoned Monday after 75 minutes with the score 1-1. Armando Sadiku gave Albania the lead in the ninth minute and Ezdjan

Alioski equalized in the 51st.

Alioski is also of Albanian origin. "To me personally, it was very important to score the first goal for Macedonia, though it was against Albania," Alioski said. "I do not see against whom I am playing with. I am very happy for my first goal."

The match was being played at the newly-renovated stadium in Shkodra, 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Tirana. Italy and Spain also have three points from their opening matches. Israel and Liechtenstein are also in the group. "It is a very difficult group and we can't have illusions," di Biasi said. "But the most difficult games are with Macedonia, Israel and Liechtenstein." — AP

COSTA SCORES FIRST GOALS FOR SPAIN IN TWO YEARS

BARCELONA: Spain started their World Cup qualifying campaign with a crushing 8-0 win over Liechtenstein, laying down a marker in Group G with a ruthless second-half display on Monday.

Diego Costa scored his first goal for Spain in almost two years to put Julen Lopetegui's side ahead in the 10th minute in their first competitive game under their new coach and Sergi Roberto doubled the lead in the 55th.

Costa got his second while David Silva and substitute Alvaro Morata also got braces and Vitolo opened his international account as the former world champions ran riot. "Sometimes an opponent's name can fool you but we played a great game," said Lopetegui. "We reaped in the second half what we had sowed in the first."

Costa was the focus of the pre-match build-up having netted once in his previous 11 appearances since switching nationalities from Brazil in 2014 and needed only 10 minutes to open the scoring, rising high to head in Koke's free kick.

The entrance of substitute Nolito for Thiago Alcantara at the start of the second half livened up the home side and it was the Manchester City forward who laid the ball on for Roberto to grab his first interna-

tional goal. The floodgates had opened for Spain, the 2010 world champions who lost in the last 16 of this year's European Championship.

Silva was soon in on the act, adding to his double in the friendly against Belgium last week by turning in Vitolo's cross from close range. Barely a minute later, Silva repaid the favour by teeing up the Sevilla forward to mark another impressive display for his country with a goal.

Spain only grew hungrier and Costa wanted another bite. He effortlessly turned two defenders in the area before firing at goalkeeper Peter Jehle's right foot, calmly nodding in the rebound for the fifth goal.

"Players control their destiny and we just try to help them, but Diego is a great player and he proved it today," added Lopetegui.

Costa came off to a standing ovation but his replacement Morata threatened to upstage him with two strikes in under a minute, slamming in at the near post before striking the ball past the hapless Jehle from the edge of the area.

Silva had a goal harshly ruled out as stoppage time approached but the City playmaker grabbed his second a minute later with a crisp shot. — Reuters



SHENYANG: China's Zhang Linpeng, right, falls after being tackled by Iran's Mehdi Torabi during the WCup 2018 qualifying soccer match in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning province, yesterday. — AP

CHINA MAKE THEIR POINT AS SOUTH KOREA SLIP UP

SHENYANG: China's World Cup hopes brightened yesterday when they held heavyweights Iran 0-0 and group rivals South Korea slipped up in an embarrassing stalemate against war-ravaged Syria. Defeat to Asia's top-ranked side would have dented China's hopes of reaching only their second World Cup but in the end it was a close game in Shenyang.

China's point, their first of Asia's final qualifying round, keeps them in touch with the leaders in six-team Group A, where the top two will win an automatic spot at Russia 2018.

Their cause was also helped by South Korea's travails in Malaysia, Syria's temporary 'home' base, as they missed out on what had seemed like a certain three points.

Elsewhere Japan got back on track with a 2-0 victory over Thailand which helped erase bad memories of last week's controversial 2-1 upset against United Arab Emirates.

China have only ever reached one World Cup, in 2002, but qualifying for Russia 2018 would be a significant statement for a country which aims to become a global football power.

There were encouraging signs in last week's 3-2 defeat to South Korea, and Iran, Asia's top-

ranked side, would have held few fears for Gao Hongbo's men in front of a partisan, red-shirted home crowd.

A dire first half was more notable for its fouls than its goalmouth action as both sides struggled to gain momentum on a poor pitch in Shenyang. But China attacked with renewed intent after the break and it was a different spectacle in the second half as the game opened up. Alireza Jahanbakhsh should have netted for Iraq but he blazed a glorious chance over, while Dutch-based Zhang Yuning was denied by Morteza Pouraliganji's desperate block.

Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand smothered at the feet of Wu Lei and Chinese substitute keeper Gu Chao saved sharply in the final minute to ensure China's first point of Group A.

Defeat to Carlos Queiroz's team would have slashed China's odds of reaching the World Cup but they are now three points back from Iran and South Korea in fourth spot.

ASANO BURIES 'GHOST GOAL'

South Korea will be kicking themselves after their slip-up against Syria in Seremban, Malaysia, denied them the chance to seize control of

Group A. Son Heung-Min missed the game to return to his club, Tottenham Hotspur, and coach Uli Stielike may regret letting him go after a toothless performance with just two shots on target. In Bangkok, Takuma Asano bounced back from last week's disallowed goal controversy as he hit Japan's second in the 2-0 win over Thailand which ignited their qualifying bid.

Asano was denied a clear goal in Thursday's 2-1 defeat to UAE when officials failed to see his shot had crossed the line, but there was no doubt when he scored in Bangkok.

After Genki Haraguchi's first-half opener, Asano squeezed his shot under goalkeeper Kawin Thamsatchanan to give Japan a two-goal cushion on 75 minutes. Elsewhere two late penalties from Nawaf Al Abed consigned Iraq to a 2-1 defeat and badly damaged their World Cup qualifying hopes.

Iraq, also playing in Malaysia because of conflict at home, were 1-0 up with nine minutes to play before Abed buried spot-kicks in the 81st and 87th minutes. Abed struck in similar fashion last week when his 84th-minute penalty consigned Thailand to a 1-0 defeat in the opening round of games. — AFP



LEON: Spain's David Silva, center, shoots the ball to the goal in front of Liechtenstein's goalkeeper Peter Jehle during their World Cup Group G qualifying soccer match at the Reino de Leon Stadium, in Leon, northern Spain, Monday. Spain won the match 8-0. — AP

MANCINI SLAMS 'ENVOIOUS' GULLIT

MILAN: Former Inter Milan boss Roberto Mancini has slammed 'envious' Ruud Gullit after the Dutch great suggested the Italian had failed to prepare the club's players for the start of the season. Mancini was replaced by Frank De Boer, Gullit's former teammate in the Dutch national side, when he was sacked by the Italian giants on the cusp of the Serie A season.

Inter invested heavily in players during the summer but have made a terrible start under De Boer, losing away to Chievo in their league opener and then being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Palermo.

Gullit suggested Mancini was to blame, the former AC Milan and Chelsea star claiming the respected Italian had failed to physically prepare Inter for the new season because "he was already thinking of leaving".

Mancini, it appears, has taken the accusation badly. He suggested Gullit was envious because of his own failure to follow his impressive playing career with a coaching career to match. "Gullit was fortunate to have had a great playing career. Full stop," Mancini said in com-

ments to Radio Incontro Olympia.

"In football, when you've been a great player and then you don't succeed in anything else it's sometimes difficult to accept. These kind of people like to speak about other players and coaches. If he's a friend of (Frank) De Boer, that's fine. But that doesn't give him the right to make these comments.

"But Gullit's not the only one, there are lots like him. Envy is a terrible thing." Mancini won seven trophies including three consecutive league titles with Inter in a previous spell in charge at the club.

The 51-year-old also ended Manchester City's 44-year wait to be crowned league champions when he steered them to the Premier League title in 2012.

Although Gullit led Chelsea to their first major trophy in 26 years with the FA Cup in 1997, he was controversially sacked by the club soon after.

He then had unsuccessful spells at Newcastle United, Feyenoord, LA Galaxy and Terek Grozny. In the Russian Premier League Gullit won three games out of 13 and after he was sacked the club criticised his "party lifestyle". — AFP



ABU DHABI: UAE's Amer Abdulrahman (R) vies with Australia's Aaron Mooy during their World Cup 2018 Asia qualifying football match United Arab Emirates versus Australia yesterday at the Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. — AFP

Sports

Ellsbury's 3 RBIs
back Tanaka as
Yanks beat Blue
Jays 5-3



Infantino open to
40-team World Cup



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

RORY MCILROY ENDS DROUGHT WITH DEUTSCHE BANK CROWN Page 15



PALLEKELE: Australia's Moises Henriques (L) throws the ball in an attempt to run out as Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis (R) successfully dives and avoids being run out during the first T20 international cricket match between Sri Lanka and Australia at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele yesterday. — AFP

AUSTRALIA BREAKS RECORD, BEAT S LANKA IN FIRST T20

SCOREBOARD

PALLEKELE, Sri Lanka: Final scoreboard of the first Twenty20 international between Sri Lanka and Australia in Pallekele yesterday:

Australia		Sri Lanka	
G. Maxwell not out	145	D. Chandimal c Henriques b Boland	58
D. Warner b Senanayake	28	K. Mendis c Maxwell b Henriques	22
U. Khawaja c T. Perera b Pathirana	36	T. Perera c Boland b Zampa	7
T. Head c de Silva b T. Perera	45	C. Kapugedara c Bailey b Starc	43
Extras (b4, lb2, w2, nb1)	9	S. Pathirana c Head b Boland	2
Total (3 wickets; 20 overs)	263	S. Senanayake not out	1
Fall of wickets: 1-57 (Warner), 2-154 (Khawaja), 3-263 (Head)		S. Lakmal c&b Starc	6
Bowling: Senanayake 4-0-49-1, Lakmal 4-0-51-0, Rajitha 3-0-46-0, T. Perera 4-0-58-1, de Silva 1-0-8-0, Pathirana 4-0-45-1		K. Rajitha not out	0
Did not bat: G. Bailey, M. Henriques, P. Nevill, J. Faulkner, M. Starc, A. Zampa, S. Boland		Extras (b8, lb 8, w3)	19
		Total (9 wickets; 20 overs)	178
		Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Dilshan), 2-15 (K. Perera), 3-45 (de Silva), 4-76 (Mendis), 5-94 (T. Perera), 6-138 (Chandimal), 7-142 (Pathirana), 8-174 (Kapugedara), 9-177 (Lakmal).	
		Bowling: Starc 4-0-26-3, Boland 4-0-26-3, Faulkner 4-0-38-1, Henriques 2-0-24-1, Zampa 4-0-27-1, Maxwell 2-0-21-0.	
		Result: Australia beat Sri Lanka by 85 runs.	
Sri Lanka			
K. Perera c Starc b Boland	4		
T. Dilshan b Starc	4		
D. de Silva b Faulkner	12		

PALLEKELE: Australia broke the world scoring record in Twenty20 internationals yesterday as an unbeaten century by opener Glenn Maxwell helped the tourists to 263 -3 and an 85-run victory in the first match against Sri Lanka.

Australia, who broke Sri Lanka's nine-year record of 260/6 against Kenya in 2007, restricted the hosts to 178 for nine in 20 overs to take 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Maxwell destroyed the Sri Lankan bowling attack with his unbeaten 145 off 65 balls, which was laced with 14 fours and nine sixes, after the visitors were invited to bat first.

Skipper David Warner gave Australia a fiery start with his 28 runs off 12 balls as he put on a 57-run opening partnership with Maxwell to lay a solid foundation.

Off-spinner Sachithra Senanayake bowled Warner on a looping delivery that held its line to take the off stump, but Sri Lanka's joy was shortlived as Maxwell, who was dropped from the ODI squad, was just warming up at the other end. "I thought to give the bloke (Maxwell) an

opportunity, I like a right-hand, left-hand combination at the top. Credit to him, he has worked hard at home. Tonight was all Maxi," said Warner.

The opener, who registered his maiden T20 century in his 35th game, found the perfect partner in Usman Khawaja, who scored 36 off 22 balls, as the duo put together 97 runs for the second wicket.

Debutant left-arm spinner Sachith Pathirana got Khawaja trudging back to the pavilion, only to see Travis Head join forces with Maxwell.

Maxwell and Head, who scored an 18-ball 45, then put on 109 runs for the third wicket as it was raining boundaries at a packed Pallekele International Stadium.

Maxwell fell 11 runs short of teammate Aaron Finch's top T20 score of 156 as he faced a single ball in the final over of the innings.

"A little bit instinctive, tried to hit my areas based on the field. Been playing really well in the T20 format over the last 12 months," Maxwell said of his epic knock.

"Nice to get an opportunity to bat at the top, slightly easier place to bat."

'REALLY DISAPPOINTED'

The economy rates of Sri Lankan bowlers went for a toss as Senanayake, Thisara Perera and Pathirana took a wicket each but gave away too many runs.

"I'm really disappointed with the way we bowled. If we restricted them to under 200, we would have had a chance," Sri Lankan skipper Dinesh Chandimal said.

Sri Lanka were never in the chase after losing openers Tillakaratne Dilshan and Kusal Perera (4) in the first two overs of the innings.

Pace spearhead Mitchell Starc struck in his very first over to get Dilshan, who is set to retire from international cricket after the second T20, bowled for four. The pressure of scoring at over 13 runs an over proved just too much for an inexperienced Sri Lankan batting side as the Aussie bowlers kept picking wickets at regular intervals. — AFP

KERBER INTO SECOND US OPEN SEMI-FINAL

NEW YORK: Angelique Kerber reached her second US Open semi-final yesterday with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over 2015 runner-up Roberta Vinci which also edged her closer to the world number one spot. The German second seed showed remarkable powers of resilience to retrieve three breaks of serve against the Italian 33-year-old in the first set. She will face either two-time runner-up Caroline Wozniacki or shock quarter-finalist Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia for a place in Saturday's championship match.

In a powerful demonstration of her title credentials, 28-year-old Australian Open champion Kerber wrapped up the second set by allowing Vinci just five points on her serve.

"It's always tough to play Roberta, she always comes out to play great tennis," said Kerber, who last made the semi-finals in New York in 2011. "I am happy to win in two sets which means a lot to me." Kerber could dethrone Serena Williams, who she has already faced in the Australian Open and Wimbledon finals this year, on top of the world rankings if results go her way.

But she insists she is not looking that far ahead. "I try to stay in the moment, be positive and go match by match," said the world number two. Vinci, bothered by a foot injury this tournament and playing with her left calf strapped yesterday, was ahead with a break on three occasions in the opening set for leads of 1-0, 3-2 and 5-4.

But Kerber kept reining her in and with the seventh break in 12 games, the German took the opener after 54 minutes when Vinci was called for a foot fault. The Italian aimed sarcastic applause and a thumbs-up at the impassive line judge, but the veteran never regained her composure as she garnered just 10 points in a 24-minute second set.

Later yesterday, Wozniacki will aim to make a Grand Slam semi-final for the first time since going all the way to the final of the US Open two years ago. Wozniacki, a former world number one and runner-up in 2009 and 2014, has already put out top ten seeds Svetlana Kuznetsova and Madison Keys on her way to the quarter-finals.

Now ranked 74, the popular Dane faces unlikely quarter-finalist Sevastova, who was so depressed about the state of her game back in 2013 that she retired. Her decision to return in



NEW YORK: Angelique Kerber of Germany reacts during her game against Roberta Vinci of Italy during their 2016 US Open Women's quarterfinals match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York yesterday. — AFP

2015 has been richly rewarded with a shock victory over French Open champion Garbine Muguruza in the second round.

The remaining quarter-finals take place today with world number one Williams facing fifth seed Simona Halep of Romania and Croatian teenager Ana Konjuh facing fellow big-hitter, Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic.

Croatian teen Ana Konjuh avenged a Wimbledon loss with a stunning 6-4 6-4 upset of fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska on Monday to claim the last women's quarter-final spot at the US Open.

The 18-year-old, who won the 2013 US Open juniors title after claiming the Australian Open juniors crown, lost her first service game but did not yield serve again in an overpowering performance that belied her world ranking of 92.

She cracked 38 winners, including six aces, against the Pole, who has never gone beyond the round of 16 in five attempts at Flushing Meadows. The power-hitting teenager, who

became the first Croatian woman to reach the quarter-finals at a US Open, was spurred on by a second-round loss to Radwanska at Wimbledon, where she held three match points before falling 9-7 in the third set.

"It's been an incredible night," Konjuh said in an on-court interview. "This time I got revenge, so I'm really happy." Radwanska accepted she had been outplayed by her opponent. "Sometimes it is difficult when the ball is going really big from the other side. It's hard to control, really put the ball where you want," said Radwanska.

Konjuh said she used the Wimbledon loss as motivation. "Last night I was replaying the match in my head," she told reporters. "I had match points and I missed forehands on all of them. I just didn't go for it." The Croat refused to make that mistake again, earning the only break of the second set with a backhand winner in the ninth game to lead 5-4 and serving for a quarter-finals berth. — Agencies

MURRAY, DJOKOVIC CLOSE IN ON US OPEN FINAL DUEL

NEW YORK: Andy Murray contests his sixth US Open quarter-final today looking to maintain his stranglehold over Kei Nishikori and take a step closer to a dream title showdown with Novak Djokovic.

Murray won the first of his three career majors at the US Open in 2012 and will be the favourite to make a fourth semi-final at the season's last Grand Slam. The world number two has a 7-1 record against Nishikori whose only win over the Briton came at the World Tour Finals in 2014.

This year, Murray came out on top in five sets to help steer Britain past Japan in the Davis Cup before cantering to a straight sets win in the Olympics semi-finals.

All in all, Murray is on a 26-1 run since losing the French Open final to Djokovic in June, collecting the Queen's Club, Wimbledon and Olympic titles on the way.

But he won't underestimate the threat posed by Nishikori, who made the final in New York in 2014 having knocked out Djokovic in the semi-finals. "He played some good stuff at the Olympics and won the bronze," said Murray who reached the quarter-final with a brutal dismissal of Grigor Dimitrov where he lost just five games. "I played a really good match against Kei in Rio and I'll need to do that again if I want to beat him because he's one of the best players in the world, plays extremely well on hard court."

Djokovic targets a 10th successive semi-final appearance on Tuesday when he faces longtime rival Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, one of three Frenchmen in the last-eight.

World number one Djokovic, the champion in New York in 2011 and 2015, has hardly broken sweat in the first four rounds.

He needed four sets to beat Jerzy Janowicz in his first match before he enjoyed a walkover in the second, an injury-enforced retirement in the third followed by a comfortable win over Briton's Kyle Edmund in the last-16.

In Tuesday's other men's quarter-final, Lucas Pouille, who knocked out 14-time major winner Rafael Nadal in five

sets on Sunday, faces French compatriot Gael Monfils.

TRIPLE FRENCH THREAT

It is the first time since 1927 that three Frenchmen have reached the last-eight in New York.

Djokovic, looking for his third major of 2016, boasts a remarkable record in New York. As well as his two titles, the 29-year-old was runner-up in 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2013. He was a semi-finalist in 2005, 2006 and 2014.

The Serb has a 15-6 winning record against ninth seed Tsonga, a run stretching back to their first meeting in the 2008 Australian Open final.

"I'm feeling very good. I didn't have much time on the court overall before the fourth round," said Djokovic who came into the tournament suffering from a wrist injury. "Considering I had some struggles before the tournament, I feel great at this moment physically; mentally as well I'm motivated." Monfils beat Pouille in their only meeting in five sets in the first round of the Australian Open in 2015.

But 22-year-old Pouille is now Grand Slam hardened having made a maiden Slam quarter-final at Wimbledon. Monfils, who turned 30 on September 1, is in his third quarter-final in New York. In his last appearance at this stage in 2014, he squandered a two sets lead against Roger Federer. Wednesday's other quarter-final sees 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro, ranked at 142 but on the comeback trail after three wrist surgeries, tackle third seed Stan Wawrinka, a former Australian and French Open winner.

Del Potro, the lowest-ranked quarter-finalist in 25 years, has a 4-2 head-to-head record over the 31-year-old Swiss including an impressive victory at Wimbledon earlier this year. However, the two have never met on hard courts. The quarter-final has been dubbed as a battle between Del Potro's hammer of a forehand and Wawrinka's precision backhand. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

Kuwait inflation remains unchanged at 3.1% in July

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Housebuilders weather Brexit but London market loses shine

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Germany's industry orders point to slowing economy

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VALUE OF KUWAIT REAL ESTATE SALES DROPS IN JULY

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DUBAI: Visitors gather near a model at the annual Cityscape show yesterday in the Gulf emirate of Dubai. Shimmering skyscrapers, golf-course villas and houses in sprawling gated communities are all on offer at the Cityscape fair that has developed a reputation for being the venue to launch the Gulf emirate's mega projects. —AFP (See also Page 23)

AIR PASSENGERS HIT BY BA TECH GLITCH

LONDON CITY AIRPORT PROTEST ENDS, 120 FLIGHTS WERE CANCELLED

LONDON: Air passengers in Britain and beyond faced delays yesterday after a "Black Lives Matter" protest on a runway halted flights for six hours at London City Airport and a computer glitch hit British Airways in London and the United States.

More than 120 flights were cancelled, delayed or diverted at City, a few miles east of the Canary Wharf financial district, after nine protesters locked themselves together on the runway. Police said late on Tuesday morning they had arrested all nine and the airline was preparing to resume flights. British Airways said it was taking longer than normal to process customers at a number of airports around the world, including London's Heathrow and Gatwick, and urged passengers to check in online before they reached the airport. The airline, owned by International Consolidated Airlines Group, apologized to customers. "Really unhappy with @British_Airways 'The system is down' & can't check in!" one passenger, Shail, said on Twitter.

Analysts at Royal Bank of Canada said the delays - the second problem with the service this year - could damage the airline's reputation after passengers took to social media to complain about delays in San Francisco, Washington DC and Atlanta on Monday night.

British Airways has been rolling out a new check-in system since last year and a spokeswoman said the check-in delays were teething problems that affected

many airports. Shares in BA's owner rose 1.5 percent, apparently unaffected by its airline's computer troubles. At City Airport, the protesters earlier erected two large posters with the slogans "Black Lives Matter" and "Climate Crisis is a Racist Crisis." The British arm of the group, which started in the United States as a reaction to fatal shootings of black people by police, said it wanted to highlight Britain's environmental impact on the lives of black people locally and globally.

Members blocked a main road to London's Heathrow Airport in August. "Black people are the first to die, not the first to fly, in this racist climate crisis," the group said in a statement. "When black people in Britain are 28 percent more likely to be exposed to air pollution than their white counterparts, we know that environmental inequality is a racist crisis." The campaign group said City airport was designed for the wealthy while those who lived near the site struggled on low salaries. Police said the protesters were now in police custody after being arrested on suspicion of aggravated trespass, being unlawfully airside and breaching London City Airport bylaws.

Global delays

Meanwhile, British Airways travelers are suffering delays globally due to a computer glitch in the check-in systems, the latest in a string of technical failures to hit

major international airlines. Travelers took to social media to complain of long lines and the airline said "a number" of airports were affected.

According to tracking service Flightaware, 157 BA flights were delayed, or 17 percent of its total flights, and five were cancelled as of midday in London. "We've been in line for three hours," Erik Blangsted, told KGO-TV as he waited for his flight at San Francisco International Airport. "We've talked to the people who've offered us some cold water and some chips - and sympathy."

The airline apologized and said passengers are now being checked in at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports but that the process may be "a bit slower than usual." BA had to apologize already in July after computer glitches in check-in systems also delayed passengers. It began installing new systems last October and completed the rollout earlier this year. The company, which is part of the International Consolidated Airlines Group SA, says it would "encourage customers to check in online before they reach the airport." The airline's problems come barely a month after US carrier Delta Air Lines Inc. suffered a global outage that caused it to cancel 2,300 flights, costing it \$100 million in lost revenue. A fire and failure of a piece of equipment at Delta's Atlanta headquarters on Aug. 8 had caused a massive outage of the airline's computer systems, leading to three days of heavy cancellations and delays. —Agencies



Passengers look at departure screens at London City Airport in London after protesters blocked the runway and caused all the flights from the airport to be cancelled yesterday. —AFP

US SERVICES FIRMS REGISTER SLOWEST GROWTH SINCE 2010

WASHINGTON: US services companies grew last month at the slowest pace in more than six years, a private survey finds. The Institute for Supply Management said yesterday that its services index fell to 51.4 last month from 55.5 in July. The August reading was the lowest since February 2010. Still, anything above 50 signals growth, and services firms have now expanded for 79 straight months.

New orders and hiring grew more slowly in August. Export orders fell. Eleven services industries reported growth in August; seven, including retailing, contracted. The drop in the index was bigger than economists had expected. Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities, said the report is the latest that shows the economy was "noticeably weaker than expected" in August. He says the ISM services reading gives the Federal Reserve another reason to delay an interest rate increase at its September meeting.

The ISM is a trade group of purchasing managers. Its services survey covers businesses that employ the vast majority of workers, including retail, construction, health care and financial companies.

Services companies have continued to grow despite a less-than-stellar US economy. Last Friday, the Labor Department reported that employers added a modest 151,000 jobs in August. Of those, almost all - 150,000 - were generated by private services firms. Factories cut 14,000 jobs last month, and the ISM said its manufacturing index contracted in August for the first time since February.

Overall economic growth slowed sharply starting late last year. From April through June, the economy expanded at a lukewarm annual pace of 1.1 percent, dragged down by the third straight quarterly drop in business investment. The investment slump partially reflects cutbacks in the energy industry in the face of low oil and gas prices. —AP

IRAN SUPPORTS \$50-60 OIL PRICE, STABILITY STEPS

ANKARA: Iran supports an oil price of \$50-60 per barrel and any measure to stabilize the market, state TV quoted the country's oil minister as saying yesterday.

"Iran wants a stable market and therefore any measure that helps the stabilization of the oil market is supported by Iran," Bijan Zanganeh said after meeting OPEC Secretary-General Mohammed Barkindo in Tehran. OPEC's third-largest producer, Iran has signalled willingness to support the possible revival of a global deal on freezing production levels only if fellow exporters recognise its right to regain market share lost as a result of sanctions.

Under a deal reached with six major powers in 2015, international sanctions imposed on Iran ended in January in exchange for Tehran curbing its nuclear program. Efforts by OPEC and non-OPEC oil exporters to reach an agreement on freezing output earlier this year foundered because Iran declined to participate. —Reuters

KUWAIT BOURSE RALLIES, GULF EQUITIES MIXED

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) rallied yesterday amid selective trades targeting below 50 filis stocks. The trading activity focused on shares of 49 companies while those of 17 others shed points-out of the 109 corporate stocks that changed hands. There were up to 7.01 million stocks, worth KD 3.4 million under the umbrella of Kuwait-15 index-done in 292 spot transactions. It closed at 805.07 points.

Trading at the KSE ended yesterday with the benchmark going up by 18.91 points, hitting 5,399.71 points. Weighted and KSX 15 indices went up by 1.17 and 2.17 points respectively, to stand at 347.07 points and 805.07 points. The value of trade was at KD 5,774,032.532 with the volume being at 57,420,318 shares done through 1,923 deals. The Kuwait bourse capital has been in the range of KD 23 billion-in contrast to more than KD 60 billion posted before flare-up of the global economic crisis in 2008.

Gulf mixed in quiet trade

Gulf stock markets were mixed in quiet trade yesterday as Riyadh's bourse pulled back after rising sharply on the previous day, when Saudi Arabia and Russia said they would cooperate to support oil prices. Riyadh's stock index gained early yesterday but closed 0.2 percent lower at 6,190 points, failing a test of technical resistance at 6,226-6,257 points, the lows in early August and June. Daily trad-

ing volume was at its second-lowest level this year; the lowest occurred last week.

Many analysts think the Saudi-Russia deal may do little to boost oil prices in the long term. The two countries did not announce specific steps and it might be difficult for them to join with other big producers to restrain output. The stock market's decline was broad-based with losers outnumbering gainers by 126 to 32. But petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries rose 0.6 percent and miner Maaden gained 0.9 percent after it said a unit had started trial production at a new ammonia plant.

United Cooperative Assurance jumped 4.2 percent after the Saudi central bank said it was allowing the company to resume accepting new vehicle insurance subscribers, after suspending permission since late June. Dubai edged down 0.1 percent as Shuaa Capital, which had soared its 15 percent daily limit to a 16-month high on Monday, fell back 5.5 percent.

The Dubai-listed shares of Orascom Construction climbed 5.0 percent after its board of directors approved a proposal to buy back up to 1 million of the company's Cairo-listed shares, which surged 4.6 percent. Abu Dhabi's index edged up 0.1 percent but Qatar dropped 1.2 percent as several blue chips pulled back, with Qatar National bank losing 2.3 percent and Industries Qatar falling 1.9 percent. In Egypt, the index fell 0.8 percent with nine of the 10 most heavily traded stocks declining. —Agencies

Chart 1: Consumer price inflation (% y/y)

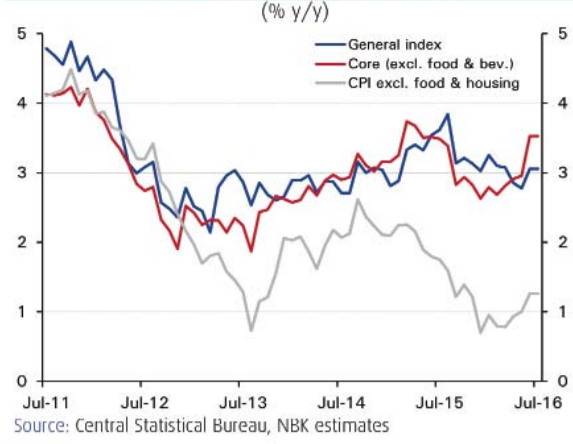


Chart 2: Inflation in food prices (% y/y)

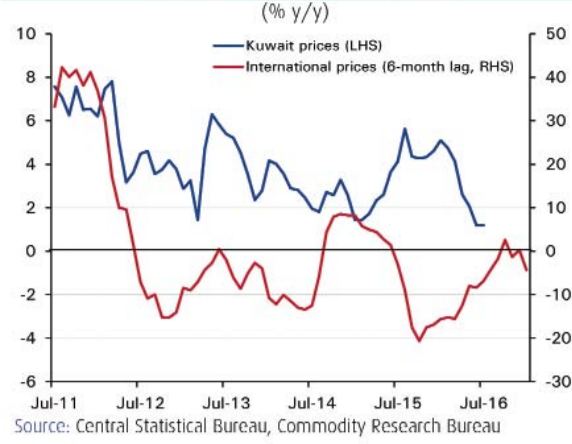
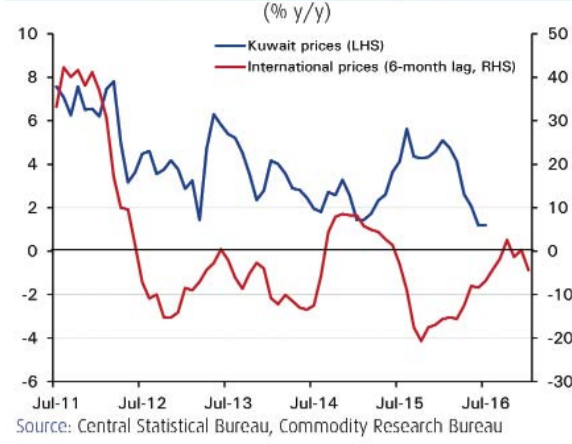


Chart 2: Inflation in food prices (% y/y)



KUWAIT INFLATION REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 3.1% IN JULY

KUWAIT: Inflation in consumer prices remained unchanged at 3.1 percent year-on-year (y/y) in July as price growth across most components remained largely steady. Food inflation maintained its softness, especially after global food prices slipped back into deflation. Core inflation, which excludes food prices, was also unchanged but somewhat higher at 3.5 percent y/y. With inflation across most components expected to remain in check, we foresee inflation to average around 3.0 percent in 2016, slightly lower than the 3.3 percent recorded in 2015.

Food prices soft

Food price inflation remained soft as global food prices slipped back into deflationary territory. Local food inflation steadied at 1.2 percent y/y in July. According to the Commodity Research Bureau, international food prices declined by 4.2 percent y/y in July, their biggest

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

decline in four months. Global food prices were led lower by higher supplies of grains and vegetable oils. The weakness in local food inflation is being reflected in the weak non-durable goods inflation data. Inflation in this segment decelerated sharply this year, but appears to have leveled off recently, in tandem with local food inflation.

Furnishings & household maintenance inflation was a tick lower in July and inflation in clothing & footwear remained weak. After stabilizing for about four months straight, inflation in the furnishings & household segment came in slightly lower in July at 2.6 percent y/y. Inflation in clothing & footwear costs saw some gains in July, but remained weak at 0.5 percent y/y. The stronger dinar and more frequent and longer seasonal "sales" continue to cap costs in this segment.

Inflation in the 'other goods & services' jumped in July. After months of subdued rates, inflation in this component, which is mostly comprised of imported goods such as personal care products and jewelry, accelerated from 0.5 percent y/y in June to 1.2 percent y/y in July. The jump in inflation could be explained by higher jewelry prices, following a rally in gold prices in July.

Inflation in restaurants & hotels remained unchanged from June's seven-month high of 4.1 percent mainly due to seasonality. Demand in this component, particularly in the 'restaurants & cafes' subcomponent, typically jumps during the summer season, especially during the Eid breaks.

Transportation

Prices in the transportation sector fell

for the seventh consecutive month in July. Transportation costs fell by 1.9 percent y/y, unchanged from June's pace. Inflation in this sector has been trending lower since at least 2009 mainly due to softer growth in both car prices and airfares and is currently the only component in deflationary territory. Both car prices and airfares continue to see downward pressures due to weaker sales, greater competition and more frequent and longer promotions. Case in point, airfares fell by a record -7.4 percent y/y in July and vehicle prices rose by a mere 0.6 percent y/y during the same period.

Inflation in services, excluding housing, remained steady in July. Inflation in services, which is predominantly driven by housing rent inflation, plateaued at 5.1 percent y/y in July. Excluding the cost of housing, inflation in services steadied at a relatively weak 1.6 percent y/y during the same period.

News

in brief

US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

KUWAIT: The US dollar's exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.301 yesterday, whereas the euro's rate went down to KD 0.336 compared to Monday's exchange rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The exchange rate of the pound sterling stabilized at KD 0.402, whereas the Swiss franc went down to KD0.307. The Japanese yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002.

Kuwait oil price up \$2.38 to \$41.68 pb

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up Monday \$2.38 to \$41.68 per barrel after being at \$39.30 pb last Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the world markets, oil prices shrank their gains following an agreement that was reached between Saudi Arabia and Russia to cooperate in order to bring back stability to the world oil markets. The price of the Brent crude for November delivery was up 57 cents to \$47.40 per barrel.

Key executive at Bahrain's Bank ABC to depart in 2017

DUBAI: The chief banking officer of Bank ABC, Ray Ferguson, will step down from his position at the Bahraini lender in early 2017, according to an internal memo yesterday. Ferguson, hired from Standard Chartered in 2014, had been tasked with helping to formulate and implement a refreshed strategy at the bank which included expanding abroad and in wholesale banking, hiring new senior talent and optimising its capital base, the memo said. Bank ABC has undergone a number of changes during Ferguson's time, including a rebranding from Arab Banking Corporation last year as well as establishing a capital markets team. Among the people hired in the last three years include a new chief financial officer, and heads of compliance and treasury.

Eagle Hills talking with banks on \$150m Rabat project

DUBAI: Abu Dhabi real estate developer Eagle Hills is in talks with Moroccan and international banks to finance half the costs of a project in Morocco's capital Rabat, the company's general manager Mohammed Al-Merini said yesterday. The Fairmont Residences project, which is under construction and is to be delivered in 2019, will be worth about \$150 million, including construction costs, Merini told reporters. The project, with an area of 44,000 square metres, is to feature 184 hotel rooms and 79 residences.

Dubai's Emaar Properties targets 10-yr sukuk sale

DUBAI: Dubai's Emaar Properties is targeting the sale of a dollar-denominated sukuk of benchmark size and 10 years duration today after issuing initial pricing thoughts, a document from lead managers showed. The transaction, for which order books have now opened, is currently earmarked to price in the low-to-mid 200 basis point range over equivalent midswaps, according to the document. Benchmark size is traditionally understood to mean upwards of \$500 million. The developer's issuance of Islamic bonds is being managed by Standard Chartered, Bank ABC, Dubai Islamic Bank, Emirates NBD, First Gulf Bank, Mashreq, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Noor Bank and Union National Bank, the document said.

MUBADALA CEO DOESN'T RULE OUT MORE M&A

DUBAI: The chief executive of Abu Dhabi state fund Mubadala said he did not rule out more mergers and acquisitions in the emirate after the planned merger of his institution with another of Abu Dhabi's sovereign funds. "From a personal point of view, there is no doubt," Khaloon Khalifa Al-Mubarak told Abu Dhabi-based Sky News Arabia in an interview broadcast yesterday, when asked about the possibility of more merger activity in the emirate. "When the benefits of a merger are clear, it is in the interests of owners. We are in a competitive world and size matters, and the more competitive capability we form would be in the interest of concerned companies," he added, according to a transcript of the interview provided by Sky News Arabia.

Abu Dhabi said in June that it would merge Mubadala and International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC), responding to the impact of lower oil prices by pooling their investment power and consolidating operations. The emirate is also in the process of merging two big state-linked banks, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank.

Mubarak told Sky News Arabia that he expected the Mubadala merger to be completed between the fourth quarter of this year and the first quarter of 2017, creating an institution with combined assets of 460 billion dirhams (\$125 billion).

He said it was too early to discuss the strategy of the new fund but that the merger was being carried out "within well-studied plans".

He said 2015 had been a tough year because of low oil prices and 2016 had also been expected to be tough. "With what is going on in China, the oil prices and elections in more than one country that have an impact on economies, we expected a difficult year and big challenges, and all companies around the world are affected by these conditions."

There may be some improvement next year, "but the situation may require caution and wisdom and a long-term, future-oriented outlook in managing investments." — Reuters



TOKYO: People walk past an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian shares were mixed in quiet trading yesterday after US markets were closed for the Labor Day holiday. — AP

UAE BANKRUPTCY LAW TO SPARE BAD-DEBT EXECUTIVES JAIL TIME

ABU DHABI: A new bankruptcy law in the United Arab Emirates promises to reduce the risks of doing business in the country by allowing businessmen and executives to avoid time in jail if their companies fail to pay debts. The long-awaited law, approved by the cabinet this week, is expected to take effect by the beginning of 2017 after it is promulgated, Obaid Humaid Al-Tajer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, told reporters yesterday.

"This law will add value to the business community and will be positive for both foreign and local investors. This is an important step for the UAE," he said. At present the UAE does not have modern bankruptcy regulations, making it difficult for companies to restructure or wind themselves up. Under existing legislation, unpaid debt or the issue

of a bounced cheque can land businessmen in jail.

That has proved problematic for smaller companies in particular as some executives of troubled firms have fled the country, leaving behind bad debts. Such debts, known as "skips", totalled over \$1.4 billion last year, bankers estimated. The new law will establish a regulatory body, the Committee of Financial Restructuring, that will oversee restructuring cases and appoint experts to handle them. It provides for companies to receive new loans under terms set by the law.

However, businessmen will face a prison sentence of up to five years and a fine of up to 1 million dirhams (\$272,000) if their companies fail to pay debts and deliberately avoid filing for bankruptcy, Tajer said. — Reuters

DP WORLD WINS CONCESSION TO MANAGE SOMALILAND PORT

DUBAI: Dubai-based ports operator DP World said yesterday it had won a concession to manage a port at Berbera in the breakaway republic of Somaliland for 30 years, in an investment of up to \$442 million. "DP World will set up a joint venture with 65 percent control together with the government of Somaliland to manage and invest in the Port of Berbera," the company said in a statement.

The concession includes an automatic 10-year extension for the management and development of the port. The port "opens a new point of access to the Red Sea and will complement DP World's existing port at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa," the company said. The project offers an opportunity for

the development of Somaliland, which is not recognised by the international community despite 25 years of de facto independence from the rest of war-torn Somalia.

The investment will include a first phase of a quay and yard extension, DP World said, adding that work will start a year after terms and conditions of the agreement are met.

On the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden, Berbera offers an African base at the entrance to the Red Sea and the gateway to the Suez canal. The investment "will attract more shipping lines to East Africa and its modernisation will act as a catalyst for the growth of the country and the region's economy," DP World chairman Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem said. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.925
Indian Rupees	4.552
Pakistani Rupees	2.900
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.085
Nepali Rupees	2.838
Singapore Dollar	223.730
Hongkong Dollar	39.033
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.510
Thai Baht	8.768

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.763
Qatari Riyal	83.194
ani Riyal	786.642
Bahraini Dinar	804.300
UAE Dirham	82.457

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.475
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	137.900
Jordanian Dinar	427.360
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.0158
Morocco Dirham	31.466

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.700
Euro	339.630

Sterling Pound	404.560
Canadian dollar	234.380
Turkish lira	103.310
Swiss Franc	331.570
Australian Dollar	231.570
US Dollar Buying	301.500

GOLD

20 Gram	267.310
10 Gram	136.570
5 Gram	69.130

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollr	233.320
Sterling Pound	403.380
Euro	338.920
Swiss Frank	298.130
Bahrain Dinar	800.735
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	426.815
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Indian Rupees	4.548
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Bangladesh Taka	3.854
Philippines Peso	6.495
Cyprus pound	159.645
Japanese Yen	3.915
Syrian Pound	2.405

Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	74.815
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.695
Thai Bhat	9.720
Turkish Lira	102.840

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.389705	0.404705
Czech Korune	0.004466	0.016466
Danish Krone	0.041251	0.046251
Euro	0.0331946	0.0340946
Norwegian Krone	0.032268	0.037468
Romanian Leu	0.075610	0.075610
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.031427	0.036427
Swiss Franc	0.301266	0.312266
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.219217	0.231217
New Zealand Dollar	0.212884	0.222384

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.225725	0.234725
Georgia Lari	0.136691	0.136691
US Dollars	0.298550	0.303250
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.303250

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003289	0.003873
Chinese Yuan	0.043702	0.047202

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036926	0.039676
Indian Rupee	0.004259	0.004648
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002852	0.003032
Kenyan Shilling	0.002978	0.002978
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071019	0.077019
Nepalese Rupee	0.002809	0.002979
Pakistan Rupee	0.002699	0.002989
Philippine Peso	0.006307	0.006607
Sierra Leone	0.000051	0.000057
Singapore Dollar	0.216485	0.226485
South African Rand	0.014836	0.023336
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001641	0.002221
Taiwan	0.009414	0.009594
Thai Baht	0.008417	0.008967

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796216	0.804716
Egyptian Pound	0.023748	0.028866
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422712	0.431712
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019618	0.043618
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.082319	0.083769
Saudi Riyal	0.079620	0.080920
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.133987	0.141987
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908
UAE Dirhams	0.080975	0.082675
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448

OIL SLIPS BELOW \$47 AS HOPES FOR PRODUCER ACTION WANE

LONDON: Oil slipped below \$47 a barrel yesterday, falling further from the previous session's one-week high on receding hopes for imminent action to tackle a global supply glut. Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed on Monday to cooperate in world oil markets, prompting Brent to jump almost 5 percent only for it to pare gains after Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said there was no need to freeze output for now.

Brent crude for November was down \$1.20 at \$46.43 a barrel by

1352 GMT. US crude for October, which did not settle on Monday due to the Labor Day holiday, was at \$44.02, down 42 cents from Friday's close. While the Saudi minister played down the prospect of imminent action, his Russian counterpart Alexander Novak said he was open to ideas on what cut-off period to use if countries chose to freeze output and said even production cuts could be considered.

"Differences still remain and will reinforce already heightened levels of

skepticism that supply will soon be restrained," said Stephen Brennock of oil broker PVM. Oil prices are half their level of mid-2014, hurting producing nations' income. OPEC and Russia tried earlier this year to curb the glut by seeking an output freeze, but the deal collapsed in April due to tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC producers such as Russia will hold informal talks in Algeria on Sept. 26-28. Others in the market are skepti-

cal a deal will happen. "The two nations' cooperation is understandable," said Kaname Gokon, a strategist with Okato Shoji Co Ltd. "But when oil output is reduced, other producers would receive the benefit. There is still a question whether they can cut production for a sustainable period."

Iran, which is raising exports after the lifting of Western sanctions in January, refused to participate in the earlier effort to freeze output. Saudi Arabia insisted all producers take

part, prompting the collapse of the talks. By some measures, Iran is pumping at its pre-sanctions rate. OPEC and industry sources have said Tehran now appears to be more willing to reach an understanding with other producers.

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammed Barkindo met Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh in Tehran on Tuesday. Zanganeh, after the meeting, voiced support for steps to boost prices, without specifying whether Iran would join such an effort.—Reuters

IVORY COAST EVICTS THOUSANDS OF COCOA FARMERS TO SAVE FORESTS

MONT PEKO NATIONAL PARK, Ivory Coast: Before the morning mists had broken over Ivory Coast's Mont Peko National Park, thousands of newly homeless cocoa farmers and their families began to stir, fetching water and lighting cooking fires outside Sylvain Zongo's church at the forest edge.

"I don't know what I am going to do. All I can do is pray to God, otherwise it breaks my heart," the pastor said, surveying a scene more evocative of the West African nation's civil war years than its relative prosperity today. This is the human toll of a government crackdown on illegal farmers that could leave hundreds of thousands destitute, dent gross domestic product and inflame tensions left over from years of unrest.

It is the consequence of what may be Ivory Coast's last chance save the most rapidly disappearing forest in Africa, home to endangered chimpanzees, forest elephants and the rare pygmy hippopotamus. Since independence in 1960, Ivory Coast has built its economy - French-speaking West Africa's largest - on cash crop agriculture, growing about 40 percent of the world's cocoa, which makes up some 15 percent of its GDP.

While the chocolate ingredient helped it become a relatively prosperous nation in a desperately poor region, it also brought it to the brink of an ecological disaster. Ivory Coast lost 80 percent of its virgin forest between independence from France in 1960 and 2010, according to the European Union. Another study by Ivorian and French scientists estimated it had the highest rate of deforestation in Africa - with 265,000 hectares cleared annually by 1999 - even before the onset of political unrest that accelerated the destruction.

LAWLESSNESS

During the 2002-2011 crisis, which included two civil wars, park rangers and forest officials abandoned areas they were protecting. The 34,000-hectare Mont Peko, which means "mountain of hyenas" in the local Guere language, became a symbol of the lawlessness that reigned during that period as armed warlords seized control of the land and sold off parcels, many to immigrants from neighboring countries.

The government crackdown in Mont Peko is a significant step in ending illegal cocoa farming in Ivory Coast's eight national parks, five nature reserves and 231 forest reserves.

Annual production in Mont Peko alone reached around 10,000 tons, worth over \$28 million in export value, a UN panel of experts said in a report in March, though some exporters say the tonnage figure may be double that. The government had repeatedly told illegal farmers to leave the park since 2012, but had not enforced its demand. On July 30, it formally issued a decree of eviction and sent in troops to clear plantations, destroying cocoa trees and settlements that housed tens of thousands of people.

"We must end impunity and we dare to hope that we will finish this once and for all," said park ranger Kpoko Ouattara, as his men pulled down the remnants of the camp of Amade Oueremi, the park's most notorious warlord and a major illegal cocoa grower, who was arrested in 2013.

The evictions mirrored those that have taken place in parks and reserves across the country since 2013, as the government has come under pressure from international donors including the European Union to act to protect its natural resources.—Reuters



DUBAI: Emiratis stand near a model at the annual Cityscape show yesterday in the Gulf emirate of Dubai. Shimmering skyscrapers, golf-course villas and houses in sprawling gated communities are all on offer at the Cityscape fair that has developed a reputation for being the venue to launch the Gulf emirate's mega projects.—AFP

HOUSEBUILDERS WEATHER BREXIT BUT LONDON MARKET LOSES SHINE

BERKELEY SAYS HOUSING MARKET STABILIZED IN AUGUST

LONDON: High-end London house-builder Berkeley yesterday sounded a more cautious note on the impact of Britain's decision to leave the European Union than rival Redrow, which is less exposed to investment buyers and foreign money.

London has for years been a magnet for international money, driving up prices and development and raising fears of a bubble, but uncertainty following the June 23 referendum meant customers were taking longer to buy, Berkeley said.

Housebuilding was one of the sectors hardest hit by the vote to quit the EU, with shares in the country's biggest companies losing about a quarter of their value in the following weeks. And the impact has also been felt on the ground, with Berkeley last week halting construction at a luxury housing project in southwest London, where homes were expected to sell for up to 5 million pounds (\$6.7 million), without saying why.

House prices in London tend to be higher than elsewhere in the country, and with more homes bought as investments, they have also been hit by new taxes on sec-

ond homes. With more people's jobs connected to the financial services industry, the capital's property market has also felt the uncertainty brought by Brexit most keenly. But Redrow defied these worries yesterday, giving a positive outlook after sales rose 8 percent in the ten weeks since June 30, pushing its shares up 7 percent to 412 pence, their highest level since they closed on June 23 at 427 pence.

Profit target

Although larger rival Berkeley said it was confident of meeting a two-year profit target, it said the referendum had paused property sales in June and July, before the market stabilized in August, albeit with buyers now taking more time. Berkeley's more cautious outlook reflected its greater exposure to London and the south east of England, said analysts. While Redrow builds some new homes in these areas, the majority of its sites are spread across the rest of England.

"It's been very much business as normal and that's the case I think across the whole of the UK. I think if you look at the market post-Brexit, pre-brexit, there is no real differ-

ence," Redrow Chief Executive John Tutte told reporters. But while it said underlying demand was strong and pricing resilient, Berkeley said its sales had been hit by Brexit uncertainty, which caused a temporary rise in cancellations.

It said that in August sales levels had returned to levels seen in the first five months of the year, meaning they were still down about 20 percent versus 2015, after a higher levy since April on second homes and buy-to-let properties.

Negative effect

London-focused estate agents Foxtons blamed a 10 percent drop in both the number of homes it sold and let in the first half of the year firmly on Brexit, while Redrow's resilience matched that of Persimmon, which does not build in central London. Redrow also said that it had seen a small rise in cancellations in London from investors buying properties who became nervous in the wake of Brexit, but that had now tailed off, with the CEO blaming any London slump on stamp duty.

Data shows that prices in prime

central London had already started to fall in the run-up to the referendum due to an additional 3 percent surcharge on second home stamp duty, which were condemned by Berkeley. "Government policy, which has been helpful outside London, has had a negative effect on the capital," Berkeley said.

"Transaction taxes are now too high and this is restricting both mobility in the second hand market and the pace of supply and delivery of new homes in London and the South East."

Shares in Berkeley, which is due to drop out of Britain's FTSE 100 bluechip index later in September after its shares plunged after Brexit, climbed 3 percent to 2,777 pence after it reiterated confidence in its profit target and a promise to return 10 pounds per share over the next five years.

Reporting annual profits which were up 23 percent in the year to June 30, FTSE 250 firm Redrow lifted its full-year dividend by 67 percent to 10 pence per share. Shares in the group were up by 7 percent to 411.5 pence at 1245 GMT.—Reuters



MIAMI: Nicole Kelly, right, interviews Justin Rushing for a server job at a job fair held by The Genuine Hospitality Group, in Miami. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, issued its index of non-manufacturing activity for July.—AP

EU FMS SEEK TO MAKE TAX POLICY MORE EVENHANDED

BRUSSELS: European Union countries should better coordinate tax rules to avoid hitting corporations too hard, the Slovak presidency of the European Union proposed, in an effort to provide more balance to an EU campaign against tax avoidance by multinational companies.

The proposal, to be discussed at an informal meeting of EU finance ministers in Bratislava on Sept. 10, comes as the EU cracks down on corporate tax-avoidance schemes, which some fear could backfire and drive multinationals away from the continent. The Slovak proposal aims mostly to reduce cases of double taxation for multinational companies and to make taxation more predictable for corporations.

Slovakia, which took over the six-month rotating EU presidency in July, praised EU efforts to fight tax dodging. But it called for an approach "that supports the EU's attractiveness as a place for business, investment," according to a paper seen by Reuters. The document calls on the EU finance ministers to discuss measures to enhance tax certainty. Those would include "further cross-border harmonisation of tax rules" and more cooperation among national tax administrations.

Last week, the European Commission told Apple Inc to pay up to 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion) in back taxes to Ireland to compensate for a scheme that has cut the iPhone maker's tax bill to next to nothing over a decade. Dublin appealed the ruling on the grounds it would undermine Ireland's long-estab-

lished policy of attracting multinationals with low taxes.

Apple's chief executive, Tim Cook, said the company's overseas profits would be taxed in the United States when the money was repatriated. And US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said the EU was trying to grab revenue that ought to go to the United States. In June, EU countries agreed to put an end to some of the most common practices used by multinationals to reduce their tax bills, such as shifting profits made in Europe to no-tax countries where they have no real business activity. Fair-taxation campaigners considered the agreed measures too mild, but industry groups raised concern about damage to EU competitiveness if the anti-tax avoidance drive made tax bills too unpredictable.

"It appears that more needs to be done to prevent and reduce tax uncertainty (that) can directly affect domestic investment and, hence, productivity as well as cross-border trade and foreign direct investment," the Slovak presidency said in a paper that seems to endorse some of those concerns.

To keep up the pressure against tax avoidance, the Slovak presidency is also proposing mandatory disclosure rules for banks and other intermediaries that help set up tax-dodging schemes for corporations and wealthy individuals. Following up on non-binding proposals circulated by the European Commission in July, the Slovaks will ask ministers to consider an obligation for banks to disclose to tax authorities offshore tax-avoidance schemes that they advise on.—Reuters

AUSTRALIA LEAVES INTEREST RATES ON HOLD

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank yesterday held interest rates steady at a record low of 1.50 percent, as it waits for more information on inflation pressures before signalling its next move. Rates have been cut twice in the past four months, including by 25 basis points in August, in a bid to boost sluggish inflation as the economy transitions towards non-resources growth after a mining investment boom. Official figures in July showed inflation fell to a 17-year low of 1.0 percent in April-June, well off the RBA's target of 2.0-3.0 percent. Last month's rate cut is expected to take some time to feed through to possibly pushing up consumer prices, with the RBA's own forecasts in May expecting inflation to only lift towards the target band in late 2017 or in 2018.

Most economists expected the central bank to hold fire to see what impact the earlier cuts were having and outgoing RBA governor Glenn Stevens said the current cash rate was appropriate.

"Having eased monetary policy at its May and August meetings, the Board judged that holding the stance of policy unchanged at this meeting would be consistent with sustainable growth in the economy and achieving the inflation target over time," he said.

Stevens, in his last statement as governor before handing over to his deputy Philip Lowe, added that "inflation remains quite low." "Given very subdued growth in labour costs and very low cost pressures elsewhere

in the world, this is expected to remain the case for some time," he said. Australia has been growing more strongly than most of the world's advanced economies but like many countries is struggling to kickstart inflation,

with oil prices subdued and global trade tepid. The Australian dollar, which moved slightly higher in the lead up to the announcement, was steady immediately after the decision at 76.22 US cents.—AFP



SYDNEY: A woman walks past a bank advertising home loans in Sydney yesterday as Australia's central bank held interest rates steady at a record low of 1.5 percent, while it waits for more information on inflation pressures before signalling its next move.—AFP

EMERGING MARKET BULLS PUSH STOCKS HIGHER

LONDON: World shares closed in on one-year highs yesterday as the prospect of prolonged cheap borrowing costs and a recent rise in oil prices set off a new emerging market bull run. Asian stocks reached one-year highs overnight and MSCI's 46-country 'All World' index was close as most of Europe's markets climbed 0.1 to 0.3 percent higher.

Britain's FTSE 100 was the laggard, spending a second day in the red, as sterling's slow recovery after the country voted to leave the European Union left investors looking at companies' competitiveness again. Emerging mar-

kets had no such worries. A gain of nearly 0.8 percent for the main emerging market stock index took its rise over the last three trading days past 3 percent and put it up more than a third since January.

The latest advance came as the prospect of a US interest rate rise was pushed back by weak jobs data on Friday. Rising oil prices helped oil-rich emerging markets such as Mexico, Brazil and Russia. Emerging markets have continued to rally, supported by a rise in commodity prices and continued expectations that the Fed will remain dovish," said

Standard Life Investment's Alex Wolf.

"In addition, there are some fundamental improvements - August sales improved across many companies and PMI data showed stabilization in China." Oil markets were calmer, after prices surged, then slid on Monday, when Russia and Saudi Arabia confirmed they had agreed to cooperate to stabilise the oil market, although they offered no immediate plan of action.

The US dollar barely budged against the yen, at 103.67 yen , but fell for a fifth day against the pound and eased to 1.1166 per

euro. Australia's dollar jumped almost 1 percent to \$0.7655 after the country's central bank said little on the currency's 10 percent rise since January and kept Aussie interest rates at 1.5 percent.

"One perhaps could have expected some more discussion of the currency, but we probably need to get back above 0.80 for verbal invention to come back into flavour," said Tobias Davis, head of corporate treasury sales with Western Union in London. Australian shares slipped 0.4 percent after the RBA's decision, but MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan extended its recent gains to set a new one-year high overnight. Investors are looking ahead to Thursday's meeting by the European Central Bank, which some expect to expand its stimulus efforts. It could extend the duration of its bond-buying program, though some analysts say it is more likely to do so toward the end of the year, when it has more information on the economy. The Bank of Japan, meanwhile, is reviewing its ultra-lax monetary easing. In a speech Monday, Governor Haruhiko Kuroda offered mixed signals. The upshot was "it is logical to infer that the Bank will conduct further easing," to achieve Japan's 2 percent inflation target, said Hiroshi Ugai of JP Morgan in Tokyo.

Asian stocks finished mostly higher. Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.3 percent to 17,081.98 and South Korea's Kospi

added 0.3 percent to 2,066.53. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.6 percent to 23,787.68 and India's Sensex jumped 1.5 percent to 28,958.05. The Shanghai Composite index rose 0.6 percent to 3,090.71, but Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.3 percent to 5,413.60.

Japan's Nikkei stock index closed up 0.3 percent as the yen gave up some gains from Monday, when Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda shied away from detailed talk of fresh BOJ stimulus. European bonds were buoyant. Spanish government bond yields slipped below 1 percent, continuing a strong performance that defies growing political uncertainty in Spain. German Bund yields fell to minus 0.059 percent.

France's CAC 40 added 0.1 percent to 4,546 and Germany's DAX edged up 0.3 percent to 10,705. Britain's FTSE 100 shed 0.3 percent to 6,862. Wall Street was set for a lukewarm start after the holiday. Dow and S&P futures each added 0.1 percent.

G20: The Group of 20 major economies wrapped up their annual summit, held in Hangzhou, China, with a stronger commitment to coordinate policies to support growth and promote trade liberalization. The gathering also launched a new initiative to work on curbing excess steel production capacity, especially in China, which may help smooth tensions over the issue. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Tuesday 06 September 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price index	▲ 18.91	5,399.71	5,380.80	5,399.71	5,378.52					
Weighted Index	▲ 1.17	347.07	345.90	347.07	343.95					
KSX 15	▲ 2.17	805.07	802.90	805.68	797.52					
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	▲ 0.0			
IKARUS	33.0	32.0	189,362	6,215	9	33.0	▲ 0.5			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370	▲ 0.0			
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	750	▲ 0.0			
ENERGYH	45.0	44.5	4,950	221	3	45.0	▼ -1.5			
GPI	39.5	38.5	2,666,190	103,297	36	39.0	▲ 0.0			
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▲ 0.0			
Oil & Gas			2,860,502	109,732	48	773.14	▼ -2.25			
KFOUC	164	164	22,233	3,646	3	164	▲ 0.0			
BPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	490	▲ 0.0			
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	▲ 0.0			
ALQURAIN	198	196	31,865	6,297	7	198	▲ 0.0			
Basic Materials			54,098	9,943	10	938.83	▲ 0.00			
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▲ 0.0			
REFRI	315	315	4,971	1,566	1	315	▲ 0.0			
CABLE	375	370	43,450	16,218	12	375	▲ 10.0			
SHIP	162	160	61,704	9,996	5	160	▲ 0.0			
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	▲ 0.0			
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0			
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	▲ 0.0			
ACICO	280	280	6	2	1	280	▼ -5.0			
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0			
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	▲ 0.0			
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0			
NICBM	220	210	25,000	5,260	3	220	▲ 10.0			
EQUIPMENT	44.5	44.0	276,100	12,284	7	44.5	▲ 1.0			
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	▲ 0.0			
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0			
SALBOKH	59	58	53,704	3,115	6	59	▲ 1.0			
AGLTY	460	445	2,277,016	1,026,320	58	460	▼ -10.0			
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▲ 0.0			
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.0	▲ 0.0			
KSL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.0	▲ 0.0			
KCPL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	▲ 0.0			
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,480	▲ 0.0			
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0			
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▲ 0.0			
GFC	23.5	20.0	3,000	69	2	23.5	▲ 1.5			
MAYADEEN	29.0	28.5	1,035,300	29,500	25	28.5	▲ 0.0			
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	640	▲ 0.0			
MTCC	58	57	225,277	12,847	12	58	▲ 2.0			
UPACO	680	680	14,500	9,860	3	680	▼ -10.0			
ALAFAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	214	▲ 0.0			
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	▲ 0.0			
LOGISTICS	70	70	86,000	4,620	2	70	▲ 0.0			
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0			
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0			
QIC	75	75	23,492	1,762	1	75	▲ 0.0			
FCEM	76	76	5,000	380	1	76	▲ 0.0			
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0			
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▲ 0.0			
Industrials			4,114,520	1,133,803	139	1145.09	▲ 0.60			
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	▲ 0.0			
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0			
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0			
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	248	▲ 0.0			
DANAH	87	82	1,738,543	146,464	109	86	▼ -1.0			
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0			
FOOD	2,460	2,440	222,616	544,393	15	2,440	▲ 0.0			
Consumer Goods			1,961,159	690,857	124	1139.72	▼ -1.44			
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0			
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0			
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	188	▲ 0.0			
Health Care			0	0	0	1056.41	▲ 0.00			
KCIN	960	930	1,366	1,286	5	940	▲ 0.0			
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0			
SULTAN	56	52	125,200	6,536	6	54	▼ -1			
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	▲ 0.0			
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0			
IFAH	192	166	800	141	2	192	▼ -4			
QULAFUEL	120	118	77,145	9,139	25	116	▲ 0.0			
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	▲ 0.0			
JAZEERA	840	840	7,810	6,560	1	840	▲ 10			
SOOR	118	114	109,101	12,452	19	114	▲ 0.0			
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0			
ALRAI	148	144	42,000	6,155	8	146	▲ 4			
ZIMAH	40.0	39.5	453,380	18,041	22	40.0	▲ 1			
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0			
Mezzan	1,020	1,020	85,326	87,033	9	1,020	▲ 0.0			
Consumer Services			902,128	147,343	97	919.40	▲ 2.80			
ZAIN	325	320	943,952	306,057	27	325	▲ 5			
OOREDOO	1,060	1,060	1,043	1,106	1	1,060	▲ 0.0			
HITSTELEC	39.0	37.5	1,887,460	71,711	52	37.5	▲ 0.0			
VIVA	910	890	40,494	36,369	35	910	▲ 20			
Telecommunications			2,872,949	415,243	115	582.47	▲ 8.09			
NBK	590	580	840,782	495,934	40	590	▲ 0.0			
GBK	228	224	530,064	120,484	18	228	▲ 4			
CBK	310	310	30,000	9,300	1	310	▲ 15			
ABK	310	305	426,122	129,972	7	310	▼ -10			
ALMUTAHED	390	390	1	0	1	390	▲ 5			
KIB	188	188	428,800	80,614	12	188	▲ 2			
BURG	325	320	233,032	75,660	13	325	▲ 0.0			
KOBYN	460	455	974,627	448,314	33	460	▲ 0.0			
BOUBYAN	385	380	273,897	105,274	23	385	▲ 5			
AHUR	196	196	55,000	10,780	3	196	▲ 2			
ITMB	38.0	37.5	203,000	7,617	12	37.5	▲ 1			
WARBABANK	168	164	134,070	22,340	40	168	▲ 4			
Banks			4,129,395	1,506,291	203	782.40	▲ 6.55			
KINS	250	250	36,792	9,198	5	250	▼ -5			
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	▲ 0.0			
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▲ 0.0			
WINS	108	108	2,090	226	1	108	▲ 0.0			
KUWAITRE	190	190	5,000	950	1	190	▲ 0.0			
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5	▲ 0.0			
WETHAQ	31.5	27.5	25,500	704	4	31.5	▲ 1.5			
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0			
Insurance			69,382	11,078	11	996.19	▲ 2.98			

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National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report					
At 02:00 PM Previous Day					
Global Stock Indices					
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	18,419.30	18,491.96	72.66	▲	0.39
NASDAQ	5,227.21	5,249.90	22.69	▲	0.43
S&P 500	2,170.86	2,179.98	9.12	▲	0.42
Financial Times	6,879.42	6,863.44	-15.98	▼	-0.23
DAX	10,672.22	10,703.33	31.11	▲	0.29

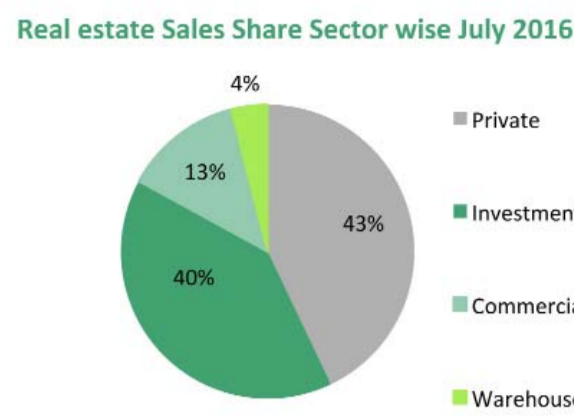
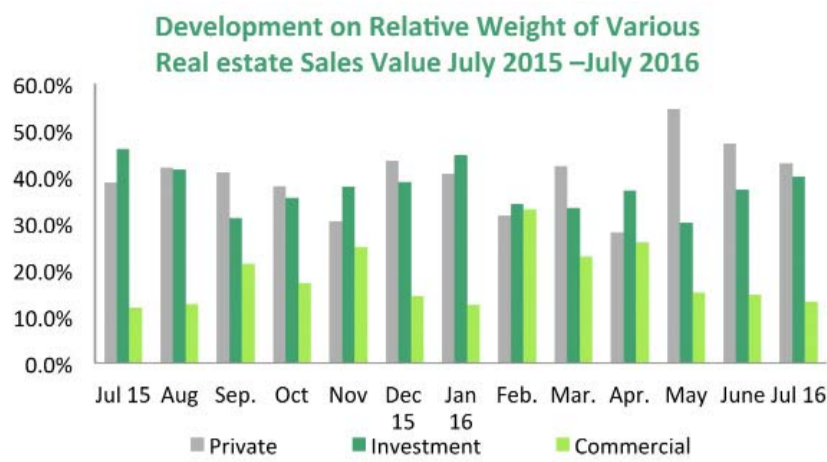
VALUE OF KUWAIT REAL ESTATE SALES DROPS IN JULY

KFH REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: The first ten days of July coincided with the Eid Al-Fitr holidays. Accordingly, most investors were busy with their holidays, the matter which has caused the decline in real estate sales value to continue in July. Sales value declined by 24 percent as at the end of July compared to the preceding month. This decline comes on the back of the major decline in all real estate sectors, mainly the commercial sector. Handcraft real estate sales value witnessed a slight increase.

Average real estate value declined in July compared to the preceding month. Average real estate value declined in all real estate sectors except the handcraft sector compared to June. Annual performance comparison of average real estate value shows that the performance has declined in all sectors except the commercial real estate sector which has witnessed an increase in the single real estate value.

Private residence sales value witnessed a decline by 30 percent in July compared to its value in the preceding month. Average real estate transaction value declined by 4 percent. Investment real estate sale value declined by 18 percent in July, thus causing average investment real estate value to decline by 7 percent in July. Commercial real estate sales declined in July by 32 percent. Accordingly, commercial real estate average value declined by 32 percent in July. One of the main commercial real estate sales transactions was the sale of a commercial building in Hawally area for KD 6 million and another for KD 4.7 million in addition to a third commercial building for KD 4 million



cent of sales in July compared to 37 percent in June. Despite this increase investment real estates are still occupying the second position among real estate sectors.

Commercial real estates' share declined for the third time respectively in July to represent 13 percent of real estate sales compared to 14.7 percent in June. Handcraft and warehouses real estate sector share in real estate transactions reached 4 percent in July, thus marking a remarkable increase compared to the preceding month where handcraft and warehousing real estates and coastal strip real estate have jointly formed less than 0.5 percent in June. The incoming information did not contain any transactions for the coastal strip in July.

The value of sales in Jahra governorate reached KD 5.7 million representing 4 percent of the value of sales which are consolidated on weekly basis in July. This value covers 7 percent of transactions carried out during the month compared to 4 percent of all governorate sales in June.

Private residence sales value

Private residence sales value reached KD 67 million in July compared to KD 96.2 million in June, thus recording the second lowest level during the year. The value declined by 30 percent or KD 29.2 million on monthly basis compared to a less decline ratio by 22 percent in June. Annual decline ratios are still increasing. Private residence real estate sales have declined in July on annual basis by 34 percent compared to a decline by 24 percent last year as sales value reached KD 102 million in July last year.

This decline in the value of private residence sales comes on the back of the monthly decline in the value of contract sales by 29 percent where value reached KD 63 million compared to an increase by 88.2 percent in the preceding month. The decline is also reflected in the decline in the value of private residence sales (agencies) in July to reach KD 4 million ie half the value of sales in the preceding month. The value of sales (agencies) declined significantly in July by 41 percent compared to sales in the same month last year.

Average private residence sale value

Average private residence sales value reached KD 317.7 thousand in July ie a decline by 4 percent or KD 12 thousand compared to KD 330 thousand in June. Accordingly, performance has improved following the higher decline recorded last month. Average real estate value ratios are still fluctuating. However, real estate value levels are increasing. Annual comparison shows that average real estate value has declined significantly by 16 percent. This type of real estates has recorded significant increase by 23 percent on annual basis as real estate value reached KD 379 thousand in June last year.

Private residence transactions declined in July by 27.7 percent compared to preceding month transactions thus recording 211 transactions (196 contracts and 15 agencies) in July compared to 292 transactions in June. The performance in July follows a monthly decline by 2.3 percent in the number of transactions in the preceding month. The number of transactions this year has declined by 22 percent compared to the same month last year. It seems that the number of transactions is taking the declining trend.

Distribution of private residence sales in governorates

Sales value consolidated on weekly basis at Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate reached KD 15.8 million, thus placing the governorate in the first position. The governorate dominates 25 percent of the value of sales consolidated on weekly basis in July compared to 18 percent of the value of private residence sales in June. The value of sales was mainly recorded in Masayel area KD 5.9 million followed by Funaitees by 3.1 million and Abu-Fatira by KD 3 million in July.

Sales value in Hawally governorate recorded KD 12.9 million which represents 24 percent of the value of sales consolidated in July compared to 39 percent of the value of private residence sales in the preceding month. Sales value was mainly concentrated in Zahra area which recorded KD 2.4 million followed by Salaam area with KD 2.2 million, Bayan KD 2.1 million and Jabriya KD 1.6 million.

Sales value in Capital Governorate reached KD 12 million representing 20 percent of the value of all governorates sales compared to a share by 9 percent in the preceding month. Sales value was mainly focused in Shuwaikh residential area KD 3.9 million followed by Surra area KD 2.3 million.

Private residence sales value in Ahmadi Governorate reached KD 10 million ie 16 percent of private residence sales value in July compared to 25 percent in June. Sales value was mainly focused in Sabah Al-Ahmed marine area by KD 4.3 million and Mangaf area by KD 1.7 million.

Investment real estate sales value

Investment real estate sales reached KD 63 million in July ie a decline by 17.9 percent or KD 13.6 million compared to preceding month sales where value reached KD 76 million. Sales value is still fluctuating. This fluctuation comes after the significant increase in value by 12 percent in June. Despite the major decline in July yet the same month last year recorded a higher decline. Annual comparison shows that investment sales declined significantly by 48 percent compared to July last year. This ratio exceeds the annual decline in the same month last year.

Investment real estate sales value (contracts) declined to reach KD 61 million ie a decline by 17 percent or KD 12 million compared to KD 73 million in June as it increased significantly by 15 percent in June. Sales value (contracts) in July represents half the value recorded in the same month last year.

Investment real estate sales (agencies) are still recording limited levels in July, thus reaching KD 1.4 million. This value represents half the sales value recorded in the preceding month. Meanwhile, the value in July this year is much higher than the value recorded in the same month last year and which did not exceed KD 200 thousand.

Average investment real estate transaction value

Average investment real estate transaction value reached KD 703 Thousand in July ie a decline by 7 percent or KD 51 thousand compared to KD 754 thousand in June. Average investment real estate value is declining since its high levels last year. Real estate value

monthly decline ratios recorded in June by 13 percent. This indicates the continuation of the fluctuation status which the commercial sector is witnessing despite the fact that sales value levels have been increasing except for few months in which there was a decline. Commercial real estate sales value declined by 35 percent in July compared to the high levels recorded in July last year by KD 31 million.

Average commercial real estate value governorate wise

Average commercial real estate value reached KD 4 million in July ie a decline by 32 percent or KD 1.9 million compared to KD 6 million in June. Real estate value witnessed a significant increase by 57 percent in June. However, average commercial real estate value in July this year was more than the value recorded in July last year by 18 percent where value reached KD 3.5 million.

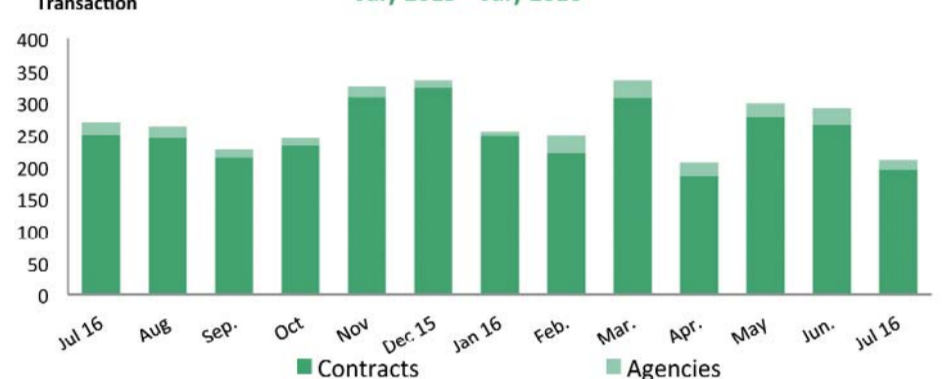
Commercial real estate transactions stabilized at 5 transactions in July compared to the preceding month. However, this level is the lowest level recorded in two years. The ratio recorded in July this year has declined by 44 percent compared to the value recorded in the same month last year. Hawally governorate took the leading position in commercial real estate sales governorate wise by KD 15 million representing 74 percent of the value of commercial sector sales. This value covers three properties in Hawally area. Ahmadi governorate comes next with KD 2.9 million being the value of a piece of land in Sabah Al-Ahmed Marine area followed by Capital Governorate

Development on Gross Real estate Sales Value July 2015 - July 2016



Source: Real estate Registration and Authentication - Ministry of Justice

Development on private residence transactions July 2015 - July 2016



Source: Real estate Registration and Authentication - Ministry of Justice

in the same area.

Residential sector sales declined on annual basis by 34 percent while average transaction value declined by 16 percent compared to July last year. Investment real estates are continuing their annual decline, thus recording a decline by 48 percent. Average transaction value of investment real estate declined by 25.1 percent compared to July last year. The value of commercial sector sales declined by 15 percent on monthly basis. Average transaction value increased significantly by 18 percent.

Gross real estate sales

Real estate sales value continued its decline since the end of last year on monthly basis except in some months this year. The decline reached 24 percent in July or KD 48 million. This average exceeds the double decline witnessed in July. The value in July reached its lowest level in more than 3 years KD 156 million. This may be attributed to the decline in the number of trading days, thus resulting into a major annual decline by 41 percent for the second time respectively compared to the same period last year. Annual decline in July took the leading position compared to the month performance in 5 years.

Average daily real estate sales declined along with the decline in the number of days to reach 18 days due to Eid holidays in July. Working hours were also minimized during the preceding month. Daily trading value reached its lowest level in 2 years KD 8.7 million per day ie a decline by 7 percent compared to average daily trading in the preceding month. The annual decline reached 34 percent in July. In

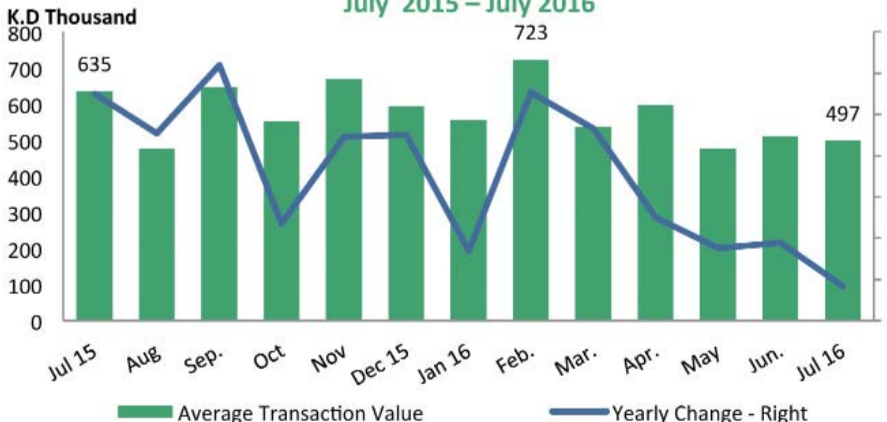
Average real estate value reached KD 497 thousand in July compared to KD 510 thousand in June, thus marking a decline by 2 percent or KD 12 thousand compared to the preceding month. This decline comes on the back of the decline in the value of real estate transactions value, thus resulting into a decline in the single real estate value by 22 percent or KD 137 thousand compared to July last year.

The decline in total real estate transactions in July reached an unprecedented level due to the decline in the number of trading days. Real estate transactions number reached 314 transactions (296 contracts and 18 agencies), thus marking a decline by 21.7 percent or 87 transactions compared to 401 transactions in June (373 contracts and 28 agencies). Transactions number in July this year is much lower than the transactions number last year by 24 percent. Average daily transactions in July reached 17 transactions ie a decline by 4 percent compared to the preceding month and a decline by 16 percent compared to last year.

Distribution of real estate sales in Kuwait governorates

The value of real estate transactions registered and consolidated on weekly basis in Hawally governorate reached KD 53.2 million in July or 36 percent of the sales compared to 38 percent of sales value in the preceding month. Ahmadi governorate comes second with KD 35 million or 21 percent of the value of sales in July covering transactions forming 22 percent of the number of transactions. Transactions value represented 28.6 percent from the value of sales in the preceding month.

Development on Average Transaction Value/ Total Transactions July 2015 - July 2016



general, daily sale ratio is still declining since the last two years.

Distribution of sales

Real estate sales (contracts) reached KD 150.7 million in July ie a decline by 22 percent or KD 43 million compared to the preceding month. This monthly decline is the highest this year. As a result annual decline increased for the last two years, thus marking a major annual decline 41 percent compared to same month transactions last year. This decline is attributed mainly to Eid holidays which has fallen in the month of July.

Real estate sales (Agencies) reached KD 5.5 million in July ie less than half the value in the preceding month. It is also less by 24 percent compared to the value in July last year.

Private residence real estate sales share in real estate sales reached 42.9 percent in July compared to a larger share 47 percent in the preceding month. However, private residence sector is still taking the leading position among other sectors.

Investment real estate share increased for the second month respectively to reach 40 per-

Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate took the third position in sales value as sales have increased to reach KD 26.5 million or 18 percent from the value of weekly sales covering transactions representing 23 percent of the real estate transactions in July. Sales value in the governorate formed 8 percent of the value of sales in all governorates in June.

Capital governorate came fourth with a decline in the value of real estate sales in July to reach KD 17 million or 11 percent of the value of sales which are consolidated on weekly basis. This value covers a number of transactions representing 13 percent of the number of real estate transactions in July. Meanwhile, sales value in the governorate in July formed 14 percent of the value of sales of all governorates.

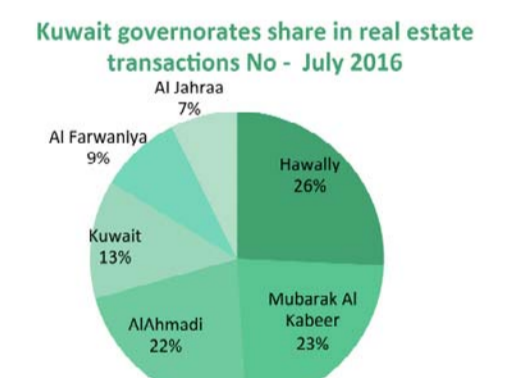
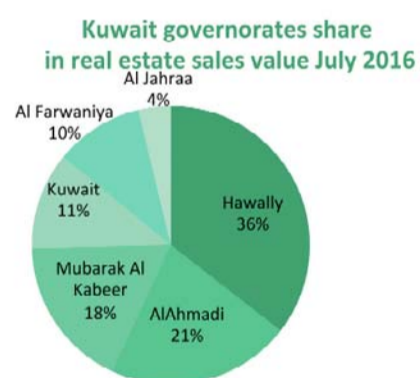
Farwaniya governorate witnessed an increase in real estate sales value to reach KD 15.4 million ie 10 percent from the value of sales covering a number of transactions which forms 9 percent of the value of real estate sales in July. The value of sales in the governorate represents 7 percent of real estate sales in June.

reached 84 percent in June. Real estate value declined in July by 25 percent compared to the same month last year. This decline exceeds the decline by 22 percent recorded in July last year. Real estate value is still continuing its decline for the last two years.

Investment real estate transactions declined to reach 89 transactions (86 contracts and 3 agencies) in July compared to 101 transactions recorded in June. The monthly decline in July was less as it reached 11.9 percent compared to a higher decline by 39 percent in June. The number of transactions declined on annual basis by 30 percent in July compared to the same month last year.

Distribution of investment real estate sales governorate wise

Despite the decline in investment real estate sales value yet Hawally governorate is still holding the leading position in regard to investment real estate sales value. The value of sales consolidated on weekly basis reached KD



25 Million in July, thus representing 42 percent of sector transactions and maintaining the same share last month. The value of sales was mainly focused in Hawally by KD 13.6 million followed by Salmiya by KD 10 million.

The value of sales in Ahmadi governorate reached KD 19 million ie 32 percent of governorates sales in regard to investment sector in July compared to 41 percent of all governorates sales in June. The value of sales was mainly focused in Mahboula area by KD 13.5 million followed by Mangaf area by KD 3.4 million.

Sales in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate exceeded KD 7.9 million which has resulted mainly from sales of lands in Sabah Al-Salem areas during July.

Commercial real estate sales value

Commercial real estate sales value reached KD 20 million in July, thus recording its lowest level within 2 years. The value declined by 32 percent or KD 10 million compared to KD 30 million in June. This decline ratio exceeds the

with KD 2.4 million being the value of a commercial property in Qibla area.

Warehouses and handcraft real estate transactions value

Handcraft real estate sales value has exceeded KD 6.2 million ie an exceptional increase by KD 5.6 million compared to its limited level KD 600 thousand in June. However, the value recorded in July this year is less than the value recorded in July last year by 30 percent. This annual decline ratio is similar to the ratio recorded by the handcraft sector when sales reached KD 9 million last year.

Average handcraft real estate transaction value increased in July to reach KD 693 thousand ie an increase by 16 percent or KD 93 thousand compared to KD 600 thousand recorded in June, thus recording a significant growth rate during July which is higher than the preceding month growth rate. Despite the good monthly performance where average value increased in July this year yet the real estate

value did not reach the value recorded in the same period last year. The value declined by 45 percent compare to July last year. The value last year recorded an increase by 61 percent as the average value reached KD 1.3 million.

Warehouses and handcraft real estate transactions have reached 9 transactions in July compared to 1 transaction in the preceding month. Transactions in July included a value KD 3.4 million for several buildings and plots in Aardiya Handcraft area. The sector sales reached KD 2.8 million being the value of several handcraft lands in Abu-Fatira and West Abu Fatira Handcraft area at Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate.

Coast strip transactions

Coast strip sales: The month of July did not witness any activity in this sector compared to the preceding month. The preceding month witnessed the commencement of its transactions with a transaction amounting KD 1.4 million covering the value of two transactions in Ahmadi Governorates.

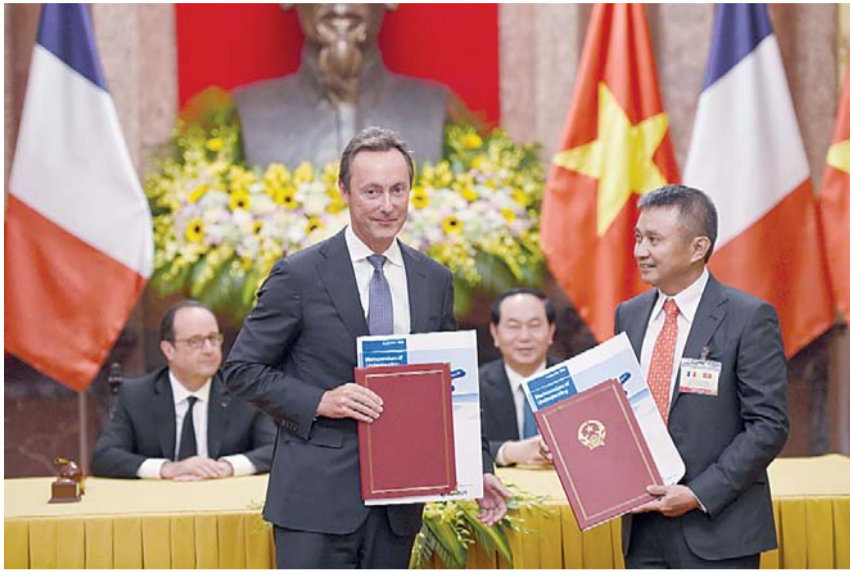
Development on private residence sales value July 2015 - July 2016



Source: Real estate Registration and Authentication - Ministry of Justice

VIETNAM CARRIERS SPLURGE \$6.5BN ON AIRBUS JETS

HANOI: Vietnam airlines bought 40 jets worth \$6.5 billion from France's Airbus yesterday, as President Francois Hollande visited the communist nation to drum up business with one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies. The deal is the latest move by



HANOI: Vietnam Airlines director general Duong Tri Thanh (R) and Airbus Commercial CEO Fabrice Bregier (2nd L) exchange signed contracts as France's President Francois Hollande (back L) and Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang (behind 2nd R) look on during a signing ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi yesterday. —AFP

Vietnamese aviation firms to boost fleets and feed demand from a mushrooming middle class with money to burn on air travel both at home and abroad.

Hollande, the third French president to visit Vietnam since independence, said the "very important deals" deepened ties with its former colony where France's legacy is ubiquitous—from the country's colonial-era buildings to French-influenced cuisine. The countries agreed "to establish economic partnerships on the basis of technology transfer," Hollande said after Airbus signed three separate deals. Low-cost private airline VietJet, famous for its bikini-clad hostesses, bought 20 planes. National carrier Vietnam Airlines and budget airline Jetstar Pacific bought 10 each, for total "deals worth \$6.5 billion", Airbus Asia spokesman Sean Lee told AFP.

He did not provide a breakdown of each deal's value, but VietJet said later in a statement it was spending \$2.39 billion on its new planes. The three carriers are making a major move into the lucrative Southeast Asian aviation sector. With a GDP growth rate of 6.7 percent last year, an ever-increasing chunk of Vietnam's 90 million people have

spending power that airline and other industries are keen to tap.

Maritime disputes

The aviation deal was the centerpiece of Hollande's whirlwind 48-hour tour of Vietnam. After meeting communist top brass at the French-built presidential palace, Hollande took to the rain-slicked streets in Hanoi's historic Old Quarter, amid a crush of cheering tourists and locals.

Earlier in the day he spoke with Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang about maritime freedom, a key issue for Hanoi which is locked in an increasingly testy spat with Beijing over competing claims in the South China Sea. "The president and I committed to respect the rule of law in the seas and oceans, reaffirming the commitment to maintain freedom of maritime and aviation," Quang said.

"The two sides stressed the importance of solving disputes by peaceful means, not to use or threaten to use violence on the basis of international laws."

Tensions between Hanoi and Beijing soared in 2014 when China moved an oil rig into disputed waters, sparking riots in Vietnam. A UN-backed tribunal ruled in July that China's claims to almost all of

the South China Sea had no legal basis and that its construction of artificial islands in disputed waters was illegal.

Ahead of his visit, Hollande was urged by activists to raise the issue of human rights with authorities in tightly-controlled Vietnam, where bloggers and dissidents are routinely jailed for criticising the regime.

"Human rights must not be sacrificed to trade and security deals. President Hollande must use his visit to call on the Vietnamese authorities to meet their human rights obligations under international law," said Camille Blanc, chair of Amnesty International France.

But rights are not on the official agenda for what is slated as a trade visit. Hollande will travel to Vietnam's commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City to meet with French entrepreneurs, including some from Vietnam's burgeoning tech sector. Prior to his arrival Hollande said France had a "tumultuous past" with Vietnam, which it occupied for nearly a century until its crushing defeat at the battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954.

France is one of Vietnam's leading European trading partners, with French exports to Vietnam increasing by 85 percent last year, and the second largest aid donor behind Japan. —AFP

GERMANY'S INDUSTRY ORDERS POINT TO SLOWING ECONOMY

LESS NEW CONTRACTS FOR 'MADE IN GERMANY' GOODS THAN EXPECTED

BERLIN: German industrial orders eked out a smaller-than-expected rise in July and showed a decline in domestic demand, underlining growing concerns that Europe's economic powerhouse is slowing down. Contracts for goods "Made in Germany" were up by 0.2 percent in July, the Economy Ministry said yesterday. That was weaker than a Reuters consensus forecast for a rise of 0.5 percent.

European peers seem more willing to open their pockets.

This was also reflected in a forecast by the Munich-based Ifo institute for Germany's current account surplus to hit a new record of \$310 billion (278 billion euros) in 2016, overtaking that of China again to become the world's largest. Ifo economist Christian Grimme said exports exceeded imports by \$159 billion in the first half of the year,

global economic imbalances.

Speaking in parliament to present the federal budget, Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble rejected such criticism, saying Berlin was massively increasing state spending while also implementing other measures to lift domestic demand.

"We are playing our part in strengthening global demand. No other country in Europe is spend-

increased state spending on roads, digital infrastructure and migrants.

BREXIT AND TRUMP

The industrial orders data was the first for a full month since Britain's vote to leave the EU.

"Economic and political uncertainty are dampening order activity around the globe," VP Bank economist Thomas Gitzel said, adding that Britain's 23 June vote was only one negative factor among several others. "With US presidential candidate Donald Trump, the next uncertainty is around the corner," Gitzel said, pointing to Trump's sharp rhetoric against free trade. The United States is Germany's most important export market.

The Economy Ministry said that the development of incoming orders was lacklustre so far this year, suggesting industrial activity would be rather weak in autumn.

The ministry provided no single data on how orders from the UK developed in July. But a regional breakdown showed that demand from countries outside the euro zone rose by only 0.6 percent after an increase of 3.8 percent in June. HSBC Trinkhaus economist Jana Meier said uncertainty about the future relationship between Britain and the remaining 27 EU members was likely to weaken investment in the medium term.

Economists are divided on how much Brexit will weaken German exports and consequently lower growth rates in the coming quarters. Britain is Germany's third-most important export market.

The DIW economic institute expects economic growth to ease to 0.3 percent in the third quarter from 0.4 percent in the three months to June, partly because of Brexit.

For 2016 as a whole, the government expects rising private consumption and higher state spending to drive an overall growth of 1.7 percent, on a par with last year. For 2017, Berlin expects growth to slow to 1.5 percent as weaker exports are expected to hit manufacturers. —Reuters



SEOUL: A model of a container ship with Hanjin Shipping Co's logo, is displayed at its head office in Seoul yesterday. —AP

HANJIN TO SPEND \$90M TO EASE SHIPPING CRISIS

SEOUL: South Korea's Hanjin Group said yesterday it would provide its shipping firm with 100 billion won (\$90.4 million) to help ease huge disruptions to global sea freight after the unit filed for bankruptcy. Hanjin Shipping, the world's seventh largest shipping company, is seeking bankruptcy protection at home and in the US after creditors rejected its latest plan to deal with a \$5.37 billion debt.

Its bankruptcy would be by far the largest in the history of container shipping, which is suffering its worst downturn in six decades because of slumping global trade and a slowdown in China.

More than half of Hanjin's fleet — 79 vessels — is either stuck in port or unable to dock, with authorities fretting the company will not be able to pay its bills. Hanjin Group said it would spend 100 billion won, which includes a

personal donation of 40 billion won from its chairman and biggest shareholder Cho Yang-Ho, to "normalize" the operations of its container ships.

"We have reached the decision to minimize damage to export companies," it said in a statement. Hanjin shares jumped 30 percent to close at 1,390 won on hopes the emergency fund injection might signal a possible rescue of the firm.

"However, it's too unrealistic (for the creditors) to rescue it in light of the company's huge debts," said Kang Seong-Jin of KB Investment Securities. Hanjin said it would also use its other subsidiaries including flag carrier Korean Air to move cargo as concerns grow over the delayed delivery of goods ahead of Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday shopping in the US. —AFP



BERLIN: German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier talks with Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel during the first day of the budget 2017 debate at the German parliament Bundestag in Berlin yesterday. —AP

Domestic demand fell by 3.0 percent while foreign orders rose by 2.5 percent, with demand from euro zone countries jumping by 5.9 percent. "Domestic demand for goods is disappointing again," DIHK economist Sophia Krietenbrink said, adding that the data pointed to weaker consumption in the coming months.

The surprisingly low order intake from home added depth to a picture of lacklustre investment among German companies while

mainly due to strong demand from other European countries.

The institute said the German surplus would be equivalent to around 8.9 percent of gross domestic product, meaning it would once again breach the European Commission's recommended upper threshold of 6 percent. This is likely to fuel the debate about Germany's economic role. Brussels and Washington have urged Berlin repeatedly to lift domestic demand to help reduce

ing more on investment than Germany," Schaueble said. "Just because some countries in Europe are taking on more debt, it doesn't mean they are investing more." He did say, however, that tax cuts may be in the offing after next year's federal election.

The German government introduced a national minimum wage in 2015 and decided to raise pension entitlements in 2016 by the strongest rate in more than two decades. In addition, Berlin

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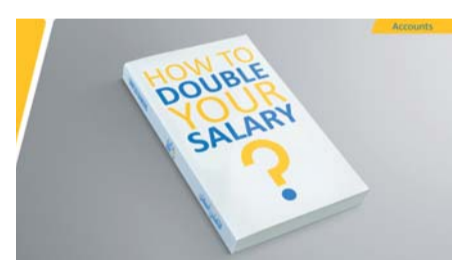
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ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 19TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 19th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 6th September, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and is running until 30 September, 2016.

The winners this week are:

- 1) Abdulaziz Hussain Al Kandari, Hawally Branch
 - 2) Leena Gautam Dutta, Salmiya Branch
- New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.



The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 13th September, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlani Ahli' at 1899899.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER SHORTAGE WEIGHS ON US HOUSING MARKET

DENVER: The drumbat of hammers echoes most mornings through suburban Denver, where Jay Small, the owner of company that frames houses, is building about 1,300 new homes this year.

That's more than triple what he built a few years ago, when "you couldn't buy a job" in the residential construction industry, he said. Now, builders can't buy enough workers to get the job done.

Eight years after the housing bust drove an estimated 30 percent of construction workers into new fields, homebuilders across the country are struggling to find workers at all levels of experience, according to the National Association of Homebuilders. The association estimates that there are approximately 200,000 unfilled construction jobs in the U.S. - a jump of 81 percent in the last two years.

The ratio of construction job openings to hiring, as measured by the Department of Labor, is at its highest level since 2007. "The labor shortage is getting worse as demand is getting stronger," said John Courson, chief executive of the Home Builders Institute, a national nonprofit that trains workers in the construction field.

The impact is two-fold. Without enough workers, residential construction is trailing demand for homes, dampening the overall economy. And with labor costs rising, homebuilders are building more expensive homes to maintain their margins, which means they are abandoning the starter home market. That has left entry-level homes in tight supply, shutting out may would-be buyers at a time when mortgage rates are near historic lows.

Nationwide, there are 17 percent fewer people working in construction than at the market peak, with some states - including Arizona, California, Georgia and Missouri - seeing declines

of 20 percent or more, according to data from the Associated General Contractors of America.

The labor shortage is raising builders' costs - and workers' wages - and slowing down construction.

Small, the Denver builder, estimates that he could construct at least 10 percent more homes this year if he had enough workers. But he remains short-staffed, despite raising pay to levels above what he paid during the housing bubble a decade ago.

"It's getting to the point where you're really limited in what you can deliver," Small said. "We lost so many people in the crash, and we're just not getting them back."

HIGHER COSTS

The average construction cost of building a single family home is 13.7 percent higher now than in 2007, even as the total costs of building and selling a house - a figure that includes such items as land costs, financing and marketing - are up just 2.9 percent over the same period, according to a survey by the National Association of Homebuilders.

The problem is accentuated by strong demand for newly constructed homes, with sales reaching a nine-year high in July. Private companies say that they are having a hard time attracting workers, and they are often forced to give employees on-the-spot raises to prevent them from going to competitors. Carpenters and electricians are often listed as the most in-demand specialties.

Tony Rader, the vice president of Schwob Building Company, a general contractor in the Dallas area, said his company has started handing out flyers at sporting events, churches and schools in hopes of luring more people into the field.

"The biggest problem I face every day is where are we going

to find the people to do the work," he said, adding that it's becoming increasingly common for his company and others to turn down projects.

Dallas contractors are fighting over the limited supply of workers as three major mixed-use projects are going up right next to each other on the so-called "\$5 billion mile" in Frisco, a northern suburb. Meanwhile, the metropolitan area is adding about 30,000 newly built homes annually.

With fewer workers, contractors are becoming wary of signing new work contracts, especially as many of them include fines for not completing a job by a designated date.

"I've got two lawsuits right now where it may cost us mid-six-figures because there's not enough labor out there to get it done," said one contractor in the North Dallas area who declined to be identified. Lawyers in hot residential markets say that it is becoming increasingly common for construction companies to try to negotiate for more time.

"Subcontractors are having a hard time staffing up," said Edward Allen, a Denver attorney who said he has seen more lawsuits over project delays in the past two years.

GUARANTEED WORK, FEW TAKERS

Colorado alone will need 30,000 more workers in the construction field in the next six years, a number that does not account for those who will retire, according to a study by the Association of General Contractors. The state passed a bill last year pledging \$10 million over three years to fund free training for plumbers, electricians and carpenters.

Yet Michael Smith, who heads a Denver-based nonprofit that administers the training, said that he can't fill the seats. High schools are focused on preparing students for college, ignoring those that may be better suited for vocational work.

Students may be put off by construction's reputation as a dangerous, cyclical field, he said.

"We've so demonized working with your hands in this country," he said. "We've got a booming economy, and we can't keep up with the pace of growth."

Students who go through the four-week program are all but guaranteed a job paying \$16 an hour or more immediately, with the possibility of commanding \$80,000 or more in annual income after five years without taking on any student debt, he said.

On-the-job training is also a common path for new workers. Eduardo Salcido - a 25-year-old concrete finisher working at a 232-home Toll Brothers subdivision going up in the Denver suburb of Broomfield - said that he received on-site training after entering the construction field as a painter.

He has earned one raise since beginning the training two years ago and is now certified as a semi-skilled finisher. "The money's not bad," he said. Homebuilders are increasingly desperate to bring back in fully skilled laborers such as Greg Lewis, a 43-year-old journeyman carpenter in St. Louis. After struggling to find work in 2010, Lewis started making leather goods at home and selling bags, belts and wallets online. He now operates his business fulltime under the name Made Supply Co.

Even though he's making less than he did in construction, Lewis is not tempted to go back into a field that is marked by job insecurity, he said. His former co-workers have gone on to work in warehouses or a local General Motors plant, and most are choosing not to return to their old jobs even as contractors offer higher wages. "Guys couldn't wait around for their next job, and now they don't want to go back to a field that could turn on them," he said. "It's either hot or cold, and you just can't trust it." —Reuters

TIME TO DETECTION: RACE TO KEEP NARROWING WINDOW

By Scott Manson



In today's global, digital world, data rule. Safeguarding intellectual property, financial information, and your company's reputation is a crucial part of business strategy. Yet with the number of threats and the sophistication of attacks increasing, it's a formidable challenge. Online criminals are continually on the lookout for methods to add efficiency and cost savings to their operations along with new ways to evade detection. Over the next five years in Kuwait, we expect that the wave of industry consolidation, driven less by financially motivated M&A and more by the need for capable solutions, will bring together niche innovators and long standing players for the greater cause of protecting

organisations.

This consolidation will lead to the development of an integrated threat defence architecture that will help reduce time to detection (TTD) and remediation of both known and emerging threats. This architecture will bring unprecedented visibility into the threat landscape, and provide control, global intelligence, and context across many solutions. While disruptive, this change is necessary. Right now, as an industry, we're just not doing an effective job helping all end users defend themselves from the highly sophisticated and ever-changing tactics of today's threat actors.

In a recent Cybersecurity Report it was revealed that the current industry estimate for TTD is approximately 200 days, which is clearly unacceptable time frame, given how rapidly today's malware authors are able to innovate. While there are varying views on TTD, it is defined in the report as the window of time between the first observation of a file having bypassed all security technologies to make it to an endpoint, and the detection of a threat associated with that file. At Cisco, we examined out data and

systems to enrich this conversation and better assess where we are and where we think we could go with TTD. So in the first half of 2015, we successfully reduced TTD to less than two days (50 hours) and since May 2015, Cisco has reduced the median time to detection to 13 hours, and we believe even that's not good enough.

Of course, industry consolidation alone is not enough to develop the integrated threat defence architecture.

It also will require cooperation, dialogue, and coordinated action among all security vendors in Kuwait. We will need to share our expertise and combine innovations, and exchange information proactively and actionably to help end users better defend themselves. Openness and inclusiveness is the only way forward, sharing with all defenders, and taking action on that intelligence together, is the future.

While there is a role for alliances, it is not in creating closed groups of insiders and should be focused on establishing the interfaces and methods for an automated exchange of actionable information.

Closed alliances create a negative impact on the ability to achieve a timely exchange of meaningful and actionable intelligence, they are simply too slow to share and even slower to act. We see attackers pivoting and changing tactics in a matter of hours and as an industry we need to do better than hours to maintain an effective defensive posture.

Integrated threat defense is the future, but it will require commitment to achieve. For those who aren't convinced that this is the right direction for the industry, or the right time for change, give me an alternative that helps us collectively reduce the time to detection to minutes for all customers. Until then, we are headed in that direction.

And so, the security industry in Kuwait must move faster-together. Otherwise, the end users that rely on security products will never have the visibility and control that's necessary to deliver better protection across more threat vectors and to swiftly neutralize more attacks in a timescale that matters.

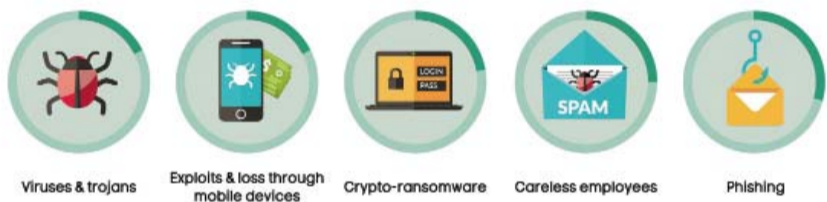
NOTE: Scott Manson is the Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey, Cisco

SMBs SECURITY THREATS

48% admit that complexity of IT infrastructure increased



TOP 5 Causes of The Most Serious Data Breach



Average total financial impact of each data breach - \$86.5k

62% of all SMBs had suffered 2-5 separate incidents of data loss



KASPERSKY LAB EMPOWERS SMBs WITH ITS NEW BUSINESS SOLUTION

ADVANCED SECURITY, SIMPLE MANAGEMENT

Kaspersky Lab announces a new Software-as-a-Service solution that will provide small and medium-sized businesses with multi-layered IT security - Kaspersky Endpoint Security Cloud. The solution offers advanced functionality and proven protection that can be managed easily via simple cloud-based console with an intuitive and user-friendly interface.

Small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are using 100-1000 devices, including not just personal computers and laptops, but also smartphones and tablets. With these devices, they experience a number of IT security threats. Among top 5 causes of the most serious data breaches are viruses and Trojans, exploits and loss through mobile malware, crypto-ransomware, phishing and carelessness of employees.

According to Corporate IT Security Risks Survey conducted by Kaspersky Lab in 2016, 48 percent of respondents admit that complexity of IT infrastructure increased and 62 percent of all SMBs had suffered 2-5 separate incidents of data loss in one year.

Despite the wide range of security products on the market today, SMBs may struggle to find a comprehensive solution they can implement and afford. Kaspersky Endpoint Security Cloud has been developed

to meet the evolving needs of SMBs and their under-resourced IT teams, as well as the Managed Service Providers (MSP) who support them.

The solution provides businesses with effective protection for Windows workstations, file servers, Android and iOS mobile devices, all through a simple and intuitive console. Based on advanced, multi-layered security technologies, Kaspersky Endpoint Security Cloud leverages industry leading protection features, including Kaspersky Security Network and System Watcher, to protect users from both known and emerging threats.

The centralized cloud management console does not require advanced IT skills, significantly reducing the burden on overstretched IT professionals. It can be used at any time and from any location to remotely distribute software, and to monitor and manage the security of up to one thousand corporate users. Further, using the cloud console means that companies do not need to purchase additional server hardware or software in order to manage their IT security. Kaspersky Endpoint Security Cloud offers SMBs a choice of annual license or monthly subscription, making it convenient to budget for capital or operational expenses.

RENAULT SEES DIESEL VANISHING FROM MOST OF ITS EUROPE CARS

EMISSIONS STANDARDS TIGHTENED AFTER VW SCANDAL

PARIS: Renault expects diesel engines to disappear from most of its European cars, company sources told Reuters, after the French automaker reviewed the costs of meeting tighter emissions standards following the Volkswagen scandal. The sober reassessment was delivered at an internal meeting before the summer break. It shows how, a year after VW admitted engineering software to cheat US diesel emissions tests, the repercussions are forcing major European carmakers to rewrite strategic plans that will shape their futures for years to come.

Renault and domestic rival Peugeot, both heavily invested in diesel technology, initially scrambled to defend its future viability after the VW crisis erupted. But in the July meeting, Renault's Chief Competitiveness Officer Thierry Bollore said the diesel investment outlook had dimmed significantly, according to two people who were present. "He said we were now wondering whether diesel would survive, and that he wouldn't have voiced such doubts even at the start of this year," said one of the people. "Tougher standards and testing methods will increase technology costs to the point where diesel is forced out of the market," the source summarized Bollore as saying. A Renault spokesman declined to comment.

Diesel engines, pricier but more efficient than gasoline, had already vanished from the smallest 'A'-segment vehicles like Renault's Twingo well before VW's so-called 'dieselgate', as their extra expense outstripped savings on fuel. By 2020, Renault now predicts that the toughening of Euro 6 emissions rules will push diesel out of cars in the next 'B'-segment size category, including its Clio subcompact, as well as some 'C' models such as the Megane hatchback, the sources said.

Models in those first three size categories accounted for most of the group's 1.6 million European deliveries last year, and more than 60 percent were diesels. "Everybody is backtracking on diesel because after 2017-18 it becomes more

and more expensive," said Pavan Potluri, a powertrain analyst with consulting firm IHS Automotive.

Electric Cars

While the VW scandal centred on the German carmaker's cheat software, it also focused public attention on an industry-wide disparity between nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions on the road and those recorded in regulatory tests. Mass-market diesels that meet legal NOx limits in approval tests commonly emit five times as much or more in everyday use. The gases contribute to acid rain and respiratory illnesses blamed for hundreds of thousands of deaths globally each year.

Starting in 2019, however, vehicle approvals will be based on emissions performance during real driving. This is forcing manufacturers to install costlier emissions treatment systems. The business case for diesel can only deteriorate further, industry leaders realize, as targets become stricter, while electric and hybrid car batteries get cheaper and more powerful. "Beyond 2025 there may be some manufacturers that completely drop diesel, because the cost of electrification will have come down significantly," Potluri said.

Diesel car sales will plummet to 9 percent of the European market in 2030 from 52 percent today, management consultant AlixPartners - predicted in June, with the decline accelerating after 2020. Renault and alliance partner Nissan assume the next wave of emissions rules, Euro 7, could halve NOx output limits again to 40 mg per km, senior powertrain engineer Alain Raposo told a technical conference this summer.

Renault is not alone in predicting a bleak future for diesel, though its projections go further than the doubts expressed by other carmakers about the technology. VW now wonders "whether it still makes sense to invest a lot of money in further developing diesel", Chief Executive Matthias Mueller said in June. The German carmaker's final bill for the scandal will

likely far exceed the \$15 billion settlement agreed so far in US fines and vehicle buybacks. Wolfsburg-based VW is the only carmaker to have admitted using illegal software cheats. Similar allegations have been levelled by German officials against Fiat Chrysler, and by South Korean authorities against Nissan vehicles equipped with Renault engines - and in both cases denied.

Sky-High NOx

Renault, however, has been forced to concede that its real-world NOx emissions are far worse than the industry average, and the carmaker remains under investigation by French consumer fraud authorities. That has deepened Renault's engineering headache and tarnished the green image it cultivated with electric car launches and lower-than-average emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2), the dominant focus of regulators prior to dieselgate.

In road tests on almost 100 vehicles, ordered by a French commission on diesel emissions, Renault and Nissan cars produced more than eight times the regulatory NOx limit on average, with most of their Euro 6 models closer to 10 times the limit. Renault engineering chief Gaspar Gascon Abellan told the commission that the NOx-cutting exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) in its top-selling diesel engines had been found to cause serious turbo clogging problems.

Engineers had responded by programming the EGR to shut down outside a narrow range of air intake temperatures, 17-35 degrees Celsius (63-95 degrees Fahrenheit). While passing regulatory tests carried out near room temperature, the protocol sends NOx emissions sky-high on the road. Renault, Opel, Fiat and others have said such "defeat devices" are legal because they are designed to protect their engines rather than cheat tests. But the French commission said their technical justifications "remained to be proven". — Reuters

EHDF WINS 'SMB MANAGED SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YEAR' AWARD

DUBAI: eHosting DataFort (eHDF), the region's leading Managed Hosting and Cloud Infrastructure services provider, was recently awarded the 'SMB Managed Services Implementation of the Year' award at Channel Middle East's inaugural SMB Innovation Awards 2016. eHDF was recognised for its Managed Services project, implemented for a leading healthcare provider in the UAE. The award ceremony took place at the Conrad Hotel, Dubai, and honoured companies that have shown outstanding examples of IT implementation excellence and pioneering spirit in their chosen field of specialisation in the past year.

Speaking on their win, Yasser Zeineldin, CEO, eHosting DataFort said, "We are humbled by the prestigious industry recognition accorded to our offerings and capabilities as the leading Managed Services and Cloud provider in the region. Such achievements make us constantly raise the bar for ourselves to be creative and innovative in providing true value to our customers, who are at the center of everything that we do and entrust us to be at the forefront of technology and service delivery.

"To keep up with increased customer demands and expectations, we have invested heavily in our infrastructure, services and technology over the last 12 months, as well as enhanced our online Public Cloud portal targeting the SMB segment. We also have an aggressive investment plan for 2016 and beyond to avail to our customers the latest innovations and its associated benefits. We are committed to helping enterprises and SMBs in the country transform their IT infrastructure into competitive assets and focus on their core business."

eHDF has received accolades for its Managed Services, Cloud Computing and Data Centre offerings for the last 9 years in a row, and continues its efforts to focus on customer needs, service offerings and innovation. The key reasons that make eHDF stand out in the Managed Services marketplace is the company's ability to provide strategic, financial and operational benefits to its customers and act as an extension to their in-house IT department. eHDF has a team of domain and technical experts who are highly knowledgeable, committed, experienced and completely focused on keeping customers' critical applications and infrastructure working optimally without any downtime.



Yasser Zeineldin

eHDF is also the first company in the Middle East to achieve the Cloud Security Alliance's Security, Trust & Assurance Registry (CSA STAR) certification which audits the security capability levels of a company. Achieving the Gold rating is the highest rating that can be awarded to any cloud services provider and the accolade has positive implications on eHDF's Managed Services portfolio. eHDF is also certified to ISO 9001/20000/22301/27001 for the last seven years.

CANON, AXIS ANNOUNCE CHANGE OF GLOBAL SALES, MARKETING FRAMEWORK

DUBAI: Canon Inc and Axis Communications AB yesterday announced an agreement under which the two companies would change their sales and marketing efforts in major regional markets worldwide. In Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and North America, Axis will assume responsibility for the marketing and sales of Canon's entire portfolio of network video products and solutions, starting in EMEA from September 1, and in North America from October 1. In the Japanese market, Canon Marketing Japan will continue to sell Canon's network video product portfolio and, in addition, will partner with Axis, leveraging its robust sales network and client assets to expand sales of Axis products to customers in Japan.

Capitalizing on Axis's marketing strengths to develop Canon-branded sales in Europe and North America, Canon Europe and Canon U.S.A. will become the



sole providers of Canon network video products and solutions to Axis throughout the EMEA and North America markets. As for the rest of the Asia-Pacific region, Canon continues to explore options for the handling of its network video product and solution portfolio.

With the network camera market continuing to show enormous potential, Canon has made a strong commitment to build a long-term presence as a leader within this industry. Since Canon welcomed Axis into the Canon Group in April 2015, both companies have discussed various options for leveraging their innovative network video product and solution offerings. This new sales and marketing frame-

work, which makes use of both companies' established strengths in major regional markets, provides an effective means of maximizing the synergies of the Canon-Axis combination.

Canon's commitment and support of partners and customers remains unchanged. Under the new framework, Canon partners and customers will benefit from Axis's marketing, sales and technical expertise and will have access to a wider range of products and solutions from the leading company in the network video camera market.

Canon is confident that this new framework will enable both companies to make the most of the vast opportunities within the network camera market, demonstrating their commitment to partners and customers while contributing to the Canon Group's long-term presence as a leader within this industry.

NEW RAIL LINE TO CONNECT TEL AVIV WITH JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM: Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are only 60 km apart but they often feel like different planets, not just in terms of mentality but because the commute from the Mediterranean to the hills can sometimes take two hours. That is set to change in the next 18 months with the completion of a \$2 billion, high-speed rail line that will slash the time between the high-tech, business centre and Jerusalem's Old City to just 30 minutes.

After more than a decade in the planning, the project, which has involved boring tunnels through mountains and spanning bridges over deep valleys, promises to transform Israel's two largest cities, or at least bring them a little closer. "We are doing in Israel what was done 200 years ago in the United States, after World War Two in Europe and in recent decades in Asia," Transport Minister Yisrael Katz said on Tuesday, touting several new rail lines in the works. "The main aim is to connect Jerusalem to the rest of the country."

There is already a train between Jerusalem and the coast - built during the Ottoman empire and added to by the French and the British - but it's a slow, scenic route that takes an hour and 40 min-

utes, not ideal for commuting. That said, around 7,500 people still ride it most days. The new line takes a more direct route, cutting through the steep hills between the Mediterranean and Jerusalem, which sits 800 m above sea level. Working with 10 foreign companies, the line runs over 10 bridges and through five tunnels. Construction began in 2010 and is scheduled to end in March 2018.

Double-decker trains holding around 1,700 passengers will travel at 160 km/h. The plan is for four departures an hour, serving 50,000 commuters a day, or 10 million a year, said Boaz Zaffir, the chief executive of Israel Railways. Katz believes the train will give a jolt to Jerusalem's economy, encouraging more people from the coast to open businesses in the city, which is more religious and conservative than Tel Aviv. Some Tel Avivians, fed up with high rental costs and high humidity, may also decide to move to Jerusalem.

The new line also promises to be a boon for foreign diplomats, Israeli government employees and parliament members, many of whom live on the coast but commute to Jerusalem almost daily and often lament the traffic jams. — Reuters

WORLD WILL MISS EDUCATION-FOR-ALL TARGET BY 50 YEARS

LONDON: The world is set to miss by more than half a century a deadline for ensuring all children receive secondary education, the United Nations said yesterday, adding that 40 percent of pupils are being taught in a language that is not their mother tongue. World leaders agreed last year that by 2030 all girls and boys should be able to complete free quality primary and secondary education, but chronic under-funding is holding back progress, a UN report said. "This report should set off alarm bells around the world and lead to a historic scale-up of actions to achieve (this goal)," economist Jeffrey Sachs said in a foreword.

The deadline on universal education was agreed as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - an ambitious plan to end poverty, hunger, advance equality and protect the environment. "The gaps in educational attainment between rich and poor, within and between countries, are simply appalling," said Sachs, a special UN adviser on the SDGs. On current trends, universal primary education will be achieved in 2042, universal lower secondary education in 2059 and upper secondary in 2084, according to UN educational body UNESCO.

It said aid to education needs to increase six-fold to achieve the goal of quality universal education by 2030. UNESCO said education was key to every aspect of sustainable development including increased prosperity, better agriculture and health, less violence and greater gender equality. Achieving universal upper secondary education by 2030 in low income countries could lift 60 million people out of poverty by 2050, the report said. Educating mothers to lower secondary education in sub-

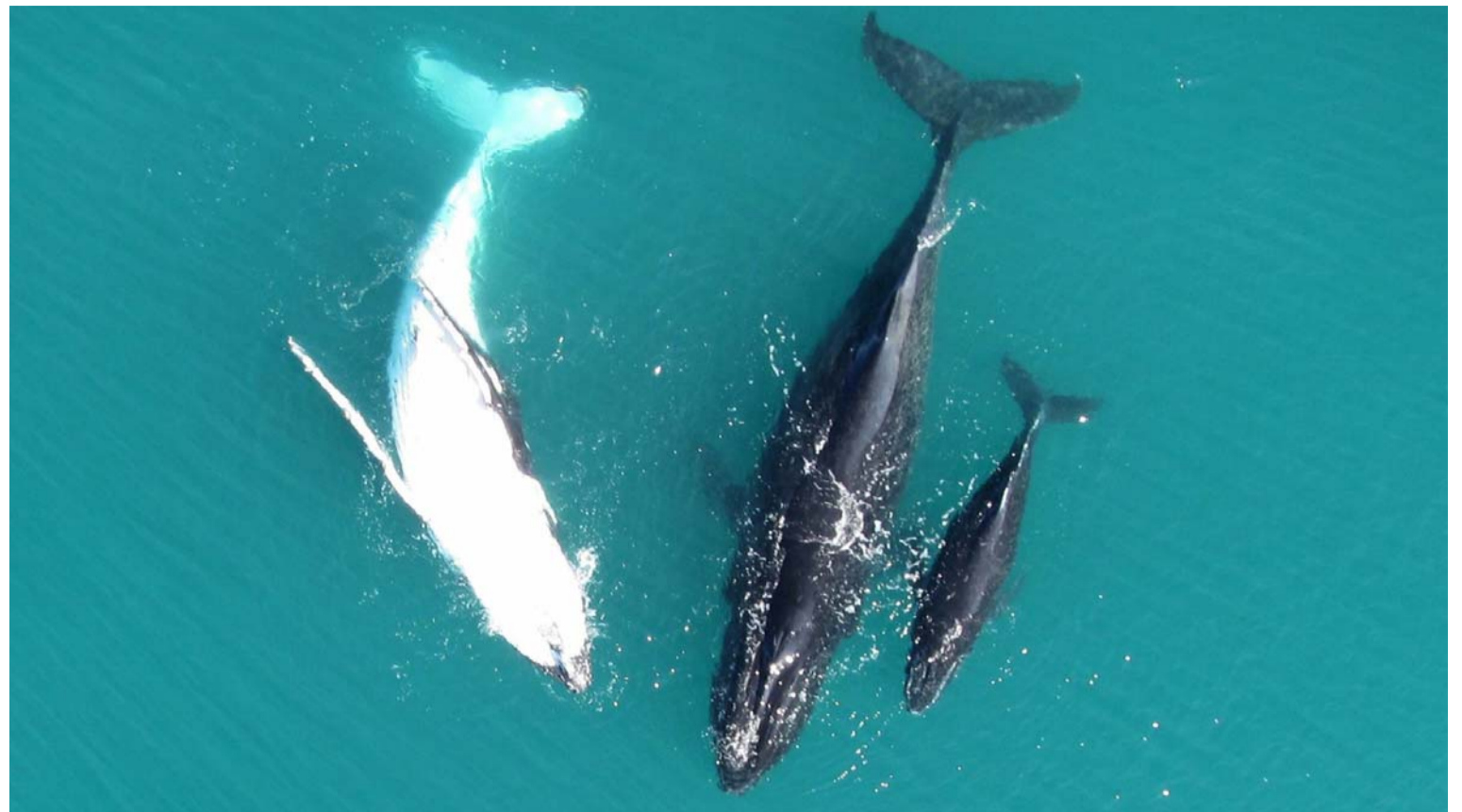
Saharan Africa by 2030 could also prevent 3.5 million child deaths between 2050-60.

Conflict

The report said conflict was one of the greatest obstacles to progress in education, keeping over 36 million children out of school. It also pointed out that poverty and unemployment resulting from a lack of education could fuel conflict. The UNESCO report warned that the type of education children are receiving is not equipping them for the challenges ahead. It called for more emphasis on teaching children about environmental concerns, climate change and how to think collectively so that they can become global citizens.

"A fundamental change is needed in the way we think about education's role in global development, because it has a catalytic impact on the well-being of individuals and the future of our planet," said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. "Now, more than ever, education has a responsibility to be in gear with 21st century challenges and aspirations ..." Sachs called for a Global Fund for Education modeled on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria which he said had helped drive dramatic improvements in health interventions and funding.

Around 263 million children are currently out of school globally, according to the report, and almost 30 percent of children from the poorest households in low income countries have never been to school. Critics of the educational goal believe that pushing for universal upper secondary completion distracts from ensuring at least nine years of basic education for all. —Reuters



WESTERN AUSTRALIA: An undated handout photo received yesterday, shows rare images of a white calf swimming with its mother off the coast of Western Australia as part of a project they hope will help conservation efforts. Researchers spotted the baby white whale while using a drone to conduct aerial surveys of southern right whale populations. — AFP

WARMING OCEANS ARE 'SICK,' GLOBAL SCIENTISTS WARN

HONOLULU: Global warming is making the oceans sicker than ever before, spreading disease among animals and humans and threatening food security across the planet, a major scientific report said on Monday.

The findings, based on peer-reviewed research, were compiled by 80 scientists from 12 countries, experts said at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in Hawaii.

"We all know that the oceans sustain this planet. We all know that the oceans provide every second breath we take," IUCN Director General Inger Andersen told reporters at the meeting, which has drawn 9,000 leaders and environmentalists to Honolulu. "And yet we are making the oceans sick." The report, "Explaining Ocean Warming," is the "most comprehensive, most systematic study we have ever undertaken on the consequence of this warming on the ocean," co-lead author Dan Laffoley said.

The world's waters have absorbed more than 93 percent of the enhanced heating from climate change since the 1970s, curbing the heat felt on land but drastically altering the rhythm of life in the ocean, he said.

"The ocean has been shielding us and the consequences of this are absolutely massive,"

said Laffoley, marine vice chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas at IUCN.

Microbes to whales

The study included every major marine ecosystem, containing everything from microbes to whales, including the deep ocean. It documents evidence of jellyfish, seabirds and plankton shifting toward the cooler poles by up to 10 degrees latitude. The movement in the marine environment is "1.5 to five times as fast as anything we are seeing on the ground," Laffoley said.

"We are changing the seasons in the ocean." The higher temperatures will probably change the sex ratio of turtles in the future because females are more likely to be born in warmer temperatures. The heat also means microbes dominate larger areas of the ocean.

"When you look overall, you see a comprehensive and worrying set of consequences," Laffoley said. More than 25 percent of the report's information is new, published in peer-reviewed journals since 2014, including studies showing that global warming is affecting weather patterns and making storms more common. The study includes evidence that ocean warming "is causing increased disease in plant and

animal populations," it said. Pathogens such as cholera-bearing bacteria and toxic algal blooms that can cause neurological illnesses such as ciguatera poisoning spread more easily in warm water, with direct impact on human health. "We are no longer the casual observers in the room," Laffoley said. "What we have done is unwittingly put ourselves in the test tube where the experiment is being undertaken."

Cut greenhouse gases

Meanwhile, the hotter oceans have killed off coral reefs at an unprecedented rate, reducing fish species by eliminating their habitats. The loss of reefs cuts down on the abundance of certain fish, with implications for food security. "In Southeast Asia, harvests from marine fisheries are expected to fall by between 10 percent and 30 percent by 2050 relative to 1970-2000, as the distributions of fish species shift," said the report. The report highlights the need for swift action on renewable energies, experts said. "We need to cut greenhouse gases," said Carl Gustaf Lundin, director of the global marine and polar program at IUCN. "There is no doubt in all our minds that we are the cause of this," he added. "We know what the solutions are. We need to get on with it." — AFP



BANGKOK: Volunteering prisoners pulling a metal bucket through a drain to dredge it from sewage and plastic waste on the outskirts of Bangkok. — AFP photos

FLOOD THREAT AS PLASTIC BAGS CLOG BANGKOK'S BOWELS

BANGKOK: A line of prisoners emerges from Bangkok's sewers covered in a thick film of slime and hauling buckets of sludge. Frontline troops in the battle against a rising tide of plastic waste. Located just 50 centimeters above sea level and crisscrossed with canals, Thailand's throbbing capital has long had to fight off floods and an encroaching sea. But the city's insatiable appetite for plastic bags, combined with a poor track record of recycling, is severely hampering those efforts, especially during the monsoon months.

Plastic has become a major scourge for the city's network of pumping stations, clogging vital machinery during the seasonal downpours and regularly turning major thoroughfares into muddy rivers. Every day city workers descend into Bangkok's bowels to try and clear some of the debris, supported by convicts who earn time off their jail sentences by volunteering for the task. On a side street some thirty prisoners dressed in waders and matching blue t-shirts begin their work. They lift a large concrete slab leading to a drainage channel below, scattering an army of cockroaches.

Sliding into the filthy water, the group uses metal buckets to scrape away at the slime-covered debris blocking the drainage pipes. "The work is not too difficult," said one prisoner who puts in six days a week on volunteer duty. "And it allows me to go home more quickly." Each day the prisoners work is a day lifted from their sentence. Thailand's corrections authorities asked AFP not to identify any prisoners in return for access to their work program.

Whither sufficiency?

Throughout his long reign, Thailand's ailing but revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 88, preached a concept he dubbed the "sufficiency economy" - a philosophy that espoused sustainability, environmentalism and making do with what one has. But there are times when

Bangkok-home a huge chunk of the country's moneyed elite and middle classes - seems like it has gone in the opposite direction. All across the sprawling city of some 12 million inhabitants vast shopping malls and condo blocks with swimming pools suck up huge amounts of electricity while an ever growing number of SUVs hog the streets.

Thailand is widely considered to be one of the world's largest consumers of plastic bags. The government's own figures suggest the average Thai uses eight plastic bags a day — in contrast, the average person in France uses around 80 a year. The nation has a thriving street food culture with millions eating or buying their meals on the pavement each day. There once was a time when most of these dishes would be served wrapped in biodegradable banana leaves. But no longer. It is a shift familiar across the region, with devastating results for the world's oceans.

In a recent report, an American conservation group Ocean Conservancy estimated that just five countries - China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand - were responsible for as much as 60 percent of plastic waste dumped into the ocean. Narong Ruengsrri, head of Bangkok city authority's drainage department, said removing so much plastic from the canals and drainage system is a constant battle. "Every day we go fish out around 2,000 tons of waste from the drainage channels," he told AFP.

'Live on a hill'

Unless there is a major change in consumer habits, or a concerted government campaign to reduce bag use, the waste will continue to pile up. Official figures show the 11,500 tons of garbage Bangkok produces each day - at least one ton of which is plastic - is growing by 10 percent a year. Officially only 16 percent is recycled - although non-government artisan recyclers would boost that figure. — AFP



BANGKOK: A volunteering prisoner inside a drain channel during an operation to dredge it from sewage and plastic waste.

WHO DECLARES SRI LANKA FREE OF MALARIA

COLOMBO: The World Health Organization has certified Sri Lanka free of malaria, the second country in the region to earn the distinction after the Maldives, the health ministry said yesterday. The UN agency had sent teams to Sri Lanka in the past three years to evaluate its efforts to ensure there was not a single indigenous malaria case since 2012, the ministry said in a statement. "Minister Rajitha Senaratne was presented today with a certificate confirming Sri Lanka's malaria-free status by the WHO," the statement said adding that the island had set up a unit to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease. The announce-

ment came as Colombo hosted a meeting of the WHO regional committee for South East Asia.

Sri Lanka's state-run Anti-Malaria Campaign said 180 cases of malaria were detected in the country in the past three years, but all the victims had contracted the disease abroad. "Sri Lanka has now completed three consecutive years without indigenous malaria, an achievement seen never before," the campaign said. There had been no deaths due to indigenous malaria since 2007. WHO regional director Poonam Khetrapal Singh said Sri Lanka's achievement was "truly remarkable." "In the mid-20th century it was among the

most malaria-affected countries, but now it is malaria-free," she said in a separate statement. "This is testament to the courage and vision of its leaders, and signifies the great leaps that can be made when targeted action is taken."

However, the country is battling another mosquito-transmitted disease, dengue fever, with 37,500 cases reported in the first eight months of this year. At least 52 of them succumbed to the disease, according to official figures. Neighboring Maldives which has a population of about 340,000, was declared malaria-free in December. — AFP

RESEARCH LINKS ECZEMA AND HAY FEVER TO EARLY ANTIBIOTIC USE

LONDON: Babies given antibiotics in the first two years of life are more likely to develop allergies as adults, according to an extensive analysis of past clinical studies involving nearly 400,000 people. The findings, to be presented yesterday at the European Respiratory Society annual meeting in London, point to a clear association with the risk of eczema or hay fever later in life. Some previous research has suggested a link between early antibiotic use and allergies, but the results have been inconsistent.

Lead researcher Fariba Ahmadizar of Utrecht University said antibiotics most likely disrupted the body's immune system by impacting microbes in the gut, which can negatively affect immune responses. Scientists have long puzzled over soaring allergy rates in developed countries, with many speculating that changing exposure to germs in childhood may be to blame, although the precise mechanism for this remains unclear.

The latest research involved trawling back through 22 studies conducted between 1966 and 2015. After pooling the results, Ahmadizar and colleagues found an increased risk of eczema due to early life use of antibiotics of 15 to 41 percent, while hay fever risk increased by 14 to 56 percent. The association with allergies was stronger if patients received more than one course of antibiotics early in life. Adam Finn, a professor of paediatrics at the University of Bristol, who was not involved in the research, said the findings added weight to evidence of long-term downside from antibiotic use. Medics are already worried about the emergence of antibiotic resistance due to drug over-use. Still, Finn and other experts said doctors needed to balance out the risks and benefits, since antibiotics remain essential weapons in fighting bacterial infections, saving millions of lives. — Reuters



AMIENS, SOMME, France: (FILES) This combination of pictures (dated, (left) February 6, 2006 and (right) from November 2006) of French Isabelle Dinoire, 39, a few months after her surgery operation carried out jointly by an Amiens and Lyon team who underwent the world's first facial face transplant, and a year later. — AFP photos

FRENCHWOMAN WHO RECEIVED FIRST FACE TRANSPLANT DIES

LILLE, France: The world's first face transplant recipient, Frenchwoman Isabelle Dinoire, died in April "after a long illness", a French hospital said yesterday. In 2005, at the age of 38, Dinoire received a graft comprising the nose, lips and chin of a brain-dead donor to replace parts of her face that had been mauled by her dog. The hospital in Amiens, northern France, confirmed the death of "Mrs D, the first patient in the world to receive a face transplant in an operation carried out by Professor (Bernard) Devauchelle and his teams on November 27, 2005."

The hospital said her death had been kept quiet to protect her family's privacy. Le Figaro newspaper reported that Dinoire's body had rejected the transplant last year "and she had lost part of the use of her lips". The drugs that she had to take to

prevent her body from rejecting the transplant left her susceptible to cancer, and two cancers had developed, the report said.

In a remarkable news conference in Feb 2006, just three months after the operation, the blonde, blue-eyed mother of two appeared before TV cameras wearing a black top and pink cardigan. She appeared to be wearing thick makeup to disguise the scars of the procedure. Her lips were heavy and inflexible, and she spoke with a pronounced lisp but was otherwise comprehensible.

She recounted how she had fainted after "taking medicines to forget" personal problems. "When I woke up, I tried to light a cigarette and I couldn't understand why it didn't stay between my lips. Then I saw the pool of blood and the dog next to me," she said. — AFP

AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT YIELDS GROWTH AND NUTRITION GAINS FOR AFRICA

NAIROBI: African countries that took early action in the past decade to invest in agriculture have reaped the rewards, enjoying higher economic growth and a bigger drop in malnutrition, a major farming development organization said yesterday. In a report, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) said: "After decades of stagnation, much of Africa has enjoyed sustained agricultural productivity growth since 2005."

That has helped push down poverty rates in places like Ghana, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, it added. Countries that adopted the policies promoted by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) not long after it was created by African Union governments in 2003 saw productivity on existing farmlands rise by 5.9 to 6.7 percent per year, the report said. That helped spur a 4.3 per-

cent average annual increase in gross domestic product (GDP). By contrast, states that sat on the sidelines saw farm productivity rise by less than 3 percent a year and GDP by only 2.2 percent, said the Africa Agriculture Status Report 2016.

"The last ten years have made a strong case for agriculture as the surest path to producing sustainable economic growth that is felt in all sectors of society - and particularly among poor Africans," AGRA President Agnes Kalibata said in a statement. Growth in agriculture is more effective at cutting poverty than growth in other sectors in sub-Saharan Africa because farming is a main source of income for more than 60 percent of the labour force, and will continue to be a major employer in most countries for a decade or more, the report noted.

On malnutrition, countries that were quick

to put the CAADP into practice experienced an annual average decline of 3.1 percent, while those that did not sign up saw a drop of only 1.2 percent. The countries adopting the program early - between 2007 and 2009 - were Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo, according to the report.

More effort needed

"Africa is no longer in the dark. It has done a lot towards agricultural transformation in the past decade," said David Ameyaw, AGRA's head of monitoring and evaluation and a lead author of the report. "But there is a need to double the effort by 2030 for a meaningful agricultural transformation," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The report, released to inform discussions at the African

Green Revolution Forum in Nairobi this week, noted that gains were made in early-moving African countries even if their governments did not hit a target set by the CAADP to allocate 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture.

Only 13 African countries have met or surpassed that goal, the report noted. If others followed suit, public funding for agriculture across Africa would rise from \$12 billion - the amount allocated in 2014 - to \$40 billion, it added. Agriculture in Africa is still threatened by low productivity due to limited use of inputs like improved seeds and fertilizers, rising water stress, and climate-related disasters such as floods and droughts that are affecting crop, livestock and fish production, according to the report.

A 2014 World Bank study found that around two-thirds of small-scale farmers surveyed in Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria,

Tanzania and Uganda did not use chemical fertilizers. There is a need for such farmers to invest further in irrigation, both studies said, with the World Bank estimating that only 1 to 3 percent of land cultivated by smallholders in sub-Saharan Africa is irrigated.

Ameyaw said further agricultural progress in the region would require political will, the right policies and technology transfer to improve productivity and reduce post-harvest losses. Linking small-scale farmers to markets and giving them access to finance are also key, he said.

Reforming the land tenure system is important in countries where arable land is inherited by siblings, the scientist added. "When agricultural land is subdivided from generation to generation, it shrinks (and) thus becomes meaningless for agricultural production," Ameyaw said. — Reuters

LIFE-ALTERING SCIENCE MOVES FAST, SPARKING DEBATE 'WE ARE CHOOSING TO LET THESE SPECIES GO EXTINCT'

HONOLULU: Scientific techniques that can wipe out invasive species or alter mosquitoes' ability to carry disease are pushing ahead, raising concerns about the ethics of permanently changing the natural world, experts say. This fast-moving field of science - which involves changing the biology of creatures by interfering with their DNA - is increasingly being debated not only for human health purposes, but also in conservation circles. Perhaps the most controversial type of research is known as a "gene drive," which ensures that a certain trait is passed down from parent to offspring. It eventually leads to genetic changes throughout the entire species.

Projects being considered include one to release altered mice on islands that will only bear male offspring, ensuring an end to future generations, scientists said at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress. Another idea is to save endangered birds on the Hawaiian islands by releasing altered mosquitoes that cannot carry avian malaria. The Oxitec mosquito developed by Intrexon is not technically a "gene drive," but cuts down on the population of mosquitoes by introducing altered males whose offspring cannot survive.

Proponents of gene drive technology say it eliminates the need for polluting pesticides, and could offer a more effective remedy against invasive species than any tool on hand. But opponents fear the impacts of permanently altering life forms on Earth and its unknown — and likely irreversible — impact on creatures and ecosystems.

around release. And not really stringent enough, frankly, if you ask me."

But others at the same panel called for quick action to preserve imperiled species before they disappear forever due to invasive species and diseases. "One of the scariest things of working in conservation in Hawaii is there is no way to save these birds from malaria," said Chris Farmer, Hawaii program director of the American Bird Conservancy. A total of 38 forest birds in Hawaii have gone extinct already due in large part to avian diseases, and 21 of the remaining 32 species are at risk, experts say.

By not exploring new technologies, "we are choosing to let these species go extinct," Farmer said. Another speaker on the panel, Anthony James, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at the University of California Irvine School of Medicine, said time is of the essence. "You have heard the urgency in the voices of my colleagues here worried about the birds and the trees," he said. "One of the key things that is going to be important for this technology is the ability to get these genes out in a very rapid way in the population."

Call for caution

According to Floyd Reed, a scientist at the University of Hawaii who is working on a project to alter Culex mosquitoes which transmit avian malaria to birds, gene drive technologies are incredibly diverse. Some could theoretically spread from a single small release and genetically transform an entire species, he told AFP via email. "These should be treated extremely cautiously. And there are other types of population modification genetic technology that are safer, geographically self-limiting, and reversible."

At the ongoing IUCN World Conservation Congress, a meeting of environmentalists and heads of state from around the world that runs from September 1-10 and has drawn some 9,000 heads of state and environmentalists to Hawaii, members adopted a motion to refrain "from supporting or endorsing research, including field trials, into the use of gene drives for conservation or other purposes" until a rapid assessment is completed by 2020. However, the motion is non-binding, and does not prevent anyone from pursuing research. British primatologist Jane Goodall and dozens of other environmentalists and scientists have signed an open letter expressing concern about the use of gene drives in military, agriculture and conservation. The letter calls for a halt to all proposals for the use of gene drive technologies "given the obvious dangers of irretrievably releasing genocidal genes into the natural world." — AFP

'Behind closed doors'

Kevin Esvelt, an assistant professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is among the first scientists to propose using gene-editing, or CRISPR technology, to alter species. He is also one of the most cautious voices on its potential uses. "As a scientist who worked on it, I am particularly concerned because we scientists are ultimately morally responsible for all the consequences of our work," Esvelt said at a panel discussion at the IUCN meeting in Honolulu. "It should be a requirement that no one gets to build a gene drive or any technology designed to alter the shared environment in a laboratory without making their proposals public first," he said.

"If something goes wrong in the laboratory, it can affect people outside the laboratory," Esvelt added. "That means if you do it behind closed doors - as is traditional in science - then you are not giving people a voice in a decision that might affect them." He also said the current regulatory environment is "all based



AL-SAYER MEDICAL COMPANY PARTICIPATES IN PADA 1ST EXHIBITION FOR HPC

KUWAIT: Al-Sayer Medical Company, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies as a part of their responsibility in supporting the community in general specially people with disability, participated in Public Authority for Disabled (PADA) 1st exhibition for Hospital Patient Care (HPC) recently held at Kuwait Disabled Sports Club.

The event was attended by Sheikhha Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, Honorary President of the Kuwait disabled Sports Club, Shafi Al-Hajeri Chairman of the KDSC, Dr Tareq Al-Shatti Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for the Disabled and Assistant Undersecretaries.

The exhibition facilitated the display of different types of equipment from several companies in the medical sector. Al-Sayer Medical Company showcased advanced products from their globally renowned brands Invacare, Thera Trainer, Kusshall. According to Dr Hossam Afify General Manager Al-Sayer Medical Company "We thank authorities of the Public Authority for Disabled for offering us this great opportunity. Al Sayer Medical Company's mission is to improve and transform people's lives by assisting healthcare service providers with the most advanced and reliable medical technologies that ease pain, restore health, and cure illness. In this regard we have taken big step forward through LifeCare our premium healthcare outlet."

Al-Sayer LifeCare, located at Dajeej Farwaniya and Kuwait Disabled Sports Club Hawally, brings "A to Z" of latest health and wellness products meeting your family's medical needs under one roof. Through LifeCare, Al-Sayer Medical Company renews its commitment and support towards customers to meet their medical needs to ensure an independent living. With wide range of choices from world class products to prevent, cure and treat at the LifeCare showroom, customers will find effective solutions to meet the medical needs through several products from globally renowned brands.



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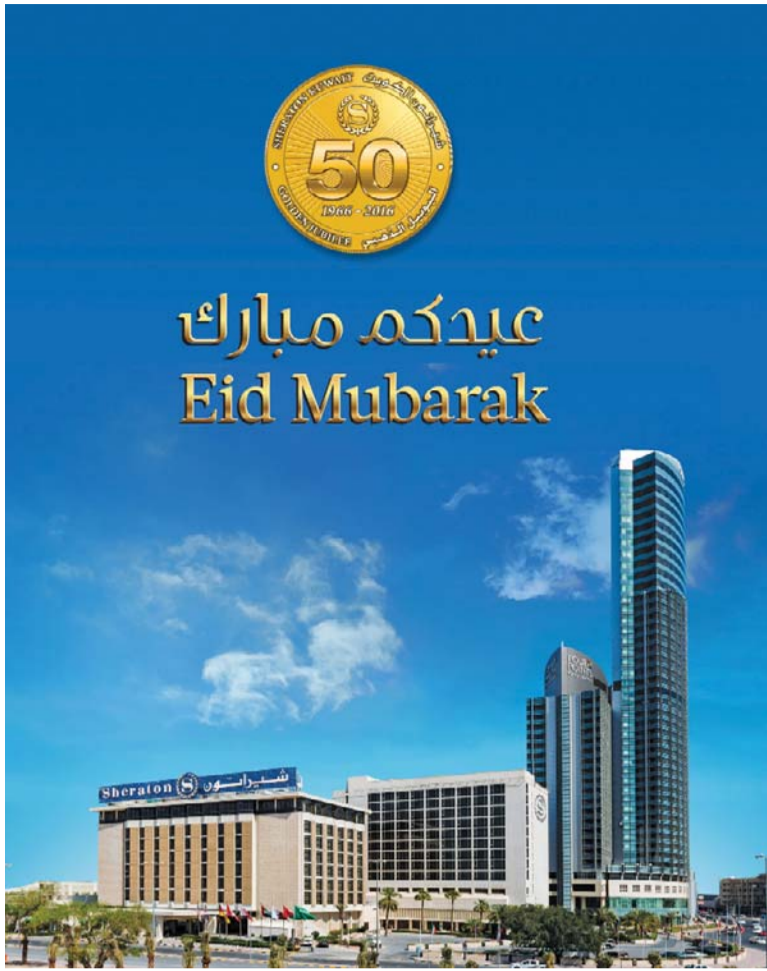


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EXCEPTIONAL EID EXPERIENCE AT SHERATON KUWAIT, FOUR POINTS

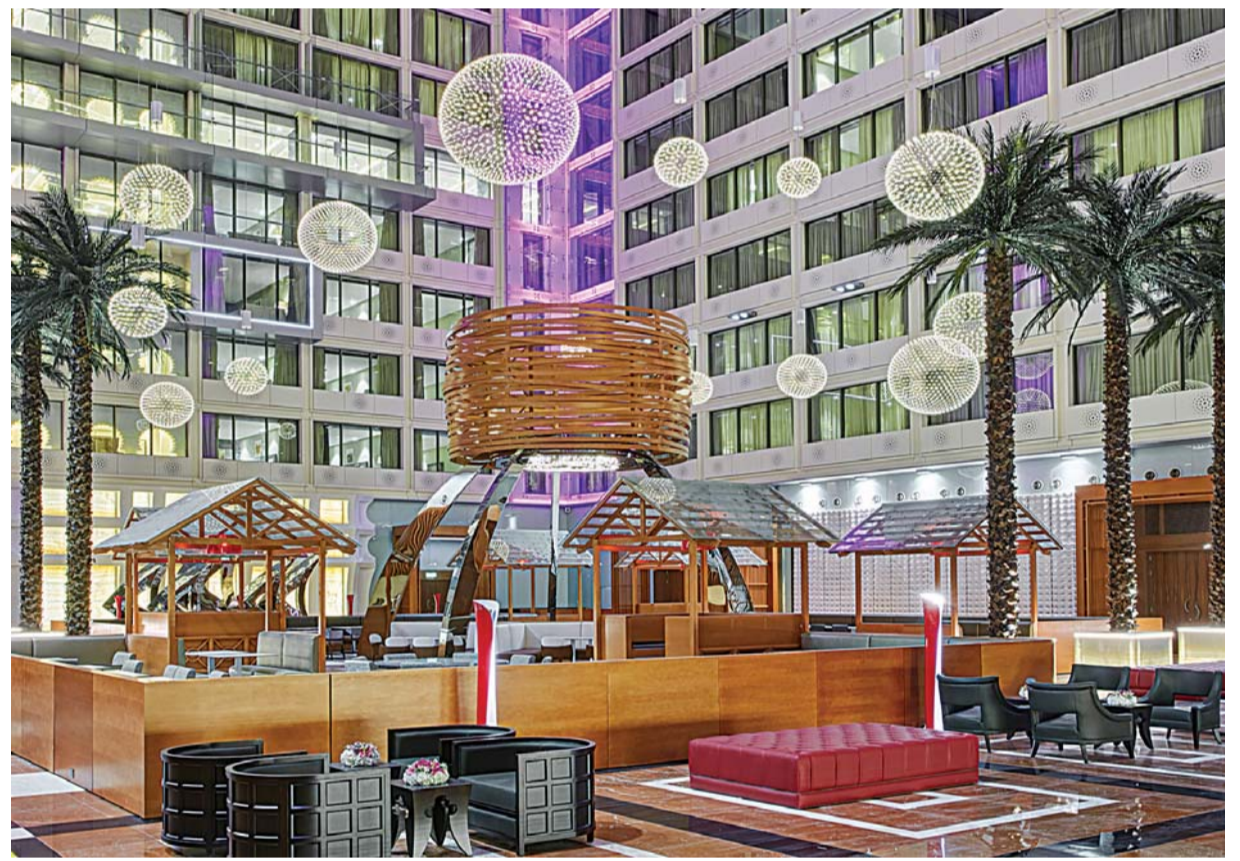
The Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait hotels express sincere congratulations and blessings for the approach of Eid Al Adha and invite you to enjoy precious moments with family and friends with unique cultural experiences of hospitality and dining venues which coincides this year with the celebrations of its 50th Anniversary as the first managed Sheraton to open outside United States and the first five stars hotel in Kuwait, which reflects a real icon

in the Arabian Hospitality world. The guests of Sheraton Kuwait can indulge in a luxurious Eid spirit through its prestigious restaurants, which extends from the Sheraton Kuwait to the Avenues, the largest mall in Kuwait, where they can choose from a wide selection of menus around the world. Experience the exemplary fine dining of the genuine Italian cuisine at Riccardo whilst listening to live music that captures the happiness of Eid performed by the Italian due.

Enjoy lavish dining experience at Al Hambra restaurant and savor a variety of international buffets specially prepared for this occasion; Lebanese delicacies in a distinctive traditional ambiance at le Tarbouche restaurant to enjoy the best cold and hot mesas; Also Bukhara restaurant which offers a rich treasure of Indian dishes prepared with the finest types of authentic spices, as well as Shahrayar restaurant, the Persian cuisine where you relish the most vibrant Cuisine and taste the best barbe-

cue. Enjoy traditional English tea in a luxurious and classic ambiance with original flavors at the English Tea Lounge with a variety of delectable scones and snacks. Our banquets and outside catering are always pleased to serve every occasion at anytime and anywhere. Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait is welcoming you at Pizzeria La Mamma to celebrate a unique Eid which offers an assortment of antipasti and freshly made pasta and pizza baked on the wood for a traditional taste of

Italy to meet your culinary desire. The Sheraton Kuwait restaurants in the Avenues-Grand Avenue are welcoming you to enjoy both shopping and taste the best cuisines in an elegant and superior atmosphere. On this occasion Fahed Abushaar - General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait and Mounir Amer - General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, the Executive Committee and all the associates wish the people of Kuwait and all residents a Happy Eid.



CELEBRATE EID AT AL THURAYA CITY

Al Thuraya City invites GCC residents and nationals to make the most of the Eid Al-Adha break with special offers at its two properties, Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn. The hotels' packages allow guests to personalize their Eid stay based on their preferences: whether it is

fine food, spa treatments, or city sightseeing, there is something for everyone. Guests booking the "Relax" package will benefit from access to Al Thuraya City's supervised playground for kids. Whereas foodies will appreciate the "Indulge" package with meals at Al-Ahmadi Restaurant,

which offers theme nights and live entertainment. The third package, "Discover", is ideal for curious travelers, who get a complimentary shuttle trip to a city sightseeing spot of their choice. The fourth package, "Pamper", features access to the opulently unique aquatonic pool.

Commenting on the Eid packages, Antoine Flouty, Area General Manager: "With nine dining outlets offering a variety of cuisines, a fitness center, a spa, and lots of kids' activities, Al Thuraya City is an exciting Eid destination for the entire family and groups of friends."



BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN CELEBRATES FOUNDER'S DAY

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kuwait (Indian Educational School) celebrated its tenth Founder's Day in the school hall on Saturday, 03 September, most splendidly. This year's founder's day celebration was truly singular as the renowned educational institution that imparts quality education in Kuwait has turned ten. The tenth year celebrations of IES, witnessed an enormously large audience comprising the parents, the well-wishers, the staff members and the students. The air was agog and abuzz with merriment and exhilaration. The flamboyant feasts all over the premises added much fanfare to the festivities. The formal function commenced with the arrival of the chief guest, the invitees, the dignitaries and the members of the management. The founder of Bhavans Middle East, NK Ramachandran Menon was given a standing ovation by the audience to mark their admiration and reverence for him. The esteemed array of guests and invitees included Dr Shafika Al Awadi, the Chairperson and Consultant of the Department of Medical Oncology, Kuwait Cancer Center, the sponsor Ali Juidyan Al Rashidi, NK Ramachandran Menon, the founder as well as the chairman of Bhavans Middle East, Madam Sudha Ramachandran, Sooraj Ramachandran, the Director, Bhavans Middle East, Krishnadas Menon, the Director, Bhavans Kuwait, the Founder Principal of IES and the Principal of Learners Own Academy Asha Sharma, the Principals of Indian Schools in Kuwait Dr Binumon (ICSK), Kalyani Mukherjee (KIS), Jeyammal Wilson (IIS), and the representatives of Indians in

Kuwait, Kuwait Times, Times Kuwait, and Amrita TV. The brilliant beads of events that strung out in the rosary of the Founder's Day Program began on a divine note with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran followed by the national anthem of the soil. The minstrels of IES rendered the prayer song soulfully in tune. The ceremonial lamp was jointly lit by Dr Shafika Al Awadi, the Chief Guest, Ali Juidyan Al Rashidi, the School Owner and Sponsor, NK Ramachandran Menon, the Chairman, Bhavans Middle East, Madam Sudha Ramachandran and Sooraj Ramachandran, the Director, Bhavans Middle East. The invocation dance staged by the dazzling dancers of IES heightened the festive mood with their lithe and graceful dance steps. The bouquets of welcome were then formally extended by the head of the institution T Premkumar. In his directorial address, Sooraj Ramachandran expressed his gratitude to the stakeholders, the teaching fraternity of IES, and the students for their continued support and earnest endeavors that have helped IES ascend to the glittering glory of today from its humble inception in 2006. In his address, NK Ramachandran Menon, the founder and chairman of Bhavans Middle East urged the audience to dream big and then work to their full potential to fulfill their dreams. He reminded them that their dreams would remain the regrets of tomorrow if they failed to materialize them through assiduousness and unwavering determination. He also advised the teachers to exercise caution with their words and deeds as a

teacher's actions or inactions affect posterity. The highpoint of the evening was indeed the musical dance-drama 'Dashavatar' which was conceived by the Principal T Premkumar revolved around the mystical theme 'Dashavatar' from the Indian mythology. The musical ballet directed by Suresh V Balakrishnan, Vice Principal, middle and senior wings, portrayed the evolution of man, and the numinous circles of 'karma' and 'dharma' that a man is welded with. More than 60 high-spirited performers which included teachers and students partook in the musical dance drama much to the amazement of the onlookers. The generous donations of the students of IES, sacrificing luxuries on their birthdays, pooled in the form of a bank check for KD 1020 was presented to the Chief Guest, Dr Shafika Al Awadi, the Chairperson and Consultant of the Department of Medical Oncology, Kuwait Cancer Center. She thanked the efforts of the management and the parent community and in a special way the students of IES for their thoughtful gesture. The chief guest was honored with a token of reverential gratitude from the IES fraternity by the chairman of the institution. On behalf of the staff of IES the Principal and Vice Principals honored the chairman and the director of Bhavans Middle East with the traditional 'golden shawl' as a mark of respect. The Bhavans family also presented NK Ramachandran Menon, the chairman, Bhavans Middle East a memento as a token of their deep reverence and gratitude to the noble visionary. A portrait of the chairman painted by Mukundan, the Head of the Art Department

was also presented to him on behalf of the Bhavans family amid whole-hearted ovation from the onlookers. In honor of their zealous efforts, the members of the staff were felicitated with mementos and certificates for completing ten years of exemplary service, for regularity in attendance and for reaching the milestone of completing five fruitful years in IES. The class coordinators as well as the teachers who made the school proud by preparing and producing toppers in Kuwait and GCC were awarded certificates of appreciation for their dynamism and sincerity. **MESSAGE FROM INDIA EMBASSY** Gen (Dr) V K Singh (Retd), Honorable Minister of State for External Affairs is on official visit to Kuwait from 6-7 September 2016. An India community interaction has been organized with the visiting dignitary today (18:30 pm) at the Indian Embassy Auditorium. The Embassy invites representatives of all registered Indian Associations in Kuwait, representatives of Indian Schools, Indian private sector companies, Public Sector Undertakings and media representatives to attend the above community meet. Light refreshments will be served.

2 GUST GRADUATES GET SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MASTERS AND DOCTORATE DEGREES

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) has announced the names of the two students who have been awarded the GUST Postgraduate Scholarship by the university to pursue their masters and doctoral degrees in the United States. This scholarship is the only one of its kind offered by a private university in Kuwait. The first scholarship recipient is Maryam Almuhanha, who graduated from GUST with a degree in English - Linguistics/Translation. She has been accepted at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the Department of Linguistics. Within that department, she will pursue her master's degree specialized in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) in the Fall of 2016.

The second recipient is Hala Al-Mutawa, a GUST graduate with a degree in English Education. She has been accepted at the University of Pennsylvania, GSE and will pursue her MS Ed specialization in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in the Fall of 2016. Professor Donald Bates, GUST President, said: "Our University believes in bring out the best in every-

one, and we always have an eye out for those who display exceptional talent and intellect.

The aim of the scholarship is to extend an opportunity to our best students to continue their education at a higher level, and return to GUST to teach and help create a positive impact. I am extremely proud of Maryam Almuhanha and Hala Al Mutawa, and I wish them the very best of luck." Also commenting on the occasion, Dr Salah Al-Sharhan, GUST's Vice President for Academic Affairs, "The success of our students reflects the success of our university as an effective educational institution, capable of producing world class academics. I am proud of their achievements, and can't wait to have them back as colleagues here."

In order to qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be Kuwaiti citizens, with undergraduate degrees from GUST, and a minimum GPA of 3.30. They need to have a high standard of English and be able to meet all academic, entrance and other requirements of the universities concerned. Applicants must not be older than 25 years of age, and must complete their



studies within a specified timeframe on a full time basis. Additionally, recipients are required to return to teach at GUST for a pre-specified time

period. "Being part of a university that nurtures talent is the perfect environment to be in. I'm thankful to GUST for

this opportunity, and look forward to coming back to teach at a place I've come to call home," said Hala Al Mutawa, GUST 2016 Graduate and

Scholarship Recipient. In addition to the scholarship, GUST will also offer its students a stipend equivalent to a teaching assistant's salary, as well as other various benefits. These benefits include academic tuition and mandatory fees, basic medical insurance for the duration of the study period, annual support for educational supplies and materials and an annual round trip ticket.

"I could not be more grateful for this opportunity, and I'm very appreciative of the recognition. I look forward to coming back to the progressive academic environment that GUST has to offer," Maryam Al Muhanha said. Since 2012, three students have been sent abroad as part of this scholarship, Badriyah Al Hussaini, was sent to study Accounting at the University of Southern California where she is currently enrolled in her PhD program. Last year, two candidates were awarded the graduate scholarship to pursue their Masters' degree, Buthainah Al-Refaaee joined Boston University to study Journalism and Mohammed Almuiraikhi to study Finance at George Washington University.

HILTON KUWAIT RESORT CELEBRATES EID IN STYLE

From 8th to 16th September, Hilton Kuwait Resort wishes to invite guests to celebrate Eid Al Adha with an extensive range of activities and offers sure to entice all guests, regardless of age. Begin your festivities with a splash! - Dive head-first into family fun time at the new inflatable water-park for the first time in Kuwait which floats on the Gulf waters, just off the private beach at Hilton Kuwait Resort. Don't break the bank - With special room rates, choose from a variety of accommodation options ranging from deluxe rooms, studios, charming chalets and villas to luxurious royal villas to enjoy your Eid holiday in a setting of relaxed elegance, enhanced by the discreet, personalized service one always associates with Hilton.

Lunch and dinner buffets during Eid-Eat your fill at "Teatro" restaurant at the Eid buffets. Enjoy traditional Arabic food while indulging in a captivating live performance along with live cooking stations and a vibrant family atmosphere. Hilton caters to the kids too - Children can participate in exciting activities planned just for them, such as face painting, cartoon character meetups, magic shows and movies screening. They can then chow down at the yummy Candy land buffet!

Live piano performances are guaranteed to delight - Guests are invited to visit the "Song Bird Caf " during the days of Eid and treat themselves to excellent live piano performances while enjoying their favorite tea or coffee. Kick back in style and Privacy - Hilton Kuwait Resort is the perfect destination for guests looking to kick back in the lap of luxury and privacy. In the "Palm Court" terrace guests can enjoy shisha along with dinner or luxuriate in a private tent complete with catering, AC and a TV, all while overlooking the beautiful Arabian Gulf.



AL MULLA EXCHANGE OPENS ITS 68TH BRANCH IN KUWAIT

Al Mulla Exchange, Kuwait's leading exchange company, opened its 68th branch in Kuwait, adding to its wide network to serve customers all cross Kuwait. The new branch is the third outlet in Fahaeel area and located in block 7, street 74, near to Olive super market, and like all other branches of Al Mulla Exchange, its well located with ample parking space to enable the customers with fast and easy services.

Rakesh Joshi, General Manager commented on the branches' opening by saying: Every time Al Mulla Exchange opens a new branch, it brings it closer to its customers, the company carefully select the geographical places in its expansion process, based primarily on the growing demand on the company's services and

the population density, that new branch is a strategic location for the exchange company as there are very few companies providing similar services in the area.

As an inaugural offer of one month we are providing 250 bonus loyalty points for every transaction done at Al Mulla Exchange. Other than this there will be loyalty points accorded for every transaction, bonus 500 loyalty points for every new customer referred, bonus 250 loyalty points for transactions done on the Al Mulla Exchange online portal www.amxremit.com, and bonus 3500 loyalty points for transactions which meet certain criteria. We hope our customers will be pleased with the levels of service and professionalism we bring to their remittance"

Joshi further noted that this is part of Al Mulla's ongoing expansion drive in the country, where Al Mulla Exchange is among the fastest growing exchange companies. He thanked the customers of Al Mulla Exchange for their support over the years and their trust in the company's services and products. "We have always focused on delivering the best to our customers, because ultimately they are the single biggest factor behind our success." He also took the opportunity to thank all the staff of Al Mulla Exchange for living up to the high standards set by the company in terms of service and the courtesy they extend to the customers to make them feel at home.

TSC EXPANDS POKEMON CAMPAIGN

Due to the success of the first Pokemon campaign; The Sultan Center (TSC) launched the second Pokemon Campaign from August 24th to September 4th in Kuwait at Salmiya, Sharq and Sha'ab stores to become a Poke-stop for the game players to find their targets. In order for customers to participate, they had to find at least one Pokemon and take an in-app screenshot through the application. There were many hidden Pokemon also within the stores for customers to search for ie; TSC Sharq: Abra, Venesaur, Blastoise, Dragonite and Charizard; TSC Sha'ab: Gengar, Ivysaur, Wartortle, Raichu and Charmeleon; TSC Salmiya: Gyrados, Ninetales, Dragonair, Cefable and Arcanine.

Pokemon could be at the aisle on the check stands, floor or even on the shelves. Once the Pokemon were found, customers had to take a photo then share on their Instagram account while hashtagging TSC with #TSCShop&Play which enabled customers a chance to win TSC Gift Vouchers. Winners of the game were announced on 5th of September on TSC Instagram account.

Commenting on the campaign, TSC's Digital Marketing Manager - Maciej Galas- said: "TSC is always seeking to come-up with creative innovative out of the box ideas to entertain our valued customers." He added: "The campaign witnessed a large turnout of Pokemon fans who enjoyed being part of this activity. The positive feedback we received from the previous campaign encouraged us to entertain Pokemon users with a second campaign that was more exciting, it was interesting to see customers actively roaming the stores to catch the Pokemon making it an ideal location for gamers", stated Galas. TSC invited its customers to visit Salmiya, Sharq and Sha'ab stores to experience unprecedented fun!!! Follow TSC Instagram account (@sultan_center) and stay tuned for more campaigns.



BBC FIRST

- 09:25 Orphan Black
- 10:15 Doctors
- 10:45 Doctors
- 11:15 Dickensian
- 12:00 Doctors
- 12:30 Doctors
- 13:00 Holly City
- 14:00 New Tricks
- 14:50 Call The Midwife
- 15:45 Dickensian
- 16:30 Doctors
- 17:00 Doctors
- 17:35 New Tricks
- 18:30 Call The Midwife
- 19:25 Dickensian
- 20:15 Doctors
- 20:45 Doctors
- 21:15 New Tricks
- 22:10 Call The Midwife
- 23:10 Dickensian
- 00:00 Doctors
- 00:30 Eastenders
- 01:05 New Tricks
- 02:00 Death In Paradise
- 03:55 Death In Paradise
- 04:55 Silent Witness
- 04:55 Orphan Black
- 05:40 Doctors

- 13:00 Kids vs Film
- 13:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 13:50 My Cat From Hell
- 14:40 How It's Made
- 15:05 How It's Made
- 15:30 Invent It Rich
- 16:20 Mythbusters
- 17:10 Animal Airport
- 17:35 Animal Airport
- 18:00 My Cat From Hell
- 18:50 Ultimate Survival
- 19:40 How It's Made
- 20:05 How It's Made
- 20:30 World's Toughest Jobs
- 21:20 Mythbusters
- 22:10 Kids vs Film
- 22:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 23:00 Keiko: The Untold Story Of The Star Of Free Willy
- 23:50 Biggest And Baddest
- 00:40 Invent It Rich
- 01:30 Mythbusters
- 02:20 How It's Made
- 02:45 How It's Made
- 03:10 Keiko: The Untold Story Of The Star Of Free Willy
- 03:00 Doctors
- 04:00 Eastenders
- 01:05 New Tricks
- 02:00 Death In Paradise
- 03:55 Death In Paradise
- 04:55 Silent Witness
- 04:55 Orphan Black
- 05:40 Doctors

- 00:40 Best Friends Whenever
- 01:05 Liv And Maddie
- 01:30 Jessie
- 01:55 Violetta
- 02:45 Backstage
- 03:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 03:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 04:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 04:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipper
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 12:00 Boyster
- 12:10 Super Matrak
- 12:35 Super Matrak
- 13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 13:25 K.C. Undercover
- 13:50 Supa Strikas
- 14:15 Danger Mouse
- 14:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 15:10 Gravity Falls
- 15:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 16:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 16:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 16:50 Boyster
- 17:20 Boyster
- 17:45 Pair Of Kings
- 18:10 Pair Of Kings
- 18:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 19:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 19:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 20:20 Kickin' It
- 20:45 Kickin' It
- 21:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:15 Supa Strikas
- 21:40 Supa Strikas
- 22:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 22:30 Danger Mouse
- 22:55 Kirby Buckets
- 23:25 K.C. Undercover
- 23:50 Annedroids
- 00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 00:40 K.C. Undercover
- 01:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 01:10 Gravity Falls
- 01:35 Pickle And Peanut
- 02:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 02:25 Supa Strikas
- 02:55 K.C. Undercover
- 03:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 03:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 04:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
- 04:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 05:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



- 09:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 09:20 Calimero
- 09:35 Zou
- 09:45 Loopdidoo
- 10:00 Art Attack
- 10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 10:35 Calimero
- 10:50 Zou
- 11:00 Loopdidoo
- 11:15 Art Attack
- 11:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 11:50 Calimero
- 12:00 Zou
- 12:20 Loopdidoo
- 12:35 Art Attack
- 13:00 The Hive
- 13:10 Zou
- 13:25 Loopdidoo
- 13:40 Gummi Bears
- 14:05 Sofia The First
- 14:30 Goldie & Bear
- 14:40 PJ Masks
- 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:10 Doc McStuffins
- 15:20 Miles From Tomorrow
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:45 Goldie & Bear
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 The Lion Guard
- 16:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 17:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 17:50 The Hive
- 18:00 Doc McStuffins
- 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:00 The Lion Guard
- 19:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 19:45 Aladdin
- 20:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:45 Doc McStuffins
- 21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 21:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 22:15 Sofia The First
- 22:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 23:00 The Lion Guard
- 23:30 Goldie & Bear
- 23:55 Unbungleable
- 00:00 Doc McStuffins
- 00:30 Doc McStuffins
- 01:00 PJ Masks
- 01:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 02:00 Sofia The First
- 02:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 03:00 PJ Masks
- 03:25 Doc McStuffins
- 03:55 Aladdin
- 04:20 Gummi Bears
- 04:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:20 Calimero
- 05:35 Zou
- 05:50 Loopdidoo



- 09:50 Monster Fish
- 10:45 World's Toughest Fixes
- 11:40 Living In Space
- 12:35 Engineering Connections
- 13:30 Mega Factories
- 14:25 4 Babies A Second
- 15:20 World's Toughest Fixes
- 16:15 Science Of Stupid
- 16:40 Science Of Stupid
- 17:10 In Search Of The Straits Born
- 18:05 Machine Impossible
- 19:00 4 Babies A Second
- 20:00 Mega Factories
- 21:00 Engineering Connections
- 22:00 Science Of Stupid
- 23:00 Science Of Stupid
- 23:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
- 00:00 Machine Impossible
- 01:00 Engineering Connections
- 02:00 Science Of Stupid
- 02:25 Science Of Stupid
- 02:50 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
- 03:40 Machine Impossible
- 04:30 Engineering Connections
- 05:20 Living In Space



- 09:45 Hidden Worlds
- 10:40 A Penguin's Life
- 11:35 Crocopolypse
- 12:30 Japan's Wild Year
- 13:25 Hidden Worlds
- 14:20 A Penguin's Life
- 15:15 America The Wild
- 16:10 Predator Patrol
- 17:05 Cheetah: Fatal Instinct
- 18:00 Shark Men
- 18:55 World's Deadliest Killer Three
- 19:50 Animal Fight Club
- 20:45 Animals Gone Wild
- 21:40 Turf War- Lions And Hippos
- 22:35 Gangster Jackals
- 23:30 World's Weirdest
- 00:25 Wild Indonesia (2015)
- 01:20 Animals Gone Wild
- 02:10 Turf War- Lions And Hippos
- 03:00 Gangster Jackals
- 03:50 World's Weirdest
- 04:40 Wild Indonesia (2015)
- 05:30 Shark Men



- 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Max & Shred
- 11:24 Henry Danger
- 11:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 12:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:48 Winx Club
- 14:12 Harvey Beaks
- 14:36 Breadwinners



- 09:01 Paw Patrol
- 09:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 09:35 Max & Ruby
- 09:59 Max & Ruby
- 10:07 Bubble Guppies
- 10:29 Little Charmers
- 10:41 Shimmer And Shine



X-MEN: THE LAST STAND ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 15:00 Get Blake
- 15:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 15:48 Henry Danger
- 16:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 16:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 17:00 Winx Club
- 17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 17:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 18:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 18:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 19:00 Breadwinners
- 19:24 The Loud House
- 19:48 Harvey Beaks
- 20:12 Rabbids Invasion
- 20:36 Henry Danger
- 21:00 Game Shakers
- 21:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 21:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 22:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 22:36 The Loud House
- 23:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:24 Harvey Beaks
- 23:48 Breadwinners
- 00:12 Henry Danger
- 00:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 01:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 01:24 Game Shakers
- 01:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Breadwinners
- 03:48 Breadwinners
- 04:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 05:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 05:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 05:48 Henry Danger

- 11:05 Dora And Friends
- 11:27 Zack & Quack
- 11:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 12:00 Paw Patrol
- 12:36 Dora The Explorer
- 13:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 13:11 Zack & Quack
- 13:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 13:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:10 Paw Patrol
- 14:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 14:58 Dora The Explorer
- 15:21 Paw Patrol
- 15:45 Little Charmers
- 15:57 Bubble Guppies
- 16:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 16:40 Zack & Quack
- 16:52 Team Umizoomi
- 17:15 Louie
- 17:22 Louie
- 17:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 17:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 17:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 18:03 Max & Ruby
- 18:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 18:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 19:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:45 Zack & Quack
- 20:05 Team Umizoomi

- 22:30 Mad Love
- 23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:00 Dr. Ken
- 00:30 Hot In Cleveland
- 01:00 Young & Hungry
- 01:30 Young & Hungry
- 02:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 03:00 Modern Family

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 09:45 The Sixth Sense
- 11:45 Merchants Of Doubt
- 13:30 The Apostle
- 15:45 Reds
- 19:00 Listen To Me Marlon
- 21:00 Love & Mercy
- 23:00 The Apostle
- 01:15 Go For Sisters
- 03:30 Legends Of The Fall

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 10:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 12:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 14:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 16:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 17:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 19:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 20:30 Hatching
- 22:00 Egon And Donci
- 00:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 02:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 04:00 Hatching
- 05:45 Egon And Donci

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 10:00 Drumline: A New Beat
- 12:00 Away And Back
- 14:00 The Package
- 16:00 So Undercover
- 18:00 Rage
- 20:00 Betrayed
- 22:00 The Package
- 00:00 Still Alice
- 02:00 Julie And Julia
- 04:15 Days And Nights

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 12:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
- 12:00 Armored
- 14:00 Hidalgo
- 16:30 Brick Mansions
- 18:30 Wrath
- 20:30 Armored
- 22:15 Armageddon
- 01:00 Brick Mansions
- 03:00 Dracula Untold
- 05:00 A Walk Among The Tombstones

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 09:00 Two Night Stand
- 11:00 The Love Guide
- 13:00 The Girl
- 15:00 Draft Day
- 17:00 Fast Girls
- 19:00 Memories
- 21:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 23:00 Draft Day
- 01:00 The Rover
- 03:00 Very Good Girls
- 05:00 Calvary

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 09:00 Dr. Ken
- 09:30 Black-ish
- 10:00 Hank
- 10:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 11:30 Better With You
- 12:00 Mad Love
- 12:30 \$#! My Dad Says
- 13:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 14:00 Hank
- 14:30 Better With You
- 15:00 Dr. Ken
- 15:30 The Grinder
- 16:00 Crowded
- 16:30 \$#! My Dad Says
- 17:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 18:00 Mad Love
- 18:30 Hank
- 19:00 Better With You
- 19:30 \$#! My Dad Says
- 20:00 Black-ish
- 20:30 The Grinder
- 21:00 Crowded
- 21:30 Modern Family
- 22:00 Modern Family

OSN MOVIES HD MORE

- 09:00 Preacher
- 10:00 Entourage
- 10:30 Entourage
- 11:00 If These Walls Could Talk
- 13:00 Prom Night In Mississippi
- 15:00 Crime Of The Century
- 17:00 Hello Ladies: The Movie
- 18:45 The Enemy Within
- 20:15 Path To War
- 22:00 Hello Ladies: The Movie
- 01:00 The Newsroom
- 02:00 Six Feet Under
- 03:00 True Blood
- 04:00 Banshee
- 05:00 Hung
- 05:30 Hung

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 09:00 Snow Dogs
- 11:00 Dunston Checks In
- 13:00 Despicable Me 2
- 15:00 Clockstoppers
- 17:00 Dinosaur
- 19:00 Garfield's Fun Fest
- 21:00 Eragon
- 23:00 Alice In Wonderland
- 01:00 Cinderella
- 03:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
- 05:00 Eragon

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 10:00 Three Men And A Baby
- 12:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 14:00 Bringing Down The House
- 16:00 Three Men And A Baby
- 18:00 A Lot Like Love
- 20:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
- 21:45 Bringing Down The House
- 23:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey



- 09:00 Strip The City
- 09:48 Mythbusters
- 10:36 Sci-Fi Science
- 11:00 Magic Of Science
- 11:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 12:12 How Do They Do It?
- 12:36 Food Factory
- 13:00 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Mythbusters
- 14:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 15:02 Strip The City
- 15:50 How Do They Do It?
- 16:14 Food Factory
- 16:38 Sci-Fi Science
- 17:02 Magic Of Science
- 17:26 Mythbusters
- 18:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 19:02 How Do They Do It?
- 19:26 Food Factory
- 19:50 Strip The City
- 20:38 Sci-Fi Science
- 21:02 Magic Of Science
- 21:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 22:14 Mythbusters
- 23:02 Strip The City
- 23:50 Mythbusters
- 00:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 01:30 Secret Space Escapes
- 02:20 How Do They Do It?
- 02:45 Food Factory
- 03:10 Super Skyscrapers
- 04:00 Secret Space Escapes
- 04:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 05:40 Mythbusters

Discovery Family

- 09:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 09:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 09:50 Ultimate Survival
- 10:40 How It's Made
- 11:30 How It's Made
- 11:50 World's Toughest Jobs
- 12:20 Mythbusters



- 09:15 The Hive
- 09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 09:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 10:10 Hank Zipper
- 10:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 11:00 Violetta
- 11:45 The Hive
- 11:50 Mouk
- 12:00 Jessie
- 12:25 Jessie
- 12:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 13:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 13:20 Liv And Maddie
- 13:45 Bunk'd
- 14:10 Austin & Ally
- 14:35 Shake It Up
- 15:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 15:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 15:50 That's So Raven
- 16:15 That's So Raven
- 16:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 17:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 17:30 Jessie
- 17:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:00 The 7D
- 18:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:40 Hank Zipper
- 19:05 Star Darlings
- 19:10 Austin & Ally
- 19:35 Austin & Ally
- 20:00 Liv And Maddie
- 20:25 Liv And Maddie
- 20:50 Dog With A Blog
- 21:15 Jessie
- 21:40 Bunk'd
- 22:05 Star Darlings
- 22:10 Gravity Falls
- 22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 23:00 Backstage
- 23:25 Alex & Co.
- 23:50 Girl Meets World
- 00:15 Austin & Ally



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

Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme
SHARQIA-1	11:30 AM	BLOOD FATHER	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	3:45 PM	KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS
MORGAN	1:30 PM	FANAR-1	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	5:45 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION
SKIPTRACE	4:00 PM	AKIRA- HINDI	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	8:00 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION
MORGAN	6:30 PM	AKIRA- HINDI	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	10:15 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	8:30 PM	JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:30 AM	
MORGAN	10:45 PM	JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu			
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	3:30 PM	JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	AVENUES-1	1:00 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	6:30 PM	AKIRA- HINDI	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	3:15 PM	ABU SHANAB
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	9:45 PM	BLOOD FATHER	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	5:30 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
MORGAN	1:00 AM		JAEHEM FI ILHIND	8:00 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
			JAEHEM FI ILHIND	10:15 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
			JAEHEM FI ILHIND	12:30 AM	
SHARQIA-2	11:30 AM	FANAR-2	AVENUES-2	12:15 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS -3D	1:45 PM	MORGAN	THE BFG -3D- 4DX	2:30 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS -3D	4:00 PM	MORGAN	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX	5:00 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX
BLOOD FATHER	6:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	THE BFG -3D- 4DX	7:15 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX
BLOOD FATHER	8:15 PM	MORGAN	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX	9:45 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX
BLOOD FATHER	10:15 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND			
BLOOD FATHER	12:15 AM	MORGAN			
SHARQIA-3	1:00 PM	FANAR-3	AVENUES-3	11:30 AM	HELL OR HIGH WATER
HELL OR HIGH WATER	3:15 PM	KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	HELL OR HIGH WATER	1:45 PM	SKIPTRACE
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	5:15 PM	KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	AKIRA- HINDI	4:00 PM	AKIRA- HINDI
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	7:30 PM	KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	HELL OR HIGH WATER	7:15 PM	HELL OR HIGH WATER
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	9:45 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	SKIPTRACE	9:30 PM	SKIPTRACE
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:05 AM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	SKIPTRACE	11:45 PM	SKIPTRACE
HELL OR HIGH WATER		MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	4:00 PM	JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu
			JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	7:15 PM	JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu
			JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	10:30 PM	
MUHALAB-1	11:30 AM	FANAR-4	360° 1	12:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER
HANDS OF STONE	1:45 PM	BLOOD FATHER	BLOOD FATHER	2:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER
HANDS OF STONE	4:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER	BLOOD FATHER	4:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	6:15 PM	BLOOD FATHER	BLOOD FATHER	6:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	8:15 PM	BLOOD FATHER	BLOOD FATHER	8:15 PM	BLOOD FATHER
HANDS OF STONE	10:15 PM	BLOOD FATHER	BLOOD FATHER	10:30 PM	BLOOD FATHER
MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:30 AM	BLOOD FATHER	BLOOD FATHER	12:45 AM	BLOOD FATHER
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	4:00 PM				
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	7:15 PM	MARINA-1	360° 2	1:15 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
THU+FRI+MON		MORGAN	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	3:30 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	10:30 PM	SKIPTRACE	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	5:45 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
		MORGAN	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	8:00 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
		SKIPTRACE	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	10:15 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND
		MORGAN	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	12:30 AM	
		MORGAN			
MUHALAB-2	1:00 PM	MARINA-2	360° 3	11:30 AM	AKIRA- HINDI
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	1:30 PM	BLOOD FATHER	AKIRA- HINDI	2:30 PM	AKIRA- HINDI
MORGAN	3:30 PM	BLOOD FATHER	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	5:30 PM	AKIRA- HINDI
KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	5:45 PM	BLOOD FATHER	AKIRA- HINDI	8:30 PM	AKIRA- HINDI
MORGAN	8:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER	AKIRA- HINDI	11:30 PM	
MORGAN	10:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER			
MORGAN	12:05 AM	BLOOD FATHER			
MUHALAB-3	11:30 AM	MARINA-3			
BLOOD FATHER	1:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS			
AKIRA- HINDI	1:30 PM	KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS			
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				

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Duhr:	11:47
Asr:	15:19
Maghrib:	18:08
Isha:	19:25



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Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 7/9/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 7/9/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	ETD	9819	BRU	14:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	SVA	5155	Jeddah	14:20
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	IRC	6512	ABD	14:25
PYA	2396	EVN	01:30	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
KKK	750	TZX	01:50	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	KAC	781	Jeddah	16:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	TBM	6314	Mashhad	17:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
SVA	4221	Jeddah	06:05	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
KKK	720	TZX	06:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	MSC	508	HRG	17:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:40	IRC	527	Mashhad	17:50
SVA	4191	Jeddah	07:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
JZR	503	Luxor	07:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	382	Delhi	07:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	SYR	342	Damascus	19:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	MEA	407	Beirut	20:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
SVA	4199	Jeddah	09:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
IRA	665	Shirah	09:25	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
SVA	4311	Jeddah	09:30	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:40	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
SVA	4117	Jeddah	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
AVV	655	Asyut	11:30	JAD	300	Amman	22:00
SVA	4727	Jeddah	11:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	THY	1413	TZX	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	13:05	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
				KAC	203	Lahore	23:40
				RBG	556	Alexandria	23:55

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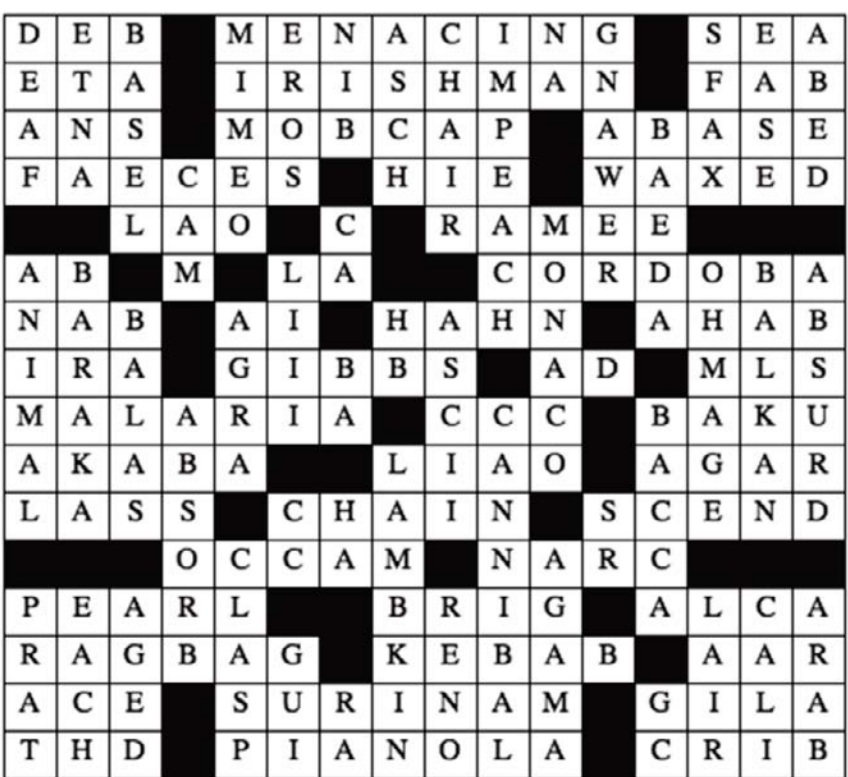
ACROSS

1. A member of a North American Indian people speaking one of the Hokan language.
5. Small toothless anteater with prehensile tail and four-clawed forelimbs.
12. Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.
15. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
16. Of or relating to Iran or its people or language or culture.
17. Negation of a word or group of words.
18. Steering mechanism for a vessel.
19. Of or in or relating to the nose.
20. Jordan's port.
22. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
24. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
26. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
28. Large genus of erect or climbing prickly shrubs including roses.
30. Actively or fully engaged or occupied.
31. Flightless New Zealand birds similar to gallinules.
34. A landlocked republic in eastern Africa.
36. A belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by some group or school.
37. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
39. Tropical tree of the East Indies cultivated for its edible fruit.
43. A New England state.
45. Having sections or patches colored differently and usually brightly.
48. (computer science) The part of a computer (a microprocessor chip) that does most of the data processing.
49. Wasting of the body during a chronic disease.
52. Expletives used informally as intensifiers.
54. Frogs, toads, tree toads.
55. A republic in southeastern Europe on the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.
56. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
57. A keel-shaped constellation in the southern hemisphere.
59. A state in midwestern United States.
61. A blind god.
62. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
64. Informal terms for a mother.
65. A family of fish in the order Zeomorphi.
68. A Japanese Buddhism emphasizing mystical symbolism of mantras and mudras and the Buddha's ideal which is inexpressible.
72. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
73. United States humorist remembered for his homespun commentary on politics and American society (1879-1935).
76. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
77. Sexually transmitted urethritis (usually caused by chlamydia).
78. An annual publication including weather forecasts and other miscellaneous information arranged according to the calendar of a given year.
80. Tall woody perennial grasses with hollow slender stems especially of the genera Arundo and Phragmites.
81. An operating system that is on a disk.
82. Chinese evergreen conifer discovered in 1955.
83. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

DOWN

1. German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
2. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
3. Bushy plant of Old World salt marshes and sea beaches having prickly leaves.
4. A large fleet.
5. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
6. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
7. The capital of Lesotho.
8. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
10. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
11. Relatively small fast-moving sloth.
12. Snarled or stalled in complete confusion.
13. African antelopes.
14. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
21. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
23. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
25. Herbs, shrubs and trees.
27. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
29. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
32. Remote city of Kazakhstan that (ostensibly for security reasons) was made the capital in 1998.
33. A metric unit of length equal to 1000 meters (or 0.621371 miles).
35. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
38. An aggressive remark directed at a person like a missile and intended to have a telling effect.
40. A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere.
41. A brief indulgence of your impulses.
42. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
44. An amount of time.
46. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
47. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
50. Type genus of the Burhinidae.
51. Durable fragrant wood.
53. Sturdy annual of Peru.
58. Small space in a tissue or part such as the area between veins on a leaf or an insect's wing.
60. Type genus of the Amiidae.
63. An analytic or interpretive literary composition.
66. (used as a sentencement connector) Therefore or consequently.
67. Not only so, but.
69. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
70. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
71. A quantity of no importance.
74. The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
75. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
79. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You make changes to an old story, script or lesson in order for young people to take an interest in the content. Ideas, words, books and the like are pursued with great gusto. There may be an opportunity to visit a library or bookstore during the noon break. Work progresses as usual this afternoon and fortunately, since your mind is elsewhere, your routine actions are all that is needed. On the way home from work this afternoon you may find yourself in an antique store or furniture store. There are some things you want to add to your home or to a collection. It would be easy to be impulsive just now, so step back and ask yourself if you need what you are wanting to purchase. Volunteering to be the cook this evening creates happy times; you are creative.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself very appreciative of your career and practical skills. You enjoy solving puzzles and problems and finding solutions, etc. There is a renewed appreciation for your work and this is apparent to your superiors-in fact, to everybody. Pacing yourself and resisting the urge to react in certain negative situations have paid off for you. You are good at handling emotional people and emotional situations. Stability and permanence satisfies a deep emotional need. Music is likely to play a more important role for you than usual and a period of material acquisition can satisfy a deep yearning to be free from want. Perhaps this would include stamp collecting, art, etc. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that matter now.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is rather low-keyed day, considering the activities of yesterday. It is however, easy for you to make correct decisions, find the right path and move forward where career and success are concerned. Life's problems seem manageable and easy to solve. You may spend some time this afternoon clearing away the leftovers of some project-clutter. Looking through magazines later today, you may come across a good product for your company to purchase as a sales item. You make career gains by your ability to sense quality and choose accordingly. There is a feeling of being at peace and stable on the emotional level-music is likely to fill your space. This may mean the radio, a new cd or you have joined a musical group.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You're coming into a new period of time that will be centered on taking your past studies and your present knowledge along with any other information and combining everything into some action. This could mean you are opening a new store or beginning a new practice of your own as a doctor, a dentist or a massage therapist, etc. You are no longer the apprentice. Do not allow yourself to be late today-you could miss an important activity. This evening a young person may want some privilege that the person is not ready for yet. It is your house, your rules and you are not a wimp ruled by the occupant. This is one of your overall best days this month-you will look back with pride. The birds in your yard need a new birdbath.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your career may be tied more to your appearance and how you come across to others. Professionally dressed, you will be ready to think in a professional manner and you gain the interest of business people when making those important first impressions. You are determined to present your speech, as well as point out your ideas, insights, inventions and perhaps, an independent point of view. Your first impressions are positive and you have the attention of others. At home this afternoon you may be tempted to continue tending to business all over again by getting on the computer to do a bit of research. Relax... Take a few notes from what you have learned today and do the work tomorrow, as work was meant to be. You need some fun.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a fun day, especially considering it is your birthday. This day is good in love, money and business relationships. Your power favors independence and self-assertion. Whatever you set out to do today will be successful. Study, research and investigations of all kinds appeal to you. You are always searching out some answer or another. Yours is a reflective mind, a mirror for others. You are equality-minded and easy to talk with-a great negotiator. You find it easy to accept the ideas and thoughts of others and to listen to what they have to say. Several co-workers come to you with a proposal; some of this may be office politics. Give yourself time to think through your response. This evening your attention is on family.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

It's a time for business dealings, details and putting things together. While learning a new technique or business, you assimilate information and experience, learning lessons and putting them into practice. You focus on these areas today. It is the technical areas where you will excel in most cases. Your observations are accurate and others benefit from your input. A friend in need or something you believe in that will suffer from a lack of your support gets your attention this afternoon. You are able to turn a difficult situation into a more positive one. This is one of your best days this month for love and money. You may want to share your good fortune with a loved one this evening. Pay attention to the little things around you this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You talk about your dreams to a loved one this morning and have fun deciphering the meaning. Today is a day when you can expect a little boost, some extra support or recognition from those around you. You may feel that you are very much aware of the needs of others and even in harmony with their minds and how they would react to certain communications. People find it easy to talk with you and any changes or beginnings that you want to negotiate now will have positive results. Your professional life reaches new levels. You may look back on these months and see a time that is very transforming. An article you read may interest you enough to begin a new study group. This could be a step in the right direction for learning about a hidden talent.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Completing any unfinished business is in the forecast for today. Things that may have been in suspended animation for many years will now take on structure. These next years are ones in which you should plan to work hard to bring out and shape the ideas you have pored over in the desire to extend or improve your home. Tonight brings a relaxing time; you can rest a while and analyze some of the day's activity. You see that one part of your life is coming to an end and a new part of your life is just beginning. There is much excitement and intrigue involved that matches your requirement for a full life. Keep a promise made to a loved one tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your ability to communicate may be lost on others this morning-do not remind yourself, however. Wait until after the noon break and call a meeting or make your announcements. You could be most persuasive and will find support for what you want to accomplish. You could find yourself lecturing or teaching this afternoon. The energies now are good for self-expression and your very own particular ideas and thoughts. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. You have the mind of a lawyer, always able to size up a problem and come up with a solution. Using your mind to negotiate obstacles and handle dilemmas, you are able to guide and lead others through the hurdles. Enjoy the company of a loved one this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Driving in to work this morning you have to concentrate more than usual. Your mind is full of ideas and your drive is strong. It might be a good idea to have an easy-to-reach tape recorder that you can use to record notes for further exploration later. You have a lot on your mind and feel a strong need to communicate and gather ideas. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. A yearning to broaden horizons and reach for the ultimate is the sort of thing that takes center stage in your life. Law, politics and education are some of the areas in which you may have new experiences. You follow your inner guide and your ambitions show the way into the future. Focus; pay attention! Enjoy a long walk after this evening's meal.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Stability and permanence satisfies a deep emotional need. Being needed in the workplace just seems to heighten those gratifying feelings. The work world seems to move along in a smooth manner and progress is noticed. Today is a good time to make those appointments that you keep putting behind you. An overall successful day may find you working in a garden or cooking this afternoon. You have great insight into matters of personal freedom and you work very hard to achieve just that. You come up with brilliant ways to express emotion or act through situations. New methods of love-making, raising kids and caring for animals are yours at this time. The activities you enjoy seem to unfold around you this evening. This is a good time.

WORD SEARCH

Easter

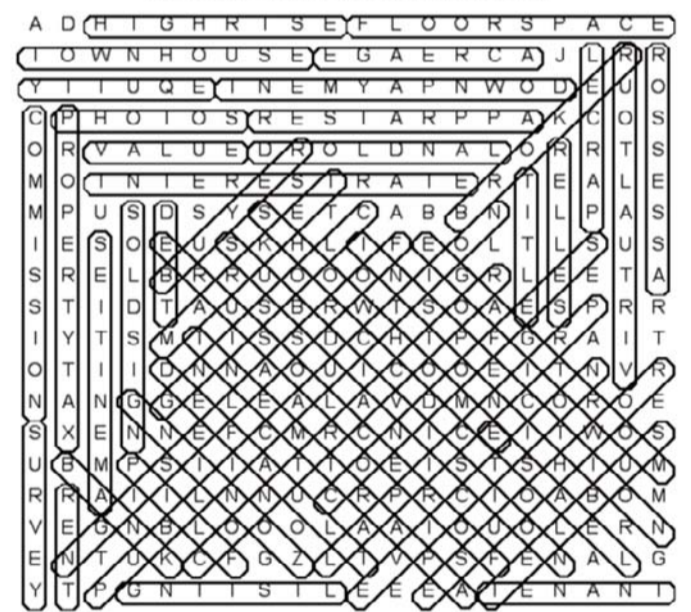
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 34 letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| ASH WEDNESDAY | DEATH DISCIPLES | JESUS LAST SUPPER | PENITENCE PRAYER |
| BREAD BUNNY | EGG HUNT | LENT MARY MASS | RESURRECTION ROAST |
| CALVARY CELEBRATION | EUCHARIST | MEAL NEW TESTAMENT | SACRAMENT SATURDAY |
| CHOCOLATE CHRIST | FAMILY FASTING | NEW TESTAMENT SUNDAY | THURSDAY TOMB |
| CHURCH CROSS | FESTIVAL FRIDAY | PALMS PARADE | TRADITION |
| CRUCIFIXION CUSTOM | HOLIDAY HOLY WEEK | PASSOVER PENANCE | VIGIL |

Yesterday Solution

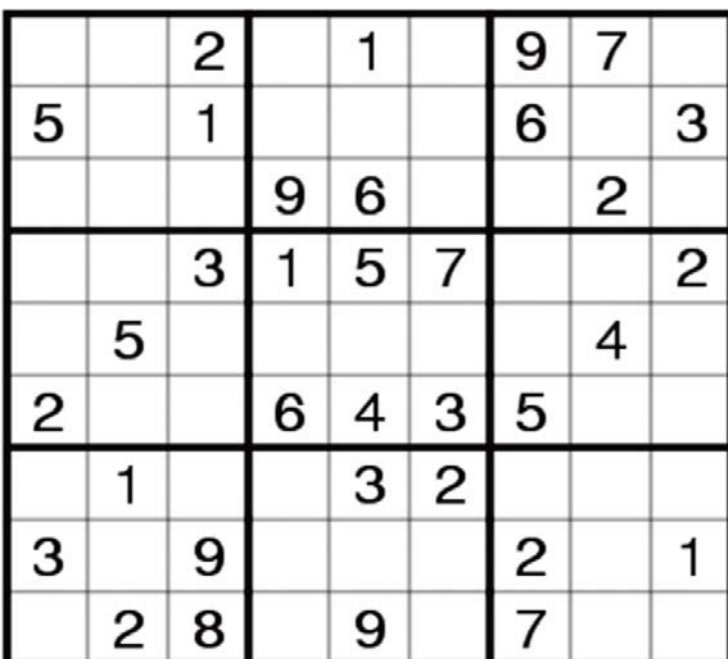
Real Estate 2



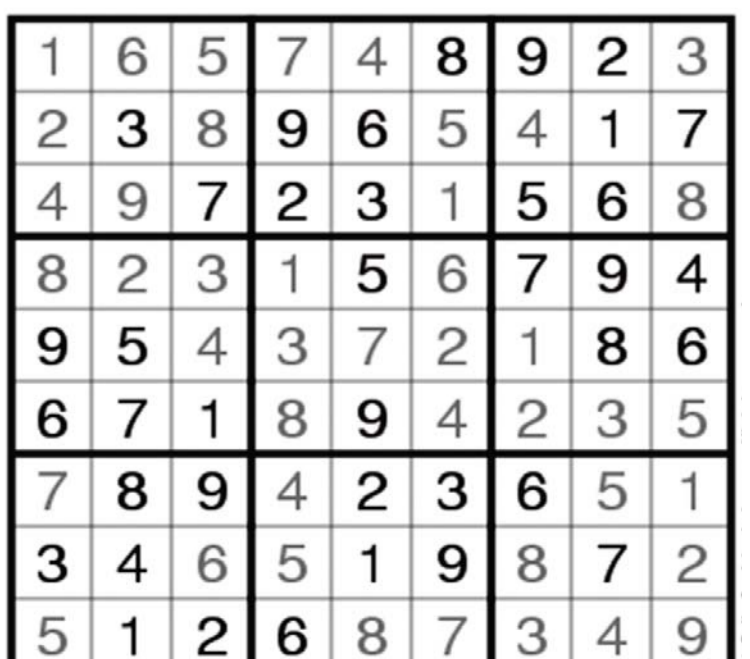
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| ACREAGE AMENITIES | DEBT DEFAULT | LANDLORD LEASE | SELLER SHOW HOME |
| APARTMENT APPRAISER | DOWN PAYMENT EQUITY | LISTING MARKET | SOLD SIGN SUBDIVISION |
| ASSESSOR BANK | EVICTION FLIP | MORTGAGE PARCEL | SURVEY TENANT |
| BROKER BUYER | FLOOR SPACE FOR SALE SIGN | PHOTOS PRINCIPAL | TITLE TOWNHOUSE |
| CLOSING COMMISSION | FORECLOSURE HIGH RISE | PROPERTY TAX PUBLIC AUCTION | VALUE VIRTUAL TOUR |
| CONDO FEES CONTRACTOR | INSPECTION INTEREST RATE | RENT ROW HOUSE | ZONING |

The hidden message is: ADJUSTABLE-RATE MORTGAGE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
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
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

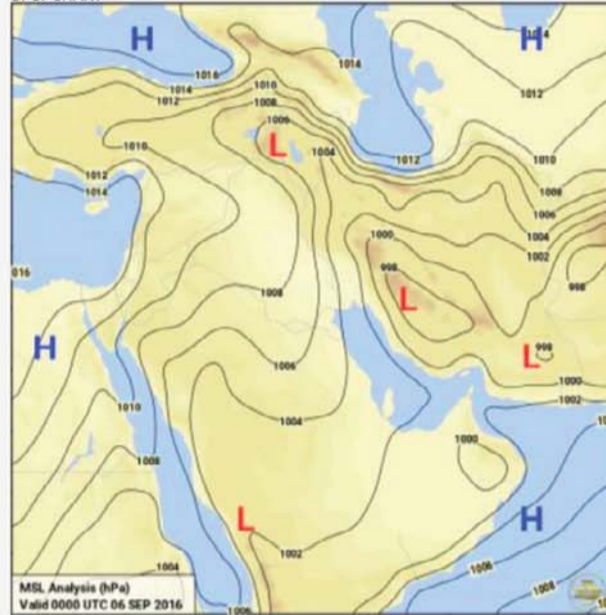
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 06/09/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 45 °C

By Day : Hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 50 km/h causing raising dust
By Night : Relatively hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	Dust	Sun	Sun	Sun
Min Temp °C	32	29	28	28
Max Temp °C	43	43	44	44
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	25 - 45	15 - 38	15 - 35	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	34		44	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34		45	
ABDALLY	31		45	
BUBYAN	29		45	
JAHRA	33		46	
FAILAKA ISLAND	31		44	
SALMIYAH	34		41	
AHMADI	35		41	
JAL ALIYAH	30		45	
QAROH ISLAND	35		39	
UMM AL-MARADEM	36		38	
NUWAISIB	31		46	
WAFRA	32		46	
MANAGISH	29		45	
SALMY	28		44	
MUTRIBA	30		46	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	46
Min Temp (°C)	34
Max Rel Hum (%)	26
Min Rel Hum (%)	09
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	60 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise

05:28

Sunset

18:08

Prayer Times

Fajr 04:07

Sunrise 05:28

Zuhr 11:47

Asr 15:19

Sunset 18:08

Isha 19:25

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisani	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisani	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor
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Dwayne Johnson gets pooped on

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson's daughter was so unimpressed by his motivational speech, she pooped on him. The 'Jumanji' actor - who has eight-month-old Jasmine with girlfriend Lauren Hashian, as well as 14-year-old Simone from his marriage to Dany Garcia - was trying to chat to his youngest child about the "value of hard work" and earning respect, but she didn't pay much attention to his words. Sharing a cute picture of himself with Jasmine perched on his shoulders, he wrote on Instagram: "Its Labor Day. One of my favorite holidays as we celebrate the blue collar American worker and their contributions to our country thru labor and sweat. "In the spirit of Labor Day, I had an amazing philosophical conversation w/ my baby girl about the value of hard work and how respect is given when it's earned. I told her, "Baby girl when you grow up, you get out there and dent the universe thru hard work and sweat. And always make sure you do it in a positive

way with class, dignity and respect". "She responded by poo'ing on me in this moment as she plays her favorite game, "Drum time on daddy's big head". It was a good talk. #HappyLaborDay #TheJohnsons #GoodTalksWithDaddy (sic)" When the 44-year-old star became a parent for the second time, he admitted he wanted to be a "better man" and a "great father". He posted alongside his first picture of Jasmine: "Kinda crazy but in this cool and powerful skin to skin bonding moment with my newborn baby Jasmine, I had just one wish I asked the universe... Give me the strength to be a better man today than I was yesterday. "If I can accomplish that, then I'd have a good shot at being a great father. "To all you young men out there who will be fathers one day, the goal of 'being better' will never steer you wrong. Trust me."



Joey Feek worried about Rory becoming a single parent again

Joey Feek "couldn't bear the idea" her death would leave her husband Rory a single parent again. The 40-year-old musician - who gave birth to the couple's daughter, Indiana, in 2014 - said it was "unfair" Rory would be left to raise their child on his own following her passing, having also done so for his two daughters from a previous relationship. He shared: "[Joey] just couldn't bear the idea that she was going to leave me a single parent again because I'd already been through it. She told me right on the porch out there. "She said, 'It's not fair. You're not supposed to have to do this again.' I said, 'But on the other hand, I'm perfect. I already know how.'" Rory revealed his two eldest children - Heidi, 29, and Hopie, 27 - are playing an active role in helping to raise Indiana, who was born shortly before Joey was diagnosed with cervical cancer. Rory reflected: "God just keeps showing up and magically making what are our worst fears beautiful." He admitted, though, that it has been especially hard raising their daughter on the farm he once shared with Joey in Pottsville, Tennessee, because it brings back so many memories. Rory told PEOPLE: "When the time came that we realized that Joey was most likely not going to make it through this cancer ... one of the hardest things was coming to realize that I was going to be back here again where I was before, but this time raising Indiana." Earlier this month, Rory admitted he cannot bring himself to order a headstone for his late wife, who passed away after her cervical cancer returned. He explained: "I don't know why, I just can't. I don't know if it's that she's so simple, and a wooden cross is part of what she would like. It probably has something to do with permanence. So, for now, I can sit out here and feel like it's - it's maybe just temporary. Although I know it's not."

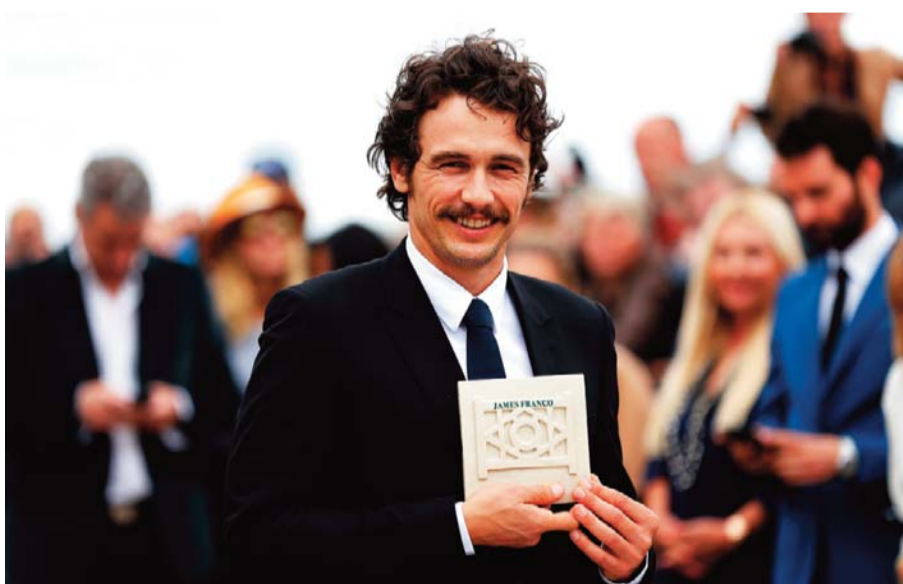
Courtney Cox has acting plan for daughter Coco

Courtney Cox has organized acting lessons for her daughter as she believes she has what it takes to become a movie star. The former 'Friends' actress' 12-year-old girl Coco Arquette - her child with her actor ex-husband David Arquette - has started to show an interest in the family business and Courtney is doing everything she can to encourage her. Courtney has already cast her daughter in the music video for Foy Vance's song 'Coco', which she directed and now she's getting Coco proper tuition for the stage and screen and she's already shown so much promise her mother is convinced she could become the "next Jennifer Lawrence". A source told the US edition of OK! magazine: "She's signed Coco up for acting lessons and she's pouring over scripts for her. "When she's with industry friends, she keeps saying Coco could be the next Jennifer Lawrence." Courtney - who is in a relationship with Snow Patrol musician Johnny McDaid reportedly feels as though Coco has the talent to land roles sooner rather than later and is hopeful that if the lessons go well she can start auditioning for roles. As well as her actor parents, Coco has a lot of other family members who can help her with her aspirations. Her aunt Patricia Arquette has had a glittering Hollywood career with roles in films such as 'True Romance', 'Stigmata' and TV series 'Medium'; her other aunt Rosanna Arquette is an acclaimed actress, director and producer and her uncle Richmond Arquette has had a three-decade spanning acting career.



Jason Statham wants to learn three new languages

The 49-year-old actor has revealed his ambition to learn Spanish, French and German in between making more money-spinning movies. Jason - who has been dating model and actress Rosie Huntington-Whiteley since 2010 - said: "I will start with Spanish, then I'll go onto French and German." Meanwhile, the 'Furious 7' star also revealed he has remained in good shape as he has aged thanks to a disciplined approach to exercise. The Hollywood hardman, who competed for England at the 1990 Commonwealth Games as a diver, said a diet of gymnastics, yoga, dancing and Pilates have helped to ensure he has not piled on the pounds in recent years. Jason told HELLO! magazine: "It's more preventative medicine for me. You try to maintain the body a little a little bit more. Before, I just worked hard, then relaxed. "But that was a decade ago. Now it's more about being consistent. It's harder to come back - I prefer balance these days. The mind follows the body, that's what I believe." Jason and Rosie live among the rich and famous in Hollywood, but he insisted his heart remains in Britain, where he was born and bred. Jason shared: "All my family is there. Right now I am travelling the world doing my thing, but when I am back in England I truly feel at home." Despite this, Jason said he never feels lonely in America because his parents are regular visitors. He explained: "I love spending time with them. That's the best thing in life. At the end of the day, it's never about where you are but who you're with. "I spent the best times ever sitting in a pub with a bunch of friends. I love that as much as being on the top of a mountain. To share good times is the best. Good friendship, I would never want to miss." — Bang Showbiz



US actor and director James Franco holds a tile with his name as he poses for pictures during the unveiling of his dedicated beach locker room on the Promenade des in the French northwestern sea resort of Deauville, on the sidelines of the 42nd Deauville US Film Festival. — AFP

Poetic French tale 'A Woman's Life' captivates Venice

The beautifully crafted "A Woman's Life" by French director Stephane Brize about the tormented life of a baroness seduced the Venice film festival yesterday, as it entered the race for the coveted Golden Lion. Brize, whose last film "The Measure of a Man" (2015) competed for the Palme d'Or at Cannes, winning Best Actor, here adapts the first novel written by 19th century author Guy de Maupassant into a rich period drama. Dark-haired Jeanne (played by Judith Chemla) is still brimming with a quiet, childish innocence when she returns to the family chateau in Normandy in 1819 after finishing her schooling in a convent.

She spends her days pottering about in the garden with her parents, the baron (Jean-Pierre Darroussin) and baroness (Yolande Moreau), who are open-minded and doting, but do little to prepare her for adulthood. Jeanne falls for and marries a handsome local Viscount, Julien (Swann Arlaud), but the claustrophobic scene of their first night in bed together hints at the darkness of betrayal and heartbreak to come. The film, shot in a square rather than the standard rectangle ratio, pulls together the key moments from the novel in a quick-moving series, taking the viewer from Jeanne's first sight of Julien to their courtship and marriage bed in just four shots.

el, "to convey how she mixes the present and past, her desires and hopes, and cannot let go". There are long shots where an increasingly aged Jeanne-who has a grown son by the film's end-stands motionless in fields or lanes, the only sound a fierce wind or torrential downpour. "Stephane (Brize) gave me an infinite space in which to find my character, I let myself go," Chemla said of playing Jeanne.

"I had so much time and space for the scenes that I forgot myself. Even the atmosphere, the air changed." And Brize said creative flexibility was at the heart of his filmmaking process: "I don't arrive with a piece of paper where I've written down what I want, I begin by sniffing the environment, like a dog picking up a scent." — AFP

FRANCO REFLECTS ON THE POLITICAL RESONANCE OF 'IN DUBIOUS BATTLE'

Fifteen years after attending Deauville American Film Festival as an actor with the Golden Globe-winning "James Dean: An Invented Life", James Franco was back at the Normandie-set fest to present the French premiere of his latest directorial effort, "In Dubious Battle", and receive a career homage. During the press conference hosted at Deauville on Monday, Franco talked about the contemporary political themes of "In Dubious Battle", which is based on John Steinbeck's novel. The movie, which world premiered on Sept 3 at Venice, follows an activist for the labor party who sets off to organize a massive strike for apple pickers in California in the '30s. Franco said he was drawn to turn Steinbeck's novel into a film because "as a storyteller (he knew) it would make a great movie" and eventually realized the "central conflict had a topical resonance." Related Venice Film Review: James Franco's 'In Dubious Battle' "I'm not running for president and I don't know how to fix it but certainly

there is a working class and middle class in America that's left behind and it's not a good thing (for our country). Hopefully this film can shine a light on this issue," said Franco, who will next present "In Dubious Battle" at Toronto.

"I've not been politically active in my life but as a public figure there are certain things that I can raise awareness on and send a message to younger people-raise attention on voting for instance," said Franco, who attended the presser with Monika Bacardi, Andrea Iervolino, Vince Jolivette and Scott Reed. Franco also talked about his love for American classics. "I try to devote myself to projects I really believe in and I often make projects that other people aren't making (and projects) that bring some vitality to classic stories." — Reuters

'A disturbing intensity'

The camera lingers on the protagonist as she digs the earth in the sunshine or is pummeled by wind and rain, with both the elements and the director's framing choice echoing her state of mind. Brize told journalists he had been attracted to Jeanne's story because "there is something disturbing about her intensity, her immense trust in man, the special relationship she has with the world." "When I took my own first steps into the adult world I had the same feelings as Jeanne, I found it difficult to abandon my childhood," he said, describing it as "a painful experience."

"Jeanne does not want to or cannot follow this path, and remains attached to her childhood, which is a beautiful but tragic thing at the same time," he said. The decision to go with a restricted framing was "an instinctive, an emotional choice." "I explored the option of Cinemascope (used for filming widescreen), but it gave the impression everything was dusty, too classical. The closer format confines Jeanne; like a box, it is difficult to escape," Brize said.

'I let myself go'

Florence Vignou, who co-wrote the screenplay with Brize, said they had created flashbacks, which are absent in the nov-



(From left) Actor Jean-Pierre Darroussin, actress Yolande Moreau, actress Judith Chemla and director Stephane Brize attend the photocall of the movie 'Une Vie' (A woman's life) presented in competition at the 73rd Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP

TV's Wyatt Earp, **Hugh O'Brian**, has died at 91

Hugh O'Brian, who shot to fame as Sheriff Wyatt Earp in what was hailed as television's first adult Western, has died. He was 91. A representative from HOBY, a philanthropic organization O'Brian founded, says he died at home Monday morning in Beverly Hills. Until "The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp" debuted in September 1955, most TV Westerns - "The Lone Ranger," "Hopalong Cassidy," the singing cowboys' series - were aimed at adolescent boys.

"Wyatt Earp," on the other hand, was based on a real-life Western hero, and some of its stories were authentic. (The real Earp, who lived from 1848 to 1929, is most famous for his participation in the 1881 "Shootout at the O.K. Corral" in Tombstone, Arizona.) Critics quickly praised it, and it made O'Brian a star. "If we were doing Westerns with the chase and the fights that last endlessly, and the sheriff's daughter in sun-bonnet and calico and the Wanted posters ... we wouldn't reach the audience we reach each week," O'Brian once said.

Black-and-white TV show

"Gunsmoke," which debuted just a few days after "Wyatt Earp," became an even bigger hit, and by 1956-57, both were in the top 20 shows. In the 1958-59 season, Westerns accounted for an incredible seven out of the top 10 US television series, including No. 1 "Gunsmoke" and No. 2 "Wagon Train," with "Wyatt Earp" at No. 10. "Wyatt Earp" remained a Top 20 hit until 1960, but it was canceled the following year after being supplanted by the avalanche of other adult Westerns.

O'Brian, meanwhile, continued to work frequently in movies, television and theater through the 1990s, although he never again achieved the prominence he enjoyed as Wyatt Earp. He starred in the 1970s detective series "Search" and appeared in such films as "In Harm's Way" and "Ten Little Indians," and reprised his role as Earp in 1994's "Wyatt Earp: Return to Tombstone," a film that combined new footage with colorized scenes from the original black-and-white TV show.

He also had a small but memorable role as the faro dealer in John Wayne's last film, "The Shootist," and later noted with pride that it gave him the distinction of being the last bad guy killed by Wayne. (Wayne himself is reputed to have met the real Wyatt Earp as a young man in Hollywood in the 1920s.) Late in his career, O'Brian made frequent guest appearances in television series and variety shows and toured in the

national companies of "Cactus Flower," "1776" and "Guys and Dolls."

Small parts

O'Brian had originally planned to study law at Yale University. But after actress Ida Lupino saw him in a play at a small Los Angeles theater she cast him in "Never Fear," a 1949 film she was directing, and his acting career was launched. He went on to appear in



In this Oct 24, 1963 file photo, actors James Stewart, left, and Hugh O'Brian confer on the set of 'Cheyenne Autumn' in Los Angeles.

small parts in such films as "The Return of Jesse James," "Red Ball Express," "Broken Lance" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." O'Brian was inducted into the Hall of Great Western Performers of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in 1992. He also made his mark in philanthropy as founder of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership organization.

In 1959, impressed by the work of Albert Schweitzer, O'Brian made a pilgrimage to the 83-year-old savant's settlement and hospital in central Africa. Although his journey was derided by some critics as a

publicity stunt, the actor dismissed the remarks, telling reporters how his life had been changed by the Nobel Peace Prize winner. Shortly after returning home, he founded the youth group. Each year, it brought together promising high school sophomores at sites around the country for leadership seminars. In 1999 O'Brian estimated that HOBY had more than 200,000 graduates from ages 16 to 59. He received numerous awards for his achievement.

Monday. "I was one lucky cowgirl." The couple, who had dated for years, honeymooned in England, studying philosophy at Oxford University.

"I think, quite frankly, an active mind is as important as an active body," O'Brian told The Associated Press at the time. "Fortunately, my lady's a teacher and she puts up with me." It was his first marriage, but his romances were many and well publicized, especially his fling with Princess Soraya, the ex-wife



In this April 14, 1969 file photo, Ingrid Bergman, her daughter Pia, and Hugh O'Brian arrive at the Beverly Hilton for dinner in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP photos

Beautiful adventure

Born Hugh Krampe in Rochester, New York, O'Brian was educated in Winnetka, Illinois, leaving school at 17 to join the Marines. He went on to become one of the corps' youngest drill sergeants. In June 2006, at age 81, O'Brian wed 54-year-old Virginia Barber at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park cemetery in what they quipped was a "wedding to die for." "I said goodbye, early this morning, to my favorite cowboy. My 28 years with Hugh have been an amazing, beautiful adventure. I will miss my special man who told me every day that I was beautiful and that he loved me," his wife wrote

of the shah of Iran. In 1969 he faced a paternity suit in which he was judged to be the father of the 16-year-old son of a Los Angeles photographer. He was ordered to pay \$250 monthly support for the boy, whose name was Hugh Krampe Jr. "I sure had my share of fun and an awful lot of ladies," he recalled in that 2006 interview. — AP



Invited guests gather for the premiere of a divisive movie 'Smolensk' at the Opera House in Warsaw, Poland. — AP photos

Polish leaders, victims' families attend Smolensk crash film

Polish leaders and families of some crash victims attended the premiere Monday of a divisive movie that supports a theory that the 2010 plane crash that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others was an assassination orchestrated by Russia. The crash in western Russia was among Poland's greatest tragedies since World War II and sparked speculations as to its causes. Polish and Russian experts blamed bad landing conditions in dense fog at Smolensk airport and pilot errors.

But Kaczynski's party insists that it was an assassination inspired by the Kremlin as punishment for his support for Georgia during its armed conflict with Russia. Moscow vehemently denies the allegations. Kaczynski's party, the conservative and nationalist Law and Justice, is in power in Poland now. Kaczynski's twin brother, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, is the ruling party's leader and considered by many to be Poland's most powerful politician. He has blamed his brother's death on Moscow and on Poland's centrist government in 2010.

Russia has refused to return the wreckage, and the identification of some bodies was done incorrectly in Moscow - fueling a theory of foul play among many Poles. Director Antoni Krauze said the film, called "Smolensk," was a "protest against the manipulations with the truth." "There were lies from the very start," he said. "It is still unclear why the plane which should have pulled up and gone to another airport instead crashed into thousands of pieces." In the "Smolensk" movie's official trailer, the plane explodes in a ball of fire and it suggests that there was a conspiracy. The film is based on findings by a party commission whose experts say there was an explosion before the crash. President Andrzej Duda, who hails from Kaczynski's party, Prime Minister Beata Szydlo and Jaroslaw Kaczynski attended the premiere at Warsaw's National Opera House. — AP

Singer **Zayn Malik** cancels Dubai concert, cites anxiety

Singer Zayn Malik, who devastated One Direction fans when he left the chart-topping boy band last year, has cancelled a concert in Dubai, saying anxiety issues did not make him confident enough to perform a major solo show. The 23-year-old was due to appear at a show in Dubai on Oct 7 but concert organizers 117 Live said in a statement on their website that it had been cancelled and that ticket holders would be refunded.

"I have been working over the last three months to overcome my extreme anxiety around major live solo performances I feel I am making progress," Malik told fans in a message posted on the website. "But I have today acknowledged that I do not feel sufficiently confident to move forward with the planned show in Dubai in October ... I am truly sorry to disappoint you." Malik announced he was leaving the hugely successful band in March 2015 after five years, saying he wanted to lead a normal life. A few months later, the remaining four members of the group, which came to prominence on the British talent show "The X Factor", said they would be taking a break. — Reuters



Zayn Malik

Venice Film Review

'The Fury of a Patient Man'

Ajolting opening segues into a scattered, slightly confusing beginning, but Spanish actor-turned-director Raul Arevalo quickly brings his deeply impressive debut under control, reining in the narrative with a hand that betrays almost none of a neophyte's unsteadiness. It's a taut little story of devolving nastiness, uncompromising in its relentless, western-influenced linearity, and yet Arevalo still finds time for the most elusive attribute in the familiar territory of the lean revenge thriller: surprise. The bait-and-switch structure, by which the hesitant, complicated, real-world romance of the first half is revealed to have much darker and knottier import in the second, makes the film, which Arevalo co-wrote with David Pulido, a singular dish, best served cold.

The prologue, which seems oddly unrelated in both form and content to the rest of the film but makes sense down the road, is a cleverly bruising piece of action cinema, as get-away driver Curro (Luis Callejo) waits in jittery anxiety outside the jewelry store his cohorts are robbing. Something goes wrong, the masked men come helter-skelter out of the store, but before they can reach Curro, sirens sound out. Curro flings the car into gear and speeds off in panic, before crashing a few moments later and being apprehended by the police—all of which is captured in a bravura unbroken shot that somersaults with the crashing car.

Unlovely spot

DP Arnau Valls Colomer seems equally at home with this handheld, extreme POV camerawork, and with the more considered, carefully composed framing in which the rest of the film unfolds. Some years later, Curro's wife Ana (Ruth Diaz) has become accustomed to Curro's incarceration, and barring the odd conjugal visit, lives a simple, hardworking life running a cafe with her brother Juanjo (Raul Jimenez). A quiet, well-groomed man, Jose (Antonio de la Torre) begins to spend a lot of time there, despite being a social grade or two above the neighborhood, and not from around those parts. The outgoing Juanjo befriends Jose, whose sidelong glances at Ana suggest the real reason he so frequently patronizes this unlovely spot.

It takes time, but a tentative relationship begins between them, and the harried, prickly, practical Ana seems to soften and bloom as a result. But alone at night Jose obsesses over a few minutes of CCTV footage depicting jewelry store robbery. Arevalo tips his hand early that all is not as it seems, but despite that, and a lot because of the superbly controlled playing from de la Torre, who invests Jose's silences with a kind of steadfast sincerity that completely shields his real motives, we still believe in Ana and Jose's relationship. But then the volatile and possessive Curro is released from prison, and the film ramps into its second half, which becomes part road movie and part psychological thriller, in which the two men serve as antagonists but also traveling companions—a kind of buddy dynamic, only nobody is friends here.

Premeditated damnation

Even so, it seems possible that we're going to follow either or both on their path to redemption, but when the first bloody and graphic killing occurs, we understand that Arevalo's fascination is with the very opposite: This is the tale of man deeply involved in his own premeditated damnation. Arevalo, at just 36, is a 16-year veteran as an actor. However, his ambition has reportedly always been to direct, and he claims to have spent much of his

time on set studying the craft intently-patiently, one might say. Perhaps that's the reason "Fury" so elegantly avoids so many of the pitfalls of first-time actor-directors: Good as de la Torre is, Arevalo is not interested in building a film that is a temple to a single performance, or even several.

Corrugated masculinity

Instead, he is totally committed to the mechanics of the story, showing a remarkable grasp of tone across the film's relatively disparate halves (it's also divided into four chapters, each favoring a slightly different point of view), and creating a real sense of peril that arises from the beautifully underplayed ambivalence of the characters.

In all, it makes the film a package that hits a highly exportable sweet spot between hard-bitten genre and foreign arthouse fare. It is also, in the studied contrast between Curro and Jose, an incisive portrait of corrugated masculinity and the extremely different ways it can manifest in a society still underscored with elements of machismo. Curro is violent, felonious, loud, and blue-collar where Jose is polite, cultured, and quiet. "The Fury of a Patient Man" reminds us all, in darkly dazzling form, that it's the quiet ones you have to watch out for. — Reuters



Director Raul Arevalo (second left), actor Antonio de la Torre (second right) and actor Luis Callejo (right) and producer Carlo Degli Esposti (left) joke with producer Beatriz Bodegas (center) during the photocall of the movie 'Tarde Para La Ira' (The Fury Of A Patient Man) presented in the 'Orizzonti' selection at the 73rd Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP

Beyonce, under vocal rest, postpones MetLife Stadium concert

Even Beyonce needs to slow down every once in a while. Under doctor's orders for vocal rest, the superstar singer has postponed the Sept 7 MetLife Stadium stop of her Formation World Tour until Oct 7, according to a statement released Monday. Fans in St Louis, Los Angeles, Santa Clara, Houston, New Orleans,

Atlanta, Philadelphia and Nashville can rest easy though. Queen Bey will be proceeding with those dates as planned.

The Formation World Tour in support of her album "Lemonade" kicked off April 27 in Miami and was to conclude Oct 2 in Nashville. Beyonce turned 35 on Sunday and attended the Made in

America Festival in Philadelphia with her husband and festival founder Jay-Z. MetLife Stadium is in East Rutherford, New Jersey. — AP

File photo shows Beyonce Knowles arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards at Madison Square Garden, in New York. — AP



File photo shows Chevy Chase attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special at Rockefeller Plaza, in New York. — AP

Chevy Chase enters rehab for 'tuneup' on alcohol problem

Chevy Chase has checked into a rehab facility in Minnesota for treatment for an alcohol problem. Chase's publicist Heidi Schaeffer said Monday that Chase is at Hazelden Addiction Treatment Center for what she calls a "tuneup" in his recovery. Chase has had struggles with substances during his career. He checked into the Betty Ford Clinic in the 1980s for treatment for an addiction to prescription pain killers.

The 72-year-old former star of "Saturday Night Live" and the "Vacation" movies was recently a regular on TV's "Community" from 2009 to 2014. He has a pair of films coming up, "The Christmas Apprentice," and "Dog Years." His return to rehab was first reported by TMZ. — AP

Cumberbatch narrated mindfulness film 'Walk With Me' boarded by WestEnd, first trailer

WestEnd Films has acquired worldwide rights to "Walk With Me," a documentary film about mindfulness and spiritual leader Thich Nhat Hanh, narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch. Variety has been given exclusive access to the first international trailer. The Speakit Films' movie is directed by Marc J. Francis ("Black Gold") and Max Pugh ("The Road to Freedom Peak"). Cumberbatch, Oscar-nominated for "The Imitation Game" and an Emmy winner for "Sherlock," said: "In my life I've been so touched by the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh, it was a great honor to work on 'Walk With Me.' I have no doubt that audiences across the world will be moved by this beautifully-crafted film."

The documentary is "a cinematic journey

into the world of mindfulness—the practice of bringing one's attention to the present moment—and Thich Nhat Hanh, known as 'The Father of Mindfulness,' 'The Other Dalai Lama' and 'The Zen Master who fills stadiums,'" WestEnd said in statement. Oscar-winner director Alejandro G Inarritu said "Walk With Me" is "a moving and wonderful film that captures the essence, depth and the poetry of Thich Nhat Hanh—a great work full of love."

"Filmed over three years and with unprecedented access, this visceral film offers a rare insight into a community of people who have left their families and given up all their possessions to practice the art of mindfulness at the Plum Village monastery in rural France," WestEnd said. "Walk With Me" is produced by Pugh and Francis, and executive produced by Nick Francis ("Black Gold," "When China Met Africa"). One third of "Walk With Me's" budget has been crowdfunded. The film's crew includes sound designer Anna Bertmark ("Lilting," "The Goob"), composer Germaine Franco ("Dope") and additional editors Nicholas Chauderger ("Still Alice") and Alan Mackay ("9/11: The Falling Man"). WestEnd will be showing the trailer to buyers during its promo-reel screenings at the Toronto Film Festival at 9 am on Friday. — Reuters



Benedict Cumberbatch

COSBY DUE BACK IN PENNSYLVANIA COURT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

Comedian Bill Cosby is scheduled to return to a Pennsylvania state court yesterday, two months after a judge rejected his latest bid to have criminal sexual assault charges dismissed. The 79-year-old entertainer is accused of drugging and then assaulting Andrea Constand, a former basketball coach at his alma mater Temple University, at his home in 2004. Cosby is facing similar allegations from about 60 women stretching back decades, though the Constand case is the only one to result in criminal charges, mostly because the other alleged attacks are too old for prosecution.

The former star of the hit 1980s TV series "The Cosby Show," who built a long career on family-friendly comedy, has denied assaulting anyone and portrayed his sexual relationships with the women, including Constand, as consensual.

The hearing is expected to focus on scheduling matters. A trial date has not yet been set. Cosby, who is free on \$1 million bail, could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison if convicted. Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill in July rejected Cosby's claim that his rights were violated at a May preliminary hearing because prosecutors declined to put Constand on the stand. Cosby's legal team on Tuesday will not include Monique Pressley, a Washington-based attorney who had become the public face of his defense through frequent appearances in the media on his behalf. Pressley has left the case, according to court filings.

Cosby's lawyers are seeking to prevent prosecutors from using a 2005 deposition taken during Constand's civil lawsuit as evidence against him at trial. Cosby acknowledged in the deposition that he had given Qualudes to various women with whom he had consensual sexual encounters, though he also denied assaulting Constand. — Reuters



File photo shows Bill Cosby departs the Montgomery County Courthouse after a preliminary hearing, in Norristown, Pa. — AP



US actress Renee Zellweger poses on the red carpet as they arrive to attend the World Premiere of the film 'Bridget Jones's Baby', in central London on September. — AFP photos



British actor Colin Firth (right) and his wife Liviu Giuggioli pose on the red carpet.



British screenwriter Helen Fielding.

Asia's crisis-hit top film festival to go ahead next month

Asia's top film festival will go ahead next month despite a threatened boycott by some local moviemakers seeking guarantees of artistic freedom, its head said yesterday. Kim Dong-Ho, chairman of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), urged filmmakers to end their boycott and vowed to guarantee the festival's independence. "I'm really sorry for what happened to the festival in the past... I'll do my best to restore the honor of the festival that has been undermined over the past two years", he told journalists. The prestigious annual festival has been embroiled in a bitter row with the municipal government of the host city Busan since the screening in 2014 of a controversial documentary about the Sewol ferry disaster.

The film criticised the government's handling of the sinking in April 2014 that killed more than 300 people, mostly schoolchildren. A flurry of official probes targeting the organizing committee and an unprecedented cut in state funding last year was seen as an attack on the festival's independence. It triggered a boycott threat by a confederation of Korean filmmakers' associations. In an attempt to smooth things over, the Busan city government—a major BIFF sponsor-appointed Kim, the festival's respected former founding director, as new chairman of the organizing committee.

About half of the filmmakers' groups subsequently lifted the boycott. Kim yesterday stressed that the committee in July passed new rules to ensure the event's artistic and political freedom. Kim, 78, was brought in as chairman to replace Busan city mayor Suh Byung-Soo, who was at the centre of the fight over the documentary "Diving Bell" in 2014. Suh said it was "too political" to be premiered at the BIFF, although the screening eventually went ahead. After that, state funding for the 2015 BIFF was nearly halved and the then-festival director Lee Yong-Kwan became the target of a series of probes by state auditors.

Lee was eventually forced to step down in February after Suh refused to renew his contract. The measures prompted hundreds of local directors, actors and producers to stage street rallies in protest at what they described as a state attempt to "tame" critics including artists. More than 100 prominent cineastes including the directors of the Cannes, Berlin and Venice film festivals also issued an open letter in February denouncing "political pressure" on BIFF programmers. The 21st festival will open for a 10-day run on October 6, with 123 world and international premieres and 178 other films set to be screened.

Its opening film will be South Korea's "A Quiet Dream" by Korean-Chinese director Zhang Lu, which humorously tells the story of a young woman who supports her bedridden father by running a small bar. "The Dark Wind" by Iraq's Hussein Hassan, about a woman engaged to her lover but captured and sold as a slave by the Islamic State group, has been selected as the closing film. — AFP

Stars mull fourth Bridget Jones film at London premiere

The stars of "Bridget Jones's Baby" took to the pink carpet on Monday for the film's London premiere, contemplating shooting another episode in the misadventures of cinema's most hapless singleton. Crowds gathered in Leicester Square to catch a glimpse of the cast of the third Bridget Jones film, in which Renee Zellweger plays the disaster-prone, chardonnay-swiggling heroine. Ahead of the screening Zellweger suggested she would be open to a fourth film in the series.

"I think it would be interesting perhaps to watch her improvise through the next stages," she told the BBC. "If these guys show up," she added, gesturing to costars Colin Firth and Patrick Dempsey who play the heroine's love interests. Firth said he would be interested in shooting another film, while Dempsey suggested the latest episode may not be the last in the Bridget Jones series. "It would be nice to see Bridget growing and living her life. There hasn't been another character like that where you're growing up with her," he was quoted as saying in London's Evening Standard newspaper. The new film opens more than a decade since the film's heroine broke up with her longtime object of desire, Mark Darcy, played by Firth. In that time Bridget has pulled herself together and climbed the corporate ladder to become an award-winning television news producer.

Out have gone the mountains of self-help and diet books, with her bedside table now heaped with heavyweight political tomes and biographies of Russian leader Vladimir Putin. But Bridget, the hugely popular creation of British journalist Helen Fielding, still finds herself alone on her 43rd birthday crying into a bottle of white wine to Celine Dion's "All By Myself". Yet as

the title of the film suggests, she is not going to be alone for long. Bridget finds herself pregnant after falling into bed with Darcy shortly after a muddy and drunken tryst with a handsome American internet billionaire at a music festival. The only problem is that Bridget—thanks to a packet of out-of-date dolphin-friendly biodegradable condoms—is not quite sure which one of them is the father.

'Perfectly imperfect'

"Bridget is eternally optimistic, self-effacing and finds humor whenever facing adversity," said 47-year-old Texan Zellweger, who again reprises her almost flawless British accent. "She's

perfectly imperfect, and that's what people relate to in her," she said in publicity notes for the film. Written by Fielding with actress Emma Thompson (who also stars as her gynaecologist) and "Borat" and "Bruno" screenwriter Dan Mazer, the film is the third in the Bridget Jones trilogy, with Sharon Maguire—who directed the first installment—returning to the helm.

Maguire said that despite the long wait for the trilogy to be completed, there was no question of getting another actress to play the lead. "You simply can't make Bridget without Renee," she said. It was sentiment echoed by producer Eric Fellner. "Renee is the greatest comedienne of her generation. On top of that

she's also a brilliant actress. "Now she owns this character, and it's impossible to envisage anyone else playing her," he said. Maguire, who herself came to motherhood late, said the reason Bridget Jones has become a huge hit worldwide "was not just because of the comedy but because people identified with Bridget's fear of loneliness. It's a universal fear, and one that's still a prominent theme in the character's journey." The weight-obsessed, perpetually hungover Bridget Jones character first appeared in a column in The Independent newspaper in 1995 before Fieldings wrote a series of bestselling books. — AFP



British director Sharon Maguire.



US actor Patrick Dempsey.

MUSIC



The remains of Mexico's late Latin music legend Juan Gabriel arrive in a hearse at the Palace of Fine Arts for fans to pay tribute to the fans, in Mexico City. — AP/AFP photos

People gather outside the Palace of Fine Arts to pay tribute to Mexico's late Latin music legend Juan Gabriel.

Mexico sings 'Eternal Love' to late star Juan Gabriel



Tears run down the face of Spanish singer Jas Devael as he serenades the engraved box containing the ashes of Mexican music superstar Juan Gabriel.



Singer Pablo Montero touches the box containing the ashes of Mexican music superstar Juan Gabriel.

Fans of Mexico's late Latin music legend Juan Gabriel sang and wiped away tears on Monday as they filed past his ashes while mariachis played his hits in the capital's ornate Fine Arts Palace. His son, Ivan Aguilar, placed the polished wood urn containing the star's ashes on a lectern above a red carpet before men, women and children walked by to bid farewell.

A mariachi band wearing sombreros and blue charro suits played as throngs took photos with their phones, made signs of the cross and dried their eyes with tissues. Many held images of the superstar. Thousands braved the rain outside Mexico City's domed cultural center to get a last chance to say goodbye a week after he died of a heart attack at age 66. "I want to say goodbye from up close," said Lucia Orozco, a 50-year-old shopkeeper who waited for hours to see the urn. "I can't believe he died. He was a divine, noble being," she said before joining the massive line outside the palace.

Fans danced and sang "Amor Eterno" ("Eternal Love") and other favorites outside the palace. Bands and famous musicians performed his songs inside the palace and on a stage outside. Drivers in the mega-city stopped to take photos as a hearse carrying his ashes crossed the capital under police escort after arriving from Ciudad Juarez, the northern border city where he grew up.

The singer known as the "Divo of Juarez," who touched millions with wrenching ballads of love and loneliness, died on August 28 at his home in Santa Monica, California during a break in his latest tour. An old-school idol some dubbed Mexico's Elvis Presley, Gabriel wrote hit songs, sold tens of millions of records and received six Grammy nominations, winning admirers worldwide. His hits included "No Tengo Dinero" ("I Have No Money"), "Hasta Que Te Conoci" (Until I Met You) and "Amor Eterno." The ashes of

"Juanga," whose real name was Alberto Aguilera Valadez, were taken to Ciudad Juarez over the weekend, where tens of thousands paid homage to him.

'My idol is gone'

Paty Berumen, a 39-year-old mother of six who works as a clown in El Paso, Texas, traveled to Mexico City last week to say goodbye to her idol. "I don't just like Juanga, I love him," she said outside the Fine Arts palace. "That's why I came here. I didn't warn my family because they wouldn't have let me come here. I've slept here, in the street, facing rain, heat and cold. But it's worth it." Berumen and eight other fans placed candles, flowers and images of Gabriel in an improvised altar outside the palace. Jesus Badillo, a 71-year-old retiree smartly dressed with a tie, arrived before sunrise to be first in line at the palace.

"It hurts a lot," he said, choking back tears. "My idol is gone." "My anthem is 'No Tengo Dinero' because I've always been poor. The one that touches my soul is 'Amor Eterno' because it reminds me of my mother and now I dedicate it to him."

Jail time

Juan Gabriel was born in Paracuaro, Michoacan state on January 7, 1950. After his father was committed to a mental institution, his mother moved the family to Ciudad Juarez, placing her son in a boarding school. When he took his stage name later, he chose Juan after a teacher at the school and Gabriel after his father. He sang in a church choir as a boy, was taken in by nuns, and got his start singing in Juarez bars and on a local TV show.

But it was a tough climb to stardom, with many rejections, disappointments and a stint of homelessness in Mexico City that ended with



him in jail. He found his way into the music business with help from the warden, however, working as a composer, arranger and producer. His growing fame landed him roles in Mexican movies. — AFP

People gather outside the Palace of Fine Arts to pay tribute to Mexico's late Latin music legend Juan Gabriel.



The urn (center) containing the remains of Mexico's late Latin music legend Juan Gabriel is seen at Mexico City's ornate Palace of Fine Arts where family and fans are gathering to bid farewell to the star.



Mariachis who performed during the arrival of the ashes of Mexican music superstar Juan Gabriel wait in line to pay their respects.



Gabriel Aguilera (center), son of Mexico's late Latin music legend Juan Gabriel, holds his father's urn next to Mexico's Culture Minister Rafael Tovar y de Teresa (right) at Mexico City's ornate Palace of Fine Arts where family and fans are gathering to bid farewell to the star.



People gather outside the Palace of Fine Arts to pay tribute to Mexico's late Latin music legend Juan Gabriel.



Spanish singer Jas Devael bows his head in front of the engraved box containing the ashes of Mexican music superstar Juan Gabriel.



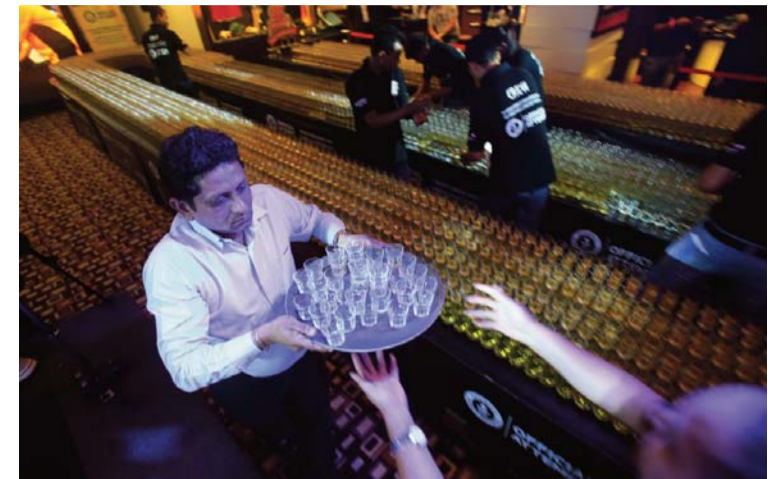
Mariachis who performed during the arrival of the ashes of Mexican music superstar Juan Gabriel wait in line to pay their respects.



Mourners hold a flag of Ecuador as they stand vigil beside the ashes of Mexican music superstar Juan Gabriel.



One of the crew members fixes new drinks after a misfire due to sound vibration before an attempt to make the world's longest domino drop shot. — AFP photos



Managers and crew members fix new drinks after a misfire due to sound vibration before an attempt to make the world's longest domino drop shot.



Crew members fix new drinks after a misfire due to sound vibration.



Ahmad Taher, food and beverage manager for Citymax Hotels in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, announces his attempt to break the world's longest domino drop shot a few seconds before a misfire due to sound vibration.



Shot glasses drop over each other during a successful attempt to break the world's longest domino drop shot.



Ahmad Taher fixes a shot glass.

The biggest what? Dubai seeks glory in obscure world records

The 6,148 whiskey shots perched atop glasses of energy drink waited for the push that might send them tumbling into the record books - just another night in Dubai, and another chance to make a certain kind of history. Superlatives like "the world's biggest" and "the world's first" are almost as ubiquitous as the skyscrapers and mega-projects that have come to define this city-state on the Arabian Peninsula, home to the tallest building and the busiest international airport on Earth. With time, this largest-in-life approach has filtered down to more humble and odder pursuits - such as Monday night's attempt at the world's longest domino drop shot.

You probably weren't aware that there was a record to beat in the domino drop shot, or even that there was something called a domino drop shot. Just imagine someone dropping a shot glass into a beer, but before you can guzzle it down, another thousand shots drop into another thousand pints behind it, like dominoes. The current record holder for the longest drop is the Bahama-based location of the alcohol-soaked chain Seor Frog, which got 4,107 of its 4,109 shot glasses to fall correctly in February 2013. On Monday, The Huddle Sports Bar & Grill in Bur Dubai sought to break the record.

Hajj pilgrimage

Staffers carefully set up over 6,000 glasses of Camros whiskey and Bazoooka energy drink. It was an effort five months in the making, with tests twice a month that took 12 hours to set up. "When you say Guinness World Record in Dubai, it's something everyone will talk about," said Ahmad Taher, the food and beverage manager at Citymax Hotels, which went for the record. Such an event would be inconceivable in other Mideast countries like neighboring Saudi Arabia, where alcohol is illegal and officials are preparing for the annual hajj pilgrimage, required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life.

But in Dubai, which has a large expatriate population and relatively lax rules on alcohol, the event is unlikely to draw much attention - unless, of course, they make it into the Guinness Book of World Records. Before Monday, the United Arab Emirates held 165 such records, including 129 set in Dubai, according to Guinness. Among them are the architectural marvels of Dubai, like the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building at 828 meters (2,716 feet), and the continent-shaped islands of The World, the largest man-made archipelago. The world's longest driverless metro line passes by the twin towers of the JW. Marriott Marquis, the world's tallest hotel at 355 meters (1,165 feet).

World records

Then there are the stranger feats, like when Indian national Maharoof Decibels won the Operation board game

with surgical precision in a world-record 21.87 seconds in 2008. Or when Mohamed Ahmed Al-Mulla, an Emirati, typed the fastest blindfolded Arabic text message in 2009. The two-sentences included the phrase: "the razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus." Some records are more infamous. The largest tanker ship ever hijacked? The UAE-based Sirius Star, later released by Somali pirates for a \$3 million ransom. The highest shortage of women, according to Guinness? The UAE, with its vast workforce of male, low-paid migrant laborers.

ogy at the University of Michigan. "Even with adults, if you say, 'First one to the tree is the coolest person in the world,' you're going to get the adults running to the tree," Garcia said. "That's such a childhood game, but people are ready to run with it. Whenever you create a competition, people tend to buy in, even around these trivial dimensions, like this Guinness World Record."

Garcia's lack of enthusiasm was nowhere to be seen at the Huddle on Monday, where the vibration of the speakers in the bar caused a premature drop of some of the shot



Ahmad Taher, middle, celebrates with his crew after he won the attempt of world's longest domino drop shot.

One place the UAE isn't ahead, however, is in the number of overall world records. The United States leads the pack with 6,874. But the UAE and Dubai dominate the Middle East, Guinness spokeswoman Leila Issa said. "The UAE's initiative to be the first in all industries and their drive for success and to be the best is what drives them to attempt Guinness World Records titles," she said. The Emirati push for world records corresponds with academic research on social comparison.

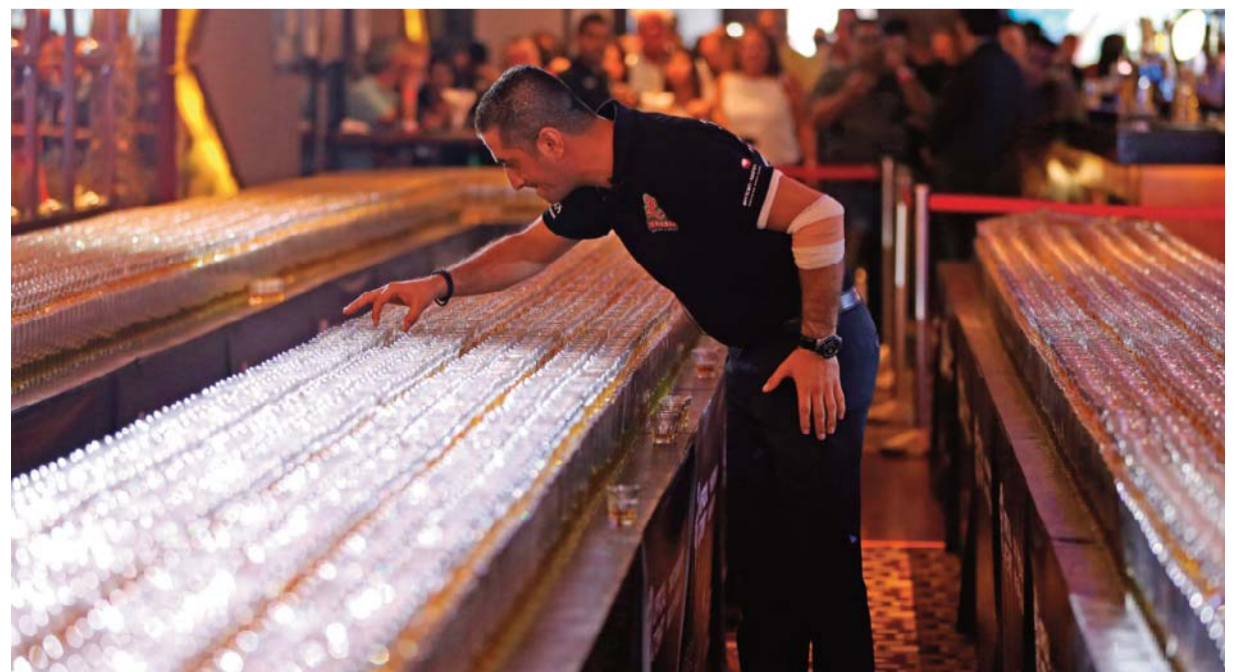
glasses at around 8:45 pm, to the horror of onlookers. The same thing happened again at 10:09 pm, but was stopped by a nimble-fingered bartender. Five minutes later, another fourth of the shots fell into their glasses before time, sending some workers scrambling to reset the glasses as others asked patrons in the noisy bar to be quiet. But at 11:55 pm, Taher pushed over the first glass, the smell of whiskey and energy drink filling the air as the glasses crashed into each other for 55 seconds. Two hours of counting later, Dubai had its 130th Guinness World Record with The Huddle's 4,578 correctly fallen shot glasses.— AP

Childhood game

Studies show that the higher ranked a person becomes in a field, "the more thirsty you are to get to that No. 1 position," said Stephen Garcia, an associate professor of psychol-



Ahmad Taher pushes over a shot glass in a successful attempt at the world's longest domino drop shot.



Ahmad Taher fixes a shot glass.