THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Indian minister unveils **Gandhi statue** at embassy



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Twinkle of success for Pak Christian powerlifting duo





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AMIR CALLS TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TO CREATE JOBS

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CROWN PRINCE HOPES KDIPA CONTRIBUTES TO BOOSTING ECONOMY

MOI GRANTS TAXIS 1-MONTH PERIOD TO ADJUST METERS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Hundreds of taxi drivers have been ticketed by traffic policemen for not using their meters or not adjusting them to the new fee structure set by the interior ministry after the recent hike in petrol prices. But owners of taxi companies are upset as they didn't get enough time to make the change, as this has to be done by special companies that are authorized by the interior ministry. Taxi owners yesterday met Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to resolve the problem, and the ministry agreed to cancel the fines and give taxis a one-month grace period to adjust their meters.

Khalid Al-Mutairi, owner of a roaming taxi company, said the delay in adjusting the meters is not their fault. "Adjusting the meter needs some time, as this has to be done by special companies, which until now are not ready.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali, accompanied by the Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and board members yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday urged attracting capital into the country to help diversify the economy and create work opportunities. Sheikh Sabah emphasized the necessity of taking action to attract capital, diversify the national economy, create labor opportunities and boost businesses in the state.

HH the Amir made the emphasis anew as he hosted, at Bayan Palace, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Yousef Mohammad Abdullah Al-Ali, accompanied by the Director General of the investment authority Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and board members. The authority's officials delivered to the Amir the 2015 KDIPA annual report.

Ali presented the Amir the latest accomplishments by the authority, namely stimulating local and external investments, in addition to the continuous work for creating new economic opportunities towards sustainable development. The authority was established with aim of attracting external investments. The move has been coupled with diverse and attractive administrative and legal facilities.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also expressed hope that KDIPA would play a role in bolstering Kuwait's economic status. The authority's officials delivered to Sheikh Nawaf the 2015 KDIPA annual report and briefed him about its accomplishments as well as future strategies. HH Sheikh Nawaf lauded their efforts, expressing hope the authority would contribute to strengthening Kuwait's economic status, in line with the state's strategy of attaining economic diversification for the sake of speedy growth and multiplying income



village in Giza on the southern outskirts of the capital Cairo yesterday. — AFP

27 DEAD IN EGYPT BUS, TRAIN **ACCIDENTS BEFORE HOLIDAY**

CAIRO: At least 22 people were killed in a bus collision and five died when a train derailed in separate accidents south of Cairo yesterday during a busy holiday travel time. The bus collided with a truck in the southwestern province of Wedi El-Gedid, the Egyptian health ministry said. The number of passengers on the bus was not immediately clear. Traffic accidents are common in Egypt, where many of the country's roads are not well-maintained and regulations are laxly enforced.

The train, carrying about 60 passengers, derailed after leaving Cairo for the southern city of Aswan, police and medical officials said. The conductor hit the brakes when he spotted a problem with the tracks, causing three carriages to overturn near the village of Al-Ayyat, officials said. Twenty-seven passengers were also hurt, with injuries ranging from abrasions to broken bones, the health ministry said.

Egypt's roads and trains are busier before national holidays, such as the Eid festival next week, with people working in Cairo and other major cities visiting their home towns and villages. Al-Ayyat was the scene of Egypt's deadliest rail accident in 2002 when a cooking gas cylinder exploded on a train and led to a fire that killed 361 passengers. Trains are often overcrowded in Egypt, adding to the safety risks. — AFP

NEW IPHONE 7 HAS NO HEADPHONE JACK

POKEMON GO COMING TO APPLE WATCH

MOBILE WARS AS **INDIAN TYCOON** PLEDGES FREE 4G

MUMBAI: Outside a tiny Reliance store in a trendy Mumbai neighborhood, residents queued for hours this week for a new SIM card promising free data - and a dramatic reshaping of the Indian mobile landscape. Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man, announced his long-awaited Reliance Jio 4G network with an audacious free service for the rest of 2016, followed by vastly cheaper data plans and free voice calls for life.

Anticipating the shake-up, rival Airtel has already slashed 3G and 4G prices by up to 80 percent while



Vodafone has heaped more data into its prepaid tariffs. Yet analysts say competitors will struggle to match the deep pockets of a startup backed by Reliance Industries, the energy-to-chemicals con-

glomerate. "I am hoping Jio can help me bring down my bills while providing unlimited internet usage," said Pushpraj Yadav, an ecommerce worker in Mumbai who complains he "incurs huge bills" for his data use. "Competition between Jio and other networks like Airtel is good for

India's mobile market is plagued by patchy reception, frequent call drops, erratic pricing and 3G Internet speeds that fluctuate wildly. "With Reliance Jio, I expect the data charges to be low and the connectivity to be better than other networks," said

Continued on Page 13

LOS ANGELES: Apple drew back the cur- Bluetooth, and the iPhone 7 will also tain on the iPhone 7, revealing several include an adapter to connect to analog expected changes - including water- headphones. resistant features and the absence of a dedicated headset jack - marking an evolution rather than a stunning breakthrough for the flagship smartphone line. The official announcement at Apple's San Francisco event vesterday comes after weeks of leaks and speculation about the next iPhone. Instead of a headphone jack, the iPhone 7 will use Apple's proprietary Lightning charging port to connect a headset (included with the smartphones); alternatively users

also can connect to wireless earbuds via

Apple also is introducing AirPods, new wireless earbuds that will be sold separately. The company's Beats division is launching Beats Solo3 and Powerbeats3 and the new Beatsx wireless headphones with the iPhone 7. The reason Apple is eliminating the traditional headphone port "comes down to one word: courage, the courage to move on to do something that betters all of us," said Phil Schiller, Apple's senior VP of worldwide marketing.

Continued on Page 13



SAN FRANCISCO: Apple CEO Tim Cook introduces the new iPhone 7 during an event at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium yesterday. — AFP



MAKKAH: Pilgrims touch the golden door of the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in this holy city yesterday. — AFP

PAIN LINGERS A YEAR AFTER HAJJ MAKKAH: Despite being emotionally scarred

by the death of two childhood friends during last year's hajj stampede, Muhammad Sani has still returned to Saudi Arabia for another pilgrimage. The Nigerian pharmacist, 46, says his faith remains unshaken even after the deaths of at least 2,297 pilgrims during the hajj stoning ritual last Sept 24. A year after the worst disaster in hajj history, Sani is among more than 1.4 million foreign pilgrims expected at this year's pilgrimage after the kingdom made safety improvements.

The event, one of the largest gatherings in the world, starts on Saturday. "I miraculously escaped unhurt, but the incident has left a scar in my heart that will never heal," Sani said after arriving in the kingdom with his wife. He and others are making the journey reassured within themselves that death can come anywhere - stampede or not - and with the expectation that safety has improved. The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, which capable Muslims must perform at least once, marking the spiritual peak of their lives.

This year's pilgrimage also follows a July suicide bombing which killed four security officers outside Islam's second-holiest site, the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. No one claimed responsibility, but Islamic State group adherents have carried out other blasts in the kingdom. The stampede last year happened as pilgrims made their way to the Jamarat Bridge for a symbolic stoning of the devil in Mina, east of Makkah's Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site. Pilgrims blamed the stampede on police road closures and poor crowd control, but Saudi officials said pilgrims had not followed

After the tragedy, King Salman, who holds the title "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques", ordered "a revision" of hajj organization. Public statements and Saudi press reports show that changes have been made even though no one was ever blamed for the stampede. The Arab News daily reported that roads in the Jamarat area were expanded and some pilgrims' accommodation relocated. More space was freed up when government facilities were moved out of Mina, Saudi Gazette reported.

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah is also taking a high-tech approach to improving safety. For the first time, pilgrims will receive electron-

ic bracelets storing their personal information. The timing of the Jamarat stoning has been restricted, and the hajj ministry says surveillance cameras and other electronic controls will monitor crowd flow, comparing it with computer projections. Pilgrims say they have already detected other changes, including speedier processing at the airport. "We notice a huge improvement in the services and care," said Asi Wat Azizan, an official with the Thai delegation. "We are not afraid of any accidents," said Najwa Hassan, a Sudanese pilgrim.

TRAGEDY

Saudi Arabia "is already taking action" to ensure last year's tragedy will never recur, said Indonesia's top official overseeing the hajj, Abdul Jamil. Oumou Khadiatou Diallo, a Malian pilgrim who survived the stampede but saw seven people die around her, says God has called her to return despite the trauma she suffered.

"I hope that the safety is going to be improved," she said before leaving Bamako for Saudi Arabia, burdened by her memories. "I think of all the dead from last year. What I saw often comes back to me, and that hurts." — AFP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and senior Interior Ministry officials. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and senior Interior Ministry officials.

AMIR EXTOLS MOI'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT NATION'S SECURITY



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and senior Interior Ministry officials.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah commended Ministry of Interior (MoI) officials yesterday for their diligent efforts of upholding the nation's security and stability. His Highness the Amir received at Bayan Palace Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Mol Undersecretary Sulaiman Al-Fahad and Director General of Investigation General Dr Fahad Al-Doussari.

Moreover, the three officials introduced to His Highness the Amir Major General Asaad Abdul Rahman Al-Ruwaih and public prosecutors Jamal Al-Reesh and Fareaa Emadi, who have been assigned as deputies to the Director General of Investigation. Furthermore, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled vowed that the MoI would spare no effort to repel all threats to the country's peace and security. The Interior Minister later introduced the new officials to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness

the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-

Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the

Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness the Prime Minister, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. —KUNA

PILGRIMS MUST WEAR E-BRACELETS FOR SAFETY: MINISTER

KUWAIT/MAKKAH: Pilgrims from the State of Kuwait must wear the identification electronic bracelets for safety reasons, Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane affirmed yesterday. These e-bracelets are quite necessary because they help in safeguarding the pilgrims' safety and locating their whereabouts in

headquarters to follow on the case. Last year, one pilgrim from Kuwait passed away and the expedition took a long time to locate him, he said. Saudi Arabia has recently announced that the faithful flocking to the hold lands must wear the ebracelet, which contains personal information such as passport numbers and



MAKKAH: Head of the Kuwaiti hajj mission and Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khlaif Muthib Al-Athaina meets with his Palestinian counterpart Dr Hassan Youssef Al-Saify in Makkah. - KUNA

the holy lands, the minister said at a news conference, attended by ranking Justice and Aqwaf officials.

Minister Sane revealed that ministry personnel and experts are currently seeking to develop a new e-technology to measure pulse of the faithful and transmit emergency aid calls to the expedition

addresses as well as medical information of individual pilgrims that will help authorities identify them and provide care.

Meanwhile in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, Dr Mubarak Fahad Al-Ajmi, the head of the medical services for the Kuwaiti expedition, said in a statement that the system of electronic medical files for ill pilgrims has been operated in Kuwait, indicating that the data about the patients would help in following up on the case when the pilgrims return home. Also in Makkah, Khali Al-Uthaina, the head of the expedition, affirmed in a statement that all managers of the expedition are at the disposal of the worshippers. He made the remarks as he inspected residency sites of the groups that came from Kuwait. He also urged the pilgrims to abide by the local laws while performing the annual religious services.

Joint efforts

In other news, Head of the Kuwaiti hajj mission and Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awgaf and Islamic Affairs, Khlaif Muthib Al-Athaina received his Palestinian counterpart Dr Hassan Youssef Al-Saify in Makkah on Tuesday. The meeting focused on the joint efforts to facilitate the stay of pilgrims from both countries in the holy sites and enable them perform the pilgrimage rituals in a smooth and orderly way. The two sides also discussed ways to promote cooperation and share experience in various specialized areas relating to caring for the pilgrims.

At the end of the meeting, Athaina presented a model of Kaaba Al Musharrafah (the Holy Kaaba or the building at the center of Al-Masjid Al-Haram - the Muslim's most sacred mosque, in Makkah) to Saify as a gift. Saify, who serves as Undersecretary of the Palestinian Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti official for the hospitality and the gift.—KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with newly appointed Deputies Director Generals in the Investigation Department.

NO ONE ABOVE THE LAW: INTERIOR MINISTER

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stressed yesterday that there is no one above the law and that justice "does not discriminate."

According to a press release by the Security Media Department at the Interior Ministry, Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled, after meeting newly

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister appointed Deputies Director Generals in the Investigation Department, stated that enforcing the law is the way to protect society.

Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled expressed his gratitude for the appointed deputies, where he encouraged them not to hold on any efforts to develop the working structure, alongside serving justice. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addresses pilgrims at Kuwait International Airport yesterday.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah tours Kuwait International Airport to inspect preparations for serving pilgrims.

MINISTER SHEIKH MOHAMMAD CHECKS PREPARATIONS FOR SERVING PILGRIMS



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah bids farewell to a pilgrim.

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stressed on using all available capabilities to serve all pilgrims from or just passing through Kuwait. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled toured Kuwait airport vesterday to bid farewell the ministry's Hajj campaign and also to observe all preparations made by all of the ministry's sectors in the airport for the Hajj's season.

In a press statement, Sheikh Mohammad affirmed the readiness to receive the departing and arriving passengers in the airport and the importance to reflect the civil feature of Kuwait and treat travelers humanely. Sheikh Mohammad expressed his gratitude for all employees at Kuwait's airport on their effort made to execute all of their duties.

The Deputy Prime Minister listened to the Director General of Airport Security Brigadier Waleed Al-Saleh's presentation on preparations made by airport security for the Hajj season from the date the pilgrims leave the country to the holy lands until they are back.— KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stands by the Interior Ministry's booth at Kuwait International Airport, dedicated to serving pilgrims.

INDIAN MINISTER UNVEILS GANDHI STATUE AT EMBASSY

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: India's Minister of State for External Affairs Gen V K Singh yesterday inaugurated a life-size bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi, India's Father of the Nation, at a solemn ceremony at the Indian Embassy. Addressing the gathering after paying a floral tribute to the newinstalled statue, the minister said: "It is a historic occasion for the Indian community in Kuwait as we could install a statue of Gandhiji at the embassy." Speaking about the contemporary relevance of Gandhian principles such as non-violence and cleanliness, he said by following these ideals, "we can not only propagate how India has been able to gain because of him, but also we are able to create harmony within the com-

Congratulating the ambassador for taking this exemplary initiative,

the minister expressed hope that the statue would be able to inspire those who visit the embassy. The Indian embassy in Kuwait is the first Indian mission in the Middle East to install a Gandhi statue on its premises. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain in his welcome address said it was a proud moment for the embassy. Deputy Chief of Mission Shubashis Goldar, First Secretary, consular (community) K K Pahel, Labor Attache Thomas Joseph and other embassy officials were present at the ceremony. A large number of Indian community members attended the function.

Reception

On Tuesday evening, the Indian embassy hosted a reception in honor of the visiting minister, who arrived here on a two-day visit. The reception was attended by several members of the Indian community. During the two-day visit, the minister held discussions with several top officials in Kuwait. On Tuesday, Singh called on First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other officials and discussed various issues regarding the Indian community in Kuwait. The visiting minister was expected to meet the interior minister and health minister later yesterday.

Singh attended a community session and interacted with Indian residents in Kuwait, which was held at the embassy yesterday. He heard concerns that were raised by members on various community issues and assured to look into the issues and find solutions. Representatives of registered Indian associations in Kuwait, representatives of Indian schools, Indian private sector companies, public sector undertakings and media representatives attended the community meeting.



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih meets with the UN's Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons Maria Grazia. —KUNA

KUWAIT KEEN ON PROTECTING EXPATS' RIGHTS: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Kuwait pays great attention to protecting rights of expat workers and their employers in line with international terms, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday. Kuwait signed cooperation protocols with source countries of expat workers, and has established electronic link systems with them countries for a smoother sharing of information, said

Subaih, who is also Minister of State for Planning and Development Affairs, in a statement after meeting with the UN's Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons Maria Grazia yesterday. The two sides discussed several topics of mutual concern.

Meanwhile, Subaih pointed to establishing the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and the Kuwaiti center for sheltering foreign workers to resolve problems facing expats, and providing them with better living conditions. In the same context, PAM Acting Director General Abdullah Al-Motawtah also met with Grazia and an accompanying delegation, offering them thorough information on PAM's projects on human rights and fighting human trafficking. —KUNA



KUWAIT: India's Minister of State for External Affairs Gen V K Singh inaugurates a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Indian Embassy, Kuwait yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



India's Minister of State for External Affairs Gen V K Singh speaks during the event.



India's Minister of State for External Affairs Gen V K Singh interacts with children during the event.



Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain (right) speaks during the event, as India's Minister of State for External Affairs Gen V K Singh looks on.



India's Minister of State for External Affairs Gen V K Singh speaks to reporters.

MINISTRY MARKS WORLD PHYSICAL THERAPY DAY

announced opening a number of specialized physiotherapy centers for the elderly in various primary medical care centers nationwide. Director of Physiotherapy Services Department at the Ministry Dr Nabeel Al-Haneef

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health has said in remarks yesterday on the occasion of World Physical Therapy Day, which falls today. This year's event is themed 'Movement for

Improving individuals' health and physical activity during the various stages of life will create a new generation of healthy elderly, he said. The Department will be opening an elderly physiotherapy center at Al-Rouda Medical Center by September 19, to be followed by several other centers during the coming months. —KUNA

KUWAIT CUT LONG PATH IN ADULT LITERACY: OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Kuwait enjoys pioneering experience in literacy which has benefited other countries, with adult illiteracy below 2 percent, mostly among women over 60, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education Fatima Al-Kanderi said yesterday. The statement comes on the occasion International Literacy Day, which falls today. Kuwait's government, represented by the Ministry of Education, have been making tremendous efforts to eliminate illiteracy, enacting a host of laws.

Kandari pointed out that the ministry has made great strides in literacy, adding that educational opportunities are available for all, for those who wish to enroll in adult education centers, regardless of nationality,.

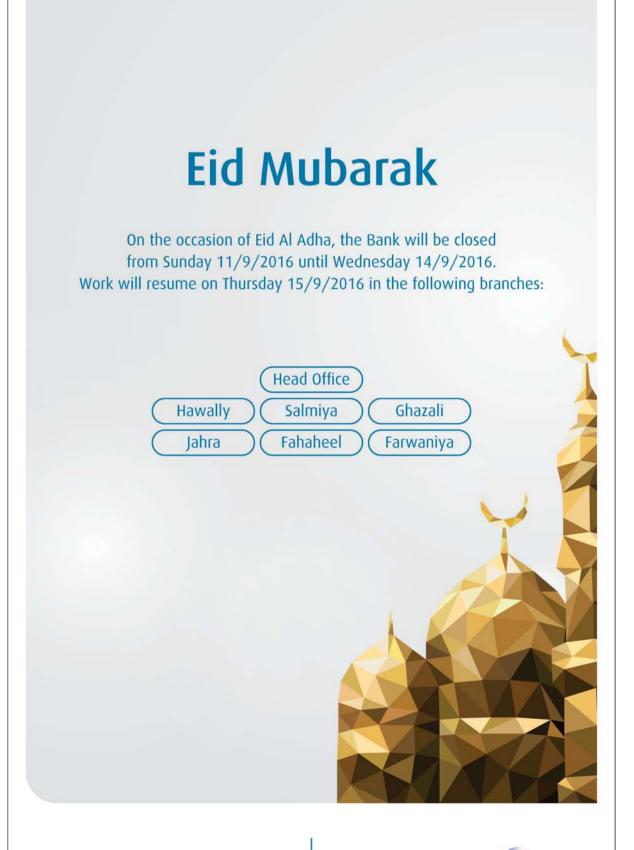
Kuwait has opened several centers for adult literacy because education is a basic human right regardless of gender or nationality". She stressed that "when we invest in education, literacy, we are investing in building leading

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education Assistant

Undersecretary for Planning and Information Dr. Khaled Al-Rushaid stresses the significance of planning as the key element for the developing the education process. Citing the ministry's statistics, Rushaid said that the number of literacy centers in recent years reached 85, with the number of students reaching around 19,000.

In the meantime, Director General of UNESCO Irina Bokova, said in her letter on the occasion that "There remain today 758 million adults who cannot read or write a simple sentence. Two thirds of them are women." She pointed to the need for bolstered international cooperation across the board , noting that UNESCO has launched a global coalition to strengthen coordination between all key partners.

. We have seen great progress since the proclamation of International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966. The world's population has increased substantially, but the number of young adults without literacy skills decreased by 25 percent between 1990 and 2015," Bokova added. —KUNA



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DUBAI: (From left) The Egyptian litterateur and researcher Salah Al-Rawi, the Kuwaiti researcher Talal Al-Rumaidhi (the General Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association), the Bahraini writer and literary critic Fahad Hussain Hasan (the moderator), the Algerian writer and journalist Khalid Omar Bin Ghoffah, the Algerian researcher and novelist Dr Al-Yameen Bin Toumi and the Bahraini litterateur and literary critic

SYMPOSIUM: THE ROLE OF ARAB INTELLECTUAL TODAY

SECOND RESEARCH SESSION

By Bader Abu Raghabah A-Otaibi

DUBAI: The General Conference of the Arab Writers Union, organized a second research session titled 'The Role of the Arab Intellectual Today' on September 5,2016, and the symposium was held at Al-Bustan Rotana hotel auditorium in the emirate of Dubai in the UAE.



Kuwaiti researcher Talal Al-Rumaidhi, General Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association.

The program was chaired and moderated by the well-known Bahraini writer and literary critic, Fahad Hussain Hasan who welcomed the guests, participants and audience in the beginning of the session, then, he introduced the Five participants to the audience who were presented their papers respectively: the Algerian researcher and novelist Dr Al-Yameen Bin Toumi, the Bahraini litterateur and literary critic Abdulqader Agheeel, the Kuwaiti researcher Talal Al-Rumaidhi (the General Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association), the Egyptian litterateur and

researcher Salah Al-Raawi, the Algerian writer and journalist Khalid Omar Bin Ghoffah.

Challenges

The first speaker was Dr Al-Yameen Bin Toumi (Algeria) who talked in depth on the current issues related to the Arab culture as a challenges face our future and he emphasized heavily the



Bahraini writer and literary critic Fahad Hussain Hasan, the symposium's moderator.

importance of highlight the substantial role of intellectual in every single Arab country.

According to a view of Abdulqader Agheel (Bhrain) who was the second speaker in that symposium, there is no role for the intellectual in our life today especially in Arab region after the emergence of revolutions, and he added

that "we want to revive the role of cultural elites".

Talal Al-Rumaidhi (Kuwait), the General
Secretary of Kuwait Writers Association who was
the third participant in that program, pointed
out the permanent importance of the crucial

role of intellectual as a historical fact by tracing some biographies of pioneering Kuwaiti scholars such as late Yousef Bin Eissa Al-Jenaaei, late Misaaed Bin Abdullah Al-Aazmi and late Abdulaziz Al-Rasheed.

The fourth speaker was Dr Salah Al-Rawi (Egypt), and he pointed out that the strategy as a term has always had a military background and the role of political authority in polarizing the intellectuals, and he also talked about the necessity of renewal both speeches, religious and cultural.

Individuality

Khalid Omar Bin Ghaghah (Algeria), the Executive Editor of Al-Kateb Al-Arabi (The Arabic Writer) magazine which published by the General Conference of the Arab Writers Union, was the fifth and last speaker in that session and emphasized that the identity has been regarded as one of the most strategic challenges confront Arab nation and he also spoke out against the individuality in terms of its different patterns, and he talked about his own experience with some Bedouins who were belong to Shammar tribe in the state of Kuwait and their relatives in Hayel city in Saudi Arabia.

Finally, Some of notable litterateurs and writers were presented among the audience at that session and enriched the debate by their questions in a brief interactive session followed the symposium such as the Egyptian litterateur Salwa Bakr who pointed out that the Arabic intellectual no longer productive in terms of ideas, Kuwaiti litterateur Bder Abu Raghabah Al-Otaibi who talked about the importance of translation as a deliverance for our most problematic cultural issues, Mauritanian Muhammad Weld Ahdullah the General Secretary of Mauritania Writers Union who pointed out that the Arabic intellectual should adopt his vision early, Omani Writer Bader Al-Aamri and Emirati journalist Ahmad Bin Muhammad Salem from Al-Khaleej newspaper (The Gulf).

KUWAIT FUNDS REHAB CENTER IN AL-QUDS UNIVERSITY

AMMAN: Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij handed over Tuesday financial assistance presented from the Zakat (alms) House to Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Open University, to fund establishment of a rehabilitation center for people with special needs.

Al-Duaij handed over some \$95,000 to the President of the University Dr Yunus Amro and director of its branch in Nablus, Dr Yusuf Awwad. Duaij said in a press statement that Kuwait's government and public charities were keen on supporting the Palestinian people in all domains, including education and social care. "The Palestinian cause has always been the number one issue for Kuwait and

the Arabs," said Duaij, and supporting the Palestinian people "is a duty."

Meanwhile, Amro said Al-Quds Open University has 20 education centers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, serving around 60,000 students. The university, he added, was allocating seats for sons of resistance people and those released from Israeli jails, as well as people with special needs.

The university, said Amro, was also active in scientific research in agriculture, training and continuous education. The Palestinian university officials commended the Zakat House support, saying it would provide much-needed care for the disabled children. — KUNA



AMMAN: Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij delivers financial assistance presented from the Zakat House to Al-Quds Open University. — KUNA

AMBASSADOR LODGE, BRITISH EMBASSY WISH EID MUBARAK

EMBASSY CLOSED 11-13 SEPTEMBER

KUWAIT: On the occasion of Eid Al Adha, Ambassador Matthew Lodge and his staff at the British Embassy would like to send their best wishes to all Muslims in Kuwait and worldwide. Her Majesty's Ambassador, Matthew Lodge said: "On the occasion of Eid-Al-Adha, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all the people of Kuwait. I would like to express my gratitude to the people of Kuwait, who have made my family and me feel so welcome. I wish those

who are travelling for the Hajj pilgrimage a safe journey. Eid Mubarak."

In celebration, The British Embassy will be closed on 11-13 September. The embassy will resume its business on Wednesday 14 September. During this time, all British Embassy departments will be closed including visa services at the Visa Application Centre. The British Embassy Kuwait wishes you and your family Eid Mubarak!





RED PALACE: SYMBOL OF KUWAITIS' BRAVERY



KUWAIT: Al-Qasr Al-Ahmar (The Red Palace), a symbol of the bravery of Kuwaitis defending their land, stands lofty and glorious in Al-Jahra, since its establishment by the Kuwait's 7th ruler late Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah. The palace, built using red clay, stretches over about 6500 square meters and has 33 rooms. The monument is famous for being a major part of the battle of Jahra in 1920, and is now considered a cultural and historic attraction. —KUNA











SHEIKH SALMAN RALLIES **BEHIND ATHLETES** COMPETING IN PARALYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Kuwait's Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah conveyed the nation's greetings to Kuwait Disabled Sports Club (KDSC) athletes, who are participating in the Rio 2016 Paralympics which kicked off



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

Sheikh Salman underscored the monumental participation of KDSC in the Paralympics in a speech he gave to KDSC officials, including its honorary President Sheikha Sheikha Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Deputy President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee Duaij Al-Otaibi and Kuwait's Ambassador to Brazil Iyada Al-Saeedi. "We are certain that the KDSC athletes will do the nation proud as they have been accustomed to exemplary achievements," Sheikh Salman said.

Moreover, he commended KDSC for their diligent work and efforts that enabled them to take part in an event of such magnitude. "This is an opportunity for Kuwait to showcase its capabilities to the world, as a nation of peace and a bastion of humanity," he added.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti Minister of State for Youth Affairs thanked officials at Kuwait's embassy in the Brazilian capital for their continuous support of the KDSC athletes. Meanwhile, Head of KDSC's delegation Anwar Al-Mutawaa noted that the nation's flag was raised aloft during the opening ceremony on Sunday, saying he is hopeful that the KDSC athletes would emerge victorious.

Sheikh Salman had stated late Tuesday night that the State of Kuwait seeks closer ties with all other nations particularly in the youth and sports fields. Speaking upon his arrival at Rio de Janeiro International Airport, Sheikh Salman said a six-member squad from KDSC are taking part in this event to be held on September 7-18.

"My presence here, alongside with the Kuwaiti sports mission, is a token of the appreciation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people and government for the Brazilian people and government," he said. "We seek to maintain close ties and cooperation with all friendly countries that host international sports events," Sheikh Salman pointed out.

On the preparations for the championship, he said the KDSC has held a 18-day training camp in Izmit city, north Turkey, recently with a view to enhancing the competitive edge of its squad during the competitions of this event.

"The State of Kuwait, represented in the Public Authority for Sports, spares no effort in offering all possible material and moral backing for the athletes and sportspeople to achieve the best results,"

Sheikh Salman recalled the outstanding achievements of Kuwaiti athletes who won gold, silver and bronze medals at the Rio 2016 Olympics, held between August 5 and 21. He expressed the best wishes for the six Kuwaiti competitors, namely Mohammad Al-Odwani, Ahmad Naqa, Nasser Saleh, Mohammad Mejbel, Abdullah Al-Saif, and Atef Al-Dousary. He was received at the airport by Kuwait Ambassador to Brazil Ayada Al-Sa'eedi and Second Secretary of the Embassay Bashar Al-Dowysan.

On a similar note, the Honorary Chairperson of KDSC Sheikha Sheikha Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah affirmed that the Kuwaiti squad members are well-prepared for the event, citing their performance in the recent training camp in Izmit. "Several members of the Kuwaiti squad, males and females, are qualified for taking the podium since they were medalists in previous championships," she said in statements.

The KDSC delegation to the event arrived here from Izmit last Thursday, led by the Club's board member Anwar Al-Metawa'. The Paralympic games gathered nearly 1,000 disabled athletes from various countries of the world. — KUNA

COURT ADJOURNS PETROL PRICES INCREASE HALT PLEA

MPS INQUIRE ABOUT PRICES' FREEZE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The administrative court adjourned a hearing held vesterday demanding suspending the new petrol prices until the government provides a copy of the decision and whether it has been published in the official gazette. In this regard, lawyer Nawaf Al-Fuzai, who filed the case, argued that petrol belongs to both the state and the people, and that the government is not free to do whatever it wants with it.

Freezing prices

Meanwhile, MPs Yousef Al-Zalzalah and Ali Al-Khamees filed two separate inquires addressing Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousuf Al-Ali concerning prices in local markets. In his inquiry, Zalzalah reminded the minister that in a statement he made to KUNA on April 10, 2016, he promised to 'freeze' the prices of goods, services and craftworks, in addition to forming a special committee headed by his assistant undersecretary for commercial control and consumer protection to control prices and conduct checks if prices change, "Why did the minister liberalize the prices of goods and services by issuing his decision number 307/2016, cancelling the previous price freezing one numbered 164/2016?" asked Zalzalah. MP Ali Al-Khamees asked about the duties of the National Committee for Consumer Protection and whether it actually monitors prices in local markets.

Street maintenance

MP Faisal Al-Kandari expressed amazement at the statement made to the media by the Ministry of Public Work's Undersecretary Awatif Al-Ghunaim about not having a budget for road maintenance projects, which indicates the continuation of flying gravel. "Making such an excuse before winter and the rainy season will not stop us from holding the people responsible for this problem accountable," he stressed, rejecting Ghunaim's statements and reminding people of earlier official ones about promising to hold responsible compa-

nies and contractors legally accountable. Kuwait's hajj mission Dr Mubarak Al-Ajmi "Ghunaim's statement is a confession that MPW is responsible for the problem and has to compensate all road users for damage the gravel caused to their vehicles," he concluded.

E-files

Head of the medical team accompanying



coordinate with it.

Yousef Al-Zalzalah

announced launching the e-files system in the

mission's clinics and stressed that the system facili-

tates access to patients' data and health condi-

tions. "The system is linked to the main one in vari-

ous polyclinics in Kuwait," he added, noting that a

visit was made to Makkah's health department to

Ali Al-Khamees

INSPECTORS BUST 150 USED TIRES SOLD AS NEW

HOUBARA HUNTER ARRESTED

By A Saleh and Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Through its emergency team in Siddeeq, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry raided a warehouse in Shuwaikh industrial area, where a large quantity of used tires was stored and ready for sale. Informed sources explained that over 150 used tires of various sizes had been stored in an attic to be sold as new ones. The owner was arrested and immediately referred to the public prose-

Meanwhile, the Environment Police arrested a man who appeared in a video clip with a number of houbara bustards that are banned from being hunted or sold according to the environment law. The department said the suspect violated article 100 of environment protection law 42/2014 which calls for a one-year jail sentence and of fine of KD 500-5,000 or either punishment, with the confiscation of the birds and tools used in catching them. The suspect was sent to concerned authorities.

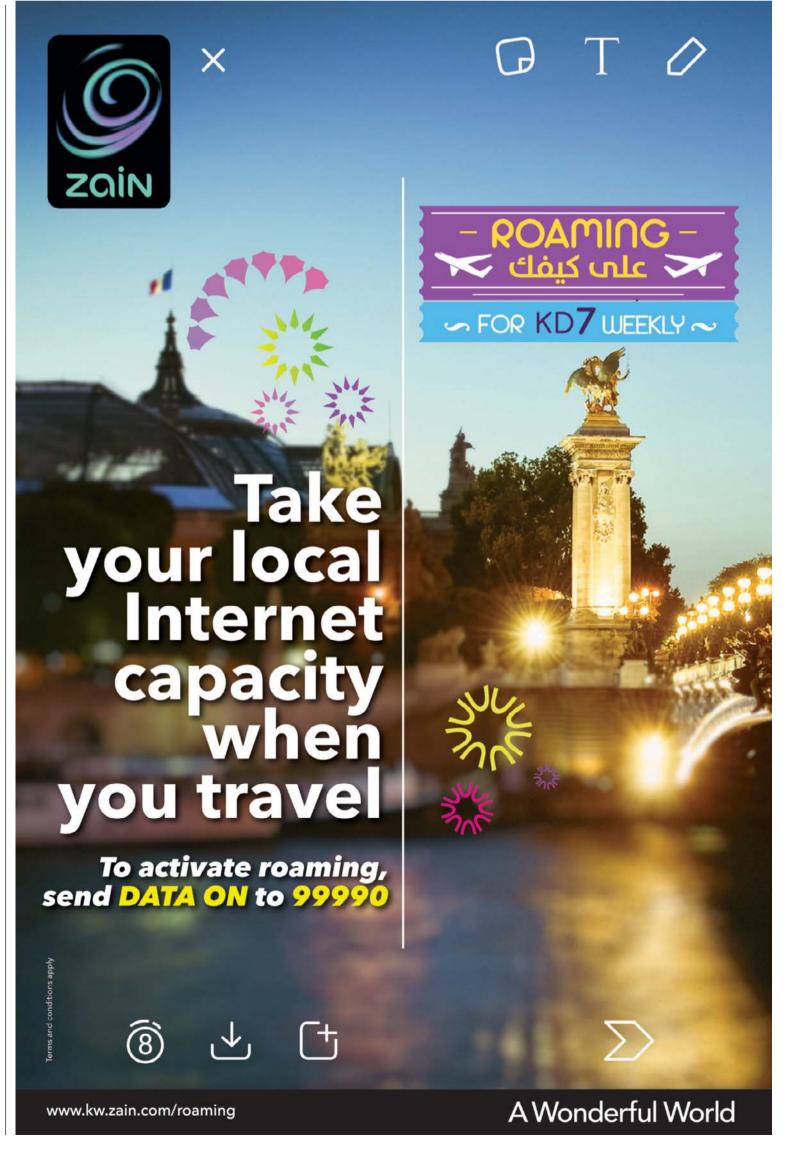




KRCS DISTRIBUTES 1,300 FOOD **BASKETS TO DISPLACED** FAMILIES IN IRAQ'S KURDISTAN

IRBIL: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) doled out 1,300 food baskets to a number of displaced Iraqi families in the autonomous region of Kurdistan yesterday, the latest in a flow of aid given by the humanitarian society. The batch of aid is the ninth installment of KRCS's humanitarian campaign launched this year, KRCS Director-General Abdulrahman Al-Oun said, adding that it aims to ameliorate the

lives of the displaced. Moreover, he noted that a total of 3,000 food baskets, which are a month's worth of supply, were distributed to displaced families in the northern Iraqi region, as the process was monitored by Kuwait's Consulate in Kurdistan and the Barzani Charity Foundation. Meanwhile, Diyar Khother, an official from Barzani Charity, underscored the scope of the aid as he thanked KRCS for its assistance. Since the start of the year, KRCS has provided incessant aid to displaced families in Kurdistan, running the gamut from nutritive to medical assistance. — KUNA





Al-Qabas

POLITICAL ACTION

Dr Mohammad Al-Abdeljader

rofessional political action does not know constants, and the current situation may change the standards. Stability of the political arena came after years of instability, which others called it a 'movement, that created a different political situation. In the '70s and '80s, the struggle was to instill compliance with the constitution, but in the '90s, the struggle was to find remedies for the period that followed the Iraqi Invasion and Liberation War, while the opposition's address was to follow up thefts of oil and investments.

Events continued until we reached to the stage of participating and boycotting in the elections after the single-vote system was approved, and under all circumstances, alliances were differing. The local scene saw during the last 10 years important political developments that resulted in true changes, most important of which is the woman's participation as a candidate and a

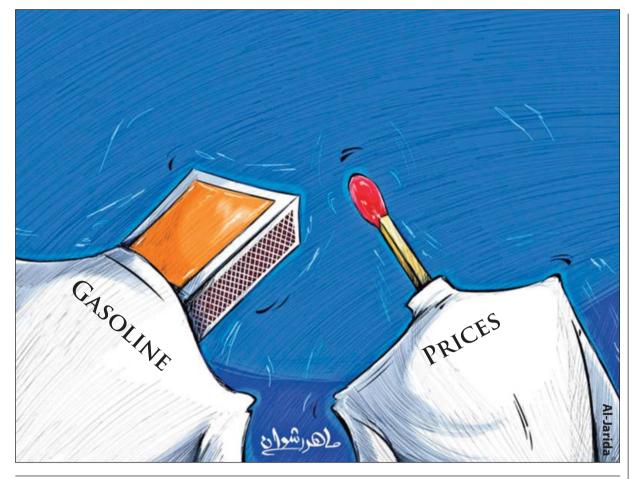
We witnessed changes by loyalist powers that turned into the opposition and vice versa

voter, separation of the crown prince from the premiership posts, rulings of the constitutional court and its annulment of legislative terms, and the advent of social media parallel to newspapers and information.

So, we witnessed changes by loyalist powers that turned into the opposition and vice versa, and this does not mean judging these powers and intentions, rather it is a diagnosis of the situation. Now there is a major void of opposition in parliament to the government policies, and outside of it, particularly to the economy. This will lead to social changes and a wiping out of the middle class that always played the role of a security valve and balance in any major problem, while all its people worked in resisting the heinous occupation, also facing any encroachment by political or social powers.

This does not mean detraction of any economic or social component, yet such unstudied economic policies will bring back an opposition that fought for gains such as cooperative societies, labor unions, student movements, subsidies and civil society in facing the tyranny of one group over another. Political action is not a commercial act in which the agent monopolizes the type of work. It is an action that is linked with government policies and reactions towards them. So the arena is ready to oppose the coming policies.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



الانياء

Al-Anbaa

PETROL BETWEEN LOYALTY AND UNGRATEFULNESS

By Salah Al-Sayer

fter increasing petrol prices in Kuwait, all social media networks roared with jokes and comments about the matter. Some offered a donkey for sale to be used instead of vehicles, others offered a horse-drawn wagon. Some were looking for bicycles for sale and some kept talking about the benefits of walking as a sport. Many remarks and comments were made expressing anger and dissatisfaction with the decision. Some even confused between the government and the state that they thought does not protect the poor. Some remarks even forgot all about welfare both citizens and expats enjoy thanks to Kuwait.

Like very time, government decisions turn into tales and exotic exaggerations, especially with the approach of parliamentary elections and the flourish of 'speeches', when everybody turns into courageous opposition members, who without knowledge or wisdom, contribute in turning social media networks into 'talking platforms' against Kuwait, providing international

media with very negative images. The media then rephrases these impressions in ways that match their political wishes, like when using headlines like "Public Anger in Kuwait", for instance.

The petrol price increases in Kuwait is a chance to consider what is even more important than petrol and its prices. We have to consider the matter of owning a vehicle, which is easily available for all citizens, who unlike people in other societies, misuse them. In other societies, vehicles are linked to work and people use them as a means to do something. This is absolutely the opposite of our concept about vehicles that are mainly associated with lack of work and having nothing to do. Here, we always find youth driving their vehicles back and forth without any real aim, goal or destination. Driving a vehicle is merely done as a pastime because in repressed societies, vehicles are considered means of both recreation and transport!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

MPS DEMAND INCREASING FEES ON EXPATS, OTHERS CALL FOR NO HIKES

REMITTANCES LEAVING KUWAIT 'BEYOND IMAGINATION'

KUWAIT: Some MPs have called for increased fees on expats, especially since oil prices keep on dropping, but added they should not be heavy. Others are calling for not increasing fees on citizens and expats, while some pointed to the KD 5 billion expats remit abroad every year, with the possibility of investing it inside Kuwait. Meanwhile, some believe that there should be differentiation between Arab expats and non-Arabs, who are mostly unskilled laborers, and not deport those with competence, but their numbers should be reduced in a manner that remedies the demographic imbalance.

MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji said fees on services presented to expats must be reviewed, especially for residency, tourist and commercial visas, along with health fees. He said Kuwait did not spare providing everything to expats in the past decade, but the financial deficit requires certain measures to find alternative revenues to replace oil. as its prices have not stabilized for the past

Turaiii said the increase in fees on services for expats should not be heavy, but its

imposition has become an urgent necessity. He said Kuwait did not consider hiking fees on expats despite the current fees being symbolic, which are no longer suitable with the current financial circumstances that have repercussions even on citizens, as gasoline prices went up lately.

Turaiji said the imbalance of the population structure must be corrected immediately, because "it is not logical to have the number of expats threefold that of citizens, and most of them are unskilled and uneducated, which poses a security as well as social and economic concern". He also called for greater supervision over residency traders who caused the defect in the population structure.

MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi said the increased prices including that of gasoline were not on citizens only - rather they included expats too, and affected everyone. "We said earlier that the price increases without studies is rejected, and this is what happened when the government decided to raise gasoline prices in a wrong way," he said. He said fee increases are totally rejected, be it on citizens or expats, because the current chaos is not realistic. which reflects negatively on the economic situation. "So the government must take steps before taking a decision that will not have positive results."

Remittances

MP Sultan Al-Lughaisem asked to check the size of remittances that leave Kuwait every year, because they are "beyond imagination", while the latest statistics by the finance ministry show that nearly KD 5 billion leaves Kuwait annually, and demanded a government and parliamentary stand as well as a technical and economic study on its effect on the national economy.

Lughaisem said this astronomical figure needs the mobilization of banking establishments, because the annual transfer amount has tremendous effect on the economy, and "as long as we are suffering from a financial deficit, then one should look at foreign transfers and reconsider the situation because the number of expats has increased in recent years". He said there must be a government-parliamentary move, and attention should be paid to foreign transfers and review the labor situation. He said most expats have sent their families back home and live as bachelors, which has negative effects on the economic, social and security situation.

Lughaisem said indicators warn of a danger that we should avoid, because leaving matters as they are will not be in the interest of the country. He demanded that fees be increased on expats, "because Kuwait was always generous to those who live in it, but we are now in a situation that compels us to stimulate the market and search for revenues that add to the budget, and our dependence should not be on

He said expat remittances are considered the highest in the region, and "we most move quickly to limit the large amounts". He called for a study that takes into consideration providing investment opportunities that contribute to keeping the money in Kuwait and employing it domestically in partnership with expats, who should contribute to the cost of services extended to them, particularly in health and education.

Crime

Report

Fugitive attempts suicide

KUWAIT: A bedoon attempted suicide by slashing his throat to escape a two-year jail sentence, but his family rescued him. The young man, who became frustrated with detectives pursuing him, decided to commit suicide using a knife, but his family's intervention saved him. A security source said the young man said after regaining consciousness that he fought with some identified men, but the investigator did not believe him and asked that he be put under guard.

Search for child rapist

A Bangladeshi man repeatedly raped an eight-year-old Jordanian boy after he tricked him. A security source said the child's father went to Hawally police and told them what happened, and the child explained what the suspect did to him. The case was sent to the prosecution.

Resisting arrest

A citizen who owes KD 15,000 resisted arrest and attempted to escape. A special patrol stopped the man and asked him for his ID, but he claimed he left it at home. When he was asked to give a fingerprint, he handed over his ID, and was found wanted on a KD 15,000 debt. The man did not give up easily and attempted to make police sympathize with him, but they arrested him.

Scam

A female citizen accused a Lebanese man of swindling her out of KD 6,500 after telling her he will do repairs to her beauty salon, but he disappeared. Police are investigating. Separately, a citizen who owns a pharmacy lodged a complaint against a Jordanian pharmacist, accusing her of stealing KD 135.

Drug dealer caught

Police in Mahboula foiled an attempt by three Syrians to sell 85 Captagon pills, and referred the suspects to the Drugs Control General Department (DGCD). Ahmadi patrols noticed three men in car seeming nervous, so their IDs were checked and they were searched. Meanwhile, a citizen in his 20s ended up at the DCGD after being arrested with the spice drug. The arrest was made when police stopped him and found him in an abnormal condition. Patrolmen searched him and found the drug on him. He was found to be an ex-convict over thefts and drugs.

Phone stolen

A citizen in her 30s sought the help of Rumaithiya police to recover her phone quickly, which was stolen by a man she knows. She said she is afraid he may encroach on her privacy by going through her files on the phone. Police called the suspect but he did not answer.

Forgery

A citizen told Salmiya police that an unidentified person got two telephone lines in her name and two smartphones. She said the company called her and asked to pay the accumulated bills. She added that she does not know anything about the suspect. Separately, Interior Ministry authorities are investigating to find out who helped an Egyptian man transfer the car title of a Dominican woman who works for the education ministry, especially since a vehicle transfer requires the buyer and seller to be present. The woman told Zahra police station that she gave an Egyptian to repair her car, but was surprised to find he had transferred the title to himself. — Al-Rai

KIDS PLAY 'OPEN SESAME' AT SKATING RINK: BADER

KUWAIT: The Touristic **Enterprises Company (TEC)** has arranged special programs for the Eid Al-Adha holiday all over its facilities, Public Relations and Media Manager Sager Al-Bader said. On that regard, Bader elaborated that the main Ice Skating Rink would be closed as of Friday, September 9, to be prepared for use during the second, third and fourth days of Eid. It is going to be



Sager Al-Bader

used as stage to perform the kids' play 'Open Sesame.' Meanwhile, the small rink would continue receiving visitors during official working hours from 8:00 am till 10:00 pm. Further, Bader added that all TEC facilities would be ready to receive visitors during the Eid, and wished everybody a happy Eid holiday.

AMBASSADOR PRAISES KFH'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BAHRAIN

KUWAIT: KFH-Group CEO, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh and the accompanying delegation met with the Ambassador of Bahrain to Kuwait Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Khalifa who received them at

in continuation of a series of visits of KFH to the ambassadors of the countries in which KFH operates in efforts to reinforce relationships and paves the way for further cooperation and coordi-

the Bahraini embassy. The visit comes nation. During the visit, the



KUWAIT: KFH-Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh meets with the Ambassador of Bahrain to Kuwait Shaikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Ambassador and KFH-Group CEO Nahedh discussed issues of mutual interest, focusing on KFH's banking operations and the investment oppor-

The ambassador expressed pride in the depth of the Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations in various fields, noting that the Kuwaiti investments in Bahrain is among the aspects of the advanced level of bilateral cooperation. He stressed that Bahrain always welcomes Kuwaiti investments and is keen on ensuring their success.

Meanwhile, Nahedh indicated that KFH's strategy targets development, and boosting coordination among Group Banks, yet bolstering partnership with public and private sectors and investing in mega projects and infrastructure. He added that KFH contributes in strengthening the capacity of the economy in a bid to overcome all obstacles while tapping into the investment opportunities in the Kingdom of Bahrain, mainly the investment in mega projects and infrastructure.

Nahedh affirmed KFH's keenness to reinforce its ties with the countries in which it operates that encompass Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain, Saudi, Germany and the UAE, stressing the importance of the Bahraini Market





CBK DISTRIBUTES EID GIFTS TO OUTDOOR WORKERS

KUWAIT: As part of its social activities, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently launched field visits to various construction sites and places where garbage collectors worked, in order to distribute Eid Al-Adha gifts. This activity comes as part of CBK's 'Hawwin Alaihom' (Make it Easier for Them) campaign that focuses on helping outdoor workers and preventing any health problems they might face as a result of dust storms, extreme heat, or other harsh weather conditions

In this regard, Assistant General Manager for Media and Public Relations Affairs Amani Al-Wer'a said that CBK has always been keen on communicating with all sectors of society and providing the best corporate and social services. She added that this campaign, which is currently running for over five year, stems from the bank's awareness of the significance of the job of garbage collector and construction workers, who work in extreme working conditions in the open to protect the environment and beautify streets. Further, Wer'a stressed that the gifts had been prepared long before the Eid to be distrib-

uted to all workers in order to help bring joy to them. She also noted that workers were so happy with the gifts and clothes they got.

Separately, CBK announced that in collaboration Kuwait Marriott Hotels, it is offering a 20 percent discount for clients holding its credit, prepaid and ATM cards on their purchases at a selected group of Marriott cafes and restaurants, including Stake Terrace Grill, Tea Lounge, Atrium Lounge, Soul & Spice, Japanese Soushi and Tiramisu Cafe. The offer will be valid till December 31, 2016.

Kuwait Times International

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Peace but extreme poverty in remote region of Afghanistan

Merkel warns parties against populist race

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Page 11

OBAMA SLUR NO BAR TO DUTERTE'S POPULARITY

RECORD APPROVAL RATINGS WHILE SLUMS DRENCHED IN BLOOD

MANILA: Despite foul-mouthed tirades, international outrage and a public spat with Barack Obama, Rodrigo Duterte is the most popular politician in the Philippines. As the politically incorrect president enters the third month of his six-year term, the Asian nation's slums are drenched in blood from a brutal anti-drug campaign that has seen police and shadowy assassins kill nearly 3,000 people. But 71-year-old Duterte is riding high on record approval ratings, with the acid-tongued and irascible grandfather shrugging off repeated controversies including unprovoked and obscene attacks on the United Nations and the US president, whom he this week called a "son of a whore".

Dictator in the making

Critics said he was a dictator in the making, but 16 million people voted the former state prosecutor into office earlier this year, a landslide win fuelled by widespread disgust at conventional politicians in a raucous, corruption-ridden democracy. "He is probably saying things ordinary people would not say because they are fearful or ashamed," political scientist Antonio Contreras told AFP. "It's hard to explain. It's a machismo thing," said Earl Parreno, from the Manila-based think tank Institute for Political and Electoral Reform, explaining that Duterte represented many people's hope for genuine change.

"Despite his missteps, his insult... what they want really is for him to be given a chance to do something that will have an impact on their lives," Parreno told AFP. That sense of hope is embodied by Irving dela Cruz, an IT manager who spends at least two hours getting to work through Manila's gridlocked traffic. "Okay, I don't like his attitude, his swearing, his womanising, all his negative traits. But what he has done and what he continues to do outweighs everything," the 39-year-old told AFP. "He is transparent, nothing about his personality is faked, and he represents the common man. I feel safer actually," dela

Cruz added. Parreno said Filipinos generally backed Duterte's bloody anti-crime crackdown not because they were ignorant of their rights but that they were more concerned about their personal safety. "They really think we need this kind of action," he said. "It is sometimes embarrassing but that is the mind of the masses."

Scrambling for selfies

Manila pollster Pulse Asia said 91 percent of Filipinos supported Duterte in their last popularity survey in July, more than a month after he took 38 percent of the popular vote in the landslide May election. There have been no other surveys since then. Rights groups, church leaders in the mainly Catholic nation and some lawmakers have joined the US and United Nations in condemning the extra-judicial killings.

"This is a national emergency and the Philippine government particularly President Duterte are instead cheerleading and praising this campaign ... It's absolutely appalling, Phelim Kine, of Human Rights Watch, told Al Jazeera. "Lawyers, human rights activists understand these things but ordinary people on the streets are not likely to be familiar with that," Contreras said of concerns over democratic rights. "They (victims) are painted to be criminals, they are demonized as drug addicts," he

Duterte's popularity-or notoriety-is extending beyond Philippine borders as he makes his first foreign trip to a summit in Laos this week, according to his spokesman Martin Andanar. Some foreign ministers as well as delegates at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting have been scrambling to take selfies with the Filipino leader, Andanar told reporters Wednesday. "In spite of the colorful language that he uses, the Asians in the region seem to be able to get-and there seems to be an empathy towards-him," Ernesto Abella, another Duterte spokesman, added. — AFP



VIETIANE: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte attends the ASEAN Summit Retreat during the second day of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit. — AFP



HONG KONG: This file photo taken on June 18, 2013 shows a woman walking past a banner displayed in support of US intelligence whistleblower Edward Snowden. — AFP

SNOWDEN HID AMONG HONG KONG REFUGEES

HONG KONG: US intelligence whistleblower Edward Snowden sought shelter among Hong Kong refugees after he leaked a huge trove of secret documents in the southern Chinese city, reports said yesterday. The former intelligence contractor had quit his job with the National Security Agency and travelled to Hong Kong in May 2013 where he initiated one

of the largest data leaks in US history, fuelling a firestorm over the issue of mass surveillance.

Although Snowden staved in an upscale hotel before the leak, little was known of his situation afterwards. But a report yesterday revealed he had been given shelter by the city's 11,000 asylum-seekers. Many of Hong Kong's refugees are forced to live in slum-like conditions, the last place anyone would look for one of the highestprofile US fugitives. The 33year-old stayed with at least four refugees, according to a New York Times report. It added they were all clients of lawyer Robert Tibbo, who helped hide Snowden.

"It was clear that if Mr. Snowden was placed with a refugee family, this was the last place the government and the majority of Hong Kong society would expect

him to be," Tibbo told the Times. One hosting Snowden, and felt he was taking Filipino woman with whom Snowden stayed, Vanessa Mae Bondalian Rodel, described him as "scared and very worried". After she saw his story in local media, she described her shock. "Oh my God, the most wanted man in the world is in my house." Other refugees from Sri

a greater risk than they were. One family told how he left money for them under a pillow before he left. Snowden came to Hong Kong on May 20, 2013 and began a damaging series of leaks about the NSA eavesdropping of phones and computer systems that triggered concern from gov-





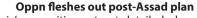
FIGHTING DISPLACES 100,000 IN CENTRAL SYRIA IN 8 DAYS

NEW GOVT BOMBING CREATES MORE DISPLACEMENT

BEIRUT: Intense fighting between Syrian government troops and insurgents in Syria's central Hama province displaced some 100,000 people over eight days between late August and early September, the UN humanitarian agency said. Earlier this month, insurgents pushed northward in Hama province, surprising government troops and dislodging them from areas they controlled around the provincial capital, also called Hama, including a military base and towns and villages

ures from a camp coordination group show nearly half of the displaced from Hama arrived in the neighboring rebel-held Idlib governorate. Others fled toward government-controlled Hama city, where four mosques were converted into temporary shelters, OCHA said. Dozens of schools in rural areas of Hama province were also turned into shelters.

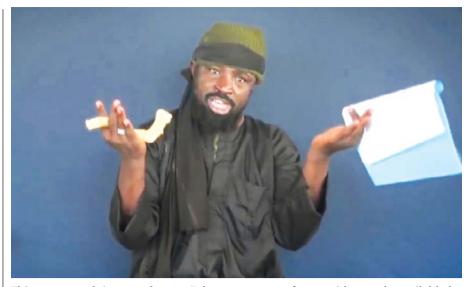
A shortage of shelter space means many displaced families are sleeping outdoors in parks in "terrorists." OCHA said the United Nations has sent an "inter-agency convoy with life-saving supplies to Hama" and was evaluating the humanitarian situation. An estimated 11 million Syrians have fled their homes since the outbreak of the civil war, now in its sixth year. Of those, 4.8 million are refugees with nearly 7 million displaced internally.



Syria's opposition set out detailed plans yesterday for the transition to a democratic state without President Bashar Al-Assad ahead of talks with ministers of EU, US and regional powers in London. The broad-based High Negotiations Committee (HNC) proposed a six-month negotiating phase between the regime and the opposition. The subsequent 18 months would see Syria governed by a transitional body, made up of opposition figures, current government representatives and members of civil society, according to a 25-page blueprint.

"Syria wants to see Bashar leave. If Bashar leaves will the fighting go on? No," HNC head Riad Hijab said. The proposals, and the talks hosted by British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, come after intense discussions by the United States and Russia over a possible path to end the five and a half year conflict. An agreement was believed to have been close at the G20 summit earlier this week in China, but Washington then admitted no deal could be announced for the moment. US Secretary of State John Kerry will attend the talks in London via videolink, but Russia is not represented. "The aim of the meeting in London is to prepare a common position and make the case to the United States, while there are persistent rumors about the conclusion of a US-Russian deal," a French diplomatic source told AFP.

The HNC's plans are largely in line with existing international proposals for a post-war Syria, although unlike the so-called Vienna framework, they are clear about the president's future. "The establishment of the Transitional Governing Body shall require the departure of Bashar Al-Assad and his clique who committed heinous crimes against the Syrian people," it said. The goal is "building a political system that protects freedoms, safeguards individual rights, and that is founded upon the principles of liberty, equality, citizenship, and justice", it said. — Agencies



This screen grab image taken on February 18, 2015 from a video made available by Islamist group Boko Haram shows then Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau making a statement at an undisclosed location. — AFP

BOKO HARAM GROUPS CLASH IN NE NIGERIA

KANO: In-fighting has broken out in Boko Haram after the Islamic State group announced a new leader of its Nigerian affiliate, according to reports in the country's remote northeast. IS said last month that Abu Musab Al-Barnawi, the son of Boko Haram's founder Mohammed Yusuf, had replaced Abubakar Shekau at the head of the designated terrorist organization. But Shekau then insisted he was still in charge of the Islamist group, whose insurgency has killed at least 20,000 people since 2009 and forced more than 2.6 million from their homes.

Sources in northeast Nigeria now say there have been deadly skirmishes between the two factions, even as Nigeria's military seeks to finally rout the rebels in a sustained counter-offensive. Last Thursday, several fighters from Shekau's camp were said to have been killed in two separate gun battles with IS-backed Barnawi gunmen in the Monguno area of Borno state near Lake Chad. Nigeria's military declined to comment on the reported in-fighting when contacted by AFP.

'True jihad'

Mele Kaka, who lives in the area, told AFP: "The Barnawi faction launched an offensive against the Shekau faction who were camped in the villages of Yele and Arafa. "In Yele, the assailants killed three people from the Shekau camp, injured one and took one with them, while several were killed in Arafa," he said by telephone from the state capital, Maiduguri. The attack prompted residents of Arafa to flee, he added. Fighters from Barnawi camp had the previous day attacked gunmen loyal to Shekau in Zuwa village in nearby Marte district, killing an unspecified number, Kaka said. "The Barnawi fighters told villagers after each attack that they were fighting the other camp because they had derailed from the true jihad and were killing innocent people, looting their property and burning their homes," he went on."They said such acts contravene the teachings of Islam and true jihad."

Ideological split Shekau has led Boko Haram since the death of Mohammed Yusuf in police custody in 2009, waging a deadly, indiscriminate guerilla war that has overwhelmingly targeted civilians.

Suicide bombers have repeatedly hit busy mosques, churches, markets and bus stations while hit-and-run raids have destroyed remote villages, killing and maiming residents. Thousands of people, many of them women and young girls, have been kidnapped, including more than 200 schoolgirls, who were seized from the Borno town of Chibok more than two years ago.

Shekau has justified the attacks in ranting video and audio monologues against the secular state, those who support it and anyone who does not share his radical interpretation of Islam. He pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in March last year, changing the group's name to Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). Experts, however, suggest the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians as well as Shekau's "dictatorial" style, including secret killings of dissenting commanders, have caused a rift. Shortly after his nomination, Barnawi made a pointed critique of Shekau's leadership, lambasting him for targeting ordinary Muslims.

News of the factional clashes have been slow to emerge because of the destroyed telecommunications infrastructure in northeast Nigeria, and restricted access. A civilian vigilante assisting the military against Boko Haram said there were sporadic clashes between the opposing fighters. The three incidents described by Kaka were "very possible", said Babakura Kolo.

"I don't have news of the clashes but it is not surprising if they did occur because there has been similar in-fighting among the two Boko Haram camps," he added. Two weeks ago, there was a fierce gun battle in the Abadam area of Borno state, near the border with Niger, where Shekau's fighters were routed, he said. "It was a deadly fight and Shekau's fighters were forced to flee," he said. Hundreds of residents of the villages and their herds taken hostage by the fleeing fighters were allowed to go about their normal lives by the Barnawi faction, Kolo added. — AFP

ALEPPO: This photo provided by the Syrian anti-government activist group Aleppo Media Center (AMC), shows a Syrian man carrying a girl away from the rubble of a destroyed building after barrel bombs were dropped on the Bab Al-Nairab neighborhood. — AP

near the highway to Damascus. The offensive, led by an ultraconservative Islamic group, Jund Al-Aqsa, and also involving several factions from the Western-backed Free Syrian Army, incurred an intense government bombing campaign that killed dozens of people. The fighting and the aerial bombardment sent tens of thousands of people fleeing for safety, creating the latest wave of displacement, part of a pattern that has left nearly half of the Syrian population

displaced since the war began in 2011. In a "flash update" on Tuesday, OCHA said figIdlib, the UN agency said. Most of those fleeing left towns and villages in government areas as the rebels advanced. They feared a violent government response to the insurgent offensive, according to Ahmad Al-Ahmad, an activist from Hama. "Wherever the regime is driven out of an area, it ends up destroying it," he said in a text message to The Associated Press.

In at least one airstrike last week, government warplanes struck a van carrying displaced people fleeing Suran, a town north of Hama city, activists said. The government says it is targeting

TERROR LINK AFTER GAS CYLINDERS FOUND IN CAR NEAR NOTRE DAME

PARIS: French police were holding two suspects yesterday after finding several gas cylinders in a car near Paris's Notre Dame cathedral. sources close to the investigation said. The Peugeot 607 was discovered abandoned at the weekend with its hazard lights flashing, the sources said. The owner of the car and another person, who are both known to security services. were arrested on Tuesday and anti-terror investigators have launched a probe. France remains on high alert for terror

attacks. In November, suicide bombers and gunmen killed 130 people in Paris in a series of attacks claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group. A bar employee working near the cathedral raised the alert on Sunday after noticing a gas cylinder on the back seat of the car, which had no number plates, a police source said. That cylinder was found to be empty but five full cylinders were found in the boot of the car. No detonators were found, police said.

'New form of attack'

The car was parked in a side street opposite the cathedral on the left bank of the Seine. The car's owner was identified on Tuesday. Notre Dame, a Gothic cathedral famous for its flying buttresses, stained glass windows and gargoyles, is one of Paris's most popular landmarks, attracting 13 million visitors each year. The head of France's DGSI domestic intelligence service, Patrick Calvar, warned in May of a "new form of attack" in which explosive devices would be left near sites that attract large crowds.

Such attacks would create large numbers of victims without sacrificing suicide bombers, he told a parliamentary committee. In July, 86 people were killed and dozens injured when a truck ploughed into a Bastille Day crowd in the Mediterranean resort of Nice. IS said the driver, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, was one of its followers. Less than two weeks later, two young jihadists murdered a priest near the northern city of Rouen. French security services are particularly worried about the danger posed by extremists returning from Syria, where they have been fighting with IS forces. France's top prosecutor said last week around 700 French nationals were currently in Syria. — AFP



PARIS: In this March 27, 2016 file photo, a French Police officer stands guards as worshipers arrive for the Easter mass at Notre Dame Cathedral. — AFP

Tunisia calls for ban on RADICAL ISLAMIST PARTY

TUNIS: Tunisia's government has asked a military court to outlaw the radical Islamist Hizb ut-Tahrir movement, which has been regularly accused of "undermining public order" since its legalization in 2012, an official said yesterday. "A request to ban was submitted recently. We are awaiting the decision of the military investigative judge," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP. He said a total ban on the party was imminent.

Hizb ut-Tahrir is known for focusing on unifying Muslims into a caliphate and is already banned in several countries. The party last month successfully overturned a decision by a civil judge to ban it, and has denounced what it says is "police harassment" in Tunisia. It released an apparently inflammatory statement saying that "the government... knows that its time has come and that heads and hands will be cut." The remarks prompted a stinging rebuke from President Beji Caid Essebsi, who told his

national security council last week that the group's "arrogance towards the state undermines its authority." The Tunisian branch of the pan-Islamic movement appeared in the 1980s but it remained on a list of banned organizations until after the 2011 overthrow of longtime strongman Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The party is frequently accused of causing public disturbances with its rallies and had its annual congress cancelled in June for "security reasons." Thousands of Tunisians are thought to have travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight with jihadists such as the Islamic State group, and the country has witnessed a string of attacks by extremists in recent years. — AFP

MOROCCO, SWEDEN NORMALIZE **RELATIONS AFTER SAHARA SPAT**

RABAT: Sweden's foreign minister was to hold talks with her Moroccan counterpart in Rabat yesterday in a sign of eased tensions after a year-long quarrel over the Western Sahara. Margot Wallstrom, who arrived on Tuesday, was to meet civil society representatives as well as Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar, the embassy said. Relations between Rabat and Stockholm have been strained since 2015 over Swedish moves to recognize the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic declared by the pro-independence Polisario Front.

Sweden's ruling Social Democrats, who voted to recognize Western Sahara as a "free and independent state" while in opposition in 2012, had held an internal consultation on the issue after taking office in 2014. In September 2015, Morocco blocked a grand opening of the kingdom's first Ikea store, saying it lacked a "conformity permit". Local media said the move was in retaliation for Stockholm's position on the disputed territory. Wallstrom in January announced Sweden would not recognize the Western Sahara as an independent state, but would support UN mediation on the issue. Relations have since eased, but sensitivities remain, particularly over the repatriation of unaccompanied Moroccan minors in Sweden. Morocco maintains that

Western Sahara is an integral part of the kingdom despite UN resolutions that task a peacekeeping mission with organizing a referendum on self-determination. The mission was established in 1991 when a ceasefire ended a war that broke out in 1975 when Morocco sent troops to the former Spanish territory and fought the Polisario Front. Morocco controls all of the territory's main towns confining the Polisario Front to a narrow desert strip in the interior.

IS cell busted

Meanwhile, Morocco said yesterday it has broken up a "terrorist cell" linked to the Islamic State group that authorities believe was planning attacks in the north of the country. A statement from Rabat's interior ministry said three suspects had been detained by police in the northern cities of Oujda, Casablanca and Fez. The arrests "revealed several dangerous terrorist projects in advanced stages of preparation," the statement said. It added that the cell members were linked to IS supporters "active in Syria and Iraq". The ministry said the three had planned to attack "sensitive and crucial sites" in several cities. "The cell's chief rented a safe house near to the city of Oujda, which was reserved for lodging and the preparation and manufacture of remote-detonated explosives," the statement added. — Agencies

TURKEY, US SET TO OUST IS FROM RAQA: ERDOGAN

ISTANBUL: Washington and Ankara are ready to work together to push Islamic State jihadists out of their de facto capital of Raga in northern Syria. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in comments published yesterday. Erdogan said he had agreed with President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in China to do "what is

necessary" to drive IS out of Raga. "Raqa is the most important centre of Daesh," Erdogan told Turkish journalists onboard his plane as he returned from China, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "Obama wants to do something together especially on the issue of Raqa," he said. "I said there would be no problem from our perspective." "I said 'our soldiers should come together and discuss, then what is necessary will be done," Erdogan was quoted as saying by the Hurriyet daily.

Without giving further details, he said: "What can be done will become clear after the discussions." Forces loval to President Bashar Al-Assad's regime were pushed out of Raqa, which lies on the Euphrates River, in 2013, making it the first provincial capital in Syria to fall out of government control. IS rapidly infiltrated the city, which is strategically located near the Turkish border, and declared a caliphate in 2014. Ousting IS from the city would be a turning point in the conflict and mark a huge blow to the jihadists.

Erdogan's comments came two weeks after Turkey launched an ambitious operation inside Syria, sending tanks and special forces to back up Syrian opposition fighters and cleanse its frontier from IS jihadists and Kurdish militia. Ankara-backed rebels seized the town of Jarabulus from IS militants within hours on the first day of the operation and Turkey says jihadists have now been removed from the entire border area. But Turkey on Tuesday sustained its biggest loss of life in the operation to date, with three soldiers killed in an IS rocket attack on their tanks.

'No step back'

With the offensive still pressing on, the Turkish army said six more villages south of the town of Al-Rai had been retaken from IS jihadists on Tuesday, in a statement carried by state-run news agency Anadolu. Yet it remains unclear if the Syrian rebels backed by Turkey will proceed further south to take Al-Bab from IS iihadists and then Raqa itself, or to what extent the operation has US support. Turkey has been alarmed by US support for the Syrian Kurdish Democratic

Union Party (PYD) and its People's Protection Units (YPG) militia which Ankara sees as a "terrorist" group linked to its own Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which has been waging a bloody campaign against the Turkish state. "We need to show we are present in the region," said Erdogan. "If we take a step back, terror groups like Daesh, PKK, PYD or YPG will settle there." Asked if there was any change in US approach on the issue of PYD, Erdogan said: "At least, there's been no interference into Turkey." Erdogan said that after the G20 he was optimistic of the chances of a ceasefire between opposition forces and Assad's regime, in time for the Eid Al-Adha Muslim holiday, which gets under way next week. "God willing, we are hoping for a cease fire in (region of) Aleppo before the Eid," said Erdogan, adding that President Vladimir Putin of Russia has promised him this would happen in days. — AFP

NEWTON MAKES LANDFALL IN MEXICO AFTER KILLING 2

LA PAZ: Tropical storm Newton roared into northwestern Mexico early yesterday, making landfall a second time after leaving two people dead in Baja California, US forecasters said. Downgraded from a hurricane, the storm was still packing 110 kilometeran-hour winds when it swept into mainland Mexico near Bahia Kino in the state of Sonora, the US National hurricane center said. The storm was expected to dump eight to 15 centimeters of rain, before passing into the US state of Arizona later in the day, the Floridabased weather center said.

After coming ashore for the first time

early on Tuesday, the storm uprooted trees and shattered windows, leaving two dead in Baja California, as thousands of tourists hunkered down in hotels in the Los Cabos resort area. But the region, which is very popular with American and Canadian tourists, managed to escape major damage, two years after Hurricane Odile ravaged Los Cabos, killing six people and causing \$1 billion damage.

"According to the latest reports, #Newton only caused minor damages in infrastructure," President Enrique Pena Nieto wrote on Twitter, saying there were no injuries. The storm caused a large swell that sunk a shrimp fishing boat between the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific ocean, leaving two people dead and three missing, said Los Cabos civil protection director Marco Antonio Vazquez. The two bodies washed ashore on a beach. Vazquez said the boat had ignored warnings against going out to sea.

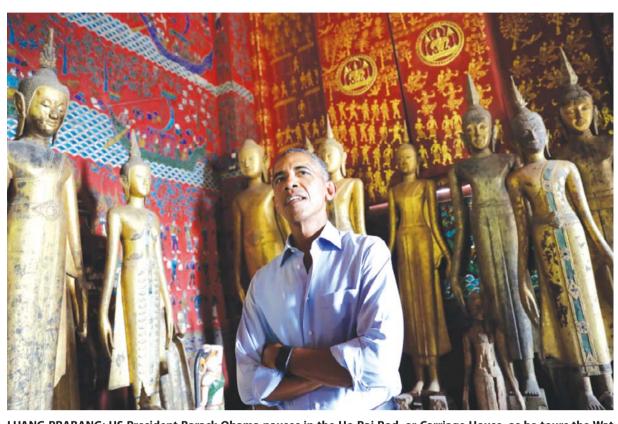
Looting attempts

Vazquez said Newton's winds took down trees and tin roofs from poorer neighborhoods but that a disaster was averted because the hurricane passed through rural, sparsely inhabited areas.

Some hotel windows broke, but 14,000 tourists in Los Cabos were "safe" in rooms made to shelter them, said state tourism secretary Genaro Ruiz Hernandez. Some 1,500 people took refuge in shelters in the resort town but many returned home, Vazquez said. Power was cut to parts of Los Cabos and La Paz and the phone service was also disrupted. Police confirmed arresting five people for trying to loot two convenience stores in Los Cabos, with officers stationed outside several shops to prevent the kind of looting seen after Odile. Local airports closed late Monday, while small boats were barred from

using the ports in case of a storm surge in low-lying areas. Schools were also shut. North of Los Cabos, trees also fell in La Paz and locals boarded up shop windows, with 400 people evacuated from vulnerable areas.

The storm is expected to bring up to 30 centimeters of rain in Baja California Sur and as much as 25 centimeters in several Pacific coast states, which could trigger flash floods and mudslides. The weather system caused damage in the country's south over the weekend before transforming into a tropical storm, flooding 1,400 homes in Guerrero state and leaving three dead in Chiapas. — AFP



LUANG PRABANG: US President Barack Obama pauses in the Ho Raj Rod, or Carriage House, as he tours the Wat Xieng Thong Buddhist Temple. — AP

SHOWCASING LAO CULTURE, OBAMA PUSHES BACK ON US ISOLATIONISM

Constrained by the tendency to look inward

LUANG PRABANG: President Barack Obama ventured yesterday to a remote mountain town in Laos to tour a centuries-old Buddhist temple, gently chiding Americans to resist turning a blind eye to the world outside their borders. Obama used a visit to the mountainous northern city of Luang Prabang to push back against an America-centric world view promulgated by Republican Donald Trump. Questioned by young Southeast Asians, Obama said the US could be a great force for good but has been constrained by the tendency to look inward. "If you are the United States, sometimes you can feel lazy and think, you know, 'we're so big, we don't really have to know anything about other people," Obama said. "That's part of what I'm trying to change." Though he didn't mention Trump by name, Obama appeared to counter the isolationist approach epitomized by the Republican presidential nominee's "America first" rallying cry. An ardent opponent of Obama's efforts to boost global trade, Trump has questioned the US alliance with NATO and vowed to build a wall between the US and Mexico.

American multiculturalism

So when an Indonesian woman asked Obama about American multiculturalism and the edict "e pluribus unum" - out of many, one - Obama seized the chance to explain that when times are tough and people feel stressed "they turn on others who don't look like them." He said that's why it's critical for the US to promote principles that rise above any individual religion, nationality or race. "Not everybody in America agrees with me on this, by the way," Obama said. After a moment's hesitation, he added: "I'll leave it at that."

Throughout his visit to Laos, Obama has lamented that most Americans know little about the country or the devastating secret nine-year war the U.S. waged here half a century ago. He sought to use his presence and the spotlight that follows him to bring attention to an unfamiliar corner of the world. In Luang Prabang, he showcased a rich cultural and religious heritage. A UNESCO World Heritage List site along the Mekong River, the city was a hub for Buddhist faith during the Lan Xang kingdom starting in the 14th century. Obama's first stop was Wat Xieng Thong, a 16th century complex of ornate gold buildings known as the "Temple of the Golden City." He removed his shoes before entering the carriage house, where he examined a line of golden statues. "It's gorgeous," Obama said.

Greeting the temple monks, Obama posed for a group photo with about 20 boys in bright orange robes after being informed they weren't supposed to shake hands. He bought gifts for daughters Sasha and Malia at an open-air shop and sipped from a coconut. On this first visit by a sitting American president, Obama has placed a particular emphasis on trying to heal wounds inflicted by the war the U.S. waged here as part of the Vietnam War.

'Decisive step forward' Obama paid tribute to survivors

maimed by some of the 80 million unexploded bombs America dropped on Laos during the war. Vowing the US will do more to help finally remove them, he touted his administration's move to double spending on ordnance cleanup to roughly \$90 million over three years. "For the last four decades, Laotians have continued to live under the shadow of war," Obama said as he toured a rehabilitation center in the capital of Vientiane that cares for bomb survivors. "The war did not end when the bombs stopped falling."

Some 20,000 people have been killed or wounded since the war ended, Obama said after viewing displays of small rusted grenades and photos of a child missing a foot. He insisted those were "not just statistics," but reminders of the heavy toll inflicted by war. "I'm inspired by you," Obama told Thoummy Silamphan, a survivor who uses a prosthetic after losing a hand to one of the bombs. The president did not come to Laos to apologize. Instead, he said he hoped the strengthened partnership on bomb clearing could mark a "decisive step forward" between the US and this landlocked communist nation.

The visit also served as a capstone to his effort to bolster relations with Southeast Asian countries long overlooked by the United States. The outreach is a core element of Obama's attempt to shift U.S. diplomatic and military resources away from the Middle East and to Asia to counter China in the region and ensure a US foothold in growing markets. — AP

TRUMP FACES NATIONAL SECURITY TEST WITH SPEECHES AND FORUM

PHILADELPHIA: Republican Donald Trump is unveiling a plan for a major increase in defense spending as he works to convince skeptics in both parties that he's ready to lead the world's most powerful military. The New York businessman, who has struggled at times to demonstrate a command of foreign policy, will outline plans to "add substantially" to the nation's arsenal of submarines, ships and combat troops in a Wednesday morning speech in Philadelphia, according to a briefing provided by his campaign. Trump's address comes hours before his national security acumen is tested at a "commander in chief" forum on NBC.

The appearances mark an intense, two-day focus on national security by Trump, who has offered tough rhetoric on the nation's challenges abroad but few details. "I think my single greatest asset, of any assets I have, is my temperament," Trump declared in North Carolina on Tuesday, fighting to undercut arguments that his erratic disposition is a major liability. Democrat Hillary Clinton repeated just such an attack on Trump's ability to command America's military.

"They know they can count on me to be the kind of commander in chief who will protect our country and our troops, and they know they cannot count on Donald Trump," Clinton said en route to Florida. "They view him as a danger and a risk." While Clinton and Trump will be featured at the Wednesday night forum, they will appear at separate times and will not face each other on stage. The forum could serve as a warm-up to their high-



GREENVILLE, North Carolina: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to an overflow crowd during a campaign rally. —AP

ly anticipated first presidential debate, scheduled for Sept. 26 in New York.

Military budget

Trump was set to deliver another speech yesterday evening, at the convention of New York's Conservative Party, also expected to feature a heavy national security focus. A late morning address at Philadelphia's Union League will outline his plans to eliminate deep military cuts, known as the "sequester," enacted when Congress failed to reach a budget compromise in 2011. A Trump adviser, speaking on the condition of anonymity to share details ahead of the speech, said Trump would ensure the additional spending is fully paid for. The adviser did not explain

how, but suggested there would be no need for structural budget cuts to pay for the billions of additional military spending over 10 years. Beyond new spending on troops and naval assets, Trump also will call for additions to seabased missile defense. Trying to emphasize his military support, Trump's campaign released a letter on Tuesday from 88 retired generals and admirals citing an urgent need for a "course correction" in America's national security policy. It was aimed at rebutting Clinton's arguments that she would be best positioned to lead the military and reassuring Republicans who have openly worried that his provocative statements might undermine US alliances. — AP

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VENEZUELA PROTESTS TEST MADURO'S GRIP

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition has called new nationwide protests against President Nicolas Maduro yesterday, testing his grip on power six days after massive demonstrations showed the magnitude of anger over a raging crisis. The leftist leader has called his own supporters to hold rallies across the country, seeking to show his strength in the face of opposition pressure for a referendum on removing him from power by the end

With oil-rich Venezuela's once booming economy in melt-down and outrage mounting over shortages of food and medicine, the atmosphere is tense. The rival demos have raised fears of a return to the unrest that rocked Venezuela in 2014, when a wave of pro- and antigovernment protests left 43 people dead. Maduro said Tuesday night his opponents were planning violence in an attempt to oust him in a "coup." But he assured supporters the protesters were "isolated."

The center-right opposition for its part accuses Maduro of an authoritarian crack-down. Dozens of protesters were arrested in the aftermath of last Thursday's rally, according to rights groups. The opposition says around one million people flooded the streets of Caracas that day, the biggest protest in decades. Maduro put the turnout at 30,000 people maximum. But there is no denying that the massive crowds, dressed in white and venting months of pent-up anger, gave the opposition new momentum in its drive to end 17 years of socialist rule by Maduro and his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez.

The coalition behind the referendum push, the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), says it is seeking to build on that momentum with yesterday's protests, which will shift the focus from the capital to the rest of the country. "We want to accelerate the political and

electoral solution to this crisis," said spokesman Jesus Torrealba. Protests will be held nationwide outside the local offices of the National Electoral Council (CNE), which is accused of stalling a referendum. Electoral officials said their offices would remain closed as a precaution. In Caracas, the opposition called its supporters to stop all activity for 10 minutes at noon (1600 GMT). "The opposition's road map is to try to keep people participating. The challenge is to stay active and peaceful in the street while pushing a referendum," said political analyst Luis Vicente Leon.

'In war, anything goes'

Never the less, tensions are running high. The two sides "want to annihilate each other," said sociologist Maryclen Stelling. "And unfortunately in war, anything goes." The sharp drop in global oil prices since mid-2014 has pushed Venezuela's economy to the brink. Long lines and bare supermarket shelves have become the norm, inflation is forecast to top 700 percent this year, outbreaks of looting have erupted and violent crime is festering. Maduro blames the crisis on an "economic war" by Venezuelan elites backed by "American imperialism." The opposition won control of the legislature in a landslide election victory in December, but has had its powers hamstrung by a Supreme Court it condemns as loyal to Maduro. Desperate to get rid of the president before his six-year term ends in 2019, they turned to the strategy of a recall referendum. Venezuela's constitution provides for such referenda, but there is a lengthy bureaucratic obstacle course to get there. And time is on the Maduro camp's side. If he loses a recall vote before January 10 as opinion polls predict he would-it would trigger new elections. — AFP

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HK PRO-INDEPENDENCE STUDENTS PROTEST BAN

HONG KONG: Secondary school students pushing for Hong Kong's breakaway from China have threatened protests after staff stopped them from handing out political pamphlets, as the government puts pressure on independence activists. Since the beginning of term last week, teenage students have been distributing leaflets outside their schools advocating Hong Kong's independence from China as concerns grow Beijing is tightening its grip on the semi-autonomous city.

The city was returned from Britain to China in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" deal that guaranteed its freedoms for 50 years, but there are fears those liberties are disappearing. The fledgling independence movement has gained momentum in the face of staunch opposition from authorities in Beijing and Hong Kong, who have branded it illegal and unconstitutional. Several young campaigners advocating independence or self-determination became lawmakers for the first time in weekend elections, despite a government ban on the movement's leading activists from running in the vote.

Secondary school students say they should have the right to distribute pro-independence pamphlets outside their schools, but have been stopped from doing so by staff. "School staff...banned students from taking media interviews and even led away those who were distributing pamphlets," said a statement from an alliance of groups from 21 schools. "If any more schools try to suppress members of the groups, we will definitely respond through escalated action," the statement said, without elaborating.

'Lay siege'

The South China Morning Post said student not to promote independence in schools, sparking

leaders had claimed they were planning to "lay siege" to schools. The young activists say they want Hong Kong to have the option to split from China in 2047, when the handover deal expires. "When 2047 comes, those who are in secondary school now will be middle aged," 15-year-old Tony Chung, a convener of new school activist group Studentlocalism, told AFP. "We have to now discuss with students what is the way out for Hong Kong, and we think that way out is independence."

The "localist" movement of activists seeking more autonomy from Beijing first grew out of the failure of mass pro-democracy rallies in 2014 to win political reforms from Beijing. That movement has now spawned campaigners calling for an outright split. The government has warned teachers criticism they are quashing academic discussion and fuelling self-censorship. City leader Leung Chun-ying, seen by critics as a Beijing stooge, has likened promoting independence in schools to swearing. "It is not a matter of freedom of speech to promote independence in schools...school rules are more strict than law," he said last month. Secondary school students have in the past led major citywide campaigns.

Activist Joshua Wong, who became the face of the 2014 "Umbrella Movement" democracy rallies, first rose to prominence as a 15-year-old when he led student protests against a plan to introduce mandatory Chinese patriotism lessons at schools. The government was forced to scrap the plan after 120,000 demonstrators rallied outside the government headquarters in September 2012. — AFP

MERKEL WARNS PARTIES AGAINST POPULIST RACE TO THE BOTTOM

COMMENTS COME AFTER DEFEAT AGAINST ISLAMPHOBIC AFD



GIESSEN: A boy from Afghanistan sleeps on chairs at a reception centre for refugees in Giessen, western Germany yesterday. German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged German politicians against stooping to the levels of anti-immigration populists, days after her party suffered a stinging state election defeat against the Islamphobic AfD. — AFP

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday urged German politicians against stooping to the levels of anti-immigration populists, days after her party suffered a stinging state election defeat against the Islamphobic AfD. In her first address to parliament since Sunday's election in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Merkel defended her welcoming stance to refugees and called on all parties to unite against the Alternative for Germany (AfD).

Her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) garex-Communist state, falling to third place behind the anti-immigrant AfD, which was running there for the first time. Merkel noted that not just her conservative party, but all mainstream parties from the left to the right, had

against Merkel's welcoming liberal refugee stance. "A party like the AfD is not only a challenge for the CDU... but a challenge for all of us sitting here," she told the Bundestag. But she warned politicians against deploying populist tactics such as blurring or ignoring facts in an effort to win back voters, saying Germany must stand by its core principles of freedom, security, justice and solidarity.

"Politicians like us have a responsibility to moderate our speech," she said. "If we begin to nered its lowest ever score in the northeastern, orient our speech and actions towards those who are not interested in solutions, we will lose our own direction in the end. "If we resist that and stick with the truth, then we will regain what's most important-the trust of the people." In the run-up to Sunday's vote, Merkel lost ground to the AfD, which has railed had urged the electorate to resist voting for

the AfD, saying it offers "no solutions to problems" and was spreading a message based in "hate". Nevertheless, the right-wing populist party, founded only in 2013, clinched almost 21 percent of the vote, against 19 percent for Merkel's party.

'Slogans, easy answers'

The drubbing emboldened Merkel's critics, including within her own conservative Union alliance. Horst Seehofer, who leads the CDU's Bavarian sister party CSU, heaped on the pressure, saying "the situation is a serious threat for the Union". And Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, who leads the CDU's junior coalition partner the Social Democrats, charged that Merkel's message of "we can do it" was empty words. In a response to the jibes, Merkel said squabbling within the ruling coalition only served their common enemy.

"If we seek small gains at each others' expense... then the only winners are those who rely on slogans and easy answers," she warned. Defending her refugee policy again, Merkel said a controversial EU-Turkey deal that she championed is in "both our interests." Under the deal, Ankara agreed to take back migrants who land in Greece in exchange for billions in aid as well as visa-free travel to the bloc. "It is right for us to fight the illegal trade of people smuggling... since we've had this deal, almost no one has drowned in the Aegean Sea, Merkel argued.

The EU-Turkey deal should also serve as a model for future agreements with Libya and Tunisia, said the German leader. Merkel acknowledged however that work remained to be done at home to integrate the newcomers, as well as beef up security to prevent attacks such as those carried out in July by asylum seekers in Germany. "Terrorism is not something new that came with refugees. But, given that not all refugees come with good intentions, we will take further (security) measures." she pledged. Germany in August unveiled tough new anti-terror measures after the ISclaimed attacks, including a controversial proposal to strip jihadist fighters of their German



LIBREVILLE: A man traditionally dressed with banana leaves joins mourners paying their respects at an improvised altar for those who perished during the post electoral violence in Libreville on September 6, 2016 at the headquarters of the Gabonese opposition leader Jean Ping. — AFP

DEFIANT GABON PRESIDENT HITS BACK AT EU CRITICISM

PARIS: Gabon's Ali Bongo yesterday rejected criticism of his disputed presidential election victory, accusing EU observers of bias towards his rival and insisting that only the country's top court could order a recount. Oil-rich Gabon has been in turmoil since the August 27 poll, in which Bongo's rival Jean Ping also claimed victory. Several people have been killed in violence triggered by the results, which showed Bongo winning a second term by a wafer-thin margin of some 6,000 votes.

On Tuesday, an EU election observer team reported a "clear anomaly" in voting in Haut-Ogooue province, Bongo's heartland. Official results gave turnout in the province at more than 99 percent, with 95 percent backing the incumbent. Reacting to the criticism, Bongo, 57, told France's RTL radio: "I would also have liked them to have noted some anomalies in the fiefdom of Mr Ping, "If we're raising anomalies, we have to be clear, balanced and raise all the anomalies that have been noted."

The opposition has accused Bongo of rigging the vote and called for a recount-a call echoed by Manuel Valls, prime minister of Gabon's former colonial power France. A defiant Bongo ruled out any new tally unless the Constitutional Court ordered one. "I cannot violate the (electoral) law," he insisted. "African governments are often accused of not respecting the law. For once we're respecting the law and we're being told to circumvent it, it's strange," he said. Ping has yet to announce whether he will challenge the election in the Constitutional Court. The deadline for doing so is 1500

GMT on Thursday. In their analysis, the EU election monitors said the number of non-voters and of blank and disqualified votes revealed a "clear anomaly in the final results in Haut-Ogooue." In an interview with Europe 1 radio, Bongo accused the EU observers of "overstepping their mandate" and said he too was preparing to challenge some of the results.

'Chaos will not take hold' Bongo is under increasing pressure at

home and abroad after Justice Minister Seraphin Moundounga resigned on Monday demanding a recount "polling station by polling station." Ping's campaign coordinator Rene Ndemezo Obiang reiterated the demand yesterday. In the chaos following the result, opposition demonstrators clashed with police and the country's parliament was torched. Ping, 73, has called for a general strike but the appeal seems to have garnered little support. "Mr Ping's call went unheeded...it failed," Bongo declared, vowing: "Chaos will not take hold."

Bongo accused Ping, a former African Union Commission chairman, of attempting "massive fraud" and said it was difficult to envisage dialogue with "people who ask the Gabonese to go into the street to loot and destroy and burn things." Several people have died since the violence erupted in the central African nation, which has been ruled by the Bongo family since 1967. According to an AFP count, the post-election chaos has claimed at least seven lives.

Gabonese authorities have reported three killed and 105 wounded, with the government saying some deaths had previously been incorrectly attributed to the clashes. Bongo dismissed as "fanciful" a claim by Ping's camp that between 50 and 100 have died but said that "around 100" had been hurt in the violence. Some 800 people have been arrested in recent days in the capital Libreville, with the authorities accusing them of looting, while lawyers say they are being held in "deplorable" conditions.

Gabon, a country roughly the size of Britain but with a population of 1.8 million, has known only three presidents since it won independence from France in 1960. One-third of its population lives in poverty, even though the country boasts one of Africa's highest per capita incomes \$8,300 annually-thanks to its oil

MYANMAR'S ROHINGYA MINORITY WELCOMES KOFI ANNAN MISSION



THETKABYIN: Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, second left, listens to a Rohingya religious and community leader as he is explained the situation in the Internally Displaced People's camps as the Rakhine Advisory Commission visits a camp in Thetkabyin village, outside Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine state. — AP

MIGRANT-KICKING CAMERAWOMAN CHARGED WITH 'BREACH OF PEACE

BUDAPEST: A Hungarian television camerawoman who made headlines last September after appearing to trip and kick migrants who were fleeing police has been indicted, prosecutors said yesterday. "The accused is charged by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Szeged with breach of the peace," said a statement from Csongrad county chief prosecutor Zsolt Kopasz. In the footage, which sparked global outrage, Petra Laszlo can be seen tripping up a man sprinting with a child in his arms, and kicking another running child near the town of Roszke, close to the bor-

der with Serbia. "The violent actions of the accused did not inflict injury, however her behavior was capable of provoking indignation and outcry in the members of the public present at the scenes," according to the statement. It later emerged that Laszlo, who was fired over her actions, had been working for N1TV, an internet-based television station close to Hungary's far-right Jobbik party. The incident on September 8, 2015 occurred as hundreds of migrants broke through a police line at a collection point

close to the Serbian border. According to the prosecutor, an investigation concluded that more serious charges would not be brought as there had been no reasonable chance of the accused causing injury. Nor was there evidence that "the conduct of the accused was motivated by ethnic considerations or by the migrant status of the victims," said the statement. Last September thousands of migrants crossed into Hungary each day as the country, a southern gateway into the EU's passport-free Schengen zone, became a temporary hotspot of the migration crisis. A week after the incident, Hungarian soldiers completed the closure of the 175-kilometre-long border with a fence reinforced with razor wire. — AFP

SITTWE: Members of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority expressed hope yesterday that a visiting panel led by former UN chief Kofi Annan will help end the discrimination and violence they face at the hands of the country's Buddhist majority. Annan is a member of an independent commission set up last month by State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi's government to help find solutions to a communal conflict in the western state of Rakhine that has seen widespread abuses and violence by Buddhists against Rohingya. Many Buddhists in Rakhine and across Myanmar consider Rohingya to be Bangladeshis living in the country illegally, though the ethnic group has been in Myanmar for generations. Hundreds of Rohingya were killed and tens of thousands forced to flee their homes in 2012 unrest in Rakhine state, and many continue to be confined to squalid camps there. Rohingya residents, including community leaders who met yesterday with Annan, said they have faith in the nine-member advisory commission headed by the former UN chief. Members of the Rakhine community, however, protested Annan's arrival Tuesday, saying they oppose foreign meddling.

Annan yesterday visited the Rohingya community in the Aung Mingalar quarter of Sittwe, where Muslims are kept in a gated area and not allowed to go outside. Annan later visited Rakhine and Rohingya camps in Thetkabyin village outside of Sittwe. More than 100,000 people in Rakhine state live in displacement camps, the majority of them Rohingya who were forced to flee their homes after the 2012 rioting. Outbreaks of violence directed by Buddhists against Muslims later spread to some other areas of Myanmar, but were generally contained.

Future hopes

Journalists were not allowed to attend the community meetings, but some people who participated described them afterward. Aung Thein, a leader of the Aung Mingalar community, said the commission members spoke of their ideas for Rakhine's future and hopes for cooperation from all sides. "We trust this commission. We trust any organization that is trying to help us here and we welcome them here," he said. A fellow community leader, Hla Kyaw, said he believes Annan's panel "will be a fair commission because they have included Buddhists and Muslims in the commission. What we want is to live together as brothers and sisters in this community. We don't know if the Rakhine community will ever accept living together as before." "Because of the conflict, we have been suffering for more than four years," he said. "We really welcome that Kofi Annan is leading the Rakhine Commission and we trust that they will be able to solve the long, complex situation here."

In a six-day trip, the commission is supposed to address human rights, ensuring humanitarian assistance, rights and reconciliation, establishing basic infrastructure and promoting long-term development plans. — AP

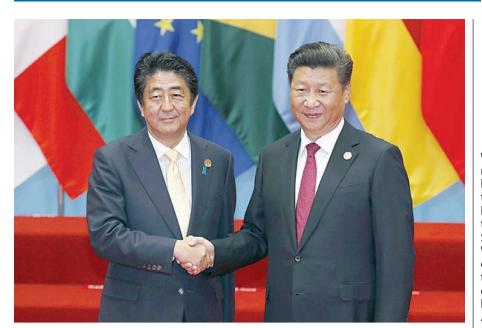
"We have a threat level of 'probable', so it is a real threat," he said late Tuesday when speaking to reporters in Vientiane, Laos. "The capacity of Daesh, of course, is much less than they proclaim it to be but we do have to be very alert to the actions of these lone actors," he said, using another name for the Islamic State. The first edition of the magazine Rumiyah released in English online on Monday called for attacks on the streets of Brunswick and Broadmeadows in Melbourne and Bondi in Sydney. "Kill them at the MCG, the SCG (Sydney Cricket Ground), the Opera House, and even in their backyards," it said.

Turnbull said IS jihadists would "resort to terrorist activities outside of the Middle East" as they came under more pressure on the battlefield in Syria and Iraq. In relation to so-called "lone wolf" attackers, he said some individuals could be radicalized very quickly "and engage in very destructive, lethal conduct". But he added: "Every time there is a terrorist incident, wherever it is in the world, we learn as much as we can about it and then take those learnings to keep Australians more safe."

Australia's Justice Minister Michael Keenan said the latest threat did not change the fundamentals in Australia, where the terror threat was lifted to high in 2014. "This is not the first time that ISIL has called for attacks in Australia and I don't think it will be the last," he told the Nine Network yesterday. Officials say they have stopped 10 terror attacks in Australia in the past two years. Police chief commissioner for the state of Victoria, Graham Ashton, said while it was the first time such threats had been published in English rather than Arabic, the magazine "appears to be propaganda". Ashton said while police were taking the comments seriously, there was nothing to suggest any specific threat to the places mentioned. "If anything arises then we'll obviously be acting on it, but at this stage there is nothing of any concern," he told reporters. — AFP

AUSTRALIA THREAT IS REAL, AFTER ATTACKS URGED: PM

SYDNEY: The threat of a terror attack in Australia is "real", Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said after the so-called Islamic State group urged followers to target Sydney's beachside Bondi and the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Responding to an English-language online magazine that singled out prominent Australian locations at which to kill people, Turnbull said it was a "disturbing reminder" of the security situation.



HANGZHOU: In this Sunday, Sept 4, 2016, file photo, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, poses with China's President Xi Jinping for a photo before a group photo session for the G20 Summit in Hangzhou in eastern China's Zhejiang province.—AP

CHINA UNDER PRESSURE AT ASIA SUMMIT OVER SEA ROW

VIENTIANE: Beijing came under pressure at an Asian summit Wednesday over its "illegal" island building in the South China Sea, after the Philippines produced evidence it said showed fresh construction activity at a flashpoint shoal. An artificial island at Scarborough Shoal could be a game changer in China's quest to control the sea and raises the risk of armed confrontation with the United States, according to security analysts.

Beijing this week insisted it had not started building at the shoal-a move that could lead to a military outpost just 230 kilometers from the main Philippine island, where US forces are stationed. But the Philippines on Wednesday released images it said showed Chinese ships in the area that were capable of dredging sand and other activities required to build an artificial island.

"We have reason to believe that their presence is a precursor to building activities on the shoal," defence department spokesman Arsenio Andolong told AFP. "We are continuing our surveillance and monitoring of their presence and activities, which are disturbing." China claims nearly all of the sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipping trade passes annually, even waters approaching the coasts of the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations. The competing territorial claims have long been a major source of tension in the region, with China using deadly force twice to seize control of islands from Vietnam.

Illegal island building

Tensions have escalated sharply in recent years as China has built islands on reefs and islets in the Spratlys archipelago-another strategically important location-that are capable of supporting military operations. The United States has reacted to that build-up by sailing warships close to the new islands, and sending warplanes over them, deeply angering China.

A UN-backed tribunal ruled in July that China's claims to most of the sea had no legal basis and its construction of artificial islands in the disputed waters was illegal. But Beijing vowed to ignore the ruling. China took control of Scarborough shoal in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippine Navy, and has since deployed large fishing fleets while blocking Filipino fishermen. Expanding that presence with a military outpost is vital to achieving China's ambitions of controlling the sea, according to security analysts. US officials fear a Chinese military airfield at the shoal would enable Beijing to enforce a threatened air defense identification zone in the sea.

An outpost at the shoal would also put Chinese fighter jets and missiles within easy striking distance of US forces stationed in the Philippines. US President Barack Obama reportedly directly warned his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, during a meeting in March not to push ahead with any artificial island building there. —AFP

PEACE BUT EXTREME POVERTY IN REMOTE REGION OF AFGHANISTAN

A LOOK AT THE LITTLE-KNOW, ISOLATED WAKHAN REGION

WAKHAN: Saeed Beg and his family live in a two-room mud house with no electricity or running water, no bathroom, no kitchen and no furniture apart from a few threadbare rugs and a couple of thin mattresses. With his mother, wife and five children aged from 8 months to 14 years sitting alongside, he describes life in the Sarkand valley of Afghanistan's far northeastern Wakhan corridor as "very difficult." As he talks, the face of a child laying kindling on the roof to dry appears in the pentagonal hole in the ceiling - typical of the homes of Ismaili Muslims, supported by five pillars. The hole lets in the fading evening light, and when Beg's wife Azalma sets a fire, the smoke curls up toward the velvety-blue, starlit sky.

Beg describes how he exchanges his sheep and goats for food - rice, cooking oil, salt - in the barter system that is the main form of financial transaction here in the shadow of the Hindu Kush. "We do it because there is no money," he says. "We don't have any income, and if we don't do it, my kids will go hungry. We'll all be hungry all the time." He looks at his boys, snotty-nosed but healthy, their clothes dirty but enough to keep them warm as they tend the livestock after school. Beg wants them to grow up to work for the government "so then they can feed me."

A peaceful region

The Wakhan corridor, which has been named Afghanistan's second national park, is the country's most - perhaps only - peaceful region. But it is so poor, even for Afghanistan that people get food on credit or barter for it, and children go barefoot during the long, harsh winters. The Ismaili Shiite Muslim community here also fears being targeted by the nearby Sunni Taleban - so much that many women in Iskashim, the town at the mouth of the valley, have started to wear the all-covering burga.

Wakhan, in Badakhshan province, is an aberration of 19th century geopolitics, split east to west in 1873 to create a buffer between the Russian and British empires. Afghanistan confirmed the new border 20 years later, and Wakhan has been mostly forgotten ever since. Ask any Afghan where it is, and they make a fist with their thumb protruding like a hitchhiker; the thumb represents a landlocked peninsula that ends at a 76-km closed border with China, sandwiched between Tajikistan to the north and Pakistan to the south. An unmade road cuts along the southern bank of the Amu Darya river that divides Afghanistan from Tajikistan. The valley is overlooked by perpetually snow-capped peaks that ensure punishing winds and night-time temperatures close to zero even during the short summer.

On the Tajik side, the road is sealed, and electricity lines feed villages with bright yellow satellite dishes on the rooftops. On the Afghan side, the region is home to around 17,000 Ismailis, followers of the Aga Khan, one of the world's wealthiest men and their hereditary spiritual leader for 49 generations. For the past century, the Aga Khans have been better known in the West for their glamorous lifestyles, including a penchant for marrying



WAKHAN: In this Aug 17, 2016 photo, a man produces yarn from wool, in Sarkand village, Wakhan district of Badakhshan province, far northeastern Afghanistan. —AP

models and movie stars, a love of horse racing, and a custom of receiving their body weight in gold as annual tribute from their impoverished followers.

Here in Wakhan - where the largely Tajik people are known as Wakhis and speak a Pamiri dialect called Wakhi - paper money is almost useless. Villagers measure their wealth in livestock, and grow wheat for bread and oats for their animals. This year a blight has turned the wheat ears red and the bread black, forcing people to use more livestock to barter for food. It's a long and arduous drive for truckers bringing in rice, so the price is triple that in the capital, Kabul, almost 400 kilometers southwest.

The main street of Wakhan's administrative center of Khandood is lined with shops - wooden shacks on stilts, most padlocked shut. A few young men, most wearing salwar khameez and plastic shoes, hang around, as there's not much else to do. Some ride by on donkeys. Mohammad Ayub took over his shop from his father; it's been in the family for 50 years, he says. He sells biscuits, cigarettes, brake fluid, 50-kilogram sacks of rice from Kazakhstan, and locallygrown red onions - or he would if he had any customers.

Living on credit

Even people who have jobs are not paid regularly, he says. So he gives them what they need on credit - which means he has to shop on credit too. "No one has any money," he says. "Everyone here owes everyone else. Sometimes I'll accept produce, like sheep, rice, flour, tea, sugar, whatever people have." Fatima

Roshan is conducting a basic necessities survey in 18 of the 42 villages in the Wakhan corridor for the World Conservation Society. She's been into the homes of people who never eat meat, don't know what clean water is and go months without washing. Many men in the corridor marry, she says, "three, four, five times, one woman after another because their wives die in childbirth." For their part, the women fear pregnancy, thinking they will die during or after giving birth.

While the level of poverty here is breathtaking, things have improved in recent years. Foreign governments and organizations have funded bridges, irrigation channels, reforestation projects, schools and a clinic. The list of donors only emphasizes the Wakhan's almost complete reliance on the largesse of the outside world. For lack of any other opportunities, many young Wakhi men join the armed forces, according to Shah Ismail, whose ancestors have represented the Aga Khan for hundreds of years. "The people here feel ignored, isolated and hopeless," he says. "There are no human rights, equality or justice for the people of the Wakhan."

The local authorities are trying to change things. Two years ago, the Kabul government named the Wakhan a national park. According to district governor Nasratullah Nayel, many locals were concerned the declaration meant their land would be taken away. So this month officials are travelling through the valley to convince people that the national park will attract tourists and create jobs. Nayel concedes that with only 100 tourists a year, it will be a long time before any economic benefits start to flow.—AP

NO TEARS FOR MAO: 1976 DEATH AN IMPERIAL FALL

BEIJING: The death of Communist China's founding father Mao Zedong 40 years ago this week was akin to the demise of an emperor and helped pave the way for the modern nation, says one of the few Westerners in Beijing at the time. Ragnar Baldursson, a young Marxist from Iceland, was a student in Beijing in September 1976 when, after a year of upheavals, authorities announced the unthinkable-Mao was dead.

The end of Mao's rule-which saw the death of tens of millions from persecution or starvation-opened the way for massive economic reforms that would lift vast numbers out of poverty and end decades of isolation. "China today is a product of that period," Baldursson, today a diplomat at the Icelandic embassy in Beijing, told AFP. In 1975 he was one of the first handful of western students admitted to study in China since the Cultural Revolution began roiling the country nine years previously. He entered the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute to study philosophy at a time when portraits of the Great Helmsman were ubiquitous and Maoist slogans blared from loudspeakers every morning to wake students.

He himself fell asleep "dreaming of Mao", said Baldursson, who published a memoir, "Nineteen Seventy Six", earlier this year. He was the youngest member of the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Iceland, and came to the People's Republic on a Chinese government scholarship. Young

radicals at the time "thought that Mao's China could be the solution" to Europe's social problems, he said, but for him, Maoism "was more an intellectual exercise". Once in China he quickly became frustrated that professors stubbornly avoided political topics.

A foreign contemporary of his at the school, Peter Peverelli of the Netherlands, told AFP the institution echoed with "many political slogans" that foreigners struggled to understand, and whose political significance was unclear. Peverelli spent a week in a people's commune in the countryside and Baldursson was invited to visit a model factory. The workers, he recalled, professed fierce nationalism but the tools that were supposedly "made in China" bore Western brand names. Nowadays urban China is unrecognisable from that era-its teeming, towering cities transformed by the capitalism introduced under Deng Xiaoping in the decades following Mao.

'Year of the fire dragon'

In the Chinese calendar 1976 was the "Year of the Fire Dragon", and the traditional designation heralded an era of political upheavals. One million Chinese-joined by Peverelli-gathered in Tiananmen Square in April to pay tribute to late premier Zhou Enlai after his death earlier in the year, and to denounce Mao's circle in biting poems.

It brought the infighting between reformers and the "Gang of Four" led by Mao's wife to a head. The giant plaza was violently cleared on April 5, and Peverelli recalled that universities soon saw an outbreak of slogans attacking "capitalist" Deng Xiaoping. In September, after a summer marked by the massive Tangshan earthquake-whose shockwaves shook Beijing buildings-students were stunned by the solemn announcement that Mao had died on September 9.

"It was difficult to conceive of a China without Chairman Mao. People looked grim but I didn't see anyone crying, unlike after the death of Premier Zhou," wrote Baldursson in his book. "Instead everyone was quiet. We were in shock: Mao's omnipresence was an inalienable part of New China." An order to make wreaths led to the stripping of every branch on a cypress hedge on campus. Foreign students then went to pay their respects before Mao's remains. "His face did not look good. It was bloated and the color of his skin looked off," Baldursson recalled.

A month later, Hua Guofeng had the Gang of Four arrested and took power. Baldursson was in Tiananmen Square to see the new party chief hailed by crowds at the entrance of the Forbidden City. "Standing in the midst of the crowd, I had a revelation: I was witnessing a crucial moment of China's history-a dynastical shift," he wrote. "A new emperor was being enthroned," he said. The surrounding jargon was Marxist, but "the scenario didn't fit the Marxism-Leninism that I had studied".—AFP

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SCRI recently launched Sarah Cannon Research UK, a cancer drug development program in the United Kingdom that provides access to Phase I clinical trials for patients.

INDONESIAN OFFICIAL WANTS PHILIPPINE-STYLE DRUG WAR

implementing a bloody crackdown on traffickers like the war on crime in the Philippines that has left almost 3,000 dead. Budi Waseso, the tough-talking anti-drugs czar who once proposed holding death row traffickers on a prison island guarded by crocodiles, said he believed such a campaign would safeguard "our beloved country". Indonesia says it is fighting a war against rising narcotics use. It has stepped up executions of convicted drug traffickers, including foreigners, triggering international outrage.

Meanwhile President Rodrigo Duterte of the neighboring Philippines has sparked controversy by overseeing the large-scale killing of drug traffickers since winning election in May. Duterte is due to visit Jakarta later this week for talks with President Joko Widodo after an Asian summit and the leaders are expected to discuss their respective anti-narcotics campaigns. Ahead of the visit, Waseso suggested

JAKARTA: Indonesia's anti-drugs chief has supported implementing a bloody crackdown on traffickers like the war on crime in the Philippines that has left almost their resources to fight the drug trade.

"If such a policy were implemented in Indonesia, we believe that the number of drug traffickers and users in our beloved country would drop drastically," the anti-drugs agency head said earlier this week. "I would be on the frontline to eradicate all the traffickers." In later comments, he said the agency had a major plan to hire more personnel and procure more weapons to better crack down on the drug trade. Agency spokesman Slamet Pribadi sought Wednesday to play down the comments, saying a Philippines-style policy would only be followed "if our law makes it possible", adding: "We can't shoot criminals just like that, we have to follow the rules." But he acknowledged that Waseso was "strict" and had told staff members that "we should not keep our guns in a safe, we must use them-but only for law enforcement". —AFP

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A woman walks between fields as the sun rises in the outskirts of Frankfurt yesterday. — AP

MOBILE WARS AS INDIAN TYCOON PLEDGES...

Continued from Page 1

Amit Biswas, an Indian navy officer in Mumbai. "Mobile connectivity in some parts of the country is really bad." With his \$20 billion investment in mobile, Ambani is betting on a fast-evolving Internet landscape in a country where nearly a billion people are still not online. Public Wi-Fi is scarce and broadband access is weak, with many rural areas lacking the infrastructure to deliver high speeds. Most of the hundreds of millions of Indians coming online over the next decade will start with smartphones, something being avidly targeted by tech giants Google and Facebook.

Ambani hopes to win over those who have never had an Internet connection and for whom mobile data was previously unthinkably expensive, with a high-speed 4G covering 90 percent of India by March 2017. "This is going to change the dynamics of the game," said Bhasker Canagaradjou, head of research at Ipsos Business Consulting in Mumbai, adding that data use was already growing at an "exorbitant" rate.

Under the Reliance plans, a gigabyte of data costs as little as a tenth of the previous 250 rupees (\$3.70). He expects com-

petitors to slash their prices by 30-40 percent. Combined with ever-cheaper smartphones, the new 4G network will swell the number of Internet users and prompt those already using data, millions of them on sluggish 2G networks, to upgrade. "Indians are cost-sensitive. Even though they may have money, if they find something cost effective they will go and try it, it is in the DNA," Amresh Nandan, research director at consulting firm Gartner in New Delhi told AFP.

Competition hit full stride on Monday in the form of warring front-page newspaper advertisements by the main rivals - with Reliance controversially using an image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote its offering. The newcomer seeks to upend a market at present two-thirds dominated by three players - Airtel, Idea and Vodafone - saying it aims to secure 100 million customers in the shortest possible time.

As the battle heats up, with mobile providers eschewing profitability to gain a foothold, analysts say smaller providers such as Tata Docomo or Aircel may be forced to merge or go under. "Jio will make a major dent and lure away consumers in the near future," said Nikhil Pahwa, founder of Medianama, a digital media news site."

MOI GRANTS TAXIS 1-MONTH PERIOD TO ADJUST...

Continued from Page 1

They have to import some machines as this is the first time to adjust the meters since they were first launched in Kuwait in 2002. They haven't even set the charges for this adjustment," he told Kuwait Times.

Only three companies in Kuwait are authorized by the interior ministry to adjust the meters of both roaming and call taxis. Hossam, an employee at Al Hada, one of these companies, noted that this process needs time. "In order to adjust the meters to the new fee, we need to import machines to do the programming. We also need to employ skilled technicians to operate these machines," he noted. "These new machines are expensive, in

addition to the shipping and manpower costs, so we have to charge the taxi companies accordingly. I'm still not sure about the exact price that we will set for them, but I assume it may be between KD 10-15. We will be doing this for both the roaming and call taxis," added Hossam.

Hossam also claimed a person in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh is installing meters and programming them, although he is not authorized to do so. "Our meters are imported from Austria, and are the same at all authorized companies, but this person brings used meters from Saudi Arabia and changes the currency to dinar. His work is illegal, and customers won't notice the difference in meters, unless they demand the card of the meter, which will show it's not the one authorized by the ministry."

New iPhone 7 has no headphone Jack

Continued from Page 1

He noted that the change reduces the components required in the iPhone 7.

However, on the water- and dust-resistant features, Apple is playing catch-up: Major rival Samsung Electronics has highlighted the waterproof features of its Galaxy S7 Android-based smartphones, which can sustain being submerged for up to 30 minutes in five feet of water. The iPhone 7 and larger-size iPhone 7 Plus will begin shipping Sept 16, according to Apple. The new models also have a 12-megapixel rear camera, which includes an optical image stabilizer, improvements for low-light photography, and the ability to capture a wider range of colors, among other features.

The iPhone 7 Plus features a dual-lens camera system (a wide-angle and one telephoto lens) designed to improve zoom capabilities and capture 3D-like images. Apple says the Retina displays for the new phones are 25 percent brighter than those in the iPhone 6s, and the iPhone 7 includes for the first time stereo speakers.

Apple is banking on the iPhone refresh - which has become an annual traditional - to boost sales of the flagship device line. Unit sales of iPhones declined 15 percent year-over-year during the quarter ended June 30, following a falloff in the prior quarter. Apple, the world's biggest tech conglomerate, posted iPhone sales of \$24.0 billion in the most recent quarter, representing 57 percent of total revenue. Still, it's not clear that the iPhone 7 enhancements will spur Apple's hoped-for upgrade rush among current iPhone users, who may be growing less inclined

to toss out their existing devices on a yearly cycle.

Apple's removal of the iPhone headphone jack had been widely anticipated, as was the dual-lens camera.

Reports prior to the launch also said Apple would increase storage for the iPhone, with the entry-level model includ-

ing 32 gigabytes of memory (up from 16 GB previously) along with a new 256-gigabyte version.

Apple also unveiled the Apple Watch Series 2, which is waterproof to be able to withstand submersion to a depth of 50 m and includes built-in GPS to provide location-based services. The new smartwatch lineup includes Apple Watch Nike+ model, a companion device for runners that tracks workouts. The Apple Watch Series 2 will be priced starting at \$369 (as will the Nike+ model). The original Apple Watch, now called Series 1, will start at \$269. According to CEO Tim Cook, Apple Watch was second in revenue in 2015 only to Rolex in the worldwide watch market. (The company did not reveal actual sales figures.)

An app for Niantic's "Pokemon Go" mobile game will be available for Apple Watch. Niantic CEO John Hanke said the game, released in July, has been downloaded 500 million times to date. Nintendo plans to launch its first mobile game based on its Super Mario Bros franchise, initially exclusively on Apple iOS. The "Super Mario Run" game will be available later in 2016 in time for the holidays, according to execs.

In a video at the outset of the event, Cook rode in a car with James Corden in a "Carpool Karaoke" setup, along with the singer Pharrell Williams. That gave Cook the opportunity to call out Apple's deal with CBS to debut episodes of "Carpool Karaoke" on Apple Music in 2017. Cook also noted that Apple Music now has more than 17 million subscribers, which he said was boosted by exclusive music deals with artists.

The excitement at the Bill Graham auditorium in San Francisco was not matched on Wall Street, where Apple's stock was down 0.3 percent. However, Nintendo Co Ltd's US-listed shares, jumped more than 20 percent to trade around \$35 on hopes its games would reach a new audience. — Reuters



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Issues

PROSTITUTION IS THE **'EASIEST WAY OUT'** FOR ZAMBIA FARMERS

By Whitney Mulobela

epeated failed crops caused by worsening drought have forced Christine Mwenda, a smallscale farmer in Zambia's central Mumbwa region, to do what was previously unthinkable. Since 2014, the 37-year-old has been selling sex in Zambia's capital Lusaka. The pay is better than growing maize, she said, and gives her a proper chance to feed her four children. "On average I make close to 500 kwacha (\$5) on a good day," said Mwenda, who agreed to be interviewed on condition that her real name was not

"This is the kind of money I could only make (once) in a year from farming," she said, explaining that once the cost of fertilizer, labor, transport and seeds was deducted, she was left with very little money from her harvest. Like millions of Zambians, Mwenda has been struggling with soaring food bills and power shortages caused by prolonged drought exacerbated this year by El Nino, a warming of the Pacific Ocean's surface leading to hot, dry conditions.

That weather phenomenon ended earlier this year, but drought persists across much of southern Africa. For many small-scale and subsistence farmers in the landlocked southern African country, longer spells of drought and increasingly erratic rains are becoming far more frequent. The changing climate, combined with costly fertiliser and seeds, means agriculture is becoming less attractive for many. "These days when you grow maize you are not sure about the yield. Most of the time you find that the crops end up drying and you only harvest just enough to eat as a family," Mwenda told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Meanwhile we need to send our children to school."

HIV Risk

About 54 percent of Zambia's 16 million people were living in poverty in 2015 - most of them women, according to Central Statistical Office data released in April. Much of Zambia's extreme poverty is concentrated in rural areas. According to a 2014 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, extreme poverty is estimated to be four times higher in rural areas than urban centers. The situation in the copperproducing country has not been helped by a drop in the kwacha against the dollar since April, as a result of depressed global commodity prices.

The hardships have caused more and more people to migrate from rural parts to cities such as Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingstone and Chipata. Others have moved to border towns. Lucy Bwalya, an academic at Cavendish University in Lusaka, said many women turn up in cities hoping to become traders, hawking clothes or groceries. However, a rising number turn to prostitution instead - risking arrest, violence and sexually transmitted diseases.

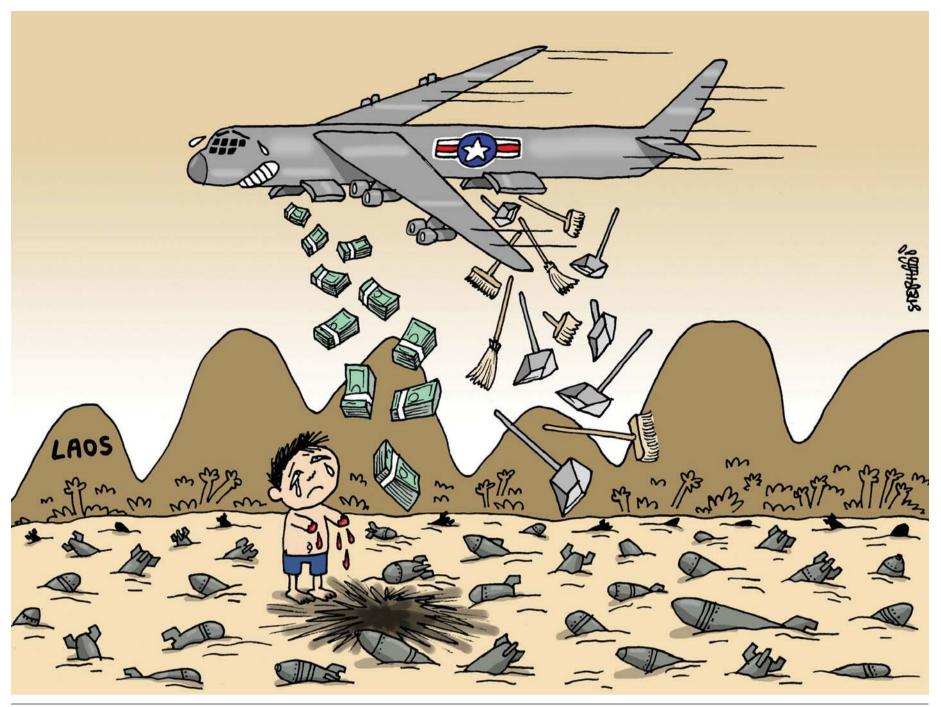
"Prostitution is the easiest way out and these women end up risking diseases such as HIV and AIDS," said Bwalya, a former programs manager for Tasintha, a charity working with sex workers. According to the 2013/2014 demographic and health survey, the HIV prevalence rate among Zambians aged between 15 and 49 was 13 percent, compared to 16 percent in 2001/2002.

Climate-Resistant Crops

To encourage more women to stay on their farms, Zambian charity Enviro Green has been teaching them to grow climate resistant crops such as sorghum, which require less water than the traditional staple, maize. "We are generally concerned with this ruralurban migration of people, especially women who are ending up in sex work," said Enviro Green executive director, Martha Simukonde. The women farmers are also taught farming techniques to conserve soil and water to minimize erosion and water runoff. "We always teach them to plant their crops early so that with the early rains they can germinate. Even when the rains go, the crops once planted early have a chance to grow," Simukonde said.

For some women, however, these efforts come too late. Women in Law and Development in Southern Africa (WILDAF), a women's rights advocacy group, said the government should do more to address rural-urban migration. "There is need for the government to seriously put in place policies that will reverse this trend where women are coming to urban areas to engage in sex work, which is exposing these women to HIV and AIDS," said WILDAF programs officer Charles Sibeene. —Reuters

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Thailand missing piece in Obama pivot

By Andrew Beatty

S President Barack Obama attends a farewell dinner with Southeast Asian leaders yesterday, capping eight years of careful courtship that has created new friends, but left links frayed with America's oldest regional ally -Thailand. When Obama looks around the gala dinner table in Vientiane, he will find a bevy of new partners. His engagement with former Communist foes in Vietnam and now Laos is slowly easing the bloody burden of history, in much the same way as his opening to Cuba. More striking still will be the presence of Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who spent much of the last three decades held prisoner by a brutal military junta.

Obama's engagement with Myanmar - a country he has twice visited - has buttressed a political transformation, helping convince the generals to share power with Suu Kyi's democratically elected government. "Just sitting back and criticizing countries has a limit in terms of what it can achieve," said Ben Rhodes, an Obama aide who has worked closely on the US' policy to Myanmar. Where George W Bush routinely skipped meetings with Southeast Asian heads of state, Obama - perhaps unsurprisingly for someone who spent a chunk of his childhood in Indonesia - has been a regular

Bouquets and Brickbats

But the trips have not all been plain sailing, as Obama was reminded this week when he was labelled a "son of a whore" by firebrand Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte. Yet experts say it is Thailand that represents the starkest failure to leverage US diplomatic power in the region. Two military coups in quick succession have ous when told a mid-level State

damaged relations with Bangkok, a treaty ally and regional powerhouse whose relations with Washington date back more than 180 years.

The US has not been able to prod the generals into restoring elections or easing controls on dissent. Notoriously prickly junta leader, Prayut Chan-O-Cha, has also frequently bristled at US criticism of the darkening human rights environment in his country. Even the smallest diplomatic slight, perceived or imagined,

Department official had publicly berated his government's human rights record. A Thai official told AFP that public opinion in his country could ultimately swing against the United States. For their part, US officials point out that Thailand's latest coup left Washington with little room to manoeuvre. "We did the bare minimum we had to do under the law," said one former Obama official, referencing a near \$5 million cut in military aid immediately after the last coup in 2014.



US President Barack Obama drinks from a coconut as he makes a surprise stop for a drink alongside the Mekong River in Luang Prabang yesterday. —AFP

has the ability to sour relations further. When Prime Minister Prayut talked to Obama on the margins of the US-ASEAN summit in Sunnylands, California, this year, US and Thai sources said the junta leader felt bridges were being rebuilt following the coup.

But on landing in Bangkok he was furi-

But the US has not scrapped wider military cooperation, including annual war games held by the kingdom. Still, some American officials worry that Thailand is being pushed too far towards its powerhouse neighbor China. That could be particularly damaging given the context of a "once in a century reordering of political and economic power in Thailand," driven by a looming royal succession, according to Ernest Bower, a Southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

With army power entrenched by a new constitution, the military are set to be a key player in the new political order. The Thai military used to be "partnered almost exclusively with the United States and that is changing," said Des Walton, a former defense attache in Bangkok. "They are expanding relations notably with China and Russia," he said. "At face value I don't see how that is consistent with US interests.

Too Late for Obama

Thailand remains strategically pivotal to US regional interests. "If you go from Korea all the way down to Thailand there is a huge swath which is basically all China, where the United States doesn't have access to mainland Asia. Thailand is it," he added. But fears Thai public opinion could swing against the United States, may be premature. While royalist conservatives hiss at any US condemnation of the junta, wider trade, education and diplomacy links remain strong.

Beijing does not criticize the junta, but it has so far failed to deliver on several gilded promises of support for major infrastructure projects. Some in Washington believe that provides an opportunity for rapprochement. But it may be too late for Obama. "I think only presidential intervention would make a difference and that is not going to happen with the Obama administration," said Bower. The White House says another pull-aside meeting with Prayut is unlikely to take place in Laos, even if they are in the same dining room together. —AFP

BRITAIN FACES LONG ROAD TO TRADE DEALS

By Kylie MacLellan

rime Minister Theresa May wants to make Britain a global leader in trade after Brexit, but former negotiators say the country faces a long slog despite warm words from some world leaders over forging new relationships. With other countries reluctant to get involved in detailed discussions until Britain's future ties with the European Union are clear, and a lack of negotiators in London ready to begin talks, any firm deals could be years away. While the government says it can do the groundwork, Britain cannot formally sign trade agreements until it leaves the EU, and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said EU member states should not even negotiate deals while still part of the bloc.

"Nobody with any sense from China, the US, Brazil or wherever is going to engage with the UK other than a friendly drink in the bar until the UK has a regime with the EU," retired British trade negotiator Roderick Abbott told Reuters. "That gives them the yardstick against which you negotiate," said Abbott, who during his more than 40-year career worked on trade for the British government, the European Commission and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

May and her team strike an optimistic tone, highlighting nations which have said they are keen to do deals. But behind the scenes, countries are pragmatic. A senior diplomat from a developed country with which Britain has suggested negotiating a deal said the EU was a more important partner, so any deal with Britain would depend on how it affected his country's trade with the EU. "They want to talk to us. We're always happy to talk trade. But frankly there isn't much we can seriously talk about in detail, which is really what trade deals are all about, until we know what their relationship will be with the EU," he said, on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject.

Japan has expressed concern over uncertainty surrounding Britain's future EU relationship, including its access to the bloc's single market, while US President Barack Obama quashed the prospect of a fast-track deal. Australia said on Tuesday that it would focus on pursuing a free trade agreement with the EU while it waited for Britain to be able to negotiate formally.

Pressure for Deals

According to government figures, Britain's total trade exports for June were worth £24.9 billion (\$33.3 billion), with the US its biggest export market by value. The government has said 3 million British jobs are linked to trade with the EU, while the EU estimates a further 3.9 million in Britain are supported by EU exports to the rest of the world. May has promised to deliver Brexit after 52 percent of Britons backed leaving the EU at a June 23 referendum. But she has also said she will not trigger Article 50, beginning the formal two-year divorce process, this year in order to allow the government time to prepare.

While Article 50 refers to "taking account" of the departing country's future relationship with the EU, many say detailed talks will have to wait until Britain has left, meaning it could be 2019 before substantial trade negotiations begin. "It is after Brexit that the UK ... would formally negotiate with the EU new arrangements on its relationship, such as trade, participation in the single market, and movement of labour," Jean-Claude Piris, former head of the legal service of the Council of the European Union, wrote in the Financial Times.

Britain's Brexit minister, David Davis, said on Monday it was nonsense to say that the negotiations could not run in parallel. With a British election due in 2020, May could feel under pressure to get deals done. At her first international summit this week, she said Australia, India, Mexico, Singapore, China and South Korea had all welcomed talks about post-Brexit trade. For now, the work of Britain's new Department for International Trade will likely be largely focused on diplomacy and, crucially, amassing a team of experts after decades of relying on the EU to negotiate its trade deals.

Before the department was created, then business minister Sajid Javid said he wanted to have 300 experts in place this year, up from around 40. A spokeswoman for the trade department said it would not give a running commentary on recruitment. Negotiators say there are usually teams of 20-25 in the room for talks and many more involved in support and preparation. Deals, involving detail on thousands of goods, take years to agree and Britain will want to pursue several simultaneously. "We are going to be very short of capacity," said Alan Winters,

director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory at the University of Sussex in southern England.

Intensive Training

Options include hiring experts from law firms, banks or consultancies, something which is likely to prove expensive. Then there are the Britons who work in the EU's trade directorate, although according to the European Commission website only 32 of the directorate's 596 staff are British. The government has also talked of using foreign negotiators, and Commonwealth allies such as Australia have offered to loan experts. But Britain has also been clear negotiators would not be involved in talks with their own home nations.

"Are we going to see cohorts of Australians, Canadians, Japanese walking in to Whitehall to carry on our international trade negotiations for us? Of course we're not," former UK government trade negotiator Michael Johnson told Reuters. "With the prospects so uncertain I don't see many other administrations being prepared to second people. So we'd better train up, you'd better have some pretty intensive crash training programs for indigenous Britons."

Keen to secure its first post-Brexit trade deal, Britain will be negotiating from a position of relative weakness, say trade experts. "Certainly the UK is going to need a free trade deal more than the other side because the UK market isn't going to be as attractive as the EU one used to be," said former negotiator Abbott. One of its biggest challenges will be incorporating substantial agreement on services - around 80 percent of Britain's economy - as trade deals tend to be more focussed on goods.

The EU's recently concluded deal with Canada only included limited provision for services and maintains some restrictions over financial services access, a crucial area for Britain. "Services is just technically more complicated ... just very, very difficult to work out what the value is, how much is it worth that you change your regulation a bit?," said Winters, adding that regulators would likely need to be involved in talks. "It is going to be a major issue for Britain. These are frictions, they are not always complete barriers ... they just become a matter of extra cost, but in a competitive world even a bit of extra cost is a big problem." —Reuters

MICHEL PLATINI TO ATTEND UEFA CONGRESS IN ATHENS

PARIS: Disgraced former UEFA president Michel Platini will attend the UEFA Congress in Athens next week at the invitation of the European football's governing body, but paying his own way for a final farewell. Platini "will travel there by his own means and will not give a press conference" at the Congress, when the UEFA execu-tive committee will vote on his successor, a member of his entourage told AFP. The former French international, a three-time European footballer

of the year, is the key figure in the scandal that brought down FIFA president Sepp Blatter. Platini was on the receiving end of the suspect 2 million Swiss franc (\$2 million, 1.8 million euros) payment that Blatter authorised in 2011. FIFA has said the payment amounted to an ethics violation and has suspended both men for six years. Blatter and Platini insist it was a legitimate pay-ment for an unpaid balance that FIFA owed the UEFA boss for consulting work done a decade earlier. Platini lost his CAS appeal against his own FIFA ban earlier this year, but the court cut his suspension to four years. In Athens, the 55 UEFA member federations will vote between two candidates to succeed Platini: Aleksander Ceferin of enia and Dutchman Michael van Praag.



RIO DE JANEIRO: Olympic Committee of Ireland president, Patrick Hickey arrives at a police station to be questioned over alleged Olympic ticket touting, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Tuesday. —AFP

IOC WILL COOPERATE WITH BRAZIL OLYMPIC TICKET PROBE

Committee promised to cooperate yesterday with Brazilian authorities in the ticket scalping investigation that has targeted one of its executive board members.

The statement came as IOC President Thomas Bach missed the opening of the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, where police wanted to interview him about the case. Patrick Hickey, president of Ireland's national Olympic committee, was among 10 people charged by Brazilian prosecutors on Tuesday with ticket scalping, conspiracy and ambush marketing in a case that broke during last month's Rio Games. Police investigator Aloysio Falcao said

authorities want to speak with Bach about email exchanges between him and Hickey related to ticket allocations to Ireland. Falcao said police had planned to "sum-

mon" Bach when he came to Rio for Wednesday's opening ceremony of the Paralympics, adding that authorities have no evidence that he knew of the alleged ticket scam.

Bach canceled plans to attend the open-ing. The IOC said he would be in Germany instead for the official state mourning ceremony for former West German President Walter Scheel, who died last month at the age of 97.

It's the first time an IOC president has missed the opening of a Paralympics since they were held in conjunction with the Summer Olympics in 1988. The Brazilian newspaper Globo said Bach would be sub-

poenaed as a witness if he came to Brazil.

"The IOC cannot comment on a newspaper story nor on the ongoing legal procedure against Hickey for whom the pre-sumption of innocence prevails," the IOC said in a statement to The Associated Press. "For the IOC it goes without saving that it will cooperate on this matter."

It's unclear if Bach will go to Brazil for any of the Paralympics, which last until Sept 18. Hickey went to police headquarters in Rio on Tuesday, but declined to answer additional questions.

"We found enough evidence linking Hickey to this plot to sell tickets by a company that was not authorized," prosecutor Marcos Kac told The Associated Press These are tickets that were sold for up to \$8,000."

The 71-year-old Hickey was arrested on Aug 17 during the Olympics in a dawn raid on his Rio hotel room. After a twoday stay in a local hospital to undergo tests, he was held in a high-security prison complex.

Hickey was freed last week when a judge ruled that he wasn't a risk to the public or the investigation. His passport was confiscated, and he must remain in

Brazil until the case is concluded.
Hickey has temporality "stepped aside"
from all his Olympic roles - IOC member, IOC executive board representative Olympic Council of Ireland president, head of the European Olympic Committees and vice president of the Association of National Olympic Committees.

Police have said that Hickey plotted with businessmen to transfer tickets illegally from a sports company called Pro 10 to hospitality provider THG Sports, which was a non-authorized vendor and allegedly sold them for very high fees. Police investigators said the scheme was

planned to bring in S3 million.

The head of THG Sports, Kevin James Mallon, was arrested on Aug. 5 in the case, but was set free, like Hickey. He faces the same charges and must remain in Brazil.

The eight other suspects are business-

The eight other suspects are businessmen with Pro10 and THG Sports who are not in Brazil, including Marcus Evans, who owns THG Sports' parent company, as well as English soccer club Ipswich.

Investigators have also found evidence linking 35 other National Olympic Committees to the Marcus Evans group. Rio police will communicate this to other overnments but are not expanding their wn investigation.—AP

FIFA HEAD TO DELAY-HIT World Cup 2018 stadium

MOSCOW: FIFA yesterday said work on Moscow's flagship Luzhniki stadium for the 2018 World Cup appeared to be on course, ahead of a visit to the delay-hit arena in Saint Petersburg. "We're very pleased with the progress here in Luzhniki," the major stadium for the World Cup," Colin Smith, the FIFA chief competitions and events officer, said after checking up on construction. "Of course there's still a lot of work to be done but it's on track and on scedule. While all seemed on track in Moscow-which will host the opening and final games of the tournament-there are serious concerns over the crisis-hit construction of the stadium in Saint Petersburg. Contract disputes have seen work halted at the arena in Russia's former imperial capital-which is due to host a semi-final and the third place match in 2018 — amid doubts that it will be completed in time for the Confedertions Cup next year. Smith insisted that there have been some "positive signs" of progress in Saint Petersburg after a new contractor was brought in to oversee construction. "We will go through all the details in Saint Petersburg and see it for ourselves," he said ahead of the FIFA delega-tion's visit to the city on Saturday. —AFP

PALACE INTERESTED in signing Flamini

LONDON: Crystal Palace are looking to sign former Arsenal midfielder Mathieu Flamini with the club's manager Alan Pardew saying the Frenchman's experience would benefit his squad. The 32-year-old has been without a team since leaving Arsenal at the end of last season but is having a medical at Premier League Palace, according to British media reports. "Yes, there is scope to bring one more into the squad - I did that on purpose as I thought there might be a player we can take who is not under contract, who might just fit what we're doing," Pardew told local media.

"Mathieu is a player I am looking at, yes. He would give us a bit more experience to winning games." Flamini made over 200 appearances in two spells with the Gunners and won the Serie A title with AC Milan in 2011. "I like the fact whenever he played, he played in the big, big games at Arsenal when they ne someone to kind of lead the team over the line and get big results," Pardew added. "His age, 32, in my mind I signed Teddy Sheringham when he was 38, so the age isn't a problem for me. I think his experience is something I am looking at, yes." Palace, who have one point from their opening three league games this season, visit Middlesbrough on Saturday. —Reuters



LAHORE: Pakistani Christian female powerlifter Twinkle poses as she displays her medals at her residence in Lahore.





she tells AFP in her modest Lahore apartment, tucked LAHORE: Twinkle lifts weights at a gym in Lahore. —AFP

against them in patriarchal Pakistan-and, unlike many of Pakistan's other athletes currently in the

"A gold medal is not a usual or ordinary thing," weightlifter Shetal Asif, another Christian woman

aspiring to compete internationally, says.
"They have performed really well," she tells AFP,
describing how her sister and cousins have also been inspired to take up weightlifting after Twinkle the pair have not yet set the entire Christian community alight, Shetal admits. "But those who know are inspired," she adds.

"The rise of Twinkle and Sonia has renewed hopes of young Christian athletes and will encourage more

oungsters to win laurels for the country and respect for themselves," says Shamaun Alfred Gill, a Christian activist. Hira Arshad, who attends the same college as Twinkle, says her achievements are inspiring not just Christians, but women as well. — AFP

LAHORE: Twinkle Sohail and Sonia Azmat have the

weight of the Pakistani Christian world on their shoul-ders, but if anyone can bear the hopes of such a perse-cuted minority, it is these teenage champion powerlifters. Last year Twinkle became the first Pakistani woman to represent her country in powerlifting, tak-ing a gold medal in the 57-kilogramme junior event at the Asian Bench Press Championship in her first attempt.

The next day, her teammate Sonia took a second gold medal for Pakistan in the 63-kilogramme category, earning her place in the history books alongside Twinkle. The achievements of the two young Christian women represent a rare bright spot for a minority who frequently find themselves the targets of extremist attacks-such as the one carried out in Lahore last Easter that killed 72 people, many of them children.

Christians also routinely fall victim to the country's controversial blasphemy laws, which carry the death penalty in the conservative Muslim country, and many are stuck in menial jobs such as sanitation or domestic work. But Twinkle and Sonia, both 19, are proving an inspiration after their triumph in Muscat last year-boosted by a third gold medal from their Muslim teanmate, Shazia Kanwal, to see the Pakistanis out-class athletes from 12 countries. Pakistan, where cricket is the dominant pastime, is taking the rare opportu-nity to seek success in other sports, funding the women's' return to the Asian championships in Tashkent in October.

With luck they will go further: to the World Powerlifting Championships next year in Florida, in th US. It will be a long way from the tiny homes on nar-row, congested streets in the impoverished Christian areas of Lahore where Twinkle and Sonia were both

1 WANTED TO BE LIKE THEM

Twinkle began her career as a cyclist, but was spot-ted by weightlifting coaches while exercising in the gym and advised to take up powerlifting.

This is a branch of weightlifting using the squat, bench press, and deadlift techniques but without any moves lifting the weight vertically overhead. Along with Sonia, Twinkle was taken on by coach

Rashid Malik, a 2012 London Olympics official and himself an Asian medallist. "These two were best," Malik told AFP while super-

vising his stars training at a shabby gymnasium in Lahore, abruptly plunged into darkness during anoth-er of the periodic power outages that afflict the country. To reach the top, Twinkle says she and her team mate had to work harder than their Muslim counterparts. "Whether it is at school or for sports, only by putting in twice the work can we ensure ourselves a better place than the majority Muslims," she says.

Sonia, whose father abandoned her family and whose mother worked several jobs to support her children, tells of female athletes going to work out at the Railway Stadium in Lahore.

She would watch daily, she says, as she prepared to go to work at her job in a factory. "I wished to go with them, wear joggers like them and do what they do," over a flight of narrow, dark stairs

LIGHTING THE WAY

Now she and Twinkle have themselves become inspirations. They are not the first Pakistani Christians to scale new sporting heights, with previous trailblazers in cricket, hockey and athletics-including former Pakistan cricket captain Yousaf Youhana, though he

But they are young, they are women-still a factor and Sonia's success. A lack of media attention means

Frank wins Vuelta 17th stage as Quintana stays in lead

LLUCENA: Switzerland's Mathias Frank conquered a gruelling summit finish to win yesterday's 17th stage of the Vuelta a Espana as overall leader Nairo Quintana remained comfortably ahead of Chris

escapees who burst free of the peloton early into the 177.5-kilometre stage from Castellon, with the IAM Cycling rider pulling clear on the Alto Mas de la Costa to finish in 4hr 34min 38sec.

Team Sky's Leopold Konig was second, six seconds behind the Swiss, while Dutchman Robert Gesink of Lotto came third, "I'm super happy, I've been really close to this victory several times," Frank, who had finished in the top 10 on three previous stages of this year's race, told Spanish TV channel Teledeporte. "This sea son not much has worked for me. I came to this Vuelta to have fun and at last I picked up my first win in two years. To win a stage of a Grand Tour is a great feeling."

Colombian Quintana stayed 3:37 ahead of Tour de France champion Froome as the top four in the general classification which includes Esteban Chaves and Alberto Contador, all crossed the line together over three minutes behind the

Frank, who finished a creditable eighth at last year's Tour de France, found himself in a breakaway of 28 riders as the pack was content to let them go with the lead group posing no threat to the red jersey contenders. The 29-year-old teamed up with Astana's Dario Cataldo to distance their fellow escapees in the run up to the concluding category one climb, the first time it had featured on the Vuelta route.

With sections of the ascent topping out at over 20% gradient, Frank then dropped the Italian and soloed his way to the finish, while Contador launched an attack of his own to try and make up time on his GC rivals

But Quintana and Froome, as well as Chaves, responded to the three-time former Vuelta winner's advances and reeled the Spaniard back in as the quartet finished 3:27 down on Frank.

Today's stage, which has just the one ategory two climb, is a relatively flat 200.6km trek from Reguena to the coastal town of Gandia, south of Valencia.

Froome's fading hopes of overhauling Quintana rest largely on his performance in Friday's 37km time trial, with a final summit finish to come on Saturday ahead of Sunday's procession into Madrid. —AFP



Tinkoffis Spanish cyclist Alberto Contador (center), Movistar's Colombian cyclist Nairo Quintana (left) and Sky's British cyclist Christopher Froome cross the finish line of the 17th stage of the 71st edition of 'La Vuelta' Tour of Spain, a 173.3 km route from Castellon to Llucena, yesterday. — AFP

ECCLESTONE: NEW F1 OWNERS WOULD WANT HIM TO STAY

LONDON: Formula One's commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone has been asked to stay on for three years after an imminent takeover of the sport is completed by US cable TV mogul John Malone's Liberty Media.

"They want me to be here for three years," the 85-year-old, who over the decades has built the sport into a business with annual turnover of around \$1.9 billion, told Reuters yesterday. Media reports have suggested the first part of a broader deal between outgoing rights holders CVC and Liberty Media could be announced yesterday.

However Ecclestone and CVC chairman Donald Mackenzie voiced some scepticism about the time frame at last weekend's Italian Grand Prix. "Honestly, I don't think anybody knows-including our friends from Liberty, and Donald," said Ecclestone, who still expected the deal to get over the line.

The Briton said he would not be attending next week's Singapore Grand Prix, the social highlight of the sport's Asian calendar, because of the negotiations. "Because all this is going through, they (CVC) want me to be there (in London) to help them with all sorts of things. I can't afford to be away for five to six days."

TUESDAY MEETING

A Formula One board meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, by which time the deal should have been finalised and a new chairman introduced. Ecclestone expects that to be Chase Carey, executive vice-chairman of Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox and a director of Sky News owner Sky Plc, who would replace Austrian Peter Brabeck-

Brabeck, 71, has been chairman since 2012 but has recently recovered from

cancer and is due to step down as chairman of Nestle, the world's largest food and drink company, in 2017. Ecclestone, famously unwilling to delegate in the past, indicated he would be happy to share the workload.

"He (Carey) can do lots of things that I haven't done with this social media, which he seems to be in touch with. He's been dealing with sponsorship with his TV people. Between us we'll get on with

BIGGEST SHAKE-UP

Ecclestone's future had been called into question, with former team owner and television pundit Eddie Jordan saying on Sunday that Monza could even be the Briton's last race. "That's Eddie Jordan. If he had any money, and wanted a small wager, I'd give him good odds," said Ecclestone.

The takeover, which values Formula

One at more than \$8 billion according to media reports, would represent the biggest shake-up in the cash-rich sport for decades.

A deal with Liberty would also herald a new era for a European-dominated sport that has long sought to break into the US market and win fresh audiences, with team principals already welcoming the possibility of a bigger push.

Liberty Media has interests in the Atlanta Braves baseball team, satellite radio service Sirius XM, entertainment group Live Nation and minority interests in Time Warner and Viacom.

Malone's Liberty Global is the world's largest international TV and broadband company, operating in more than 30 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean through a series of different brand names.

One bump in the road ahead could be the need for the deal to be approved by the sport's governing International Automobile Federation (FIA) and other global motorsport series, and European anti-trust regula-

The FIA has a one percent stake in Formula One's parent company Delta Topco, which could be worth around \$90 million according to forbes.com, and that has been held up as a possible conflict of interest.

The privately-owned Force India and Sauber teams have also filed a complaint asking EU authorities to investigate the sport's governance and distribution of revenues. Ecclestone expected the European Commission to take a closer look at the sport as a result.

"It's like the police. You get stopped for a rear light and they want to know if you've got a driving licence and insurance. So I don't know what effect that will have," he said. —Reuters

GATLAND CONFIDENT HIS LIONS CAN BEAT WORLD CHAMPIONS

EDINBURGH: Warren Gatland believes his British and Irish Lions can trump their series win under him in 2013 and defeat world champions New Zealand in their three-Test series next year after being appointed head coach yesterday.

The 52-year-old Wales coachwho guided the Lions to a 2-1 series win over Australia in 2013 — faces a monumental task in overcoming his fellow New Zealanders as the Lions have won just one series in New Zealand, back in 1971.

However, Gatland, who was also part of the coaching set-up under Ian McGeechan in the Lions tour of South Africa seven years ago, said unlike most people he fancied the Lions chances of emulating John Dawes' 1971 vintage and beating the All Blacks.

"For the All Blacks a Lions series is the ultimate test, but I'm 100 percent confident that we can go and win in New Zealand," said Gatland, who had the misfortune to be a hooker when the legendary Sean Fitzpatrick was the undisputed number one choice for the All Blacks and as a result was never capped.

Gatland, who has a woeful record as Wales coach against the southern Hemisphere sides winning just two out of 33 Tests since he took the reins in 2008, will finalise his coaching team by the end of the year and he was positively purring at the thought of once again taking charge of the best talent from the four

"The chance to work with the best players from the four Home Nations is a coach's dream and we have some outstanding talent to select from," said Gatland, who has guided Wales to two Six Nations Grand Slams.

"Likewise, there are some outstanding coaches who could potentially be involved and we'll look to announce them in December.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how they and the players get on domestically, in Europe and interna-

approval from tour manager John Spencer, who will accompany the coach on a trip to New Zealand today.

"His international track record speaks for itself and he also understands the essence of the Lions and how to unite four nations in one purpose," said Spencer.



Warren Gatland

"Warren is acutely aware of the challenges we will face in New Zealand and we're confident he's the right man to lead us to a series victory." With the contracts of Ireland coach Joe Schmidt and England's Eddie Jones not allowing for secondment to the Lions, officials appeared to have opted for Gatland over Scotland's Vern Cotter without much hesitation.

Wales attacks coach Rob Howley will replace Gatland, as he has done in the past when the Kiwi has been unavailable, as Wales caretaker coach for the November Tests and the 2017 Six

Gatland, however, will be at the helm for the toughest assignment in the game with a three-Test series against the All Blacks the culmination of a 10-fixture tour that includes five games against Super Rugby opposition and a clash with the Maori.

Adding to his problems is a fixture pile-up domestically. 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. —AFP



Almaz Ayana

Ayana's stunning 10,000m record RANKED FIFTH-BEST PERFORMANCE

LONDON: Almaz Ayana will sign off her stellar 2016 season in Brussels tomorrow by trying to add the 5,000 metres world record to the incredible 10,000 mark she set at the Rio Olympic Games last month.

World 5,000m champion Ayana, among more than 40 Rio medallists competing in the final Diamond League meeting of the year, has every chance of eclipsing the record of 14 minutes 11.15 seconds set by fellow Ethiopian Tirunesh Dibaba in Oslo eight years ago.

Ayana came close to that mark when clocking 14:12.59 in Rome in June but moved into a new stratosphere with her extraordinary exploits in the 25-lap event

On the opening morning of the athletics programme, she produced an astounding run to clock 29:17.45 and take 14 seconds off the 23-year-old 10,000 metres record, set by China's Wang Junxia in

To give some context to that performance, no woman had broken 30 minutes in the previous seven years and Wang's time was also 22 seconds faster than anything that had gone before. Wang's effort was also considered dubious amid reports that she had signed a letter admitting her performances were aided by doping.

Ayana too faced doping questions immediately after her run, with Sweden's Sarah Lahti, who also smashed her personal best in the race, saying she did not believe her rival was "100 percent".

The 24-year-old Ayana, who had run the 10,000m only once previously, has never failed a drugs test and, through an interpreter, responded to the interrogation by saying: "My doping is training,

my doping is Jesus".

In the wake of Ayana's performance, a group of statisticians tried to place it in historical context and, through a complex comparison system, concluded that it ranked as the fifth-best women's track performance of all-time. Britain's Athletics Weekly magazine published the results last week after the statisticians used "extreme value theory" to rank performances against those of their contemporaries.

Number one in the women's list was Florence Griffith-Joyner's still-unchallenged 100m world record of 10.49 seconds at the 1988 U.S. Olympic trials in Indianapolis, now considered by many to have been wind-assisted and set by an athlete who faced widespread accusations of doping. The American's 200m mark from the same year set at the Seoul Olympics comes in at number seven on the list while Wang's 10,000m record is one place behind Ayana in sixth. In a list featuring records also widely regarded to have been chemically-enhanced, the only other performance from this century to make the top 10 was Ethiopian Genzebe Dibaba's 1500m world mark set last year.

On the men's side, Lee Evans's 400m at the Mexico Olympics was the surprise number one, ahead of Ron Clarke's 10,000m in 1965.

Usain Bolt's 19.19-second 200m at the 2009 Berlin world championships was number three with the Jamaican's 9.58 100m from the same event in at number eight. At number nine is Briton Sebastian Coe, the current president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), whose 800m record set in 1981 stood for 16 years. —Reuters

RUSSIA COULD LOSE 2021 BIATHLON WORLDS

VIENNA: A city in Siberia will be stripped of hosting the 2021 world biathlon championships if Russians in the sport fail doping retests of samples taken at the

2014 Sochi Olympics. International Biathlon Union President Anders Besseberg told The Associated Press yesterday "it's possible without problem" to reallocate the hosting rights from the city of Tyumen if more Russian doping infringements surface following the revelation of an alleged state-backed doping plot

at the Sochi Games. "WADA and IOC have commissions working on this," Besseberg said. "If they should come up with things that it will be wrong, or as a kind of punishment, that you cannot organize big events in Russia, then there is absolutely no problem for us. We will have a new congress in 2018."

The IBU Congress in Chisinau, Moldova, last weekend elected Tyumen to host the competition despite a recent IOC recommendation to all winter sports federations to "freeze their preparations for major events in Russia" and find host cities in other countries.

According to Besseberg, the IOC request from July didn't apply to the 2021 biathlon worlds because its host bidding process had already started.

Besseberg said the IBU and other winter sports federations received "a very clear statement" by the International Olympic Committee at a meeting during the Rio de Janeiro Games last month that "all competitions already granted to Russia should run normally, and applications (to host an event) that were in process shall also run the normal

way. This was the case for us." Therefore, two IBU events in

Russia in the 2016-17 season - the junior world championships in Ostrov in February add a World Cup event in Tyumen the following month - will go ahead as planned.

Also in other winter sports, no major events have been moved from Russia so far.

In a statement to the AP, the IOC said it "is aware of the decision of the IBU Congress and will continue its discussions with the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations about the practical implementation of the recommendation of the IOC EB."

The IOC announced earlier its recommendation was an interim order through 2016 which its board will review in December.

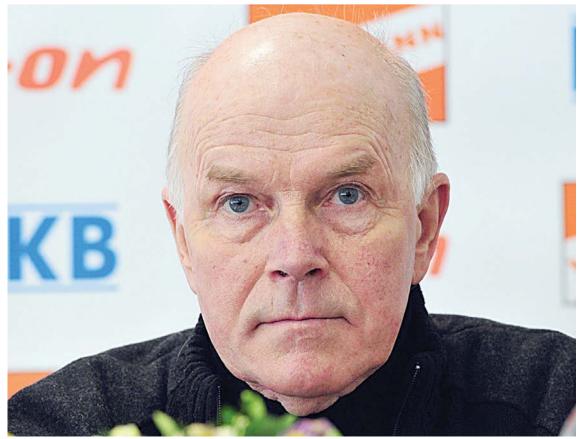
Situated 2,500 kilometers east of Moscow, Tyumen won Sunday's election by getting an absolute majority in the first round of voting, beating rival bids from Pokljuka in Slovenia and Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic.

Officials from several national biathlon federations, including those of the United States, Canada and Norway, publicly criticized the choice for a Russian venue as it would send a wrong sig-

nal in the awake of the World Anti-Doping Agency inquiry report on the state-backed dop-

ing plot. "When it's about granting the rights for the world championships, it's the sole responsibility of the delegates from the different national federations," Besseberg said, adding that "none of the delegates asked questions or had any remarks" during the congress when they were informed by him on the updated IOC recommendation.

"The voting on the candidates run in the absolutely normal way," Besseberg said. —AP



International Biathlon Union President Anders Besseberg.

ADAM SET FOR BORDEAUX AFTER ALL BLACK BEATINGS

BORDEAUX: Wallaby veteran Adam Ashley-Cooper is set to put his Bledisloe Cup woes behind him and hit the Top 14 season running to go some way to appeasing his disgruntled Bordeaux-Begles club president. Laurent Marti was left upset when Ashley-Cooper returned to Australia to play in the two opening Rugby Championship Tests against New Zealand, the All Blacks coming out convincing winners, 42-8 and 29-9. It meant the utility back, capped 114 times by the Wallabies, missed Bordeaux-Begles' opening three games of the Top 14 season, his side having snuck past Racing 92 in their opener before going down to Toulouse and Montpellier in the notoriously competitive league. Marti's disappointment "was understandable," Ashley-Cooper said. "He was disappointed because when I originally signed at the end of 2014 the rules were that if I'd signed with a French club I wasn't allowed to go back and play

"The rules changed just before the World Cup in 2015. I've always loved playing for my country and when Michael Cheika asked me to play after the World Cup I was certainly very interested because I'm a patriot and I love playing for my country so to say no was a very tough decision." Ashley-Cooper added: "I spoke to Laurent and explained why I wanted to go back and play for my country. I wanted to compete against New Zealand. I wanted to compete for a Bledisloe Cup because I've been playing for Australia for 10 or 11 years and I haven't had much success against them. "I still had that desire and fire to play against them and play well and win. I explained that to Laurent. He was very reasonable about it, obviously upset and I understand why, but I was going back for the two games and now I'm back, very happy to be back and I hope he is too."

'NOTHING PERSONAL'

Ashley-Cooper insisted there had been "nothing personal". "He's the president of this club, he cares about this club and he wants all the players to be available here," the 32-year-old Wallaby said. "I understood he was upset about the availablity of players, and that's what footy is, what business is. It's nothing personal, it's a business, he wants the best for UBB and so do I."

Bordeaux-Begles entertain Bayonne on Saturday, Ashley-Cooper saying the team could take a lot from the 32-15 defeat by Montpellier last time out. "I was pretty disappointed for the boys because they put a lot of effort into that game, there were a lot of positives to take out," he said. "There were some critical moments and some decisions where we let ourselves down. I don't think there's anything to be too worried or stressed about. It's important to remain positive and have that growth mindset heading into the next game because each game you want to get better. "It's a long season, there's no need to have your head down, it's about moving forward, staying positive and improving on each game." Ashley-Cooper said he had got over the disappointment of those two heavy defeats by New Zealand, the world champions atop the standings of the Rugby Championship after the two bonus-point wins. —AFP



TIGER WOODS SAYS HE HOPES TO RETURN NEXT MONTH

CARMEL: Out of golf for more than a year, Tiger Woods said yesterday he hopes to play the first event of the PGA Tour season next month and could play as much as twice more before the end of the year.

Woods said if his rehabilitation from back surgeries keeps going well, he would play the Safeway Open in Napa, California, on Oct. 10-13.

"My rehabilitation is to the point where I'm comfortable making plans, but I still have work to

do," Woods said in a surprise announcement on his website . "Whether I can play depends on my continued progress and recovery. My hope is to have my game ready to go."

at the Wyndham Championship. Two shots out of the lead going into the final round, he closed with a 70 and tied for 10th. A month later, he announced he had another operation on his back. Then, Woods had a third back surgery in

He missed all four majors for the first time in his career.

The Safeway Open is the opening event of the wraparound PGA Tour season held at

Silverado. Woods also said he intends to play in the Turkish Airlines Open the first weekend in November and his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas the first week of December, where he would be

Woods last played on Aug. 23, 2015, eligible for the 18-man field as the tournament host.

> He also said he would take part in his Tiger Woods Invitational, a charity event for his foundation, Oct. 10-11 on the Monterey Peninsula.

"It was difficult missing tournaments that are important to me, but this time I was smart about my recovery and didn't rush it." Woods said.

The announcement was a swift departure from the few public appearances this year in which Woods has said he planned to return but did not have a

Now he does

"He needs to get back out here," US

Open champion Dustin Johnson said. 'The tour needs him, and I want to see him playing well again. He's not going to come back unless he's ready, so I feel like he'll play well. Winning? I don't see it right away. But he's on a different level than anyone else. He'll be prepared."

Woods won his 79th PGA Tour title in 2013 at the Bridgestone Invitational, leaving him three short of the record held by Sam Snead. The last of his 14 majors was in the 2008 U.S. Open, right before reconstructive surgery on his left knee. He hasn't seriously contended in a major since 2013. Woods had his first back surgery right before the 2014 Masters.

"I'm looking forward to seeing him

play again, seeing what the state of his game is," world No. 1 Jason Day said. "I think he's done it the right way by waiting and not coming back too soon. There's been a couple of times where I feel like he may have come back too soon and kind of injured himself a little bit more and that's what's kept him out of the game so long."

Woods first played in Turkey in 2013 when it was an exhibition and as part of the deal, he was required to play in Napa at least once over the next three years. Woods had been planning to play last year until back surgery, and then the tournament changed title sponsors.

Phil Mickelson also is playing the Safeway Open. — AP

GARDNER MAKES LEAPING CATCH FOR LAST OUT, YANKS STOP JAYS

NEW YORK: Brett Gardner made a leaping catch at the top of the left-field wall on Justin Smoak's bases-loaded drive for the final out, and the New York Yankees held on during a nervy ninth inning to beat the AL East-leading Toronto Blue Jays 7-6 on a misty Tuesday night. A scrambly September game with October implications seesawed to the last swing, and turned at the end in favor of the Yankees. New York won its third in a row and sent Toronto to its fourth loss in five games. The Blue Jays had already scored twice in the ninth off Dellin Betances when they loaded the bases with one out. Blake Parker, the eighth New York pitcher, suddenly became an unlikely closer, and he struck out Kevin Pillar. Smoak was up next, and he hit a drive to deep left. Gardner ran back, jumped and corralled the ball at the top of the padding. He immediately leaped in the air to celebrate as the Yankees rushed out to congratulate him. A few minutes later, a replay of the catch drew another ovation from the fans. Jason Grilli (5-5) allowed a two-run homer to Chase Headley. Chasen Shreve (2-1) wound up with the win and Blake Parker got his first save since 2013 with the Cubs.

RED SOX 5, PADRES 1

Jackie Bradley Jr. and Chris Young homered and Clay Buchholz pitched six-plus solid innings, and Boston moved into a tie with Toronto atop the AL East. Buchholz (6-10) was making his first start since Aug. 23 as his last three appearances came out of the bullpen. Working exclusively from the stretch, Buchholz allowed a run, eight hits and struck out six in facing the Padres for the first time. Paul Clemens (2-5) was charged with five runs and nine hits over four innings.

ASTROS 4, INDIANS 3

Corey Kluber lost for the first time since July 3 after Marwin Gonzalez connected for a threerun homer off Cleveland's ace in the second inning. Kluber (15-9) had won his previous seven decisions, a span during which he dominated the way he did while winning the Cy Young Award in 2014. But the right-hander had a bad sequence of six batters against the Astros, who have won the first two of four games between the playoff contenders. Gonzalez added two doubles for Houston, a major league-best 13-4 since Aug. 19. Reliever James Hoyt (1-0) struck out two in 1-1/3 innings for his first major league win. The 29 year-old rookie replaced Brad Peacock, who was called up to replace an injured Dallas Keuchel and made his first start since April 14, 2015. Ken Giles, Houston's fifth reliever, recorded his ninth save.

RANGERS 10, MARINERS 7

Flyis Andrus had a homer and three doubles. Jonathan Lucroy hit a two-run homer and Texas Rangers held off slumping Seattle. Texas, which leads the AL West by 8-1/2 games, had a season-high seven doubles among its 15 hits and won for the eighth time in 10 games. Martin Perez (10-10) allowed four runs - two earned and seven hits in six innings to win for the third time in his last 13 starts. Sam Dyson pitched the ninth for his 32nd save. James Paxton (4-6) allowed six runs - four earned - and nine hits, throwing 103 pitches in 4-1/3 innings.

CARDINALS 9, PIRATES 7

Matt Carpenter, Randal Grichuk and Jhonny Peralta all homered off closer Tony Watson with two outs in the ninth inning, helping St. Louis rally past Pittsburgh. The Cardinals were down

American League

Eastern Division

.558

.558

.507

.449

.428

12.5

20.5

61

61

68

76

79

62

77

Diego 1; Texas 10, Seattle 7.

Boston

Toronto

LA Angels

Oakland

to their last strike when Carpenter sent a long drive to right-center to tie it 6-6. Grichuk followed two batters later with a two-run shot off Watson (2-4), and Peralta piled on with a solo homer as St. Louis held on to the second wild card in the NL. Carpenter's homer was the 15th by a St. Louis pinch-hitter this season, a major league record. Yadier Molina went 4 for 5, including a first-inning grand slam. Mike Mayers (1-1) tossed a scoreless eighth for the win, and Seung-Hwan Oh worked around a solo homer to Jung Ho Kang in the ninth for his

ROYALS 10, TWINS 3

Kendrys Morales had two home runs, including a three-run blast in Kansas City's seven-run ninth inning. Morales hit a two-run shot in the first to help the Royals overcome the loss of catcher Salvador Perez, who left the game with a right wrist contusion after he was hit by a pitch in the sixth inning. Brian Dozier hit his 39th home run of the season for the Twins, moving him into a tie with Rogers Hornsby (twice) and Alfonso Soriano for fourth-most home runs by a second baseman in a season. He has homered in five straight games, tying Harmon Killebrew and Marty Cordova for the longest streak in Twins history. Former Twin Drew Butera's bases loaded single off Brandon Kintzler (0-2) broke a 3-3 tie and got the Royals rolling in the ninth. Kelvin Herrera (2-4) pitched one inning for the win.

WHITE SOX 2, TIGERS 0

Jose Abreu hit his fifth homer in seven games, Miguel Gonzalez came off the disabled list to throw 6-1/3 innings of six-hit ball and Chicago cooled off Detroit. Abreu connected off Matt Boyd (5-3) in the second for his 23rd homer as Chicago got its third win in nine games. Gonzalez (3-6) struck out four in his first start since Aug. 11 following a groin injury.

GIANTS 3, ROCKIES 2

Kelby Tomlinson hit a one-out, tiebreaking single in the ninth and San Francisco rallied to beat Colorado. Javier Lopez (1-2) got one out in the eighth to earn the win. Santiago Casilla pitched the ninth for his 31st save. He got Gerardo Parra to hit into a double play to end the game. Buster Posey began the top of the ninth by hitting a grounder to shortstop Daniel Descalso, who overthrew first baseman Parra and allowed Posey to cruise into second. Hunter Pence followed with an infield single off closer Adam Ottavino (0-2), who was then replaced by lefty Boone Logan. After Brandon Crawford struck out, Tomlinson lined an 0-2 fastball into left field to bring home Posey with

METS 5, REDS 3

Yoenis Cespedes hit the most damaging of New York's four homers, a two-run shot in the seventh inning, as the Mets rallied for their 13th straight victory over Cincinnati. The Mets' winning streak is their longest against Cincinnati. The club record against any opponent is 15 straight wins against Pittsburgh in 1986-87. Curtis Granderson and Jose Reyes had solo shots off Brandon Finnegan. Cespedes connected off Michael Lorenzen (2-1) for his 28th homer. Alejandro De Aza had a pinch-hit homer in the ninth. Josh Smoker (2-0) allowed one hit in one inning.

ORIOLES 11, RAYS 2 Manny Machado capped a six-run fourth

National League

Eastern Division

.587

.525

.489

.478

.420

.413

12

20

8.5

13.5

57

66

71

72

80

58

81

73

68

Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday, in New York. — AP

inning with a grand slam off Jake Odorizzi, leading Baltimore over Tampa Bay. Odorizzi (9-6) lost for the first time in 10 starts since the All-Star break, giving up seven runs, six hits and three walks over four innings. Machado's slam was set up by two walks, a hit batter and J.J. Hardy's two-run double. Yovani Gallardo (5-7) pitched five innings for Baltimore, giving up two runs (one earned) and five hits while striking out five.

DODGERS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Ross Stripling and four relievers combined on a four-hitter and the rookie helped himself with a go-ahead single in the second inning, leading Los Angeles to its fourth straight win. Stripling (4-6) allowed two runs and three hits in five innings. The right-hander struck out five and walked none. Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth to earn his 42nd save in 48 chances in his 400th career appearance. He is two from tying his career high saves set two years ago. Shelby Miller (2-11) extended his losing streak to five games after giving up five runs and 11 hits in 4-1/3 innings.

BREWERS 12, CUBS 5

Jonathan Villar homered to start a five-run first inning against Jason Hammel, and Milwaukee cooled off Chicago. The NL Centralleading Cubs had won seven of eight and were 41 games over .500 after winning Monday's series opener. But Milwaukee rallied from a 1-0 deficit as its first seven batters reached against Hammel (148). Villar homered on Hammel's second pitch, Ryan Braun had an RBI single, Domingo Santana singled in two runs and Martin Maldonado added a sacrifice fly. Wily Peralta (6-9) gave up four runs and six hits in 7 2/3 innings, leaving after Anthony Rizzo's second home run of the game, a two-run drive.

NATIONALS 9, BRAVES 7

Pinch-runner Michael Taylor scored the goahead run on catcher Tyler Flowers' throwing error as part of a three-run eighth inning. Taylor pinch-ran after reliever Jose Ramirez (2-2) walked Ryan Zimmerman. Taylor stole second and, after Danny Espinosa's walk, scored when an off-balance Flowers threw pinch-hitter Ben Revere's bunt attempt well to the left of third baseman Adonis Garcia, Koda Glover (2-0) retired the only two batters he faced to earn the victory, while Mark Melancon earned his 39th save in 42 opportunities.

PHILLIES 4, MARLINS 3

Adam Morgan snapped his major leagueworst streak of nine consecutive losses, Odubel Herrera scored three runs and Philadelphia spoiled Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton's return. Morgan (2-9) allowed five hits and one run in six innings. Ichiro Suzuki hit the first pinch-hit home run of his career, a two-run shot in the eighth for Miami. Stanton was activated from the disabled list about an hour

before the game and delivered a pinch-hit single in the fifth for Miami. Jose Urena (3-6) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings for Miami, which is 11-23 since Aug. 1.

ATHLETICS 3, ANGELS 2

Joey Wendle hit a go-ahead single during a three-run eighth inning and Oakland rallied to beat Los Angeles. Ryon Healy, whose single broke up starter Ricky Nolasco's bid for a perfect game in the sixth, hit an RBI single before Wendle lined a hit to right to drive in pinch-runner Arismendy Alcantara and Marcus Semien. John Axford (5-4) pitched two innings to get the win. Ryan Madsen retired three hitters for his 28th save. Los Angeles wasted a mostly strong outing by

RUN RECORDS FUEL FEARS OVER BAT-BALL BALANCE

NEW DELHI: After first England and then Australia rewrote the cricket record books just days apart, some commentators are warning that a glut of runs risks wrecking the art of bowling and turning off fans.

Australia cruised to victory on Tuesday in the first match of a T20 series against Sri Lanka after spanking 263 runs in their innings, breaking the previous best of 260 scored by their hosts against Kenya in 2007.

The performance came exactly a week after England posted the highest ever total in a 50over international, scoring 444 for three against Pakistan.

The last fortnight has also seen a new record for the highest number of runs in a T20 international, with India and the West Indies totalling a combined 489 runs in a match in Florida on August 27.

Such run-fests may be great entertainment for spectators, but some commentators say they could end up doing more harm than good. "Bowlers are being reduced to bowling

machines. It is a terribly one-sided affair, there is no contest at all," Indian spin great Bishan Bedi told AFP.

"I don't mind being hit for a four or a six but it's being hit so easily and consistently. The charm of true cricket has been thrown out of the window."

In a series of tweets after Tuesday's carnage in Sri Lanka, former India international Sanjay Manjrekar urged administrators to "respect the intelligence of fans" who "don't come to watch just 4s & 6s".

'LOPSIDED BALANCE'

"The lopsided balance between bat & ball in T20s must be monitored" and should not be allowed to "reach ridiculous proportions", added Manjrekar, who is now a TV commen-

Players past and present say much of the credit for the record-breaking trend must go to the batsmen who have endlessly raised the bar in terms of skill, inventiveness and fitness since the advent of T20 cricket at the beginning of the last decade.

Glenn Maxwell's match-winning 145 in Pallekele came off just 65 balls and included 14 fours and nine sixes, combining textbook strokes with awesome power-hitting. England's victory over Pakistan was founded on a similarly stunning 171 by Alex Hales, the highest score for his country in an ODI.

Like many of their modern-day counterparts and team-mates, both men use much heavier bats than those wielded by previous generations, allowing them to clear the boundary with much higher frequency.

While there are limitations on bat length (when the lower portion of the handle is inserted, it cannot be more than 38in/96.5cm) and width (4.25in/10.8cm at its widest part), none currently exist on weight.

The International Cricket Council's cricket committee recommended in June that new restrictions on the size of bats needed to be brought in, a call that is being heard ever more

In a speech in July, former Australian captain Ricky Ponting said he wanted to at least

see restrictions in Test cricket, predicting different rules for different formats.

'UNBELIEVABLY BIG BATS'

Speaking before embarking on the tour to Sri Lanka, Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood said he was in favour of some kind of restrictions. "Some of those cricket bats going around the dressing sheds at the moment are unbelievably big," said Hazlewood, who was rested for the T20s.

Others say that a glut of batting-friendly pitches is the main reason for the increase in run-scoring, with Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar among those saying bowlers need more help from the groundsmen.

"In the Twenty20 format, even the greatest of the bowlers (are) being reverse-swept. In one-days, 300 is no more a competitive total. It is a par total," Tendulkar was quoted as saying on a recent trip to London.

'You've got to look at changing the surfaces." Bedi said the myriad fielding restrictions that have been brought in over the years had all favoured the batsmen. — AFP

Baltimore	76	62	.551	1	Philadelphia	62	76	.449	19	
NY Yankees	72	65	.526	4.5	Atlanta	54	85	.388	27.5	
Tampa Bay	58	79	.423	18.5	Atlanta				27.5	
		tral Div		. 0.0		Cen	tral Div	ision		
					Chicago Cubs	89	49	.645	_	
Cleveland	79	58	.577	-					155	
Detroit	75	63	.543	4.5	St. Louis	73	64	.533	15.5	
Kansas City	72	66	.522	7.5	Pittsburgh	67	69	.493	21	
	. –				Milwaukee	61	77	.442	28	
Chicago White Sox	66	72	.478	13.5						
Minnesota	51	88	.367	29	Cincinnati	57	80	.416	31.5	
minicota	-	tern Di				Wes	tern Di	vision		
_					1 A D = -l = - = -	70	60	ГСГ		
Texas	83	56	.597	-	LA Dodgers	78	60	.565	-	
Houston	74	64	536	8.5	San Francisco	74	64	.536	4	

MLB RESULTS/STANDINGS

Washington 9, Atlanta 7; St. Louis 9, Pittsburgh 7; NY Yankees 7, Toronto 6; Baltimore 11,

Tampa Bay 2; Houston 4, Cleveland 3; NY Mets 5, Cincinnati 3; Philadelphia 4, Miami 3;

Milwaukee 12, Chicago Cubs 5; Chicago White Sox 2, Detroit 0; Kansas City 10, Minnesota 3;

San Francisco 3, Colorado 2; Oakland 3, LA Angels 2; LA Dodgers 5, Arizona 2; Boston 5, San

Washington

NY Mets

Colorado

Arizona

San Diego

Miami



BALL MEN? AT US OPEN, CHASING DOWN BALLS HAS NO AGE LIMIT

NEW YORK: When 55-year-old banking executive Vijay Parimoo told his friends he would be a rookie ball boy at this year's US Open, he expected, and got, a little teasing.

"They were like, 'Isn't there an age limit? Shouldn't there be?" he said. But the US Open has indeed never put an upper limit on the age of its ball chasers, which tournament officials say sets Flushing Meadows apart from the other Grand Slams. Of the 275 ball people this year - all of whom had to make it through grueling tryouts - about 75 are 18 or older and more than 20 of those are over 30. Several are in their 50s. One who gave it up a couple of years ago was 63.

Top players who make it their habit to thank the "ball boys and ball girls" in their victory speeches on tour have been seen giving double-takes when handed a ball or towel by grownups.

"I see many adults," says No. 1-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic. "I don't know if all of them are adults, but they're doing their job very well."

While the very idea of "ball men" and "ball women" has been lampooned over the years - most notably on TV's "Seinfeld" when Kramer finds a way to bungle the "great ball man experiment" - it's a point of pride for the hardy few who have actually done one of the most coveted minimum-wage jobs in sports. And US Open officials say there are plenty of wrinkles, so to speak, at this particular Grand Slam that make older ball people a sensible choice.

For one, the two-week US Open normally straddles the Labor Day weekend, when the school year kicks in and labor laws prevent kids from working extended hours, especially at night.

"The older ballpersons are gold in the night matches," says Cathie Delaney, a US Tennis Association pro who manages the day-to-day court assignments for ball people who can be as young as 14. "Some of these matches go until 2 am. We can't have a 14-year-old on

the subway at 2 am."

And then there's the US Open's distinction of being the only major in which the ball person's move the balls around the court by throwing them rather than rolling them, which on changeovers can mean 80-foot, baseball-like guns from one end of the court to the other. Over the three weeks of work - through the qualifying rounds, the main draws, junior, college and wheelchair events - all that throwing can take a toll on young arms.

Former college baseball player Yitz Liberman answered the call several years ago, not out of a particular devotion to tennis but because he knew he had a rocket arm. Now, the 34-year-old adjunct professor of Judaic studies at Yeshiva University has worked his way up to the position of crew chief in some of the top matches in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"There's a lot going on around you. It's my job to keep everyone focused and everyone in line," says Liberman, who high-fived his mostly teenage crew

when they were assigned Venus Williams' match in front of more than 23,000 fans.

Dressed in identical blue uniforms, the six-person crew marches on and off the court like soldiers. In a choreographed flourish, they fan out onto the court to their assigned spots, the runners at the net who scamper for loose balls, and the throwers at the end who bounce the balls to the players and handle their sweaty

Tina Taps, who has been in charge of the ball persons since 1989, says she doesn't care about age, only a love of the tennis and the ability to make it through tryouts, which involve sprints, agility drills and throwing competitions. Each summer, about 400 people try out for just 80 rookie spots.

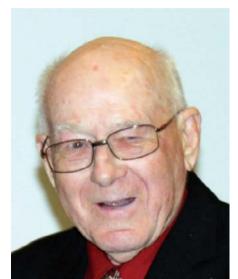
"It's a hard job," she said. "More mature ball persons can deal with the heat and the various things that occur on the court and can teach the younger ones to perse-

FORMER ENGLAND PACEMAN KEN HIGGS DIES AGED 79

LONDON: Former England fast-medium bowler Ken Higgs has died aged 79, his former county Leicestershire announced yesterday. "Leicestershire County Cricket Club is extremely saddened to learn of the passing of the great fast-medium opening bowler, Kenneth (Ken) Higgs," said a club

Higgs made his name with Lancashire before joining Leicestershire and becoming a coach with the Midlands club.

Having made his debut in 1958 he ended up playing first-class cricket in four different decades when, following an injury crisis, he returned to take five for 22 for Leicestershire against Yorkshire in 1986 at the age of 49. Despite taking 71 wickets at an average of 20.74 apiece, Higgs played just 15 Tests for England from 1965-1968



Ken Higgs

finishing his international career on his then Old Trafford home ground against Australia. His best series saw Higgs take 24 wickets against a strong West Indies batting side in 1966, where he dismissed Conrad Hunte and Rohan Kanhai four times

Higgs took more than 1,000 wickets for Lancashire before retiring from first-class cricket to become a professional at Lancashire League side Rishton in 1969.

However, then Leicestershire secretary Mike Turner enticed Higgs back into the county game.

"We are deeply saddened by the news that Ken has passed away," said Leicestershire chairman Paul Haywood, a former Leicestershire batsman. "I had the great pleasure of playing alongside Ken and he was a truly great bowler who had a wonderful career record.

"Ken was well-respected by everyone at Leicestershire County Cricket Club and we would like to offer our condolences and best wishes to his family." England batsman David Lloyd, who played alongside Higgs at Lancashire, tweeted: "Strong and aggressive bowler ... Great man, great teammate." Higgs finished his career with an impressive tally of 1,536 first-class wickets at 23.61 apiece. He also took a hat-trick in the 1974 Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's although his return of four for 10 in seven overs could not prevent Leicestershire losing to Surrey by 27 runs.

Higgs became captain and went on to coach at Leicestershire.

Flags at both Leicestershire's Grace Road ground and Old Trafford, where

England were due to play Pakistan in a Twenty20 international later yesterday, were flying at half-mast as a mark of respect. — AFP



NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during their 2016 US Open Men's Singles match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Tuesday. — AFP

DJOKOVIC BOOKS S-FINAL

NEW YORK: Defending champion Novak Djokovic booked a 10th straight US Open semifinal appearance when Jo-Wilfried Tsonga retired trailing 6-3, 6-2 in their marquee quarter-final on

It was the third time in five matches that an opponent's injury has worked to Diokovic's advantage, after his walkover into the third round where Mikhail Youzhny retired after just six

Ninth-seeded Tsonga gave him more of a workout, but even before an apparent left knee injury began to trouble the Frenchman in the second set Djokovic had the match well in hand.

The Serbian world number one will face another Frenchman, Gael Monfils, for a place in Sunday's championship match after the 10th seed pummelled compatriot Lucas Pouille 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

It was the first time in 89 years that three French men had reached the quarter-finals of the US championships.

Tsonga was the highest seed among them, but his challenge ended with a whimper. Down two breaks at 2-5 in the second, he called for the trainer, wincing as his knee was manipulated. A merciless Djokovic then served out the set at love, firing a 118 mph (189.9 Km/h) ace-his first of the contest-on set point.

After Tsonga opened the third set with a double fault he called a halt. "I really wish Jo a quick recovery," Djokovic said. "He's a fighter, he's somebody that loves the big stage."

But Tsonga wasn't able to shine on that stage. Despite an entertaining array of shots, the longer the rallies went the more he missed, his unforced errors eventually climbing to 37.

He gifted a break to Djokovic with three double faults to fall behind 2-4 in the opening set, and while he regained the break he dropped his serve again in the next game and suddenly Diokovic was serving for the set.

A break for 2-1 in the second was the only opening Djokovic needed. He backed up the break with an emphatic hold at love, broke again for 5-2 and didn't face a break point in the second

It was an encouraging performance for a player who arrived in New York off a third-round exit at Wimbledon and a first-round exit at the Rio Olympics. Although he won the Toronto Masters, he pulled out of Cincinnati with a left wrist injury.

"I thought that I came out with the right intensity," Djokovic said. "The quality of my game and level of performance has risen in last couple of days, which obviously encourages me prior to the

"I put myself in a position again to be one match away from the finals. As the tournament progresses, I feel like I'm getting better."

MONFILS ENDS LONG WAIT

In Monfils, 12-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic will face a player whose only prior semifinal run at a major came back in 2008 at the French Open. Monfils was in control throughout against the 22-year-old Pouille, who was coming off an epic fifth-set tiebreaker win over 14-time major winner Rafael Nadal.

That marked the 24th-seeded Pouille's third straight five-setter. Whether it was a let-down after the biggest win of his career or sheer fatigue, his 44 unforced errors meant he never stood a chance against a dialed-in Monfils.

"Of course I was a bit tired today," Pouille said. "It would have been better if I played a bit less time on court. Gael was playing very good. He was better than me today."

Dictating from the baseline, Monfils took charge with seven of his 13 aces in the opening set, gaining the only break he needed in the sev-

enth game. Pouille conceded a break with a stream of errors to fall 1-2 down in the second, and a break of more than 15 minutes to close the new Arthur Ashe stadium roof, with Monfils up 4-3, did noth-

ing to change the momentum. After holding with back-to-back aces, Monfils broke the error-prone Pouille at love to take the set. "I was lucky because I had a break so it was easy in my mind," Monfils said of coping with the delay. "I just felt so good (and) it was going to be even better because it was going to be indoors. I

One break was all he needed in the third, as he wrapped up the match without facing a break point. — AFP

just kept going with my game plan."

CLARKE TAKES YOUNG NEPALESE UNDER WING

SYDNEY: Former Australian captain Michael Clarke has taken a young Nepalese leg spinner under his wing, helping bring him to Sydney to train at his academy and play with his club.

Clarke spotted Sandeep Lamichhane, 16, while he was coaching recently in Hong Kong, recognising his "outstanding potential".

"It is a really exciting opportunity to have such a talented Nepalese cricketer travel this distance to come and test his skills and improve his game at my academy," said Clarke, who sponsored the boy to get him to Australia.

'Sandeep is a fantastic young man who enjoys his cricket and is extremely

passionate about the game."

Lamichhane, whose has played for the Nepal under-19s, will live with a local family to prepare for the upcoming season, where he will represent Clarke's club Western Sydney.

"Thank you very much @MClarke23 for your kind words and for inviting me to Australia. Looking forward to give my best," Lamichhane tweeted on Tuesday.

He will reunite with his mentor when the team takes the field for its opening game on September 24.

Clarke retired from international cricket last year after establishing himself as one of Australia's finest batsmen with 8,643 runs in 115 Tests. — AFP

Wozniacki & Kerber put friendship aside at US Open

NEW YORK: Caroline Wozniacki and Angelique Kerber are joined by friendship, Polish roots and cosy coffee chats, but today they'll be ruthless in pursuit of a place in the US Open final. It's an intriguing semi-final clash between a former world number one who has never won a Grand Slam title and the current number two who claimed a first major at the Australian Open in January.

"We are similar in that we are both hard working. I think that hard work pays off. She's obviously very passionate," said Wozniacki. "Angie's had a great year and I'm happy for her."The two friends' paths have been heading in dramatically different directions this year.

A right ankle injury sidelined 26-year-old Wozniacki for the best part of three months and her enforced absence from the French Open ended a streak of 36 successive appearances at the majors.

He ranking coming into New York was 74. In contrast, Kerber has appeared in two of

the three Slam finals, her success in Melbourne followed by defeat to Serena Williams in the Wimbledon championship

The German, two years older at 28, could be number one in the world next week, five years after Wozniacki last held the position. Wozniacki, Kerber as well as sisters Agnieszka and Urszula Radwanska have all grown up on the tour, all boasting Polish blood. The Radwanskas are Polish-born. Kerber has a Polish father and German mother.

POLISH ROOTS

Piotr and Anna Wozniacki left Poland to settle in Denmark when he secured a professional football contract with top Danish side Odense. Caroline was born in the city in 1990.

The four players' Polish bond is evident in holiday photos and they remain as close as they can be in the cut-throat environment of professional tennis. "We would still go on vacations, but the problem is like Aga is getting married, so then all of a sudden we're like, we just want a girls trip, but it's tough when everyone has their own thing," said Wozniacki. "But we hang out and we have coffees and sit and talk and have a good time. "I think the great thing about our little group is that we have hung out for years and it doesn't matter who is No. 1 or who is lower ranked, we always have our little clique. We chat and have a laugh." There hasn't been a lot to laugh about for Wozniacki in recent months. This week, her father even suggested that she was close to retirement despite her reaching a semi-final at the majors for the first time in two years. Her carefree hitting at the US Open has been interpreted as a sign that for someone with 23 career titles and \$20 million in the bank, there are few challenges left-apart from that elusive first major. Being injured and being away from the game you kind of put things in perspective. You're like, I could get injured again tomorrow and I won't have another shot out there," said Wozniacki.

"I'm enjoying it much more now than I was then. Back then I was just trying and grinding for staying at the top of the rankings for as long as possible," added the Danish star who keeps a second home in New York. "Now obviously I want to win every match, but it's different. I'm not the favourite. I'm just going in there as the underdog and going out doing my thing."

Kerber leads Wozniacki 7-5 in career meetings but they have never met at a Slam.

If the German prevails today and goes on to dethrone Williams as world number one,

Wozniacki will be one of the first to congratulate her coffee club friend.

"It's something that very few people in the world have ever achieved. I mean, how crazy

is it to say that you're the best in the world at something? "Doesn't matter if it's tennis, football, being a lawyer, whatever it is.



NEW YORK: Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, returns to Anastasija Sevastova, of Latvia, during a quarterfinal at the US Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, in New York. — AP



SLICK TEEN LIFTS CHINA WORLD CUP HOPES

BEIJING: Teenage forward Zhang Tuesday's stand-out performance, in Yuning has given China's World Cup hopes a lift after a bustling competitive debut confirmed his emergence as one of the country's most exciting new football talents.

The Dutch-based 19-year-old, instantly recognisable by his slicked-back hair, proved a real handful for Iran's defence as China held Asia's top-ranked side 0-0 for their first point in the final round of qualifying for Russia 2018.

Zhang was singled out by Iran's experienced coach Carlos Queiroz after which he twice came close to breaking the deadlock in Shenyang.

It follows his breakthrough as the first Chinese player to score in the Netherlands' Eredivisie, when he nodded an injury-time winner for Vitesse Arnhem against Roda JC in March.

Zhang also scored on the last day of the season against FC Twente and, after bagging two in China's 4-2 friendly win against Trinidad and Tobago in June, his first competitive international was only a

Zhang in Shenyang and it proved an astute move as the teenager came close with a spectacular effort in the first half, and was only denied by a desperate block in the second before he came off on 79 minutes.

"It's very exciting. To represent China on the global stage is one of my dreams when I was a kid," Zhang told the Global Times. "I think the pace of the qualifier is fine with me, I don't have any worries."

Zhang's rise is tantalising for China as they attempt not only to reach their sec-

Coach Gao Hongbo chose to start ond World Cup, but also to build a team capable of challenging established powers in the future.

Zhang was only five in 2002 when China finished winless and goalless in their only World Cup finals appearance, and puts a fresh new face on the team after years of disappointments on the international stage.

Tuesday's draw kept China in the hunt for a spot at Russia 2018, but Gao was keen to play down expectations despite promising signs on Tuesday and in last week's 3-2 defeat to South Korea.

"Our team is the last one getting into this round. All the other teams are tough for us," said Gao, according to the Global Times. "But I am satisfied that the players fought to the end."

However, Queiroz, the former Portugal coach and one-time assistant to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, warned that China's opponents should underestimate them at their peril.

"All the games are like the finals. Coach Gao has made China compact and enthusiastic," said the Portuguese. — AFP

BALE SAYS LA LIGA TITLE IS REAL'S TOP TARGET

BARCELONA: Gareth Bale said Real Madrid are determined to wrest back the Spanish league title from Barcelona this season after going four years without tasting La Liga success.

Bale has won the Champions League twice and the King's Cup since joining the Bernabeu club in 2013, but the league title has proved

Real missed out on the league to Barcelona on the final day of last season by a point and have not won the title since 2012, when they collected a record 100 points under Jose Mourinho.

Real have won their opening two league games this season, with Bale scoring twice in their 3-0 win at Real Sociedad. They continue their campaign following the international break at home to Osasuna on Saturday.

"It's important we win the league this year because it's been a long time since we last won it," Bale said on Wednesday at an event organised by Adidas.

That's our focus this year although we want to win every trophy, including La Liga. I'm excited about our game with Osasuna, they will make things difficult for us but it'll be fantastic because we'll have our full team available."

Real boast more La Liga triumphs than any other team in Spain with 32 titles but arch rivals Barcelona have claimed six of the last eight, while neighbours Atletico Madrid have won the league more recently than Real, lifting the trophy in 2014.

"In Madrid we dream about winning everything and when we enter any competition we want to win it, the cup, the league, the Champions League, we want them all," added

On the international front, Bale built on the rich vein of form he showed for Wales at Euro 2016 by scoring twice in a 4-0 win over Moldova on Monday, moving within four goals of equalling their all-time top scorer lan Rush's record of 28 strikes.

"People have told me that I haven't got long to beat Rush's record but that's not important, I just want to perform well so we can qualify for major tournaments," said Bale. "If we keep doing well, I'll be able to keep scoring goals and beat the record." — Reuters



BASEL: Portugal's Andre Silva, left, fights for the ball with Switzerland's Fabian Schaer during the 2018 World Cup Russia group B qualification soccer match between Switzerland and Portugal at the St. Jakob-Park stadium in Basel, Switzerland, Tuesday. — AP

PORTUGAL BEATEN IN WORLD

CUP OPENER, FRANCE HELD

BELGIUM POCKET THREE POINTS

NICOSIA: Satisfaction, rather than relief, was the overriding emotion for Roberto Martinez after Belgium kicked off their World Cup qualifiers with a 3-0 away win over Cyprus on Tuesday.

It was a maiden success for Martinez

after his first game in charge of Belgium last Thursday had seen the team jeered off by home fans following a loss to Spain in a friendly international in Brussels. "Relief is not the right word. More satis-

faction," Martinez told reporters after two goals from Romelu Lukaku and one from Yannick Carrasco ensured a winning start to the Group H campaign.

"We had a negative feeling that we had missed out on a chance to make a fresh start. We wanted to dial back and reset and that we achieved. It could have been a lot better, that I know. But it is a lot easier to

work now with three points in the back pocket." Martinez, who replaced Marc Wilmots after Belgium's disappointing quarter-final exit at the European Championship in France, said he had sought to take the Belgian players "out of their comfort zone" by playing a new system. "I knew it could work. I think we have become more of a team because of it."

The key point was Martinez's new approach for the highly rated midfield duo of Kevin de Bruyne and Eden Hazard to play more central roles to "allow them more space to run at the opposing defence and to be able to influence the game," he added.

Belgium play three more qualifiers before the end of the year, hosting Bosnia in Brussels on Oct. 7, meeting Gibraltar away on Oct. 10 and the home again to Estonia on Nov. 13. — Reuters

PARIS: With Cristiano Ronaldo still missing due to injury, European champions Portugal began their bid to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia with a disappointing 2-0 defeat in Switzerland on Tuesday.

Goals seven minutes apart in the first half from teenage sensation Breel Embolo and Admir Mehmedi gave the Swiss the points at the St Jakob-Park in Basel as they got off to the ideal

start in qualifying Group B. Elsewhere on Tuesday, Euro 2016 runners-up France also showed signs of a hangover from their summer exertions as Les Bleus were held to a 0-0 draw in Belarus in Group A, while the Netherlands came from behind to draw 1-1 in Sweden.

In Nicosia, former Everton boss Roberto Martinez's first competitive match as coach of Belgium ended in a 3-0 win against Cyprus.

Ronaldo was one of three Portuguese players to have started the 1-0 extra-time triumph against France on July 10 who was absent from the away starting line-up in Basel, with Renato Sanches also sidelined and Joao Mario only on the bench

Joao Moutinho and Bernardo Silva came in along with Lille striker Eder, the man who came off the bench to score the winning goal at the Stade de France.

But Fernando Santos' side were undone as Switzerland went in front midway through the first half, Schalke striker Embolo heading home the loose ball after Rui Patricio had only managed to parry a Ricardo Rodriguez free-kick.

The Swiss doubled their lead on the half-hour mark when Haris Seferovic cut the ball back for Mehmedi, who took a touch and finished high into the net.

With FIFA president Gianni Infantino watching on, any hopes Portugal had of turning the game around were effectively ended when the unmarked Nani headed against the post from six vards following a Ricardo Quaresma cross.

"The Swiss were totally dominated in the first 20 minutes, but from the moment they scored they used the tactic that Portugal have often used and defended well," said Santos.

"I'm sure that when we start winning that will lead to more wins. I'm convinced we will be in Russia for the World Cup." In the same section, Hungary were held to a

0-0 draw in the Faroe Islands while Valerijs Sabala's second-half goal gave Latvia a 1-0 victo-France have had problems against Belarus in

the recent past, including taking just one point against the former Soviet Republic in Euro 2012 qualifying. Paul Pogba, the world's most expensive play-

er, started for the visitors in Borisov, but coach Didier Deschamps made six changes compared to the side that lost the European Championship final, leaving Dimitri Payet on the bench.

With Les Bleus lacking attacking inspiration, though, Payet came on for Anthony Martial just before the hour mark and moments later his corner was headed against the bar by Olivier Giroud. Antoine Griezmann then met a low ball in to

decisive intervention in the 73rd minute, saving a

the near post by Moussa Sissoko but was thwarted by Andrei Gorbunov. The Belarus goalkeeper came up with another with Manchester United's Pogba just unable to get to the follow-up. **SNEIJDER SAVES DUTCH**

Layvin Kurzawa header from a Payet free-kick,

In the same group, the Netherlands began heir attempt to bounce back from their failure to qualify for Euro 2016 by facing the Swedes at the

It is the beginning of a new era for Sweden, with Zlatan Ibrahimovic now retired from international football and Janne Andersson having replaced Erik Hamren as coach.

They went in front two minutes before halftime when Kevin Strootman was caught in possession just outside the Dutch box and Marcus Berg, who used to play in Holland for Groningen and PSV Eindhoven, beat Jeroen Zoet with a superb chip from 20 yards.

However, Wesley Sneijder followed in to convert the rebound and make it 1-1 midway through the second half after Robin Olsen had saved from Daryl Janmaat.

Also in Group A, Bulgaria beat Luxembourg 4-3 in a frantic finish in Sofia, with Aleksandar Tonev netting a stoppage-time winner. Martinez's Belgium got off to a fine start against Cyprus in Group H with Romelu Lukaku scoring a brace and Yannick Carrasco also on target.

In the same group, Bosnia and Herzegovina trounced Estonia 5-0 with veteran defender Emir Spahic scoring twice, while Greece won 4-1 against Gibraltar in the minnows' first ever World Cup match. Liam Walker scored to briefly have Gibraltar level in the first half in Faro,



MERIDA: Argentina's Nicolas Otamendi (top) and Venezuela's forward Josef Martinez vie for the ball during the Russia 2018 World Cup football qualifier match in Merida, Venezuela, on Tuesday. — AFP

NEYMAR STRIKE GIVES BRAZIL WIN

SAO PAULO: Neymar's second-half goal gave Brazil a 2-1 victory over Colombia on Tuesday as the five-times world champions registered their second consecutive win to take the second place in the South American qualifying group for Russia 2018.

The home side got the perfect start when Miranda rose after just 80 seconds to head home a corner and score his first goal in 33 appearances for the national side.

Brazil, playing just their second game under new coach Tite, dominated the first half with a high-pace pressing game but struggled to make clear cut chances and paid the price in 35 minutes when Colombia equalised against the run of play.

James Rodriguez floated in a free kick from 35 yards out and Brazilian defender Marquinhos headed the ball into his own net.

Neymar took a pass just inside the box with 73 minutes gone and his angled drive was well placed into the far corner to beat Colombian goalkeeper David Ospina.

It was his 48th goal in 72 international games and takes the Barcelona striker equal to Zico on Brazil's all-time goal-scoring list.

The result in the humid heat of Manaus marked the first time that Brazil have won two consecutive games in what has until now been a stuttering qualifying campaign.

"We've been very consistent the last two games," said goalkeeper Allison. "We've become tougher and we deserve congratulations for taking the lead again after the pegged us back. We reacted well."

The result lifts Brazil to 15 points, ahead of Argentina, who came from behind to draw 2-2 against bottom-placed team Venezuela, on goal difference. Colombia sit two points behind them in fourth place in the 10-team South American group.

Uruguay, who beat Paraguay 4-0 earlier in the evening, top the table with 16 points. Ecuador remain in fifth after going down 2-1 to Peru in Lima. A penalty from Christian Cueva for the home side after 20 minutes was cancelled out by Gabriel Achilier 10 minutes later but Renato Tapia got his first international goal 12 minutes from time to give Peru only their second win in eight games. Chile could only draw 0-0 with Bolivia and sit in seventh place in the 10-team table.

The top four qualify automatically for Russia 2018 and the fifth place side goes into an intercontinental play off with a team from Oceania. — Ruters



MANAUS: Brazil's Neymar (C) is marked by Colombia's midfielder Daniel Torres during their Russia 2018 World Cup football qualifier match in Manaus, Brazil, on Tuesday. — AFP

Twinkle of success for Pakistani Christian powerlifting duo



Portugal beaten in World Cup opener, France held



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

TIGER WOODS SAYS HE HOPES TO RETURN NEXT MONTH

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NEW YORK: Karolina Pliskova, of the Czech Republic, returns a shot to Ana Konjuh, of Croatia, during the quarterfinals of the US Open tennis tournament, yesterday, in New York. — AP

PLISKOVA INTO US OPEN SEMI-FINALS

NEW YORK: Czech Karolina Pliskova blew past Croatian teenager Ana Konjuh 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to reach the US Open semi-finals and a possible clash with world number one Serena Williams. Tenth-seeded Pliskova, who survived a match point in her fourth-round victory over sixth-seeded Venus Williams, will face either Serena or fifth-seeded Romanian Simona Halep for a place in Saturday's championship match. The US superstar has won seven of eight career meetings with Halep, the Romanian taking a surprise 6-0, 6-2 victory at the 2014 WTA Finals. But Serena has looked formidable in surrendering just 20 games in four straight sets victories so far in Flushing Meadows. The 22-time Grand Slam champion, who has shown no sign of the shoulder trouble that

hindered her in the wake of her Wimbledon triumph, says she's slowly reaching her peak form.

"I just feel like I'm going out there doing what I need to do," she said. "I'm not overplaying, I'm not underplaying. I'm just trying to play my way into this tournament."

Pliskova said she'd be watching the Williams-Halep clash with interest as she readies for her first Grand Slam semi-final today evening. "I'm so excited to be in my first semi-final," said the 24-year-old, who had failed to make it out of the third round in 17 prior Grand Slam appearances. Having broken through to the quarters she didn't waste her opportunity. With a quick break under her belt in the opening game she was able to swing freely and needed just 57 minutes to subdue

Konjuh, who upset fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska in the fourth round.

"I think it was the serve," said Pliskova, who finished off the match with two of her three aces. "My serve was very good today." Konjuh said Pliskova was "just too good". "Her serve is just too good. She found her rhythm and took the opportunities that I gave her."

But Konjuh, who is projected to rise from 92nd in the world to 51, couldn't be disappointed with her fortnight's work.

"I cannot be sad after all of this," she said. "When I came here I could only imagine playing the quarters. I think it's been a great tournament." Despite her dearth of Grand Slam success, Pliskova is playing with confi-

dence after winning her biggest title to date on the hard courts of Cincinnati.

She beat Angelique Kerber in the final to deny the German world number two's bid to supplant Serena atop the world rankings. Kerber, who booked her semifinal slot on Tuesday with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over 2015 finalist Roberta Vinci, can still nudge Serena from the summit. No matter the outcome of Kerber's semi-final clash with former world number one Caroline Wozniacki, Serena must now reach the final to stretch her reign to a record-breaking 187 weeks.

If Kerber advances to the title match, Serena will have to beat her for a seventh US Open trophy to stay number one. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Keita Sato, left, Atsushi Yamamoto, second left, Toro Suzuki, second right, and Hajimu Ashida, all from Japan pose on the Rio 2016 sign, in the Paralympic Village prior the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday. — AP

DESPITE CRISES, PARA-ATHLETES READY TO ROCK RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO: The 2016 Paralympics begins with Rio's Maracana stadium again the iconic setting for the opening ceremony of a Games staged against a backdrop of austerity and doping.

Less than three weeks after the flame was doused on South America's first Olympic Games, Rio de Janeiro welcomes 4,300 Paralympians seeking their own slice of sporting glory. Stars include Iranian powerlifter Siamand Rahman, Britain's wheelchair racer David Weir and China's blind sprinter Liu Cuiqing.

Two new events-canoe-kayak and triathlon-make their appearance on the 22-sport menu, with competitors from 161 nations-but not one Russian amongst them. Russian para-athletes, who finished second behind China in the London 2012 medals table, were last month barred from the Sept 7-18 Games by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) following a World Anti-Doping Agency report which alleged a vast state-sponsored doping program. Six countries are sending athletes for the very first time-Aruba, Congo, Malawi, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe and Togo.Syrian swimmer Ibrahim Al-Hussein, who lost a leg in an explosion in his nation's civil war, and Iranian discus thrower Shahrad Nasajpour make up a twostrong refugee team. With half-empty venues dogging last month's Olympics, Rio 2016 Paralympic organisers said Monday that 1.5 million tickets had been sold and they hope that all 2.5 million will go.

The Games have been overshadowed by financial worries and the slow sale of tickets. But organisers have reported a dramatic turnaround in sales since the end of the Rio Olympics on August 21, when only 300,000 tickets had been sold. Organisers said the Olympics and hopes for Brazilian gold medals had boosted sales.

NEW HEROES MADE

Caught in political and economic crises, Rio 2016 organisers have skimped as far as they can on food, transport and

accommodation.

Rio's problem is that it is following London 2012, hailed as the best Paralympics ever in terms of fervour and sport-

ing performance.

To keep the Rio Games on track, city authorities had to promise 150 million reais (\$46 million, 41 million euros) in August while the government got state companies to inject another 100 million reais in sponsorship. Political and economic turmoil will be the last thing on the minds of the athletes however as Rio looks to produce new sporting heroes now that London 2012 sprint star Oscar Pistorius is in a South African prison for the killing of his girlfriend.

The 41 career gold medals won by blind American swimmer Trischa Zorn between 1980 and 2004 looks unbeatable, but the Paralympics will inevitably produce

new tales of courage. The 28-year-old Rahman, disabled since birth, is aiming to become the first Paralympian to bench press 300kg. His rivals in the powerlifting over 107kg category have already conceded the gold medal to the Iranian. China will have a record 308 athletes in Rio looking to beat their 95 gold medals from London when they topped the table for the third straight Paralympics.

They have swimmer Xu Qing competing in his fourth and possibly last Games, seeking to add to his seven gold medals.

QUICKER AND FASTER

His compatriot Liu last year inflicted the first defeat on reigning T11 400m champion Terezinha Guilhermina of Brazil in nine years. Liu, 23, won four golds at the world championships, stunning the Brazilian, 13-years her elder,

And Britain's Weir is in Rio to add to his six gold medals. The 37-year-old, born with a spinal deformity that has kept him confined to a wheelchair since birth, is entered in five events. "It will be my last Paralympics and I just want to medal," he said. "If I come away with a medal, I'll be happy. My coach is telling me that I'm quicker and faster than I've

ever been, so that gives me a lot of confidence."

IPC president Philip Craven says that despite the cuts, the show goes on. — AFP

ENGLISH FA BACK VAN PRAAG'S UEFA BID

LONDON: The English Football Association yesterday announced they will back Michael van Praag in the race to replace Michael Platini as UEFA president.

Van Praag, the president of the Dutch FA, is competing with Slovenian Aleksander Ceferin, after Spain's Angel Maria Villar Llona quit the contest on Tuesday. The 68-year-old will discover if he has won the role at next week's extraordinary UEFA congress in Athens.

FA vice-chairman David Gill, who also serves as a UEFA executive committee member, said: "While we note Angel Maria Villar Llona's withdrawal overnight and fully respect Aleksander Ceferin's credentials, we have agreed to support Michael van Praag.

"He is someone we have come to know very well and worked closely with in recent years, particularly because of our shared commitment to securing FIFA reform. "As UEFA president, Mr Van Praag would be able to provide the strong and credible leadership European football requires at a crucial moment for the global

Noting his long service for Dutch giants Ajax and his time in charge of the Dutch FA, Gill highlighted Van Praag's work in promoting the women's game and fighting discrimination.

"Mr Van Praag is also the right choice to bring all aspects of the European game closer together, particularly with his knowledge of club football, and will be able to foster close ties with other confederations," Gill said.

The FA's support for Van Praag comes at an important as Ceferin has been gathering support from across the continent to emerge as the surprise frontrunner. UEFA is seeking a new president after former France midfielder Platini quit in May after failing to overturn his ban from all football activities.

Platini was found guilty of ethics breaches over a payment he received from world football's governing body FIFA. Both Gill and former FA chairman Greg Dyke forged a close relationship with Van Praag when the 68-year-old Dutchman stood against former FIFA president Sepp Blatter last year.

Blatter won that contest, but his victory did not last long as he was soon forced to step down as FIFA's corruption scandal spread and he is currently banned from all football activities. — AFP

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Vietnam 'Silicon Valley' sparks startup boom

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SAUDI TO SET LOWER ITS LISTING REQUIREMENTS

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SYDNEY: Tourist walk along the seafront near the Sydney Opera House yesterday. Australia's economy grew by 0.5 percent in the June quarter with an upswing in government spending offsetting a fall in net exports as the nation marked 25 years of unbroken economic expansion. —AFP

AUSTRALIA TOASTS 25 YEARS WITHOUT RECESSION

Govt marks 25 years of unbroken economic growth

SYDNEY: Australia's resource-rich economy expanded at its fastest annual pace in four years last quarter, clinching a remarkable run of 25 years without recession as surging exports more than made up for a patchy performance at home. The local dollar held firm at \$0.7662 after news gross domestic product (GDP) rose 3.3 percent in the year to June, up from around 2.9 percent the previous quarter.

The value of all goods and services rose 0.5 percent compared to the first quarter, when output climbed by an unusually strong 1.0 percent. Growth in the quarter was bolstered by a pre-election spurt in government spending combined with modest gains in household spending and home building. That helped offset another steep decline in mining investment, which has been dragging on the economy for more than three years now.

For the year as a whole, international trade was the biggest prop to growth as the hundreds of billions spent on mining projects yielded a bounty of resource exports. Trade accounted for no less than 2.2 percentage points of growth in the year to June.

That strength in exports belied a much more mixed picture at home, where domestic final demand grew by just 1.2 percent in the year and household consumption grew by 1.6 percent. The report also suggested the economy was not yet running hot enough to revive inflation, with the main GDP price indicator up only 0.3 percent for the year.

"If we didn't have a low inflation problem in Australia then these figures would argue against a rate cut," said Shane Oliver, chief economist at AMP Capital Investors. "Inflation has been too low for too long and that could argue for the next rate cut in November," he added. "But I have to say it's a close call." The need for even "stronger growth" was cited by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) when it cut interest rates to record lows of 1.5 percent in August, and why it might yet ease again. Financial markets now imply around a 44 percent chance of a further rate cut by Christmas.

Leader of the pack

Overall, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated annual GDP was worth A\$1.65 trillion (\$1.26 trillion) in current dol-

lars, or around A\$68,929 for each of the country's 24 million residents. Annual growth was handily ahead of 1.2 percent in the United States, 1.6 percent in the European Union, 2.2 percent in the UK and even outpaced Germany's 3.1 percent. There was also a welcome pick up in the country's terms of trade as prices for its major commodity exports bounced following a couple of years of steady decline.

That in turn helped lift national income, while nominal, or current price, GDP climbed 1.3 percent in the quarter for its best performance since late 2013. "It appears that the income drag from falling commodity prices is over," said Michael Blythe, chief economist at CBA. "Some simple calculations show that just a leveling out in commodity prices would see income growth pick up from 2 percent a year, to 4-5 percent over the next couple of years." Such a turnaround will be warmly welcomed by the Coalition government of Malcolm Turnbull since it is nominal GDP that drives the tax take and an increase in revenues is desperately needed to rein in runaway budget deficits. —Reuters



QUEENSLAND, Australia: Photo shows cattle on a farm near Rockhampton in Northern Australia. Contrary to perceptions, British investors own far more agricultural land in Australia than Chinese nationals, an inaugural foreign land register showed yesterday as the government warned against the rise of protectionist sentiment. —AFP

PALESTINIAN ECONOMY SAPPED

GULF BOURSES FALL

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Stock markets in the Gulf declined yesterday as some investors stayed away ahead of market closures next week for Eid al-Adha holidays, and after recent gains in oil prices faded. Riyadh's main index retreated 0.8 percent in the lowest trading volume this year as investors sold shares indiscriminately, with losers outnumbering gainers 111 to 34. The petrochemical sub-index fell 0.7 percent with Saudi Basic Industries dropping 1.2 percent. Brent crude oil, which hit a one-week high of \$49.40 a barrel on Monday after Russia and Saudi Arabia agreed to cooperate on stabilizing the oil market, has dropped back to \$47.18.

A lack of liquidity in the stock market has plagued trade in the last several weeks, and many portfolio managers believe this will remain the case at least until third-quarter corporate earnings are published next month. "Investors are trying to look for fundamental justifications to buy but there really aren't any at the moment, and so many of them will stay away until September ends," one Jeddah-based asset manager said. Emaar the Economic City rose 2.2 percent after it said an affiliate had obtained a 2.7 billion riyald (\$720 million) Islamic loan from banks to finance the second phase of building King Abdullah Port.

finance the second phase of building King Abdullah Port.

Amana Cooperative Insurance climbed 0.6 percent after the board recommended a 56.3 percent share capital reduction through a reverse stock split of 1.125 shares for every two shares held. Dubai's index pulled back 0.7 percent with investors booking profits in small caps. Drake & Scull dropped 1.7 percent. But Gulf Navigation added 1.7 percent after the company said it had signed a new settlement agreement in its long debt dispute with Nordic American Tankers and that its debt

to Nordic American had now been settled fully. It gave no details.

Abu Dhabi's index edged down 0.2 percent as the most valuable company, Etisalat, dropped 0.8 percent. Declines in blue chips weighed on Qatar's main index, which fell 0.7 percent. The top loser was Islamic lender Masraf Al Rayan, which lost 2.7 percent, while petrochemical producer Industries Qatar dropped 2.3 percent. But in Kuwait, the telecommunications and banking sectors lifted the main price index by 0.3 percent. Mobile operator Zain climbed 3.1 percent and Boubyan Bank rose 1.3 percent. Cairo's main stock index fell 0.7 percent in the lowest daily volume for six weeks. Orascom Telecom, a stock favored by local investors, declined 1.8 percent but Palm Hills Development, the most heavily traded share on the market, rose 0.4 percent. —Reuters

BY ISRAELI CONFLICT, DIVISIONS JERUSALEM: The conflict with Israel, the blockade on Gaza and internal political infighting have severely constrained the Palestinian economy, according to an International Monetary Fund report released yester Cent across the Palestinian territories by the e June, up 2 percentage points on the previous years, the unemployment rate is over 40 percent close to two thirds of young people without

Gaza and internal political infighting have severely constrained the Palestinian economy, according to an International Monetary Fund report released yesterday. Palestinian gross domestic product (GDP) per capita would be between 37 percent and 130 percent higher were it not for political issues, the IMF said, using three different economic models to assess the impact. "Absent the political uncertainty and restrictions of the past 20 years, real GDP per capita would have been significantly higher in the West Bank and Gaza," the report said.

It predicted the Palestinian economy would grow by 3.3 percent in 2016, compared with 3.5 percent last year. The findings echo a Tuesday report from the United Nations, which found the Palestinian economy could double without Israel's occupation of the West Bank and blockade on Gaza. Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967 in a move never recognized by the international community. It has also fought three wars in Gaza against Hamas and other Palestinian groups since 2008 and maintains a blockade on the enclave.

The IMF report painted a gloomy picture of growth prospects, saying unemployment reached 26.9 per-

cent across the Palestinian territories by the end of June, up 2 percentage points on the previous year. In Gaza, the unemployment rate is over 40 percent, with close to two thirds of young people without jobs. "Political and security uncertainties weigh heavily on the prospects for growth," it said. "Israeli restrictions and continued (Israeli) settlement expansion impede economic activity and exacerbate social hardships," it said, adding that Hamas's control of Gaza and divisions between Palestinian factions were also hindering reconstruction.

The 2014 Gaza war killed more than 2,200 Palestinians and 73 people on the Israeli side, while causing economic losses close to three times the size of Gaza's GDP. The Palestinian economy is heavily dependent on international aid, though funding has been declining and could fall by 25 percent this year, the report said. Further cuts could lead to a "vicious cycle of political and fiscal risks." Only a "political breakthrough" could lead to "fundamental improvement in the outlook," it added, though it called such an occurrence "unlikely." The report said the Palestinian Authority, which runs the West Bank, should focus on developing a longer-term fiscal plan for the economy. —AFP



WEB TV AIMS TO BOOST YOUTH INTEREST IN AFRICAN FARMING

PROGRAMS COVER FOOD PROCESSING, GREEN JOBS

OUAGADOUGOU: With the logo of his internet TV station on his black T-shirt, Inoussa Maiga energetically plucks corn stalks in northern Burkina Faso for a program on farming in Africa. Maiga, 30, launched Agribusiness TV in May in the Burkinabe capital Ouagadougou, determined to change poor opinions about agricultural work held by African youth and to help develop the continent.

"All those who went to school up to a certain level consider going back to the land as a failure, as something demeaning. Yet-and we see it every day in our broadcasts-there are many opportunities for young people," he says. In Bagre, 245 kilometers north of the city, Maiga has found one of the unusual topics he likes to promote: a teacher who gives classes in maths while raising pigs and growing maize, rice and ground-

Other characteristic subjects are a woman in Benin with a degree in banking and finance who works in a "man's universe of crop production" and an inventor of helpful machines for agricultural cooperatives in Togo. The TV channel, available on the web and mobile phones, has steadily garnered a network of correspondents in Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mali and Togo, with Mauritius next on the agenda.

'Maximum age of 40

The editorial stance of Agribusiness TV has clear rules. Features focus on people of "a maximum age of 40" who have a "pretty interesting" background in farming, stockbreeding and other "different links in the food chain", Maiga explains. Programs can cover "food processing, green jobs, everything related to the environment and the business of sustainable agriculture". "We want people whose careers can inspire other people," says the broadcaster, who set up the enterprise with his wife Nawsheen Hosenally.

Himself the son of a peasant farmer, Inoussa studied at the University of Ouagadougou, where he specialised in communications for development before founding Agribusiness TV. He seeks "above all to showcase young Africans who are courageously committed to agriculture, who invest in the area, and possibly to bring a different outlook among young Africans to this sector," he says, calling it "the motor for the development of African economies".

'Massive unemployment'

"When you look at the economic structure of our countries, you see that it's in agriculture where one can create the most jobs and fight massive youth unemployment," adds Inoussa. "We want to spotlight young people who are doing interesting things. We seek to motivate and encourage those who would like to start out in agriculture. May this inspire them!" Inoussa's work won support from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), a joint institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states and the European Union. The CTA provided funding worth 58,000 euros (\$65,000) to help launch Agribusiness TV. Inoussa came up with a further 65,000 euros from his own communications firm. Hosenally also works full time on the channel. She translates material into English and deals with technical aspects of putting broadcasts online and managing social networks such as Facebook and Twitter.

The founders surpassed their aims during the first year, with 45,000 fans on Facebook and about 800,000 viewers for their broadcasts. The website is bilingual, full of videos and a blog. But on a continent where internet access remains patchy, the founders of Agribusiness TV are happy to make their videos available to various associations to be shown in rural settings. "We project videos ourselves when we're invited to conferences or meetings with players in the rural world," says Inoussa, who hopes that his channel will benefit from the gradual progress of the internet in Africa.

"Every day, at least 15 people get in touch with us asking for the contact details of such and such an entrepreneur to whom we devoted a video," Hosenally says. "We're also encouraged by the messages and the comments we receive each day," adds Inoussa. "These are videos that inspire people, we get a lot of feedback from the entrepreneurs we meet. Some of them tell us about contracts they have signed thanks to our work. "All this gives hope." —AFP

RSM ALBAZIE & CO ORGANIZES IN-DEPTH FINANCIAL MODELING COURSE FOR PPP

sixth largest network of independent audit, tax and consulting firms 'RSM International', recently organized an intensive 'Project Finance Modelling' training course with a specific emphasis on Public-Private Partnership Program (PPP) structures. The training which was held in collaboration with Corality Financial Group; a global leader in financial training, witnessed high participation which included key personnel from RSM Albazie & Co, National Bank of Kuwait, Boubyan Bank, Commercial Bank of Kuwait and Wedian Real Estate.

PPP projects enable the private sector to undertake a portion of the development and operational risks, and has thus been effectively executed in developed markets such as the US, UK and Australia. The PPP model has also risen in popularity in emerging markets such as India, China and Singapore. With the recent decline in crude oil prices, governments in the GCC including Kuwait have begun to look beyond their oil revenues and sovereign reserves and one of the alternative measures undertaken is financing their large-scale and social infrastructure development plans through PPP projects.

The intensive three-day course focused on enabling participants to learn about complex PPP modeling principles and structured approaches with a focus on debt sizing. covenant monitoring and the overall global best practices in PPP modeling. The course was led by Neil Booth, Director at Corality's New York City office who previously held executive positions at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and UBS. Booth underlined the growing prominence of mega projects executed under the PPP legislative framework across the MENA region, while demonstrating practical insights of best practices in financial modeling as well as advanced project finance modeling concepts.

Commenting on this occasion, Nayef Al-Yaseen, Partner at RSM Albazie & Co said: "We continually seek out effective training sessions for our employees and other stakeholders in the industry to further equip them with the best financial practices on a global level. Our consulting team has previously led PPP projects and we are pleased to have hosted a more in-depth training program that has helped an array of participants gain crucial knowledge on the advanced aspects of Project Finance both locally

RSM Albazie & Co has been constantly dedicated to provide our professionals with the latest updates and recent trends, and we believe

KUWAIT: RSM Albazie & Co, a member of the that Neil Booth's experience in financial modeling in PPP projects has served as an ideal platform with regards to the topics discussed during the training. The outcome of the program was very successful, which drives us to look forward to hosting similar training sessions in the future." RSM Albazie & Co has worked with clients from various industries which include Construction and Real Estate, Hospitality, Aviation, Oil and Gas, Banking and Financial Services and Healthcare amongst others. Established in 1963, RSM Albazie & Co is considered to be among the oldest accounting and advisory firms in Kuwait, with more than 50 years of experience.



Nayef Al Yaseen



GULF BANK CLOSES DURING THE EID AL-ADHA HOLIDAYS

that during the Eid Al-Adha Holiday, its branches will be closed from Sunday, 11 September through to Thursday, 15 September as per the approved guidelines set by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). The bank will resume its regular working hours on Sunday, 18 September 2016. However, on Thursday, 15 September several branches and banking operations/units will be open, Branches: Mubarak Al Kabeer: Fahaheel 1: Jahra 1; Salmiya Co-op; Farwaniya 1; and Hawally. Banking Units: Trade Finance Unit; Treasury Operations Unit: Retail Loans Unit: CPU Unit: SWIFT Unit; and the Consumer Operations Unit (Help Desk).

in addition, Gulf Bank's dedicated Customer

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank would like to inform its clients

Call Center will be operating round-the-clock, and can be reached by dialing 1805805. Clients can also use www.e-gulfbank.com to find out more about the latest products and services; and to download the Mobile Banking App's (App store/Android) to monitor accounts and conduct self-service banking transactions. On this blessed occasion, Gulf Bank would like to convey its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; and His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Gulf Bank also extends its best wishes to everyone for a blessed Eid Al Adha.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	nge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	18,491.96	18,538.12	46.16		0.25	6.39
NASDAQ	5,249.90	5,275.91	26.01	A	0.50	5.36
S&P 500	2,179.98	2,186.48	6.50	A	0.30	6.97
Financial Times	6,826.05	6,834.30	8.25	A	0.12	9.48
DAX	10,687.14	10,729.98	42.84	A	0.40	-0.12
CAC 40	4,529.96	4,544.61	14.65	A	0.32	-1.99
Swiss	8,304.34	8,289.49	-14.85	•	-0.18	-5.99
Nikkei 225	17,081.98	17,012.44	-69.54	•	-0.41	-10.62
Topix	1,352.58	1,349.53	-3.05	•	-0.23	-12.78
Hang Seng	23,787.68	23,741.81	-45.87	•	-0.19	8.34
Straits Times	2,896.55	2,893.65	-2.90	•	-0.10	0.38

	MENA Stock Indices												
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	nge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %							
Kuwait	5,399.71	5,413.39	13.68	A	0.25	-3.99							
Saudi Arabia	6,190.35	6,138.54	-51.81	•	-0.84	-10.44							
Dubai	3,544.19	3,517.87	-26.32	•	-0.74	12.48							
Abu Dhabi	4,515.41	4,507.20	-8.21	•	-0.18	4.83							
Bahrain	1,128.12	1,128.04	-0.08	•	-0.01	-7.22							
Qatar	10,713.23	10,634.90	-78.33	•	-0.73	2.72							
Oman	5,769.36	5,783.10	13.74	A	0.24	6.72							
Lebanon	1,143.62	1,143.43	-0.19	•	-0.02	-2.21							
Jordan	2,088.44	2,097.87	9.43	A	0.45	-2.24							
Egypt	8,202.43	8,152.48	-49.95	•	-0.61	17.08							
Morocco	9,937.01	9,946.49	9.48		0.10	11.33							
Tunisia	5,443.91	5,434.64	-9.27	*	-0.17	7.97							

	Glol	bal Cui	rrenci	es Exc	change	Rate		
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3382	3.3031	2.9366	2.4685	3.1987	335.43	4.3003
Saudi Riyal	0.08105		0.2677	0.2380	0.2001	0.2592	27.19	0.3485
US Dollar	0.30275	3.7354		0.8890	0.7473	0.9684	101.55	1.3019
Euro	0.34053	4.2016	1.1248		0.8408	1.0898	114.25	1.4656
Sterling Pound	0.40511	4.9983	1.3381	1.1893		1.2961	135.90	1.7425
Swiss Franc	0.31263	3.8573	1.0326	0.9176	0.7715		104.87	1.3444
Japanese Yen	0.00298	0.0368	0.0098	0.0088	0.0074	0.0095		0.0128
Australian Dollar	0.23254	2.8692	0.7681	0.6823	0.5739	0.7438	78.00	

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30275	3.7354	0.3740	3.6270	0.3832	3.6571	8.7700
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3031		12.3382	1.2355	11.9802	1.2656	12.0796	28.9678
Saudi Riyal	0.2677	0.08105		0.1001	0.9710	0.1026	0.9790	2.3478
Bahraini Dinar	2.6735	0.80941	9.9866		9.6968	1.0244	9.7773	23.4467
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08347	1.0299	0.1031		0.1056	1.0083	2.4180
Omani Riyal	2.6099	0.79016	9.7492	0.9762	9.4663		9.5448	22.8892
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08278	1.0214	0.1023	0.9918	0.1048		2.3981
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03452	0.4259	0.0426	0.4136	0.0437	0.4170	

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.44	0.51	0.83	1.23	1.53
Euro	-0.38	-0.37	-0.32	-0.20	-0.07
Sterling Pound	0.24	0.26	0.37	0.51	0.73
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.80	-0.73	-0.64	-0.48
Australian Dollar	1.57	1.62	1.58	1.55	1.50
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.88	0.89	1.03	1.13

	Glo	bal Bond Yi	elds		
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-	Year
United States	0.73	1.12	1.53	2.	22
Europe	-0.68	-0.57	-0.12	0.	40
United Kingdom	0.08	0.18	0.66	1.	31
	(Commoditie	es :		
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily	Yearly

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	nge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	41.33	41.29	-0.04	•	-0.10	30.44
Brent	46.32	47.23	0.91	A	1.96	18.85
West Texas	44.90	44.80	-0.10	•	-0.22	17.31
Gold	1349.56	1348.69	-0.87	•	-0.06	21.36
Silver	20.03	19.94	-0.08	•	-0.41	30.84

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES Japanese Yen 2.979 **Indian Rupees** 4.557 Pakistani Rupees 2.080 Srilankan Rupees Nepali Rupees 2.851 Singapore Dollar 225,200 Hongkong Dollar 39.952 Bangladesh Taka 3.851 Philippine Peso 6.504 Thai Baht 8.763

Saudi Rival 80.603 Oatari Riyal 83.029 785.083 ani Rival Bahraini Dinar 802.710 **UAE** Dirham 82.294

ARAB COUNTRIES

GCC COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash Egyptian Pound - Transfer 34.406 Yemen Rival/for 1000 1.213 **Tunisian Dinar** 138.580 Jordanian Dinar 426.510 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.0154 Morocco Dirham 31.403

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer 302,100 341.680 Euro

Sterling Pound 406.930 Canadian dollar 236.110 Turkish lira 103.900 Swiss Franc 313.540 Australian Dollar 235.520 **US Dollar Buying** 300.900 GOLD 20 Gram 272.030 10 Gram 138.930

5 Gram

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

70.310

Selling Rate Rate for Transfer 302.900 **US** Dollar Canadian Dollr 233.320 Sterling Pound 403.380 338.920 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 Pesso 6.495 Cyprus pound 159.645 Japanese Yen 3.915 Syrian Pound 2.405

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

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL **Europe British Pound** 0.389705 0.404705 Czech Korune 0.004466 0.016466 Danish Krone 0.041251 0.046251 0.0331946 0.0340946 0.037468 Norwegian Krone 0.032268 Romanian Leu 0.075610 0.009018 0.019018 Slovakia Swedish Krona 0.031427 0.036427 Swiss France 0.301266 0.312266 Turkish Lira 0.097608 0.107908 Australasia Australian Dollar 0.219217 0.231217 New Zealand Dollar 0.212884 0.222384 America Canadian Dollar 0.225725 0.234725 Georgina Lari 0.136691 0.136691 **US Dollars** 0.298550 0.303250 **US Dollars Mint** 0.299050 0.303250

Asia

Bangladesh Taka

Chinese Yuan

0.003289

0.043702

0.003873

Hong Kong Dollar Indian Rupee Indonesian Rupiah Japanese Yen Kenvan Shilling Korean Won Malaysian Ringgit Nepalese Rupee Pakistan Rupee Philippine Peso Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar South African Rand Sri Lankan Rupee Thai Baht

Bahraini Dinar **Egyptian Pound** Iranian Riyal Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound Moroccan Dirhams Nigerian Naira Omani Riyal Oatar Rival Saudi Riyal Syrian Pound r unisian Dinar Turkish Lira **UAE Dirhams**

Yemeni Rival

0.036926 0.039676 0.004259 0.004648 0.000018 0.000024 0.002852 0.003032 0.002978 0.002978 0.000261 0.000276 0.071019 0.077019 0.002809 0.002979 0.002699 0.002989 0.006307 0.006607 0.000057 0.000051 0.216485 0.226485 0.014836 0.023336 0.001641 0.002221 0.009414 0.009594 0.008417 0.008967

Arab 0.796216 0.804716 0.023748 0.028866 0.000084 0.000085 0.000181 0.000241 0.422712 0.431712 1.000000 1.000000 0.000150 0.000250 0.019618 0.043618 0.001248 0.001883 0.779684 0.785364 0.083769 0.082319 0.079620 0.080920 0.001283 0.001503 0.133987 0.141987 0.097608 0.107908 0.080975 0.082675 0.001368 0.001448

CHEVROLET SILVERADO: THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT IN ITS SEGMENT



With the recent spike in gasoline prices across the country, Chevrolet Alghanim recognizes that fans of performance-driven pickup trucks and light-duty vehicles might feel hesitant about owning a car that could cost them more than they had anticipated in the long run. The company's lineup of fuel-efficient vehicles addresses this issue; they are powered by EcoTec3 engines that feature three state-of-the-art technologies that make the most of power, torque and efficiency across a broad range of operating conditions such as direct injection, cylinder deactivation and continuously variable valve timing. The engines also use a compact overhead-valve design and weight-saving components such as aluminum blocks and cylinder heads, to reduce mass, for additional energy savings

The EcoTec3 engines are designed to offer customers enough power and torque needed to confidently handle the toughest jobs without denting their wallets on fuel. The new 5.3L V8 EcoTec3 engine that comes equipped with the 2016 Silverado is considered the best fuel-economy of any V-8 pickup

4.3L EcoTec3

truck available now, capable of generating 355 horsepower (250 kW) and 383 lb.-ft. of torque (519 Nm). The EcoTec3 lineup of engines also includes the 6.2L V8, which is best in class in towing capacity with power to tow up to 5443kg, and the 4.3L V6, which is best in class in torque (7600 lb.-ft).



Engineered to make the toughest jobs easier with new technologies, the 2016 Silverado features integrated cruise control and powertrain grade braking to enhance control., powertrain grade braking and diesel exhaust braking to enhance control. Also included is the new Digital Steering Assist system that continuously adjusts the amount of hydraulic assist provided to the driver while steering. Not to mention the award-winning MyLink system that has been enhanced for the 2016 model to offer greater connectivity and improved performance. The new infotainment system includes a 7-inch-diagonal capacitive touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capabilities (also available in the 8-inch systems.) Silverado's exterior design blends strong Chevy truck heritage with a refined, modern aesthetic. The Silverado design is about much more than just looks,

however. The front end is engineered to improve airflow for more efficient engine cooling, while the roof and tailgate spoiler were shaped in the wind tunnel to smooth airflow over the truck for reduced drag.

Regular, double cab and crew cab models are offered across the lineup. 2500HD and 3500HD regular cab models are matched with an 8'box, and trim levels include Work Truck (WT), LT, LTZ and High Country. The LTZ trim is offered on double cab and crew cab models, while the High Country – Chevrolet's premium heavy-duty pickup – is offered exclusively on the crew cab.

Any customer who purchases a Chevrolet Silverado will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty and 4 years of 24×7 roadside assistance



WORLD STOCKS HIT ONE-YEAR HIGHS

FED HIKE PROSPECTS FADEP; EURO-ZONE BOND YIELDS DIP

LONDON: World stocks hit their highest in more than a year and the dollar fell against the yen on yesterday as expectations of a rise in Federal Reserve interest rates receded after weak US economic data. Wall Street looked set to open flat to slightly lower, according to index futures. Emerging market shares led the charge, touching their strongest levels since July 2015 as investors sought returns with

49.5

31.5

0.0

29.5

WETHAD

363

10,500

49.5

31.5

1002.02

3.0

0.0

5.83

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

period. European shares reversed early losses. The Stoxx 600 index edged up 0.1 percent towards eight-month highs hit on Monday, led by a rise of almost 1 percent in oil and gas shares. Oil prices rose even though many market participants remained doubtful producers would reach a deal to freeze output.

Banks, for whom rock-bottom interest rates promise tough times, initially fell before turn-

bond yields fell as some investors bet the weak US data, which followed weaker-than-expected jobs numbers tomorrow, would pressure the European Central Bank to ease monetary policy further. The ECB meets today. "With a September rate hike looking less likely to happen, the ECB might be more pressured to come up with a decision this week on further measures," said Benjamin Schroeder, senior rates strategist at ING.



KUALA LUMPUR: A monorail train arrives Bukit Bintang station in down-

OUTPUT DEAL CURBS GAINS

town Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP In Asia, MSCI's main Asia-Pacific stock index, excluding Japan was up 0.2 percent, having earlier touched its highest

since July last year. This helped lift MSCI's all-country world index to its highest since August 2015. "When people think there's no immediate rate hike from the Fed, then Asia and emerging markets are the place to go to, as investors seek yields," said Toru Nishihama, senior economist at Dai-ichi Life Research. Japan's Nikkei index, however, retreated 0.4 percent as a strong yen hurt exporters.

Dollar

The dollar was last down 0.4 percent at 101.56 yen, having fallen as low as 101.18, its weakest since Aug 16. The dollar fell 1 percent against several major currencies on Tuesday after Institute for Supply Management data showing activity in the US service sector slowed to a 6-1/2-year low in August and diminished the already slim prospects for a Fed rate hike this month. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of major currencies was flat. The euro was down 0.1

first time in seven weeks on Tuesday after the ISM data, pulled back 0.5 percent to \$1.3376 after British manufacturing output fell 0.9 percent in July, its biggest drop in a year. The data was the first to cover output solely for the period after the June 23 vote to leave the European Union. "Sterling has been lifted in recent weeks by very strong data, but this output data shows it's been a pretty mixed bag following the referendum," said Societe Generale currency strategist Alvin Tan.

The Swedish crown rose around 0.2 percent to 9.52 per euro after the Swedish central bank kept interest rates unchanged as expected. Oil prices, which have been on a rollercoaster in recent days as expectations of whether a deal to curb a global glut can be reached have waxed and waned, edged up. Brent crude, the international benchmark, gained 52 cents to \$47.78 a barrel. It rose as high as \$49.40 on Monday, having fallen to \$45.32 on Sept 1. The reduced expectations of a Fed hike also lifted other commodities. Copper hit a two-week high at \$4,688 a ton, while gold touched a 2 1/2-week peak above \$1,352 an ounce before

21.0 90,835 49.0 20,020 771,931 Sterling, which topped \$1.34 for the pulling back. — Reuters 32,800 25.0 0.5 OIL RISES, BUT DOUBT OVER 32.5 32.5 32.5 2.5

LONDON: Oil edged up yesterday part- Analytics' David Hufton said in a note. ly thanks to a weaker US dollar, but the limited likelihood of a near-term agreement among the world's biggest exporters to tackle a global surplus by curbing production kept gains in check. November Brent crude futures rose 25 cents to \$47.51 a barrel by 1345 GMT, while US crude futures added 29 cents at \$45.12 a barrel. Oil hit a one-week high on Monday after Russia and Saudi Arabia agreed to cooperate on stabilizing the oil market. Prices have since fallen due to uncertainty over a deal, particularly after a meeting in Doha in April among the world's largest producers to discuss output ended in failure.

'The market is reacting to all those headlines but I think if there is a 'Doha Two', it's probably going to be at the end of March or April 2017 and until then, there will continue to be discussions and negotiations, which will make a lot of headlines," Petromatrix strategist Olivier Jakob said. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC producers such as Russia are expected to discuss an output freeze at informal talks in Algeria on Sept 26-28. "The best oil bulls can expect is the implied promise of concrete action on production if prices slip into the low 40s for a sustained period," PVM Oil "Whether such a threat, which has

been proven so often to be empty in the past, will be enough to scare off speculative short selling remains to be seen." Iran has said it would cooperate on a freeze only if fellow exporters recognized its right to boost market share to levels reached before the imposition of nuclear-related sanctions, which have now been lifted. Analysts at Citi warned Iranian involvement would be a key hurdle for an OPEC decision and added it was unlikely that any viable agreement would impact physical market balances.

In the short term, dollar weakness following soft US economic data could support oil as non-US investors take advantage of a relatively cheaper currency to buy dollar-denominated assets. Traders said US crude was supported by Genscape data showing a draw of some 700,000 barrels last week at the Cushing, Oklahoma delivery hub for US crude futures. US commercial crude inventories likely dropped by 100,000 barrels last week after rising for two straight weeks, a preliminary Reuters poll showed on Tuesday. The American Petroleum Institute releases its weekly oil data yesterday, delayed by a day due to a long weekend. — Reuters

GOLD PRICE DIPS

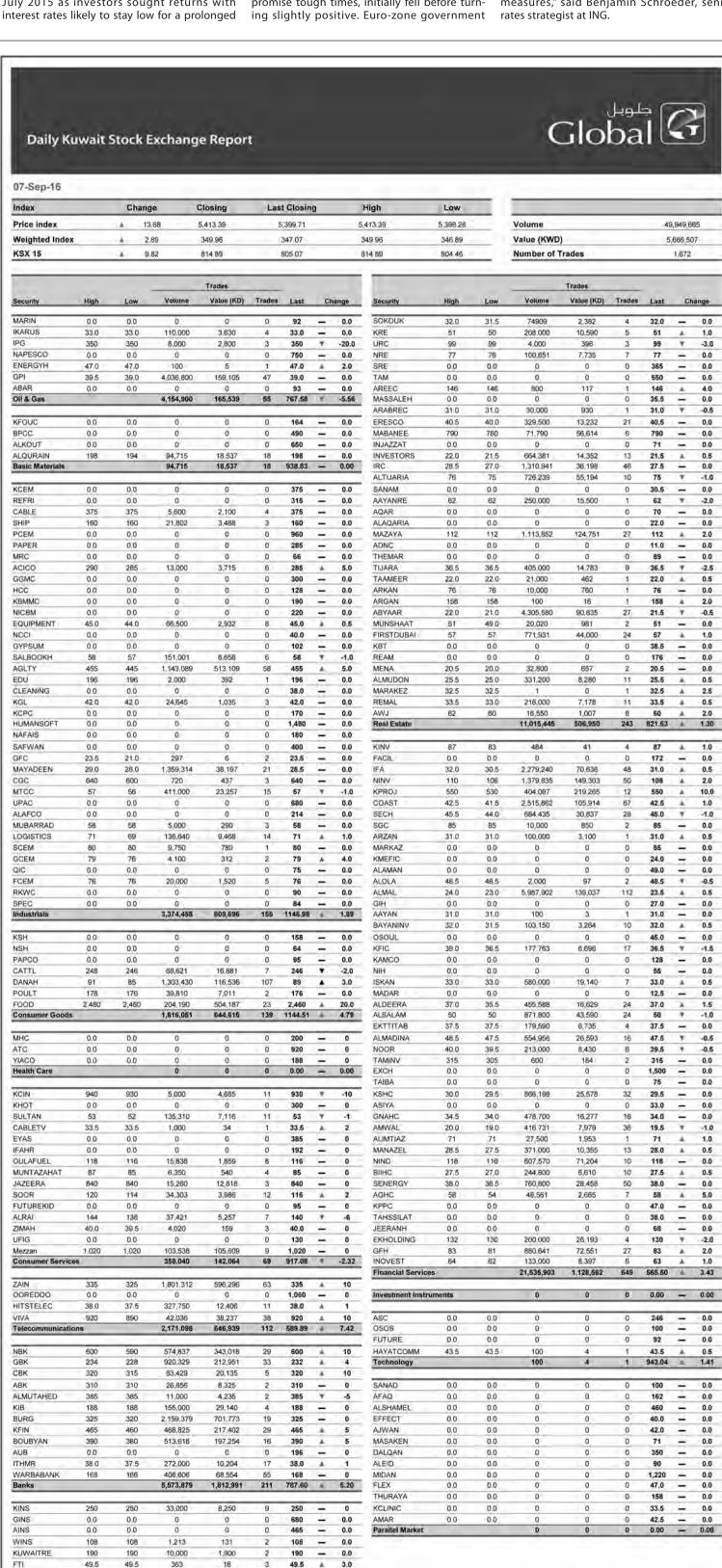
PLATINUM, PALLADIUM TOUCH 2-WEEK HIGHS

LONDON: Gold dipped yesterday, losing momentum due to profit taking following a rally in the previous session on US data that weakened the case for a US rate rise soon. US services sector activity slowed to a 6-1/2-year low in August amid sharp drops in production and orders, pointing to slowing economic growth that further diminished prospects for a near-term interest rate increase. The US non-manufacturing new orders index for August fell to its lowest since December 2013.

Gold is highly exposed to interest rates and returns on other assets, as rising rates lift the opportunity cost of holding nonyielding bullion. Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$1,346.12 per ounce by 0211 GMT. The metal earlier touched a high of \$1,352.65, its best since Aug. 19. US gold futures slipped 0.24 percent to \$1,351 per ounce. A string of disappointing US data since Friday "has thrown a real spanner in the works regarding the next Fed rate hike", MKS PAMP Group said in a note. "We see more potential upside from here with September now looking highly unlikely for rates to move higher.

Commodities analyst at INTL FCStone Edward Meir said the slower-thanexpected data on Tuesday reduced the odds of a rate hike in September to 15 percent probability with a December move still around the 50-55 percent mark. "There is still some scepticism regarding the timing of rate hike after the data," said Carsten Fritsch, an analyst at Commerzbank. "The likelihood for a hike in September dropped sharply and the likelihood in December also dropped somewhat and hasn't risen back to the level before U.S. data."

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of major currencies was flat while world stocks, which flourish in low interest rate environments, jumped to the highest level in year. Holdings of SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, rose 1.52 percent, its biggest oneday gain since July 5, to 952.14 tons on Tuesday from 937.89 tons on Friday. Silver was down 0.5 percent to \$19.94 per ounce after touching a more than three-week high of \$20.13. Platinum was flat at \$1,096.80 per ounce. It hit a 2-week high of \$1,105.80. Palladium was mostly unchanged at \$694.50 after touching an over two-week high of \$708.40. — Reuters



EBBING US FED BETS BOOST EMERGING STOCKS

LONDON: Emerging stocks touched 13-month highs yesterday as investors priced out the likelihood of a September US rate rise and stronger currencies raised expectations that some central banks could act to curb the gains. Bets that the US Federal Reserve would raise rates this month were as good as wiped out after a recent tepid US payrolls report and data showing the weakest rate of service sector growth since the 2008 financial crisis. "We think the Fed won't hike at all this year. Hence our bias for emerging markets remains positive," HSBC strategist Murat Toprak said.

The resulting fall in the dollar and US yields benefited emerging assets across the board, with MSCI's equity index half a percent higher for its fourth straight day of gains. Capital inflows boosted South Korea's won and Taiwan's dollar to their strongest levels against the dollar in over a year, though the won ceded some gains after officials warned of action in case of excessive currency moves. Traders were also watching for possible

Yields on JPMorgan's GBI-EM index of local debt slipped to the lowest in nearly three weeks at 6.17 percent. Many expect further gains, given the possibility of interest rate cuts across the developing world. Brazil signaled on Tuesday it may consider cutting rates thanks to inflation having eased in part due to the real's 24-percent appreciation this year. Indonesia also said it was

"ready to ease" policy.

Malaysia held rates steady yesterday but dismal exports data raised expectations of a cut in coming months. Toprak said however there were palpable signs of economic improvement in most emerging markets, citing robust Chinese manufacturing data, Turkey's below-forecast inflation and the South African economy's 3.3 percent growth in the second quarter. While South Africa still risks a ratings downgrade to junk this year, Toprak said "the fact that we had stronger than expected economic growth means that the likelihood of a ratings downgrade has decreased somewhat - that's positive for bonds and the currency."

The rand was steady after rallying 3 percent on

Tuesday against the dollar, while benchmark bonds extended gains, with yields at two-week lows. South African credit default swaps also slipped to two-week lows according to Markit data. In emerging Europe, the Polish zloty traded at one-week highs against the euro before a central bank meeting that is expected to leave rates unchanged at 1.5 percent. The rouble approached two-week highs against the dollar and Russian stocks touched fresh record highs thanks to firmer oil. Russian 10-year yields eased further to fresh 2-1/2year lows of around 8.08 percent. The central bank said inflation expectations fell sharply last month and is expected to cut rates by 50 basis points on Sept 16. — Reuters



HO CHI MINH CITY: French (left) and Vietnamese employees work inside the French IT company Linkbynet in Ho Chi Minh City. — AFP

VIETNAM 'SILICON VALLEY' SPARKS STARTUP BOOM

HO CHI MINH CITY: Recent Vietnamese graduate looking for an English-language teacher? There's an app for that. Or hunting the best bowl of pho in your Hanoi neighborhood? There's now an app for that, too. A decade ago such technology would likely have been developed in California's Silicon Valley. But today those apps are being churned out by Vietnam's startup sector-an industry driven by local techies trained overseas but returning home to prowl for opportunities.

The sector's growth in a young techhungry nation has caught the eye of foreign firms-President Francois Hollande yesterday visited French tech firm Linkbynet in Ho Chi Minh City, the communist country's startup hub. Much of the technology, which also includes popular mobile games and e-commerce software, is being produced for local consumers in Vietnam, where the median age is 30 and internet connectivity is rapidly expanding.

"The local market is large, young, fastgrowing, and not fully tapped," said Eddie Thai of 500 Startups, a venture with a \$10 million pot-mostly of foreign cash-to splurge on tech enterprises for Vietnamese users or made by local developers. US-born Thai, 31, whose parents left during the Vietnam War, belongs to a vanguard of entrepreneurs who have arrived to offer expertise in the country, where Intel and Samsung already have a foothold in the hardware industry.

Homegrown talent

"I kept getting tugged by Vietnam, I saw that the opportunity to make an impact and make money doing it were bigger the sooner I came back," he told AFP. For Thai, the mathematics made the move a nobrainer: 90 million people, 45 million internet users, 30 million smartphone users and internet usage 10 times what it was a decade ago. He arrived in 2012 to work for a corporate firm, and eventually joined 500 Startups, which has funded ventures including the language learning app Elsa and online ticketing platform Ticketbox.

Other apps developed in Vietnam include Lozi for food lovers and mobile bespoke tailor UKYS, which are not connected to Thai's firm. But much of the talent is also homegrown: Vietnamese teens rank ahead of peers in the United States, Britain and Sweden in maths and science, according to the latest survey from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in 2012. That educated labour force, which comes cheap compared with China or Singapore, is helping to pique interest from tech heavyweights like Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who took time away from his holiday in December to speak to tech entrepreneurs in Hanoi.

Comprehensive official figures are not available. But state media reported turnover in the software and IT services industry was \$3 billion last year, from \$2 billion in 2010, citing the Vietnam software and IT services association. The government has also outlined its own strategy for the sector, and founded Vietnam Silicon Valley in 2013 to create an "ecosystem of innovations and technology commercialization". Hollande applauded the industry during his visit to IT service provider Linkbynet, which was founded in a garage in France. "What strikes me is the global character... it's Vietnam but it's a global environment, with global clients," he said.

Growing pains

But some observers say investors should be wary of the hype, warning of red tape and murky local laws. "Vietnam has hidden tech potential, but it could take another five years maybe really to create these huge massive companies that have global influence," said Anh-Minh Do of Singapore-based Vertex Venture Holdings. "The law needs to be better, the government needs to be more supportive, there needs to be more interaction from Vietnamese-Americans, specifically Vietnamese-Californians because of the 'Valley' connection."

While Vietnam's startup sector is smaller than early entrants such as Indonesia and Malaysia, there is hope the country is fast evolving from export industries such as garments or commodities like coffee. "Vietnam has been present in the tech sector for several years but now it is moving up the value chain," said Romain Caillaud, Southeast Asia director for US company FTI Consulting. "The sector is growing because Vietnam is making strategic moves in terms of competitive advantages to attract foreign investment." Thai conceded the road is sometimes rocky, but he is optimistic Vietnam's startup culture will overcome growing pains to see substantial progress, even if it is a few years off. "Generally speaking, Vietnam is moving one step back occasionally, but two steps forward. Hopefully in the next five or 10 years it will get better."— AFP

BANK OF ENGLAND FENDS OFF CRITICS OF BREXIT STIMULUS

HIT TO ECONOMY A BIT LESS SEVERE THAN THOUGHT

LONDON: Governor Mark Carney defended the Bank of England's major stimulus package of last month as signs grow that the economy has held up better than expected to the initial shock of Britain's vote in June to leave the European Union. Carney also told lawmakers on Tuesday he was "absolutely serene" about the way he warned of a possible Brexit hit to the economy before the referendum, locking horns again with supporters of the victorious "Leave" campaign.

Data has suggested Britain's economy did not suffer the kind of devastating impact forecast by some "Remain" supporters in advance of the vote, although economists say it is heading for a sharp slowdown. Carney fended off criticism from some lawmakers that the Bank moved too aggressively to help Britain's economy through the Brexit shock in early August when it cut interest rates, expanded its bond-buying program and took other measures to ease lending. "(I) absolutely feel comfortable with the decision I supported and that the committee took in August to supply monetary policy stimulus,"

But he said the damage to the economy looked a bit less severe than the BoE had forecast when it announced its stimulus plan on Aug 4. Carney came under fierce criticism from supporters of Brexit in the run-up to the referendum-and afterwards-for saying the economy would face a material slowdown, and possibly a recession, in the event of an "Out" vote. "In light of all of the events since the referendum ... I am absolutely serene about the ... judgments made both by the MPC and the FPC," Carney told lawmakers, referring to the Bank's monetary and financial policy committees.

One of his most outspoken critics, parliamentarian Jacob Rees-Mogg, kept up the criticism yesterday when he accused Carney of having made "dire" warnings about a vote for Brexit. Carney said growth



LONDON: Bank of England's governor Mark Carney answers questions in front of the Commons Treasury Select Committee in the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday. — AP

seemed to be slowing to about half its pace of before the referendum, which would equate to around 0.3 percent in quarter-on-quarter terms. The BoE said last month it expected growth of 0.1 percent in the July-September period. "We expected some bounce-back, there's been a bit more, but we're keeping it in perspective," he said, adding that some of the recovery was due to the measures announced by the BoE.

The BoE said in August that most of its policy-

makers expected to cut interest rates further below their new record low level of 0.25 percent later this year if the economy slowed as it expected. Carney, in a written report to the Treasury Committee in parliament, reiterated his view the BoE remained ready to take "whatever action is needed" to help Britain's economy. Deputy Governor Jon Cunliffe, also speaking on Wednesday, said he expected to vote for another rate cut in 2016 if the economy evolves as the Bank forecast last month. — Reuters

CHINA FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES FALL \$16 BILLION

some \$16 billion in August, officials said yesterday, as the country's central bank sold dollars to defend

BEIJING: China's foreign exchange reserves fell by its currency against capital outflows. The world's largest currency hoard fell to just under \$3.19 trillion, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on its



BEIJING: Lightning flashes above skyscrapers in Central Business District during a rainstorm in Beijing yesterday. — AP

website. Analysts said the fall indicated China is selling foreign exchange to buy its currency the yuan amid capital flight spurred by the slowing growth in the world's second largest economy. The fall was larger than July's decline of \$2 billion and bought China's reserves to their lowest level since late 2011, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"Although concerns about China are no longer front page news, capital outflow pressures haven't gone away," research firm Capital Economics said in a note on the figures. "We expect the PBOC to respond to continued outflow pressures by allowing further gradual renminbi depreciation," it added. China's total forex reserves peaked at \$4 trillion in 2014. But the country's growth has slowed since then, putting pressure on the yuan to

The Asian giant's economy expanded at 6.7 percent in the April-June period, the same as the first three months of the year and slowing from 6.9 percent in 2015 — its weakest annual rate in a quarter of a century. China is seeking to restructure its economy to make the spending power of its nearly 1.4 billion people a key driver for growth, instead of massive government investment and cheap exports. The US federal reserve indicated in late August that it might raise interest-rates in the near-term, a move likely to put further pressure on

FRANCE'S PSA OPENS NEW PLANT IN CHINA

BEIJING: French auto giant PSA Peugeot Citroen yesterday opened its fifth plant in China to embrace a boom in sport-utility vehicles (SUVs), as it tries to stem sharp sales falls in the world's largest car market. PSA and its Chinese partner Dongfeng Motors-the country's second-biggest automaker and also a shareholder in the French company-unveiled the new factory in Chengdu in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

The factory, to be run by the two firms' joint venture DPCA, will produce multi-purpose vehicles and sport-utility vehicles of Peugeot, Citroen and Dongfeng's own brand Fengshen. It will have a capacity of 300,000 vehicles a year. But PSA-which almost went to the wall two years ago-is struggling in China, where its sales plunged nearly 20 percent in the first half of this year to around 295,000 units.

Its market share fell to 3.9 percent last year, down from 4.32 percent in 2014. The slump is being blamed on its focus on sedans, with Chinese consumers now preferring bigger models such as sport-utility vehicles. "Our

commitment to China is strong and historic and will remain so," PSA CEO Carlos Tavares said in Chengdu. The Chengdu plant is expected to help boost sales by expanding PSA's offer-

ings to cash in on the boom in SUVs. Their sales surged nearly 45 percent year-on-year in the January-July period, according to latest figures from the China Association of Automobile



CHENGDU: Chinese staff work on the assembly line at the start of the DPCA Chengdu plant and Dongfeng Peugeot 4008 line in Chengdu yesterday. French auto giant PSA Peugeot Citroen yesterday opened its fifth plant in China to embrace a boom in sport-utility vehicles (SUVs), as it tries to stem sharp sales falls in the world's largest car

"This is an advanced plant... and a solid step for the development of DPCA to the western provinces of China," said Dongfeng's president Zhu Yanfeng. The car market in China's less developed west is not as saturated as in metropolises in the east. The four billion yuan (\$600 million) factory covers an area of 1.65 square kilometers and will employ up to 2,000 people. PSA already has three plants with Dongfeng in Wuhan, in the central province of Hubei, which can produce a total of up to 750,000 cars a year.

It also has a factory in Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, with another local partner China Changan. The French company aims to increase sales in China and Southeast Asia to one million cars by 2018. China's car sales increased at their slowest rate in three years in 2015, but growth has been rebounding in recent months as the economy showed signs of stabilization. There have also been government incentives to boost demand for cars, including a cut in purchase

SAUDI TO SET LOWER ITS LISTING REQUIREMENTS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia will set relatively low listing requirements for its second stock market in order to draw smaller companies to the bourse, which it aims to launch at the end of February next year, regulators have told securities firms. Much of the Saudi economy is dominated by family-owned conglomerates, such as the Olayan group, the Juffali group and the Al-Muhaidib group, which have operated in the kingdom for decades but have generally chosen not to list their subsidiaries. Seeking to diversify the economy away from oil exports, the government wants to persuade such firms to list in order to improve their access to capital, reduce the burden on the banks financing them, and encourage better cor-

porate governance. A presentation to securities firms by the Capital Market Authority and the Saudi Stock Exchange, seen by Reuters this week, shows regulators are proposing that companies with minimum capitalizations of 10 million riyals (\$2.7 million) be allowed to list on the new market - 10 percent of the capitalization required for the main market.

Companies would be permitted to float

a minimum of 20 percent of their shares and have as few as 50 public shareholders, compared to 30 percent and 200 shareholders. To minimize speculative price swings, regulators said they would limit direct investors in the new market to institutions, excluding ordinary retail investors; institutional investors include government-related entities and "professional investors" with large portfolios and records of trading routinely. Other investors could tap into the market via mutual funds.

The presentation did not say if the new market could include companies now traded on the main market, but specified that companies could move to the main market after trading for at least two years on the secondary. The document also showed the exchange planned to launch a new index for the top blue-chip stocks trading on the main market. The CMA said a committee would decide which companies to include in the new index, and that all companies in it would have to submit their financial reports in both Arabic and English. It did not say when the index would be launched or how many companies it would comprise. — Reuters



MOGADISHU: Men speak as they sit in the empty Miraa market in Mogadishu following an import ban on miraa, also known as gat, announced by the Somali government earlier in the week. — AFP

SOMALIA QAT BAN ANGERS GROWERS, TRADERS, USERS

GOVERNMENT BARS PLANES CARRYING QAT

MOGADISHU: The rattle and honk of trucks carrying bales of the leafy narcotic qat have not been heard in Mogadishu since the government announced a surprise import ban this week. Users, vendors and traders have been left bemused and angry by the unexplained government directive. "You can't just say qat is banned without giving reasons or offering alternatives for people who depend on the trade," said Naciimo Abdiweli, a mother of five who sells the herbal stimulant at one of the many stalls dotted around the Somali capital.

Qat-also known as miraa-is a red-stemmed, green-leafed plant that has a mildly amphetaminelike effect when chewed, akin to one too many espressos. Among Somalis it has long had social, cultural and religious uses but it is also frequently abused. Traditionally, chewing was an afternoon activity for men, but increasingly they are also chewing in the morning, evening and throughout the night. Addicts commonly spend all their money on bunches of leaves and waste hours in a stupor, green drool trickling from between brown-stained teeth. Doctors in Somalia have linked dependency to psychosis and paranoia.

No explanation On Monday Somalia's government banned aeroplanes that are carrying qat from entering Somali airspace. While it is enjoyed in Somalia, qat is grown in neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya, both of which have large farming communities relying on its export for their livelihoods. Contacted by AFP, Somalia's transport minister Ali Ahmed Jama Jangeli refused to give any reason for the ban. No explanation has been offered by any other government officials, leaving traders like Abdiweli at a loss.

'We've been told the government stopped flights bringing qat from Kenya and the market is empty now, but we don't know the reason," she said. The Somali decision has upset Kenyan growers too. "This is a big loss to us," said Dave Muthuri, chairman of the Kenya Miraa Farmers and Traders Association. "Farmers are crying because of the loss they are incurring. It caught everyone off-guard," he added. This week their crops-which must be transported fresh before the leaves wilt-have languished in sacks in Meru, where it is grown in Kenya's center, and at the nation's Wilson Airport from where it is

Muthuri said no qat had left Kenya since Monday and that dozens of tons of the plant were going to waste. In Mogadishu, at the receiving end of the qat supply chain, business has ground to a halt. "We are sitting on empty tables at markets waiting for news, but it seems the government does not want to talk to us openly about why they've stopped this business," said Ahmed Ugaas, a qat trader.

Ban can't last

But while some are concerned by the social damage done by qat, others believe it helps keep the volatile city calm. "I believe that gat consumption played an important role in maintaining tranquility," said Mohamed Abdisalam, a grocer. "Most of the gunmen go and sit chewing every day from 11 in the morning, can you imagine what they will do when they don't have qat? They will go onto the streets and cause havoc!" he predicted. Qat is banned in the US, Canada and most of Europe-all places with large diaspora Somali communities.

But no government or authority has ever succeeded in banning it in Somalia, not the military dictatorship, the warlords nor the Islamic extremists. "It's a matter of days and then business will be back to normal", said Zakariye Mohamed, a regular qat consumer untroubled by the interruption in his supply. "The military regime [of Siad Barre] was mightier than this government but they could not succeed in banning it. Even Al-Shabaab, who kill people, could not stop it," he said. "This thing is very tricky." — AFP

JOYALUKKAS ADDS EXTRA SPARK TO EID AL-ADHA CELEBRATIONS

KUWAIT: It's a great time to give your loved ones something special for Eid Al-Adha from Joyalukkas. The world's favorite jeweler is giving away FREE GOLD COINS on purchase and an exclusive old gold jewelry exchange offer in time for the festivities. "At Joyalukkas, everything we do is aimed at enhancing customers' lifestyles. So from products and services to seasonal offers, we always try to match their needs with what is most meaningful to them," says John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group.

"These festive offers are our way of

saying Eid Al-Adha Mubarak to all our loyal and very supportive customers. We hope that they and their loved ones gain much happiness from them." Joyalukkas Sparkling Celebration is from 8th to 17th September and offers a free one-gram gold coin on purchases worth KD 250 and above of diamond, polka & pearl jewelry, as well as zero deduction on 22K old gold exchange. And for a limited time only. On 11th & 12th September, shoppers also get a free quarter-gram gold coin on purchases worth KD 250 of gold

BURGAN BANK 'READY' FOR EID HOLIDAY RUSH

KUWAIT: With the upcoming Eid Al Adha holiday expected to be a hugely busy period, Burgan Bank today announced that it is ready to serve its customers in its airport branch which will be open as usual from 8:00 am to 10:30 pm, in an effort to accommodate banking requirements for both travelers and regular customers over the public holiday.

The Bank will be officially closed from Sunday 11th September, 2016 to Wednesday 14th September, 2016. The following branches will be opened for customers from 9:00am-1:00pm in addition to the Airport branch on Thursday 15th

September 2016 only: Main Branch, Ahmadi Branch, Shuwaikh Industrial Branch, Hawalli Branch -Tunis Street, Jahraa Branch, Salmiya Branch, Farwaniya

The Bank will resume business on Sunday 18th September, 2016. The Bank would like to take this opportunity to wish all Eid Mubarak and a happy holiday. For more information on any products or services, customers are required to contact Burgan Bank's call center 1804080 during the holiday. On this occasion, Burgan Bank extends its best wishes and greetings to the public.



IRELAND FIGHTS TO RESTORE ITS INVESTMENT REPUTATION

HISTORICAL APPLE CASE NOT SEEN DETRACTING INVESTORS

Ireland claw back billions in tax from Apple has hit the country's reputation as an investment destination just as it eyes up opportunities from Brexit, but officials say the damage will be limited. Apple and the Irish government are both appealing against last week's European Commission ruling that the company's low tax bill in Ireland, where it is among the biggest multinational employers, constituted illegal state aid.

A campaign to redress the impact abroad has already begun and officials and multinational advisors say they are confident the order that Apple

DUBLIN: The European Union's demand that cough up 13 billion euros in back taxes will not interrupt record flows of investment into Ireland. A string of controversies over corporate taxation had already prompted Ireland to begin phasing out the tax structure used by Apple.

"The Commission's decision has been reported around the world, it's a global story and some people obviously won't get past the headline. That's problematic for Ireland," said Martin Shanahan, chief executive of IDA Ireland, the state agency in charge of attracting foreign direct investment. "When IDA tries to attract companies in, those companies work on the basis that the taxation system is what is laid

down in law. The Commission decision calls into question whether that is the case and that's unhelpful, not just for Ireland."

Shanahan, who began the damage limitation with a series of media interviews in London within hours of the ruling, will use Brexit-related trade missions to London, New York and the US west coast to provide clarity for investors in the coming weeks. Ireland is hoping for a bonus from Britain's June vote to leave the EU, which leaves it as the only English-speaking country offering a base in the euro zone and a future in the bloc. It had more than 35 concrete enquiries by the end of last month from financial groups looking at setting up a base or expanding in Ireland as a result of the

Brexit referendum. Shanahan, who oversees the strategy responsible for around 190,000 jobs or almost one in every 10 Irish workers, said the huge increase in inquiries has continued and he did not see the Commission's ruling damaging those prospects. Yesterday, Russian antivirus firm Kaspersky Lab announced the opening of its first European research and development centre in Dublin, where it will create 50 jobs by 2018, the fifth such announcement since last week's Apple ruling that has included new investments from Coca Cola and wearable fitness device maker Fitbit Inc.

Robust defense

Tax advisers who pitch Ireland as an investment location on a daily basis say the Apple decision has been no more than a topical subject for potential investors, as the arrangement used by the iPhone maker is no longer available for new entrants. Ireland moved to shut down the "Double Irish" tax loophole in 2013 following damning criticism from a US Senate committee investigation by making it illegal for a company registered in Ireland to have no tax domicile anywhere.

"Awareness at a board level regarding international tax structures and associated tax and reputational risk grew on the back of that," said Kevin Doyle, international tax partner at BDO, referring also to an investigative reporting series that heightened the international debate on corporate tax avoidance. "The initial conversations with potential FDI companies has evolved over the last number of years. With new set ups, there's less and less discussion about implementing aggressive tax

Ireland has been here before. It launched a diplomatic offensive in 2013 to reject the U.S. senators' accusations that it acted as a tax haven for companies like Apple, issuing its embassies from Beijing to Buenos Aires with rebuttal points. The strategy worked. The IDA continued to add jobs in 2014 and posted a record year in 2015, meaning foreign multinationals now employ over 20 percent more workers than they did a decade ago, before the 'Celtic Tiger' boom gave way to a spectacular economic bust. — Reuters

ISOLATED RUSSIAN OUTPOST WITHERS UNDER CONFRONTATION WITH WEST

KALININGRAD: The Baltic Sea outpost of Kaliningrad was once touted as Russia's future Hong Kong: separated from the mainland, with a special status that would allow it to thrive through trade. But for Igor Pleshkov, who employs 300 workers in a cement factory in this region of 1 million people wedged between EU members Lithuania and Poland, the future now looks dark. He has watched his business wither in recent months, brought low by protectionist measures imposed by Moscow in retaliation for Western sanctions.

"The Russian economy has hit bottom, but who would have thought the Russians would start digging?" Pleshkov, 46, says, quoting a line he says he first heard from a German engineer who had come to work in Kaliningrad. The mediaeval port of Koenigsberg, once a centre of Protestant learning and trade on the Baltic coast, was in fact part of Germany until World War Two, when it was bombed to rubble by the allies, besieged by the advancing Red Army and captured in the final months of the war.

Its entire German population fled, died or was expelled, and the region known as North Prussia was annexed by the Soviet Union, renamed Kaliningrad, rebuilt with stark housing blocks and repopulated by Russians. The breakup of the Soviet Union left it separated from the rest of Russia, its crumbling roads now clogged with second-hand Volkswagens and Skodas bought cheaply in Europe, rather than Russian Ladas and Volgas.

While the region was heavily militarized and largely closed to outsiders during the Soviet period, it grew the shoots of prosperity in recent years. Kaliningrad now has some 80,000 small and medium-sized firms, many involved in manufacturing, thanks in part to special trade status with its EU neighbors. Companies like Pleshkov's Thomas-Beton were permitted to import raw materials duty free to make products that could be sold back in mainland Russia. But that status was allowed to lapse on April 1 this year. And that followed a series of other moves to restrict trade since 2014, when Russia seized Ukraine's Crimea, the United States and EU imposed punitive financial sanctions, and Moscow responded with counter-

Different situation

Kaliningrad is hardly the only part of Russia that is hurting. Throughout the past two years, a collapse in global prices for energy exports have created a grinding economic crisis. The rouble has fallen, raising the price of imports. But while some parts of Russia have been partly shielded from the pain by the fall in imports, which has boosted consumption of home-made goods, Kaliningrad's close ties to its EU neighbors means it has suffered more than other areas.

Since 2014, Russia's overall trade volume has fallen by a third, but Kaliningrad's has plummeted by nearly half. Industrial output. which had previously outpaced the rest of Russia, fell more than anywhere else. Russia's counter-sanctions included a ban on most EU food imports, wrecking an industry of processing imported meat into canned lunch meat for sale across Russia, which had accounted for nearly a fifth of Kaliningrad's manufacturing.

In the case of Pleshkov's cement company, the situation became worse in recent months when the government squeezed his supply of inexpensive cement by demanding complicated certificates for imports. The reform was intended to protect Russian companies but had the opposite effect in Kaliningrad, Pleshkov says. "They are closing off markets, but they do not understand that the Kaliningrad region is in a little bit of a different geographical situation," said Pleshkov.

Not special anymore

The Moscow government speaks of refocusing eastwards on trade with countries like China. But that is small comfort here on Europe's doorstep. "Cooperation with Australia looks as likely to yield success as the current model at this point in time," gloomily quipped Ilya Shumanov, a former director of Kaliningrad's Transparency International office. Many locals blame the region's government for not having a plan to support business after the end of the special status regime, beyond relying on government subsidies, set at 66 billion roubles (\$1.02 billion) for this year. — Reuters

ARAB LEADERS 'MUST BE' NURTURED, EMPOWERED

KUWAIT: Arab leaders across the GCC must be nurtured and empowered to deliver quality board directorship and the highest standards of corporate governance to positively impact business and society, says the GCC Board Directors Institute. Speaking at the Institute's first Breakfast Forum - a series aimed at bringing together leaders across different industries to address issues connected with board governance and global trends - Jane Valls, Executive Director of GCC BDI said "a knowledge-based economy, and the spirit of entrepreneurship and responsibility are taking centre stage on several government agendas including UAE Vision 2021, KSA Vision 2030, Bahrain Vision 2030, Kuwait Vision 2035, and Oman Vision 2020.

"These government visions require a collective leader's spirit and the ability to find opportunities in any challenges that may come. The new direction taking form across the GCC will also require the transition of nationals from employment in the public sector to seeking opportunities in the private sector." Valls continued: "As part of our effort to nurture and empower quality board directorship to create a positive impact on business and society, we felt it was pertinent to inaugurate our first Breakfast Forum with a special focus on growing Arab Leaders and the approach to leadership development in the region."

The first event held on Wednesday 7th September in Dubai was in partnership with McKinsey & Company and welcomed over 60 senior board directors, C-suite professionals, senior advisers and diplomats from a broad range of industries in the public and private sectors. "When tackling the tough question of how to overcome the socio-economic challenges in Arab countries, the answer lies in the future business leaders who need to be equipped with the necessary skills and character traits to adapt to the dynamic nature of



Jane Valls

the regional landscape," said Michael Rennie, Head of Global Organization Practice, McKinsey & Company. "Leadership style is the engine of high performance work and an important skill to have is a far-sighted vision that will guide leaders towards a brighter future."

Michael Rennie has directed McKinsey's work in leadership globally for 20 years and shared his experiences and success stories in the region from the past 3 years during the event. Hosted by the GCC Board Directors Institute, the leading voice on board governance in the region, The GCC BDI Breakfast Forum Series is a regular event held across various GCC locations. The next event is scheduled on 3 October in Dubai, with speaker Simon Walker, Director General of the UK Institute of Directors and Chairman of the Global Network of Director Institutes focusing on the topic "Brexit -Britain's prospects post Brexit". For more information, please contact GCC BDI by email cristina.borges@gccbdi.org or www.gccbdi.org.

DIYAR UNITED COMPANY IS MICROSOFT KUWAIT PARTNER OF 2016

FIRST CLOUD SOLUTION PROVIDER PARTNER IN KUWAIT

Kuwait: Diyar United Company, a Kuwaitheadquartered Information and Communication Technology (ICT) specialist, is the recipient of the 2016 Microsoft Country Partner of the Year Award. The company was honored among a field of top Microsoft partners for demonstrating excellence in innovation and implementation of customer solutions based on Microsoft technology. Diyar United Company is the first cloud solution provider (CSP) in Kuwait; CSP allows Diyar to offer various cloud based solutions to the SMB market. DiyarCloud allows SMB's to pick or choose all Microsoft cloud solutions online with the flexibility of paying

monthly, quarterly or yearly . Speaking on the occasion, Bashar Atout, CEO, Diyar United Company said: "It is a great honor to win the Country Partner of the Year Award. This achievement highlights our truly exceptional work in delivering Microsoft products and solutions that positively impact our customers and deliver absolutely first-class services. I am especially pleased to receive this award in such a strong field. It emphasizes our commitment to our customers as we strive to deliver services that are in their best interests. Our partnership with Microsoft has incredible value, we have had some great successes working together for the past 21 years, and look forward to continued success as we work together in the future."

"In today's world where technology is a make-or-break factor for any business, our partners are on the frontlines of helping them transform, through our powerful productivity offerings, our ubiquitous mobile solutions and our intelligent cloud," said Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait. "Diyar United Company is great example of talent that we see in the Microsoft partner community, and reiterates our commitment to enabling partners be successful, working with them to build and maintain profitable businesses as they serve our mutual customers.

The Microsoft 2016 Country Partner of the Year Award recognizes partners at the country level that have had substantial growth in their customer base and/or revenue by driving customer impact and satisfaction with Microsoft Cloud offerings. Partners nominated for this award demonstrate effective engagement with their local Microsoft office and demonstrate innovation, competitive differentiation, and customer value that results in a profitable business that showcases the benefits of using Microsoft Cloud services.

Diyar United's competencies have been built through engagement with multiple customers across sectors and sizes, and the

company's Microsoft offering has proven popular across its customer base. Being recognized as a Microsoft Partner of the Year has demonstrated business excellence in delivering Microsoft solutions to multiple customers over the past year. This award recognizes Diyar United Company as succeeding in effective engagement with its local Microsoft Kuwait office while showcasing innovation and business impact. driving customer satisfaction, and winning new customers.

Diyar United Company will continue to build its product portfolio and improve its capabilities in Microsoft innovation, setting it firmly ahead of regional peers.



UNKNOWN LOCATION: This undated photo rendering provided by Volvo Cars shows the car makers City Safety feature in one of their XC90 SUVs. City Safety features pedestrian and cyclist detection with full auto brake, day and night. —AP

TECH MAY HELP STEER OLDER DRIVERS DOWN A SAFER ROAD

SAN FRANCISCO: Older drivers may soon be traveling a safer road thanks to smarter cars that can detect oncoming traffic, steer clear of trouble and even hit the brakes when a collision appears imminent. A few of these innovations, such as blind-spot warning systems, are already built in or offered as optional features in some vehicles, primarily in more expensive models. But more revolutionary breakthroughs are expected in the next few years, when measures such as robotic braking systems are supposed to become standard features in all cars on US roads.

Better technology, of course, can help prevent drivers of all ages from getting into accidents. But those in their 70s and older are more likely to become confused at heavily trafficked intersections and on-ramps. Aging also frequently limits a body's range of motion, making it more difficult to scan all around for nearby vehicles and other hazards. And older drivers tend to be more fragile than their younger counterparts, suffering more serious injuries in traffic accidents. "Anything that reduces the likelihood or severity of a collision is really a technology that is primed for helping tomorrow's older adults," says Bryan Reimer, research scientist for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's AgeLab and associate director of the New England University Transportation Center "We are moving towa an ecosystem where older adults will increasingly

be supported by the technology that may help enhance their mobility."Automakers are rolling out more technology just as the first members of the culture-shifting Baby Boom generation turn 70 this year. By 2030, the US Census Bureau expects there will be nearly 54 million people who are 70 or older living in the country, up from about 31 million in 2014. About 80 percent of that group is expected to be licensed to drive, based on current trends, and that ratio could rise even higher if technology lets elderly people remain behind the wheel and preserve a sense of independence longer.

Key consideration

The presence of safety technology will be a key consideration for three-fourths of the drivers older than 50 who plan to buy a car in the next two years, according to a recent survey by auto insurer The Hartford and MIT AgeLab. In an indication that priorities are shifting, only one-third of the surveyed 50-and-older drivers who bought a car during the past two years focused on safety technology. The push to engineer selfdriving cars has helped heighten awareness about the role technology can play in eliminatingGoogle, now part of Alphabet Inc., ignited the self-driving car research seven years when it began working on autonomous vehicles in a secret laboratory. — AP

HISTORIC DELL AND **EMC MERGER COMPLETE**

completion of the acquisition of EMC Corporation, creating a unique family of businesses that provides the essential infrastructure for organizations to build their digital future, transform IT and protect their most important asset, information. This combination creates a \$74 billion market leader with an expansive technology portfolio that solves complex problems for customers in the industry's fast-growing areas of hybrid cloud, software-defined data center, converged infrastructure, platform-as-aservice, data analytics, mobility and cybersecuri-

The company will host a conference call with media and industry analysts today at 9:00 a.m. Central Time. To register for the call, click here. Dell Technologies serves 98 percent of the Fortune 500 and comprises several market leading businesses. The two largest, and most wellknown, are the Dell client solutions business and the Dell EMC infrastructure solutions business - both of which are supported by Dell EMC Services. In addition, Dell Technologies contains Boomi, Pivotal, RSA, SecureWorks, Virtustream and VMware. This unique structure combines the focus and innovation of a startup with the global scale and service of a large enterprise. Dell Technologies' scale will enable it to deliver more innovation and investment in R&D, sales and marketing, services and support and deliver more efficient and cost-effective solutions for customers. Furthermore, while the company will publically report its financial results, it is privately controlled, enabling it to better focus investments on its customer and partner ecosystem over the long term.

Michael Dell, chairman and CEO of Dell Technologies, said, "We are at the dawn of the next industrial revolution. Our world is becoming more intelligent and more connected by the minute, and ultimately will become intertwined with a vast Internet of Things, paving the way for our customers to do incredible things. This is why we created Dell Technologies. We have the products, services, talent and global scale to be a catalyst for change and guide customers, large

and small, on their digital journey." Dell Technologies blends Dell's go-to-market strength with small business and mid-market customers and EMC's strength with large enterprises and stands as a market leader in many of the most important and high-growth areas of the \$2 trillion information technology market, including positions as a "Leader" in 20 Gartner Magic Quadrants and a portfolio of more than 20,000 patents and applications. Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO, JPMorgan Chase, commented, "Financial services is one of the first-movers in embracing technology to better serve our

customers, and the next wave of digitalization continues a trend that's been occurring my whole lifetime. As one of the world's biggest users of Dell and EMC, we spend approximately \$9 billion a year on technology, including infrastructure as well as cloud computing, big data analytics and cybersecurity.

We make sure we spend wisely and select our partners very carefully. I've known Michael Dell for 30 years. He's top notch, ethical, and deeply cares about everyone he works with both internally at his company and across the industry.

I'm thrilled for Michael and the new company, and we are eager to see everything they create in the future."

Marc Benioff, Chairman and CEO, Salesforce, added, "Salesforce's partnership with Dell and EMC has been instrumental in pushing innovation across the industry. Michael is an incredible visionary and one of the most important leaders in our industry. He has been an amazing partner contributing to our success. Now with Dell Technologies, he is once again reshaping the technology industry."

Tim McGrath, President and CEO of PC Connection, Inc., commented, "Our relationship with Dell has grown tremendously in the past six-plus years. Along with being recognized as a Dell Partner of the Year in both 2014 and 2015, the business has grown significantly. As partners of Dell, EMC, VMware and RSA, we are able to provide customers with innovative, value driven, and secure end-to-end IT solutions. With the combination of the Dell Technologies family of businesses, PC Connection, Inc. is expanding its capabilities offering an ever broadening comprehensive portfolio to our customers. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with Dell Technologies to ensure that our customers have the technical support, guidance, and product selection needed to help solve their business challenges with IT."

As part of today's announcement, the company unveiled its new branding. A video along with additional information on the new brand is available here.

Financial Terms When the transaction closed on September 7, 2016, EMC shareholders received \$24.05 per share in cash in addition to tracking stock linked to a portion of EMC's economic interest in the VMware business. Based on the estimated number of EMC shares outstanding at close, EMC shareholders received 0.11146 shares of new tracking stock (NYSE: DVMT) for each EMC share. The value of the tracking stock may vary from the market price of VMware given the different

APPLE TO SHOW OFF NEW IPHONES AND MAYBE NEW WAYS TO LISTEN

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is expected to show off new iPhones, an updated smartwatch - and maybe some new gear for listening to both - during its annual fall product launch event Wednesday.

Hard-core Apple fans will be watching closely for details about the newest features coming to Apple's gadgets, from a widely anticipated duallens camera for the iPhone to a rumored GPS sensor in the Apple Watch.

But even casual users of consumer technology may be interested to see if Apple follows through on reports that it's eliminating the iPhone's analog headphone jack, since that could pave the way for a big shift in the way people listen to digital music. Getting rid of the traditional analog jack means future iPhone owners will need earbuds or headphones that use a digital connection, either through a wireless signal like Bluetooth or a cord that fits in the same port used for recharging the device.

Apple may ship the next iPhones with an adapter that lets older headsets plug into the charging port. Tech blogs and industry analysts say Apple is also working on new headsets that fit the iPhone's "Lightning" power port, and possibly new "Air Buds" that use a Bluetooth-like wireless signal.

Iphone 7: incremental changes

Aside from some new colors, the new iPhones aren't expected to look much different from the models Apple has been selling since 2014, which include a standard model with a 4.7-inch screen and a "Plus" version with a 5.5-inch screen. Analysts say Apple is departing from its usual two-year development cycle and won't announce a major revamp of its signature smartphone this year. Despite a recent dip in iPhone sales, most Apple watchers don't expect a big overhaul until 2017, the 10th anniversary of the first iPhone's

Even so, the new phones are expected to come with faster processors, more memory and better cameras - an upgraded lens for the standard iPhone and a new dual-lens system for the Plus model that promises better "zoom" capabilities and improved performance in low lighting. Analysts say the new Apple Watch will also have some new features, including a GPS sensor that can be used with exercise apps and other services. But despite reports that Apple has been working on giving the watch its own cellular capability - meaning it wouldn't need to be paired with an iPhone - analysts say that's unlikely to come this



NEW YORK: This Sept. 2, 2016, photo shows the earphone jack and charging port on an Apple iPhone 6. —AP

Apple is also expected to announce the dates when the new models will go on sale, along with its timetable for releasing the next major upgrades to the software for iPhones, iPads, the Apple Watch, Apple TV and Mac computers.

Headphone dilemma

Though it might not seem dramatic, eliminating the 3.5 millimeter headphone jack would be controversial. On the plus side, it could let Apple make the iPhone slightly thinner and possibly waterproof; it might also free up space for other components. And some enthusiasts say a digital connection provides better audio quality. But critics are already complaining that the old analog headphones worked better than most wireless headsets, which can be clunky to set up and sometimes randomly drop their connections. Most existing headphones won't plug into the iPhone's charging port without an adapter. And it isn't clear how you'd plug in your headset if you're already charging your phone. For many people, listening to music and watching video not to mention making the occasional phone call - constitutes one of the main uses for a smartphone. Along with the new iPhones, some analysts expect Apple use today's event to promote new gear from Beats Electronics, the high-end headphone maker that Apple acquired two years ago for \$3 billion.

Apple versus old tech

Apple has a history of preemptively doing away with older technologies, often prompting lamentations from users - at least until they got

used to it. Co-founder Steve Jobs famously decided the first iMacs didn't need a floppy disk drive in 1998, years before Windows PCs followed suit. Later, he made waves by selling MacBooks without a CD drive or even a traditional hard drive.

More recently, Apple made millions of old power cords incompatible by replacing the 30pin charging port on older iPhones and iPads with the much smaller Lightning port in 2012. Some of Apple's rivals are also moving away from the headphone jack. Already this year, Lenovo's Motorola division and Chinese smartphone maker LeEco have released phones without analog audio jacks, relying instead on cords that plug into a new digital port known as USB-C. "The market is changing," said Jim Thiede, head of global product marketing at Motorola, who expects to see a number of manufacturers producing "USB-C headphones, earbuds and what have you" over the next three to six months.

Our wireless future

Some believe Apple's real goal is to move people away from cords and plugs altogether.

Apple has already cut the number of ports on its latest MacBooks, encouraging owners to use wireless features like Apple's AirDrop and AirPlay for sharing files or streaming music and video, he noted. If more iPhone owners use wireless headsets, they may also be likely to try streaming music or other services wirelessly from the Apple Watch, said Carolina Milanesi, a mobile tech analyst at the research firm Creative Strategies. That may be part of Apple's longer term plan, she added. —AP

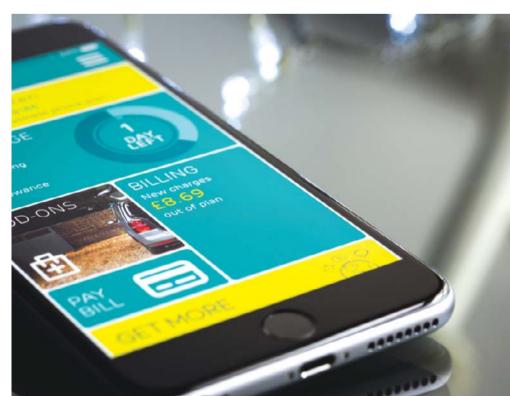
MIMECAST STUDY: 45% OF ORGANIZATIONS NOT PREPARED FOR MALICIOUS INSIDERS

DUBAI, UAE: Mimecast Limited (NASDAQ: MIME), a leading email and data security company, released new data- revealing that organizations globally believe they are their own worst enemy when it comes to cybersecurity, with 45 percent saying they are ill-equipped to cope with the threat of malicious insiders and twice as many, 90 percent, calling malicious insiders a major threat to the organizations' security.

Mimecast initially found as part of its Business Email Threat Report: Email Security Uncovered that 65 percent of IT security decision makers globally feel their email security systems are inadequately equipped to handle cyber threats; and, this new data makes it clear that malicious insiders represent a major and growing source of this risk and anxiety over security preparedness. By concentrating predominately on perimeter defense and outside threats, organizations around the world struggle with the risk that comes from their own people, emphasizing the need for organizations to implement employee awareness and education as well as creating a cyber resilience strategy that includes both technology- and humanbased defenses. This is evident especially considering this study revealed that nearly half of the organizations polled felt exposed to malicious insider attacks.

Mimecast's research also uncovered that:

Over half (53 percent) of IT security decision makers view malicious insiders as a moderate or high threat to their organization. One in seven IT security decision makers view malicious insiders as their number one threat. Those who say they're very equipped on cybersecurity feel virtually just as vulnerable to insider threats as those who believe they aren't equipped at all (16 percent vs. 17 percent), indicating that the risk of malicious insiders trumps perceptions of security confidence. "Organizations of all sizes struggle with the risks that are posed by employees being targeted by adversaries to launch and execute attacks to gain access to data or funds," said Brandon Bekker, managing director, Mimecast MEA. "Every day, we trust employees with sensitive information and powerful tools, but we don't give them the effective security education and advanced cloud security solutions that goes hand-in-hand with those respon-



sibilities. As a community we must work togeth-

er to enact better business processes. This is in part why we launched the Cyber Resilience Coalition, bringing together leading security, data protection and business continuity vendors to help strengthen organizations' total cyber resilience strategy. "Another issue we can work together to control is rogue employees who use file-sharing or cloud storage services to steal valuable corporate data - also known as malicious insiders. IT managers have, for too long, not paid due attention to this threat. We must re-evaluate unrestricted access to these services and ensure that other protections are put in place quickly."

Mimecast Tips for Safeguarding Against

Malicious Insiders 1. Assign role-based permissions to administrators to better control access to key systems and

limit the ability of a malicious insider to act. 2. Implement internal safeguards and data exfiltration control to detect and mitigate the risk of malicious insiders when they do strike, to cut off their ability to send confidential data outside the network.

3. Offer creative employee security training programs that deter potential malicious insiders in the first place and help others to spot the signs so they can report inappropriate activity to their managers. Then, back that up with effective processes to police and act swiftly in the event of an attack.

4. Nurture a culture of communication within teams to help employees watch out for each other and step in when someone seems like they've become disenchanted or are at risk of turning against the company.

5. Train your organization's leadership to communicate with employees to ensure open communication and awareness

•This data was extracted from a Mimecast survey of 600 IT security managers from organizations in the United States, United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia. The initial findings of that survey were released in February 2016.

NATIVE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS VIOLATED IN NAME OF 'CONSERVATION'

HONOLULU: Some of the world's leading conservation groups are violating the rights of indigenous people by backing projects that oust them from their ancestral homes in the name of environmental preservation, a top UN expert said this week. UN special reporter Victoria Tauli-Corpuz's latest report documents killings, evictions and lands being used for resource extraction without native consent-practices that affect millions of indigenous people across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"Projects supported by major conservation organizations continue to displace local peoples from their ancestral homes," said Tauli-Corpuz, who gave a series of talks on her findings at the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, the globe's largest gathering of conservation leaders.

While she refrained from naming names in her report, she told AFP the groups include the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society. "They know who they are," she said in an interview on the sidelines of the IUCN meeting, which has drawn 9,000 heads of states and environmentalists to Hawaii for a 10-day meeting. "From the reports I have received, these big conservation groups are some of the main groups that should account for what has happened."

Tigers or people

In the past year, Tauli-Corpuz traveled to Honduras, Brazil, and to the Sami people in the Arctic regions of Finland, Norway and Sweden. In Honduras, she met with an indigenous Lenca activist, Berta Caceres, four months before she was killed in March 2016 "because of her protests against the Agua Zarca dam project, even though she had been awarded precautionary protection measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights," said the report. In Brazil, Tauli-Corpuz expressed evictions of the Kaiowa Guarani peoples in Mato Grosso (that) continue to take place." One of the main threats to the rights of the Sami people is the "increased drive to mineral extraction and the development of renewable energy projects," added the report.

According to the Rights and Resources Initiative, a non-governmental organization that backs indigenous rights, other rights violations remain unresolved too, include the eviction of local people in India's Kanha tiger reserve, even though evidence suggests people and tigers can co-inhabit the same area. Nepal's Chure region was declared a conservation area in 2014 without consulting the leaders of the indigenous communities, who represent a population of five million people. Local people have also been forced from their homes in Cameroon and Kenya. Native people "are best equipped to protect the world's most threatened forests, and

deep concerns about "killings and violent" have been doing so for decades," said RRI Coordinator Andy White. "Yet many conservation organizations and governments still treat them as obstacles to conservation rather than partners."

Expanding problem

Indigenous territory is increasingly being included in "protected areas," which have nearly doubled over the past two decades, from nearly 3.5 million square miles (nine million square kilometers) in 1980 to six million square kilometers in 2000, said the report.

Traditional indigenous lands tend to be particularly precious because they make up less than one quarter of the Earth's land surface but contain 80 percent of the planet's biodiversity, it said. Certainly, the areas in question are ultimately managed by governments. But conservation groups "are the ones that facilitate the money," Tauli-Corpuz said. "They can do much more in terms of putting more pressure on the governments."

Conservation's negative impact on indigenous people is "a constant and recurring theme since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous

peoples in 2001," said the report.

'Old story'

Indeed, the issue dates even further back, to when the United States violently expelled Native Americans from lands that were designated as Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and Yosemite National Park in 1890. "That is an old story, and that is not the story that we as conservationists are trying to make happen today," said John Robinson, executive vice president for conservation and science at the Wildlife Conservation Society. "If you look at the special rapporteur's report, she is mostly just talking about history." But Tauli-Corpuz, an indigenous leader from the Kankanaey Igorot people of the Cordillera Region in the Philippines, disagreed. "They say it is

an old issue, it is like history. — AFP



INDIANAPOLIS: In this Sept 16, 2014 file photo, a sign telling customers that they can get a flu shot in a Walgreen store. — AP

DOCS URGE FLU SHOTS, NOT NASAL SPRAY, THIS YEAR

VERSION OF THE VACCINE IS NOT AS GOOD

WASHINGTON: Kids may get more of a sting from flu vaccination this fall: Doctors are gearing up to give shots only, because US health officials say the easy-to-use nasal spray version of the vaccine isn't working as well as a jab.

Needle-phobic adults still have some less painful options. But FluMist, with its squirt into each nostril, was the only ouch-free alternative for children, and has accounted for about a third of pediatric flu vaccinations in recent years.

The problem: Studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found in the past few years, FluMist hasn't protected against certain influenza strains as well as regular flu shots. Baffled scientists can't explain why.

The CDC says FluMist should not be used in the US this year. Tuesday, the American Academy of Pediatrics agreed and urged youngsters to roll up their sleeves for a shot. "We're saying, 'Shoot, now we've got to do the poke again," said Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson of Seattle Children's Hospital and the AAP. But, "we know the flu vaccine is the best shot at prevention and protecting those who are vulnerable from serious and

even life-threatening infections from influenza." Swanson has tricks to help ease tears and anxiety, like numbing the skin or distraction techniques like telling the youngster to cough on the count of three, coinciding with the poke. Sometimes the youngest feel braver by going first to show up older siblings. Swanson makes her own vaccination a family affair, parents and kids getting the

shot together. But her top advice: Parents, don't lie and tell your kids the shot won't hurt. Instead, tell them "it might hurt a bit but it doesn't last long and you can do this." The FluMist mystery isn't the only vaccine news. Seniors are getting a new option made with an immune booster in hopes of more protection. Here are some other

Who needs flu vaccine

The CDC urges a yearly vaccination for just about everyone starting at 6 months of age. Flu is most dangerous for people over age 65, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions such as asthma or heart disease. But it sometimes kills even the healthy and young. The CDC says on average flu kills about 24,000 Americans each year, including about 100 children. If mom gets a flu shot during pregnancy, the vaccine also helps protect her baby during its first six months of life.

When to get the shot

Vaccinations are getting under way as shipments arrive at grocery stores, clinics and doctors' offices. Despite the FluMist problem, the CDC expects enough to meet the typical US demand, between 157 million and 168 million shot doses. Flu typically peaks in January or February but there's no way to predict when it will begin spreading, and it takes about two weeks for full protection to kick in.

Will I get sick

Flu shots are made with killed flu virus, so you can't get the flu from them. But they're not perfect; CDC says they reduce the risk of flu by 50 percent to 60 percent. Sometimes people still catch the flu but generally have a milder case than if they'd gone unvaccinated, or had flu-like symptoms that were caused by a different virus. And occasionally, a strain starts circulating that wasn't included in the vaccine recipe.

What happened with flumist

Earlier studies had suggested FluMist actually protected youngsters better than shots. It's not clear why, although FluMist is the only vaccine made of live but weakened flu virus.

So it was a surprise when CDC said earlier this spring that scenario was flipping and FluMist was failing against certain strains. One theory is that it has to do with a change in the nasal spray's recipe to incorporate four strains of influenza instead of three. "Having this scientific puzzle really bothers everybody," said Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

The FluMist recommendation could change for future flu seasons if researchers figure that out. It's still legal to sell FluMist, which is approved for ages 2 to 49. Manufacturer AstraZeneca said it plans to make a limited amount available in the US in response to some health provider requests.

Other less ouchy options

Two less ouchy gadgets are only for adults. A version of Sanofi's FluZone can be given "intradermally," using tiny needles to penetrate the skin instead of muscle. And a version of Seqiris' Afluria vaccine can be given in a needle-free device called a jet injector that forces the vaccine into a stream of fluid that penetrates the skin.

What's new for seniors

People ages 65 and older are especially vulnerable to flu's dangerous complications because they tend to have more underlying health problems and standard flu shots don't work as well with their waning immune systems.

One alternative to standard shots is Sanofi's High-Dose Fluzone, containing four times the usual anti-flu ingredient. This year seniors have a second alternative, Seqiris' Fluad with "adjuvant," the first US flu vaccine to contain an extra compound designed to rev up the immune system's response to the shot.

The cost

Insurance covers most flu vaccinations, often without a co-payment. For those paying out of pocket, prices can range between \$32

CHINA OFFERS 'FREE SCREENING' FOR TRAVELERS FROM ZIKA-HIT COUNTRIES

BEIJING: China will offer Zika health screenings for travelers from Singapore and other affected countries, the quarantine bureau said yesterday, without explaining whether the tests would be compulsory.

China has previously announced that it would step up checks on people and goods from the Singapore, where more than 240 locally transmitted cases of the Zika virus have been confirmed, including in more than 20 Chinese nationals.

Individuals travelling from Singapore and other affected countries who show Zika symptoms should report to quarantine officials when entering China, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a statement posted on its website. The administration said all international travel healthcare centers would provide "free Zika screening and tests" to all individuals travelling from countries where local Zika transmission had been confirmed. It did not say the checks would be mandatory, but required all inspection and quarantine agencies to "strengthen joint prevention and control". Chinese international airports

are generally equipped with thermal scanners that are capable of screening passengers for fever as they pass through customs. During past outbreaks, including of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and swine flu, passengers have been required to fill out health declaration forms.

Over the past few years, China has had plenty of experience of dealing with disease outbreaks and learned a tough lesson in 2003 when authorities initially covered up the SARS outbreak. There have been no obvious signs that Beijing is especially nervous about a Zika outbreak in China, aside from ordering the stepped-up checks on travelers. Zika infections in pregnant women have been shown to cause microcephaly - a severe birth defect in which the head and brain are undersized - as well as other brain abnormalities. The connection between Zika and microcephaly first came to light last fall in Brazil, which has since confirmed more than 1,800 cases of microcephaly. In adults, Zika infections have also been linked to a rare neurological syndrome known as Guillain-Barre, as well as other neurological disorders. — Reuters

MEXICO SUPREME COURT GETS CASE ON RE-EDUCATION FOR ABORTIONS

MEXICO CITY: When Patricia Mendez miscarried in March 2015, she says police and detectives were called into the hospital ward to watch as she writhed in pain and expelled the dead, 20-week fetus.

"I was naked, with just the robe they give you, and I had all of them around as I miscarried," the 21-year-old recalled. "I was in a lot of pain, but nobody did anything. They just said, 'Confess, you have committed the worst sin in the world."

Eighteen of Mexico's 32 states have passed so-called right-to-life measures that have drawn criticism from women's rights activists, all in response to a 2008 law legalizing abortion in Mexico City. The legislation ranges from constitutional changes that outline general principles on protecting life from inception to a law in Veracruz state, where Mendez miscarried, that calls for unspecified "educational measures" for women who abort.

Trying to overturned the law

Mendez's lawyers are using her case to try to get the Veracruz law overturned, with the Supreme Court set to consider it Wednesday. If successful, they hope it could open a debate about whether abortion should be decriminalized across Mexico.

That would face opposition from prolife sectors that support the state constitutional amendments on the grounds they protect the unborn. "It is about the defense of something so valuable that we have, which is life. ... I ask for your prayers," Roman Catholic Archbishop Hipolito Reyes of the Veracruz city of Xalapa said in July.

The Veracruz state's governmental Institute for Women, which apparently is in charge of administering the re-education program, did not respond to repeated requests for comment. Mendez, a 21-yearold university student, talked with The Associated Press in a recent interview in the central state of Guanajuato, where she fled to escape what she called persecution in Veracruz. "They treated me worse than an animal. I felt like I could have died there and nobody would have done anything,"

she said of her treatment as she miscarried. She was made to sign some papers and then, she said, a nurse held the fetus to her face and said: "Kiss him. You have killed him." Then her ex-boyfriend's family held a funeral for the fetus, and she was forced to attend. "I have never seen anything like that," said Veronica Cruz, a human rights lawyer who is representing Mendez. "They performed a whole funeral and they opened the casket to make her

look at the fetus." Mendez's experience is an extreme example of what activists say is harassment by some Mexican health workers, police and others who take matters into their own hands and try to impose their own punishment in such cases. There is no way to be sure how often such treatment occurs. But activists say medical workers sometimes call police on patients who miscarry, regardless of the circumstances. State-appointed defense lawyers appear and accuse the clients they are supposed to be representing of having an abortion or even of murder. The stigma can last after the fact as women become pariahs in their communities, and some choose to move away.

Mendez was charged with having an abortion and could potentially be subjected to the "educational measures" provided for by the Veracruz law. Nobody really knows what the term means, since it is not defined and has yet to be enforced. So far Mendez's legal team has stalled the charges through appeals.

Backers of the Veracruz law present it as a gain for women because they would no longer go to prison if convicted of having an abortion. But women's activists argue it sends a message that women who abort are social deviants who need correction. They say as long as the law is on the books, women are at the mercy of how judges might decide to apply it.

Another of Mendez's lawyers, Javier Angulo, argued that the law is unprecedented, has numerous irregularities and potentially subjects them to punishment with no time limit and thus theoretically could be applied for life. "There is no other crime in all of Mexico's criminal codes that is punished with 'educational measures," Angulo said. — AP

LEON, MEXICO: Patricia Mendez poses for a portrait on Monday, Sept. 5, 2016. —AP

NEW YORK'S ATTORNEY GENERAL INVESTIGATES EPIPEN

ALBANY: The state attorney general's office is investigating whether Mylan Pharmaceuticals unfairly limited competition for its emergency allergy treatment EpiPen, which has been criti-

cized for steep price increases. A preliminary review showed the company "may have inserted potentially anticompetitive terms" into sales contracts with many school systems, Democratic Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said Tuesday. "If Mylan engaged in anti-competitive business practices, or violated antitrust laws with the intent and effect of limiting lower cost competition, we will hold them accountable," Schneiderman said. "Allergy sufferers have enough concerns to worry about. The availability of life-saving medical treatment should not be one of them." Subpoenas for company information were issued last week. EpiPens are used in emergencies to treat severe allergic reactions to insect bites and foods including nuts that can lead to anaphylactic shock. They are auto-injectors, or springloaded syringes that provide single doses of the drug epinephrine, and can be administered by patients themselves or by untrained people.

Up more than 500 percent since 2007

The price has grown to \$608 for a two-pack, up more than 500 percent since 2007. The drugmaker has announced it will launch a generic version that will cost \$300 in the next several weeks. Canonsburg, Pennsylvania-based Mylan N.V. said Tuesday that more than 700,000 free EpiPens have been distributed to 65,000 schools and it has dropped a previous purchase restriction for schools that wanted more at discounts. "The program continues to adhere to all applicable laws and regulations," Mylan spokeswoman Nina Devlin said. "There are no purchase requirements for participation in the program, nor have there ever been to receive free EpiPen auto-injectors." Meanwhile, a New York legislator introduced a bill to authorize pharmacists to dispense little-known and cheaper generic epinephrine auto-injectors under a brand-specific prescription without having to get a new prescription from the doctor. "Mylan has spent billions of dollars making EpiPen a household name synonymous with epinephrine, but there are lesser-known products such as generic Adrenaclick, which can be purchased for approximately \$140 for a two-pack," said Senate Health Committee Chairman Kemp Hannon, a Long Island Republican. — AP



TOKYO: Former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi speaks during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on Wednesday, Sept. 7,

JAPAN'S EX-LEADER BACKS SICK US SAILORS WHO BLAME RADIATION

TOKYO: Several hundred American service personnel who say they became sick from radiation after participating in relief operations for the 2011 tsunami that set off the Fukushima nuclear disaster are now getting high-profile support in Japan.

Junichiro Koizumi, prime minister from 2001 to 2006, told reporters Wednesday he has set up a special fund to collect private donations for the former service members, with the goal of collecting \$1 million (100 million yen) by the end of next March, mainly to help with medical bills. "I felt I had to do something to help those who worked so hard for Japan," he said at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. "Maybe this isn't enough, but it will express our gratitude, that Japan is thankful."

Koizumi, 74, one of Japan's most popular prime ministers in recent decades, was in San Diego in May to meet with 10 of the former service members, who have joined a class-action lawsuit against Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, the utility that operates the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

More joining the suit

The lawsuit, filed in 2012, is ongoing, and a California judge has ruled it will proceed. More Navy personnel and Marines are joining the suit, now numbering about 400, according to Koizumi. Some 70,000 Americans took part in Operation Tomodachi, or Friend, flying in aid from an aircraft carrier and other warships off the coast of northeastern Japan.

Since then, some servicemen and women have become sick with cancers, leukemia, thyroid ailments, brain tumors and other diseases, and they blame radiation. The ships to which they were assigned were in an area of the ocean in the direction of the radioactive plumes spewed from the Fukushima plant.

Aircraft carriers routinely use drinking water from the ocean, which the lawsuit says was contaminated with radiation, and service members showered in and ate food cooked in such water. Some Navy personnel also flew on helicopters to the disaster zone. TEPCO denies any link between the illnesses and radiation, saying the radiation levels are too low. Koizumi acknowledged he is not a medical expert, but said he had "common sense." He questioned why so many healthy young men and women were suddenly sick with symptoms often associated with radiation exposure, such as nosebleeds.

The US command has said it was not told immediately about the reactor meltdowns at Fukushima. The lawsuit alleges that TEP-CO withheld key information and caused the Americans to be sent in harm's way. Seven of those who joined the lawsuit have already died. Koizumi has already raised 40 million yen (\$400,000) by charging people 10,000 yen (\$100) to attend his lectures, with help from Pritzker Prize-winning Japanese architect Tadao Ando. Koizumi said he had been a proponent of nuclear power while prime minister, but living through the Fukushima disaster taught him that what experts said about atomic power being safe, cheap and clean was "all lies." Even after the nuclear accidents at Three Mile Island in the United States and Chernobyl in Ukraine, the experts insisted that Japan's nuclear plants were different, he recalled. "I became ashamed how I had believed such lies," Koizumi said. "They said Japan was safe. And that simply was not true."—AP

PROGRESS SLOWS ON UNINSURED AS HEALTH LAW BLAME GAME GOES ON

THE FUTURE HINGES ON THE OUTCOME OF ELECTION

WASHINGTON: Progress in reducing the number of people without health insurance in the US appears to be losing momentum this year even as rising premiums and dwindling choice are reviving the political blame game over President Barack Obama's health care law.

The future of the Affordable Care Act hinges on the outcome of the presidential election, and it's shaping up as a moment of truth for Republicans. If Donald Trump wins and follows through on repealing "Obamacare," Republicans will be judged on how many people are covered - or lose coverage - by the still-evolving GOP replacement plan. If Democrat Hillary Clinton wins, the single -minded Republican focus on repeal will look even more futile.

Underscoring the stakes, a national survey finds that progress reducing the number of uninsured has slowed dramatically. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index shows that the uninsured rate among adults dropped by only about 1 percentage point from 2015 through this July. That's much less than measured in each of the past two years, since the law's big coverage expansion started in 2014.

Bellwether

The survey, which polls 500 people nearly every day, is seen as a bellwether. Overall, Gallup-Healthways found that the uninsured rate among adults dropped from 17.3 percent in 2013 just before the law's coverage expansion, to 10.8 percent currently. That translates to roughly 16.1 million adults gaining coverage over the entire period. "It's like box office results for a movie," said survey director Dan Witters. "It has a big opening weekend and then it slows down over time."

Only a change in the politics of health care can shift those numbers. That could happen, for example, if Clinton wins and Republican governors and legislators in big states such as Texas and Florida accept the law's Medicaid expansion. But in the thick of an election campaign, both sides have an interest in maintaining their fixed positions. The blame game has a familiar narrative. Democrats say the law would be working much better if not for GOP obstinacy. Dug-in Republicans fostered an illusion among their fervent supporters that "Obamacare" could be dispatched easily. They kept pushing for repeal even though they knew Obama would never sign such legislation. With repeal as their official dogma, Republicans left no political space for pragmatic adjustments, the kind that divided government has produced before.

Kathleen Sebelius, Obama's first health secretary, said Republicans have put ideology before people. She cited the failure of most GOP-led states to expand Medicaid, even with the federal government footing nearly all the cost. "It is morally offensive when we have government

blocking people from life-saving health care because of politics," Sebelius said.

Republicans say the White House and congressional Democrats designed an unworkable program and rammed it through Congress on a party-line vote using a special procedure meant for deficit-related legislation. If premiums are now jumping and major insurers are bailing out, Democrats have only their heavy-handed approach to blame, they say.

"It continues to offer a viable contrast between the two parties," said GOP pollster Bill McInturff, who is working to re-elect Arizona Sen. John McCain. That state has become a parable for "Obamacare" critics, with the first county in the nation in which no insurer has stepped forward to offer health law coverage for next year. Obama's law has reduced the nation's uninsured rate to a historic low through a combination of subsidized private insurance and expanded Medicaid for low-income people. But it's been no panacea for the twin problems of high health care costs and barriers to access.

29 million still uninsured

Six years after the law passed, about 29 million people are still uninsured, even if coverage is now a legal obligation for those who can afford it. Insurance plans provided through the health law's markets can be stingy,

prompting some liberals to call the law the Unaffordable Care Act."

A poll this year by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation found that consumers getting coverage through the health law's markets were split about whether they were getting their money's worth, a change from previous years when a majority said they were getting a good

deal. That was before the bad news for 2017. Complaining of losses from sicker-than-expected customers, insurers are raising premiums by double-digit percentages in many communities. Some major insurance companies are exiting the markets or scaling back their roles, leaving many areas with less competition.

Republican health economist Gail Wilensky says both parties bear responsibility for the problems. If Clinton manages to stave off Trump, Republicans will have no choice but to accept the health overhaul, she said. "I know of no historical precedent to suggest a rollback of a major benefit program affecting as many millions of people," Wilensky said.

Just having a different president - even if it's Clinton - could shift the political dynamics, said Republican Mike Leavitt, health secretary for President George W. Bush. "A new president can change the game by being willing to negotiate on things the Obama administration was unwilling to."—AP



WASHINGTON: In this April 10, 2014 file photo, then-Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius listens while testifying on Capitol Hill. —AP

ZIKA CONCERNS COULD TEST EFFORTS TO BOOST BIRTH RATE

SINGAPORE: Singaporean pre-school teacher undersized heads and brains. In adults, the year to start giving out as much as \$\$10,000 Singapore government's main online portal. praised Singapore's handling of the Zika out-Siti is determined to try for a baby even as Zika infections spread across the Southeast Asian nation. She just does all she can to avoid mosquito bites.

"I really love kids and want to have one of my own," the 37-year-old who declined to give her full name said after a procedure at the fertility clinic of KK Women's and Children's Hospital, the largest facility for women's health in Singapore. "I'm not postponing my pregnancy plans but I'm taking all precautions I can."

The mosquito-borne virus has been linked to a spike in microcephaly, a rare birth defect, in Brazil, which has so far been the hardest hit by an outbreak affecting large parts of Latin America. Babies born with the defect have

virus - which can also be sexually transmitted has been linked to a rare neurological syndrome called Guillain-Barre.

Economists say concerns about the birth defect could dent the Singapore government's efforts to boost the number of babies born to its citizens. The city-state, a major financial hub, has one of the world's lowest birth rates and a rapidly ageing society, while more than a third of its 5.5 million population are foreigners. "It could lead to some delay in people who are going to get pregnant or thinking of getting pregnant," said Michael Wan, an economist at Credit Suisse.

"But it's a bit too early to tell." The low birth rate, and a drive to wean the economy off foreign labour, prompted the government last

(\$7,400) in cash to Singaporeans who have a baby. Singapore health authorities have urged pregnant women or those trying to conceive to avoid mosquito bites and take precautions since the first case of locally transmitted Zika was detected on Aug 27. Since then, more than 280 people have become infected, of which two were pregnant.

In their guidelines, they highlight the risks for pregnant women that are associated with Zika. They do not urge women who are otherwise healthy, and whose partners also show no symptoms of infection, to postpone pregnancy. "Use insect repellent. Practice safe sex for the duration of your pregnancy if your partner has been exposed to Zika," reads the advice for pregnant women on the

Note that a positive Zika test may not mean your unborn child is infected or harmed."

Some expats consider relocating

Citing a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Singapore's government portal says Zika infected women have a 1 to 13 percent chance of giving birth to a child with microcephaly.

There is currently no vaccine for Zika, and Singapore has said the virus is likely to be in the country to stay, given the prevalence of the Aedes mosquitoes that carry it in this small, tropical island. Singapore has been battling dengue, another mosquito-borne

virus, for decades. The World Health Organisation, which has break, recommends people considering pregnancy get counselled about the risks in Zika-affected areas, and are told that their options include delaying pregnancy.

In Singapore, some women are not taking any chance. "Some patients, particularly expatriates, are calling to ask if they should relocate back to their own home country," said obstetrician Kelly Loi of the Health and Fertility Centre for Women.

But Aude Vazart, a French engineer who gave birth in Singapore last week, told Reuters leaving the island to avoid Zika was "too extreme". "There are thousands of diseases I could get, even in France," the 29-year-old said. (\$1 = 1.3473 Singapore)dollars). —Reuters



Kuwait 📤 Times 248 33 199





SAVECO INTRODUCES AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS





















ith the collaboration of the Australian Emabassy, Saveco is proud to introduce wide range of Australian products in its store. Australian Week launched on 6th September 2016 with an opening ceremony by the Ambassador of Australia in Kuwait, His Excellency Mr. Warren Hauck.

Saveco began its operations in 2013 as the brainchild of its CEO, Mrs. Noor Al-Qatami, to bring one-stop mega market in convenience and low-cost to the Kuwaiti customers and expatriates. Through indepth research and dedication, the company began its accelerated development process, and now Saveco provides great prices through direct sourcing and by relying on its long-time business relationships with local suppliers. Australian products are available in the newly opened branch in Aswaq Al Qurain Area which is nearly 13,000 square meters in size. Departments avail-

able, include an incredible range of Grocery, Health and Beauty, Frozen, Non-Food, Kids Department, and Fresh products.

With a wide customer base of customers a day, Saveco makes it a priority that the products available meet our customer's standards, generally focusing on middle and upper class customers. Saveco's shopping experience is like no other Department Stores in the region as it holds to maintain the high standard of shopping experience, and focus keenly on

ambience and presentation throughout the store. Saveco is dedicated to assisting and promoting local products and offers customers the choice of imported items from the US, Europe many other countries and now

health conscious consumer and feature organic, free from products, low fat, sodium free and other specialty products.

friendly and cooperative relationship, since

"Australia and Kuwait has always enjoyed a

from Australia. In addition, it caters to the

from Kuwait's independence and now relations are underpinned by our strong commercial ties and increasing people-to-people links. It will be a pleasure to work together with the Australian Embassy to expand our range of Australian Products in the nation. The quality of the products are of high standards in both aspects of taste and packaging. We are certainly proud to have expanded our range and will continue to do so." - Noor Al-Qatami, CEO Of Saveco.





FLOW HOUSE TO LAUNCH 'WATER SURFING' PROJECT

low House Kuwait (The House of Water Surfing)'s CEO, Mohammed Al-Khenaini said that the company would launch its 'Water Surfing' project on Thursday in Abu Halifa.

Al-Khenaini added that the project would be first of its kind in Kuwait and that would be made over an area of 10000 square meters. "The project will contain a family swimming pool and another for kids", he added noting that the project also includes 34 cabins for daily use around the pools from 10 am

till 10 pm. Further, Al-Khenaini added that the water surfing pools had been imported from California, USA and Canada with a total cost of \$ 2.5 million.

"The project can serve up to 2000 visitors at a time for very reasonable prices", he underlined pointing out that visitors can enjoy the resort for a KD 12 comprehensive ticket including water surfing, swimming pools and kids games whereas the Oxygen Bar would be accessible for a separate KD 18 ticket.

Al-Khenaini added that the company

provides a 30 per cent discount for people with special needs and KD 3 ticket for maids. Moreover, Al-Khenaini explained that the resort would be open all week long for everybody while Fridays would be allocated for families only. "We are working on allocating a special day for women alone", he underlined. On her part, Flow House's PR manager, Maha Seleim stressed that the project target all age categories with proper games. "We also have special offers for companies, corporation and banks", she highlighted.

CLASH OF GIANTS AT 3RD IBAK-KBF GCC TOURNAMENT

Badminton is the second most popular sport in the world, and with the recently concluded Olympics in Rio, badminton has become a craze among badminton playing nations. Indian Badminton Association - Kuwait (IBAK) has been a pioneer of badminton in Kuwait, founded in 2010. IBAK has been on an upward projectile with a national badminton league, an invitational international tournament, an interclub tournament and four national tournaments featured in its annual calendar.

IBAK is currently preparing for its most prestigious tournament the 3rd IBAK-KBF GCC international tournament which will be held on the 9th 10th and 11th of September

2016. This year 20+ international players are expected to participate, which includes Rupesh Kumar, a former Indian international whose patronage has been with IBAK for a long time, Shreyansh Jaiswal, a prodigy from India, Imam Adi Kusuma, an Indonesian international player who now is based out of UAE, Heri Setiwan based out of Bahrain and several top ranked players from UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, Brazil, Philippines and India.

IBAK will field 3 teams this year, the IBAK All Stars, IBAK Challengers and IBAK Commandos. The IBAK teams will be constituted from among the following players: Aneef K Latheef, Bader, Dr Manimara Chozhan, Alen Jose, Sarin Joseph.

OOREDOO CELEBRATES EID AL-ADHA WITH 'IFTAH YA SIMSIM'

SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR CUSTOMERS ON PLATINUM AND GOLD TICKETS

oredoo Kuwait, the fastest network in Kuwait for 2016, announced that it will celebrate Eid al-Adha with a production of Iftah Ya Simsim, the Arabic version of the beloved children's program Sesame Street. The play will be staged for three consecutive days in the Ice Skating Rink Theater in Kuwait City - Soor Street. Tickets can be found at Ooredoo's branches in 360 Mall,

Avenus Mall, and Gate Mall from

10 am to 10 pm.

The play aims to instill a number of values in kids, such as caring for the environment, recycling, conserving water and electricity, following the traffic laws, in addition to introducing them to a number of vocations and jobs. The play also teaches healthy habits, respect for parents and the elderly, and includes segments about

numbers and letters and colors.

The play is produced in cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council's Joint Program Production Institute, which is the main supporter of the Iftah Ya Simsim project since the 1970's.

The play is brought to Kuwait by EventMania, and directed by young Saudi theater director Yasser Al-Madkhali, in cooperation with Headline Productions.



Greetings



M. Ali Imran, Turns to 8, God Bless You & May you have Prosperous Future Ahead. Best Wishes & Love from Papa, Mama, Grand Parents, Aunties, Uncles & Cousin Brothers Abdullah, Osama, Umar, Hassan, Mohsin, Talha, & Sisters Fatima, Ayesha, Meeqat, Aamina.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY

he Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kuwait will remain closed from 11-15 September 2016 (Sunday to Thursday) on the occasion of Holy Eid-ul-Azha.













Indian Embassy hosts reception in honor of visiting minister

ndian Ambassador Sunil Jain hosted a dinner reception in honor of Indian Minister of State for External Affair Gen. V K Singh at the India House, Indian Embassy Kuwait on Tuesday. The minister arrived in Kuwait on a two-day visit. The reception was attended by several members of the Indian community in additional to the embassy officials.







Concluding the summer holidays and on her Egypt Air flight returning from Cairo with her grandparents to enjoy Eid Al-Adhah vacation in Kuwait then go back to school, child, Malak Aburrahman Khaled Fawzi visited the pilot's cockpit.

15:00 Alice In Wonderland

01:00 Earth To Echo

MOVIES HID

ACTION

- 09:15 Brick Mansions 11:15 Dracula Untold Ladder 49 15:30 Armageddon 18:15 Batman Unlimited: Monster
- 19:45 Dracula Untold 21:45 Ladder 49 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies 02:15 Swelter

13 Sins

BBC FIRST

- Orphan Black 10:15 Doctors Eastenders Dickensian 12:00 Doctors Eastenders Holby City 14:00 New Tricks Call The Midwife 15:50 Dickensian 16:35 Doctors Eastenders
- New Tricks 18:35 Call The Midwife Dickensian 20:15 **Doctors** 20:45 Eastenders New Tricks Call The Midwife 23:10 Dickensian 00:00 **Doctors**
- 00:30 Eastenders 01:05 New Tricks Holby City Friday Night Dinner 03:30 The Detectorists Pramface Pramface
- 05:00 Threesome 05:25 Threesome Doctors
- crime &investigation Celebrity Ghost Stories
- 10:00 Paranormal State 10:30 Paranormal State Who Was I? My Past Lives 11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 12:00 Beyond Scared Straight 13:00 Crime Stories
- Nightmare In Suburbia 15:00 Killers 16:00 The First 48 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 18:00
- Beyond Scared Straight 19:00 Crime Stories 21:00 Killers The First 48 22:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 23:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 00:00 Beyond Scared Straight 01:00 Killers Crime Stories 03:00
- 04:00 The First 48 Homicide Hunter 05:00
- CENTRAL CANDAWOO
- 09:00 Lip Sync Battle 09:25 Catch A Contractor Ridiculousness Ridiculousness Ridiculousness 10:40 11:05 Ridiculousness 11:30 Tosh.0 11:55 Tosh.0
- 12:20 Tosh.0 12:50 Tosh.0 13:15 MLE St Patrick's Day Chowdown

14:05

14:30

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04:42

05:05

Attell

05:30

Noah

09:25

09:50

10:40

Chowdown

Chowdown

Chowdown

Ridiculousness

Ridiculousness

Key And Peele

Key And Peele

Ridiculousness

Ridiculousness

17:25 MLE St Patrick's Day

Key And Peele

Key And Peele

Ridiculousness

Ridiculousness

Key And Peele

Key And Peele

Ridiculousness

Ridiculousness

Hungry Investors

MLE Št Patrick's Day

Inside Amy Schumer

Underground With Dave

Destroyed In Seconds

Ultimate Survival

How It's Made

South Park

The Daily Show With Trevor

John Mulanev: New In Town

The Daily Show With Trevor

Workaholics

MLE St Patrick's Day

Tosh.0

Tosh.0

Tosh.0

Tosh.0

Tosh.0

Tosh.0

Tosh.0

Tosh.0

Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild 13:25 My Cat From Hell 14:40 How It's Made 15:05 How It's Made

Mythbusters Kids vs Film

11:05 How It's Made

11:30

World's Toughest Jobs

- Invent It Rich 15:30 16:20 Mythbusters 17:10 Animal Airport Animal Airport 18:00 My Cat From Hell 18:50 Ultimate Survival 19:40 How It's Made
- How It's Made World's Toughest Jobs 20:30 21:20 Mythbusters Kids vs Film 22:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild 23:00 Space Voyages NASA's Unexplained Files

Mythbusters

00:40 Invent It Rich

01:30

- How It's Made 02:45 How It's Made 03:10 Space Voyages NASA's Unexplained Files Destroyed In Seconds Destroyed In Seconds
- Hostage: Deadly Demands I Almost Got Away With It Deadline: Crime With 10:36 Tamron Hall Beauty Queen Murders
- 12:12 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones I Was Murdered I Was Murdered 13:00 13:25 I Almost Got Away With It 14:40 Deadline: Crime With
- Tamron Hall Beauty Queen Murders True Crime With Aphrodite 16:20
- Murder Comes To Town I Was Murdered I Was Murdered 18:00 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It 19:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- Beauty Queen Murders 21:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Swamp Murders
- I Was Murdered I Was Murdered 23:00 23:25 I Almost Got Away With It Deadline: Crime With 00:40 Tamron Hall Beauty Queen Murders
- 02:20 True Crime With Aphrodite 03:10 California Investigator California Investigator Murder Book 04:00
- I Am Homicide Deadly Sins
- 09:15 The Hive 09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 09:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 10:35 Binny And The Ghost 11:00 Violetta
- 11:45 The Hive 11:50 Mouk 12:00 Jessie 12:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 13:20 Liv And Maddie Bunk'd
- Austin & Ally Shake It Up A.N.T. Farm 14:35 15:00

ARMAGEDDON ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

That's So Raven

That's So Raven

Good Luck Charlie

Good Luck Charlie

Disney Mickey Mouse

Jessie

The 7D

Ladybug And Cat Noir

19:05 Star Darlings

20:00 Liv And Maddie

Jessie

22:10 Gravity Falls

Ladybug And Cat Noir

Jessie

Violetta

Backstage

04:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A

DISNED &

09:10 Henry Hugglemonster

23:25 Alex & Co.

Backstage

Austin & Ally

Bunk'd

18:15 Miraculous Tales Of

Hank Zipzer

Austin & Ally

Austin & Ally

Liv And Maddie

Star Darlings

Dog With A Blog

Miraculous Tales Of

Girl Meets World

Disney Cookabout

H2O: Just Add Water

H2O: Just Add Water

Binny And The Ghost

Sabrina Secrets Of A

Liv And Maddie

15:50

16:15

16:40

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03:35

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch

09:20 Calimero

11:00 Loopdidoo 11:15 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster 11:50 Calimero 12:00 Zou Loopdidoo 12:35 Art Attack 13:00 The Hive 13:10 Zou Loopdidoo 13:40 Gummi Bears 14:05 Sofia The First Goldie & Bear

09:35 Zou

10:35

10:50

09:45 Loopdidoo 10:00 Art Attack

Zou

Calimero

Henry Hugglemonster

- 14:40 PJ Masks Jake And The Never Land 14:55 Pirates 15:10 Doc McStuffins Miles From Tomorrow 15:20 Jake And The Never Land
- Pirates Goldie & Bear 15:45 16:00 Sofia The First 16:25 The Lion Guard 16:55 Jake And The Never Land
- 17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons Sheriff Callie's Wild West 17:25 The Hive Doc McStuffins 18:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 18:30 The Lion Guard Jake And The Neverland 19:30 **Pirates**
- Aladdin Sheriff Callie's Wild West 19:45 20:15 Doc McStuffins 20:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons 21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies 21:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 22:15 Sofia The First Jake And The Never Land 22:45 Pirates 23:00 The Lion Guard Goldie & Bear 23:30 Unbungalievable
- 00:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 00:30 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates**
- 01:00 PJ Masks Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 02:00 Sofia The First Jake And The Never Land 02:30 03:00 PJ Masks
- Doc McStuffins 03:25 03:55 Aladdin 04:20 Gummi Bears Minnie's Bow-Toons 04:45 04:50 05:05 Henry Hugglemonster



Calimero

05:20

- 12:00 Boyster Super Matrak 12:35 Super Matrak Star vs The Forces Of Evil K.C. Undercover 13:50 Supa Strikas Danger Mouse Phineas And Ferb 15:05 Counterfeit Cat **Gravity Falls** Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 15:35 Rocket Monkeys Ultimate Spider-Man 16:00 16:50 Boyster Boyster Pair Of Kings 17:20 Pair Of Kings 18:35 Lab Bats: Bionic Island Lab Rats: Bionic Island 19:00 19:55 Phineas And Ferb 20:20 Kickin' It 20:45

21:10

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19:05

Supa Strikas

Supa Strikas

Danger Mouse

Kirby Buckets

Annedroids

Much Everything

Much Everything

K.C. Undercover

K.C. Undercove

Counterfeit Cat

Pickle And Peanut

Lab Rats: Bionic Island

Gamer's Guide To Pretty

Guardians Of The Galaxy

Disney Mickey Mouse

CHANNEL

Marvel Avengers Assemble

Gravity Falls

Supa Strikas

05:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

Discovery

09:15 Magic Of Science

Fast N' Loud

Garage Gold

How Stuff's Made

Deadliest Catch

Misfit Garage

Fast N' Loud

Gold Divers

Garage Gold

Mythbusters

World's Top 5

How Stuff's Made

Magic Of Science

Magic Of Science

How Stuff's Made

Storage Hunters

Garage Gold

How Do They Do It?

How Do They Do It?

K.C. Undercove

Lab Rats: Bionic Island

Gamer's Guide To Pretty

- 16:10 **Botched** 17:05 Botched Kickin' I E! News 18:00 Disney Mickey Mouse 18:15 Botched 19:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 20:05 Hollywood Medium With ARMAGEDDO 21:00 E! News 21:15 Hollywood Medium With
 - 22:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 23:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 01:00 E! News

20:20 Gold Divers21:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier

Deadliest Catch

Misfit Garage How Stuff's Made

How Do They Do It?

Dark Woods Justice

Countdown To Collision

Fast N' Loud

Gold Divers

Garage Gold

Mega Shippers

Storage Hunters

(Season 4 Specials)

22:00

22:50

23:40

00:30

00:55

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02:10

02:35

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04:40

09:40 WAGs 10:35 WAGs

12:00

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13:10

14:10

15:10

Tyler Henry

Botched

Botched

E! News

Botched

E! News

Botched

Keeping Up With The 02:00 Kardashians 03:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad 04:00 Botched 05:00 E! News 05:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

CHOICE

09:25 Grantcheste Royalty Close Up 10:20 Murdoch Mysteries 12:10 Who's Doing The Dishes? 13:05 The Chase Grantcheste 15:00 Royalty Close Up Murdoch Mysteries Who's Doing The Dishes?

16:00 17:50 The Chase 18:45 Emmerdale 19:15 Coronation Street 19:45 Coronation Street Who's Doing The Dishes? 20:15 22:00 When Ant & Dec Met The

Prince Callie-Anne Cooks Into The 23:20 Wild Murdoch Mysteries 23:50 00:45 Emmerdale 01:15 Coronation Street Coronation Street 01:45 02:10 03:00 When Ant & Dec Met The

Prince 04:20 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild Emmerdale 04:50 Coronation Street Coronation Street

05:40 NAT GEO people 晒

09:05 What's For Sale? 09:30 Tales From The Bush Larder 09:55 Tales From The Bush Larder 10:20 Raw Travel 10:45 Raw Travel David Rocco's Dolce India Chefs Run Wild 11:10 11:35 Chefs Run Wild

The Food Files

12:25

15:20

12:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure 13:15 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure 13:40 Grandma's Boy 14:05 Eat Street 14:30 What's For Sale? What's For Sale?

Tales From The Bush Larder

HOPE SPRINGS ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD 15:45 Tales From The Bush Larder 16:10 Raw Travel 16:35 Raw Travel David Rocco's Dolce India 17:00 Chefs Run Wild 17:50 Chefs Run Wild 18:15 The Food Files

Sometimes to keep the magic, you need to learn a few tricks.

Hope Springs

A new comedy from the director of "The Devil Wears Prada"

A FILM 360/ESCAPE ARTISTS PRODUCTOV A DAVID FRANKEL FILM MERYL STREEP TOMMY LEE JONES STEVE CARELL "HOPE SPRINGS

9% MARGERY SINKIN «28% JELIA MICHELS **THEODORE SHAPIRO 2008 KELLI KONOP-BRIAN BELL. LAWRENCE GREY 38% ANN ROTI

Fall in love again this summer

IN STEVEN WEISBERG "INSUSTRICKT WURTZEL SINGERF FLORAN BALLIALS SHUBSTEVE TISCH JASON BLENENTHAL NATHAN KURNE JESSIE NELSON SHUB VANESA TAYLOR "INFO TODO BLACK GUYMON CASADY INFO PRANKEL

MGM ESOAP

Meryl STREEP

Steve CARELL

Harvey Beaks

Breadwinners

Henry Danger Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 100 Things To Do Before

SpongeBob SquarePants

SpongeBob SquarePants

Teenage Mutant Ninia

Teenage Mutant Ninja

Breadwinners

Breadwinners

05:48 Henry Danger

09:01 Paw Patrol

Sanjay And Craid

Sanjay And Craig

Dora The Explore

Bubble Guppies Little Charmers

Shimmer And Shine

Dora And Friends

Zack & Quack

11:38 Blaze And The Monster

Dora The Explorer

13:22 Dora And Friends: Into The

Shimmer And Shine

Dora The Explorer

Paw Patrol

Little Charmers

Zack & Quack

Team Umizoomi

Olive The Ostrich

Olive The Ostrich

Wanda And The Alien

Max & Ruby

19:00 Blaze And The Monster

19:22 Blaze And The Monster

Machines 19:45 Zack & Quack

Bubble Guppies

Fresh Beat Band Of Spies

Fresh Beat Band Of Spies

Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

Zack & Quack

13:46 Blaze And The Monste

Wanda And The Alien

SpongeBob SquarePants

SpongeBob SquarePants

Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

23:24

00:36

01:00

02:36

Turtles

03:24

03:48

04:12

05:24

10:07

10:41

11:05

12:36

13:11

Machines

14:35

14:58

15:21

15:45

16:20

16:40

17:53

17:58

18:26

18:37

Machines

17:15 Louie

17:22 Louie

Machines

12:00 Paw Patrol

12:13 Paw Patrol

14:10 Paw Patrol

14:22 Paw Patrol

High School

01:24 Game Shakers

Tommy Lee JONES

COLUMBIA PICTURES MANDATE PICTURES METROGOLOWYN-MAYER PICTURES PRESENT

me Time server

18:40 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure 19:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure 19:35 Grandma's Boy 20:00 Eat Street What's For Sale? 21:25

What's For Sale?
Tales From The Bush Larder Tales From The Bush Larder 22:20 Raw Travel 22:45 Raw Travel David Rocco's Dolce India 23:15 Chefs Run Wild Chefs Run Wild 23:40 00:10

00:35 The Food Files What's For Sale? Tales From The Bush Larder 01:30 Tales From The Bush Larder 02:25 Raw Travel

03:15 David Rocco's Dolce India 03:40 Chefs Run Wild 04:05 Chefs Run Wild 04:30 The Food Files 04:55 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure

05:20 John Torode's Malaysian 05:45 Grandma's Boy

NAT GEO Revenge Of The Lioness 09:45 10:40 **Expedition Wild** 11:35 Sumatra's Last Tiger 12:30 Bears Of Fear Island

Revenge Of The Lioness 13:25 Expedition Wild 14:20 Baby Animals In The Wild 15:15 Planet Carnivore 16:10 17:05 Super Squirrel 18:00 Shark Men

Man-Eater Of The Congo 18:55 Killer Shots 19:50 20:45 Thunder Beasts 21:40 **Expedition Wild** Baby Animals In The Wild 23:30 Madagascar's Legendary

Lemurs Vacations Gone Wild 00:25 01:20 Thunder Beasts **Expedition Wild** 02:10 Baby Animals In The Wild 03:50 Madagascar's Legendary Lemurs Vacations Gone Wild

05:30 Shark Men

nickelodeon HD 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja

Turtles 09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

09:48 Henry Danger Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 10:12 The Haunted Hathaways 10:36 11:00 Max & Shred 11:24 Henry Danger Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 11:48 12:12 SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob SquarePants 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja

Turtles 13:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja

Turtles 13:48 Winx Club Harvey Beaks 14:12 14:36 Breadwinners Get Blake 15:00 15:24 Rabbids Invasion Henry Danger Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 15:48 16:12 16:36 The Haunted Hathaways 17:00 Winx Club 17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob SquarePants 17:48 18:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

18:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

19:00 Breadwinners 19:24 The Loud House Harvey Beaks Rabbids Invasion 19:48 20:12 Henry Danger 20:36 21:00 Game Shakers SpongeBob SquarePants 21:24 SpongeBob SquarePants 21:48 22:12 Teenage Mutant Ninia

Turtles 22:36 The Loud House 23:00 Sanjay And Craig 20:35 Louie

20:05

01:11

19:55 Zack & Quack

Olive The Ostrich 20:40 Olive The Ostrich Paw Patrol 21:01 Paw Patrol Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom Dora The Explorer

Team Umizoomi

Max & Ruby Bubble Guppies 21:59 22:07 Little Charmers 22:29 22:41 Shimmer And Shine 23:05 Dora And Friends Zack & Quack

23:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines 00:00 Paw Patrol 00:13 Paw Patrol Dora The Explorer 00:36 Wanda And The Alien

Zack & Quack

01:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines

01:22 Dora And Friends: Into The

02:10 Paw Patrol Shimmer And Shine 02:35 02:58 Dora The Explorer Paw Patrol 03:45 Little Charmers

Bubble Guppies 03:57 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies Zack & Quack 04:40 Team Umizoomi 04:52

05:22 Louie Fresh Beat Band Of Spies 05:30 Olive The Ostrich Olive The Ostrich

OM MOVIES

DRAMA

09:00 The Rover 11:00 Draft Day Memories 15:00

Streetdance: All Stars Welcome To The Punch 17:00 The Melancholy Fantastic 21:00 Experimenter Streetdance: All Stars 23:00 01:00 Big Eyes 03:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Him

05:00 Lucky Them

OSA FIRST HID COMEDY

09:00 Dr. Ken 09:30 Hot In Cleveland The Tonight Show Starring

Jimmy Fallon Better With You Mad Love \$#*! My Dad Says Late Night With Seth Meyers 12:00 12:30 13:00 14:00 Hank

Better With You 14:30 15:00 Dr. Ken 15:30 Young & Hungry Young & Hungry \$#*! My Dad Says 16:00

17:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Mad Love 18:00[°] 18:30 Hank 19:00 Better With You

\$#*! My Dad Says The Last Man On Earth 20:00 Young & Hungry Young & Hungry 20:30 21:30 Modern Family

22:00 Modern Family Mad Love Late Night With Seth Meyers 23:00 Two And A Half Men 00:00 Two And A Half Men 01:00 Uncle Buck

01:30Uncle Buck 02:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 03:00 Modern Family 03:30 Modern Family 04:00 Getting On

04:30 Veep 05:00

The Last Man On Earth Late Night With Seth Meyers

OM FIRST HD

09:00 Empire Good Morning America The Fosters 10:00 12:00 13:00 Bones 14:00 Once Upon A Time The Amazing Race 15:00

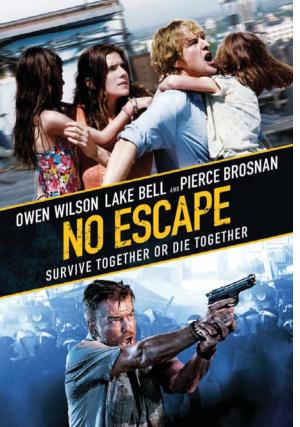
Devious Maids 16:00 17:00 Bones Once Upon A Time 18:00 20:00 Live Good Morning America The Fosters 22:00

The Ellen DeGeneres Show 23:00 Once Upon A Time 00:00 The Amazing Race The Art Of More 01:00 02:00 Mr. Robot 03:00 04:00 The Night Shift 05:00

Empire

OM MOVIES HD **FAMILY**

09:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend 11:00 Dinosaur 13:00 Garfield's Fun Fest



NO ESCAPE ON OSN MOVIES HD

Treasure Planet 21:00 Big Fat Liar 23:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year

17:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire

03:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama 05:00 Big Fat Liar

ON MOVIES HID

09:00 What If 5 Flights Up 13:00 A Birder's Guide To Everything 15:00 The Rewrite

17:00 Steve Jobs 19:15 Accidental Love The Imitation Game 23:00 Transcendence No Escape

03:00 Paranormal Activity: The **Ghost Dimension** 04:45 Avengers: Age Of Ultron

ON MOVIES HID COMEDY

Serial (Bad) Weddings The Hundred-Foot Journey 11:45 Hope Springs Serial (Bad) Weddings
The Hundred-Foot Journey

Hope Springs Under The Tuscan Sun 00:00 The Brass Teapot 04:00 What We Do In The Shadows

Indian Summer

ON MOVIES

10:45 Go For Sisters 13:00 Listen To Me Marlon Testament Of Youth Love & Mercy Legends Of The Fall 17:00 19:00

Tracks Testament Of Youth 23:15 Begin Again Calendar Girls 01:30

The Boy

05:30

OM MOVIES HID

KIDS

10:15 Hatching 12:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie 13:45 Blackie And Kanuto

Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart Egon And Donci 17:30

19:00 Columbus In The Last Journey 20:30 Memory Loss

00:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart 02:00 Blue Elephant 2 04:00 05:30 Memory Loss

Pixies

ON MOVIES PREMIERE

So Undercover Betrayed Louder Than Words 12:00 A Promise

17:45 Still Alice 19:45 Far From The Madding 21:45 Louder Than Words 23:30 The Judge

The Homesman



09:00 Super Skyscrapers 09:48 Mythbusters 10:36 Secret Space Escapes

11:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman How Do They Do It? Food Factory
How Do They Do It? 12:36 13:00

Mythbusters 14:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 15:02 Super Skyscrapers 15:50 How Do They Do It?

16:14 Food Factory Secret Space Escapes 17:26 Mythbusters Through The Wormhole 18:14

With Morgan Freeman 19:02 How Do They Do It? 19:26 Food Factory Super Skyscrapers

20:38 Secret Space Escapes 21:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 22:14 Mythbusters 23:02 Super Skyscrapers

Mythbusters Through The Wormhole 00:40 With Morgan Freeman 01:30 Battle Factory 01:55 Battle Factory 02:20

How Do They Do It? Food Factory 03:10 Alaska Mega Machines 04:00 Battle Factory Battle Factory 04:50 Through The Wormhole

With Morgan Freeman 05:40 Mythbusters

09:15 Cake Boss 09:35 Oprah: Where Are They Little People, Big World

Little People, Big World 10:45 Toddlers & Tiaras 12:00 Bakery Boss Buddy's Family Vacation 12:50 Buddy's Family Vacation 13:40 The Undateables

Little People, Big World Little People, Big World 14:30 15:20 Kate Plus 8 Love, Lust Or Run 16:10 Cake Boss 17:00

My Big Fat Fabulous Life 17:25 Say Yes To The Dress **Bakery Boss** 18:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now? 19:30 Holiday Hijack Say Yes To The Dress 20:45 Say Yes To The Dress

Toddlers & Tiaras Little People, Big World 22:25 Little People, Big World Kate Plus 8 Love, Lust Or Run 23:40 00:05 Cake Boss Oprah: Where Are They

01:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 01:45 Say Yes To The Dress Bakery Boss

03:00 Say Yes To The Dress

CLASSIFIEDS

11:30 AM

4:00 PM

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11:30 AM

1:45 PM

Arrival Flights on Thursday 8/9/2016

Sohag

Kuwait Times

SHARQIA-2 PETE'S DRAGON

PETE'S DRAGON -3D **ASHAN KHARGEN**

PETE'S DRAGON -3D

ASHAN KHARGEN

ASHAN KHARGEN

ASHAN KHARGEN

SHARQIA-3

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS OUT

MUHALAB-1

PETE'S DRAGON

ASHAN KHARGEN

PETE'S DRAGON

LIGHTS OUT

LIGHTS OUT

MUHALAB-2

NO MON+TUE

MON+TUE

MUHALAB-3

PETE'S DRAGON PETE'S DRAGON -3D

PETE'S DRAGON **ASHAN KHARGEN**

ASHAN KHARGEN

ASHAN KHARGEN

PETE'S DRAGON

FANAR-1

Airlines

415

MSC

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BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)

BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)

BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi

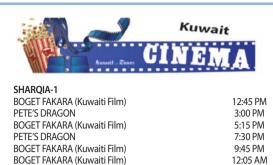
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu

SULLY SULLY

SULLY

SULLY SULLY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016





KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (08/09/2016 TO 14/09/2016)

DETEC DRACON	4.00 DM	SULLY	12.45 AM
PETE'S DRAGON PETE'S DRAGON	4:00 PM 6:15 PM	SULLY	12:45 AM
SULLY	8:30 PM	AVENUES-1	
SULLY	10:45 PM	ANTBOY 3	12:00 PM
SULLY	1:00 AM	ANTBOY 3	2:15 PM
SULLY	1:00 AM		
FAMADO		ANTBOY 3	4:15 PM
FANAR-2		ANTBOY 3	6:15 PM
KILL ZONE 2	11:30 AM	ANTBOY 3	8:15 PM
ANTBOY 3	2:00 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	10:15 PM
ANTBOY 3	4:00 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:15 AM
ANTBOY 3	6:00 PM		
ANTBOY 3	8:00 PM	AVENUES-2	
KILL ZONE 2	10:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	12:15 PM
KILL ZONE 2	12:30 AM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	2:30 PM
		PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	5:00 PM
FANAR-3		PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	7:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	9:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	2:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D- 4DX	11:45 PM
LIGHTS OUT	4:45 PM		
BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	6:30 PM	AVENUES-3	
LIGHTS OUT	9:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 PM
LIGHTS OUT	11:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	3:00 PM
LIGHTS OUT	1:00 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM
		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	7:30 PM
FANAR-4		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:45 PM
SULLY	11:30 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM
SULLY	1:30 PM	booti mana (namata min)	12.007
ASHAN KHARGEN	3:30 PM	AVENUES-4	
ASHAN KHARGEN	5:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:45 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:45 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM
ASHAN KHANGEN	12.43 AW	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM
MARINA-1		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM 11:45 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	11:45 AM	BOGET FARARA (RUWAILI FIIITI)	11:45 PM 12:05 AM
		2600.4	12:05 AW
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:00 PM	360°- 1	11 20 444
BLOOD FATHER	4:15 PM	ANTBOY 3	11:30 AM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	6:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	1:30 PM
LIGHTS OUT	8:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	3:45 PM
LIGHTS OUT	10:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	6:00 PM
LIGHTS OUT	12:15 AM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	8:15 PM
		PETE'S DRAGON	10:30 PM
MARINA-2		PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 AM
ASHAN KHARGEN 12:45 PM			
ASHAN KHARGEN	3:00 PM	360°- 2	
ASHAN KHARGEN	5:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	2:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	4:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	6:45 PM
		ASHAN KHARGEN	9:00 PM
MARINA-3		ASHAN KHARGEN	11:15 PM
SULLY	11:30 AM	LIGHTS OUT	1:30 AM
PETE'S DRAGON	1:30 PM		
PETE'S DRAGON	3:45 PM	360 ∞- 3	
PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	11:30 AM
PETE'S DRAGON	8:15 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	2:30 PM
CULLY	10.20 DM	DAAD DAAD DEKLIO Tiiradi	5:30 PM

10:30 PM

BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi

1540

615

072

Cairo

Cairo

Dubai

JZR

MSR

14:20

14:30

14:55 FDB



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05:27 **Shorook** Duhr: 11:47 15:19 18:08 Maghrib:

611

19:25

Beirut

Cairo

Alexandria

Fajr:

Isha:



13:35

14:00



SULLY

FDB

SVA

00:10 KAC

057

500

742

Dubai

Jeddah

Dammam

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

5:30 PM

00:20

00:30

MEA

FEG

00:30 MSR

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

THY	772	Istanbul	00:10		645	Muscat	15:10	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20		303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30		8069	Dubai	15:20	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15	FBA	832	Al Najaf	14:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55		127	Sharjah	15:35	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:00		359	Mashhad	15:40	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	PAL	669	Manila	14:45
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15		857	Dubai	15:45	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20		251	Alexandria	15:50	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	JZR	1331	Al Najaf	16:10	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45		535	Cairo	16:20	KAC	177	Vienna	02:55	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50		531	Jeddah	16:35	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50		787	Riyadh	16:45	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15		562	Amman	16:55	RJA	645	Amman	03:55	SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30		118	New York	17:00	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00		510	Riyadh	17:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	1414	TZX	05:05		215	Bahrain	17:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	FDB	8070	Dubai	16:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10		8053	Dubai	17:45	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15		177	Dubai	17:45	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	8511	Doha	05:25		678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00		1080	Doha	17:55	RBG	552	Alexandria	04:45	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
PAL KAC	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25		176 483	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
BAW	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30			Istanbul	18:20	LMU JZR	511 1332	Cairo	05:00	KAC JZR	675	Dubai	17:00
	157	London	06:40		620 774	Cairo	18:30			Al Najaf	05:15		266 513	Beirut	17:10
JZR FDB	1541 5061	Cairo Dubai	07:10 07:15		774 786	Riyadh Jeddah	18:35	AVV FEG	654 934	Sohag Sohag	05:30 06:00	JZR QTR	512 1073	Sharm el-Sheikh Doha	17:15 17:25
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15 07:15		786 502	Jeddan Beirut	18:35 18:35	THY	934 1465	Istanbul	06:00	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25 17:25
JZR	503	Luxor	07:13		621	Amman	18:35	RJA	643	Amman	06:00	UAE	532 858	Jeddan Dubai	17:25 17:40
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30		542	Cairo	18:55	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	SVA	858 511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35		618	Doha	18:55	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40		104	London	19:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40		217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	240	Amman	06:55	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50		875	Dubai	19:05	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50		063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50		614	Bahrain	19:10	QTR	8512	Doha	07:25	KAC	563	Amman	19:00
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	JZR	1328	Al Najaf	08:00	JZR	238	Amman	19:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	IRA	672	Ahwaz	08:15	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20		154	Istanbul	19:45	BAW	156	London	08:25	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25		059	Dubai	19:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
JZR	1333	Al Najaf	08:55		634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	173	Munich	08:35	JAV	622	Amman	19:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00		381	Taif	20:10	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00		121	Sharjah	20:10	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05		402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	619	Doha	09:30	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05		647	Muscat	20:20	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
IRM	1180	Mashhad	09:10		189	Dubai	20:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:45	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20		618	Alexandria	20:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
RJA FDB	648 055	Amman	09:30		1088 5053	Doha	20:35	JZR UAE	358 856	Mashhad	09:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
SAW	703	Dubai	09:40 09:45		174	Dubai Munich	20:55 20:55	KAC	100	Dubai London/New York	09:50 10:00	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
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GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40		229	Colombo	21:15	RJA	649	Amman	10:05	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00		417	Amsterdam	21:20	IRM	1181	Mashhad	10:15	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25		764	Istanbul	21:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:25	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30		676	Dubai	21:35	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
ABY	129	Sharjah	11:35		1082	Doha	21:55	SAW	704	Damascus	10:45	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
JZR	1329	Al Najaf	11:40		219	Bahrain	22:00	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50		309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
AVV	651	Alexandria	12:05		151	Cairo	22:10	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15		125	Bahrain	22:15	SYR	342	Damascus	11:05	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25		981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	KAC	561	Amman	11:20	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	241	Amman	12:30		501	Alexandria	22:30	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
MEA	406	Beirut	12:35		185	Dubai	22:55	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45		574	Mumbai	23:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55		403	Asyut	23:10	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
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KAC	620	Doha	13:10		513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10		071	Dubai	23:35	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10	THY	1401	ADB	22:25
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:30		301	Amman	23:45	ABY	120	Sharjah	12:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
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BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55			ights on Thursday 8/9/2016	Time	KAC	785 652	Jeddah Asvut	13:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
KNE QTR	231 1078	Riyadh Doha	14:00		Flt 976	Route Goa/Chennai	Time 00:05	AVV JZR	652 176	Asyut Dubai	13:05	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
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KAC	178	Vienna	14:15		573	Mumbai	00:10	FDK	802	Damascus	13:15	QTR KAC	1083 411	Doha Bangkok/Manila	23:20 23:25
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20		404	Asyut	00:10	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:25
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ACROSS

- 1. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- 4. Carefully observant or attentive.
- 11. A style of jazz played by big bands popular in the 1930s.
- 15. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
- 16. Of or pertaining to or suggestive of a goat (especially in strong odor).
- 17. Make editorial changes (in a text).
- 18. Lower in esteem.
- 20. Strong and sharp.
- 21. Lacking excess flesh.
- 22. Be a signal for or a symptom of.
- 24. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
- 26. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
- 28. A small Asian country high in the Himalayas between India and Tibet.
- 29. Spread or diffuse through.
- 32. Take something away by force or without the consent of the owner.
- 35. American novelist (1909-1955)
- 36. In bed. 39. A republic on the west coast of Africa.
- 41. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
- 43. Either extremity of something that has
- 44. Relating to the blood vessels or blood. 47. An associative relation.
- 49. A skilled worker who practices some trade or handicraft.
- 51. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small
- 52. A member of the Algonquian people of
- Maine and southern Quebec. 57. A painful emotion resulting from an aware-
- ness of inadequacy or guilt. 60. Small spiny outgrowth on the wings of cer-
- 61. Tropical tree of Florida and West Indies yielding edible fruit.

tain insects.

- 64. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces. 68. Relating to or containing the azo radical.
- 69. Found in warm waters of western Atlantic.
- 72. British physicist (born in Hungary) noted for his work on holography (1900-1979).
- 73. A room equipped with toilet facilities.
- 74. Abnormally small production of urine.
- 76. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet. 77. A nucleic acid consisting of large mole-
- cules shaped like a double helix. 78. The act of sitting or standing astride.
- 79. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.

DOWN 1. According to the Old Testament he was a

- pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC). 2. The compass point that is one point east of
- northeast. 3. By bad luck.
- 4. Breathing with a husky or whistling sound. 5. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- 6. A small volcanic island in Indonesia between Java and Sumatra.

- 7. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
- 8. Nonresinous wood of a fir tree.
- 9. Being of or having to do with the northern United States and those loyal to the Union during the Civil War. 10. A record in which commercial accounts are
- recorded.
- 11. A loose cloak with a hood.
- 12. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
- 13. A small bottle that contains a drug (especially a sealed sterile container for injection by needle).
- 14. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- 19. Foam or froth on the sea
- 23. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 25. Type genus of the Apogonidae.
- 27. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 30. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
- 31. Device for resetting instruments or controls v 1.
- 33. Black tea grown in China.
- 34. Make attractive or lovable.
- 37. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- 38. (British) An open river valley (in a hilly area)
- 40. A game in which numbered balls are drawn and random and players cover the corresponding numbers on their cards.
- 42. A secret society of white Southerners to resist Black emancipation.
- 45. A member of the extinct Algonquian people formerly living in northern Indiana and southern Michigan.
- 46. A fibrous amphibole.
- 48. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- 50. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- 53. A city of central Russia south of Moscow.
- 54. Being nine more than ninety.
- 55. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 56. Popular music originating in the West
- 58. The official of a synagogue who conducts the liturgical part of the service and sings or chants the prayers intended to be performed as solos.
- 59. A statistical method for making simultaneous comparisons between two or more
- 62. A combat between two mounted knights tilting against each other with blunted lances. 63. An independent ruler or chieftain (espe-
- cially in Africa or Arabia). 65. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
- 66. A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
- 67. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 70. Food of a ruminant regurgitated to be
- chewed again. 71. Goddess of fate.
- 75. Being nine more than forty.

Yesterday's Solution

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Е	R	N		R	0	G	Е	R	S		Α	D	A	P	A
N	G	U		A	L	М	Α	N	Α	С		R	Е	E	D
D	О	S		С	Α	Т	Н	Α	Y	Α		A	L	С	Α

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your career may be tied more to your appearance and how you come across to others. You may find that success comes by concentrating on your outward manner-the way others see you. There is intellectual creativity and expressing yourself with a flair that comes to mean more to you at this time. Beating the odds through cleverness is appealing and this may lead to an interest in all kinds of financial speculation. A lover or child who is bright and expressive begins to play a bigger role in your life now. You are pleased to guide and direct this person's education. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation. A visitor may compliment you on your tastes. Creative expression may give you much enjoyment this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You should find this day an easy one that runs fairly smooth. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may be current, but on a level that shares information, not to criticize work. Working with-rather than against-the flow should be easy to do. You are disciplined, work hard and are good at getting others to work with and for you. A creative friend is more than willing to help you make progress. Perhaps a little too serious and frugal, you enjoy getting along on less. Others could learn from your thrifty ways. Romance and other things that tug at the heartstrings come your way as a new cycle begins. A child or lover may come to mean everything. This is a creative period for you, a time to take a chance, a time to be appreciated.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are able to tend to whatever business is persistent, as well as help the public with answers to questions. You have the choice and the ability to change a negative into a positive-do not push. Do not become lost in someone else's emotional tussle. Sensitive, psychological material coming to your attention is presented to you in a disguise. You think it concerns you, but what is happening is that you are chosen to guide and teach the other-friend, neighbor, relative, etc. Asking the right question, giving simple answers may be all that is needed. Later, you will be able to understand what really occurred. Now, you will benefit from analytical insights, getting to the heart of things-penetrating. You may enjoy the evening meal away from home tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You seem to pull answers out of a hat. You have the ability to guide and lead others through the many hassles of life. You could be very much in demand as a counselor. You are good at solving problems and can teach others some of your own findings. This is a real time to concentrate on your career. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what proves successful. You may decide that now is the time to go into business for yourself. You achieve the best for yourself through work that is open and honest. You feel love is in the air as you receive an invitation to go to an upcoming event with someone you have wanted to date for a while. A buffet table is of interest to you this evening; careful on the seconds.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

The positive pictures that you can create in your mind give you a nice supply of good energy this day. You could practice using positive thoughts in the future when you have feelings of doubt. Real power is always hidden-finding it means delving into the secret places where you are bound to look now. You seem compelled to deal with the great mysteries in life. A bout of philosophy or even a little religion could have an enormous effect on your outlook at this time. Lasting values can guide you now-opening up avenues that have remained blocked. The creative side of you is aching to perform this evening. You may be teaching, redecorating, cooking or learning some new artistic medium. If you are shopping, there are thoughts of future redecoration.



DEMENTIA DIABETES DINNER

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may decide that this is the day you want to get those unfinished projects completed. Because of your interest in the unusual and unique, you may find a job or job advancement in advertising or news reporting holds loads of enthusiasm. You may be encouraged to seek out unusual occupations-you hate the everyday and the rut. You could be looking for ways in which to add some fun to making money. You value your independence and will insist upon the ability to keep it. There is talk about a cruise or tour this winter and you are listening. You communicate with great skill, and it is stimulating just being with you. People have ideas on how you can make your dreams possible, certainly some interesting thoughts.

WORD SEARCH

Nursing Home 2 Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.

PHARMACISTBEDT S Ε S RACKC S Α Ε D 0 S T E O P 0 0 В 0 D

O W S H H AΑ REASERACGNINROMRPRHTS C O DPHYSICAL THERAPY DISABILITY LOTION PODIATRIST MEALS MECHANICAL LIFT BEDTIME ENTERTAINMENT RECREATION ROOM BOOKS CALL BELL

EYEGLASSES FOOD TRAY GERIATRIC RELATIVES CARD GAMES CHARTING CRAFTS MORNING CARE ROOMMATE SEDATIVES HEALTH HOLIDAY EVENTS NURSE OSTEOPOROSIS SHAVER SINGING LAXATIVES LOCKDOWN SLEEP SNACK CART

UPPOSITORY THERMOMETER TUBE FEED VIRUS VISITOR WASH HANDS

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your ambitions and goals are central to your character. Today you will be considering your goals and how close you are to reaching them. You will get the green light to proceed with a plan in the workplace. Much of your personal life hinges on pursuit of your own growth and success-now is the time for some big progress. Your talents and activities seem to be related to the workplace instead of a hobby or pastime. When in the mood, you love to express yourself, entertain and perform for others and enjoy being surrounded by an audience. This afternoon you may find yourself shopping for new clothes. This evening you will be entertaining a few of your neighbors in a small get-together. You



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be picking out a home or actually purchasing real estate soon. Financial gain and material wellbeing are among the brighter prospects before you now, as you focus in on how much things really mean to you. There may be a tendency to emphasize the material too much, which could lead to the feeling that the things you own, own you instead. Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are some of the focal points in your life. Travel or continued education may open new doors of opportunity to you. If you are in the workplace instead of in educational surroundings, you may decide to obtain further instructions or education to better your job. You will be pleasantly surprised at the result of your efforts.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You set your own pace in the workplace today. You keep things running in a smooth manner. Business is very good and you are able to create more business at almost every turn you make. This may mean that you get a lot accomplished. Work on developing your technical skills for today. Networking with others, in addition to developing your technical skills, will soon provide you with many opportunities to a more secure future. Your ability to work well with people is also imperative. A time is coming when you could make some real headway in the working world through your social contacts. You are also learning that job security rests in your professional relationships as well as your skills-an important lesson. Think of ways to network.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may be looking through some of your company's old files to find the dates of certain of certain complaints to see where some technical problem keeps happening. You may spend a bit of time finding the key that helps you find answers. Don't give up; you are on the right track. You have a lot of energy for this research and during the process, there is a chance that you can improve the accounting procedures for the company. You are very motivated to improve, correct or change. You may find that both your personal growth and your career may depend on how you can handle some of the sensitive psychological material coming up. You will benefit from logical insights, getting to the heart of things. Tonight there is time for a good movie or book.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are a winner because you never consider failing. This can be rough, however, because if there are no possibilities, such as failing, it may be difficult to stretch and grow. In the workplace you strive to see both sides of an issue and you may use your noon break to figure out resolutions to opposing views. It is important that you take some quiet time for yourself. This may mean a short drive or walk. Clearing your mind can actually bring new insights. There is a greater than usual interest in relationships, social connections and the arts this afternoon. Appearances and style may count more than substance now. Romance, the arts and life's other pleasures seem to take center stage. You benefit by sharing your loving thoughts this evening.

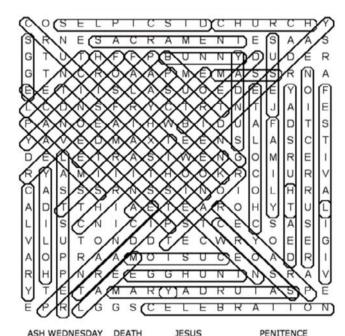


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a day for thinking and ideas. You may feel like talking a bit more than usual, exploring new ideas or getting happily lost in a conversation. There will be an urge to communicate. Also, perhaps a short trip or a special phone call is in order. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student and if you are not involved in any sort of educational achievement, you may want to become involved now. This could be something as simple as taking a class in scuba diving or a writing class to update your working skills. You are able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind. Friends want to play this evening. Enjoy!

Yesterday Solution

Easter



BUNNY CALVARY **EGGS** CELEBRATION CHOCOLATE CHRIST CROSS

CRUCIFIXION

DISCIPLES **EGG HUNT EUCHARIST** FAMILY **FASTING** FESTIVAL FRIDAY HOLIDAY

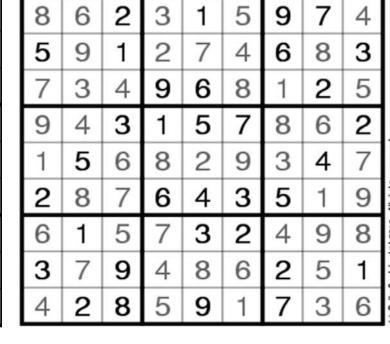
LAST SUPPER LENT MASS **NEW TESTAMENT** PALMS PARADE PENANCE

PRAYER RESURRECTION SACRAMENT SATURDAY SUNDAY THURSDAY TOMB TRADITION

HOLY WEEK The hidden message is: ONE EASTER TRADITION IS TO DECORATE EGGS

			Dail	ly SuDo	ku			
2	5							7
			2					3
			3	7		5		6
	4		8		2	3		
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9		8		1	3			
7 5					8			
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Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Call MSAL hotline 128

24874330/9

Hospita	ls
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

`li	

Physiotherapy Hospital

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	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1 A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3 B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

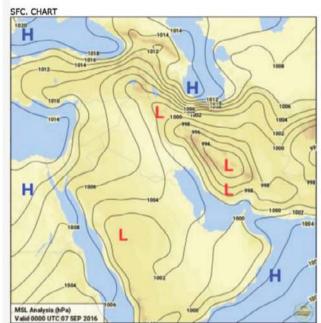


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 07/09/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 43 °C

By Day: Hot with moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h with a chance for blowing dust over open areas. By Night: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h.



our-Day	Forecas

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		*	*	*
Expected Weather	Hot	Hot	Hot	Hot
Min Temp °C	30	29	29	28
Max Temp °C	42	43	44	44
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	north westerly	north westerly to light variable later on
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	08 - 28	10 - 32	08 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & V	Weather Watches
no warnings o	r weather watches

Kuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	33	44
KUWAIT AIRPORT	33	43
ABDALY	30	45
BUBYAN	29	45
JAHRA	32	45
FAILAKA ISLAND	31	43
SALMIYAH	33	40
AHMADI	34	42
JAL ALIYAH	29	45
QAROH ISLAND	34	38
UMM AL-MARADEM	35	38
NUWAISIB	31	45
WAFRA	31	45
MANAGISH	29	44
SALMY	29	43
MUTRIBA	29	45

Recorde	d Yesterday at Kuy	wait Airport
Max Tem	p (°C)	45
Min Temp	(°C)	34
Max Rel H	Hum (%)	23
Min Rel H	lum (%)	11
Max Wind and Direc	d Speed (km/h) ction	64 N
TOTAL RA	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Siz	Sunrise	05:28

18:05

Prayer Times	
Fajr	04:07
Sunrise	05:28
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:19
Sunset	18:05
Tehn	10-22

Sunset



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologis	sts
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practition	ners
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	ners 24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24555050 Ext 123 24719312
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955 ii 22616660

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					
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581				
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321				
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539				
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406				
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272				
Dr. Salem soso	22618787				
General Surg	eons				
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044				
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148				
Internists, Chest & Heart					
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939				
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300				
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004				
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515				
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446				
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3				

Paediatricians				
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898			
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300			
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444			
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099			
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	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-Duweisan	25653755			
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111			
Neurologists				
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324			
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875			
Gastrologists				
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464			
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030			
Dr. Foad Abidallah 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. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288				
	Rheumatologists:					
,	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060					
31	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290				
	Internist, Chest & Heart					
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210				
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667					
	Consultant Cardiologist					
	Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555				

Liberia

Libya

Zambia

Zimbabwe

00961 00231

00218

00266

00260

00263

INTERNATION CALLS		P	1
Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
	001268	Malawi	00265
Antiga Argentina	001268	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands Martinique	00692
Bahamas	001242		00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico Micronesia	0052
Belgium	0032	Moldova	00691
Belize	00501		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 New Caledonia	00599
Burundi	00257		00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands Central African	001345	Niue	00683
	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
	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 Paraguay	00675
Croatia	00385		00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	00357	Philippines	0063
	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark Diego Garcia	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania Russian Federation	0040
Dominica	001767		007
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tone	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221 00284
France	0033	Seychelles	00232
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gabon Gambia	00241	Slovenia	00421
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 Holland (Netherlands)	00509	Serbia	00381
	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 United Arab Emirates	00380
Italy	0039		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 Virgin Islands US	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996		001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381

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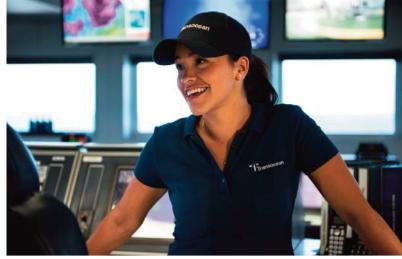
MUSIC & MOVIES



In this image released by MGM/Columbia Pictures, Chris Pratt appears in a scene from, 'The Magnificent Seven,' in theaters on September 23.



An undated photo provided by Paramount Pictures shows Amy Adams, right, as This image released by Summit Entertainment shows Gina Rodriguez in a Louise Banks in "Arrival" by Paramount Pictures.



scene from 'Deepwater Horizon,' in theaters on September 30.

On view at Toronto Film Festival: The future of movies

ophecy abounds at the Toronto International Film Festival. Pundits pronounce Oscar guarantees. Buzz, the most cherished commodity at the festival, is measured and speculated on like stock prices. But this year's festival, teaming with diversity on screen and behind the camera, stuffed to the gills with not just more than 300 films (138 of them premieres) but virtual reality and even a smattering of television, might just offer a broader vision of what's to come

"If you want to see the future of film, you need to come to Toronto this year," says Cameron Bailey, artistic director of the festival. "It feels like the range of the lineup in terms of the diversity of the stories that are being told and the storytellers that are telling them, the introduction of new technology, like the VR lineup we have, the way that the festival has pretty smoothly integrated television and long-form storytelling. All of those things, I think, are where film is headed." It may be an optimistic portrait of cinematic future put forth by the 41st Toronto Film Festival, but the strength of festival lineup lends a sense of inevitability. The festival kicks off Thursday with the premiere of Antoine Fuqua's "Magnificent Seven" remake, starring Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt.

Shared experience

"The industry can only benefit from seeing more diverse everything. Not just in front of the camera, behind the camera, executive positions," says Fuqua, the director of "Training Day." "It's good for everyone because movies are a shared experience. People go to the theater and we all get to laugh and have fun with each other." The movies at TIFF offer a compendium of the fall movie season, squeezed into a 10 day blitz. Many of them are awards-hopefuls, including most of the top films from Cannes, Venice and Telluride. And after a lackluster summer rife with blockbuster disappointment, the distance between seasons has never felt so vast.

No films come into Toronto with more heat than Damien Chazelle's Los Angeles musical "La La Land," starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling, and Barry Jenkins' "Moonlight," a striking coming-of-age tale of a gay black man. Both have drawn enthusiastic raves out of Telluride and Venice in recent days. Of the many TIFF debuts, few match the size of Peter Berg's "Deepwater Horizon," a visceral, big-budget rendering of the oil rig disaster, made with its own enormous



This image released by Summit Entertainment shows Ryan Gosling, right, and Emma Stone in a scene from 'La La Land,' in theaters on December 2. — AP photos

Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o and newcomer Madina Nalwanga in Disney's Queen of Katwe, the vibrant true story of a young girl from the streets of rural Uganda whose world rapidly changes when she is introduced to the game of chess.

mock rig. Also on tap are courses of science-fiction (Denis Villeneuve's alien communication thriller "Arrival"), fantasy (J.A. Bayona's emotional "A Monster Calls," a drama filled with equal parts wonder and grief), and comedy (Kelly Fremon Craig's witty and honest coming-of-age movie "The Edge of Seventeen").

Intriguing titles

There are highlights from Sundance (Kenneth Lonergan's "Manchester by the Sea," Nate Parker's scandal-plagued "The Birth of a Nation") and Cannes (Jeff Nichols' "Loving," Andrea Arnold's "American Honey"). And there are dozens of intriguing titles up for sale, including a crop of atypical political dramas that feature Natalie Portman as Jackie Kennedy ("Jackie"), Devon Terrell as a young Obama ("Barry") and Woody Harrelson as Lyndon Johnson ("LBJ"). That's still not mentioning Terrence Malick's history-of-the-world documentary (in IMAX!), "Voyage of Time: Life's Journey," fashion designer Tom

Ford's "A Single Man" follow-up, "Nocturnal Animals" or the Miles Teller-led boxing drama "Bleed for This."

Good and bad

"The enthusiasm that runs through the people that make the decisions of what's going to be there is ridiculous," says Jonathan Demme, who will premiere his Justin Timberlake concert film, "JT and the Tennessee Kids." "They've got good taste and they show TOO many movies. I've got the press schedule in my pocket right now. I'm going to see as many movies as I can in between our screenings." David Oyelowo ("Selma") will bring two films to Toronto that reflect the festival in both the diversity of its casts and that they were each directed by women. A record 19 of this year's galas are directed by women. Oyelowo stars in Amma Asante's "A United Kingdom," about a Botswana royal's interracial marriage, and Mira Nair's "Queen of Katwe," about a young Ugandan girl trying to become a world chess champion.

For Oyelowo, a Brit of Nigerian descent, the two films are a kind of antidote to stories previously told about Africa. Oyelowo co-starred in 2006's "The Last King of Scotland," about Uganda dictator Idi Amin. "I did have this thought in the back of my mind, I went, 'This is great but I just know there's more. I know for a fact there's more in terms of how Africa could and should be represented on film," says Oyelowo. "I developed this desire to just have more breadth of you'd seen out of Africa. 'The Last King of Scotland' was part of a crop of films like 'The Constant Gardner,' 'Hotel Rwanda,' 'Blood Diamond' and they were all about the darker side of what happens on that continent. All of which is true. Like anywhere, there's good and bad. But there was almost nothing else balancing it out." — AP



Actress Natalie Portman and director Pablo Larrain attend the photocall of the movie 'Jackie' presented in competition at the 73rd Venice Film Festival on September 7, 2016 at

■Hollywood after a break. The "Coming to America" and "Beverly Hills Cop" actor plays a cook who develops a long-lasting friendship with a young girl he helps raise

after her mother becomes sick. "It caught me off quard because I don't usually get offered things like this and I usually don't have an emotional reaction when I'm reading something," Murphy said at the film's premiere in Los Angeles on Tuesday. "You're reading (films) 'Imagine That' or 'Daddy Day Care,' you don't cry ... You're crying while I'm reading this, I

Comedian Eddie Murphy

gets serious in 'Mr Church'

ddie Murphy swaps his usual comedy for drama in new movie "Mr Church" as he makes his return to

had never had that experience. "It was a small movie and I had never done that before ... I hadn't done a picture in five years so I was like that will be easy and fun to do." Murphy, 55, last year received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. "Mr Church" opens in US cinemas on Sept 16. — Reuters



Eddie Murphy, left, a cast member in 'Mr Church,' poses with Arsenio Hall at the premiere of the film at the ArcLight Hollywood.

Portman plays Jackie Kennedy,

her 'most dangerous' role

atalie Portman said yesterday that portraying a grief-stricken Jacqueline Kennedy was her "most dangerous" film role, as the piercing bio-drama "Jackie" entered the race for the Venice film festival's prestigious Golden Lion. Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larrain's first English-language feature is an intimate look at the woman who shaped her famous husband's legacy, offsetting public images and audio recordings with an exploration of Jackie's private side. The glossy drama starts a week after John F. Kennedy's 1963 murder in Dallas, as his new widow gives an interview with Theodore H. White of Life magazine (played by Billy Crudup).

"I felt like it was the most dangerous film I've ever done because everyone knows what Jackie looked like, sounded like, walked like," Portman told journalists at the world's oldest film festival. Larrain said they had drawn from the many biographies on the iconic first lady, as well as a source material gathered by historian Arthur Schlesinger, including recordings of Jackie chatting with her friends. "The challenge was having someone so well known as Natalie, playing someone so well known as Jackie. But I think cinema is connected to the old magicians, with someone pulling a rope here or moving a light there. "We created an illusion that talks of pain, loss and desire," Larrain said.

'Most unknown of the known'

The film is non-chronological, moving back and forwards between the mourning Jackie determined to control every word the journalist writes, to the blood-splattered one, sitting next to her husband when he is shot

dead. We go from her recording a tour of the White House for CBS News (real-life footage from 1962 recreated down to the smallest detail here), to her swallowing down pills and alcohol as she struggles to manage her grief. Through scenes with her priest, we learn of Jackie's struggle to mourn a man with roving eyes who she no longer slept with and whose death has left her fearing poverty, loneliness and social oblivion.

"You have all the records about everything, but a ton of things you will never know as it happens behind doors. Jackie was someone incredibly mysterious, the most unknown of the known people," Larrain said. "We tried to sneak a camera inside her private space, creating a fiction based on paradox, emotions and mystery," he said. The film peaks with Jackie's strategy of painting a fairy-tale picture of JFK by using "Camelot" as a sobriquet for JFK and the Kennedy Administration, an epitaph which stuck. Her analogy with the 1960 Lerner and Loewe musical, which appears in the film's soundtrack, elevates the Kennedy kingdom to the level of the one ruled by the legendary King Arthur.

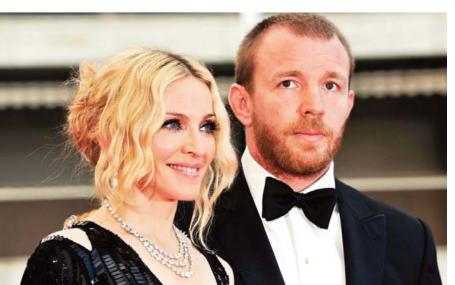
Jackie managed "to create an illusion of royalty, gathering together a whole nation" for the spectacular state funeral, with America's elite and foreign dignitaries alike processing in the wake of the horse-drawn coffin. "It's interesting because it's not something she got through a family name, through birthright. She was a queen without a throne," Larrain said. — AFP

Madonna, Guy Ritchie settle child custody dispute

director Guy Ritchie, have settled a custody dispute over their 16-year-old son Rocco, a court official in New York said yesterday. It was not immediately announced with which parent the teenager would live. Madonna, 58, and Ritchie, 47, have been in a legal battle over their son since December, when the teenager ignored a court order to fly back from Ritchie's London home to live with his mother in New York.

The "Material Girl" singer and the director

■ inger Madonna and her ex-husband, of 2009 film "Sherlock Holmes" married in 2000. After they divorced in 2008, they agreed that Rocco would live with Madonna. Lucian Chalfen, a spokesman for the New York State court system, confirmed the case was officially settled yesterday but did not immediately provide further information. Details of the settlement also were not revealed in online court records. Attorneys for Madonna and Ritchie did not immediately return calls for comment. — Reuters



Madonna and Guy Richie

US-BASED IRANIAN AUTEUR **AMIR NADERI** ON MAKING 'MOUNTAIN' IN ITALY

S-based Iranian auteur Amir Naderi-who on Monday received Venice's Jaeger-Lecoultre Glory To The Filmmaker Award-says his new film "Mountain," shot in the Italian Alps, "is very much about pushing myself to the limit." And also about pushing his Italian crew. "I told them in the beginning: 'This will be like going to hell. But if you stick with me, I promise you, you will see heaven. And that heaven is cinema," he says. Set in the year 1350 in a semi-abandoned village at the foothills of an Alpine peak, "Mountain"-which world-premiered at the fest out-of-competition Monday — is a drama about a man who attempts to bring sunlight to the village, where his family is barely able to survive because of the prevailing darkness.

It stars Italian actors Andrea Sartoretti, whose credits include TV series "Crime Novel" and "Mission: Impossible III," and Claudia Potenza ("Basilicata Coast to Coast"). Naderi says the cast and crew had to endure adverse weather conditions, bad food, and other tribulations, including communication impediments. On the first day of shooting, the cast and crew asked him: "Do you speak Italian?" He replied: "I speak the language of cinema," which meant that he "gave directions with hand gestures and a few words in English." "They went through a lot," Naderi adds. "But when we wrapped, they told me it was worth it." "Mountain" follows Naderi's Japan-set "The Cut," and "Vegas: Based on a True Story," which was in competition on the Lido in 2008. —Reuters

MUSIC & MOVIES

Broadway's 'Jersey Boys' closing in January

ersey Boys," the long-running Broadway musical hit about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, will close in January 2017 after a run of 11 years. With strong reviews from critics, powerful box office momentum and four Tony Awards including the top musical trophy, "Jersey Boys" proved instrumental in helping to redeem the idea of a "jukebox musical." On the way toward its New York opening in November 2005, the show faced some skepticism along Broadway for a pre-existing score drawn from a catalog of Four Seasons hits. But the musical's creative team, including director Des McAnuff and book writers Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, won over doubters with a slickly staged, emotionally resonant behind-the-music biography of the band.

Related Broadway Box Office: 'Les Miserables' Soars in Final Week In its wake, other back-catalog musicals of contemporary tunes-including "Beautiful" and "Fela!"-became awards-season players without facing much stigma as jukebox musicals. "Jersey Boys," meanwhile, became one of Broadway's top draws, consistently earning a spot in the weekly millionaires' club for several years. In recent months, however, softening

ersey Boys," the long-running Broadway musical hit about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, will close in January 2017 after a run of 11 years. With strong show continues to tour in the US and the UK).

The musical spawned a 2014 movie adaptation directed by Clint Eastwood, but the film's tepid reception didn't have a noticeable effect on the Broadway production's box office. Produced by a team led by Dodger Theatricals, Joseph J Grano, Tamara and Kevin Kinsella and Pelican Group, Broadway's "Jersey Boys" will run through the end-of-the-year holidays (traditionally the most profitable weeks on Broadway) before shuttering Jan 15. In the run-up to its closing, "Dancing with the Stars" performer Mark Ballas will join the show Oct 18 in the role of Frankie Valli. — Reuters

In a June 11, 2006 file photo, members of the production of 'Jersey Boys,' perform during the 60th annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York. — AP



Study finds inequality unchanged in Hollywood

espite widespread attention over diversity in the movie business, a new study finds that little is changing in Hollywood for women, minorities, LGBT people and others who continue to find themselves on the outside of an industry where researchers say inequality is "the norm." A report to released yesterday by the Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism offers a stark portrait of Hollywood's feeble to nonexistent progress in eradicating what researchers call "pervasive and systematic"

Asian (3.9 percent) characters in the most popular films. Off screen, of the 107 directors of 2015 films, four were black or African American and six were Asian or Asian American. Just eight were women, still the most since 2008. "We're seeing entrenched inequality," Stacy L. Smith, a USC professor and the study's lead author, said in an interview. "Whether we're studying gender, race, ethnicity, LGBT or characters with disabilities, we're really seeing exclusionary forces leaving out anybody that's not a straight, white, able-bodied man. Despite all the chatter and all the activism and all the press attention, it's



In this file photo Chris Pine, left, and Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs announce the Academy Awards nominees for best actor in a leading role at the 87th Academy Awards nomination ceremony in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

problems in inclusiveness in front of and behind the camera.
Since 2007, USC has analyzed the demographic makeup of the actors, directors, writers and more from each year's 100 most popular films. Its latest addition adds data from 2015's top films, but finds little change. For example, 31.4 percent of speaking characters in the analyzed films were female in 2015 - roughly the same number as in 2007. That's a ratio of 2.2 men for every single woman. Characters identified as lesbian, gay or transgender accounted for less than 1 percent of all speaking parts, or 32 out of 4,370 characters studied. That was a slight increase from 19 portrayals in 2014. After finding zero transgender characters in 2014, researchers could pinpoint one in 2015

Characters with disabilities

From 2007 to 2015, the study finds no significant change in the percentage of black (12.2 percent), Latino (5.3 percent) or another year where the status quo has been maintained."

USC researchers stressed that the study's results didn't just offer a portrait of inequality, but captured the invisibility of many from American popular cinema. Hollywood, the study concludes, is "an epicenter of cultural inequality." Issues of exclusion and gender gaps have gained more attention in recent years following two straight seasons of all-white acting nominees at the Oscars and leaked studio emails from Sony Pictures that suggested evidence of disparity in salaries between male and female stars.

Movie industry

The fallout has led the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences to diversity its membership. Some have individually taken action; TV producer Ryan Murphy in February launched a foundation to diversify the directors of his shows. Last month, even Michelle Obama spoke of the importance

"for the world to see different images of each other." But the USC researchers say not enough is being done by the upper echelons of the movie industry. Earlier this year, the researchers scored 10 major media companies on their diversity record across mediums. None passed.

"We've seen a lot of talk and little action," says Smith. "What we need now is for companies to take the same leadership position, be transparent in their inclusion goals and be accountable to representing the actual world we live in when it comes to the demography of the US." Many of last year's most profitable movies, however, boasted diverse casts. The appeal of the "Fast and Furious" franchise, which released its seventh installment in 2015, has long been based on both high-octane races and a much varied cast. The year's top film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," ushered in more diverse characters to George Lucas' galaxy. Female empowerment was also a big seller for "Mad Max: Fury Road," "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2" and "Pitch Perfect 2."

Same groups

As a result, female lead or co-leads improved by 11 percent from 2014 to 2015, one of the rare signs of improved inclusivity in the study. But even such bright spots revealed other areas still wanting. There were still just three films featuring a female lead or co-lead from an underrepresented racial or ethnic group, and there wasn't one leading part for an Asian, man or woman. "When we really drill down in the numbers, we see a perpetuation of the same groups getting access to the most visible roles, whether that's in the director's chair or on screen, and that continues to be the problem plaguing Hollywood's hiring practices," said Smith.

Issues over the type of representation also still remain. Though LGBT characters increased in 2015, only two were depicted as parents. "Film still has a way to go when it comes to representing all types of families in America," said Katherine Pieper, who co-authored the study with Smith and Marc Choueiti. Females also continue to be overwhelmingly more likely to be sexualized. Women are more than three times as likely as men to be shown in sexually revealing clothing or nude. "When there are few women - less than 32 percent of characters are female - and they are more sexualized than their male counterparts, then females are really filling a particular role in film content and sending a particular message to audiences," said Pieper.

The researchers added two new metrics to the study this year. They are now tracking characters with disabilities. They made up just 2.4 percent of all speaking roles in 2015's top films, even though 18.7 percent of the US population reported having a disability in the 2010 census. To dovetail with an upcoming initiative on women in music, USC researchers also began studying the rate of female composers in film. They found 12 total in the 877 films studied over eight years, and only one in 2015. "When a group clocks in at 1.4 percent," says Smith, "I think it merits more investigation."— AP

Turkey court acquits famed pianist of blasphemy charges

Turkish court acquitted world-renowned pianist Fazil Say of blasphemy yesterday, four years after he first went on trial on charges of insulting Islam in a case that raised alarm about freedom of expression in Turkey. The Istanbul court ruling ends the long-running legal saga which began in October 2012 when Say went on trial on charges "insulting religious beliefs" in a series of Twitter posts.

In a hugely convoluted process, the Turkish classical star was initially handed a 10-month jail sentence in 2013 before a retrial was ordered the same year in which he received an identical sentence. But the Supreme Court of Appeal in October 2015 overturned the sentence, sending it back to a lower court for a final ruling. And the Istanbul court yesterday supported the appeal court decision to overturn the sentence against Say and ruled he should be acquitted, state-run Anadolu news agency reported. The charismatic pianist-who is also a renowned composer-was prosecuted for Twitter posts in 2012 that allegedly attacked Muslims.

One of which was a retweet which said: "I am not sure if you have also realized it, but all the pricks, low-lives, buffoons, thieves, jesters, they are all Allahists. Is this a paradox?" Say, 45, has played with orchestras across the world including in Berlin, New York, Tokyo and Israel and regularly gives sold-out solo recitals that often mix Mozart with Turkish traditional sounds. He has also served as a cultural ambassador for the European Union. Last October, the appeal court ruled by a four-to-one majority that Say's comments should be viewed as "freedom of thought and expression and thus should not be punished".

Demanding his acquittal, Say's lawyer said that his client was only sharing his opinions. "My client did not write an article neither did he show a film. He shared his opinions and retweeted opposing opinions. The real outrage was the opening

of this case," Meltem Akyol said, quoted by Dogan news agency. The case against Say, an atheist, caused consternation among secular Turks worried about what they see as a creeping Islamism under the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) co-founded by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The government critic also previously accused Erdogan of being behind the case against him and in 2013 he called the charges "politically motivated". — AFP



Venice Film Review



Director and actor Mel Gibson poses as he arrives on the red carpet for 'Hacksaw Ridge' at the 73rd annual Venice International Film Festival, in Venice, Italy, Sunday. — AP

Mel Gibson Calls 'Batman v Superman' a 'Piece of S-t'

atman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" has another vocal detractor: Mel Gibson. "It's a piece of s-t," the 60-year-old director told Deadline at the Venice Film Festival. "I'm not interested in the stuff. Do you know what the difference between real superheroes and comic-book superheroes is? Real superheroes didn't wear spandex. So I don't know. Spandex must cost a lot." The DC Comics blockbuster, which was panned by critics, came up when Gibson revealed the modest budget he worked with on his latest film "Hacksaw Ridge."

Related Mel Gibson Talks 'Hacksaw Ridge' and 'Survival' in Hollywood "The exchange rate for the US dollar was good at the time, and I think we locked in at about 72 cents on the dol-

lar and took a \$27 million budget and turned it into a \$40 million budget," he said. He then confirmed the budget for his last film, "Apocalypto," clocked in around \$30 million before admitting he doesn't think movies that cost \$200+ million to produce are worth it.

"I look at them and scratch my head. I'm really baffled by it. I think there's a lot of waste, but maybe if I did one of those things with the green screens I'd find out different," Gibson said. "It seems to me that you could do it for less... You're spending outrageous amounts of money, \$180 million or more, I don't know how you make it back after the tax man gets you, and after you give half to the exhibitors." — Reuters

Terrence Malick's 'Voyage of Time: Life's Journey'

he bottom of the sea, the top of the sky, the swirling psychedelic gasses of outer space, the writhing protoplasm of inner life: When you're gawking at images like these and they cast a spell of majestic awe, the images need no other justification, and "Voyage of Time: Life's Journey" is full of them. Written and directed by Terrence Malick, the film is a mystic love poem to the unfathomable splendor of the natural world-which, if you get close enough to it, is out of this world. The version of "Voyage of Time" that premiered tonight at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival is 90 minutes of spectacularly beautiful nature-ific eye candy. It was shot, however, as an IMAX film, and when it opens next month on IMAX screens, the version that plays there will be only 45 minutes long. (The feature-length version will be released in select international markets starting next year.) That, make no mistake, is a good thing. "Voyage of Time" has too many spellbinding images to count, but as a movie it's just okay. It's exactly what it sounds like-essentially an expanded version of the cosmic prologue from Malick's "The Tree of Life." But that sequence seduced you with its trippy splendor, presented the entire formation of the Earth, and turned that into a heavy contemplation of a higher power...all in 20 minutes. In "Voyage of Time," more of this becomes less-not because the film is boring (it glides by), but because it's at once captivating and diffuse, a grab-bag of wonder set against a narration of solemn quasi-banality read by Cate Blanchett, with interwoven shots of people from around the planet, most of them photographed with a cell-phone camera (the new equivalent of grainy shaky 16mm), which doesn't add up to much because these sequences feel arbi-

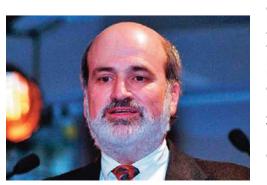
Loses power

trary and vaguely didactic.

A montage of American homeless people; an

Israeli wedding; a ceremony in a rural Asian town square that involves the ritual slaughter of water buffalo. These sequences tend to sap the film's momentum (they make it sag), and that's one reason it loses power as it goes along. "Voyage of Time" is like a more contemplative, fragmented, throw-everything-at-thewall version of "Koyaanisqatsi" with narration by Rod

These days, when everything is divided into oppositional tribes, two camps that are most definitely not speaking to each other are the Creationists and those who believe in evolutionary science. But Terrence Malick, as a film artist, is like a walking truce between those two points of view. He's a New Age Christian sentimentalist who makes explicitly religious movies (more and more, they're about talking to God), and the theme of "Voyage of Time" is that there's a Creator, and he has created life, and that is a splendid thing, but we cannot know his grand plan. Here, though, as in "The Tree of Life," Malick presents a vision of the cosmos that's essentially "scientific": the brilliantly multicolored oozing waves of galactic light matter, the oth-



Terrence Malick

erworldly species under the sea that suggest rungs on the evolutionary ladder.

Visual-effects

A vast team of visual-effects artists worked on "Voyage of Time" (led by Dan Glass, the visual effects supervisor), and part of what's captivating about the movie is that it's hard to tell where the effects leave off and the natural photography begins. The celestial visions of outer space were, for the most part, created, and Malick orchestrates them like a painter of light and gravity-they're like something on a Sistine chapel ceiling that moves. But were all of them created? Much of the staggering nebula look like actual telescopic images, and when the film is under the sea, gazing at some creature that looks for all the world like an octopus with tentacles made of Romaine lettuce, we think, "Is that thing...real?" The same goes for hellishly billowing volcano smoke and shots of fragmented glacier ice. The confusion is intentional. Malick is telling us that nature will always be the ultimate spe-

You might say that Malick's philosophy in "Voyage of Time" is a version of "intelligent design," yet somehow that phrase sells it short. He sees God's touch in the glory and strangeness of every natural surface-a flower of extraordinary delicacy whose outer petals look like a wedding dress and whose inner petals look like shark's teeth, or jellyfish pulsating with such diaphanous synchronization that we can't help but have the feeling that there's something purposeful about them. The message of the images in "Voyage of Time" is that if you're searching for God, you need do little more than cast your eye over everything on earth.—Reuters

FASHION







Part of Rihanna's 'FENTY' x Puma collection as seen at the Pop-Up Shop Opening on Tuesday.

Q&A: **Rihanna** on new fashion line, confidence and more

ihanna says if the Addams Family worked out in the gym, they would sport her new collection for Puma. The singer's autumn/winter 2016 Fenty Puma by Rihanna line was launched Tuesday. The edgy collection of mostly black-and-white ensembles includes loose sweaters and oversized pants, maxi dresses, sneakers, slippers and sneaker heels. She called the clothes and items wearable at the gym or not - "kind of haunting." "I kind of imagined if the Addams Family was working out, this is what they would be wearing," Rihanna said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"This collection is kind of dark, but very oversized and long, everything is extra and I love it," she said. "It's something I definitely wear all the time and you either have to be into it or not." She launched the line at pop-up shops at Foot Locker and Bergdorf Goodman in New York, where her feverish fans awaited the pop star's arrival. She wore Puma head-to-toe, including white thigh-high boots, a long black skirt and a track jacket. Rihanna, 28, talked about the new line and how Japanese street culture inspired her style.

AP: Did you listen to music while designing this line?

Rihanna: I always listen to music no matter what I'm doing. Music is definitely always something that drives the mood and creating and helps you lock that in and escape to a whole other world, but I won't say any of these pieces were specific to certain songs or album - they just came from a feeling. I already knew what I wanted and I knew what I wanted to see and the direction, but to actually now apply that to silhouettes and things that had to still come back to athleticism. I had such a thrill with that challenge.

AP: What was it like designing a line versus shopping for yourself?



File photo shows Rihanna arrives at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Rihanna: Oh my gosh, big difference! When you're shopping, too, you feel like you're designing as you're shopping. You're like, 'I love this, but I wish it was shorter or I wish it was purple. I wish it was a different fabric,' you know. It starts there, but then when you have to start from scratch, it really comes with an idea first, and then ... you want to tweak and then you come up with something else and you want to add to it or change. It's fun. It's like an ocean - you can do whatever. It's so, it's a big canvas and Puma definitely let me have a lot of freedom creatively so I was lucky with that.

AP: You said this line was inspired by Japanese street culture. Do you remember your first trip to Japan? What was that like?

Rihanna: Supertrippy. I felt like I was on a whole other planet. I felt like I was the only person of my kind there. It was so weird. And their fashion, I felt like I was watching a hip-hop music video, I remember. The guys all wanted to be like supergangster and oversized this, oversized that; they were so cool.

But the girls, they all walked around in thigh-high boots and tiny shorts, supercute outfits that I knew came from hip-hop culture. It was really cool actually to see that. Actually the worst part about that trip was none of the shoes could fit me. I have big feet and they don't. They stop at like a size six and that's it. But it was fun. And I've always been inspired since that day; I've always been inspired by Japanese style.

AP: You've always been bold and confident with your style, and people always say they like Rihanna "because she's so real." Have you always been confident?

Rihanna: I think ... I've always been shy.

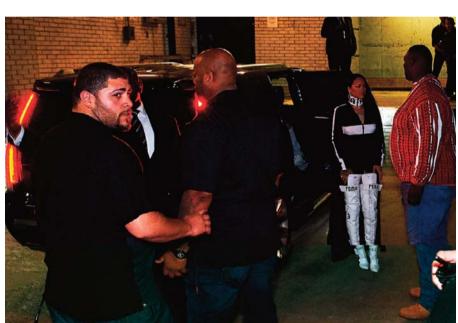
AP: Really?

Rihanna: Yes. Yes. And still you wouldn't believe, but still I get shy and awkward and (have) stage fright. Even when I was coming here, I was at Bergdorf's earlier, I had this fluttering in my stomach 'cause it's like a stage even though it wasn't. ... I've always been that way, but ... I when you realize that nothing is wrong, even if it's awkward it's not wrong ... you kind of just are OK. Like you know it might be awkward for people or people might not understand it, but you're fine. I wouldn't change anything. I have to stay the same.

AP: They've been playing your songs and the fans have been singing along. What's it like to have them here?

Rihanna: That is what it's all about. I couldn't come to the shop and be by myself ... when they show up I mean that, that lets me know I'm doing something right and lets me know that they're sincerely interested and enjoy what I do. And that's the reward. — AP





Rhianna entering the opening of the FENTY Puma Pop-Up Shop. — AP photos

MARILYN'S 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' GOWN GOING TO AUCTION IN THE FALL





This undated photo provided by Julien's Auctions shows the flesh-colored dress Marilyn Monroe wore during her rendition of 'Happy Birthday' to President John F Kennedy. — AP

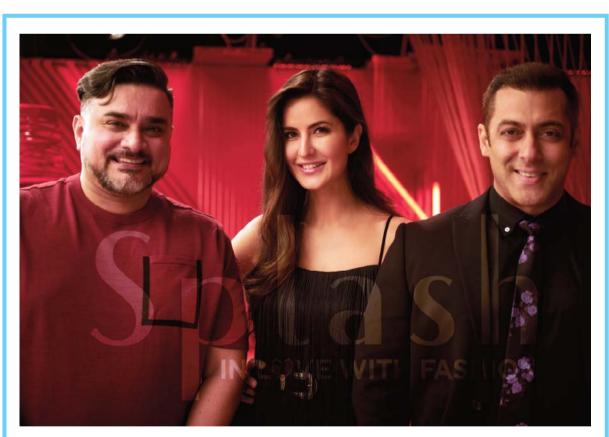
■he flesh-colored, skin-tight beaded gown Marilyn Monroe wore during her breathless rendition of "Happy Birthday" to President John F Kennedy is going on the auction block this fall. Julien's Auctions is offering the sequined stunner at a sale in Los Angeles on Nov 17. The auction house believes the gown could fetch \$2 million to \$3 million. The sultry actress wore the barely-there dress at Kennedy's 45th birthday celebration at Madison Square Garden on May 19, 1962. Made of silk gauze and covered in thousands of rhinestone beads and sequins, the Jean Louis dress was so form-fitting that Monroe had to be sewn into it. She died less than three months later of an overdose of sleeping pills at age 36. Kennedy died the following year.

The custom-made, one-of-a-kind dress is "not only Hollywood, but political and historical," said Julien's president Darren Julien. The dress was first purchased 17 years ago at Christie's auction by the late financier Martin Zweig, who kept it in a climate-controlled display case at his Pierre Hotel penthouse in New York. It is being sold by his estate.

"She called it skin and beads," said Julien of the gown. And because the dress "was sewn on Marilyn Monroe, Zweig had it professionally mounted on a mannequin. It's never been off it, and is immaculately preserved." The dress was last sold at auction in 1999 for \$1.26 million, the highest auction price for a Monroe dress to date. The dress is among some 1,300 Monroe artifacts being offered by Julien's over three days. They include items from the estate of Monroe's acting coach Lee Strasberg and from David Gainsborough-Roberts, a British collector believed to have the largest private collection of Monroe costumes.

A sheer black beaded and sequined dress from the movie "Some Like it Hot" also is for sale. Prior to the sale, the custom-made "Happy Birthday Mr President" dress will be showcased at MANA Contemporary in Jersey City, New Jersey, as part of an exhibition focusing on Monroe as an artist, from Sept 25 through Oct 22. It will include some of her watercolors and handwritten poems, which will be sold by Julien's.

The dress also will travel outside of the United States for the first time for an exhibition at the Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge, Ireland, from Oct 29 through Nov 6. "This is the last auction of its kind. When she died Marilyn Monroe left everything to Lee Strasberg," said Julien. "We have the final of his estate items as they relate to Marilyn Monroe. It's literally going to be the last opportunity to ever experience a Marilyn Monroe auction like this again."— AP



Splash signs superstars Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif as brand ambassadors

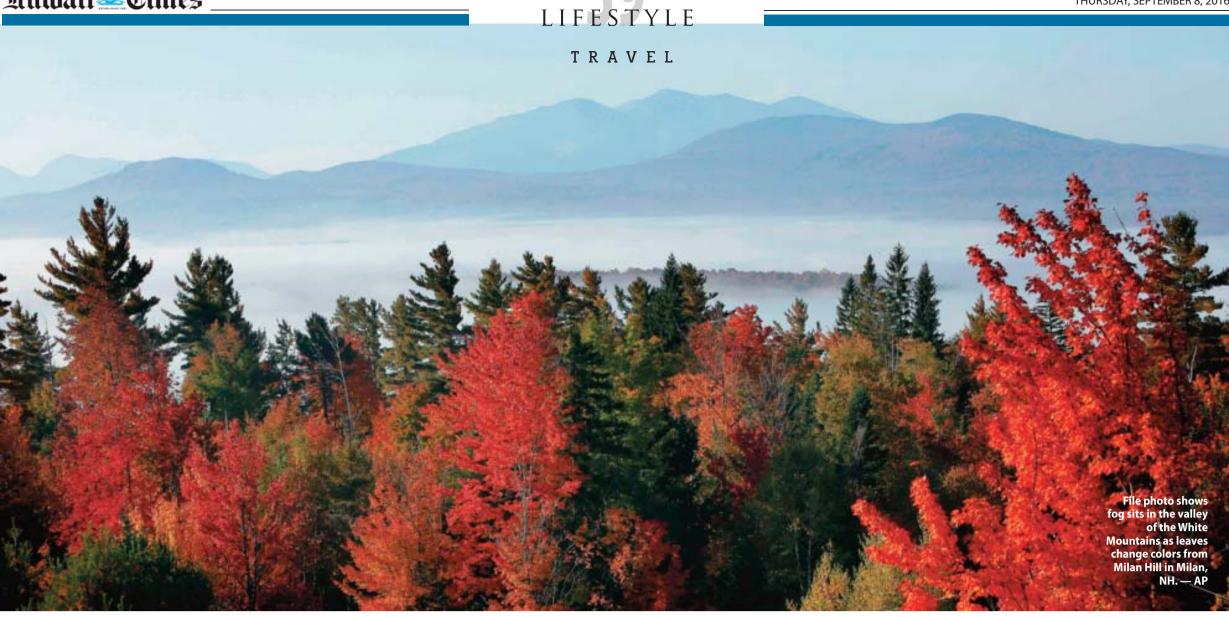
plash, the Middle East's largest high-street fashion retailer today announced international icons Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif as brand ambassadors. The mega stars known for their acting finesse and their on-trend sartorial choices with a massive fan following will be seen representing the brand Splash through a series of brand campaigns across the Middle East.

Synonymous with its philosophy of 'In Love with Fashion', Splash is well known for its trendy and fashionable collections with a broad appeal, its innovative events and campaigns while Salman is known for creating everlasting fashion moments and Katrina, as an aspirational youth icon thus making the three individual brands an instant fit.

Salman talking on his association with Splash, said, "I have now been working with Splash in the Middle East for the past three years both in the capacity of a brand ambassador and with my brand Being Human for which Splash is the exclusive retail partner. It has been an exciting & fruitful journey. Each season the brand ups its fashion quotient while still keeping the Arab & Asian consumer at heart which I most relate to. I look forward to this renewed journey and wish we continue to add many more fashionable moments in the life of our valued fans & customers."

Speaking on her association Katrina, an internationally acclaimed, multi-award winning actress, said, "As a brand to me Splash embodies effortless style & great fashion which is what I associate with personally. I am very happy to represent the brand as an ambassador for the Middle East, a region that has given me and my movies so much love and support. We are in the process of shooting this amazing, high-fashion campaign and I can't wait for you to see what's in store this season."

"Born and bred in the Middle East we at Splash understand the fashion sensibilities of the Arab consumer and to represent this fashion we have brought together mega stars Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif. This is Splash's second stint with Salman post a 6 month gap in which we received multiple requests from his Arab and Asian fans to bring the association back. Katrina was an obvious choice given her global appeal, her talent and impeccable style. Both together appeal to all generations and it is this love for them that we aim to capitalize on in their very first joint brand endorsement", said Raza Beig, Director- Landmark Group and CEO- Splash & ICONIC.



'Leaf' the beaten path for stunning foliage, killer selfies

he Northeast's fall foliage dazzles locals and draws millions of tourists, but many flock to the same tired vantage points. Those willing to venture off the beaten path will be rewarded with stunning and comparatively uncrowded autumn vistas - and some killer selfies. Here's your guide to the best corners of New England and upstate New York for leaf-peeping:

Connecticut

The Heublein Tower in Simsbury, Connecticut sits at the top of Talcott Mountain State Park. The 165-foot tower was built in 1914 by liquor magnate Gilbert Heublein as a summer home and offers spectacular views that on a clear day extend north to the Berkshires in Massachusetts and south to Long Island Sound.

Getting to the tower involves a relatively easy 11/4-mile hike up a foliage-filled trail that winds up the mountain with plenty of overlooks of the Farmington River Valley. There's also a nearby pumpkin patch where visitors can enjoy hayrides and pumpkin picking. — Pat Eaton-Robb

Maine

Nestled in tiny Turner in the foothills of Maine, Ricker Hill Orchards combines two of New England's most beloved autumn activities: picking your own apples and admiring the turning leaves. The orchard's hillside "u-pick" area offers a stunning view of Maine's western lakes and mountains region, with views of foliage stretching all the way to New Hampshire.

The ninth-generation orchard also offers fall staples such as cider and cider doughnuts along with its apples and views. It's about an hour's drive north of Portland - a ride with its own superb views of the fall spectacle. — Patrick Whittle

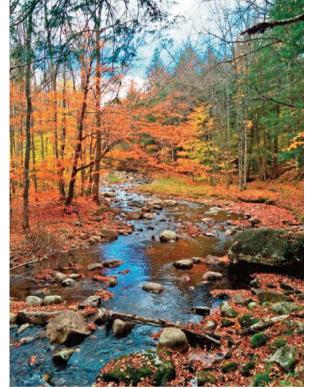


Fog sits in the valley of the White Mountains as leaves change colors, in this photo taken from Milan Hill in Milan, NH.

Massachusetts

Most people associate Cape Cod with summer, sand and surf, but the peninsula offers some postcard-perfect backdrops for foliage. Cross over the Sagamore Bridge and take the first exit onto rural Route 6A, which winds and twists through the scenic and historic town of Sandwich. The Old King's Highway, as it used to be known, hugs Cape Cod Bay and is lined with ancient stone walls, white picket fences, ponds and pastures.

Two worthwhile stops in Sandwich: Heritage Museums and Gardens, where you can meander paths bordered by stunning flora; and the Green Briar Nature Center, next to the conservation area where Thornton Burgess dreamed up Peter Rabbit and other characters. — William J Kole



Fall colors along East Stony Creek in the town of Hope, NY, along a woods road off Route 30 in the southern Adirondacks.

New Hampshire

Don't want to limit your leaf-peeping to a single state - or, for that matter - country? Head to Milan State Park, where a fire tower offers simultaneous views of the mountain ranges of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and Canada.

Brilliant leaves in the foreground contrast beautifully with fog that settles in the valleys and the mountains in the distance. The recently renovated park, about 125 miles north of the state capital of Concord, includes a hilltop campground with a half-dozen campsites and four furnished yurts available to rent through Oct 24. Oh, and it's pronounced MY'-lin, not mih-LAHN'. — Holly Ramer

New York

In the southern Adirondacks, the stony Sacandaga River and a series of forest-rimmed lakes reflect blazing orange and yellow leaves along a 50-mile stretch of Route 30 from Northville to Indian Lake, where the Great Adirondack Moose Festival is slated for Sept 24-25.

There are long stretches of unbroken wilderness between the hamlets of Wells, Speculator and Indian Lake, with hiking trails leading to secluded ponds, waterfalls and small mountains with big views. — Mary Esch

Rhode Island

For an urban leaf-peeping experience, there are few places more picturesque than historic Benefit Street in Providence, Rhode Island. Hundred-year-old elms and other mature trees provide a canopy of spectacular color over brick sidewalks.

The mile-long street runs past a collection of Colonial, Federal and Greek Revival-style homes, and several historic churches, including the First Baptist Church in America. Situated midway up the steep College Hill, it offers occasional glimpses of a more modern downtown, the Rhode Island Statehouse and rivers below. Above it is the main campus of Brown University, another lovely spot for fall color. — Michelle R Smith



Vermont

The top of Owls Head Mountain, reached by a short hiking trail in the Groton State Forest off state Route 232, offers consistently world-class foliage displays. With an elevation of 1,958 feet, the view from the rock face near the peak includes spectacular views of Lake Groton, Kettle Pond, Peacham Bog and an unbroken expanse of forest that in late September and party Octobor glove rod, grappe and vollow.

early October glows red, orange and yellow.
While the more adventurous can make a 1.5-mile hike that's rated as easy to moderate, it's also possible to drive to a parking area near the top for a short walk that makes it an ideal outing with kids. — Wilson Ring — AP

File photo shows fog sits in the valley of the White Mountains as leaves change colors, in this photo taken from Milan Hill in Milan, NH.



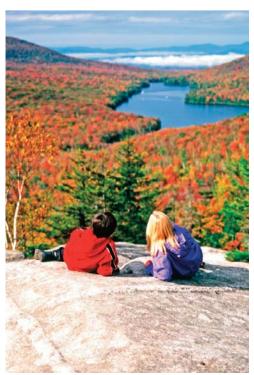
A dog runs down a back road off Route 30 in Indian Lake in New York.



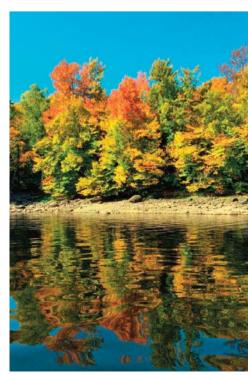
Fall colors reflect in the surface of Indian Lake in the Adirondacks in New York.



File photo shows fall foliage borders the smiling pond on Cape Cod, aptly named because it's shaped like a smile, adjacent to Green Briar Nature Center and Jam Kitchen and the famous "Briar Patch" of Thornton Bugess' stories, in Sandwich, Mass.



People take in the fall foliage from Owls Head Mountain in Groton State Forest in Vermont.



Fall colors are shown along Indian Lake beside Route 30 in the southern Adirondacks in New York.

'Leaf' the beaten path for stunning foliage, killer selfies

3



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016





Performers from US based company Early Morning Opera performs daily routines inside a 13-foot tank during the rehearsal of 'Holoscenes' as part of the London's Burning festival of events commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London in London. Holoscenes is a six-hour underwater performance installation in which members of the Los Angeles-based Early Morning Opera struggle to perform daily routines and is inspired by concern over the potential contemporary threat of future flooding in major cities. — AFP



Perfumer Nenad Jovanov, center, sprays perfume on a customer in his small perfume shop in Belgrade, Serbia. — AP photos



Perfumer Nenad Jovanov smells the mixture.



Perfumer Nenad Jovanov pours perfume into a small bottle.



Perfumer Nenad Jovanov sprays perfume on a customer in his small perfume shop.

Belgrade's old perfume shop holds back the years

n a cobblestone street in central Belgrade, amid designer boutiques and trendy snack bars, stands a small perfume shop that is the last keeper of a dying craft and a witness to the Serbian capital's turbulent history. The Sava Perfumery is the only one of its kind still remaining in Belgrade - a small family business of home-made perfumes and other beauty products, the kind that once thrived here but have vanished as mass-production has taken over.

Set up shortly before World War II, the perfumery has held on through the German Nazi occupation of Belgrade, the postwar Communist era and the 1990s bloody breakup of Yugoslavia. Nowadays, the small cherry-red shop still seems to defy time - its wood-rimmed shop window displays old glass jars, small perfume bottles - one of them in the shape of Paris' Eiffel Tower - and blackand-white photographs behind the blurred glass. The perfumery's old, slightly crooked door opens with a squeak, a door bell announcing a visitor. Behind the counter, a gray-haired man wearing a spotless white shirt greets the customers.

Lipstick-making

"Welcome to the time capsule!" Nenad Jovanov smiles. Almost everything inside Jovanov's shop dates back to the time when his father and uncle first opened in 1941, just months before the Nazi occupation of Belgrade began. Old wooden shelves are packed with glass bottles of all sizes and perfume-making equipment, an ancient lipstick-making machine is kept in the backroom.

Jovanov's uncle and father had started out ambitiously, creating a perfume line dubbed "L'amour" along with a series of French-style beauty products for glamour-hungry Belgrade ladies. The war soon imposed a totally different reality. "Many times, my father and uncle had to trade our products for cheese, eggs or a chicken," Jovanov said. "It was pure survival, we had to eat." Testifying to the German occupation period is a small, grayish-green French military typewriter that a German soldier sold to Jovanov's uncle claiming it had been confis-

cated at the Maginot frontline following the French surrender. "I would like these things to go to a museum one day. It would be a great pity to see them lost," Jovanov said. Tough times did not end with the war.

The Communist authorities closed down the shop in 1948 as part of a wider ban on privately owned businesses, and the Jovanovs had to rely on the help of relatives until the authorities in 1954 allowed them to reopen the perfumery. The business boomed during the 1950s and '60s, while there was still no mass production. Jovanov, who was born in

Sava for hours," said Vera Brankovic, an elderly Belgrade woman referring to Jovanov by the shop's name - a common mistake that he does not object to. "This shop has a soul. I could never return to the modern shops." For a couple living in Australia, the Sava Perfumery presented a curiosity and an opportunity to get a professional's advice about the kind of perfume that would suit them. "It is unique to be able to choose your perfume like this," said 42-year-old Rosanda Kovacevic. Jovanov said he finds it very hard to run a small business in the era of mass production.

needs for the perfumes are almost impossible

to purchase in small quantities, and there are

no other shops to chip in - they all closed

down during the crisis years in the 1990s when

Yugoslavia broke up in a series of bloody con-

flicts and Serbia was placed under internation-

al isolation. "My colleagues sold their shops to



Perfumer Nenad Jovanov speaks with a customer in his small perfume shop.

1949, played in the shop as a small boy and slowly learned the craft. "I spent my childhood and earned my first pocket money here," he recalled. Jovanov still mixes scents the old-fashioned way - adding various ingredients to the perfume base that he purchases from perfume producers. Long measuring tubes and bottles of all sizes capped with filters fill the working counter at the back of the perfumery, where Jovanov adds minute drops until he gets a perfect mixture.

Small business

Once a customer picks a scent, Jovanov fills a small bottle and offers a free spray to go, using a 1930s sprinkler. The next time, a customer can save money by asking only for a refill. "I enjoy everything here, I could talk to Mr

fumery,
Intil he
Inti



 $\label{perfumer} \textbf{Perfumer Nenad Jovanov smells the mixture in his small perfume shop.}$



Perfumer Nenad Jovanov mixes scents.