

Higher transport costs hit parents' pockets as school year begins



Interior Ministry forms special unit to handle civilian cases



Iranian Paralympic cyclist dies in race accident



Watford add to Mourinho woes as Palace soar



KUWAIT SEEKS SUPPORT FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT

PM: 'HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY' TO PRESERVE PEACE, FIGHT TERROR



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KANDARI TO GRILL FINANCE MINISTER OVER PETROL HIKE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Faisal Al-Kandari said yesterday he will file a request to grill Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh over the government's decision to hike the price of petrol, "unless the government withdraws the decision". The lawmaker said he will file the grilling request on the opening day of the National Assembly's new term in mid-October to defend the rights of the Kuwaiti people.



Faisal Al-Kandari

"We have said this before. We will not accept that the government takes even a single dinar from the pockets of citizens," Kandari said in a statement. "If the government wants to stop squandering of public funds, it has other sources," he said, adding, "until when should citizens remain victims of government decisions that are not properly studied?"

Several lawmakers have threatened to grill ministers over the petrol price hike, which went into effect at the start of September, but Kandari is the first to clearly state his intention and fix a date. Kandari strongly criticized the government for taking and implementing the hike decision during the Assembly's summer recess without consulting lawmakers. He also criticized the government for not fulfilling its pledge of taking a series of reform measures along with reducing subsidies on petrol.

Almost all the MPs who oppose the government's deci-

sion want the government to provide a form of compensation or assistance for Kuwaiti citizens for the price increase, like what happened with electricity charges when the Assembly approved the government's measure which applies only to expatriates and for commercial use. Kandari said that if the government does not annul its decision, he plans to go to the maximum extent in his grilling, a clear reference that he and other MPs could file a no-confidence motion after the grilling.

A number of lawmakers have signed a petition to hold an emergency session on Thursday to discuss the issue, but the request has not yet secured the majority necessary to convene the session. MP Abdullah Maayouf said yesterday he supports holding the emergency session, but acknowledged that it still requires "certain procedures". He said that the issue must be resolved either through scrapping the hike decision or compensating citizens.

In another development, MP Saleh Ashour said he plans to file a request to grill Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for inviting former Bahraini minister Sameera Rajab, despite her previous support for former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. Rajab has been invited to address a symposium starting today on Gulf identity by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, which comes under the information minister.



NEW YORK: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives at his residence in New York HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA

NEW YORK: Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, hoped UN member states support Kuwait's quest for Security Council membership. The premier, in a statement shortly after arrival in New York to represent HH the Amir at the 71st UN General Assembly (UNGA) session, said Kuwait looks forward to the support of UN member states for its candidacy for a non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for 2018-19 in the elections due to be held in June 2017.

Sheikh Jaber called on the international community to live up to its "historic responsibility" to preserve international peace, security and stability, as well as step-

ping up the fight against terrorism. "Kuwait is keen on continuing its support to the UN so it can play an active role in helping many countries overcome crises and provide a decent life for their people," he added.

He said Kuwait has actively contributed to UN efforts to address international disasters and crises, as well as contribute to development in many countries, stressing on the UN's major responsibility regarding uncertainties and terrorist acts threatening security and stability in the Middle East. Later yesterday, HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah at his residence in New York, in the presence of Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Police and firefighters work near the scene of an explosion in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood late Saturday. — AP

NY BLAST IS 'TERRORISM', BUT NO CLAIM, MOTIVE UNCLEAR

NEW YORK: A bomb that tore through an upscale New York neighborhood injuring 29 people was an act of terror, the state governor said yesterday, but the motive is unknown and there has been no claim of responsibility. Heavily armed police and National Guard soldiers deployed throughout New York as the city of 8.4 million prepared to welcome world leaders at the UN General Assembly today. The attack happened late Saturday in Chelsea, one of Manhattan's most fashionable districts packed with bars, restaurants and luxury residential buildings.

Police discovered a second bomb planted four blocks away, which was safely defused and is currently being analyzed, officers said. The bombing came as a militant-linked news agency claimed that an Islamic State group

"soldier" carried out a stabbing attack in a US mall that left eight people injured late Saturday in the state of Minnesota. Local police said the attacker "made some references to Allah," but the motive was unclear. The attacker was shot dead by an off-duty police officer. There was no suggestion it was linked to the New York bombing.

"A bomb exploding in New York is obviously an act of terrorism, but it's not linked to international terrorism," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo told reporters yesterday as he visited the crime scene. "In other words, we find no ISIS connection, etcetera," said Cuomo in reference to IS, which is based in Iraq and Syria.

Continued on Page 13

KASHMIR ATTACK KILLS 17 SOLDIERS, INDIA BLAMES PAKISTAN MILITANTS

SRINAGAR: Gunmen hurling grenades killed 17 soldiers in a raid on an army base in Indian Kashmir yesterday, with India blaming Pakistan-based militants for the worst such attack in the disputed region for over a decade. The militants broke into the base near the de facto border with Pakistan before dawn and lobbed grenades at tents and barracks housing soldiers, before opening fire with automatic weapons, the army said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to punish those behind the "cowardly" and "despicable" hours-long attack near the town of Uri that also left four militants dead and scores of soldiers injured. "We strongly condemn the cowardly terror attack in Uri. I assure the

nation that those behind this despicable attack will not go unpunished," Modi said in a series of tweets.

No one has so far claimed responsibility, but Home Minister Rajnath Singh said he was disappointed with "Pakistan's continued and direct support to terrorism and terrorist groups". "Pakistan is a terrorist state and it should be identified and isolated as such," Singh said on Twitter, adding that the militants "were highly trained, heavily armed and specially equipped". The raid is likely to further sour ties between the nuclear-armed neighbors given the high death toll and heightened tensions in the Indian-administered region following weeks

Continued on Page 13

Layali Al Khayyam
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KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.—KUNA

GASOLINE PRICE HIKE, TRANSPORTATION COSTS DAMPEN BACK TO SCHOOL CHARM

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The 2016-2017 academic year began yesterday for both private and public schools in Kuwait. Some schools opened two weeks earlier, but many opted to wait until the long Eid holidays were over. As a

result, many students and parents enjoyed an extended vacation. However, on return, they were surprised by the increase in gasoline and transportation expenses, hitting their already depleted pockets.

The government increased prices of gasoline by up to 80 percent from Sept 1 as

part of economic reforms aimed at countering falling oil revenues. "I was informed transportation fees will increase from KD 40 to KD 45 per month," an expat parent told Kuwait Times, whose two children are studying in a school in Jleeb. "I am still in shock because I was on vacation when the

increase took place. I knew about the price hike, but I had no idea of its costs, especially on my daily expenses. It's not that expensive, but I could have used the money for other expenses," said the parent.

A private car owner who uses his car to transport students to a private school in Kuwait for extra income was irked. "The impact on our pockets is really huge! I used to fill up my car for KD 2.5, but now KD 4 is needed, so it's almost double," he fumed. "Some parents do not understand this. They argue public transport fares haven't increased, so why have we done so. We increased our charges because we immediately felt the impact, while public transport is still subsidized," he claimed.

"Thank God there is no increase in tuition fees until now, but given the impact of the petrol prices, I will not be surprised if they do it," another parent said. The Ministry of Education has issued a ministerial decree stipulating conditions for increasing private school fees by five percent annually depending on the category of the school.

Parents have also complained of increases in the prices of school supplies, although some retailers haven't done so. "I have noticed changes in prices, as notebooks that used to cost KD 1 now cost KD 1.250," a parent told Kuwait Times at a stationery shop in Kuwait City. "We can save money if we go to supermarkets that offer discounted prices, as there are many. If there are shops offering discounts, we have to grab the opportunity," said a teacher whose children are studying in an Arabic school.



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh. —KUNA

MORE EFFORTS NEEDED TO REALIZE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SABEEH

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh commented yesterday that the country requires further efforts to achieve the development goals set by it.

In remarks during her tour at the Ministry's facilities, she said, "We should focus on completing the projects that are currently underway by improving performance and services offered to the public in all the governmental bodies." She stressed the importance of exerting more efforts to accelerate the execution of development projects in order to achieve the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of transforming Kuwait into a key investment hub. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Parents browse through stationery items at a shop in Kuwait as the schools reopened yesterday after a long summer and Eid holidays. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah yesterday received a number of governors, citizens and military and civilian staff members at his office and conveyed Eid greetings.





KUWAIT: (From left to right), Jamal Al-Lahu, Chairman of the KICF, conference presenter Artist Abdul-Sattar Naji and Equip writer Emad Jumaa.



KUWAIT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CARICATURE FORUM SEPT 26-29

232 ARTISTS FROM 53 COUNTRIES TO ATTEND EVENT

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: The Kuwait International Caricature Forum 2016, the first of its kind in the country, will take place from Sept 26 to 29 under the auspices of Minister of Information and Minister of Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah.

Announcing at a press conference on Saturday, Public relations committee member of the forum and participating artist Bader bin Ghaith said that the event has received a high level of interest from the minister, in addition to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), as it is internationally recognized by the Federation of Cartoonist Organizations (FECO).

Chairman of the forum Jamal Al-Lahu said after obtaining the approval of the Egyptian Caricature Society, a cooperation protocol to establish this forum was signed. "We were pleased with their support, but also aimed for further acknowledgment from the highest cartoonists' representative - FECO. It's a huge gain. So, 53 countries will be taking part in this event with over 232 artists, representing all continents and various orientations," added Lahu.

The idea of the Caricature Forum came after a joint meeting between comic writer Emad Jumaa and Lahu. "We set out to work on this event and concluded its preparation successfully. Obtaining the recognition and the approval of the Egyptian Society and FECO allows us to exchange culture and experiences. I hope that this



event will be the nucleus of founding a Kuwaiti caricature society and maybe a comic museum in Kuwait in the future." Veteran Kuwaiti actor Abdulhussain

Abdulredha and the accomplishments of a group of leading cartoonists in Kuwait like Abdulredha Kamal and Abdulsalam Maqbool will be celebrated and honored,

in addition to holding seminars, live sketching and workshops. The event will highlight several general topics besides water conservation and child maltreatment.

KD 29M WORTH OF KUWAITI AID FOR POOREST MUSLIM NATIONS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has provided KD 29 million for poorest Muslim nations until March 2016. KFAED's Goodwill Fund aims to face the impact of world food crisis on under-developed countries, by boosting the agricultural field, said KFAED in a report published by KUNA yesterday.

The Goodwill Fund was established under direct orders by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the Fourth World Islamic Economic Forum, held in Kuwait in 2008. KFAED added that His Highness provided \$100 million for the fund to support the poor countries.

Meanwhile, the report noted that the total aid provided to Arab countries until March 2016 was KD 6.7 million, while assistance for central, south and east Africa reached KD 3.7 million. West African countries had the most share of the financial support, reaching KD 13.1 million, it added.

As for eastern and southern Asia and the Pacific, the total aid was KD 5.5 million, KFAED also said. Kuwait's Cabinet stated that each country's share in the Goodwill Fund's aid must not exceed \$10 million, below one percent, the report said. The fund's aid and loans are used in funding micro and small enterprises in agriculture and raising livestock to achieve food security, KFAED noted.

KFAED, established in 1961, is the first organization aimed at achieving development in the Arab World and other developing countries. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Mol Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd honoring a lieutenant and a policeman from the central prison security guards for foiling an attempt to smuggle drugs into the prison using a drone.

SECURITY AGENT, COMPANION KILLED IN HIGHWAY COLLISION

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A border security agent and his Asian companion were killed in a traffic accident along Khubara Al-Awazem highway, said security sources, noting that the accident took place when the victims' vehicle collided into a truck and ended up jammed underneath it. Further investigations are still in progress.

Fire in Andalus

A fire broke out in an apartment in Andalus, said security sources, noting that four Syrians and a citizen sustained various burns and smoke inhalation. They were treated and rushed to Sabah Hospital.



Another fire broke out in a vehicle in Saad Al-Abdullah, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene, where



they managed to control the fire without any casualties.

Anti-drug campaign

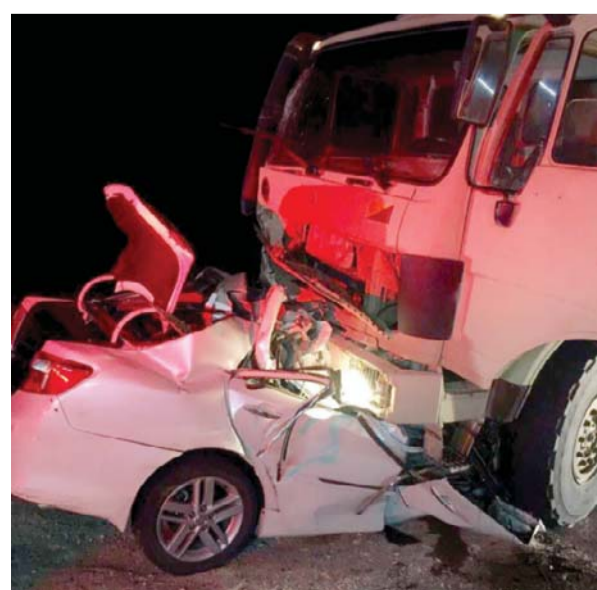
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah stressed the importance of fighting the drugs threat to the society and the youth. He was speaking on receiving writer Mohsen Al-Hailam, who presented a copy of his book titled 'Drugs in Kuwait - an Enemy Within'.

Policemen honored

Mol Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd yesterday honored a lieutenant and a policeman from the central prison security guards for foiling an attempt to smuggle drugs into the prison using a drone. The honoring ceremony held at Fahd's office was also attended by Deyyeen, the correctional facilities' acting director Brig Adel Al-Ibrahim and relations and security media director Brig Adel Al-Hashash.

Spring camps

Kuwait Municipality's special committee for setting the locations of spring camps for the 2016-2017 season, headed by deputy director for Hawally and Ahmadi Fahd Al-Otaibi, yesterday met to discuss preparations for the upcoming camping season. Otaibi said that issuance of camping licenses and paying fees would be done online on the municipality's website.



KUWAIT: The wreckage of a car being pulled out of a truck following a collision along Khubara Al-Awazem highway.

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News

in Brief

Kuwait envoy presents credentials in Iraq

BAGHDAD: Kuwait's new Ambassador to Iraq Ghassab Al-Zamanan has submitted his credentials to Baghdad's Foreign Ministry, succeeding Ambassador Ghassan Al-Zawawi. Al-Zamanan presented a copy of his credentials to Undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Nizar Al-Khairallah yesterday. Moreover, speaking to KUNA, Al-Zamanan conveyed the Kuwaiti leadership's greetings to Iraq. The Kuwaiti envoy has enjoyed a prolific diplomatic career, having previously served as Ambassador to Egypt in 2013.

Photo

of the day



DUBAI: Dubai musical fountain in front of Burj Khalifa . — KUNA

FAILAKA REMAINS OFF LIMITS TO VISITORS DURING EID

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Failaka Island is one of the most popular destinations during Eids and other holidays for those who are not travelling abroad, but not so this Eid. Many visitors,

especially those who prefer to stay there over the weekend, couldn't do so as the ferry transporting them along with their vehicles stopped its trips to Failaka.

Since April, ferries of the Kuwait Public Transport Company stopped sailing to Failaka

as the island's port is damaged. "The port of Failaka is closed with a huge quantity of mud, which doesn't allow the ferry to dock at the port. Work is on now to dredge the port, and hopefully work will finish soon," Abdullah, a ferry captain, told Kuwait Times. According to

him, ferries may start sailing to Failaka from next weekend, but he wasn't too sure.

Currently, people can visit Failaka either by private boat or by boats that sail to the island from Marina Crescent for KD 10 per person. But none of these can carry vehicles, so visitors

have to arrange transportation on the island by renting a car or motorcycle there. The resort there has lost many guests and was not fully occupied as it usually is during the holidays. Conversely, this was a boon for last-minute visitors.



KUWAIT: Failaka Island, one of the most sought after destinations for visitors during holidays. — Photos by Joseph Shagra.



The Failaka port currently under renovation.



KUWAIT: A ferry carrying visitors arriving at the Failaka port.

KFH HOLDS 'RETURN TO SCHOOL' FESTIVAL FOR 'BAITI' CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: As accustomed annually, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has organized "Return to School" festival for all children holding "Baiti" accounts as a token of appreciation and to welcome the new scholastic year with them, thus wishing them success and distinction in their education.

The event organized at Discovery Mall included several favorable activities for children to reinforce the relation among "Baiti" account holders and their relation with KFH. Participants expressed their utmost happiness and pleasure with the exciting entertainment

programs organized specially for them eg quiz programs with the program announcer, thus offering several valuable prizes to participants.

This entertainment activity incarnates KFH attention and care offered to children (Baiti Account Holders). To this end KFH has organized several events covering several cultural, educational, social and entertainment interests for the children. The latest event organized was (Baiti Reading Club) which was held in August in 8 episodes comprising 250 children aged 4-7 years old (holders of Baiti card) at "That Al-Salasel Library" - Avenues Mall. KFH

has made this initiative to encourage children on reading and retrieve the significance of books for our education and knowledge.

The program titled (Encourage your children to read with Baiti reading club) continued throughout the month of August, thus targeting (Baiti Account) customers 2 days a week - 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon - Wednesday and Thursday. Registration in this program was made available online kfh.com.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic

banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 400 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institu-

tion. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.



KUWAIT: Entertainment program for children.



SPECIAL UNIT TO HANDLE CASES OF CIVILIANS: MOI



KUWAIT: MoI's Assistant Undersecretary of Correctional Institutions and Prisons Major General Khaled Al-Deen.

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced yesterday that it has formed a special unit tasked with handling civilian cases, a move designed to mitigate the ministry's judicial burden. Speaking at a press conference on the issue, the MoI's Assistant Undersecretary of Correctional Institutions and Prisons Major General Khaled Al-Deen said that the unit would facilitate the indictment process for civilians awaiting trial.

Chief of the Ministry of Justice's law-enforcement department, Major General Majid Al-Majid, noted that all civilian cases will be inspected thoroughly to determine the appropriate verdicts for these cases, in line with legal

procedures. He also revealed that security forces have nabbed 6,895 civilians since the start of the year, adding that this new unit will assume its duties in October after a brief trial period next week.

Maj Gen Al-Deen stressed that security forces' strategy was based on taking care of both citizens and expats and providing them with all possible services.

The project will hold some litigation sessions at the law enforcement department in Sulaibiya, Al-Deen said adding that the project is meant to facilitate procedures and that it was launched in collaboration with the justice ministry.

MEW MANAGED TO CONTROL HIGH LOAD PHASE: AL-JASSAR

KD 17.4 MILLION DEAL TO REPLACE OVERHEAD POWER LINES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmed Al-Jassar stressed that despite the heat and high temperatures, MEW managed to control the high load phase. A record consumption rate increase of 580 megawatts was recorded in mid-August, when total consumption was 13,390 megawatts, a 4 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Speaking to reporters on receiving Eid greetings at his office, Jassar said that MEW has already started preparing for next summer.

* Jassar yesterday signed a contract to replace 132 and 300 kilovolt overhead power line insulators and paint high-voltage towers with silicone, which is expected to prolong the time needed before maintenance or cleaning the insulators to 10 years. Jassar added that the total cost of the project will be KD 17,490,000.

Reservation cards

* The Public Authority for Housing Welfare yesterday announced that it would distribute reservation cards for housing units at the South Mutlaa project at 9 am this morning.

* Municipal council member and head of Hawally committee Yousef Al-Ghareeb demanded giving away some land to the west of Hadiya to the housing authority to be used for building more housing units and help solve the housing problem.

Voluntary Work

On the occasion of celebrating the second anniversary of naming HH the Amir as a humanitarian leader by the UN, and as part of

the projects of 'Kuwait: Capital of Arab Youth', the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs launched its 'Ayadeena' (Our Hands) voluntary work campaign. Manager of the voluntary work department at the ministry Hamad Al-Aftan said that the campaign aims at promoting the culture of voluntary work amongst youth. He also announced launching the voluntary work portal and website.

* In a meeting after the Eid holidays, National Assembly Secretary General Allam Al-Kandari urged all Assembly secretariat general employees to double their efforts in the coming parliamentary term, as he expected it to be full of achievements.

Back to school

* In preparation for the new school year, Mubark Al-Kabeer educational area started a seven-day course for new teachers in a bid to introduce them to their new career, said area director Mansour Al-Daihani, noting that the training course includes 93 teachers.

* The Capital education area director Badriya Al-Khaldi also stressed the significance of holding special training courses for new teachers. Speaking on launching a seven-day training course at Qurtuba high school for girls, Khaldi said that 210 new teachers will join area's schools' teaching staffs once they complete the course.

* The justice ministry is taking part in the 20th meeting of the GCC justice ministries' undersecretaries in Saudi Arabia on Sept 19 to 20, 2016. The meeting's agenda has many topics including a draft agreement on extraditing suspects within GCC states.

Legalese

WOMEN'S RIGHTS FROM KUWAIT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I wrote on the 5th of September a column titled Women's Rights a topic that I was hesitant to write about but the response from my readers was immense and as I promised I am continuing the discussions.

I think topics like this should be brought out in the open, it important to discuss our issues and not ignore them. We should address the fact that we have some inequalities within the law/society itself in order to bring about beneficial change.

Question: How safe is it to go into a police station alone as a woman? I am hearing mixed responses and I know you wrote about it, but I have to go in, because my husband is abusing me and is mistreating me. I am also afraid that the investigators/police officers will not understand as they are men and I need to discuss issues that I am only comfortable discussing around women.

I talked about this topic in my last column but I would like to continue the conversation as I went myself and did some research. Most police stations in residential areas now have multiple female investigators working morning and night shifts and although there are female police officers, I have only personally seen them at the airport. Regardless I think if you go to the police station in the mornings on a weekday at your residential area you should find friendly women investigators working there that are very helpful.

Question: A guy is threatening me with my pictures, he says he will use it to get me fired from my job. What can I do?

You need to go to the department in the Ministry of Interior that is specialized in Internet crimes and usually deal with issues like this. The department is not that big but the investigators there can be very helpful. Just make sure you have proof, for example do you have any messages sent to you where this guy is threatening you? Emails? So on. Have them ready before you go in.

Question: I am a 24 year old female and I would like to marry my boyfriend but my dad will not allow it. Do I really need his consent at court?

Yes generally speaking a Kuwaiti female needs the consent of her father at court in order for her to get married officially. With that said there are cases where the court has given permission for females to get married without consent of their father. Usually the court only allows permission to women older in age and to women getting married to men from the same social, religious, economical and educational background. Such cases are very complicated though and do take a long time. The ones that our office have handled have been successful but have taken around a year. Even when the judge does give permission the father can file an appeal and get the marriage revoked.

This is one inequality that feminists are against, their point of view is adults both men and women should have the right to decide who they are getting married to. This law is derived from Islamic/ Sharia laws and therefore they obviously have their supporters as well. There are many other laws under Kuwaiti family law that may seem unfair that are also derived from Islamic Sharia. I hope the above helped, please feel free to email me any thoughts you have and maybe in the near future I will write about men's rights under Kuwait's law.

BLOGGER CASE HEARING OCT 17

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The court of appeals yesterday scheduled a hearing on Oct 17 of the state security case filed against blogger Hamed Buyabes over charges of committing hostile activities against Saudi Arabia on his Twitter account.



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Crime

Report

KUWAIT POLICE CAPTAIN ARRESTED WITH DRUGS IN EGYPT

KUWAIT: A Kuwait police captain was recently arrested at Hurghada airport, Egypt with the possession of three bars of hashish and a large quantity of illicit pills just before departing to Turkey, said security sources. The officer, who had been to Egypt on vacation, seemed so confused while checking in for the flight and on checking his luggage, airport detectives found the drugs.

Drug overdose

A citizen, who had just been released from prison after doing jail term in 19 drug-related cases, was recently found dead at his house, said security sources noting that initial investigations suggest that the man had died of drug overdose. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Strange case

A citizen recently insisted on filing a case when his parrot flew away, said security sources noting that the man first asked the police to help him search for the lost bird and when they told him it was not part of their duties to do so, he insisted on filing a case accusing unidentified people of stealing it. The man explained that he had clipped the wings of the bird, but the feathers grew longer and it fled out of its cage.

Vehicle vandalized

A citizen recently filed a complaint accusing a young man of damaging his vehicle while driving recklessly in Jahra, said security sources noting that the suspect lost control and hit the citizen's parked vehicle before he drove away. A case was filed and a search is on for the runaway driver.

Sister thief

A female citizen recently filed a complaint against her own sister at Sulaibiya police station, said security sources. In her complaint, the citizen reported that her sister came over to her house, assaulted her and then left after stealing her purse with cash money, IDs and credit cards in it. A case was filed and the sister is being summoned for further investigation.

Husband assaults wife

An Egyptian married to a non-Kuwaiti recently filed a complaint against her own husband accusing him of assault, said security sources. According to case papers, the husband got very angry when his wife confronted him with photos on his own mobile phone proving that he had been cheating on her. The woman said that he brutally assaulted her and filed a medical report with her injuries. A case was filed and the husband is being summoned for further investigations.

Juvenile thief

A citizen who had reported that unidentified robbers had broken open his vehicle while it was parked outside his house and stole his mobile phone, returned to the police two days later reporting that a juvenile neighbor returned the mobile phone claiming that he found it on the ground near the vehicle. However, on summoning the juvenile, he confessed that he had stolen the mobile phone with the help from another neighbor before he felt sorry about it.

Child drowns in pool

A stateless child recently drowned in a swimming pool in Kated area, said security sources noting that the girl was rushed to a hospital but she arrived dead.

Mobile store looted

A 22-year-old citizen was recently arrested over charges of robbing a mobile phone store owned by a female citizen in Khaitan, said security sources noting that though the suspect had his face covered on the store's security cameras, detectives identified him but he still denied it was him. Further investigations are still in progress. Meanwhile, a citizen recently reported to police that his 2013 model vehicle was missing though it was parked outside the house in Abu Halifa. It was locked and he had the keys. The incident took place when he left the house for prayer. A case was filed. —Al-Rai/ Al-Anbaa

ABK ADOPTS KISR BANKING SYSTEM FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

KUWAIT: Building on its CSR efforts to support those with special needs, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) adopted the latest banking system designed to support the visually impaired, which has been developed and implemented by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR). ABK honored KISR by presenting its team with an Appreciation and Recognition award for developing and completing this life changing project.

The new banking system for the visually impaired allows all banking documents and transactions to be interpreted to Braille. ABK has made these documents available for its customers, which can be collected at the Bank or delivered for free upon the customers' request.

ABK's decision to adopt this new system comes in support of the Central Bank of Kuwait's regulations and more importantly, in line with the Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, which focuses on supporting the special needs segment in Kuwait. ABK not only works towards facilitating the banking needs and offering convenience for this segment, but also by raising awareness of their needs and supporting them on a social level. The Bank firmly believes in the importance of providing all individuals with equal opportunities to lead fulfilling lives and by raising awareness of this segment and supporting related initiatives, ABK is on the right path to achieving this.

ABK has implemented this system across all branches. Furthermore the Bank is fully equipped to service special needs clients as far as parking, ATM machines, new system for the visually impaired customers, wheelchair access, qualified staff with sign language, service area for the handicapped and special needs clients will have priority in 6 branches, namely; head office, Shaab, Jabriya, Ferdous, South Subahiya and Qurain.



SPORTS OF THE MIND

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

Going through Instagram, I noticed that my mentor and friend, lawyer Mohammad Al-Sabti, posted a video clip of him playing "dama" with a friend in the diwaniya. I put the phone aside and picked a book that speaks about the heritage of Gulf countries, to get to know more about the dama game. I discovered that the game is not limited to Gulf and Arab countries, and its origin is not in the Arabian Gulf - rather it is an international game, as books and references say dama (draughts) appeared in early 1100 AD in southern France, then spread to the rest of the world until it reached us and became part of the popular heritage of many Gulf countries. Some people may liken it to chess, though it is totally different in technique, shape and method, but it is similar in the basics of "intelligence and thinking" in the game's skill.

This is dama, and it has become rare to find some-

one who still cares for it, and motivates our children to take it as one of their hobbies and become professional and reach international levels through it. I remember, for the sake of accuracy and documentation, that 2011 was the last media focus on dama in Kuwait through the eighth late Sheikh Yousuf Al-Saud Al-Sabah Dama Tournament using computers, under the patronage and presence of Sheikh Ali Al-Yousuf Al-Saud Al-Sabah.

After that year, I did not find any information or official entity that had direct interests to enrich this not only popular but international inheritance, bearing in mind that France, US and Britain still organize dama championships, and today Abu Yousuf reminds us of it.

A final word: A message to every official. Sport is not limited to football only, because sports of the mind are much better than physical ones.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

KUWAIT'S CATS AND FOXES

By Saad Al-Motesh

Many preachers and imams usually use poetry in their sermons and lectures to convey a certain message in a proper and easy way, which I think is alright as long as the lines serve to explain the idea and promote good things for the best of Islam and Muslims. However, some people use the same method for their own interests and to promote certain personal agendas. Conversely, you will have to gladly accept the same from the other side when it uses the same poems to expose you to others.

One of the most famous lines written by the late poet Ghanim Allumai Al-Enezi explains the virtue of good deeds and how to tell the difference between those who deserve them and these who do not. The poet says: Good deeds are never a waste amongst real men but they are amongst cats and foxes. With his wisdom, the poet realizes that good deeds

I will not talk about good men's benevolence towards others while we know nothing about it because they would not like it to come to public.

always pay back when done to real men and that they would be a waste of time and effort when done to people who resemble cats and foxes in behavior.

I will not talk about good men's benevolence towards others while we know nothing about it because they would not like it to come to public. What I really want to talk about are those 'cats and foxes' who deny the good they received from Kuwait and are out talking badly about it. Kuwait has been good to all its citizens with no exceptions, and when we find some of them deny this and praise other countries, one should immediately realize these people are nothing more than ungrateful cats and foxes. Yet, let us not be unjust to all cats because many of them are purer and cleaner than those in whom the good Kuwait did to him and to his folks before his birth has gone in vain.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



BOUBYAN BANK RECEIVES PILGRIMS WITH ROSES

KUWAIT: Boubyan Bank recently celebrated Eid Al-Adha in a special way becoming the first bank to promote its special social initiative 'Keep Smiling' at the Avenues mall.

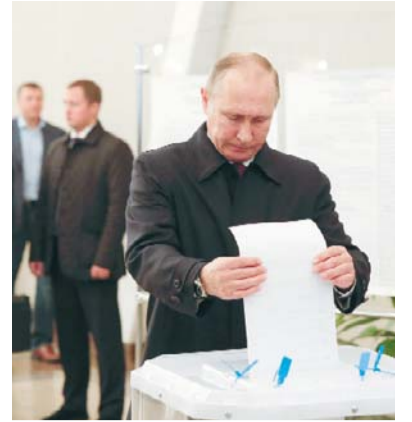
Commenting on the initiative, Boubyan Bank's first Communication and Corporate Relations Officer, Qotaiba Saleh Al-Bassam said that a new machine, designed in the UK, has been installed. The machine will look like a

candy vending machine and will react to the smiles of the bank's clients. "By facing the machine and smiling, the machine could scan face features and in a matter of seconds could give the clients instant prizes such as iPhones, iPads or gold coins," he explained.

Moreover, Al-Bassam added that the bank managers received pilgrims returning home with roses on their arrival at the Kuwait International Airport.



KUWAIT: Marking the beginning of the new academic year, Kuwait University yesterday held a special reception for all its teaching staff members.



Putin seen winning even greater sway in parliament

IN TURKEY'S KONYA, PROSPERITY ROOT OF ERDOGAN POPULARITY



UN HEADQUARTERS: In this Monday, Sept. 28, 2015 file photo, United States President Barack Obama addresses the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly. World leaders meeting at the United Nations starting today, will be trying to make progress on two intractable problems at the top of the global agenda - the biggest refugee crisis since World War II and the Syrian conflict now in its sixth year which has claimed over 300,000 lives. —AP

LEADERS TO FOCUS ON REFUGEE CRISIS AND SYRIA AT UN FIRST SUMMIT ON REFUGEES

UNITED NATIONS: World leaders meeting at the United Nations starting today will be trying to make progress on two intractable problems at the top of the global agenda - the biggest refugee crisis since World War II and the Syrian conflict now in its sixth year which has claimed over 300,000 lives.

Against a backdrop of rising ethnic and religious tension, fighting elsewhere in the Mideast and Africa, extremist attacks across the world and a warming planet, there are plenty of other issues for the 135 heads of state and government and more than 50 ministers expected to attend to try to tackle.

"It's no secret there's a lot of fear out there," US Ambassador Samantha Power told reporters Thursday, citing the uncertainties sparked by Britain's vote to leave the European Union, the threat posed by the Islamic State extremist group, and attacks in many parts of the world by IS and other terrorist groups.

Top of the agenda

But Syria, where a tense cease-fire brokered by Moscow and Washington went into effect last Monday, remains at the top of the agenda at the UN General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting. An apparently errant airstrike on Saturday in which the US military may have unintentionally struck Syrian troops while carrying out a raid against the Islamic State group could deal a crushing blow to the US-Russian-brokered cease-fire. The cease-fire, which does not apply to attacks on IS, has largely held for five days despite dozens of alleged violations on both sides.

The UN Security Council held a closed emergency meeting Saturday night at Russia's request to discuss the airstrike. The acrimonious meeting offered a harbinger of the difficulties ahead as the US and Russia remain suspicious of each other's intents in Syria. US Ambassador Samantha Power accused Russia of pulling "a stunt" that is "cynical and hypocritical" in calling for the meeting while not taking similar action in response to atrocities committed by Syrian

President Bashar Assad's regime. Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said he had never seen "such an extraordinary display of American heavy-handedness" as displayed by Power.

The acrimony over the airstrike could spill over into a Security Council ministerial meeting on Syria scheduled for Wednesday. Russia is pushing for a resolution to endorse the cessation of hostilities and look ahead, but the US refused to make public details of the cease-fire deal citing "operational security." Churkin earlier had called the US uncooperative and said most likely "we're not going to have a resolution."

With the truce still fragile, no sign yet of humanitarian aid deliveries, and supporters and opponents of the Syrian government trading accusations, diplomats said there may be a meeting Tuesday of some 20 key countries on both sides who are part of the International Syria Support Group to chart the next steps.

The spotlight during the week is also certain to shine on three leaders, who are all scheduled to speak at the assembly's opening ministerial session on Tuesday morning.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who steps down on Dec. 31, and US President Barack Obama who will leave office in January, will be addressing the 193-member world body for the last time. And British Prime Minister Theresa May will be making her debut on the world stage less than three months after the vote to leave the European Union.

In UN corridors and at private meetings, the question of Ban's successor will be a hot topic. Portugal's former Prime Minister Antonio Guterres has topped all four informal polls in the Security Council but he could be vetoed, possibly by Russia, and there are constant rumors of new candidates throwing their hats in the ring.

The US presidential race is already a hot topic at the UN, and no doubt leaders will be privately discussing the impact of a victory by Hillary Clinton, and especially Donald Trump, on the United Nations where the United States is the largest financial contributor and has veto-wielding power in the Security Council.

65.3 million displaced
 In one of the week's highlights, the secretary-general has invited leaders to a first-ever UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants on Monday.

According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, an "unprecedented" 65.3 million people were displaced at the end of 2015, an increase of more than 5 million from a year earlier and the highest number since World War II. They include 21.3 million refugees, 3.2 million asylum seekers, and 40.8 million people internally displaced within their own countries. "More countries must resettle more people who have been forced from their homes," Ban told reporters Wednesday. "And everyone, everywhere, must stand up against the animosity that so many refugees, migrants and minority communities face."

The political declaration set to be adopted calls for separate Global Compacts for refugees and migrants to be adopted within two years. But human rights groups complained that it was watered down, eliminating Ban's proposal to resettle 10 percent of the world's refugees annually.

At a follow-up summit on Tuesday called by Obama, at least 45 countries are expected to make pledges that will meet or exceed US goals of increasing humanitarian aid by \$3 billion, doubling resettlement and lawful admission spots, and increasing access to education for one million youngsters and access to employment by one million, a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of the summit. "We are not going to solve the refugee crisis on Tuesday," US envoy Power said, "but I think you'll see an important show of political will from leaders around the world."

According to the United Nations, 545 meetings have been requested and Ban will take part in 62 events. The UN chief, who has made climate change a top priority, has organized an event Wednesday for countries to deliver their ratifications of the Paris Declaration to tackle global warming. He is hoping to get the required 55 countries representing 55 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, if not Wednesday, by the end of the year.

Nigeria's Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama, whose government is battling the insurgency by Boko Haram Islamic extremists, told reporters Friday that addressing "this global phenomenon of terrorism" will be high on his country's agenda along with tackling the UN development goals for 2030 and promoting a new UN body to focus on youth.

The Security Council is holding a ministerial meeting Thursday on improving aviation security, and it could meet again if agreement is reached on a resolution to support the nuclear test ban treaty which will likely single out North Korea, the only country to conduct tests in the 21st century.

The parties to the Iran nuclear deal are also scheduled to meet Thursday as well as the Quartet of Mideast mediators - the US, UN, EU and Russia - who are trying to get Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table.—AP

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE
O.S.No.7072of 2014

Between : **MRS. K RAMANI BAI** And **MR. OLIVER LAKSHMAN SINGH**
 And Others.....Defendants

Wife of Late Mr. J. Kesara Singh, Flat No. G-1, Camelot Apartments, Lewis Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore 560005. Plaintiff

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No. 1

MR. OLIVER LAKSHMAN SINGH, Son of Late Mr. J. Kesara Singh and Mrs. K. Ramani Bai, aged about 62 years, P.O. Box 1079, Farwaniya - 81021, Kuwait.....Defendant No: 1

Whereas, **MRS. K RAMANI BAI** has filed the case before City Civil Judge at Bangalore in O.S. No.7072 of 2014, against Mr. Oliver Lakshman Singh; Mrs. Eileen Nirmala Florance Fernandez & Mr. Vishal Stephen Fernandes, seeking a declaration of the suit schedule property is her absolute property & other relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble City Civil Judge at Bangalore, in person or by a duly instructed pleader on the **07.10.2016 at 11:00 A.M.** to answer the same, failing which the suit will be proceeded in your absence.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY
 All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing corporation No. 2, Macpherson Road and corporation No. 95, Wheeler Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore, measuring East to West 90 Ft. and North to South 86 ft., totally measuring 7740 Sft., consisting of a residential house, & bounded on the
 East by : Wheeler Road. West by : Private Property.
 North by : Private Property. South by : Mcpherson Road

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY
 All that piece and parcel of the flat bearing No. 002, on the Ground floor, of the building known as "Arafa Abode", now, bearing municipal No. 96/1, Wheeler Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore, having super built up area of 1405 Sft. with one car parking area and exclusive garden area measuring 550 sft.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY
 All that piece and parcel of the flat bearing No. 001, on the Ground floor, of the building known as "Arafa Abode", now, bearing municipal No. 96, Wheeler Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore, having super built up area of 1300 Sft. with one car parking area & exclusive garden area measuring 550 sft.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 22 day of August, 2016.
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
 REGISTRAR
 THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE

Advocate for plaintiff
PRASHANTH, JAYAKUMAR & SUBRAMANYA,
 Advocates,
 At Lower Ground Floor - C, Bharati Plaza,
 Fair Field Layout, Race Course Road,
 Bangalore 560 001

RIVAL LIBYAN FORCES BATTLE FOR OIL PORTS

NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION

BENHAZI: Forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed unity government launched an offensive yesterday aimed at retaking key eastern oil ports seized last week by fighters from a rival administration.

The Tripoli-based Government of National Accord has struggled to assert its authority over the country since the GNA was formed in

Al-Sidra, Zuwaytina and Brega in the so-called "oil crescent" along the coast.

They later handed them over to the National Oil Corporation. The NOC says it is loyal to the GNA, but also to the internationally recognized parliament based in the east which supports Haftar's forces and has refused to give the GNA a vote of confidence. "The Petroleum Facilities

ports was launched from the west by "militias backed by outlaws." "We repelled the attack and we are chasing them in the region," he said, adding that "some" assailants had been captured. There was no independent confirmation from the oil crescent region of the fighting and the situation on the ground.

'Unite to rebuild'

The British ambassador to Libya, Peter Millet, took to Twitter to urge restraint. "Further fighting around oil crescent installations is bad for future of Libya's economy. Better to resolve differences by dialogue," he wrote. "Libyans should unite to rebuild their country not destroy it," he added. The loss of the ports was a blow to the GNA which set up base in the capital in March, months after it was created as the result of a UN-backed power-sharing agreement.

Haftar, who sees himself as Libya's savior after driving jihadists out of most of the country's second city Benghazi, is the most powerful backer of the rival administration in the east. Days after the ports fell under his control, the east-based parliament promoted Haftar to field marshal from his previous rank of general.

The administration that backs him announced on Wednesday that it would hand control of exports from the four ports to the NOC, albeit under the supervision of Haftar's forces. NOC chairman Mustafa Sanalla said on Thursday that exports would resume immediately from two of the ports, including Ras Lanuf.

The US special envoy for Libya, Jonathan Winer, warned that resumed oil exports would be acceptable only if the proceeds were paid into the Libyan central bank in Tripoli. "If oil were to be diverted... the US will seek to enforce UN Security Council resolutions," Winer told AFP in an interview on Wednesday.

The fighting between the forces of the rival administrations is the latest escalation of the turmoil that has gripped Libya since Kadhafi was toppled. The GNA is the centrepiece of UN efforts to restore stability and forge a central authority capable of tackling the twin scourges of a significant Islamic State group presence and rampant people trafficking across the Mediterranean to Europe. —AFP



BENHAZI: People gather around a burning car at the site of a car bomb during a demonstration in support of General Khalifa Haftar on September 16, 2016. —AFP

December last year. Oil is Libya's key asset, and revenue from crude exports is vital if the GNA is to rebuild the economy and infrastructure of the North African nation, ravaged by violence since the 2011 uprising.

The revolt that ousted and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi plunged Libya into chaos, with militias, jihadists and rival administrations vying for control of its oil wealth and territory. Last week, forces led by controversial military strongman Khalifa Haftar seized the ports of Ras Lanuf,

Guard (PFG) launched an offensive this morning and (our forces) are fighting them in Ras Lanuf," said Mohamad Ibset, a spokesman for Haftar's forces.

The PFG, which is loyal to the government in Tripoli, said it had launched counterattacks on two of the oil ports. "We attacked Al-Sidra and Ras Lanuf, and Haftar's forces are trying to hit us with their warplanes," spokesman Ali al-Hassi told AFP. Muftah al-Muqarief, who heads oil guards loyal to Haftar, said the assault on the

IRAN MUST STAND STRONG AGAINST US ON REGIONAL CONFLICTS :KHAMENEI

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader said the Islamic republic must stand strong against Washington on the region's conflicts, in an address yesterday to commanders of the elite Republican Guards force. "The Americans insist we negotiate with them on regional issues, especially on Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in the speech published on his official website. "What is their main goal for requesting these talks? They

have no aim but to prevent the presence in the region of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the main factor of America's failures," said Khamenei.

Major generals Mohammad Ali Jafari, the Revolutionary Guards chief, and Qassem Suleimani, head of its foreign operations wing, the Quds Force, were among hundreds of members who attended the speech. Khamenei, whose country has not had diplomatic relations with

Washington since 1980, stressed that military power and intimidation were the most effective means to keep foreign threats at bay.

"In past years, some officials have said the removal of military threat and war were due to certain measures, but it's not true," he said. "The sole factor of removing military threats has been and will remain military and defence power and the creation of fear in the enemy." —AFP



TEHRAN: A handout picture released yesterday by the official website of the Centre for Preserving and Publishing the Works of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei shows him (C) addressing the commanders of Revolutionary Guards during a meeting. —AFP

SYRIA ARMY BIDS TO RECOVER LOSSES TO IS AFTER DEADLY US-LED RAID

BEIRUT: Syrian troops counterattacked against the Islamic State group around a key eastern airbase yesterday after a US-led coalition air strike killed scores of soldiers forcing a retreat, military sources said.

The Pentagon said that coalition pilots had believed they were hitting IS and had halted the raid as soon as Damascus ally Moscow informed commanders that army positions were coming under attack. But Damascus reacted angrily to the deadly strike, which forced troops to pull back from two strategic hilltops overlooking the besieged airbase on the outskirts of the city of Deir Ezzor. "The Syrian army has returned to the offensive," a military source told AFP yesterday. "After the American raids, it withdrew from several positions but now it has gone back on the attack."

A second military source inside Deir Ezzor air-

base said that troops had already regained some of the lost ground. "The army has retaken most of its positions on Jabal Therdeh with Russian and Syrian air support," the source said, referring to one of the two hills lost on Saturday. "The two countries' air forces bombed the area around the airbase, neighborhoods held by the jihadists and the road linking Deir Ezzor to Mayadeen," an IS-held town 45 kilometers to the southeast, the source added.

Retaking the heights around the airbase is vital for the army as control of them would allow IS to fire on all aircraft trying to take off or land. The airbase and adjacent government-held neighborhoods of the Deir Ezzor city have been under siege since 2012 and have been dependent on resupply by air.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 30 jihadists were killed in yesterday's

counterattack by the army. The Britain-based monitoring group said 90 soldiers were killed in Saturday's air strike, sharply higher than the death toll of 62 given by Moscow on Saturday.

The US ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, voiced regret for the loss of life. "If we determine that we did indeed strike Syrian military personnel, that was not our intention. And we of course regret the loss of life," she said.

Australia, which said it was one of several coalition countries whose aircraft took part, offered its "condolences to the families of any Syrian personnel killed or wounded." "While Syria remains a dynamic and complex operating environment, Australia will never intentionally target a known Syrian military unit or actively support Daesh (IS)," a statement from the military said yesterday. —AFP



KONYA, TURKEY: A man walks past a banner bearing a photograph of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and reading "We support the national will. We are united with our commander in chief" in Konya, Central Anatolia region, on August 17, 2016. —AP

IN TURKEY'S KONYA, PROSPERITY ROOT OF ERDOGAN POPULARITY

KONYA, TURKEY: The face of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is everywhere in Konya, a central Anatolian stronghold of his Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP), that has enjoyed ever greater prosperity in his 13 years in power. "We are united with our commander-in-chief," says one giant banner on a building, as well as billboards and flags praising the man who has dominated Turkey since becoming premier in 2003 and then president from 2014.

The July 15 attempted coup, blamed on disgruntled elements in the military linked to US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, only appears to have further bolstered the president's popularity in the city of over one million. But with the economy showing signs of fragility in the wake of the coup, the question is how long can the economic miracle in Konya and similar so-called Anatolian Tigers like Kayseri to the east continue.

In the 2014 presidential election he took nearly three-quarters of the vote in Konya and the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) that he co-founded harvested a similar figure in November 2015 polls.

The pious city is seen as a bulwark of the conservative Islam espoused by Erdogan. But he has prospered greatly under his rule, becoming one of the Anatolian Tigers that enjoyed a boom in growth and prosperity as manufacturing thrived, helping the estimated 30,000 small and medium-sized enterprises in the city. Meanwhile the last decade has seen a transformation in the city infrastructure, with a new tramway, high speed rail links to Istanbul and the capital Ankara as well as the brand new Torku Arena, a 40,000-capacity world class sports stadium.

'Trust Erdogan more'

"Konya's fate changed after the AKP government came into power. In the last 15 years, the economy, roads, tourism have developed here," said Konya resident Murat Tuncerten. "We trust him more after the coup. People love him and he loves people. He called on people to come out and they

did it for Tayyip and their fellow citizens," he said. For many, the shadow still looms large of Turkey's 2000-2001 financial crisis which required a multi-billion bailout loan from the IMF, the final installment of which was paid off by the Erdogan government in 2013 in a mighty signal of its economic independence. "We were once indebted but Erdogan saved us from that," said Sukrut Kanucu, sitting in a lush green park in central Konya.

Nearby the local neighborhood head (muhtar), Ahmet Uney, who takes care of local administration like registering residents, said: "Things work better in Turkey now. Our health system has changed, our roads are better, we create our weapons, most cities now have airports," he said, adding that his new residential area is expanding with 700-800 people moving there every month after only becoming officially recognized in 2014. Resident Mehmet Arikar, who was visiting the muhtar, agreed: "On the night of the coup, I knew people would come out (against it). The AKP did in 10 years what was not done in 50 years previously. People have got richer. Life is good."

Economic progress 'stalled'

Yet all was not so rosy for the Turkish economy even before the coup. Growth slowed to 3.1 percent in the second quarter from 4.7 percent at the start of the year as consumers slowed purchases and investment fell.

Philippe Dauba-Pantanacce, a senior economist at Standard Chartered Bank based in London, said growth might be even worse than the headline figure. "Most of the growth came from a big upshot in public spending — +16 percent year-over-year-and adjusted for seasonality and calendar distortions, the figure is worse than the 3.1 percent"

After taking into account such factors, the Turkish economy only grew by 0.3 percent in the second quarter from the first three months of the year, according to data from Turkey's statistics agency. —AFP

REFUGEE CRISIS ESCALATES AS WARS DRIVE RECORD NUMBERS TO FLEE

LONDON: World leaders are gathering in New York today for a major UN summit on tackling the refugee and migrant crisis. Conflicts and persecution have driven a record 65.3 million people from their homes. Here are some facts:

One in every 113 people globally is either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee. An average of 24 people worldwide were forced to flee every minute last year. At the end of 2015 there were 65.3 million forcibly displaced people. They included 21.3 million refugees, 40.8 million internally displaced and 3.2 million asylum seekers.

If they were a country they would be the world's 21st largest. More than half of refugees come from just three countries:

Syria (4.9 mln), Afghanistan (2.7 mln) and Somalia (1.1 mln). Colombia has the highest number of internally displaced people (6.9 mln) followed by Syria (6.6 mln) and Iraq (4.4 mln). Developing regions host 86 percent of refugees. Turkey has by far the largest number at 2.5 million. Lebanon has the highest concentration relative to its own population with nearly one refugee for every five citizens.

Nearly one in 200 children in the world is a refugee. The number of child refugees has more than doubled in the last decade. Growing numbers of children are crossing borders alone. Last year, more than 100,000 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in 78 countries - triple the number in 2014. —Reuters

TWO SAUDI POLICE SHOT DEAD IN MAINLY SHIITE CITY

RIYADH: Unidentified gunmen killed two Saudi policemen in the mainly Shiite eastern city of Dammam late on Saturday, the interior ministry said, describing it as a "terrorist attack".

The two officers were patrolling in a police car when they came under fire at around 11:30 pm (2030 GMT), a ministry spokesman told the official Saudi Press Agency.

They were both pronounced dead on arrival in hospital. The spokesman did

not specify who it held responsible for the shooting but there have been previous attacks on police in mainly Shiite areas of the oil-rich east of the kingdom this year.

In January four police were killed in attacks. The Shiite minority in Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia has long complained of discrimination and there has been sporadic unrest since the suppression of a Shiite-led uprising in neighboring Bahrain sparked a wave of protests in 2011. —AP



ALEPPO: Syrian Abu Ahmed (L) and Abu Majd prepare a barrel filled with plastic as part of a refining process to produce fuel on September 10, 2016. —AFP

SOUTH AFRICA'S CORRUPTION WATCHDOG INTERVIEWS FINANCE MINISTERS IN ZUMA

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's anti-corruption watchdog has interviewed Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and his deputy Mcebisi Jonas as part of an investigation into whether President Jacob Zuma was influenced by the wealthy Gupta family in making government appointments, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

The paper said Public Protector Thuli Madonsela had written to Zuma informing him of her investigation into whether he breached the executive code of conduct.

Madonsela has already interviewed Gordhan, his predecessor Nhlhlanhla Nene and deputy finance minister Jonas and will interview at least 20 other top officials and members of Zuma's cabinet, the paper said. "Partly the reason we subpoenaed them is because they shouldn't be seen as sell-outs but as law abiding citizens who are complying with the lawful order from an authorized institution," Madonsela told the paper, without elaborating.

Presidency spokesman Bongani

Nngqulunga confirmed to the paper that Zuma had received the letter from Madonsela and that it was "being processed." Madonsela said in June she would investigate "specifically whether or not the government of South Africa and specifically the president unlawfully allowed the Gupta family to choose ministers and other occupants of high office."

The scandal surrounding the Gupta family took a dramatic turn earlier this year after Jonas said the Guptas had offered him his boss's job, an allegation

that led to calls for Zuma to resign. Zuma has denied Jonas' claims, saying only the president appointed ministers, in line with the constitution. The Guptas have denied influencing Zuma, saying they were pawns in a political plot against the president.

The Guptas, who moved to South Africa from India after apartheid fell in 1994, run businesses ranging from uranium and coal mining to media and information technology.

Madonsela, whose term as public pro-

sector ends in October, previously received public support in South Africa for taking Zuma to task over the spending of 240 million rand (\$16.94 million) of state money on upgrading his private home.

She was vindicated in March when the Constitutional Court, the country's highest court, said Zuma had breached the constitution by ignoring her recommendation that he repay some money that was spent on non-security upgrades. Zuma handed back some of the funds. —Reuters

PRO-PUTIN PARTY SEEN WINNING EVEN GREATER SWAY IN RUSSIA'S PARLIAMENT
VOTE IS TEST OF UNITED RUSSIA AMID ECONOMIC CRISIS

MOSCOW: The ruling United Russia party is expected to win even greater dominance over Russia's lower house in a parliamentary election, showing that support for President Vladimir Putin is holding up despite sanctions and a deep economic slowdown.

The election for the Duma, or lower house, is being seen as a dry run for Putin's expected presidential campaign in 2018. It is also a test of how well the Kremlin can oversee trouble-free elections. It will be the first parliamentary vote since 2011, when allegations of ballot-rigging sparked big protests against Putin in the capital.

Voting got under way at 2000 GMT on yesterday on the Chukotka

Peninsula opposite Alaska and will wrap up in Kaliningrad, Russia's most westerly point, where people can cast their vote. "Of course I voted for United Russia," a middle-aged man in the town of Velikiye Luki in western Russia, who declined to give his name, told Reuters. "We don't need other parties here. At least they (United Russia) have done their stealing."

An elderly lady in the village of Avangard in the Tula Region, which abuts the Moscow Region, said she had always voted for United Russia and saw no other parties worth voting for. "We don't need a multi-party system," she said.

United Russia, led by Prime Minister

Dmitry Medvedev, a Putin loyalist, has 238 of 450 Duma seats, dominates the more than 80 regional parliaments, and is routinely depicted in a favourable light by state television, where most Russians get their news.

The party is able to draw on the support of the other three parties in the federal Duma, and benefits from its association with 63-year-old Putin, who after 17 years in power as either president or prime minister, enjoys a personal approval rating of about 80 percent. Putin does not belong to any party.

By contrast, liberal opposition politicians, who have just one sympathetic member in the Duma, complain they

are starved of air time, vilified by state media, and their campaigns systematically disrupted by pro-Kremlin provocateurs. Pro-Kremlin politicians deny that charge.

The liberal opposition hopes it can break through to win about two dozen seats. Pollsters say it will be lucky to snag a handful and may end up with none.

Apathy

The vote will be closely watched to see how many of Russia's roughly 110 million registered voters across its 11 time zones in what is the world's largest country turn up to cast their ballots, with some opinion polls showing apathy levels are high.

There was some evidence of that yesterday with a taxi driver in Ufa, just over 700 miles east of Moscow, telling a Reuters reporter voting "was like urinating into a blocked toilet." "Why bother?," the man, who gave his first name as Ilysh, said.

Putin has said it is too early to say if he will go for what would be a fourth presidential term in 2018. If he did and won, he would be in power until 2024, longer than Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Anxious to avoid a repeat of 2011's street protests, Kremlin officials have tried to assure Russians that the vote will be the cleanest in the country's modern history. Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe are being allowed to monitor the vote, a new head of the central election commission has been appointed, and regional and Kremlin officials have been fired in the run-up.

The authorities have also resurrected an old voting system viewed as more equitable, which means that half of parliament will be decided by people voting for individuals with the other half drawn from party lists. The last parliament was elected on party lists alone.

There was one early report of vote rigging yesterday with the authorities saying they were looking into assertions that a group of young people in Siberia's Altai region had used non-voting pensioners' identities to fraudulently vote.

The election is the first time that voters in Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, are helping decide the makeup of the Duma. That has angered the Ukrainian government and there were scuffles between Ukrainian nationalists and police outside the Russian embassy in Kiev yesterday after a few nationalists tried to stop Russian citizens from voting there.

Polls show United Russia's popularity has been somewhat dented by a grinding economic crisis caused by a fall in global oil prices and compounded by Western sanctions over Moscow's role in the Ukraine crisis.

But they also show that Putin's own popularity remains high and that many voters buy the Kremlin narrative that is frequently repeated on state TV, to wreck the economy in revenge for Moscow's seizure of Crimea. —Reuters



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin casts his ballot at a polling station during parliamentary elections yesterday. —AP



KIEV: A figure representing Russian President Vladimir Putin hangs from a gallows set during a protest in front of the Russian embassy yesterday. —AP

MERKEL FACES SETBACK IN BERLIN
VOTE DUE TO MIGRANT FEARS

BERLIN: Voters flocked to the polling booths yesterday in a Berlin city election in which Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives look set to suffer their second electoral blow in two weeks as voters express unease with her refugee-friendly policy.

The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) is expected to profit from a popular backlash over Merkel's decision a year ago to keep borders open for refugees and the party is poised to enter its tenth regional assembly out of Germany's 16 states.

Voting in the German capital started at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) and some 2.5 million people are eligible to decide who should represent them in the Berlin city assembly.

Queues formed in front of many polling stations, with the sunny weather helping to boost the turnout. At noon, some 25 percent had cast their vote, 6 points more than the midday turnout during the last election in 2011, authorities said. Polls point to heavy losses for Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) in the vote which means the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) may be able to ditch them from their current coalition.

Raising the pressure

That would likely raise the pressure further on Merkel one year before a federal election and could deepen divisions within her conservative camp. Polling stations will close at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) and public broadcasters will publish exit polls shortly afterwards. First projections are expected roughly half an hour later.

A drubbing in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern two weeks ago triggered calls from Merkel's conservative allies in Bavaria to toughen up her migrant policy with measures such as introducing a cap of 200,000 refugees per year.

Merkel rejects such a limit and defends her approach to find a European solution to the migration issue by securing the continent's external borders, agreeing migration deals with countries like Turkey and distributing refugees across Europe.

The recent election losses have even raised questions about whether Merkel, Europe's most powerful leader, will stand for a fourth term next year but her party has few good alternatives so she still looks like the most like-

ly candidate.

The latest Berlin poll by Forschungsgruppe Wahlen for ZDF public broadcaster put the CDU on 18 percent, down 5 points and far behind the SPD's projected 23 percent. It put the AfD on 14 percent, the leftist Die Linke at 14.5 percent and the ecologist Greens on 15 percent.

The AfD has campaigned heavily on the migrant issue, playing to voters' fears about the cost of the roughly 1 million migrants who entered Germany last year and about their integration.

Security, especially after 20 people were injured in two attacks claimed by Islamic State in Bavaria in July and deadly Islamist militant attacks in neighboring France and Belgium earlier in the year, are also a concern to voters.

The SPD, Merkel's junior coalition partner at the federal level, wants to form a coalition with the Greens and, if needed, the leftist Die Linke. Berlin's SPD Mayor Michael Mueller has sharply criticized the AfD's migration policy during the campaign, saying a double-digit score for the right-wing party would be seen around the world as the rebirth of the Nazis. —Reuters



BELGRADE, SERBIA: A Serbian police officer guards Serbia's gay pride march yesterday. —AP

POLICE CORDON OFF CENTRAL BELGRADE FOR PRIDE MARCH

BELGRADE, SERBIA: Thousands of Serbian riot police cordoned off central Belgrade yesterday for a gay pride march which was held amid fears of attacks from extremists in the predominantly conservative Balkan country.

Holding banners and flags, several hundred people marched in the downtown area as helicopters flew above. Police with dogs secured the zone that was sealed off for traffic for hours before the planned start of the event. "This gathering should become bigger and greater," said gay right activist Boban Stojanovic. "Belgrade is our city too."

No incidents were reported. Authorities have cancelled several pride events in the past after massive clashes with right-wing groups and soccer hooligans in 2010 when more than 100 police and extremists were injured and the city center was demolished.

Serbia has since sought to boost gay rights as part of its bid to join the European Union, including appointing for the first time an openly gay minister in the government that was formed last month. Ana Brnabic, the minister of public administration and local government, attended Sunday's march. She said the government will work to improve the position for Serbia's gays as well as other minority groups, who still often face harassment and discrimination.

"The message this government is sending is important," Brnabic said. Fueling fears of unrest ahead of the pride march were clashes in Belgrade late on Saturday between rival soccer fan groups - who are linked with right-wing extremists - and who also clashed with the police. Authorities said that eight policemen were injured and fifty hooligans arrested in Saturday's clashes. —AP



VATICAN: Pope Francis speaks to faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square on the occasion of the Angelus noon prayer yesterday. —AP

POPE URGES ALL TO UNITE IN PEACE PRAYERS WHENEVER THEY CAN

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis is asking people to unite in prayers for peace tomorrow, when he'll meet with leaders of other religions in the town of Assisi.

Francis told the faithful in St. Peter's Square on Sunday that "Now, more than ever, we need peace in this war that's everywhere in the world." His one-day trip to Assisi, birthplace of the saint for whom the pope chose to be named,

includes meeting with Orthodox and Anglican church leaders, as well as with representatives of Islam and of Judaism.

During Tuesday's gathering, Christian participants will pray in St. Francis Basilica, while non-Christians pray elsewhere in Assisi. They all will then assemble in the basilica for the pope's speech and reflection. St. Pope John Paul II started the Assisi prayer tradition in 1986. —AP

JACQUES CHIRAC IN HOSPITAL WITH LUNG INFECTION

PARIS: Officials say former French President Jacques Chirac has been hospitalized with a lung infection. Jocelyne Gastellu of the Paris Hospitals Foundation confirmed yesterday that the 83-year-old was admitted to a hospital in Paris but could not confirm local media reports that it followed a visit to Morocco.

Former housing minister Cecile Duflot said that she wished Chirac a speedy recovery during an interview on BFM-TV, adding that "when you're older a lung infection can be complicated."

Twitter saw an immediate outpouring of goodwill messages from political protv@qjv@es of the leader, who was French president from 1995 to 2007, including from former President Nicolas Sarkozy and former Prime Minister Alain Juppe. The two politicians are vying to be the Republicans party candidate for the 2017 presidential election. —AP



PARIS: In this Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011 file photo, Former French President Jacques Chirac waves to the press after a ceremony awarding laureates of the Fondation Chirac at Quai Branly Museum. —AP

13 DEAD IN THAI RIVER BOAT COLLISION: RESCUERS

BANGKOK: At least 13 people were killed yesterday when a boat crowded with passengers sank on Thailand's Chao Phraya river after hitting a bridge, an emergency response official said. The accident happened near the ancient city of Ayutthaya, a popular tourist attraction, although no foreigners were believed to be among the dead.

"There are 13 confirmed dead and 33 injured so far," said Udomsak Khaonoona, disaster prevention chief for the city which is 80 km (50 miles) north of Bangkok. "The boat tried to avoid another vessel and crashed into the concrete column of a bridge," he told AFP, adding that the passengers were local. Around 100 passengers were believed to be on board the vessel, with four currently unaccounted for, Udomsak said. Video footage posted by

Khaosod TV showed desperate scenes as rescue workers scrambled to reach the stricken vessel, its stern partially under water. Rescuers threw ropes to help people swim to land as others gave CPR to unconscious victims on the banks of the river. Despite its wealth compared to regional neighbors and huge tourism sector, accidents are common on Thailand's public transport network. Safety

regulations are often weakly enforced. The country has one of the world's worst road traffic death rates, and crashes of speedboats operating between the popular southern tourist islands are also common. The Chao Phraya, the main river that flows through Bangkok, is a key commuting artery, filled with often packed boats plying the waterways at breakneck speed. —AFP

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT SEEKS EXTENSION OF WAR ON DRUGS

'EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I CANNOT KILL THEM ALL.'

MANILA: The Philippine president said yesterday that he may need to extend a bloody government anti-drug campaign that has left more than 3,000 people dead and been slammed by the United States and others.

Acknowledging for the first time that he may not be able to keep his campaign promise to eradicate illegal drugs in no more than six months, President Rodrigo Duterte said in jest that with the huge number of people involved, "even if I wanted to, I cannot kill them all."

Duterte said at a news conference in the southern city of Davao that he was overwhelmed by the enormity of the problem and may need to extend his self-imposed deadline by another six months to end the scourge. He won the May 9 election on an ambitious promise to end corruption and crime, especially illegal drugs, in three to six months. More than 3,000 suspected drug dealers and traffickers have been killed in Duterte's campaign against drugs since he assumed the presidency in June, and 600,000 others, mostly drug users, have surrendered to authorities for fear they may be killed.

More names of people involved

A law enforcement investigation, however, has turned up more names of people who are involved in the illegal drug trade, including many village leaders and mayors, Duterte said at the news conference. Duterte first built a name for his deadly crime-fighting style while serving as Davao's longtime mayor before becoming president.

"I didn't realize how severe and how serious the problem of drug menace in this republic (was) until I became president," Duterte said. "Even if I wanted to, I cannot kill them all because the last report would be this thick," Duterte said, laughing.

President Barack Obama, UN officials and human rights watchdogs have raised concerns over the widespread killings, but Duterte has lashed back at them and other critics. He said that critics were impeding his battle against a problem that has worsened into a national security threat.

A former Filipino militiaman recently testified before a Senate committee hearing that Duterte,

while he was still Davao's mayor, ordered him and other members of a liquidation squad to kill criminals and opponents in gangland-style assaults that left about 1,000 dead starting in the late 1980s.

While his key officials have played down the allegations and questioned the credibility of the witness, Duterte himself has not directly reacted to the statements made by Edgar Matobato in the nationally televised Senate inquiry.

Matobato testified that he heard Duterte order some of the killings, and acknowledged that he himself carried out about 50 deadly assaults as an assassin, including a suspected kidnapper fed to a crocodile in 2007 in the southern province of Davao del Sur.

Rights groups have long accused Duterte of involvement in death squads. He has denied the claims, even while engaging in tough talk in which he stated his approach to criminals was to "kill them all." Matobato is the first person to admit any role in such killings, and to directly implicate Duterte under oath in a public hearing. —AP



DAVAO CITY: Released Norwegian hostage Kjartan Sekkingstad, left, briefly delivers his statement after meeting Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday. —AP

NORWEGIAN SAYS HIS PHILIPPINE KIDNAPPING WAS 'DEVASTATING'

INDANAN, Philippines: A Norwegian man freed by militants after a year of jungle captivity in the southern Philippines described the ordeal yesterday as "devastating," carrying a backpack with a bullet hole as a reminder of a near-death experience that included the beheadings of the two Canadians kidnapped with him.

Kjartan Sekkingstad was freed by his Abu Sayyaf captors on Saturday to rebels from the larger Moro National Liberation Front, which has signed a peace deal with the Philippine government and helped negotiate his release. Yesterday, he was handed over to Philippine authorities, along with three Indonesian fishermen freed separately by the Abu Sayyaf.

Aside from the horror of constantly being warned that he would be the next to be beheaded by the brutal extremists, Sekkingstad said he survived more than a dozen clashes between Philippine forces and his captors in the lush jungles of Sulu province.

In one intense battle, in which the forces fired from assault helicopters and from the ground, he said he felt a thud in his back and thought he was hit by gunfire. After the fighting eased, he discovered that he wasn't hit, and that his green, army-style backpack had been pierced by the gunfire instead. Sekkingstad was carrying the damaged backpack when he walked to freedom Saturday somewhere in the thick jungle off Sulu's mountainous Patikul town.

"Devastating, devastating"

Yesterday, the heavily bearded Sekkingstad, clad in a rebel camouflage uniform and muddy combat boots, was asked how he would describe his horrific experience. "Devastating, devastating," he said, still clutching the backpack.

Philippine presidential adviser Jesus Dureza, who received Sekkingstad and the three freed Indonesians from Moro National Liberation Front rebel chief Nur Misuari in Misuari's rural stronghold near Sulu's Indanan town, accompanied the Norwegian on a flight to southern Davao city, where the ex-hostage met President Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte told Sekkingstad that his travails were over. Sekkingstad, newly shaved but looking gaunt in a loose polo shirt, thanked all those who worked for his freedom. "I am very happy to be alive and free," he said. "It's a beautiful feeling."

Sekkingstad was kidnapped from a yacht club he helped managed on southern Sulu's Samal Island on Sept. 21, 2015, along with Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall and Hall's Filipino girlfriend, Marites Flor, sparking a massive land and sea search by Philippine forces.

The Abu Sayyaf demanded a huge ransom for the release of the foreigners, and released videos in which they threatened

the captives in a jungle clearing where they displayed Islamic State group-style black flags. Ridsdel was beheaded in April and Hall was decapitated in June after ransom deadlines lapsed. When Flor was freed in June, she recounted in horror how the militants rejoiced while watching the beheadings. Sekkingstad said he and his fellow captives were forced to carry the militants' belongings and were kept in the dark on what was happening around them. At one point, he said, their heavily armed captors numbered more than 300. "We were treated like slaves," he said.

After the militants decapitated Ridsdel, Sekkingstad was threatened by the militants, who repeatedly told him, "You're next." When the negotiations for his release began in recent months, Sekkingstad said the rebels began treating him better.

It was not immediately clear whether Sekkingstad had been ransomed off. Duterte suggested at a news conference last month that 50 million pesos (\$1 million) had been paid to the militants, but that they continued to hold on to him. The military said Saturday that relentless assaults forced the extremists to release the hostage.

In Norway, Prime Minister Erna Solberg thanked Duterte and Dureza, and said his government supports the Philippines "in their fight against terrorism." Solberg told Norway's NTB national news agency that "Norwegian officials had not participated in any payment of ransom or made any concessions in the matter."

Philippine forces launched a major offensive against the Abu Sayyaf after the beheadings of the Canadians sparked condemnations from then-Philippine President Benigno Aquino III and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who called on other nations not to pay ransoms if their citizens are abducted to discourage the militants from carrying out more kidnappings.

The three Indonesian fishermen freed by the Abu Sayyaf were kidnapped in July off Lahad Datu district in Malaysia's Sabah state, according to regional Philippine military spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan. Their release came as Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu was visiting the Philippines.

Five Indonesians, five Malaysians and a Dutch bird watcher, along with five Filipinos, remain in Abu Sayyaf custody, the Philippine military said.

The Abu Sayyaf has been blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the US and the Philippines for deadly bombings, kidnappings and beheadings. Without any known foreign funding, the extremists have relied on ransom kidnappings, extortion and other acts of banditry, and some commanders have pledged loyalty to the Islamic State group partly in the hope of obtaining funds. —AP



MANILA: A resident wearing an election campaign t-shirt of the then Presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte stands near the body of a Filipino Muslim, which is wrapped in white cloth, after he and another Muslim were killed in a police "buy-bust" operation on Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. —AP

28 DEAD, 15 MISSING AFTER TYPHOON LASHES CHINA



XIAMEN, CHINA: A man wearing a red helmet, left, climbs on the wreckage of a destroyed structure after a typhoon on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016. —AP

BEIJING: The strongest typhoon to hit China this year has left 28 people dead and 15 others missing in the east of the country. Typhoon Meranti made landfall early Thursday in Fujian province after winds and rains associated with it pounded Taiwan, leaving one person dead and more than 50 injured.

Authorities in Fujian said Saturday that the typhoon had left 18 people dead and 11 missing, damaged more than 18,300 houses and caused direct economic losses of more than 16.9 billion yuan (\$2.5 billion).

Authorities in neighboring Zhejiang province say that 10 people died and four remained unaccounted for following landslides and flash floods in rural areas.

Taiwan saw wind and rain from a second typhoon, Malakas, that caused no apparent deaths. That typhoon was also forecast to bring more storms and rains to Zhejiang and Fujian. —AP

AUSTRALIA OFFERS CONDOLENCES OVER AIR STRIKE ON SYRIAN TROOPS

SYDNEY: The Australian Department of Defense has offered its condolences to the families of Syrian soldiers killed or wounded in a US-led bombing campaign on Saturday, in which Australia participated and Russia said hit Syrian military personnel and vehicles.

Australian aircraft were among the warplanes that struck what were believed to be Islamic State fighting positions around Deir al-Zor in Eastern Syria. However, shortly after the bombing started Russian officials advised the multinational Combined Air Operations Centre that the targets may have been Syrian military personnel.

The Australian Ministry of Defense said yesterday that it would fully cooperate with a Coalition review of the incident. "While Syria remains a dynamic and complex operating environment, Australia would never intentionally target a known Syrian military unit or actively support Daesh (also known as ISIL)," the ministry said in a statement.

"Defense offers its condolences to the families of any Syrian personnel killed or wounded in this incident," the ministry said on Sunday. —Reuters



INDANAN, PHILIPPINES: Released Norwegian hostage Kjartan Sekkingstad, right, watches Moro National Liberation Front Chairman Nur Misuari, second left, raising hands of the three released Indonesian hostages, center, after being turned over by ransom-seeking Abu Sayyaf extremists yesterday. —AP



A spider begins to build its web in a patch of marsh grass as the sun sets at Guard Shore Beach near Bloxom, Virginia on Saturday. — AP

NY BLAST IS 'TERRORISM', BUT NO CLAIM, MOTIVE...

Continued from Page 1

New York police chief James O'Neill said no individual or group had yet claimed responsibility. O'Neill said he could not say with a "100 percent degree of certainty" where the blast originated. US media reported that it was planted in a dumpster on 23rd Street where major construction work is taking place. A hotline has been set up for tips. Police have a video of the bombing and were searching for anyone seen in the area before the explosion.

"We know it's a very serious incident, but we have a lot more work to do to be able to say what kind of motivation was behind this," Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters. "Was it a political motivation, a personal motivation. What was it? We do not know that yet," he added, calling on residents to be vigilant. FBI official William Sweeney said federal investigators would be pouring through online traffic, individuals and organizations. "We will look at everything," he told the news conference. "We'll look at social networks, at all the incoming tips and leads. Everything that comes in gets a look. We don't discard anything."

New York will see a stepped up security presence, with an additional nearly 1,000 state police and National Guard deployed to airports, bus terminals and subway stations, officials said. The explosion on 23rd Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, caused "significant" damage, shattering glass and shrapnel across the street, but there is no structural damage to any buildings.

While the two devices planted in Manhattan appear to be similar, they seem to be different than a pipe bomb that exploded in the neighboring state of New Jersey on Saturday causing no injuries, officials said. Of the 29 people who sustained injuries in New York, 24 were taken to hospital with various degrees of scrapes and abrasions from glass and metal. All have since been released, officials confirmed yesterday.

New York lauds itself as the safest big city in America. Violent crime is rare in Manhattan and police say they have foiled 20 terror plots since the 2001 Al-Qaeda hijackings destroyed the Twin Towers. New York Congressman Peter King said the fact that officials had not yet determined a known terrorist link was not necessarily conclusive. "In many of these cases we don't know until two, three or four days later whether or not there is a terrorist link," he told CBS. "The fact there is no evidence right now doesn't mean much," he added.

Police have sealed off northern Chelsea around the crime scene and dozens of officers were out in force Sunday. An AFP photographer said there was lots of debris, including rubble and glass on 23rd Street. "Today there special events occurring throughout the city. Actually in all five boroughs. We've increased our police presence in each of these events," said senior New York police officer Carlos Gomez. "We've also added more counter-terrorism officers as well as heavy weapons teams at some of these events. Teams from the strategic response group as well as the critical response command," he said. — AFP

KASHMIR ATTACK KILLS 17 SOLDIERS, INDIA...

Continued from Page 1

of deadly clashes between residents and security forces. India regularly accuses its arch-rival Pakistan of arming and sending rebels across the heavily militarized border that divides Kashmir between the two countries, to launch attacks on its forces. Islamabad denies the claims. Yesterday's attack was one of the bloodiest on soldiers since an armed rebellion against Indian rule erupted in 1989. Militants killed 30 soldiers and their families in a suicide attack in Kaluchak in the Himalayan region in 2002.

Most of the soldiers died yesterday after their tents and other housing caught fire during the raid on the brigade headquarters near the border known as the Line of Control (LoC), said Ranbir Singh, the army's director-general of military operations. Lieutenant-General Singh blamed Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad, saying he had already expressed "serious concerns" to his Pakistani counterpart. "The killed terrorists, they were all foreign terrorists and as per the initial reports, they belonged to Jaish-e-Mohammad," Singh told a briefing. India blamed the same group for an audacious attack in January on an Indian air force base in the northern state of Punjab that left seven soldiers dead.

Washington condemned the attack, adding it was committed to the "strong partnership with the Indian government to combat terrorism," US State Department spokesman John Kirby said. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the two gained inde-

pendence from British rule in 1947. Both claim the territory in full and have fought two wars over the region. The Muslim-majority region is currently in the grip of deadly civilian unrest that has lasted for more than two months. Protesting residents are clashing almost daily with security forces in the worst crowd violence since 2010.

At least 87 civilians have been killed and thousands injured in the protests against Indian rule, sparked by the killing of a popular rebel leader in a gunbattle with soldiers on July 8. The government has been coming under growing pressure over the level of casualties and over the security forces' use of shotguns loaded with pellets which can blind demonstrators. Thousands of angry demonstrators defied a curfew on Saturday in Kashmir to attend the funeral of a schoolboy whose body was found riddled with pellets, sparking fresh clashes.

The Indian government accuses Pakistan of stoking the unrest in the region. Yesterday, residents of Uri town saw smoke billowing from the nearby base and heard continuous rounds of heavy gunfire that lasted several hours, while army helicopters circled overhead. Twenty-eight injured soldiers were airlifted to a military hospital in the region's main city of Srinagar, four of them in critical condition, an army officer said.

Rebel groups which have been fighting Indian troops in Kashmir since 1989 seek either independence for the region or its merger with Pakistan. Soldiers have been deployed in Kashmir for decades and currently number around 500,000. Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have died in the fighting. — AFP



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SUPER-G CHAMP REICHELTL OUT AFTER BACK SURGERY

INNSBRUCK: Super-G world champion Hannes Reichelt is out indefinitely after undergoing back surgery, five weeks before the Alpine skiing World Cup season starts. The Austrian ski federation said Sunday the 36-year-old Reichelt had a piece of a spinal disk removed after complaining about back pains since returning to Austria from the team's pre-season training camp in Chile. "The pain I had before the surgery is gone," Reichelt said in a statement by the federation. "I hope for a speedy recovery and to be able to ski again soon." The attending doctor, Michael Gabl, said the operation went without complications. "Hannes Reichelt definitely needs rest in the next few weeks," Gabl said. "When he will be able to train on snow and compete on the World Cup depends on the healing process." Reichelt has suffered from back problems before. He underwent surgery on a herniated disk in January 2014, a few days after winning the classic downhill in Kitzbuehel. The injury forced him out of the Sochi Olympics. A winner of 11 World Cup races, Reichelt won the super-G world title in Beaver Creek, Colorado, in 2015, four years after taking silver in the same discipline at the worlds in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The opening race of the World Cup season is a giant slalom on the Rettenbach glacier in Soelden, Austria, on Oct. 23. —AP

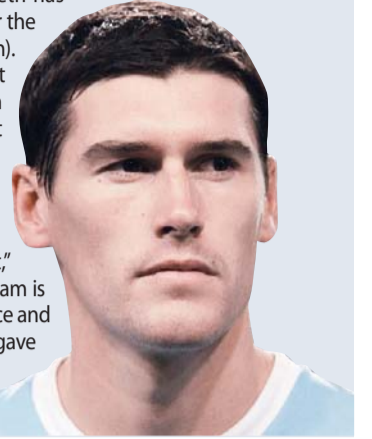


WERDER SACK COACH AFTER THREE LOSSES

BERLIN: Strugglers Werder Bremen have sacked coach Viktor Skripnik after the club was left in last place in the Bundesliga following their third straight loss on Saturday, with under-23 coach Alexander Nouri taking over interim charge. Werder were beaten 4-1 by Borussia Moenchengladbach and have yet to earn a point this season, with the 46-year-old Ukrainian leaving after almost two years in charge. Werder had also been eliminated from the German Cup in the first round by third tier club Sportfreunde Lotte. "The preparation for the two home games against Mainz 05 and VfL Wolfsburg is taken over today by Under-23 coach Alexander Nouri," Werder said in a statement. Skripnik's assistant coaches Torsten Frings and Florian Kohfeldt were also let go. "We decided to take this step because we were not convinced after the Gladbach game that the current setup was capable of turning things around in the short term," said Werder sports director Frank Baumann. —Reuters

EVERTON MANAGER HAILS 'PERFECT PLAYER' BARRY

LONDON: Gareth Barry is the perfect player for Everton, manager Ronald Koeman has said after the midfielder scored in his 600th Premier League appearance to help the club beat Middlesbrough 3-1. After goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg's own goal in the 21st minute in Saturday's clash at Goodison Park, Barry marked his milestone with a goal three minutes later to level the score. "It's amazing the number of games Gareth has played and even today he proved to be a perfect player for the team," Koeman told the club's website (www.evertonfc.com). "Scoring the goal to make it 1-1 was an important moment in the game and it was a special day for Gareth but even more special that he scored and the team won, and that was still the most important for today (Saturday)." The 35-year-old Barry, who has also played for Aston Villa and Manchester City, won 53 caps for England. "He's very crucial. He's not a big talker in the dressing room but his quality on the pitch, the cleverness on the pitch is important," Koeman added. "It's also important for Gareth that if the team is playing very compact he doesn't need to run a lot of distance and he is still one of the best midfield players." Saturday's win gave Koeman's side the best five-game start to a Premier League season with 13 points. —Reuters



SUPREMO ECCLESTONE WARNS TO QUIT F1

SINGAPORE: Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone warned he could walk away from the sport he's turned into a global phenomenon if he doesn't get his way under new owners Liberty Media. The British billionaire was speaking at the Singapore Grand Prix, the first race since F1's sale was announced and which was also attended by its new chairman, Chase Carey.

In a Sky Sports interview aired yesterday, Ecclestone, 85, was characteristically blunt when quizzed on whether he could quit the sport under the American new regime. "Thank God at the moment I don't quite need the money, I don't need a job and if by chance things aren't going the way I think would be the right way then I will disappear for sure," he said.

Under the new deal, which values Formula One at \$8 billion, Ecclestone remains as chief executive but is joined by Carey, the mustachioed vice-chairman of 21st Century Fox.

The diminutive but pugnacious Ecclestone has built F1 into a global powerhouse earning billions for its investors with his canny deal-making over the past four decades.

US media mogul John Malone's Liberty Media has a wide portfolio including Time Warner cable TV, the Atlanta Braves baseball team and electric racing series Formula E.

Ecclestone was equivocal when asked whether he had been engaged for another

years, answering: "Let's see, let's see."

And he didn't argue with comments from Max Mosley, ex-president of governing body the FIA, who warned Ecclestone could "walk away" if Liberty interfere with his running of the sport.

"Well Max knows me very well," Ecclestone said, adding that the Liberty purchase "shouldn't make any difference." "They've asked me to stay on in my position, Chase is going to be chairman. I've no idea what his ideas are, but it is difficult for him as he's sort of been thrown in the deep end a bit. So we'll see," he said.

Asked whether he might find it tough to work with Carey, Ecclestone said: "The only thing I have to do is die and pay my tax. Short of that I don't have to do anything." But he added: "There is going to be no problem with Chase, we will work together."

"He has got expertise that I haven't. We need to be in America, he knows America, he knows television and he can help us a lot. So I'm sure that is what is going to happen."

Ecclestone also said he had no immediate plans to retire, despite his advanced age. "At the moment I am still able to deliver. When I think I can't then I'll stop," he said.

And when interviewer Martin Brundle wondered if the situation was about to change for Formula One's "king of the castle", Ecclestone replied: "It probably won't." —AFP



SINGAPORE: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg (Left) celebrates winning the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix in Singapore with Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton (Right) taking third place yesterday. —AFP

ROSBERG WINS IN SINGAPORE TO RETAKE OVERALL LEAD

SINGAPORE: Germany's Nico Rosberg celebrated his 200th Formula One race by retaking the championship lead from Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton after a pole to flag win in Singapore yesterday.

After a chaotic start that brought out a safety car on the opening lap, Rosberg stayed clear of Red Bull's late charging Australian Daniel Ricciardo at the floodlit Marina Bay Street Circuit.

Triple world champion Hamilton completed the podium in third place. The German's third victory in a row, and 22nd of his career, lifted Rosberg on to 273 points, eight clear of Hamilton, with six rounds remaining and Ricciardo a distant third on 179 in the title race.

Rosberg's win was his eighth of the season and first in Singapore, a grand prix that has only been won by world champions until now.

The German had started two points

behind Hamilton and, despite leading comfortably halfway through the race, crossed the line just 0.488 seconds ahead of Ricciardo after having to complete the last 28 laps on the same soft tyres.

Red Bull opted for a bold tyre strategy to put pressure on Rosberg late on and Ricciardo was closing at roughly three seconds a lap in the closing stages but ran out of road before the chequered flag.

Hamilton had his own private battle with Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen behind the leading duo, the Briton losing third place to the Finn after a mistake on lap 34 but reclaiming the position with a timely pit stop to hold on to the finish.

Last year's race winner Sebastian Vettel drove brilliantly from last place on the starting grid to claim fifth place in the other Ferrari, the German coming home ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso in a McLaren.

The safety car was deployed immediately after the start when Nico Hulkenberg's Force India, eighth on the grid, suffered a heavy crash after making contact with Carlos Sainz's Toro Rosso.

Rosberg got away cleanly to lead from Ricciardo, with Hamilton in third and Raikkonen behind him after Verstappen suffered a woeful start to slip back to eighth from fourth on the grid.

The race restarted and Rosberg would have been startled to see a marshal at the end of the start-finish straight picking up debris, the man just managing to get off the circuit before the Mercedes reached him.

There were no more safety cars, throughout a 61-lap race that has yet to be completed without one, but the different tyre strategies of the leading cars made for a tactical and exciting race on a circuit that offers very few overtaking opportunities. —Reuters



Bernie Ecclestone

WORLD RECORD IN SIGHT FOR ALL BLACKS

WELLINGTON: The All Blacks' ability to seal the Rugby Championship with two rounds remaining highlighted the burgeoning gap between the world champions and the rest of the sides, though the team were not prepared to let their final games become footnotes.

Their 41-13 bonus-point victory over the Springboks in Christchurch on Saturday gave them their 15th successive win stretching back to last year and the title was confirmed when Australia beat Argentina 36-20 in Perth later. The All Blacks, playing a fast-paced and high skill style, have the maximum 20 points from the four games, with Australia second on nine points. The best total the Wallabies could finish with is 19. South Africa have six and Argentina five points. "It's very satisfying," assistant coach Ian Foster told reporters on Sunday. "I guess wrapping up the Championship is more of a consequence of us playing some really good rugby and the way some of the other results have gone. "Certainly pleasing to have it done after four rounds, but in reality it doesn't change much, does it? "We've still got two games on the road, our expectations are high and I'm sure the public's are too so we've got to keep going."

The All Blacks travel to Buenos Aires on Friday for their next match against Argentina on Oct. 1 before they finish the competition against the struggling

Springboks in Durban a week later.

If they win those two matches, they would extend their winning run to 17 consecutive matches, equalling a world record amongst top-tier nations that was achieved by the Springboks from 1997-98 and the All Blacks from 1965-69 and again in 2013-14.

The challenge of facing fired-up Pumas and Springboks sides in their own backyards aside, coach Steve Hansen has already said he is likely to shake up his selections to ensure players do not burn out before the end of year tour. Completing the Rugby Championship schedule undefeated would also mean the third Bledisloe Cup clash with Australia at Eden Park on Oct. 22 would take on some actual meaning as the potential record breaker.

Of added significance is that the Wallabies have also halted two lengthy winning runs by the All Blacks in recent years, stopping their streak at 16 games in 2012 with an 18-18 draw. They then stopped the 2014 streak at 17 games with a 12-12 draw.

Foster said the history was one of the factors driving the team, though making sure they improved each week was far more important as they build towards the 2019 Rugby World Cup. "It sounds a little bit more interesting," he said of the record before adding their overall focus was more long-term. "It's about challenging ourselves to be the best we can be." —Reuters



CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: All Blacks fullback Ben Smith fends off against South Africa during the Rugby Championship test match between New Zealand and South Africa, in Christchurch, New Zealand, Saturday Sept. 17, 2016. —AP

ADURIZ SCORES 2 AS VALENCIA LOSE AGAIN IN SPANISH LEAGUE

MADRID: Aritz Aduriz scored two first-half goals yesterday to give Athletic Bilbao a 2-1 come-from-behind win over Valencia, the only team to have lost all four games to start the season.

Celta Vigo was held to a 0-0 draw at promoted Osasuna and also remained winless. Valencia went ahead with a close-range, left-footed shot by midfielder Alvaro Medran just two minutes into the match at San Mames Stadium.

Veteran striker Aduriz equalized with a header off a free-kick cross in the 24th and scored the winner with a right-footed shot from inside the area

into the top corner. "When you go down a goal against a team like Valencia, it's difficult to come back and we were able to do it," Aduriz said. "These are difficult matches and we deserve a lot of credit for this victory."

Valencia's next chance to rebound is Thursday at home against Alaves. "We have to keep working hard and the victories will come, we haven't been playing badly," Valencia defender Martin Montoya said. "We know that our team is capable of improving and getting the results that we deserve."

Valencia is the last team other than Barcelona,

Real Madrid or Atletico Madrid to win the league title. It lifted the trophy in 2004.

Later Sunday, Real Madrid plays at Espanyol with a chance to win its fourth in a row and remain three points ahead atop the standings. Madrid can match the record of 16 consecutive wins in the Spanish league achieved by Pep Guardiola's Barcelona in the 2010-11 season.

Defending champion Barcelona won 5-1 at Leganes on Saturday to reach nine points along with Las Palmas, which defeated Malaga 1-0. Atletico Madrid routed Sporting Gijon 5-0 to win

its second consecutive game and reach eight points.

OSASUNA 0, CELTA VIGO 0

Celta Vigo and Osasuna remained winless in the Spanish league, and in trouble.

The result left Celta, which secured a Europa League spot with its sixth-place finish last season, its second-to-last after four matches, following three straight losses to start the season.

Osasuna, which had lost two in a row, is in 18th place with two points. —AP

TOWNSEND AND PALACE DEEPEN STOKE GLOOM



LONDON: Andros Townsend scored one goal and made another as Crystal Palace inflicted a crushing 4-1 defeat upon winless Stoke City in the Premier League yesterday.

Townsend set up the opening goal for James Tomkins at Selhurst Park and completed the scoring with his first Palace goal after Scott Dann and James McArthur had also got on the score-sheet.

It gave Alan Pardew's side consecutive league wins for the first time since last December and saw the south London club climb to eighth place in the table.

Mark Hughes's Stoke, who replied through Marko Arnautovic, were left bottom of the pile after registering four successive league defeats for the first time since February 2012.

Palace manager Pardew made just one change from his side's 2-1 win at Middlesbrough, Tomkins replacing Damien Delaney at centre-back, and it proved a

winning one. With eight minutes gone, Townsend floated a free-kick towards the far post and Tomkins crept in behind Jonathan Walters to toe the ball past Shay Given from close range.

Once renowned for the rigour with which they defended set-pieces, Stoke conceded another goal from a dead-ball situation just three minutes later.

Jason Puncheon drove a right-sided corner towards the penalty spot and Dann got above Ryan Shawcross to sent a header bulleting into the bottom-left corner.

Stoke's response, such as it was, was tame, with Wilfried Bony meekly curling wide.

Tomkins limped off at half-time and was replaced by Delaney, but it did not affect the hosts' rhythm.

After Dann and Wilfried Zaha had seen efforts blocked at close range, McArthur added a third goal in the 72nd minute, beating Given with the aid of a deflection off Geoff Cameron.

Townsend saved the best for last, drifting infield from the left, beating Joe Allen with a neat chop and then bending a low shot into the bottom-right corner.

Arnautovic curled in a goal for Stoke from the edge of the box in injury time, but by then the damage had been done. — AFP



MONTPELLIER: Montpellier's French defender Jerome Roussillon (L) vies with Nice's French defender Arnaud Souquet (R) during the French L1 football match between Montpellier and Nice, yesterday at the La Mosson Stadium in Montpellier, southern France. — AFP

NICE SECOND AFTER MONTPELLIER POINT

MONTPELLIER: Newly-recruited playmaker Younes Belhanda grabbed a point for Nice in a 1-1 draw at Montpellier with a determined late strike yesterday meaning his side climb above champions Paris Saint Germain into second place in Ligue 1.

Having come fourth last season, Nice lost their coach Claude Puel to Southampton while Hatem Ben Arfa moved on to PSG. But with highly-regarded Swiss coach Lucien Favre now in charge, Nice are unbeaten in Ligue 1 so far and have brought in Belhanda on loan from Dynamo Kiev while snapping up Italian striker Mario Balotelli. The former Liverpool, Man City and AC Milan striker sat out this encounter having played twice in four days, but will be back for Wednesday's top of the table clash with pacesetter Monaco, who have 13 points to Nice's 11 and PSG's 10.

Nice can thank a fine performance from 22-year-old goalkeeper Yoan Cardinale for several fine saves that kept them in the game until his left back Malang Sarr gave away a penalty on 67 minutes, duly converted by Ryad Boudebouz. Then Belhanda, one of the stars of Montpellier's staggering Ligue 1 title winning charge of 2012, crowned a solid performance with a tap-in on 85 minutes after the 'keeper fumbled the ball.

A towering Radamel Falcao header helped send Monaco top on Saturday while 20-year-old Thomas Lemar also scored twice at the end of the game. Falcao's career has hit the buffers since quitting Atletico Madrid but on Saturday, the 30-year-old Colombian leapt high at the back post and powered in a header in the 42nd minute to score his first goal for Monaco since August 2014 — 755 days ago.

This was Monaco's seventh consecutive win

and followed a slick 2-1 triumph over Tottenham in the Champions League in midweek. "The favourite to win the title, which will be a long haul, is Paris," warned Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim.

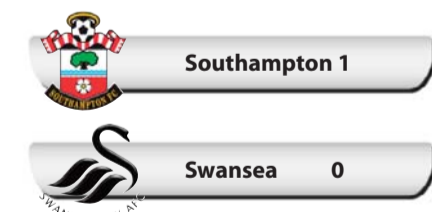
"Nice, Lyon and Marseille have also invested in their teams, but we are a better side this season, more experienced and organised," said the Portuguese coach whose side came third last year. On Friday, Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani banged four goals past Caen in a 6-0 win for PSG. Lucas Moura and Jean-Kevin Augustin added the other two goals after the break as PSG ended a run of three games without a win in all competitions.

Saint Etienne host Bastia but the big game of the weekend takes place at Marseille's wonderful Velodrome stadium as the struggling giants await the visit of Lyon. — AFP



LONDON: Stoke City's Wilfried Bony, left, and Crystal Palace's James McArthur battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park, London, yesterday. — AP

AUSTIN ON TARGET AS PUEL BREAKS PREMIER LEAGUE DUCK



SOUTHAMPTON: Charlie Austin came off the bench to give Southampton their first Premier League win of the season by scoring in a 1-0 win over Swansea at St Mary's yesterday.

It was the south coast club's first Premier League success under manager Claude Puel and their second victory in a week under the Frenchman after the team's Europa League win over Sparta Prague.

Southampton were almost gifted an early lead when Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski spilt a shot from Shane Long.

But Saints duo Steven Davis and Dusan Tadic got in each other's way as they tried to follow up and the ball went behind, although an off-side flag lessened any embarrassment the pair might have felt.

Nathan Redmond then opted to shoot rather than square the ball across goal to the unmarked Long and blazed his shot high and wide of the target.

Redmond squandered an even better chance when, from Tadic's low cross, he beat Jordi Amat only to shoot over the top from eight yards out.

Austin scored twice against the Czech club in a 3-0 win on Thursday but the striker found himself back on the bench yesterday.

Southampton had chances to take the lead before Austin scored the only goal of the game in the 64th minute. Redmond missed from 12

yards out before Austin himself hit the crossbar.

But Austin rewarded Southampton's pressure just after the hour when he chested the ball down and struck a rising shot. Swansea's Gylfi Sigurdsson had a late chance saved but the Saints clung on to victory.

Austin's goal was his first in the Premier

League since his debut winner against Manchester United in January.

"I should have had three (goals)," Austin told the BBC. "I'm frustrated, of course, (to be on the bench) as I scored twice in midweek but if the manager wants to rotate then he is the boss." — AFP



SOUTHAMPTON: Southampton's Charlie Austin, third left, scores his side's first goal of the game, during the English Premier League soccer match between Southampton FC and Swansea City, at St Mary's, in Southampton, England, yesterday. — AP

RANIERI IMPRESSED BY MAHREZ, SLIMANI DEADLY DOUBLE ACT

LEICESTER: Claudio Ranieri believes Algerian duo Islam Slimani and Riyad Mahrez can form a deadly double act for Leicester after the Algerian duo inspired a 3-0 win over Burnley.

Slimani scored twice on his Premier League debut for the champions on Saturday, while fellow Algeria international Mahrez displayed the form that saw him voted player of the year last season.

The pair linked up impressively with Leicester striker Jamie Vardy and Foxes manager Ranieri believes they will relish joining forces at club level.

"It's good for Slimani and good for everyone," Ranieri said. "It was a very good performance from him, as well as his teammates." "He linked very well with Vardy and the others and he pressed so hard during all the match. We bought him for these characteristics."

"Riyad made two fantastic performances, in Brugge in the Champions League and here and I'm very pleased when he plays in this tactical way because he was very clever he's very clever when to attack, defend, and play in between the lines."

"Of course he's happy with Slimani being here - but he's happy with everybody."

Ranieri's men followed their 3-0 Champions League win at Club Brugge in midweek with the same scoreline against Burnley.

Goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel missed out with concussion and Danny Simpson returned from injury but Ranieri otherwise named an unchanged team.

The Italian is planning changes for Tuesday's English Football League Cup clash with Chelsea but he believes consistency was important from Brugge to

Burnley.

MOMENTUM

"I didn't want to make many changes, just the keeper and right back because I wanted to keep our momentum," Ranieri said.

"It was important for us to win and 3-0 is good - now we are in the top half of the table and our focus is in EFL Cup against Chelsea. "I'll make changes because have very good players they show me they are strong."

"I'm very pleased, it was important to win after the Champions League victory against a good, well organised team. "We tried to find a solution to score but they closed all the space. "Then when we went wide and crossed they suffered a little more and we scored at end of first half and beginning of second."

"It was great for us because after that we controlled the ball much better." Burnley acquitted themselves well for much of the first half but were put to the sword after Slimani scored his first goal in English football in first-half stoppage time. "Unfortunately it was four minutes of madness two minutes before and two minutes after half-time," Burnley manager Sean Dyche said.

"The idea was to keep the ball better and kind of slow Leicester's tempo down. "We didn't penetrate as much as I would like but it's difficult at this level because they are a good side."

"Then two minutes of madness just before half-time culminated in giving a soft free-kick away and they got a goal."

"The second half one was a little bit unfortunate that it hit someone on the knee, someone on the heel and someone on the head and it goes in. — AFP

Sports

Supremo Ecclestone
warns to quit F1

15



Chun wins Evian
Championship with
major record round



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RIO PARALYMPICS SAYS 'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' AS GAMES CLOSE Page 18



WATFORD: Watford's French midfielder Etienne Capoue (L) shoots and scores past Manchester United's Spanish goalkeeper David de Gea (R) during the English Premier League football match between Watford and Manchester United at Vicarage Road Stadium in Watford, north of London yesterday. — AFP

MAN UTD SUFFER THIRD DEFEAT IN A ROW



WATFORD: Watford piled on the misery for Jose Mourinho as Manchester United crashed to a third successive defeat in an embarrassing 3-1 loss at Vicarage Road yesterday.

Mourinho's side were rocked by Etienne Capoue's first half opener and, although Marcus Rashford equalised after the break, United capitulated in the closing stages.

Juan Camilo Zuniga restored Watford's lead with seven minutes left before Troy Deeney's penalty condemned Mourinho to a third consecutive defeat for the first time since he was in charge at Porto in 2002.

It was the first time United had lost three in a row since the unlamented Louis van Gaal presided over four successive defeats in December last year.

Adding to the indignity for United, it was their first loss in 30 years against Watford, who ended a run of 11 successive defeats against the Manchester giants.

United are already lagging six points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City and the feelgood factor following the three wins that marked the start of the Mourinho era has been completely erased.

After losing to City, Feyenoord in the Europa League and now Watford over the last week, the size of the task facing Mourinho as he rebuilds United has been laid bare.

"I feel the first moment we had a defeat, a difficult situation, some of the boys are having a bit of difficulty coping with the negativity," Mourinho said.

They looked out of sync from the moment United goalkeeper David de Gea collided with Chris Smalling as they made a hash of dealing with Sebastian Prodl's towering cross.

When de Gea dropped the ball straight to Odion Ighalo a goal seemed certain, but the Watford striker fired hurriedly wide of the unguarded net from the edge of the penalty area.

It was a shocking miss, but even that escape couldn't

shake United from their lethargy and de Gea had to throw himself to his left to claw away a goalbound header from Deeney moments later.

POLE-AXED

Paul Pogba has struggled to live up to his world record fee since joining United and, amid another tepid display, the France midfielder gave a sudden glimpse of his ability when he quickly shifted the ball to set himself for a curling 25-yard strike that left Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes rooted to the spot as it cannoned off the crossbar.

But Watford's relentlessly physical approach was wearing United down and Anthony Martial needed several minutes treatment after being pole-axed by a clash of heads with Daryl Janmaat.

Martial eventually got to his feet but the France international still appeared groggy when he made a fatal mistake in the 34th minute.

Dwelling too long on the ball deep inside his own half, Martial was caught in possession by Miguel Britos and, with United's defence completely exposed, Janmaat had time and space to pick out the unmarked

Capoue, who drilled a clinical finish past de Gea.

As Watford celebrated, Mourinho questioned whether Martial had been fouled and the winger lay flat on the turf before being substituted.

That ignominious exit encapsulated a forgettable half for United, but they equalised with a rare incisive attack in the 62nd minute.

Rashford played a one-two with Ibrahimovic and broke into the penalty area, where he showed his predatory instincts by sweeping home from close-range after the Swede's cross deflected into his path off Valon Behrami. But United never looked convincing and they crumbled at the back in the 83rd minute as Zuniga scored with his first touch less than a minute after coming on. Roberto Pereyra was unchecked when he raced onto Nordin Amrabat's pass into the United penalty area and he cut the ball back to Colombia defender Zuniga, who lashed a fine strike past de Gea to leave Mourinho ashen-faced.

There was even worse to come for Mourinho in stoppage-time when Marouane Fellaini tripped Zuniga in the area and Deeney stepped up to smash home the spot-kick. — AFP

PERISIC WINNER STUNS JUVE, BOOSTS DE BOER

MILAN: A second-half winner by Ivan Perisic boosted Frank De Boer's survival prospects as Inter Milan fought to a deserved 2-1 'Derby d'Italia' win over Juventus in Serie A yesterday.

De Boer, who succeeded Roberto Mancini at Inter two weeks before the start of the season, was rumoured to be facing the sack after a midweek defeat to Hapoel Beer Sheva followed a run of poor results in the league.

But the former Ajax handler's job looks safe, for the meantime, after Inter put their Europa League shocker behind them with a battling performance at a packed San Siro to hand the champions their first defeat of the season.

Stephan Lichsteiner opened the scoring for Massimiliano Allegri's visitors against the run of play on 66 minutes, but Mauro Icardi continued his impressive form against Gianluigi Buffon by hitting the leveller just two minutes later.

Perisic then came off the bench to nod the winner from Icardi's deft cross 12 minutes from time to send Inter up to seventh place in the table. Inter are now three points behind Napoli, who, on 10 points, hold a one-point lead on Juventus.

Roma, who face Fiorentina away, can also climb to 10 points with a win in Florence later yesterday. The goal-scoring prospects for either side looked bleak after goalless outings against European opposition this week.

Juve were held to a scoreless draw by Europa League winners Sevilla in their Champions League opener while Inter looked completely hapless on their way to a 2-0 reverse against their Israeli visitors at the San Siro.

But the Derby d'Italia was the perfect chance for De Boer to convince his employers, and the Dutchman didn't disappoint.



MILAN: Juventus' Leonardo Bonucci, left, challenges Inter Milan's Mauro Icardi during their Serie A soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, yesterday. — AP

He dropped Marcelo Brozovic for disciplinary reasons and Perisic was initially only fit enough to start on the bench.

Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri, meanwhile, kept star striker Gonzalo Higuain on the bench, with Mario Mandzukic partnering Paulo Dybala, although the Argentine striker was visibly frustrated as he sat on the touchlines.

Amid a nervous opening half Dybala had an early volley charged down before setting up Alex Sandro in deep for the Brazilian wing-back to deliver a great ball for Sami Khedira,

who sent a free header straight at Samir Handanovic. Inter went on the counter after Icardi robbed Giorgio Chiellini, and the Argentine's curling drive came off the far post.

Juve threatened only three minutes after the restart, Dybala firing a deflected shot over. But it served only to spark Inter. Eder's deflected shot from 25 metres almost caught Buffon off guard and Juventus breathed a huge sigh of relief after another counter saw Buffon at full stretch as Antonio Candreva's crisp volley from Icardi's delivery inched past the far post. — AFP

SPURS SINK SUNDERLAND



LONDON: Harry Kane found the net for the second time in two Premier League games as Tottenham Hotspur beat Sunderland 1-0 yesterday, but was stretchered off late on.

The England striker scored at White Hart Lane for the first time since March to lift his team to third and keep the visitors second-bottom in the table. But he had to be taken from the touchline on a stretcher after turning his ankle in the latter stages of the game. With Eric Dier and Mousa Dembele also succumbing to injury, it was a bittersweet afternoon for winning manager Mauricio Pochettino.

Dembele was making his first appearance of the campaign after completing a six-game ban for gouging the eye of Chelsea's Diego Costa last season. Spurs also gave a first start to Moussa Sissoko, a 30 million pounds (\$39 million, 35 million euros) signing from Newcastle United, while Erik Lamela and Christian Eriksen dropped to the bench.

Sunderland manager David Moyes, who saw Adnan Januzaj sent off late on, made a change after the team-sheets had been submitted, bringing in Jason Denayer for Patrick van Aanholt at the back.

There was also a return to the starting line-up for captain Lee Cattermole, while Didier Ndong made his first start since moving to Wearside from Lorient.

Kane was the first Spurs player to test Jordan Pickford on eight minutes, the Sunderland goalkeeper forced to tip an effort

from six yards out behind the post.

The cross for Kane was delivered by Son Heung-Min, who impressed on the left flank despite pre-season speculation having linked the South Korean with a move away from White Hart Lane.

Such was Spurs' dominance, it was surprising that the best chance of the first half fell to the visitors.

DJILBODJI BLUNDER

Adnan Januzaj cut the ball back from the byline to Steven Pienaar, whose shot beat goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, only for Kyle Walker to clear his slightly scuffed effort off the line.

The start of the second half saw a similar pattern to that of the first, with Tottenham applying pressure on a back line that had conceded three times in 11 minutes in the 3-0 loss to Everton. Sissoko was giving Sunderland headaches on the right wing and his cross had to be palmed away by Pickford.

On the other wing, Son was sent into space by Dembele's pass, but decided to fire at the target instead of putting the ball across the face of goal for Dele Alli, hitting the side-netting.

The deadlock was finally broken just before the hour through Kane, who showed a poacher's instinct to slot home after Papy Djilobodji totally missed his clearance after Alli knocked down Walker's cross. The goal moved Moyes to replace Pienaar with Duncan Watmore soon afterwards. The momentum still remained with Tottenham, however, and Alli forced Pickford to turn his shot away after being allowed to run through the middle of the away defence. Two changes for the home side were enforced due to injury, with Dembele replaced by Erik Lamela and Dier leaving the field for Ben Davies. — AFP

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OLYMPUS: In this June 2, 2016 file photo, boats wait for tourists in Adrasan in Olympos area, about 100 kilometers west of Antalya, Turkey. — AP

TURKEY HOPES TO WEATHER TOURISM DROP

COUNTRY'S CRUCIAL TOURIST TRADE HIT BY TERRORISM, SPATS

ISTANBUL: With summer drawing to a close, Turkey is counting the cost of a tough year that saw a string of terrorist bombings and the fallout from a diplomatic spat with Moscow that cut deep into the country's crucial tourist trade. And then right bang in the middle of summer, the economic backdrop got more precarious after an attempted military coup that saw more than 270 people killed, the imposition of a state of emergency and the subsequent arrest and dismissal of thousands of supposed sympathizers.

Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek conceded the failed coup on July 15 and its aftermath have "weakened" the economy even as he praised its resilience in the face of such adversity. Tourism, a crucial foreign-currency earner for a country in constant need of foreign currency to plug a yawning current account deficit, has borne the brunt of the economic fallout. That's mainly due to a precipitous 89 percent drop in Russian tourist arrivals after a diplomatic fallout between the two

countries brought on by Turkey's downing of a Russian warplane last year. Russia was Turkey's second-largest tourist market with 4.5 million people visiting places like Turkey's tourism capital Antalya in 2014.

With many Russians holidaying elsewhere, Turkey stands to lose between \$8 and \$10 billion in tourism revenue by the end of the year, according to Cetin Gurcun, Secretary General Turkey's travel agency association TURSAB. No amount of deals could fully plug that gap. "If we consider the volume of the Russian market, it's not easy to fill the void," Gurcun told The Associated Press.

Turkey-Russia relations are now back on track, but Gurcun doesn't expect the Russian market to rebound before next year. It wasn't just Russians who have stayed away from Turkey's beaches and the cultural delights of places like Istanbul. Thomas Cook, the British-based holiday company, said recently that demand for Turkish holidays was "significantly below last year's level" and that its overall

bookings for the summer 2016 season were down by 5 percent largely because of this particular "geopolitical disruption."

Retail suffers

Official Turkish figures for the whole of the summer tourist season have yet to be released. But it's clear there's been a hit. June and July alone saw tourism arrivals plunge an annual 40 and 36 percent, respectively. And with fewer tourists, retail sales have suffered. Sami Kariyo, head of the United Brands Association, an umbrella group representing 150 member companies and 500 brands, said lower tourism numbers have translated into a five percent drop in revenues. Industry too.

The most recent figures showed that industrial production in July fell by almost 5 percent year-on-year in July, the sharpest fall since the start of the current data series in 2005. "The coup attempt in July seems to have a very marked negative impact on economic activity," said William Jackson, senior emerging markets

economist with Capital Economics.

All in all, the Turkish economy has suffered a shock - or series of shocks - and growth forecasts have been revised down. Turkey is expected to post what - at first glance - looks like reasonable growth this year of a little more than 3 percent. But before the attempted coup, most independent economic forecasters had penciled in Turkish economic growth of around 4 percent this year.

Living standards

That's a big change, especially for a developing economy that's been used to way-more over much of the past 25 years or so. Living standards could face a squeeze, further exacerbating the uncertainty many feel within the country. Erhan Aslanoglu, professor of economics at Istanbul's Piri Reis University, said Turkey's economy is tough enough to weather the worst of the storm, but needs more than 4 percent growth to continue pushing down on unemployment.

"It's better than many European countries, but not enough for Turkey," he said. Another concern is that foreign investors will look elsewhere if Turkey turns increasingly authoritarian. Foreign investors are badly needed for the financing of Turkey's sizeable current account deficit, which stood at around 4.5 percent of the country's annual GDP in 2015. The great fear for many is that Turkey is moving toward a more authoritarian model of governance - a trend that could further dent any hopes that the country has of joining the European Union.

Since the coup was seen off, tens of thousands of civil servants and government bureaucrats have been dismissed while scores of businesses have been shut down over suspicion of being linked to Pennsylvania-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen whom Turkey blames for the attempted coup, a charge Gulen rejects. "The rule of law is extremely important," Atilla Yesilada, an analyst with emerging markets consultancy GlobalSource Partners, said. — AP

SAUDI DROPS AS ACTIVITY FALLS TO 12-MONTH LOW

MIDEAST STOCKS

DUBAI: Equity investors dumped Saudi Arabian stocks yesterday, deterred by a recent downturn in global equity and oil markets while Qatar's index held on to small gains as traders bought shares on price dips. Riyadh's index pulled back 1.9 percent on the first day back following a 10-day Eid Al-Adha break. But trading volume was the lowest since last September.

Oil-related companies were hit with Saudi Kayan Petrochemical declining 2.3 percent in heavy trade, after Brent futures fell by around 5 percent during the 10 days the Riyadh bourse was closed. Banking shares were also weak with heavyweight National Commercial Bank dropping 4.2 percent. Key interest rates in Saudi Arabia are linked to US interest rates, given the currency's peg to the dollar, and the uncertainty over Wednesday's US Federal Reserve meeting following a week of mixed US economic data weighed on sentiment. However, the market viewed the likelihood of a US rate rise as low.

Qatar's share index climbed 0.4 percent in active trade, with volume the

highest in a month as investors bought back some shares which were hit by profit taking before the holiday. Islamic lender Masraf Al Rayan was the most traded share and added 0.7 percent while telecommunication operator Ooredoo jumped 3.9 percent. Shares in companies set to be included in index compiler FTSE's secondary emerging market index on Sept 20 outperformed last month. Dubai's index steadied and added 0.03 percent after it fell 1.1 percent on Thursday, when it reopened after a week-long holiday.

More positive outlook

Shuaa Capital surged 9.3 percent. Shares in the investment firm have surged 36.5 percent over the past three weeks since the firm started to offer liquidity services for Nasdaq Dubai's single stock futures trades. Shuaa is the only firm offering market-making facilities to brokers. GFH Financial Group added 2 percent, extending its 1 percent gain from Thursday after the company said its Dubai-based subsidiary GFH Capital

sold its remaining 18 percent stake in English football club Leeds United. In neighboring Abu Dhabi, blue chips dragged the index 0.3 percent lower. First Gulf Bank lost 0.8 percent and telecommunication giant Etisalat edged down 0.3 percent. Egypt's index of the 30 most valuable stocks fell 0.8 percent in thin trade as roughly two-thirds of the shares declined.

Real-estate developers were some of the top losers with Talaat Mostafa Group shedding 4.4 percent and Porto Group declining 3.7 percent. Over the next three-to-six months Credit Suisse expects a better performance from Gulf equities, supported by a more positive outlook on oil prices and stabilizing earnings forecasts. "Valuations are reasonably attractive, being in line with the long-term average... Technicals suggest the worst is behind us, though we believe it is too early to turn outright bullish." Analysts see further downside risks to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain and they favor shares in the UAE, especially companies in Dubai. — Reuters

IRAN URGES US TO UNBLOCK AIRCRAFT, INVESTOR DEALS

TEHRAN: Iran urged the United States yesterday to remove remaining obstacles to it buying passenger planes following the lifting of international sanctions and spread out the welcome mat to foreign investors as it seeks to boost its aviation sector. Iran provisionally agreed earlier this year to buy over 200 jets worth \$50 billion at list prices from Airbus and Boeing under an agreement between Tehran and world powers to ease sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear activities.

Both deals hinge on the longer-than-expected process of winning US Treasury approval, which is needed due to the high proportion of US parts in virtually all modern jetliners, including those made by Europe's Airbus. There have also been delays in getting European banks to finance the deals because of restrictions over the use of US dollars and concerns over legal risks if sanctions are re-imposed.

Roads and Urban Development Minister Abbas Akhondi told an aviation conference that Iran was complying with its obligations and meanwhile continued to negotiate with other planemakers. "We are negotiating with all those big names... There are a lot of obstacles but I am sure that because we have respected all the international rules and regulations, all those problems are going to be resolved," he told the CAPA Aviation Finance Summit, the second large gathering of aviation leaders in Tehran since sanctions were lifted in January.

Blacklist

Critics in the US Congress argue that Iran could

use passenger jets for military purposes such as transporting fighters to battle US troops or allies in Syria or transfer the aircraft to airlines still under US sanctions. US critics of the nuclear deal also say it could allow Iran to skirt remaining sanctions by transferring jets acquired by national carrier IranAir to airlines that remain on a US blacklist, such as the country's largest carrier, Mahan Air.

In an interview with Reuters, Akhondi dismissed the concerns. "We have a contract. We will stick to it," he said. He also told a news conference that the Tehran event, attended by dozens of foreign firms, proved that aviation was international in scope and "the US government cannot stand against it," according to a translation of his remarks.

The House of Representatives in July passed two amendments that would stop the aircraft sales, although to become law they need to be approved by the Senate and signed by President Barack Obama. Iran estimates it will need at least 400 aircraft to renew and expand its fleet, including some 250 in the next 10 years. Besides the aircraft sales, Iran is dangling the prospect of significant business for Western companies including nationwide airport expansion as it emerges from decades of sanctions.

"There are more than 60 airports in Iran but 80 percent of flights are in just 10 and these are working beyond capacity; that is why we need to develop," Akhondi said. "They are all ready to attract investors, who are welcome to invest in any part," he told the conference held at Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport, which plans a \$2.8 billion expansion. — Reuters



AL MAL LAUNCHES TAKHAROJ: A GROUND-BREAKING INVESTMENT PRODUCT IN THE REGION

KUWAIT: Launched by Al Mal Investment Company (KPSC), Takharoj is the region's first web-based application that connects minority investors in Unlisted Securities to offer them big investment privileges in a variety of functions, such as management, representation, policy-making and selling shares. A first-of-its-kind online platform, Takharoj allows the voice of minority shareholders in Unlisted Securities to be heard, empowering them to gain more value from their minority shares in return.

Commenting on the launch of Takharoj, Abdul Wahab Al Mutawa, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer of Al Mal Investment Company (KPSC): "Takharoj's objective is to group like-minded minority shareholders and aid them in becoming part of a sizeable shareholding block to negotiate optimal outcomes. Al Mal Investment Company (KPSC) employs a team of high caliber financial experts dedicated to analyzing the shares of minority investors and proposing ideal short-term and long-term solutions to maximize the value of the shareholding block." The proposed solutions will cater to minority investors who lack control of their investments, whose voices are not heard, whose share value is either stuck or stagnating, or who have a hard time getting valuable financial information or return.

Abdul Wahab Al Mutawa added: "Introducing Takharoj highlights our ongoing commitment to deliver products that not only are innovative but also cater to the market's needs." Clients only need to upload their basic investment information on the secure, user-friendly web-portal so that Takharoj can act on their behalf and in their best interest. The website is designed to guarantee complete confidentiality, meaning no one is able to distort any information that has been uploaded or have access to other investors' information. Al Mal Investment Company (KPSC) is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange, and is licensed and regulated by the Capital Market Authority and the Central Bank of Kuwait. It implements and adopts the highest level of ethical standards, internal controls and corporate governance practices.



HUAWEI TRAINS STUDENTS IN THE 'SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE' PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Following the success of the training of Kuwaiti students in Huawei's international 'Seeds for the Future' Program in 2014, Huawei Technologies Kuwait as this year sponsored 15 new young talents from Kuwait University to a study trip to China as part of the Program.

The "Seeds for the Future" is Huawei's flagship corporate responsibility program, which seeks to develop local ICT talent, enhance knowledge

transfers and improve the skills and life chances of talented undergraduates. The ultimate aim of the Program is to help young people enter the Information and Telecommunication Solution (ICT) fields. Huawei does so by identifying exceptional young talents and helps launch their career to success.

The two-week program in China started with spending time in Beijing, where the undergradu-

ates received an introduction to Chinese culture and Mandarin. The students then spent time at Huawei's Shenzhen campus learning about the technology industry and the long-term trends in mobile, networking and cloud computing. They also took part in an ICT training course and were placed in training as well across the business. In the past eight years since the launch of the Program, more than 1,000 students were trained from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

In 2014, Huawei and the College of Petroleum and Engineering at the Kuwait University started the first season of the "Seeds for the Future" Program. Ten undergraduates were trained. In 2015, another 10 undergraduates joined the Program. The 2016 training program followed suit in the success of the previous years, and saw 15 young talents join the Program.

Trevor Liu, Chief Executive Officer of Huawei Technologies Kuwait, said: "As a global leader in the technology industry, we believe we have a responsibility to nurture the next generation of talent, and it is encouraging to see this program go from strength to strength each year. Kuwait is an important market for us and we're committed to encouraging ICT collaborations and developing the skills of talented young people here."



AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr Abdulaziz Ashkanani. The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are :-

- Nassrallah Sayed Nassrallah Abdulwahab KD 7000/-
- Tareq Mohammed Al Saqer KD 7000/-
- Mohammed Abbas Habib Al-Rahman KD 7000/-

- Munera Juhail Al Fadle KD 7000/-
- Mohammad Ali Fida Hussain KD 7000/-

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

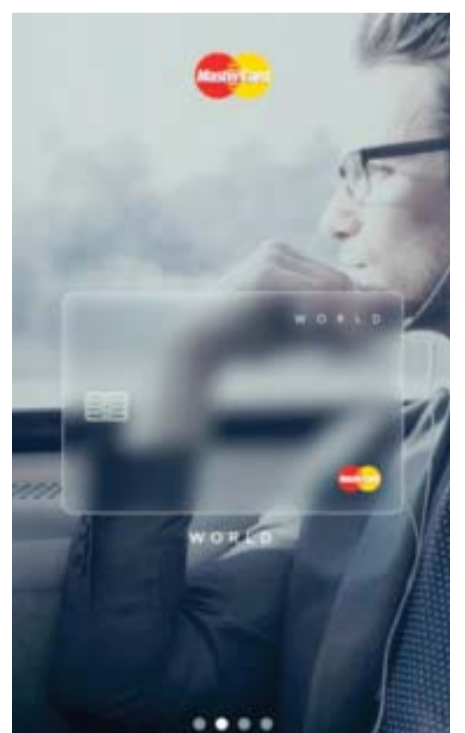
MASTERCARD PRESENTS NEW MOBILE APPLICATION 'MASTERCARD FOR YOU'

KUWAIT: Staying true to its commitment to keeping consumer convenience at the core of the business, Mastercard, a leading technology company in the global payments industry, announces the launch of its mobile application for card products, 'Mastercard For You'.

Available for free on both Apple and Android devices, 'Mastercard For You' is a one-stop shop for all premium products. It is a feature-rich application that enables cardholders in the Middle East and Africa, to explore and enjoy all of the privileges that come with Titanium, Platinum, World and World Elite Mastercard credit and debit cards.

Thanks to the application's intuitive functionality, Mastercard cardholders can discover and stay up-to-date on all of the eligible travel, lifestyle and safety benefits and offers that they can avail. The application also provides cardholders with specific call-to-action prompts to ease and simplify the redemption process.

Key features include the Lounge Locator that allows users to look up the nearest lounge(s) in any given airport along with the location, opening hours, facilities and more; insurance service that includes quick access to digital claim forms during travel emergencies; as well as an overview of all of the offers available with the dedicated Mastercard Buy 1 Get 1 mobile application and the link to download it instantly. Mastercard cardholders can also explore a wide array of offers with top-tier merchants, such as Cleartrip, Careem, Reebonz and Starwood Hotels & Resorts, amongst



others, with only a few quick taps on the mobile itself.

World Elite cardholders additionally have fingertip access to all of the privileges of which they can make use anytime with the premium World Elite Concierge, including making and managing travel plans, assistance with registering for the premium memberships available on the card, and much more.

PREEMIES MAY HAVE LONG-TERM BREATHING PROBLEMS

AUSTRALIA: Even preemies who receive breathing treatments to improve lung function early in life may have respiratory challenges as children and adolescents, an Australian study suggests. Researchers focused on the most vulnerable subset of premature babies: those born at no more than 28 weeks gestation. These babies are too frail and weak to breathe on their own; they often lack a lining in the lungs known as surfactant that keeps tiny air spaces called alveoli from collapsing with each exhalation.

When researchers examined data on about 300 extremely small, low birth weight babies, they found these early arrivals were much more likely to have small airway obstruction at ages 8 and 18 than a group of 260 otherwise similar babies who were born full-term and normal size.

Furthermore, the preemies had a greater increase in small airway obstruction between ages 8 and 18, compared with full-term babies.

"Since surfactant in healthy pregnancies is produced mostly after 34-35 weeks of pregnancy in the fetus, infants born before this time are more likely than babies born after 34-35 weeks to have surfactant deficiency, and hence breathing difficulty after birth," said lead study author Dr Lex Doyle, a pediatrics researcher at the Royal Women's Hospital in Australia.

A typical pregnancy lasts about 40 weeks and babies that arrive after 37 weeks are considered full term. In the weeks immediately after birth, preemies often have difficulty breathing and digesting food. Some premature infants also encounter longer term challenges such as impaired vision, hearing, and cognitive skills as well as social and behavioral problems.

For the current study, Doyle and colleagues focused on infants born in 1991 to 1992, just as synthetic and natural surfactants made of lipids and proteins became available in Australia to treat preterm infants. Doctors can inject liquid containing these surfactants directly into the air passages of the lung to improve breathing. Within the preemie group, the subset of early arrivals who also had lung damage caused by time on a respirator or long-term oxygen use had worse lung function at age 8 and age 18 than the preterm babies that didn't have these issues.

In addition, preemies who became smokers by age 18 also had worse lung function than preemies who never smoked, researchers report in the journal *Thorax*. One limitation of the study is the lack of follow-up after age 18, because lung development typically continues into the 20s, the authors note. Still, the findings suggest that as preemies become adults, they need to make sure to alert doctors about their early arrival and be monitored for potential breathing problems, Doyle said. "Knowledge that they were born preterm and any complications they had should be part of their medical history for life," Doyle said. "They would, of course, also be wise not to smoke."

Parents and children should also pay close attention to any shortness of breath, especially during exercise, said Dr Marjaana Tikanmaki, a researcher at the National Institute for Health and Welfare and University of Oulu in Finland. "It could be a sign of airway obstruction," Tikanmaki, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "Reversible airway obstruction, asthma, can be treated with regular inhaled corticosteroids and with salbutamol that opens small airways in acute shortage of breath." —Reuters



JAUREGUIBERRY, Uruguay: Schoolchildren are seen after taking part in gymnastics class at the auto-sustainable elementary school in Jaureguiberry -80km east of Montevideo- Uruguay. —AFP photos



JAUREGUIBERRY, Uruguay: Trainees work during the construction of an auto-sustainable elementary school in Jaureguiberry.

IN URUGUAY, GREEN SCHOOL 'PLANTS SEEDS' FOR PLANET

'IF THERE WEREN'T ANY TREES, WE'D NO LONGER BE THERE'

JAUREGUIBERRY, Uruguay: A building made of tires and glass and plastic bottles, off the grid and non-polluting: a village in Uruguay is home to a fully sustainable school—and a bold experiment in green citizenship. On this winter morning in the southern hemisphere, the temperature is 7.5 degrees Celsius (about 45 degrees Fahrenheit) in Jaureguiberry, a tiny community of 500 inhabitants an hour's drive east of the capital Montevideo. But inside primary school number 294, which opened a few months ago, the air easily rises to a mild 20 degrees. "We are doing fine, with a more than 50 percent charge only from solar energy," said Alicia Alvarez, 51, the school's director, pointing to energy storage units.

"I turned the light down a little so as not to waste it," she said. Opened last March to children between the ages of three and 12, it claims to be the first public school in Latin America that is totally green. The school is not connected to the national electricity grid. From the outside, its environmental bona fides are evident: colorful recycled tires at the entrance, solar panels covering its roofs, big windows overlooking kitchen gardens. Behind the project is the US architect Michael Reynolds, 70, known as the "garbage warrior" for his long career in building self-sufficient projects with discarded products.

Reynolds developed what he calls "Earthship Biotope"—buildings designed to independently sustain human life. He has built "Earthships" all over the world, from the US state of New Mexico and Easter Island in Chile to Ushuaia in Argentina and Sierra Leone—though he has faced naysayers along the way. "People called me an idiot: building with garbage, what a fool, you're a disgrace to the architectural community," he told AFP. "You know, I was trying to contain sewage and treat it and do all of these things that architects didn't do."

'School full of life'

In Jaureguiberry, about 2,000 tires, 3,000 glass bottles, 1,500 plastic bottles and 12,000 cans were put together with wood, glass and cement to fashion the new school. The project, supported by a local charity and a detergent company, is estimated to have cost \$300,000, according to Uruguayan media. Though it can accommodate 100 students, for now the school has 39, with a wide range in ages. Some are just starting out in preschool and others are in their



JAUREGUIBERRY, Uruguay: General view of the auto-sustainable elementary school in Jaureguiberry.

final year before university.

All of them are excited to be in a school so unique and close to nature. "It's a school full of life," said a smiling Paula, seven, who was concocting with her friends a list of things to do, and not to do, to take care of the planet. This morning, in the class led by teacher Rita Montans, 45, the students are participating in a workshop of creative writing and brainstorming on the theme of environmental protection.

Each offers a proposal. "Don't throw away trash," "Protect plants," "Don't throw out bottles," "If there weren't any trees, we'd no longer be there," declared seven-year-old Sebastian. The aim, according to the teacher, is to create a code of conduct to follow. "Green crosses" are awarded for good practices.

From garden to kitchen

The school is a good example: It produces no

waste and, across from the three classrooms, the compost-fed kitchen garden brims with basil, tomatoes, strawberries and chard. On the roof, rainwater is collected then filtered before it is used in the garden or the toilets. The teachers have special training so they can adapt their courses by tying them to respect for the environment and the responsible use of the building and its energy.

Once a week, the children devote an hour to the garden, picking fruits and vegetables that they have planted and raised, and which they will eat in the canteen. Sebastian said he had cooked cherry tomatoes. "They are good!" eight-year-old Felipe raved. "There is no better learning than to experience things for yourself," said Alvarez, the director. No matter how these students apply their lessons in the future, one way or another, "the seed is already planted," she said. —AFP

FLORIDA EXPANDS ZIKA ZONE IN MIAMI BEACH AFTER FIVE NEW CASES

FLORIDA: State officials in Florida on Friday tripled the active Zika transmission zone in the trendy seaside community of Miami Beach after five new cases of the mosquito-borne virus believed to cause a severe birth defect were identified in the area. The active transmission zone grew from 1.5 square miles to 4.5 square miles and consists of a large portion of the popular tourist destination, Florida Governor Rick Scott said in a statement on Friday evening.

Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine told the Miami Herald that the city will begin truck-spraying of larvicide in the zone on Saturday. "We have a serious problem," he told the newspaper. "Once again, we must take all reasonable and safe action to eliminate this.

This is a problem." The zone was expanded after the Florida Department of Health identified five cases in the area involving three women and two men who all experienced symptoms within one month of each other.

The cases bring the total of non-travel related Zika cases in Florida to 93 and in Miami Beach to 35, the governor said. Three weeks ago, federal health officials warned pregnant women not to travel to Miami Beach because Zika has been shown to cause the severe birth defect known as

microcephaly, a condition marked by abnormally small head size that can result in developmental problems.

The Zika virus was first detected in Brazil last year and has since spread across the Americas. It has been linked to more than 1,800 cases of microcephaly in Brazil.

Adding to concerns are current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that recommend men wait six months after being infected with Zika before trying to have children to avoid passing the virus to a pregnant partner through semen.

The governor also said on Friday he expects the Zika zone to be lifted on Monday in Wynwood where aggressive mosquito control and community outreach measures have been effective after several cases of Zika were confirmed recently in the neighborhood, north of Miami.

Scott also announced that he will authorize an additional \$10 million in state funds to fight Zika and reiterated his call for Congress to provide more federal resources and funding. "Every minute that passes that Congress doesn't approve funding means more time is lost from researching this virus to find a vaccine to help pregnant women and their developing babies," he said. —Reuters

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT TAILORS SPECIAL WEEKEND PACKAGE

Marina Hotel Kuwait has customized an attractive and indulgent weekend package for residents and locals in Kuwait. At a location where luxury meets modernity, and where an attractive sea view, works harmoniously together with the latest technological systems, guests are invited to enjoy their weekends in style in the midst of absolute comfort. With a multitude of facilities and services, guests can break the daily routine and enjoy some peace of mind with a choice of room packages.

Perfect for a short break or a weekend getaway, guests can choose from any of the superior rooms and enjoy state-of-the-art facilities the hotel offers without missing out on other activities including shopping, wellness, sports and much more. They can further enjoy the vibrant white sands of the private beach along with the three pools and the pool bar - all not far away from the ultimate shopping destination, Marina Mall.

The package offers special rates for weekenders in the superior rooms at a rate starting from KD 88 which includes a

buffet breakfast, free access to the hotel's health club, beach and pool area. Guests and their families can experience a luxurious escape after an exhaustive week and indulge themselves with a complimentary buffet breakfast for two persons at the Six Palms Restaurant.

Guests whose taste palettes crave for unique and diverse cuisines can watch authentic innovations spring to life for lunch and dinner at the renowned Atlantis Restaurant with the finest dishes from around the world and views of the

Arabian Sea. The package also includes a 20% discount on buffet lunch and dinner for guests dining at the Atlantis Restaurant. Within close proximity to Marina Mall, one of the best shopping malls in Kuwait, and the Marina Crescent, which houses a variety international restaurants and coffee shops, Marina Hotel is an ideal location for family leisure. The award winning hotel is the destination to be for its dedication to a unique guest experience and high standard of service quality.

AUK TO OPEN DOORS TO THE CLASS OF 2020

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) underwent its final preparations to open doors on September 18th by holding several campus activities this week as part of a comprehensive orientation program to welcome new and returning faculty and students.

The orientation week kicked off with welcome sessions that featured speeches and announcements by AUK administrators including, AUK President, Dr Nizar Hamzeh; Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs, Amal Al-Binali; Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Hanan Muzaffar; Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr Rawda Awwad; Dean of the College of Business and Economics, Dr Jin Wang.

During the welcome sessions, President Hamzeh revealed that 24 new professors and instructors have joined the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Economics, and the Intensive English Program. In addition, an AUK alumnus has been hired as an instructor in the Department of Arabic and Foreign Languages after successfully completing his graduate studies in Arab and Middle Eastern Studies in the UK.

Vice President Amal Al Binali announced the issuance of several scholarships this year, among which were 2 full merit scholarships to 2 new students; in addition to 10 merit scholarships to new and existing students that covers tuition for 1-2 academic years. AUK also continues - for the 6th consecutive year - to offer scholarships granted by the Minister of Education and Higher Education. This year, 5 merit scholarships were granted to students who were on the Minister's list. Other announcements included the anticipated opening of a new building in Spring, 2017 which will house a gym, and a lounge area for the students. AUK has also upgraded the auditorium, classrooms and laborato-

ries with the latest technological equipment to provide the AUK community with dynamic and reliable resources during their time on campus.

The orientation week also included campus tours that introduced the class of 2020 to their new surroundings. Visited sites included the library, admissions office, the Academic Advising and Learning Support Center, and the Center for Continuing Education. The tour provided students with information and guidance that would prove useful once they embark on their journeys at the beginning of the fall semester.

Student Life's Welcome Week will be kicking off at the first week of classes, giving

new students a variety of clubs and organizations that they could take part in that would further immerse them into college life. Established in 2003, The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) currently offers 14 distinct degree programs in various academic disciplines. AUK is accredited institutionally by the Private Universities Council (PUC) in Kuwait. Its business programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP); its social sciences, arts and humanities programs are accredited by The American Academy for Liberal Education's (AAL); and its Intensive English program is accredited by the Commission for Intensive English Program Accreditation (CEA). More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at www.auk.edu.kw



THE SULTAN CENTER CELEBRATES EID WITH CUSTOMERS

Driven by its commitment to share with the community in joyous occasions, The Sultan Center (TSC) celebrated Eid Al Adha with its customers in a cheerful and entertaining atmosphere across its branches in Kuwait. Inspired by the traditional generosity of the occasion, the Eid festivities at TSC included a range of activities promotions and in-store demonstrations and sampling along with displays of exclusive and exotic products imported from around the world.

As children are the most delighted with Eid festivities, TSC made sure to entertain young visitors with exclusive activities and a unique collection of toys and games specially imported for the season that appealed to all ages. Families visiting The Sultan Center Salmiyah, Hawally and TSC Wholesale Center Shuwaikh and Egaliyah could participate in tailor-made entertainment programs for children while enjoying an unparalleled shopping experience amongst a rich offering of products. Children indulged themselves in choosing their favorite toys and participated in fun driven activities turning their Eid into an unforgettable experience.



NSH'S NOBEL CREDIT TO LONG SERVING EMPLOYEES

The joyful tears of these employees seems uncontrollable. The recent days have been memorable with unforgettable memories as they have been credited for their dedication and loyalty. Their long service appears in them like that of a refulgent star. It has been the talk everywhere, in the offices, work sites, accommodations, play grounds and even in family get together, how these members of the NSH family would feel at this top most long service award ceremony held at the headquarters in the Bahraini land of pearl fisheries.

NSH needs no introduction. It is the single largest employer in the Middle East, accom-

modating more than 80,000 from around the globe, most of them from India. This Oil & Gas conglomerate presently has projects worth USD 4 bn. NSH is renowned for its technical expertise, innovative edge, commitment to safety and quality and excellence across all aspects of its multifaceted operations including Building & Infrastructure works, Refineries, Petrochemicals, Fertilizers, LNG Terminals, Steel, Mining, Power, Pipeline projects. To its credit, NSH has the best "best". Recipient of the Safe Contractor in the World, in the Ras Gas job in Qatar by the world renowned Oil & Gas giant Exxon Mobile.

The illuminating event arranged by NSH for

honoring this selected 30 employees, out of its 21 employees who proudly completed their pearl anniversary (30 years), 4202 successful platinum anniversary (20 years) and 9800 completed crystal anniversary (10 years), was inaugurated by Shaikh Khalifa bin Daij Al Khalifa, The President of HRH the Crown Prince's Court - Kingdom of Bahrain and His Excellency Alok Kumar Sinha, the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain. Key personalities from different international organizations, special invitees and NSH senior management team were also present.

Dr Pillai appreciated the achievements and continued commitment, and hailed them as

the company's most valuable assets, citing their key responsibilities. Besides the recipients of this ever memorable long service award from various locations in the Middle East, those from NSH Kuwait include the Vice President Sabu, General Manager Hari Kumar, Project Managers Abdul Rahman, PV Santhosh and Project Control Manager AL Babu.

In Kuwait Operations that started a couple of years ago, NSH introduced several unique employee welfare programs and schemes such as UNO's International Day against Drug Abuse, UNESCO's International Literacy Day, World Heart Day, Employee Engagement, Master Brain Quiz, National Essay Contest for

students, Environment Protection, Parents of Pride, etc. These are a tip of an iceberg. If so, what would be those activities carried out by NSH in the whole Middle East?

It needs a special mention, Padmashri Dr Ravi Pillai, the Chairman of the RP Group always stands first in his paternalistic and guardian approach. The recipients, in their acceptance speech, thanked Dr Pillai and team mates for being in thick and thin, built a genetic type of relationship and nourished NSH, a home away from home. It was announced that the remaining long serving employees would be honored soon in different parts of the Middle East.



AL MULLA EXCHANGE CELEBRATES ONAM IN GALA FASHION

Al Mulla Exchange, the leading Exchange Company of Kuwait marked Onam celebrations by conducting two back to back shows at the American International School hall in Maidan Hawally. Marking their 133rd and 134th shows, Al Mulla Exchange has been regularly conducting these events as a payback to their loyal customers. Renowned cine playback singers Akhila, Najim Arshad and Afzal enthralled the crowd with their musical hits. The show started off with the traditional

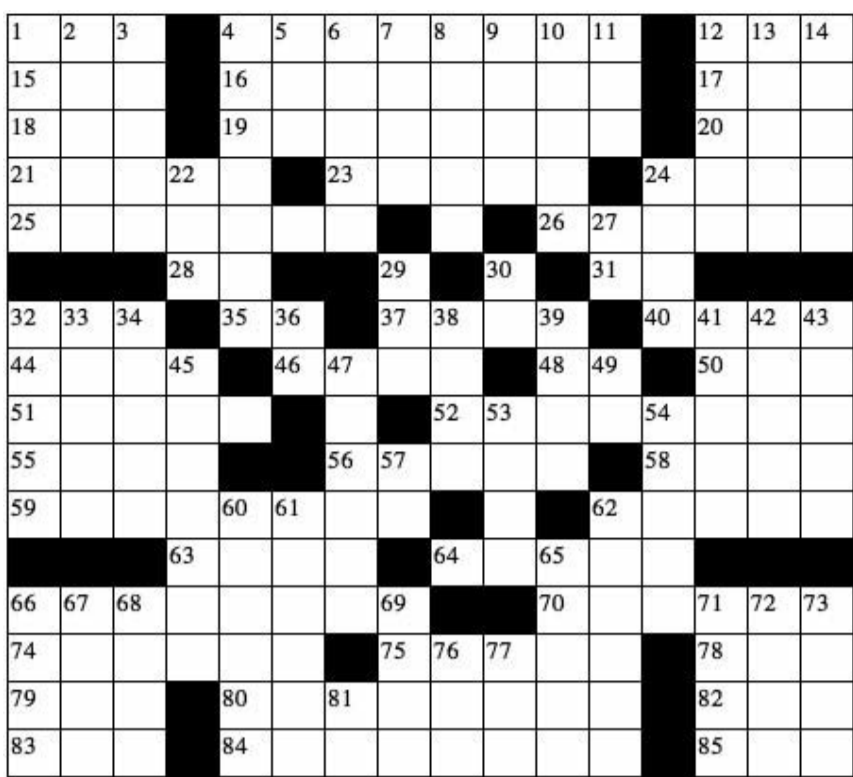
'chendamalam', a Kerala authentic drum show. With 68 branches in Kuwait, Al Mulla Exchange goes beyond the ordinary norms of remittance. With their motto 'Beating customer expectations, not just meeting them' Al Mulla Exchange has kept customers always in the center of their technological innovation and improvements with regards to the remittances.

Al Mulla Exchange also has a loyalty point system which is quite

unique. Apart from getting loyalty points for every transactions being done, there are loyalty points being awarded for doing transactions early, referring a friend, association loyalty points etc. Mr Rakesh Joshi, General Manager of Al Mulla Exchange said 'A customer of Al Mulla Exchange not only gets his transaction credited within split seconds but also has value added benefits like loyalty points, free insurance coverage, free events etc which add to their overall experience.'



CROSSWORD 1375

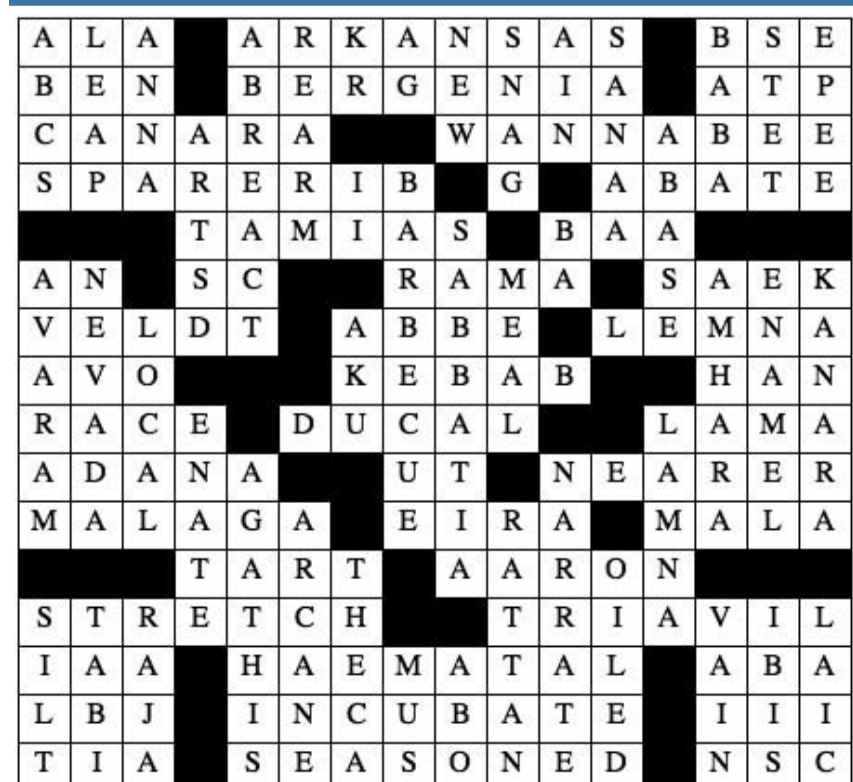


- ACROSS
1. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
4. A city in southwestern California east of Los Angeles.
12. Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse.
15. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet.
16. Cosmopolitan genus of usually perennial herbs with flowers that resemble asters.
17. How long something has existed.
18. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
19. An imaginary line on the surface of the earth following (approximately) the 180th meridian.
20. The principal activity in your life that you do to earn money.
21. A genus of Inidriidae.
23. Someone given to teasing (as by mocking or stirring curiosity).
25. Pacific newts.
26. A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
28. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
31. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
32. The foot of a human being.
35. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
37. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
40. Electronic warfare undertaken to insure effective friendly use of the electromagnetic spectrum in spite of the enemy's use of electronic warfare.
44. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
46. Made of fir or pine.
48. A Russian river.
50. Towards the side away from the wind.
51. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
52. Pig-sized tailless South American amphibious rodent with partly webbed feet.
55. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
56. Extremely exciting as if by alcohol or a narcotic.
58. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
59. A potent narcotic antagonist (trade name Narcan) especially effective with morphine.
63. An international organization created in 1949 by the North Atlantic Treaty for purposes of collective security.
64. (in writing) See below.
66. A thrombolytic agent (trade name Activase) that causes fibrinolysis at the site of a blood clot.
70. One of the two branches of the Finno-Ugric family of languages.
74. Fabric made with yarn made from the silky hair of the Angora goat.
75. Eurasian plant cultivated for its seed and as a forage crop.
78. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
79. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
80. Being one more than seventeen.
82. The bill in a restaurant.
83. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
84. Term used in former classifications.
85. (Babylonian) The sky god.

DOWN
1. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
2. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae
3. The Teutonic god of thunder.
4. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
5. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
6. Type genus of the Sittidae.
7. American novelist (1909-1955).
8. Time during which some action is awaited.
9. (Greek mythology) Goddess of discord.
10. The fifth of the seven canonical hours.
11. Used of a single unit or thing.
12. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
13. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
14. The fourth month of the civil year.
22. Step on it.
24. A French abbot.
27. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
29. A master's degree in business.
30. Being one more than one hundred.
33. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
34. American dwarf fan palms.
36. A public promotion of some product or service.
38. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
39. A reproduction of a written record (e.g. of a legal or school record).
41. A group of biological taxa or species that share features inherited from a common ancestor.
42. One of the often brightly colored and branching hornlike structures on the back of the nudibranch (and other related mollusks) that serve as gills.
43. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
45. Evergreen shrubs and small trees of North and Central America and Asia.
47. People of the same race or nationality who share a distinctive culture.
49. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).
53. Chief port of Yemen.
54. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
57. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
60. Spanish Jesuit missionary who establish missionaries in Japan and Ceylon and the East Indies (1506-1552).
61. Type genus of the Otaridae.
62. Edible viscera of a butchered animal.
65. A friction match with a large head that will stay alight in the wind.
67. A flat device with narrow pointed teeth on one edge.
68. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
69. Not fake or counterfeit.
71. A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
72. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
73. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
76. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
77. (Irish) The sea personified.
81. A physician who is not a specialist but treats all illnesses.

- DOWN
1. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
2. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could find yourself pursuing more spiritual directions or finding someone who can guide you to realizing your inner dreams and ideals.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Community concerns may come to your attention this morning and you may find yourself thinking of ways in which to improve conditions.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You seem to be handling your financial situation much better now than in the past-perhaps you intuitively know that budgeting actually has positive results.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Law, politics, education, travel, religion-these are some of the areas where some emotionally-charged drama will be played.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You will often pause to appreciate the beauty around you. Something different today has come to your attention.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could be on top of the roof or in the basement today. The idea is to inspect and find anything that needs repair within your home or possessions.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Circumstances remind you that time is just flying by and there are things you had thought of accomplishing years ago that you have only just begun to think about now.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You find the past, tradition and all that is historical very romantic and the ideal world of yesteryear seems to beckon and call.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance for you now. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Put your mind and body to work and take care of any chores or errands you may have-mental discipline comes easily.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Perhaps this is a good time to think and study-you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You find yourself in a very practical mood today. Whatever activity fills your day, you will manage very well.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Physics 1

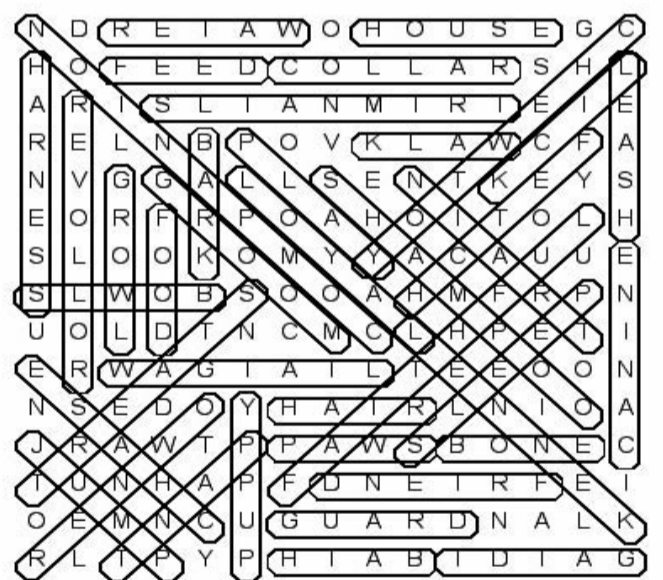
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 30 letters spell an Albert Einstein quotation.



- ACCELERATION
ACOUSTICS
AMPLITUDE
ATOM
BLACK HOLE
BUOYANCY
CENTRIPETAL
COLD FUSION
CONVECTION
DENSITY
DISPLACEMENT
DOPPLER
EINSTEIN
ELECTRON
ENERGY
ENTROPY
EXPERIMENT
FARADAY
FREEZING POINT
FULCRUM
GRAVITY
HAWKING
IMPEDANCE
ISOTOPE
KELVIN
LAWS
LENGTH
LEVER
MASS
MECHANICS
MOMENTUM
NEWTON
OPTICS
PASCAL
PENDULUM
POWER
PRINCIPLES
QUARK
REFRACTION
SOUND
STRING THEORY
TESLA
THERMOMETER
TRAJECTORY
VECTOR
VISCOSITY
WAVE
WEDGE
WORK

Yesterday's Solution

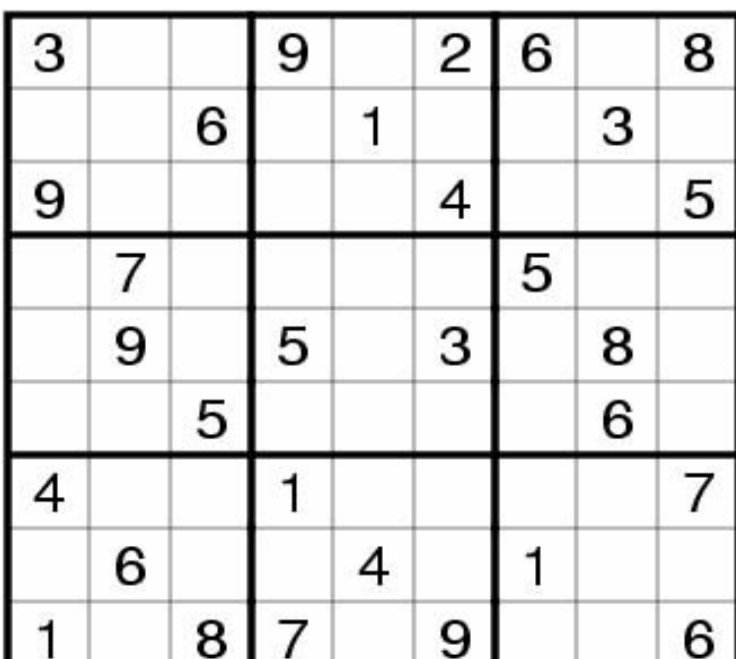
Pet Dog



- BARK
BATH
BONE
BOWLS
CANINE
CHASE
CHEW TOY
COLLAR
COMPANION
FAITHFUL
FEED
FETCH
FOOD
FRIEND
GROOM
GROWL
GUARD
HAIR
HARNESS
HOUSE
ID TAG
JUMP
KENNEL
LEASH
LICK
LOYAL
OWNER
PANT
PAWS
PLAY
PUPPY
ROLL OVER
SHAMPOO
SLEEP
TRAIN
TREATS
TRIM NAILS
WAG TAIL
WALK
WATER

The hidden message is: DOGS LOVE YOU UNCONDITIONALLY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Table listing hospitals such as Sabah Hospital, Amiri Hospital, Maternity Hospital, etc.

Clinics

Table listing various clinics including Kaizen center, Rawda, Adaliya, etc.

Table with 4 columns: GOVERNORATE, PHARMACY, ADDRESS, PHONE. Lists pharmacies like Sama Safwan, Modern Jahra, etc.

Table listing international calls with columns for country and phone number.

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

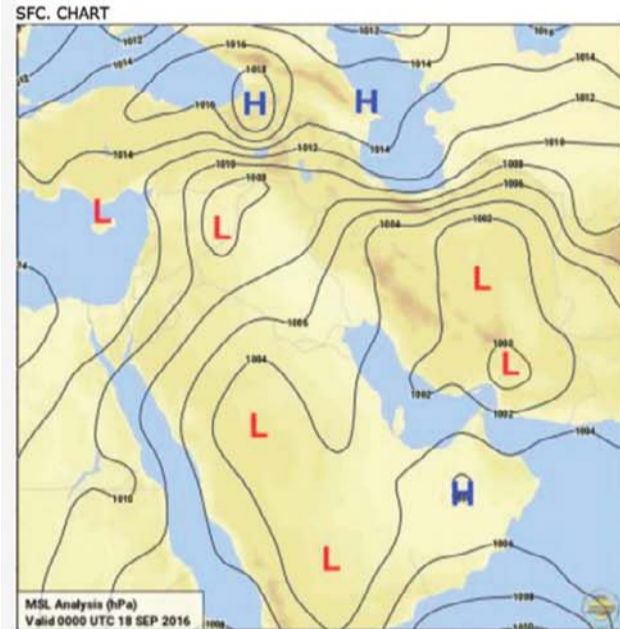
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 18/09/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 44 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate northerly to north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h

By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

Table showing weather forecast for Monday through Thursday with icons and temperature ranges.

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Table showing forecast for various stations in Kuwait like KUWAIT CITY, ABDALY, etc.

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Table showing recorded weather data like Max Temp, Min Temp, Wind Speed, etc.

Prayer Times

Table showing prayer times for Fajr, Sunrise, Zuhr, Asr, Sunset, Isha.



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists

Table listing ophthalmologists like Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor, Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea, etc.

General Practitioners

Table listing general practitioners like Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi, Dr. Yousef Al-Omar, etc.

Plastic Surgeons

Table listing plastic surgeons like Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf, Dr. Abdul-Redha Lari, etc.

Gynaecologists & Obstetricians

Table listing gynaecologists and obstetricians like Dr. Adrian arbe, Dr. Verginia s.Marin, etc.

General Surgeons

Table listing general surgeons like Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer, Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher, etc.

Paediatricians

Table listing paediatricians like Dr. Khaled Hamadi, Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed, etc.

Dermatology

Table listing dermatologists like Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University.

Dentists

Table listing dentists like Dr. Anil Thomas, Dr. Shamah Al-Matar, etc.

Endocrinologist

Table listing endocrinologists like Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman, Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari, etc.

Physiotherapists & VD

Table listing physiotherapists and VD like Dr. Deyaa Shehab, Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees, etc.

Rheumatologists

Table listing rheumatologists like Dr. Adel Al-Awadi, Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah, etc.

Internist, Chest & Heart

Table listing internists, chest, and heart specialists like Dr. Mohammed Akkad, Dr. Mohammad Zubaid, etc.

Table listing psychologists and psychotherapists.

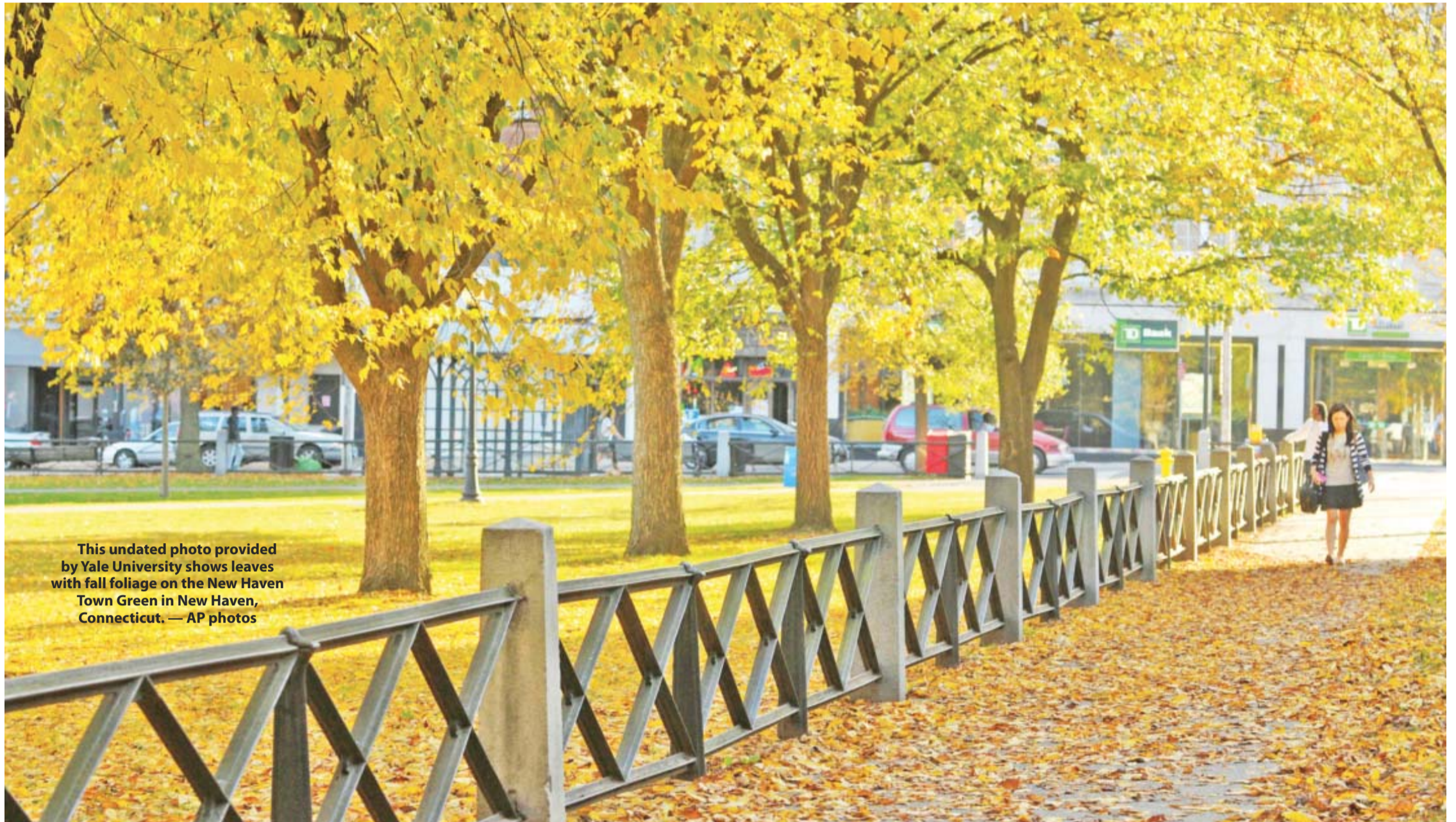
Table listing Soor Center with contact info.

Table listing Kaizen center and Noor Clinic.

Table listing William Schuilenberg, RPC.

A day in New Haven

Art, bells and of course pizza



This undated photo provided by Yale University shows leaves with fall foliage on the New Haven Town Green in New Haven, Connecticut. — AP photos

You don't have to go to Yale to have fun in New Haven. Best of all, you don't have to pay Ivy League tuition prices. New Haven has lots of top-notch free attractions, from art museums to carillon concerts - though you will have to pay to try the city's famous pizza.



This undated photo provided by Yale University shows autumn leaves on the trees beneath the summit of East Rock Park in New Haven, Conn.



Photo shows the Long Gallery on the fourth floor of the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Conn.



Photo shows the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library on the campus of Yale University.

Museums

There are two outstanding art museums near campus. At 1111 Chapel St, the Yale University Art Gallery's collection includes Joseph Stella's kaleidoscopic "Brooklyn Bridge," Van Gogh's desolate "Night Cafe," a Yosemite landscape by Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Hart Benton's "Weighing Cotton," a 1939 depiction of African-American children and others in a field with bags of harvested cotton resembling bleached bones.

The Yale Center for British Art, 1080 Chapel St, offers works going back centuries, from portraits and landscapes, including masterpieces by J.M.W. Turner, to exotic depictions of Britain's far-flung colonial empire. An exciting contemporary gallery features artists like Damien Hirst and David Hockney. Through Dec 11, contemporary exhibitions include a show themed on Britain's colonial legacy by British Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare, who uses wax-printed fabric as a symbol of global trade and imperialism. Shonibare's work is paired with art by other Brits exploring racial identity, including Chris Ofili's etchings of black men in feathered ruffs. Also on Chapel Street, The Study at Yale boutique hotel offers stylish accommodations.

Architecture

Both art museums are housed in important modernist buildings by famed architect Louis Kahn with sleek glass and steel exteriors. The gallery's lobby ceiling is composed of complex tetrahedron shapes, while the British museum galleries are suffused with natural light. Another stunning building, the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, 121 Wall St, just reopened after renovations. Inside, light filters serenely through marble panels, softly illuminating the colored stone's veins. A six-storey glass tower houses thou-

sands of antique volumes. Exhibits include a Gutenberg Bible and Audubon's "Birds of America."

In contrast to these modern structures, most campus buildings are Gothic-revival style, with towers, turrets and arches. Depending on your frame of reference, they'll remind you of Harry Potter or Oxford.

Bells

Yale's Guild of Carillonneurs plays everything from hymns to Broadway tunes on the 54 bells inside Harkness Tower. The magical tones ring out from the tower at 74 High St twice daily, for a half-hour at 12:30 pm and an hour at 5:30 pm.

Food

New Haven is famous for pizza, with a longtime rivalry between Sally's Apizza, 237 Wooster St, and Frank Pepe, 157 Wooster. Pepe's opens at 11 am, Sally's at 4 pm, so you can sample both in one day. Both serve delicious thin-crust pizza made in coal-fired ovens, and both offer tomato pies as well as regular mozzarella cheese pizza (small pies, \$9). Pepe's is a bit spicier than Sally's and also serves an excellent salad of seasonal greens. Students like Yorkside Pizza, which is closer to campus, 288 York St

New Haven has lots of metered street parking, but watch where you park on Wooster Street. I didn't notice signs requiring residential permits, and got a \$30 ticket near Sally's. Other popular eateries include Claire's Corner Copia, a vegetarian cafe, 1000 Chapel St; Union League Cafe, a French restaurant, 1032 Chapel St; and Miya's Sushi, 68 Howe St, whose chef is a James Beard-award nominee.

Louis Lunch, 263 Crown St, originated as a lunch wagon in 1895 and was recognized by the Library of Congress as

the US birthplace of the hamburger. Burgers are cooked medium-rare in antique cast-iron gas grills, served on white toast. I'd heard that Louis doesn't have ketchup, but



The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in East Rock Park, New Haven, Conn.

just in case, I asked if I could get ketchup with a to-go order. "It's in the bag," the counterperson said. "So it's a myth that you don't have ketchup?" I asked. "It's not in the bag," he admitted. "But I didn't want to yell at you." It wasn't in the bag.

History

The Puritans founded New Haven in 1638 and laid the city out on a grid with nine squares. The central commons, New Haven Green, is a downtown park and National Historic Landmark. Yale has been here since 1718. The Grove Street Cemetery, 227 Grove St, (open 9 am, last entry 3:30 pm), dates to 1796.

Many old stones bear no inscription, the words worn away over time. Notables buried here include Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin. A white marker memorializes several Africans who died in New Haven after being imprisoned for a rebellion and takeover of the Amistad slave ship in 1839. Slavery's legacy is still shaking things up in New Haven. You may encounter student protesters asking Yale to change the name of Calhoun College because alumnus John C. Calhoun was a strong defender of slavery.

East Rock Park

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, a tower near the summit of East Rock Park, can be seen from all over New Haven. The 1887 tower honors those who died in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War and the Civil War.

East Rock Park is a heavily wooded park and is popular with runners and bikers. Hikers use Giant Steps Trail to reach the summit. But you can also drive up for a panoramic view of New Haven all the way to the waters of Long Island Sound. — AP



Photo shows hamburgers waiting to be cooked at Louis Lunch, a longtime eatery in New Haven, Connecticut, that began as a lunchwagon in the 1890s.



Photo shows a pizza at Frank Pepe, a famous pizzeria in New Haven, Conn, known for thin crust pies made in a coal-fired oven.

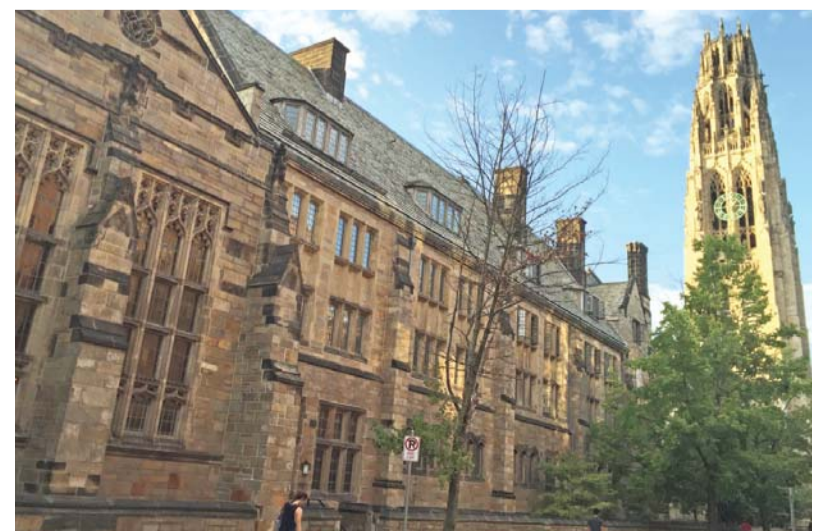


Photo shows Harkness Tower on the campus of Yale University.



Snoop Dogg speaks while being honored with the "I Am Hip Hop" award at the BET Hip-Hop Awards in Atlanta, Saturday. — AP photos



Gucci Mane performs during the BET Hip-Hop Awards.



The audience gestures during a performance at the BET Hip-Hop Awards.

Snoop Dogg honored in politically charged

BET★ HIP HOP AWARDS

Snoop Dogg said he initially felt misunderstood at the beginning of his rap career that ended up turning into a legendary one while accepting his "I Am Hip Hop" honor during a politically-charged BET Hip-Hop Awards show near Atlanta. Rapper Kendrick Lamar surprised attendees Saturday evening by introducing and handing Snoop the award during the 11th annual awards, which was taped.



Lecrae performs during the BET Hip-Hop Awards.

When Snoop Dogg wasn't being honored, the show focused its attention toward police brutality of African-Americans.

Wearing all black, T.I. performed his politically-charged song "We Will Not" as a stage full of people sporting dark attire held up "Black Lives Matter" signs. The



Hip-hop artist 21 Savage poses on the green carpet.

rapper said he was motivated to write the song after hearing about a series of deaths of black people including Sandra Bland, who died while in police lockup after a traffic stop, and Philando Castile who was fatally shot by police during a traffic stop.

Castile was licensed to carry and had a firearm in his car. Rapper Big K.R.I.T. and Lecrae, a Christian rapper, expressed their thoughts on the matter through their own poems and radio host Sway Calloway stood alongside Khaled and said "we're at war." Actor Shameik Moore encouraged people to cast their vote.

Blacks should unite T.I. said at the end of his performance

that blacks should unite adding that "they can't kill us all." Before the show, Snoop said it felt "amazing" to be honored by the network. He broke through under the guidance of hit maker Dr. Dre, releasing his 1993 debut album "Doggystyle," which featured iconic songs including "Gin and Juice" and "What's My Name?" "He means so much to hip-hop," rapper Young Jeezy said. "There are so many who look up to him. He paved a way for so many, and that's why everybody knows him as Uncle Snoop."

Rapper Gucci Mane, recently released from prison, hit the stage first. He performed four songs, kicking his set off with "First Day Out" and "First Day Out Tha Feds" during his performance. The rapper made his return after being released in late May from a Federal Correctional Institution in Terre Haute, Indiana. He served a three-year sentence after pleading guilty to aggravated assault on a fan at an Atlanta nightclub. That sentence ran concurrently with a 39-month federal sentence he was given in 2014 for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. First-time host DJ Khaled followed with "Holy Key" with soul singer Betty Wright and a choir dressed in gold.

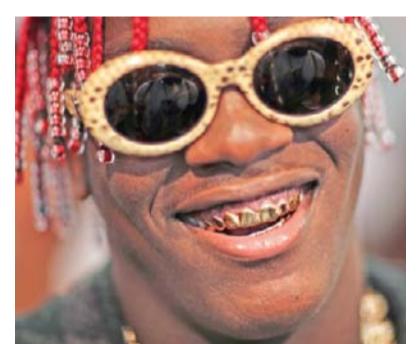
There were several recorded freestyle sessions, known as The Cypher, featuring several artists including Lil Wayne and comedian Kevin Hart, who rapped shirtless wearing dark sunglasses. During Hart's rap, some laughed while other applauded his efforts. Lamar took home Lyricist of the Year, Fat Joe and Remy Ma won Track of the Year award for their song "All the Way Up." The Hustler of the Year honor went to DJ Khaled, and Best New Hip-Hop Artist was earned by Chance the Rapper, who was not in attendance. Rapper Designer closed out the show with "Timmy Turner." The show will air on BET on Oct 4. — AP



Fat Joe, left, and Remy Ma, accept the Track of the Year award for "All the Way Up".



DJ Khaled receives the Hustler of the Year award.



Lil Yachty arrives on the red carpet for the BET Hip-Hop Awards.



DJ Khaled hosts the BET Hip-Hop Awards.



Rapper Kendrick receives the Lyricist of the Year award.



Hip-hop artist Young M.A. poses on the green carpet.



Hip-hop artist Jeezy poses on the green carpet for the BET Hip-Hop Awards.

packed crowd at the Cobb Energy Performing Centre, said the ultra-smooth West Coast rapper "paved a way into many hearts" with his authentic rap flow and infectious persona. Hip-hop royalty from Dr. Dre to Pharrell Williams paid homage to Snoop, a legend in his own right. "He mastered the game through tests and challenges that earned him the respect of a college professor, except his game came from the streets," Lamar said. "He put (me) on game, so I would avoid the same pitfalls. ... Snoop Dogg was the God, and continues to be so." During his acceptance speech, Snoop encouraged up-and-coming rappers to continue to "push the envelope" in being creative and original.

"To all the young rappers in the game, a lot of people don't understand you. Y'all are misunderstood," he said. "I was misunderstood at the beginning. So you got to keep pushing, be original and diverse. Hip-hop was created many years ago and it's taken people so many places. You have to be who you are."



Hip-hop DJ Khaled, right, greets Caiden, the son of hip-hop artist Consequence on the green carpet.



Models wear creations by designer Jasper Conran during his Spring/Summer 2017 runway show at London Fashion Week in London. — AP/AFP photos



Stripes, sparkles, tough love at day 2 of London Fashion Week



Summer may be well and truly over in London - but the fashion crowd is already looking forward to what's hot next spring. Jasper Conran, Julien Macdonald and Emilia Wickstead were among the labels showcasing their new season collections on the second day of London Fashion Week, which also saw Versus by Versace return to the event. Here are some of Saturday's highlights:

Summery stripes at Jasper Conran

An autumnal chill is in the air, but for 15 minutes everyone at Jasper Conran's show enjoyed a mini holiday in sunnier climes. The British designer evoked a romantic summer escapade with a cool collection of crisp shirt-dresses, flowing kaftans, elegant ankle-length A-line skirts and pinafores, all worn with flat nude sandals, carefree tote bags and unfussy up-dos. The shapes were modern and minimal, letting the giant gingham checks and geometric pleating do all the talking.

The standout look was big, bold stripes - in crisp white with cherry red, bright blue or sunny yellow. The show closed with a series of pretty sheer pastel evening dresses, all embroidered with delicate flowers.

Tough love at Versus Versace

Versus, the spin-off label of Versace, returned to the London show circuit with a new collection promising "real attitude." That's clear from the very first outfit that opened the show: A smoldering all-black ensemble of thigh-baring hot pants, a leather jacket and knee-high biker boots.

This was fierce, aggressive femininity, all shiny black leather adorned with big buckles, silver hardware and chokers. Then came sporty olive green nylon coats and cropped khaki bombers with padded shoulders, worn with aviator sunglasses and the haughtiest of pouts.

There wasn't much color, and when it did appear it made a big impact - think an outfit of a barely-there bra top, skinny jeans and parka, all in a striking mango yellow. This being Versace, animal prints couldn't be amiss, this time in the form of a vertical stripe patchwork print. The evening wear that closed the show continued the young urban vibe, featuring

slinky silver and torn denim - a combo that Donatella Versace herself chose to wear for her curtain call.

Sweet and pale hues at Wickstead

Designer Emilia Wickstead put a welcome brake on the catwalk-as-spectacle trend with a subtle show that celebrated femininity without putting it on raucous display. Wickstead used a series of subtle, pale hues, and a dreamy chiffony drape to give some of her full-length dresses a classic, timeless feel. There was beauty in the detail, and a welcome sense of restraint. The models even wore comfortable flat shoes they were able to walk in without evident pain, giving the show a relaxed feel. There were imaginative jumpsuits, nicely tailored, and some stomach-baring outfits that inadvertently showed off a few of the models' tattoos, which weren't part of the design but served to humanize the show. When Wickstead did indulge in brighter colors, she made some creative mixes, pairing orange with a dark pink and using splashy polka dots to set off some outfits. A few dresses harkened back to the 1960s, but she was light on the nostalgia. "We were very excited, very enthused," said "Game of Thrones" actress Rose Leslie, having a prosecco after attending the show with a friend. Would she want the outfits? "Of course," she said. "Who wouldn't?" added her friend.

Beckham debuts new menswear

David Beckham has made another foray into the world of fashion, this time working with British heritage brand Kent & Curwen to debut its new menswear collection.

The always immaculately groomed former soccer star wore a smart navy coat for his

appearance at London Fashion Week Saturday to help promote the brand, which he part-owns. Kent & Curwen describes the clothes as a "meeting of heritage and modernity," and fittingly there is a strong sporty element - think striped rugby shirts, T-shirts and casual outdoorsy jackets. — AP



Models present creations by Italian designer Versace's Versus label during the 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show at London Fashion Week in London.



Models present creations by Italian designer Versace's Versus label during the 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show at London Fashion Week in London.



Jacobs' New York Fashion Week show used 12,500 hand-dyed woolen dreadlocks

The designer sent his models, including Bella Hadid and Kendall Jenner, down the runway on Thursday sporting colorful synthetic locs in around 200-300 different colors, and each one had been carefully hand-dyed and spun by mother-and-daughter team Dreadlocks by Jena.

Hair stylist Guido Palau said: "Marc first started talking about this at the end of July. He's really inspired by Lana Wachowski's hair that we used [in the fall ad campaign]. 'She's got these beautiful, coloured wool hair extensions. Then we had to find out where to get the hair from, so we looked on the internet and Jena was down in Florida making wool-dyed hair!'"

Each of the models took around 90 minutes to complete, leading to worries about getting everyone ready on time. However, Guido said of Jena: "She stepped up to it, it was great." Despite criticisms of cultural appropriation, the hairdresser doesn't think they are right and insisted Rasta culture was "not at all" an influence. He told People Style: "I don't really think about that. I take inspiration from every culture. Style comes from clashing things. It's always been there-if you're creative, if you make food, music, and fashion, whatever, you're inspired by everything."

Instead, as well as filmmaker Wachowski, he also sought inspiration from Boy George, rave culture and the internet. He added "What's fun for me about it is to do something that's so fun to look at-when you see it with the clothes, they become very, very tall. They almost look like they've stepped out of a computer. They look like illustrations at some point, when you see them dressed. And those Harajuku girls, I love the way they are so extreme and it's such a total look and they do it so well!" — Bang Showbiz

Models present creations by designer Emilia Wickstead.

Ruth Wilson wishes she could wear 'big gowns'

The 'Affair' actress would love to done a spectacular dress for a red carpet events, but doesn't think they look right on her petite frame. She said: "There are certain things I would love to rock on the red carpet, which I probably can't. 'Like I love big gowns, these massive outfits, but I drown in too much material so I can't really wear them. You have to be tall and long enough to wear one of those big model-type outfits.'" While some stars don't enjoy dressing up for the red carpet, the 34-year-old actress embraces the chance to show off something spectacular.

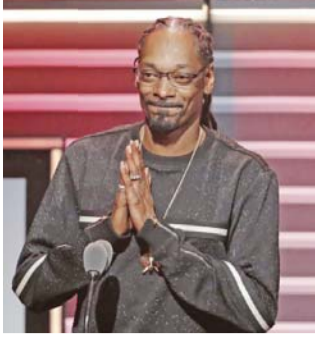
She told People Style: "It's enjoyable to wear these outfits, and you get the opportunity to wear some brilliant clothes." And Ruth admits she is more "brave" with her ensembles than she used to be, having gone through a "boring" phase. Discussing

how her style has changed, she said: "Maybe I've been more brave. When I first started I was wearing very different outfits and some things that were really fun, and then I went through a bit of a boring phase, and now I want to get back to having a bit of fun with it."

But the 'I Am the Pretty Thing That Lives in the House' actress hasn't always looked polished on the red carpet, and is still haunted by an "awful" pink high street dress she wore to the Moët Mirage party at the Opera Holland Park in London nine years ago. She admitted: "There's a photo that exists somewhere of me in this awful bright pink dress that I bought from somewhere like Zara or H&M or something and I was wearing a black beret with it. I look sort of bizarre. I look like a school girl from Mars." — Bang Showbiz



Former football star David Beckham attend the Victoria Beckham Spring Summer 2017 show at New York Fashion Week in New York.



An Indian performer painted as a tiger takes part in the 'Pulikali', or Tiger Dance, in Thrissur. The folk-art event is held every year in the town during the 'Onam' festival. — AFP

China pushes Tibetan tourism while critics fear impact



A construction site behind chalets of the Artel hotel in Lulang, near Nyingchi in China's Tibet Autonomous Region. — AFP photos



Journalists walking past empty buildings in Lulang, near Nyingchi in China's Tibet Autonomous Region.



A woman standing in a kitchen of a family hotel in Zhaxiging, near Nyingchi in China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

China has unveiled a sparkling new hotel as part of its drive to get tens of millions more tourists to visit Tibet, even as critics say the push is slowly eroding the local culture. With a presidential suite that costs \$1,000 a night and views over the snow-capped mountains of the Himalayas, the luxury Artel hotel is a potent symbol of Chinese plans for the autonomous territory. Tourism officials are hoping to see visitor numbers increase by nearly 50 percent in the next four years, said Wang Songping, deputy director of the Tibet Tourism Development Commission. "Tibet attracted four million Chinese tourists in 2005. We hope we'll get 24 million this year and 35 million by 2020," he said.

Critics say the influx will lead to more of China's dominant Han ethnic group settling in Tibet and eroding native Tibetan ways of life, and argue the majority of economic benefits of mass tourism will not go to locals. Official figures say that Tibetans currently make up 90 percent of the local population, but groups opposed to Chinese rule say the real figure is significantly lower. Beijing says it "peacefully liberated" Tibet in 1951 and insists it has brought development to a previously backward region where serfs were exploited. But many Tibetans accuse Beijing of repressing their religion, diluting their culture and exploiting natural resources to benefit the Han at the expense of locals and the environment.

Switzerland of the East

The 103-room Artel opened in mid-August in Lulang, a picturesque village situated at 3,700 meters (12,100 feet) in a southeastern forested area in the autonomous region of Tibet. It is part of a tourist complex built in an old part of town previously occupied mostly by government buildings and restaurants, that now boasts its own shopping street, a lake and an arts Centre. Nicknamed the "Switzerland of the East", the village is seen by authorities as a flagship project for its ambitious plans for Tibet's tourist sector. Transport links are being developed to cater for the influx, including a

motorway opening next year, and a high-speed rail line from the capital Lhasa, expected to open in 2021. Another high-speed rail line to Chengdu, capital of neighboring Sichuan province, home to more than 80 million people, should be completed in 2022. Wang said the number of Chinese tourists, who currently make up 95 percent of visitors to Tibet, has increased by an average of 20 percent each year since the 2006 opening of the first railway linking Tibet to the rest of China. But while outside visitors can boost the local economy, mass tourism has down sides, said Tibet expert Francoise Robin.

"Cultural performances shown to visitors are either favorable reinterpretations of Chinese history or Chinese versions of songs or dances," she said. "Tibetans themselves end up picking up these distorted versions." And while some Tibetans were developing responsible tourism initiatives and eco-tourism, such businesses could often not be developed on a large scale, she said.

'Last in line to benefit'

The influx of tourists is expected to bring in billions of dollars but many are concerned that not everyone will benefit from the windfall. "Travel agents and other people who work in the tourism industry are mostly Han Chinese," said Robin. "The Tibetans... are among the last in line to benefit."

At the Artel hotel, Baima Cicuo, a 17-year-old local trainee who works as a housekeeper, said she was happy in her job-at least in front of her boss. "Before, I depended on my farmer parents. But now I earn 1,000 yuan a month and I learn a lot of things," she said in fluent Mandarin.

The hotel, owned by Poly, a Chinese state-owned group, has invested 280 million yuan (\$42 million) in the project, says commercial director Ray Peng. It currently has 40 employees, 15 of whom are Tibetan. Its guests are likely to be overwhelmingly Chinese. Less than five percent of visitors to Tibet are foreign



Journalists (left) and government photographers (right) taking pictures of a worker cleaning a bed in a room of the Artel hotel in Lulang.



Empty buildings in Lulang, near Nyingchi in China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

tourists, who need to obtain an "entry letter" as well as a Chinese visa when travelling to the region, where they must join an authorized tour group.

Despite the widespread perception that the restrictions are meant to stop the outside world from learning too much about the tensions between ethnic Tibetans and Han, officials insist that is not the case.

"These restrictions are in place because we can't yet provide world class services for tourists", said Bianba Zhaxi, deputy governor of Tibet. "We will be open to tourists from across the world in a few years," he added. But Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok, deputy speaker of Tibet's parliament in exile, said the restrictions serve to hide the truth about Tibet from the outside world.

"If foreign tourists and media are able to travel freely in Tibet, without organized tours, and can collect the views of people, then I think tourism can have a good impact. "Otherwise, nobody will speak and share the problems of the Tibetan people." — AFP