

National Gulf identity a 'necessity': Info Minister



World leaders at UN approve plan for refugee crisis



'Game of Thrones' makes Emmys history



Rams triumph in historic return to Los Angeles



NEW YORK BOMBING SUSPECT CAPTURED IN POLICE SHOOTOUT

OBAMA URGES AMERICANS 'NOT TO SUCCUMB TO FEAR'



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FINANCE MINISTER WELCOMES GRILLING OVER PETROL PRICES

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Finance Minister and acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh yesterday welcomed the announcement of MP Faisal Al-Kandari in which he will file to grill the minister over the government's decision to hike petrol prices. Saleh said in a statement the grilling is a constitutional right of lawmakers and that it will be a good opportunity for him to explain the series of economic reform measures the government has taken in the face of declining oil revenues.

He said he will be able to outline what the government has done in implementing the financial and economic reform charter with regards to economic development, and not only rationalizing expenditures, but also boosting revenues. The minister said that such decisions serve the interests of the country and citizens in the medium and long-term although it could be described as unpopular at present. He said the measures had been based on studies and recommendations by



Anas Al-Saleh

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LINDEN, New Jersey: American citizen of Afghan descent Ahmad Khan Rahami is taken into custody after a shootout with police yesterday. (Inset) Rahami is seen in an image released yesterday by the FBI. — AP/AFP



NEW YORK: An "armed and dangerous" Afghan-born suspect wanted in the weekend bomb attacks in New York and New Jersey was wounded yesterday in a shootout with police and taken into custody. The Saturday attacks and a separate stabbing carried out by a Somali-American with possible links to the Islamic State extremist group has put America on edge over terror fears less than 50 days before the presidential election.

President Barack Obama, in New York yesterday attending the UN General Assembly with world leaders, called on Americans "not to succumb to fear" in his first remarks about the three attacks in the same 24-hour period. "Even as we have to be vigilant and aggressive both in preventing senseless acts of violence but also making sure that we find those who carry out such acts and bring them to justice, we all have a role to play as citizens in making sure that we don't succumb to that fear," he said.

Obama stressed that investigators at this point saw "no connection" between the incidents on the East Coast and the Minnesota stabbing, where police said the attacker made "some references to Allah" in carrying out the attack. Ahmad Khan Rahami, 28, was shown stretched into an ambulance, sporting a bloodied bandage on his right arm and moving his head with his eyes open in the New Jersey town of Linden, according to ABC News footage.

Two police officers were also shot and hurt in the exchange, said the mayor of the suspect's neighboring hometown Elizabeth, adjacent to Newark International Airport. "Mr Rahami is currently under arrest," Mayor Chris Bollwage told CNN.

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News

in brief

Saudi hospital staff strike over wages

RIYADH: Staff at a hospital in eastern Saudi Arabia have gone on strike over unpaid wages, workers said yesterday, in the kingdom's latest case of corporate financial difficulties. "We are on strike," a nurse at Saad Specialist Hospital in the Gulf coast city of Al-Khobar told AFP by telephone. "We didn't receive any salary for three-and-a-half months," she said. The nurse told AFP that "almost all" the medical staff, which includes about 1,200 nurses, have joined the strike action in a country where labor unions are banned. Lower-paid housekeeping and security staff have been paid and remain at work, she said. About 100-150 hospital workers stood outside the hospital yesterday morning as part of the walkout. They also planned to visit the local governor's office to state their grievances, and if that brings no results they would continue the job action today, the nurse said. Only outpatient clinics are closed during the strike and urgent cases are not endangered, she said.

140-character limit on tweets relaxed

WASHINGTON: Twitter announced yesterday it was easing its 140-character limit on tweets, implementing a policy announced in May to no longer factor certain add-ons including pictures into a message's length. "Say more about what's happening! Rolling out now," said an official tweet from the social network, which is seeking to broaden its appeal. The new policy exempts media attachments such as photos, videos and polls from the character limit, as well as tweets that are quoted in a retweet. The latest move eases but does not entirely eliminate the 140-character limit, which was set due to mobile phone text messaging constraints in place when Twitter launched in 2006.

New Abu Dhabi rules for ride-hailing apps

ABU DHABI: Ride-hailing services such as Uber and others will have to register their apps and heed new regulations to operate in Abu Dhabi, a top official at the Gulf emirate's taxi regulator said yesterday. The new regulations are coming "very soon" and will include a provision requiring ride-hailing apps to register with The Centre for Regulation of Transport by Hire Cars (Transad), its general manager Mohamed Darwish Al-Qamzi said. Qamzi said companies such as Uber and Careem suspended their services after Abu Dhabi began enforcing tighter regulations to curb malpractices and a growing black market. "There was a black market, many illegal drivers doing part-time work, over-charging customers and not following regulations," he said. According to the new regulations, ride-hailing apps must work only with luxury private hire companies and strictly follow their price structure. They must also send a list of drivers and cars to Transad, he said. Transad works with seven franchisee taxi companies with 7,645 registered taxis operating in Abu Dhabi.

SAUDI FORCES FOIL IS PLOT, ARREST 17

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry yesterday said its forces had uncovered an Islamic State group-linked terrorist network that was involved in past attacks in the kingdom and was planning future attacks against civilians, security personnel and government sites. The state-run Saudi Press Agency posted images on its Twitter account showing a pressure cooker, an assault rifle equipped with a silencer and suicide vests that were seized by security forces in the months-long operation.

Though US authorities have been careful to say there is no evidence of a link to international terrorism, on Saturday a blast in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York City injured 29 people, and another unexploded device made out of a pressure cooker was

found several blocks away. Also, a pipe bomb exploded in a New Jersey shore town, though no one was injured. A pressure-cooker bomb was used in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings.

Interior Ministry spokesman Maj Gen Mansour Al-Turki said in a press conference the Saudi-based terror network was comprised of three cells. Seventeen suspects, among them one Saudi woman, were arrested in the sweep. Eleven are Saudi citizens, in addition to three Yemenis, two Egyptians and one Palestinian. Turki said the network was involved in preparing suicide vests and improvised explosives, and providing logistics, cover, funding, arms and transportation for terrorist operations inside the kingdom. The network also communicated "with leaders abroad in all their

activities," he said.

The arrests followed months of investigation into the network, Turki said, adding that the militants had prepared more than 25,000 kg of adhesive bombs and explosive belts. Authorities also seized pipe bombs, firearms, silencers and cash in excess of 600,000 riyals (\$160,000).

Local Islamic State group branches and IS-linked attackers in Saudi Arabia have mostly targeted minority Shiites and security personnel, killing dozens of people over the past two years. The Interior Ministry said the terrorist network was involved in harboring two attackers involved in a bombing and shooting in the eastern Al-Ahsa governorate against the Shiite Imam Reda Mosque.

Continued on Page 13



HOMS, Syria: Syrian women walk between destroyed buildings in the government-held Jouret al-Shiah neighborhood of this central city yesterday. — AFP

SYRIA DECLARES TRUCE OVER, BLAMES REBELS

DAMASCUS: Syria's armed forces said yesterday that a weeklong ceasefire brokered by the United States and Russia was over, blaming rebels for the failure of the truce. US Secretary of State John Kerry said meanwhile that the terms had not been met for a key aspect of the deal - US-Russia cooperation against jihadists in Syria. In a statement carried by state news agency SANA, Syria's army said a freeze on fighting it had announced last week had ended, blaming rebel groups it said "did not commit to a single element" of the truce deal.

"Syria's army announces the end of the freeze on fighting that began at 7:00 pm (1600 GMT) on September 12, 2016 in accordance with the US-Russia agreement," the statement said. The truce backed by world powers aimed to help end Syria's brutal five-year conflict, which has

killed more than 300,000 people and displaced millions. But after several days of relative calm, fighting escalated across major battlefronts, culminating in a deadly US-led air raid at the weekend on a Syrian army position and fresh strikes on Aleppo.

The truce "was supposed to be a real chance to stop the bloodshed, but the armed terrorist groups flouted this agreement," yesterday's army statement said. Syria's armed forces "exercised the highest degree of self-restraint while facing violations by terrorist groups," it said. Kerry - who brokered the deal along with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov - said in New York that Russia had failed to meet its side of a deal to enforce the truce, but that Washington was willing to keep working on it.

Continued on Page 13

QATAR TO CREATE ITS OWN VERSION OF 'WALL STREET'

DOHA: Qatar plans to establish its own version of New York's "Wall Street" financial district, a senior official said yesterday, as the emirate seeks to cut its reliance on oil and gas. Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida, head of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), said businesses including his own will relocate to the previously run-down Msheireb area of Doha from mid-2017. The project comes as gas-rich Qatar seeks to establish itself as a regional commercial powerhouse.

The aim was to improve Qatar's financial standing and create Doha's "version of Wall Street or (London's) Canary Wharf," said Jaida. "The objective... is to create a leading financial and business center in the region," he said. "The relocation is part of our commitment to support Qatar in its efforts to diversify national income sources," Jaida told a Doha press conference to announce the relocation. The new financial center will cover an area of up to 300,000 sq m.

Jaida said he hoped the QFC's relocation from central Doha would act as a catalyst for other companies including the Qatar Stock Exchange to follow suit. Msheireb is a major regeneration project in downtown Doha which seeks to revive an old commercial heart of the capital at an estimated cost of more than \$5 billion. It will not only incorporate the financial center but also luxury apartments and museums.

World Cup 2022 host Qatar's attempts at economic diversification comes as it faces an estimated budget deficit of more than \$12 billion in 2016, its first in 15 years. In June, officials warned that more deficits would follow in 2017 and 2018, as an era of lower oil prices forces Arab states of the traditionally taxes-free Gulf region to adapt.

Meanwhile, Qatar's main equity index slumped 4.0 percent yesterday ahead of the additions of some companies in FTSE's secondary emerging market index. Doha suffered from its largest single day drop since January in the heaviest turnover so far this year. Shares in companies set to be included in index compiler FTSE's secondary emerging market index on Sept 20 were the top losers, with mobile phone operator Ooredoo and Islamic lender Masraf Al Rayan each falling 5.1 percent. — Agencies

KUWAITI INVESTORS LOOKING TO BUY STAKE IN WH IRELAND

LONDON: Financial services company WH Ireland Group Plc said yesterday that Kuwaiti European Holdings Group (KEH) was considering buying a stake in the company, sending its shares up as much as 28.7 percent. KEH was close to announcing an agreement to buy nearly 30 percent of WH Ireland shares, and may consider acquiring the London-listed company entirely, Sky News had reported on Saturday. WH Ireland, which offers private wealth management, wealth planning and corporate broking services, did not provide details of the potential deal in its statement. KEH, an investment company focused on property, health and leisure businesses, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The British stockbroker would not be the first to attract investment from the Middle East. The majority shareholder in WH Ireland's rival Panmure Gordon & Co is Qatari investment bank QInvest, with a 43.43 percent stake, according to Thomson Reuters data. WH Ireland, which has a market capitalization of 26.9 million pounds (\$35.10 million) as of Friday's close, was fined 1.2 million pounds by Britain's financial regulator in February, for inadequate controls to prevent trading abuses. The Financial Conduct Authority also banned the company from taking on new customers in its corporate broking division until May 4. The division is focused on small- and mid-cap companies. — Reuters

KUWAIT EXPRESSES CONCERNS OVER 'DANGEROUS CONDITIONS' IN SYRIA

GULF STATE CONDEMNS SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

GENEVA: Kuwait has expressed its concerns over "increasing violence and extremely dangerous conditions in Syria which have resulted in massive destruction, killing, dislocation of people and human suffering." This came in the speech by Kuwait's permanent delegate to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

"Kuwait strongly condemns systematic and dangerous human rights violations that the Syrian people suffer from," he said, calling on the international community to "work for halting climbing rates of war crimes that the Syrian people suffer from, as the UNHCR indicated in its report on violations of the international law for human rights in Syria." "Kuwait also

expresses concern over continuous attacks targeting the working employees in the medical field and the health infrastructure, which greatly weakens the capabilities of the health care sector in this war-torn country," he added.

"It is of great regret that civilians, namely children, are being victims of forced disappearance and abductions," he said, adding that "600,000 Syrians are living under siege, which hampers the arrival of any humanitarian aid to such areas." "Kuwait also voiced regret for the international community inability to alleviate severe humanitarian suffering," the envoy said, calling for action to "put an end to this agony."

"We are not requiring management for this crisis, or searching for military balances, but we are looking for a permanent

political solution for fulfilling stability and tranquility to the Syrian people, and would positively reflect on stability of the region and the whole world."

"Kuwait hopes that the current exerted efforts to halt hostilities in Syria would succeed, to allow dispatch of humanitarian relief to all of the Syrian areas in preparation for resuming the political dialogue," he added. Moreover, it stresses on its strong commitment to the Syrian sovereignty, and the independence and safety of its territories.

"It also condemns the policy of starvation against the besieged civilians, as some of the fighting parties are working to tear apart the national unity of Syria by separation of civilians according to their sectarian and regional orientations," he said.

"Kuwait has always been a great sup-

port to the Syrian people and worked hard to rally international support to the humanitarian operations in the country since the outburst of the crisis, as well as offering relief to the surrounding countries that host Syrian refugees," said Ambassador Al-Ghunaim.

Kuwait had hosted three major conferences for donations for Syria, which aimed at discussing the humanitarian situation in the war-torn country and means of ending the plight of the Syrian people. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on various international occasions and quarters stressed on offering great humanitarian support to the countries suffering from political crises and wars, and helping the large numbers of displaced civilians and refugees resulting from such disasters. — KUNA

DIVING TEAM ORGANIZES CLEANING CAMPAIGN

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Kuwait Dive Team (KDT) launched a cleaning campaign at Al-Salam beach in Shuwaikh area, marking the International Coastal Cleanup Day, and in cooperation with Ocean Conservancy. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team (KDT), affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF) yesterday launched a cleaning campaign at Al-Salam beach in Shuwaikh area, marking the International Coastal Cleanup Day, and in cooperation with Ocean Conservancy.

This campaign came as a part of the team's

responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the Kuwaiti beaches, foreign relations official at the team, Dhari Al-Huwail said. This campaign was supported by Kuwait Municipality, the Indian and Philippines' Communities as well as Ocean Conservancy with which the Kuwaiti team signed a cooperation protocol a year ago. Ocean

Conservancy (founded as the Delta Corporation) is a nonprofit environmental advocacy group based in Washington, DC, United States. The organization helps formulate ocean policy at the federal and state government levels; based on peer reviewed science. Ocean Conservancy is one of the few organizations that help protect wildlife in the oceans. — KUNA



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GCC MINISTERS REJECT IRAN'S OCCUPATION OF UAE ISLANDS

NEW YORK: Foreign Ministers of six Arab Gulf countries have rejected Iran's occupation of three UAE islands urging Tehran to heed Abu Dhabi's calls to solve the issue via negotiations or international arbitration. The foreign ministers, in a statement following their meeting at the Saudi Mission to the UN in New York late Sunday, voiced full support for the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) sovereignty over Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Mousa islands, as well as their territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and economic zones.

They said any decisions or practices by Iran over the three islands would be considered void, and would not change the "historic and legal facts that affirm the UAE's sovereignty over its three islands." They urged Iran to answer the UAE calls to end this dispute either through direct negotiations or referring the issue to the International Court of Justice. The foreign ministers' meeting was attended by Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

US Congress Terrorism Act

In another development, the Gulf Cooperation Council has voiced grave concern over the US Congress adoption of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act because it violated international law principles and would undermine countries' sovereignties. This act will have "negative consequences" on relations among nations including with the US, and would have global economic ramifications, the foreign ministers of the six GCC countries said in a statement following a meeting that was held in Saudi Arabia's Mission to the UN in New York late Sunday.

They hoped the US Administration would not adopt this act which, if approved, would form a "dangerous precedent in international relations" and would undermine solid international principles like equality among nations thus triggering "chaos and instability" worldwide. The meeting, chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir, was attended by foreign ministers of the GCC countries including Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The top diplomats, meanwhile, reiterated rejection of all forms of extremism and terrorism, calling for tackling sources of terrorism financing and underlined commitment to fighting extremist ideologies that aimed at tarnishing image of Islam. The foreign ministers, in their statement, strongly condemned the recent terrorist bombings near the Prophet Mohammad's Mosque in the Saudi city of Madina, as well as in Al-Qateef and Jeddah.

They supported all efforts taken by the governments of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain for restoring order and security in their countries against terrorists' plots, including those supported by Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Hezbollah. They reaffirmed that they considered the Hezbollah militias, their leaders and factions as terrorists. The foreign ministers underscored commitment to fighting so-called Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq, as well as contributing to the international coalition fighting the terrorist group for sake of achieving security and stability in the Middle East. — Agencies



Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah poses for a group photo with GCC FMs. — KUNA

GCC BLASTS IRAN OVER PLOTS TO POLITICIZE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

GULF REJECTS ASSASSINATION THREATS

NEW YORK: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) slammed Iran's bids to politicize the annual pilgrimage and exploit the annual religious event to harm the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This came in a press statement issued by the GCC Ministerial Council, which held its 140th session at headquarters of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations. It was chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir, attended by the GCC foreign ministers and the Secretary General Abdullah Al-Zayani.

The Ministerial Council expressed regret for Iran's refusal to sign the annual agreement for this year's Hajj season, and voiced appreciation toward Saudi Arabia for its utmost keenness and care for the Hajj pilgrims. On the GCC-Iran relations, the council reiterated opposition to Iran's plots to destabilize the regional countries and pledged to work together to counter its intervention in the domestic affairs of the GCC member states.

Moreover, they called on Tehran to take

steps to cooperate and resolve its differences with the neighbors through peaceful means and to immediately cease all destabilizing activities in the Gulf. The ministers also stressed on importance of implementing the nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran, namely Tehran's abidance by limits set on its nuclear program and provisions for transparency, safeguarding and free access to any nuclear facility. Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah headed the State delegation at the GCC meeting.

Assassination threat

GCC also rejected threats to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to Iraq and called on the Baghdad government to protect diplomatic missions in the country. This came in statement at the 140th session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

The meeting was chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir and was attended by GCC Secretary-General

Abdullatif Al-Zayani, along with the GCC foreign ministers.

The Council renewed its commitment to the unity of Iraq and its support for anti-terrorism efforts, condemned "crimes committed" by the paramilitary squad, Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi Forces, against civilians in areas that have been retaken by these irregular forces from the so-called Islamic State (IS). The Council supported Security Council Resolution 2107, which had unanimously decided to refer file of Kuwaiti POWs and missing persons and Kuwait's national archive to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for follow-up, hoping the Iraqi Government would continue cooperating with the State of Kuwait and the international community on these issues.

Moreover, the GCC ministers expressed concern over kidnapping a number of Qatari citizens in southern Iraq, saying that the hostages had entered the country with official permission from the Interior Ministry, in coordination with the Iraqi Embassy in Doha.

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah led Kuwait's delegation to the coordination meeting of the GCC foreign ministers.

Libyans urged to rebuild

Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council urged Libyan parties to complete process of re-establishing institutional structures of the transitional State and empowering the parliament to play its role as stipulated by the national conciliation agreement. It urged the Government of National Accord (Al-Wefaq), in its capacity as the sole legitimate government in Libya, to bolster stability and unity of the Libyan territory and support efforts to confront the terrorist organization "Daesh" - the Arabic acronym for the so-called Islamic State (IS). The statement expressed the GCC States' keenness on Libya's security, stability and territorial unity, also praising efforts of UN Secretary General's envoy to Libya, Martin Kobler. — Agencies



Kuwait First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Iyad Madani, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and other top officials. — KUNA

KUWAIT FM, OIC CHIEF HOLD TALKS

NEW YORK: Kuwait First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has met with Iyad Madani, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in New York. The two officials, during the meeting held at the Kuwait's UN mission, discussed coordinating the OIC Ministerial Meeting, which would be held on September 22.

Kuwait is the rotating chairman of the OIC Ministerial Meeting. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled will be chairing the coordination meeting, due on sidelines of the UN General Assembly's (UNGA) 71st session. Madani, speaking to KUNA after the meeting, said Kuwait has been active in

chairing the OIC Ministerial Meeting. He added his meeting with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was an opportunity to discuss the agenda of the coordination conference.

Madani meanwhile said the OIC urged countries in the Middle East to work together to reach a new common approach to solve regional problems, including the Syrian crisis. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant foreign minister for GCC affairs Nasser Al-Muzayyen and Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi. — KUNA

KUWAIT DELEGATION IN INDIA FOR UNESCO CONFERENCE

NEW DELHI: A high-level five-member Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa traveled to India on Sunday to participate in the UNESCO International Conference on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education: Taking Action. The two-day conference, co-organized by UNESCO and UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development explores ways of containing extremist thoughts and bring peace through education, according to sources from Kuwait Embassy in New Delhi.

A number of ministers and educational experts from Arab, African and other countries of the world are scheduled to participate in the conference, starting on Monday, to build mutual understanding in the field and to deliberate on ways of strengthening cooperation among the countries to end violent extremism. The con-

ference would also work as a platform to strengthen both formal and informal education to safeguard the new generation from violent extremism.

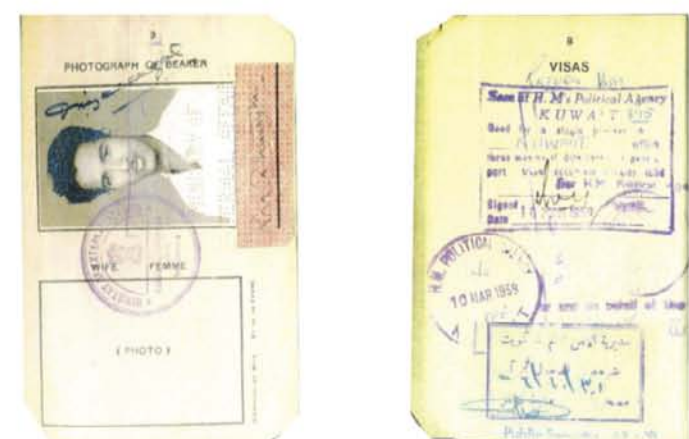
The conference would take up the five recommendations proposed in the UNESCO Guide namely developing education policies for inclusion and diversity, promoting safe and supportive school environments, building resilience and fostering constructive engagement, identifying students at risk and building partnerships. The UNESCO conference would also deal with the poor security situation in many countries due to increasing violent extremism. In addition, a number of education specialists, policy makers, experts, chief security officers, officials from intergovernmental organizations working in the field of Prevention of Violent Extremism would critically analyze and explore ways of developing mechanism to prevent youth from falling in the extremist thoughts. — KUNA



31st October 2016 marks the completion of 60 years of his life in Kuwait, **Mr. M. Mathews** and his wife would like to take this occasion to express their deep gratitude to

Mr. Naser Mohamed Al-Sayer And his Family

They would also like to thank all the friends who enriched their lives during this period in the State of Kuwait.



Photo

of the day



Photo shows dhows used by pearl divers in Al-Khairan. Pearl diving is the act of recovering pearls from oysters in the sea. Pearl diving was once a main source of income along with trade for many Kuwaitis despite the hard conditions faced by divers. — KUNA

News

in brief

Kuwait non-oil sector remains 'robust': NBK

KUWAIT: Kuwait's non-oil economic sector has maintained growth despite decline in oil prices by more than 50 percent over the past two years, according to a report released by the National Bank of Kuwait yesterday. This sector grew in 2016 and is forecast to keep the upward trend in 2017, as compared to the recession witnessed in some neighboring countries. This improvement is largely attributed to the government adherence to the development scheme. The NBK report forecast decline of the financial deficit, in 2017, in tandem with gradual improvement of the oil prices. The Brent Blend is expected to climb from \$45 per barrel this year to \$55 pb in 2017. Gross domestic product grew from 0.5 percent in 2014 to 1.8 percent in 2015, while the non-oil GDP slowed by 1.3 percent in 2015. The non-oil GDP remained robust, in 2015, at 3.5 percent, but would grow by 4 and 4.5 percent in the remaining year and next year. Crediting grew by 4.2 percent on yearly basis till last May, largely buoyed by lending for the sectors of businesses, property and financial institutions.



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Najib Al-Bader is pictured with Governor of Queensland retired General David Hurley. — KUNA

Kuwait and Australia discuss boosting ties

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Najib Al-Bader met with Governor of Queensland retired General David Hurley to discuss boosting bilateral ties. In a statement yesterday, Al-Bader said he has expressed Kuwait's appreciation towards Australia's efforts to protect the Gulf region's security and its role in the Global Coalition to Counter Daesh (the Arabic acronym for the so-called Islamic State). The Ambassador also noted that he met with senior officials in the Parliament of New South Wales and other top figures in the educational, cultural and investment sectors. Meanwhile, the ambassador met with 161 Kuwaitis studying in Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, among over 1000 other Kuwaiti students currently in Australia.

NEWS AGENCIES URGED TO BOOST COOPERATION

ARAB NETWORKS FACE GROWING CHALLENGES

TUNIS: Chairman of the Board and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah called on Arab news agencies to boost cooperation for better media services. News agencies today, mainly Arab networks, are facing growing challenges to provide free media in a changing world, said Sheikh Mubarak during his chairmanship of the International Symposium of Arab News Agencies Federation on "the future of Arab news agencies: the elements of continuity and challenges of quality," organized by Tunis Afrique Presse (TAP) yesterday.

Arab agencies have a lot of expertise and abilities to overcome any obstacles once cooperation was developed, said Sheikh Mubarak. He noted that Arabs must provide further transparency, neutrality and honesty in their media coverage, while also boost speed in covering news items. The agencies are in need for conducting thorough studies in different work aspects in order to have a bright future for Arab media, he added.

The chairman noted that the agencies must provide different services to individuals, rather than only focusing on

media organizations. He mentioned in this matter KUNA's SMS news service and electronic archiving that aim to provide people with accurate news away from rumors. Meanwhile, Sheikh Mubarak called on agencies to also focus on providing photos to enhance their news items, photo features, political analysis and interviews with leaders and senior officials. He also stressed on the importance of organizing specialized training courses to develop the skills of the agencies' employees. — KUNA



Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects receives bids for Umm Al Hayman Wastewater Project. — KUNA

KAPP RECEIVES BIDS FOR THE UMM AL HAYMAN WASTEWATER PROJECT

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) said yesterday that all proposals from prequalified bidders for Umm Al Hayman Wastewater Project were received. The consortia qualified to participate in the Request for Proposals (RFP) competition for the project include WTE Wassertechnik GmbH Group ("WTE"), International Financial Advisors KSCC ('IFA'), Kharafi

National KSC and Alfanar Company, the KAPP said in a statement to KUNA.

The Project represents an important opportunity for the private sector to partner with the government of Kuwait for mutual benefits and optimal wastewater service delivery for the citizens of the State of Kuwait, it said. The Project forms an essential part of the Government's ongoing initiative to provide a greater role for the private sector in the development of the country's national infrastructure, and desire to promote investment and participation by the private sector in the development of wastewater treatment services in Kuwait, it added.

Umm AlHayman Project shall involve design, financing, building (or upgrading / rehabilitation), testing, commissioning, operation, maintenance and transfer of wastewater treatment plant with a treatment capacity of 500,000 m3/d (can be expanded in the future depending on flow ability to such expansion to a final capacity of 700,000 m3/d), it noted. A Kuwaiti public joint-stock company will be established to build, operate and manage the project for 25 years according to a partnership agreement between the public joint-stock company and Ministry of Public Works, it added.

The project's objectives include the improvement of the overall state of infrastructure in Kuwait's water and wastewater sector; ensuring the standard of sanitary services in the country adheres to both international and local environmental guidelines and best practices, it said. Umm AlHayman also ensures compliance of any effluent discharge to the sea, TSE reuse and sludge handling with KEPA (Kuwait Environmental Public Authority) regulations. In addition to delivering best-in-class implementation and technology at the most competitive price possible. — KUNA

kuwait digest

GOING IN CIRCLES

By Labeed Abdal



The new Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) launched on Sept 6, 2016 by UNESCO in London showed the potential for education to progress towards all the global goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but warned of the tall challenges for both people and the planet as a whole ahead to reach the learning targets. This sheds light on urgent issues facing a considerable number of countries worldwide that are already chasing to lead the world and parroting about keeping other countries going in circles.

The report shows that education will not fulfill its potential to boost progress unless there is greater participation across sectors, learning becomes truly lifelong and education systems fully embrace sustainable development. And education itself must transform from becoming a holistic solution to global challenges, which include growing urbanization and refugee populations.

Well, to achieve this, we need radical change in the way we view the role of education in global development, because education has the greatest impact on the future of both individuals and the planet. It needs firm attitudes in general with regards to peace and stopping armed, well-staged and hired conflicts, because such hostilities are against the simplest of human values. The report also stressed that education should, more than any time before, focus on 21st century challenges and develop the right patterns of values and skills that would lead to sustainable development and peaceful coexistence, which is becoming a must in a world dominated by a few elite countries.

The report argues that chronic underfinancing of education is holding back progress. To cover the \$39 billion annual financing gap would require a sixfold increase in aid. We need a radical break, especially in low- and middle-income countries, to mobilize domestic resources to build education across the board, tackle challenges urgently and holistically. It also shows the need for education systems to step up attention to environmental concerns. Half of countries' curricula worldwide do not explicitly mention climate change or environmental sustainability in their contents. The spread of awareness about international development plans extending up till 2030 requires more public-private sector partnership with all civil community bodies to work for achieving a promising future for all mankind without discrimination, even in education.



KPI Chief Executive Officer and convention chairman Bakheet Al-Rashidi.

KPC sponsors Petrotech Exhibition & Conference

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries will sponsor Petrotech Exhibition and Conference (2016) due in Bahrain September 26-29, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) said yesterday. KPI Chief Executive Officer and chairman of the convention, Bakheet Al-Rashidi, said yesterday that KPC CEO Nezar Al-Adsani would take part in the inaugural session, scheduled to tackle the issue, "economic recession and its impact on oil manufacturing industries." The event groups a large number of elite figures in the sector.

GCC justice officials reach an extradition agreement

RIYADH: The 20th meeting of Undersecretaries of Justice of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations centered on an extradition agreement between GCC states, Kuwait's Undersecretary of Justice Abdullatif Al-Sarraye said yesterday. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Sarraye, who headed Kuwait's delegation to the meeting, said that the meeting tackled several focal issues germane to this agreement, in addition to efforts to combat human trafficking. Moreover, the GCC Undersecretaries of Justice also looked over several judicial edicts, including a planned legal network that would bind GCC justice systems together, he added. The Kuwaiti Undersecretary of Justice also underscored the need for further judicial and legal cooperation between GCC states, which is expected to be further discussed at a meeting of GCC Ministers of Justice slated for October. In addition to Al-Sarraye, Kuwait's delegation to the meeting included Assistant Undersecretary of Justice Affairs Ali Al-Salman, along with other Justice officials.

Firefighters contain leakage of hazardous material at the Port

KUWAIT: A team of firefighters were able to control a leakage of hazardous material from a container in a customs area at Shuwaikh Port without any casualties, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) announced yesterday. The container, imported from Asia by way of a Gulf country, contained highly flammable and poisonous material, Director of Capital Governorate's Fire Department Mohammad Al-Shatti said in a statement to KUNA. Moreover, he added that firefighters have removed the container due to the grave danger it poses.

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Information Minister Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah speaks during a lecture on Gulf identity. — KUNA photos



NATIONAL GULF IDENTITY A NECESSITY: INFO MINISTER

KUWAIT: A national Gulf identity is not merely a slogan but a "necessity" that needs to be reinforced, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday. Sheikh Salman, who is also Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), made those remarks in a speech he gave during a lecture on Gulf identity, organized by the NCCAL, against the backdrop of Kuwait being named the "Capital of Islamic Culture 2016." He underscored that a Gulf identity has

become an urgent need in an age of increased solidarity and camaraderie, adding that the country's leadership have always emphasized the importance of such an identity.

Speaking on tourism in GCC nations, Sheikh Salman said that bolstering cultural ties would further solidify the camaraderie between GCC countries, as he called on increased exchange between youth to further those ties. Meanwhile, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH), Prince Sultan bin Salman bin

Abdul Aziz that the GCC possesses all the tools needed to forge a unified identity. The Saudi official also spoke of his country's aspirations to turn the tourism sector into a robust industry, adding that Arab culture has come under threat as of late, "as it would behoove us to be more open and active." Furthermore, Kuwaiti academic Dr Mohammad Al-Rumaihi said that culture contains both humanitarian and scientific aspects to it, as he stressed that a nation's ideologies and laws are what shape up the sense of identity. — KUNA

KISR'S DECISION ANNULLED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Administrative Court yesterday annulled a decision by KISR terminating a contract with the institute's human resources manager. It ordered returning him to his post until the contract signed with him in 2013 expires in 2017.

Galaxy Note 7 to be replaced

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that in collaboration with the official dealership Babtain Samsung, all Samsung Galaxy Note 7 mobile phones sold in Kuwait will be replaced within two weeks after receiving a new shipment. The Ministry added that owners were advised to hand over their phones and that the company agreed to provide them with substitute devices free of charge.

'Safri' season begins

Kuwaiti historian and astronomer Adel Al-Saadoun announced the beginning of a season locally known as 'Safri'

that usually lasts until winter. Saadoun also warned of illnesses that usually spread during this season such as allergies and colds that may last until the rainy season starts.

MP filed two inquiries

MP Khalil Abdullah filed two parliamentary inquiries addressing Health Minister Ali Al-Obeidi and Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih concerning MoH's intention to privatize Jaber Hospital. He also sought details about the hospital and the patients who would be treated there. Meanwhile, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Al-Omar stressed on the need to cooperate with the parliament when the next term begins, so that they can continue with the achievements that are already in motion. Omar also denied receiving any parliamentary request to hold an urgent session and stressed that such requests should usually be signed by a parliamentary majority.



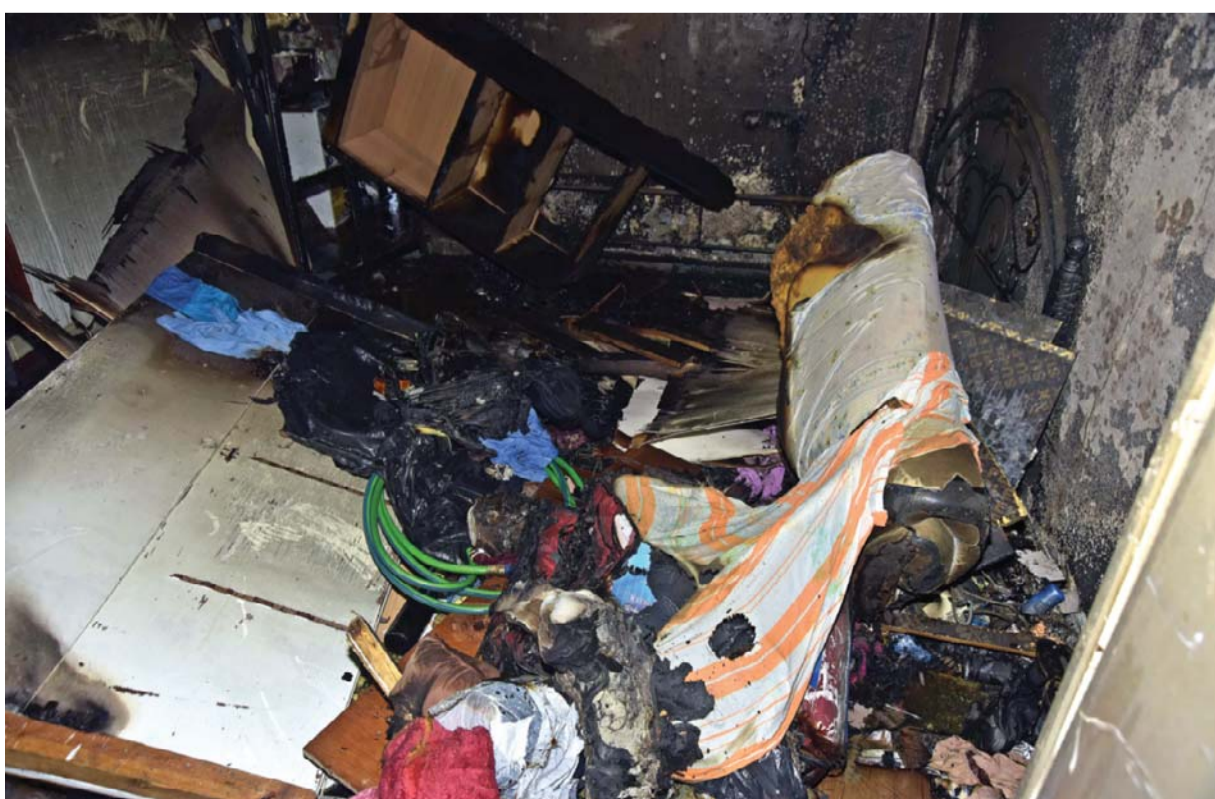
FIRE IN KHAITAN, SALMIYA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fire broke out yesterday in a Khaitan building, and tenants managed to control it before firefighters arrived at the scene, said security sources, noting that the fire was in a sixth-floor apartment. The sources added firemen examined the scene and made sure the fire was extinguished. No casualties were reported. Another fire broke-



out in a Salmiya apartment, said security sources, noting that on arriving at the scene, firemen found the fire on the first floor and immediately worked on ventilating and evacuating the building before they controlled the fire. No casualties were reported.



Men rescued

Three Asian men were injured when a fire broke out inside their Mahboula apartment. Firetrucks from Mangaf and Fahaheel stations responded to the call and fought the blaze, which originated in the fifth floor apartment. The three men were rescued by firefighters and the fire was contained.

Impacts of recent fire

A meeting was held yesterday between EPA Director Sheikh Ahmed Al-Humoud, PAAAFR Director Faisal Saud Al-Hasawi and KFSD director Lt Gen Khaled Al-Mekrad to discuss possible environmental impacts of the recent fire in Sulaibiya and the violations that caused it. The meeting also recommended forming a special tripartite committee to prevent any similar violations and remove them in various areas.

Incriminating meth

Mol's Relations and Security Media Department said that the Health Ministry officially issued two ministerial decisions (232 and 233/2016) on incriminating meth and all its derivatives and listing them as psychotropic substances as of Sept 4, 2016 - the date on which both decisions were published in the official gazette.

Back to school

Mol's Assistant Undersecretary for Operations Maj Gen Jamal Al-Sayegh stressed that the operations sector has completed all preparations for the new school year, focusing on safe journeys for students to and back from schools, in addition to facilitating easy flow of traffic. He added that police helicopters would monitor various streets at rush hours and report to the operations center immediately.

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Crime

Report

'DAESH' INVITES LOCAL TO JOIN TERROR GROUP VIA PHONE CALL

KUWAIT: A citizen living in Rawda reported receiving a long distance call from a neighboring country from someone who spoke classical Arabic and invited him to join IS because they intend to carry out an attack soon, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a force from state security went to the citizen's house where they listened to the phone call the citizen had recorded.

Officer in drug charge to return to Kuwait

In new developments related to the case of a Kuwaiti police officer arrested in possession of drugs at Hurghada airport, security sources said that Kuwait's embassy in Cairo announced that the man was released on bail. He will soon be returned to Kuwait for further investigations. The sources added that the officer would most probably be dismissed from service.

Financial crimes fugitive arrested

A citizen in his sixties wanted for a KD 50,000 financial claim was arrested in Farwaniya, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol detained the man after checking his ID and finding that he was wanted.

Car thieves arrested

Three Syrians were arrested in Fintas for breaking into parked vehicles and robbing them of their contents. Case papers indicate that detectives suspected the three men who seemed nervous while checking their IDs. They were questioned and they confessed that they had been moving around stealing from cars and that they had already broken into two vehicles that night.

Drug mule caught

An Asian was arrested on arrival at Kuwait International Airport with 12 capsules of heroin. Case papers indicate that on searching the man's luggage, custom inspectors found 12 medical capsules. Upon investigation, the capsules were revealed to contain heroin. A case was filed and the suspected was referred to relevant authorities.

Drinking and fights

After drinking together, two citizens started fighting in a Salmiya street, where a police force was dispatched to control the fight. The suspects resisted arrest, but were controlled and referred to relevant authorities. In a similar incident, 11 Asians were arrested in Nugra after a mass riot on the streets following a drinking session. The men started shouting and fighting, causing panic among residents. The suspects assaulted a police officer and damaged property. The group was finally brought under control when backup arrived. The men will likely be deported.

Brothers attack man

Two citizens were arrested and a third one rushed to Jahra Hospital in a critical condition, said security sources, noting that the injured sustained double bone fractures and had his veins cut. The source added that the two assaulters turned out to be brothers who admitted to attacking the injured man over unsettled old scores. A case was filed.

Domestic violence case

A Filipina married to an Egyptian filed a complaint against her husband at Nugra police station, accusing him of assaulting her over some family disputes. The wife added that her husband brutally beat her, causing her a head injury and several bruises. A case was filed and the husband has been summoned for further investigations.

Illicit medicine seller caught

A Bangladeshi was recently arrested in Jleeb with a large quantity of MoH medications he offered for sale in a street market. The suspect tried to flee the scene but was caught. The medications also included erectile dysfunction medicines and other unlicensed items.

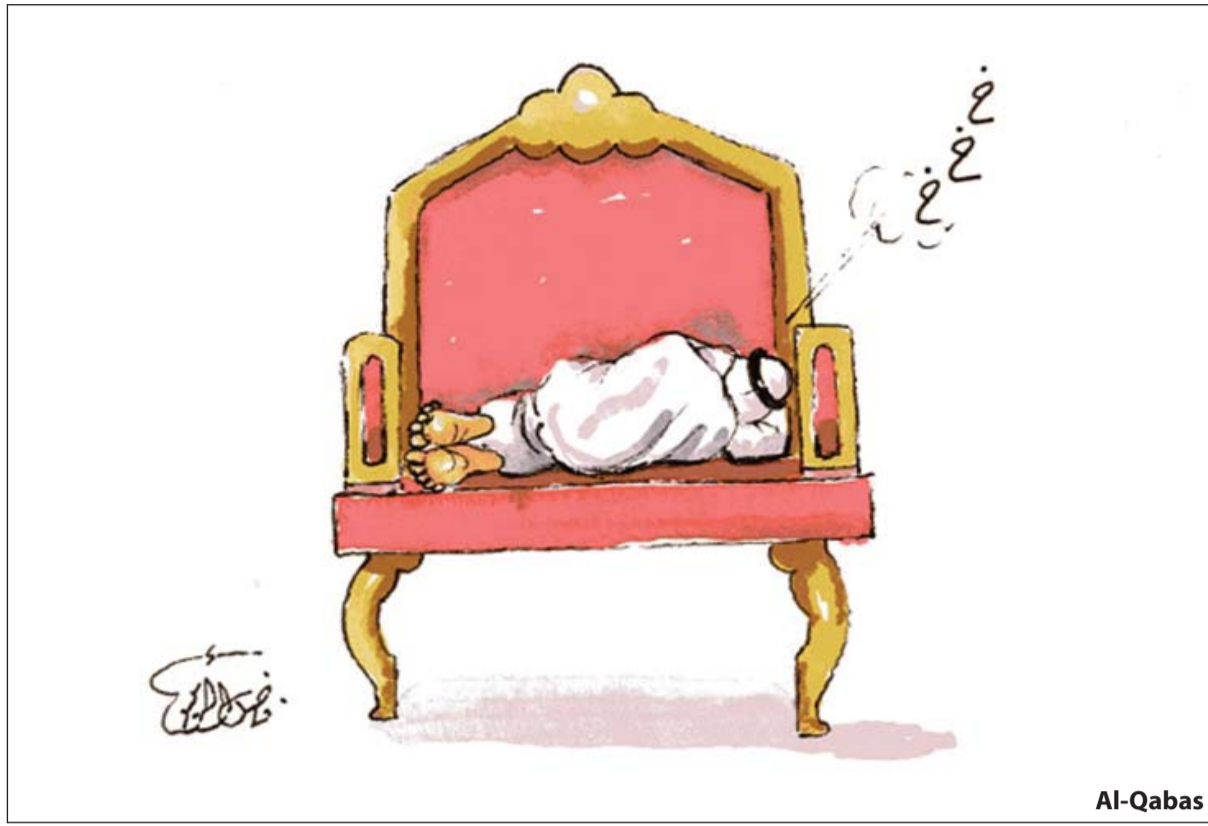
Delivery driver robbed

A fast-food Asian delivery reported that four unidentified people dressed in dishdashas assaulted him while making a delivery in Jahra at dawn, and stole KD 59 from him.

Phone fraud

An Egyptian filed a fraud case against an unidentified caller, accusing him of withdrawing KD 500 from his bank account. The man added that he fell for the trick that was new to him when the caller told him that he was the lucky September winner of KD 20,000 and asked for his bank account number and pin code to deposit the prize. He added that on checking his bank account balance, he found it empty, and that the KD 500 was withdrawn one hour after the call. A case was filed.

A bedoon who was recently arrested for drug abuse was found to be in possession of bedoon security and health insurance IDs as well as an Iraqi passport. Policemen found the passport on searching the suspect. —Crime reports translated from Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Al-Qabas



Al-Anbaa

HISTORY SUICIDE AND GEOGRAPHY ASSASSINATION

By Salah Al-Sayer

During the US-Russia conflict when the world was divided between two powers, people lived according to clearer laws - a major Eastern superpower versus a major Western superpower, a non-aligned bloc, Cold War and some regional wars with a few differences. However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and mankind shifting into a so-called unipolar world, old laws gave way. What is currently happening on Earth has nothing to do with what used to take place in the past. It is as if people themselves are different from those who lived in the past.

American writer Francis Fukuyama wrote that history came to an end, and thus geography came to an end too, now since countries' geographies have become very open by land, sea and air to other countries. New states like IS were born within the geography of ancient ones like Syria and Iraq. Loyalty has become cross-country and cross-geog-

raphy. The head of the Lebanese Hezbollah group declares his loyalty to Iran instead of his home country, Lebanon. We have all watched IS members tear up passports that had been issued in their home countries and declare allegiance to a mysterious man who is a mixture of truth and imagination!

History has committed suicide and geography was assassinated in this new globalized age. Countries' borders and exits have become no more than illusionary dots and lines on maps after they used to be very considerable and important. After migrating to Europe used to be the dream of strong, brave and adventurous young men who kept begging European embassies for visas, it became an easy task easily done by women and children lining up as refugees, and now when death boats have become much faster than the Schengen visa, we have endless lines of them in the heart of Europe.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



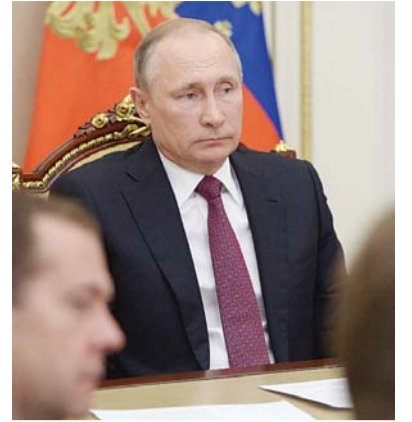
AALBORG UNIVERSITY AND ACK SIGN MOU

KUWAIT: The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AALBORG University, Denmark. The aim of the agreement is to enhance cooperation in education between the two institutions, and to develop the Project Based Learning Center as well as the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at ACK. Representing ACK, the MoU was signed by Dean Dr Gad Elbeheri and Eng Sager Al-Sharhan, Acting Chief Operations Officer while the Dean for Faculty of Engineering and Science Dr Eskild Holm Nielsen signed on behalf of AALBORG University.



CBK CELEBRATES ACADEMY'S FIFTH BATCH

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently celebrated graduating the fifth batch of banking services employees after they finished their training in CBK Academy at Faiha branch. On this occasion, CBK's Human Resources Manager Mona Al-Abdul Razzaq congratulated the trainees and highlighted the significance of constant development - both theoretical and practical training for all staff members including the new recruits.



Putin's party scores crushing win in Russia parliament vote

INDIA'S MODI THRASHES OUT RESPONSE TO DEADLY KASHMIR RAID

WORLD LEADERS AT UN APPROVE PLAN FOR REFUGEE CRISIS NOT LEGALLY BINDING

UNITED NATIONS: With more people forced to flee their homes than at any time since World War II, global leaders yesterday approved a declaration aimed at providing a more coordinated and humane response to the refugee crisis that has strained resources and stoked divisions from Africa to Europe.

The issue of what to do about the world's 65.3 million displaced people took center stage at the UN General Assembly with leaders from the 193 member states converging on New York for the first-ever summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants.

"The bitter truth is this summit was called because we have been largely failing. Failing the long-suffering people of Syria, in not ending the war in its infancy. Failing others in now chronic conflict zones, for the same reason. Failing millions of migrants who deserve far more than lives marked by cradle-to-grave indignity and desperation," said Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Zeid praised the political consensus reached in approving the New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees, but warned against complacency and self-congratulation.

He said xenophobia is a major factor contributing to failure thus far. "We can change this ... but not when the defenders of what is right and good are being outflanked in too many countries by race-baiting bigots, who seek to gain, or retain, power by wielding prejudice and deceit, at the expense of those most vulnerable," Zeid said.

No concrete commitments

The declaration no concrete commitments and is not legally binding but rather calls on countries to protect refugees' human rights, boost humanitarian aid and increase resettlement of refugees.



In this Aug. 13, 2015 file photo, a man carries a girl in his arm as they arrive with other migrants just after dawn on a dinghy after crossing from Turkey to the island of Kos in southeastern Greece. —AP

"Today's summit represents a breakthrough in our collective efforts to address the challenges of human mobility," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, adding that the declaration will mean "more children can attend school; more workers can securely seek jobs abroad, instead of being at the mercy of

smugglers, and more people will have real choices about whether to move once we end conflict."

The document seeks to standardize responses to refugee situations and provide better education and jobs to refugees. It also encourages resettlement and includes plans

for a campaign to combat xenophobia.

That may prove an uphill struggle as the declaration comes at a time that refugees and migrants have become a divisive issue in Europe and the United States.

A number of countries rejected an earlier draft of the agreement that called on nations

to resettle 10 percent of the refugee population each year, something that has led several human rights groups to criticize the document as a missed opportunity. The US and a number of other countries also objected to language in the original draft that said children should never be detained, so the agreement now says children should seldom, if ever, be detained.

The declaration paves the way for negotiations on a pair of global compacts, one providing guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations and another on seeking more equitable burden sharing in support of the world's refugees.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, refugees are people forced to flee due to armed conflict or persecution, while migrants choose to move in search of a better life. Around the world, there are currently about 21.3 million refugees, 3.2 million asylum seekers, and 40.8 million migrants.

More concrete progress is expected at a follow-up summit on Tuesday called by President Barack Obama, where at least 45 countries are expected to make pledges that are in line with US goals of increasing humanitarian aid by \$3 billion, doubling resettlement and increasing access to education for 1 million youngsters and access to employment for another million of the displaced.

"You hear all around the world the UN hasn't handled the refugee crisis. The way the UN will handle the refugee crisis is if all of us countries within the UN step up and dig deep and face those political headwinds that we all face, to do more, to give more, to take on a greater share of the resettlement challenge," said Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the UN.

Prior to the pledging summit with world leaders, Obama will host a meeting with top executives from 50 companies to discuss what the private sector can do to help address the problem, Power said. —AP

NESPRESSO INVITES YOU TO ENJOY A DEEPER TASTE OF BRAZIL WITH NEW CAFEZINHO DO BRASIL LIMITED EDITION



In Brazil, coffee is deeply ingrained within everyday life – it's a warm welcome from a stranger, a gossip in the local café and a sharing of business proposals. A 'cafezinho' or 'small coffee' in Brazilian Portuguese is almost a synonym for 'welcome' with the offer of coffee made the moment one enters a household or business, creating an instant personal connection over this treasured beverage. Inspired by the rich, colourful and vibrant Brazilian coffee culture, the experts at Nespresso have created Cafezinho do Brasil, a unique and powerful Limited Edition Grand Cru.

Set to transport your tastebuds to the pulsing centre of a thriving Brazilian town, Cafezinho do Brasil has been designed to reflect the best sensorial qualities of a Brazilian cafezinho. The Nespresso team spoke with locals to discover the flavour and aromas associated with their ideal cafezinho. Building on these local preferences and taking inspiration from

the nation's deep coffee culture, the coffee connoisseurs at Nespresso developed a powerful coffee that captures the essence of cafezinho in an espresso.

Alexis Rodriguez, Head of Coffee Development at Nespresso, explained, "The Brazilian locals taught us that the preferred coffee profile had bitterness, roasted notes and a very distinctive aroma. In order to capture these notes, identified by Nespresso as walnut, sandalwood and herbal, we carefully selected Arabica beans from Southern Brazil. It is in the state of Espirito Santo, near the sea, that the air has a high level of humidity which helps to develop these special notes within the coffee cherries. We worked closely with the farmers who handpicked the coffee beans which specifically carried the distinctive notes."

As with all Nespresso Grands Crus, careful and considered sourcing was an essential factor when developing Cafezinho do Brasil. It is a Pure Origin coffee which means that all of the coffee has been sourced from Brazil. Agronomists from Nespresso worked alongside the farmers, discussing their current practices and demonstrating a

specific Arabica harvesting technique to strip only the ripe beans without letting them come into contact with any earth to retain the particular flavour needed for Cafezinho do Brasil.

CAFEZINHO DO BRASIL FLAVOUR PROFILE

A pleasantly bitter blend of select Arabica beans from Southern Brazil is enhanced by pulped natural, sweet Bourbon. A velvety textured cup with an unexpected walnut and sandalwood aroma, and unusual herbal notes reminiscent of thyme or rosemary. Intensity: 9

Serving size: Espresso (40ml)
Cafezinho Do Brasil can also be enjoyed with milk: Adjust the coffee serving size to 25ml to create a delicious cappuccino that is a sweet sensation of salty, bitter and toasted notes reminiscent of salted peanuts. Or, add 40ml of coffee to 100ml of frothed milk to create a Latte

Macchiato with sweet, round walnut notes and a light smoky aftertaste.

Each year Nespresso creates eagerly anticipated limited edition coffees to deliver new sensory pleasures to some of the world's most discerning coffee lovers. The latest Limited Edition, Cafezinho do Brasil is set to offer an intense, distinctive and velvety coffee experience that transports the senses deep into the heart of Brazil.

Cafezinho do Brasil is available for a limited period at Nespresso boutiques worldwide, as well as through orders from the Nespresso Customer Care Centres and online at www.buynespresso.com



JORDANIAN VOTERS SKEPTICAL AHEAD OF GENERAL ELECTION

AMMAN: Patriotic music and songs praising Jordan's King Abdullah II boom from a white tent pitched in Amman by candidates standing in today's parliamentary election. Dozens of supporters mill about, sipping bitter black coffee or biting into syrup-drenched pieces of konafa, a traditional Arabic sweet. But their hearts are not quite in it. Hani Ajour, 55, says he has "no faith in the election." "Unfortunately the results are known in advance."

The government puts its cronies in parliament and after the vote campaign promises are forgotten," he adds. But Ajour also admits that he will vote today and cast his ballot for a "friend", one of several candidates on a tribal list. Jordan's electoral system gives disproportionate clout to rural districts, which are less populated than the cities but tend to return tribal candidates loyal to the monarchy.

The Phenix Center, a local pollster, said that 32 percent of Jordanians would vote for a family or tribe member, while 27 percent believe that voting is a national duty. Mohammed, who worked for the interior ministry for 30 before retiring, does not belong to either category. "They're all hypocrites. Believe me, elections in Jordan are a big lie," he says, declining to give his full name. Mohammed says he has visited the tent every day since campaigning began out of a sense of "duty" to support a candidate from his tribe, but also that is determined not to vote on election day.

"Even if my father rose from his grave to stand in the elections, I wouldn't vote for him," he says. With the exception of the opposition Islamists, who can count on grassroots support, other candidates rely on tribal and family connections. Experts expect that the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, will win around 20

seats in the 130-seat parliament, making it the largest opposition force. The IAF boycotted elections in 2010 and 2013 in protest at the then electoral law which played in favor of pro-government and tribal candidates, but decided to stand this year after the law was amended.

Campaign pledges ignored

In past elections, Jordanians complained of alleged vote rigging and vote buying and denounced the MPs they voted for, saying they failed to deliver on election pledges to improve their lot. Habib Lotfi, an electrician, is among those who says he will vote "because it is my electoral right", but he also says he is not happy with the system and the candidates. "Most of the candidates work for personal gain, not to improve people's lives," he believes. Shopkeeper Bilal Shalabi agrees. "It's always the same—the deputies who get elected don't work for the good of the people. The exact opposite: they pass laws imposing new hardships on us," he says.

Unemployment in the kingdom is 14 percent, with the under 30s who represent 70 percent of the population of 9.5 million the worst hit, official statistics show. However, unofficial estimates put the number of jobless as high as 30 percent. Last year growth slumped to 2.4 percent, down from 3.1 percent in 2014, and the prices of most goods, electricity, fuel and other services are constantly rising. Jordan, stuck between Iraq and Syria, has borne the brunt of the conflicts ravaging its two neighbors and over the years has received a steady influx of refugees.

Despite the challenges facing the tiny resource-poor kingdom, some voters remain optimistic.



AMMAN: Islamist candidate Murad al-Adayle (C) waves to the crowd during a campaign conference for the National Alliance for Reform in Sweileh district late on September 16, 2016. —AFP

Sawsan, a blonde woman in her 30s, says she did not vote in the past two elections. But she will this time, and says she will cast her ballot for "emerging new groups" of candidates. "I've seen new groups entering the political arena with new programs. I'm hoping for big changes, actually, and that's why I've

decided to vote this time," she says. Samer Qobani, 40, adds: "Democracy can't be built in a day. It's true that our elections are always dominated by money and tribal relations more than political debate, but bit by bit we're trying to change things." — AFP



TESTOUR, TUNISIA: A photo taken on August 21, 2016 shows the Sidi Salem dam near Testour, in Tunisia's north-west Beja region, which has particularly low water levels due to a 30 percent drop in rainfall in the North African country this year. —AFP

TUNISIA WATER SHORTAGES SPARK 'THIRST UPRISING' WARNING

BEJA: Activists are warning of a potential "thirst uprising" in Tunisia following protests over severe water shortages after one of the North African nation's driest summers on record. Residents in the interior are suffering long water supply cuts, reservoirs are running dry and farmers are seeing significant losses, adding to social tensions in a country still struggling with instability since its 2011 revolution.

The Tunisian citizens' water observatory, known as Watchwater, warned last month the country could face a "thirst uprising" reminiscent of the protest movement that spread across Tunisia nearly six years ago. "The failure to find urgent and serious solutions will increase protests across the country," it said. Water scarcity has long been a problem for Tunisia, but in recent years the challenge has been exacerbated by growing urbanization and increasing demand from agriculture and industry.

This year has seen the country particularly hard-hit, with rainfall-Tunisia's main water source—down by some 30 percent, the state secretary for water resources and fishing, Abdallah Rabhi said. In August, the agriculture ministry warned Tunisia would be facing a "catastrophic" situation if it did not rain by the end of the summer. The few rainstorms since have not been enough to replenish groundwater reserves or reservoirs. Agricultural losses for this year have already reached nearly two billion dinars (\$900 million/800 million euros), according to the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Call to 'pray for rain'

The ministry of religious affairs has even called on the people to "pray for rain". Since mid-May, the authorities have announced more than 700 water supply cuts. Officially they last from several hours to three days, but Alaa Marzouki of Watchwater said that in some regions the cuts have lasted nearly a month. Protests have erupted in several affected areas, with the water shortages adding to the frustrations of many residents who feel their concerns are being ignored by authorities in Tunis.

At one demonstration in the northwestern town of Fernana earlier this month, protesters gathered at a local pumping station and threatened to disrupt supplies to the capital, according to local media reports. "Economic protests resembling those that sparked the 2010 Jasmine Revolution are spreading throughout Tunisia and may grow into nationwide civil unrest," the Washington-based American Enterprise Institute warned in a report this month.

In the southwestern Gafsa region, local farmer Mabrouk said frustration was growing. "We are suffering," said Mabrouk, who declined to give his last name. "We had to buy a water tank for 30 dinars for what we use and what our animals use. We've sent requests to the government but they remain unanswered."

All we can do is wait for rain, God willing," Tunisia has some 30 dams and reservoirs that provide irrigation of agricultural land and

drinking water, but by the end of August their reserves were less than 40 percent of what they were at the same time last year, Rabhi said.

'Very dangerous situation'

Some, like the Nabhana reservoir in central Tunisia, are completely dry. At the Sidi Salem dam near Beja in northern Tunisia, reserves are about half what they were last year. "You have to go back to 1993-1994 to find such a level," said the dam's manager, Cherif Gasmii. "If rain does not come by the end of September... we will have to tap the dam's strategic reserves and that's a very dangerous situation," he said. Groundwater levels in areas without dams have also fallen, in some cases by 25 percent, said Mohamed Dahech, the CEO of SONEDE, the national water supply authority.

With consumption increasing by an average of four percent a year, SONEDE has urged Tunisians to use less water. But Marzouki of Watchwater said more needed to be done. "The state has not put in place the necessary strategies," he said, pointing in particular to decrepit water pipelines that leak 10 to 30 percent of supplies. SONEDE's Dahech said a major issue is unpaid bills, which have reached the equivalent of some 60 million euros so far this year. The government has promised a raft of measures, including unblocking several dam projects and the construction of three desalination plants in the south. — AFP

ONE PALESTINIAN SHOT DEAD, 3 OFFICERS WOUNDED

JERUSALEM: Palestinians carried out two knife attacks against Israeli police yesterday, leaving one assailant shot dead and three officers wounded as a new surge in violence raised concerns ahead of upcoming Jewish holidays. There have been seven such incidents since Friday, coming after Palestinians wrapped up Eid Al-Adha celebrations and as Israel tightened security ahead of Jewish high holidays in October. The upsurge has shattered several weeks of relative calm.

In yesterday's first incident, a Palestinian stabbed two Israeli police officers outside Jerusalem's Old City before being shot, Israeli authorities said. A 38-year-old policeman was in serious condition from a stab wound to her neck, while a policeman in his mid-40s was being treated for moderate stab wounds. The Palestinian attacker was in serious condition after being shot in the head and limbs. Police identified the perpetrator as a Palestinian in his 20s from east Jerusalem and said he had followed the officers before attacking them.

He was shot by the policeman he stabbed, a statement said. The attack happened by the Herod's Gate entrance to the Old City in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem. Later in the day near a flashpoint holy site in Hebron in the occupied West Bank, two Palestinians attempted to stab Israeli border police before being shot, police said. One of the attackers was killed and the other was in critical condition, a police spokeswoman said. One of the officers was "very lightly wounded in his hand".

Tension at holy site

While the recent assailants are believed to have acted on their own, Hamas spokesman Abdel Latif Qanoua yesterday said the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip welcomed the attacks. He called them "a natural response to the crimes of the Israeli occupation against our people". The Israeli army called the recent escalation "further testament to the ongoing influence of incitement on the Palestinian street and social media networks". An Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also noted the possibility of a "copycat effect" of one attack influencing another. The official said tensions may be increasing because of the "online incitement" of Palestinians regarding Jewish visits to Jerusalem's Old City and Al-Aqsa mosque compound. The compound is the third holiest site for Muslims and the most sacred for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount. The Jewish holidays see an increase in Jewish visitors to the site in east Jerusalem. On Sunday, Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu extended his nearly year-long order barring members of parliament and ministers from visiting the volatile site. He "instructed that a response team be established to refute disinformation about Israeli policy on the Temple Mount", his office said.

Clashes erupted at the Al-Aqsa compound last year during the Jewish high holidays amid Muslim fears that Israel was planning to change rules governing the site, claims Netanyahu vehemently denied. Jews are allowed to visit but not pray there to avoid stoking tensions. The site is central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with Palestinians fearing that Israel may one day seek to assert further control over it. Far-right members of Netanyahu's coalition have called for Jewish prayer rights at the compound, while hardline groups favor construction of a third Jewish temple there.

Since October, 228 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, one Jordanian, one Eritrean and a Sudanese have been killed in ongoing violence, according to an AFP count. Israeli forces say most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks. Others were shot dead during protests and clashes. Many analysts say Palestinian frustration with the Israeli occupation and settlement-building in the West Bank, the complete lack of progress in peace efforts and their own fractured leadership have helped feed the unrest.

Jordan demands explanation

An incident on Friday has led to a dispute between Israel and Jordan, one of two Arab nations that have a peace treaty with the Jewish state. The incident, also outside Jerusalem's Old City, saw a Jordanian shot dead after trying to stab a police officer. Amman disputed the Israeli account, calling the shooting of 28-year-old Saeed Amro "premeditated" and a "barbaric act".

However, Israeli police released video footage of the incident in which Amro is seen approaching two officers holding a knife in each hand with his arms raised before being shot. A police spokeswoman said he was yelling "Allahu Akbar"—God is greatest. Jordanian Information Minister Mohamad Momani met Israeli ambassador Einat Schlein yesterday to demand information on the shooting, a Jordanian government statement said. Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon confirmed the ambassador "was summoned for a talk at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry as part of the ongoing dialogue on the matter, including updating the details of the event". — AFP



ALEPPO: In this Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016, file photo, activists in Syria's besieged Aleppo protest against the United Nations for what they say is its failure to lift the siege off their rebel-held area. —AFP

FORMER VATICAN EXORCIST DIES

VATICAN CITY: The former exorcist of the Vatican and the Diocese of Rome, Gabriele Amorth, has died aged 91, Italian media on Sunday quoted his entourage as saying. Amorth, who had been suffering from pulmonary problems, entered the priesthood in 1954 and was soon seconded to Father Candido Amantini, whom he succeeded in his post as the Vatican's chief exorcist in 1990. He also founded the International Exorcists' Association (AIE), which he oversaw until his

retirement in 2000 and which today has some 250 exorcists working in 30 countries. In 2013, a French publishing house quoted him as saying he had performed 160,000 cases of exorcism-including prayer rituals as opposed to the casting out of demons "possessing" people.

Several cases of casting out evil spirits are ascribed to Jesus himself in the Gospels. Amorth's work, "The Last Exorcist-My Fight Against Satan", was published in France in

2013. The Vatican officially recognized the AIE in 2014, some in the Roman Catholic Church having viewed exorcism as a questionable practice.

Amorth was famously asked several years ago if the Devil, to whom he often referred, was present inside the Vatican, to which he responded: "He has tried already," referring notably to the 1981 assassination attempt against John Paul II and also sex scandals within the Church. He also spoke out against

Harry Potter books, indicating reading that reading them encourages children to believe in black magic. Pope Francis has often referred to the "Devil," demons and "Satan" being at work and cited the need to fight against evil.

Last week, the pontiff, asserted that killing in the name of God was "satanic" as he paid homage during a mass to mark the memory of French priest Jacques Hamel, murdered by Islamic extremists in France in July. — AFP

FARC DISSIDENT GUERRILLAS DESCEND ON AMAZON GOLD

SANTA SOFIA: As Colombia's FARC rebels prepare to sign a historic peace deal with the government, dissident guerrillas are reportedly clinging to their guns deep in the Amazon rainforest, targeting its gold. In the past few months, as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government have wrapped up a deal to end 52 years of conflict, a faction of fighters from the rebels' First Front has come out in opposition to the peace process. According to a local official, at least 40 of them have taken up positions inside the Yaigoje Apaporis National Park in southeastern Colombia, a remote expanse of lush rainforest on the Brazilian border. The park's more than one million hectares (2.5 million acres) are home to isolated indigenous groups and also hold sizeable reserves of gold.

Five renegade guerrillas have already approached indigenous leaders there and warned they must "submit to their conditions," according to the local official, Paulo Estrada, a rights ombudsman for the state of Amazonas. Their 'conditions' are basically that the indigenous peoples refuse to work with international aid groups, reject the presence of the state and submit their leaders and resources to (the fighters') orders," he said. He raised concern about the well-

being of the local indigenous populations, which have had little contact with the outside world and may not be immune to its diseases. "The indigenous peoples who live here are very vulnerable to any outside presence," he said.

Gold, not politics

A faction of First Front rebels declared their rejection of the nearly four-year-old peace process in early July, vowing to continue the armed struggle the Marxist guerrilla group launched in 1964. The FARC, which is due to ratify the final peace accord at a national conference this week, responded that it would brook no dissent. If Colombians vote in favor of the accord in a decisive referendum on October 2, FARC members are supposed to leave their mountain and jungle hideouts and turn in their arms at 28 demobilization sites.

But estimates by the government and private analysts predict around 10 percent of the FARC's 7,500 fighters may refuse. It is one of several complications facing both sides as they seek to wind down a war that has drawn in multiple left- and right-wing armed groups and criminal gangs across the decades, leaving 260,000 people dead and 45,000 missing. The government is still fighting a smaller rebel group, the National



CAQUETA, COLOMBIA: Head of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Timoleon Jimenez aka "Timochenko" attends a Cultural event during the second day of 10th National Guerrilla Conference in Llanos del Yari, Caqueta department, Colombia, on September 18, 2016. —AFP

Liberation Army (ELN) - which has an estimated 2,500 fighters-as well as drug gangs. Colombia is the world's largest cocaine producer, and narcotics have been a key funding source for various armed groups involved in the conflict, including the FARC. Illegal mining has

also been a lucrative funding source. Analysts say that, rather than politics, is likely behind the renegade First Front movement.

'Abandoned by the state'

The Yaigoje Apaporis park is known

for its large gold deposits, and "some speculate" it also has oil and uranium, said Alvaro Pardo, director of a mining studies center called Colombia Punto Medio. "It's an area with a lot of gold," and "it appears there's a large hydrocarbon field that extends to Ecuador and Venezuela," he said.

Those aren't the region's only riches: it is also home to 362 species of birds, 152 species of reptiles and amphibians and around 400 species of butterflies, according to the national parks service. The presence of renegade rebels planning to plunder the park's gold and other resources is causing concern for the environment.

But the guerrillas appear determined. "They told us they're going to keep fighting to the day they die," a local community leader said, speaking on condition of anonymity. There is little local officials can do. Community authorities' demands to leave the zone have come to nothing, despite two meetings with the rebels. Park director Diego Munoz said four rebels showed up at one of his offices on June 22 demanding a boat and fuel. When staff refused, they took them anyway. He worries his rangers may have to quit the area. The rebels "say this is a zone that's been abandoned by the state. That they have won," he said. —AFP



WASHINGTON: In this June 5, 2015 file photo, a view of the Homeland Security Department headquarters.—AP

US GOVERNMENT 'MISTAKENLY GRANTED' CITIZENSHIP TO AT LEAST 858 IMMIGRANTS

WASHINGTON: The US government has mistakenly granted citizenship to at least 858 immigrants who had pending deportation orders from countries of concern to national security or with high rates of immigration fraud, according to an internal Homeland Security audit released yesterday. The Homeland Security Department's inspector general found that the immigrants used different names or birthdates to apply for citizenship with US Citizenship and Immigration Services and such discrepancies weren't caught because their fingerprints were missing from government databases.

The report does not identify any of the immigrants by name, but Inspector General John Roth's auditors said they were all from "special interest countries" - those that present a national security concern for the United States - or neighboring countries with high rates of immigration fraud. The report did not identify those countries. In an emailed statement, the Department of Homeland Security said the findings reflect what has long been a problem for immigration officials - old paper-based records containing fingerprint information that can't be searched electronically.

DHS says immigration officials are in the process of uploading these files and that officials will review "every file" identified as a case of possible fraud. DHS officials identified an additional 953 people who had been naturalized despite

outstanding deportation orders, though auditors couldn't determine if those immigrants had digital fingerprints on file or not. Roth's report said fingerprints are missing from federal databases for as many as 315,000 immigrants with final deportation orders or who are fugitive criminals. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has not reviewed about 148,000 of those immigrants' files to add fingerprints to the digital record.

The gap was created because older, paper records were never added to fingerprint databases created by both the now-defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service and the FBI in the 1990s. ICE, the DHS agency responsible for finding and deporting immigrants living in the country illegally, didn't consistently add digital fingerprint records of immigrants whom agents encountered until 2010. The government has known about the information gap and its impact on naturalization decisions since at least 2008 when a Customs and Border Protection official identified 206 immigrants who used a different name or other biographical information to gain citizenship or other immigration benefits, though few cases have been investigated. Roth's report said federal prosecutors have accepted two criminal cases that led to the immigrants being stripped of their citizenship. But prosecutors declined another 26 cases. ICE is investigating 32 other cases after closing 90 investigations.

ICE officials told auditors that the agency hadn't pursued many of these cases in the past because federal prosecutors "generally did not accept immigration benefits fraud cases."

ICE said the Justice Department has now agreed to focus on cases involving people who have acquired security clearances, jobs of public trust or other security credentials. Mistakenly awarding citizenship to someone ordered deported can have serious consequences because US citizens can typically apply for and receive security clearances or take security-sensitive jobs. At least three of the immigrants-turned-citizens were able to acquire aviation or transportation worker credentials, granting them access to secure areas in airports or maritime facilities and vessels.

Their credentials were revoked after they were identified as having been granted citizenship improperly, Roth said in his report. A fourth person is now a law enforcement officer. Roth recommended that all of the outstanding cases be reviewed and fingerprints in those cases be added to the government's database and that immigration enforcement officials create a system to evaluate each of the cases of immigrants who were improperly granted citizenship. DHS officials agreed with the recommendations and said the agency is working to implement the changes. AP

GUAM'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CRISIS OVER CHILD SEX CLAIMS

HAGATNA: A Vatican administrator has urged Rome to remove the head of the Catholic Church in Guam over child sex allegations, warning the scandal could bankrupt the church in the deeply religious Pacific territory. Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai was sent to Guam three months ago to investigate the accusations against Archbishop Anthony Apuron, who denies any wrongdoing.

In a statement read out at church services across the island on Sunday, Hon said he had asked the Holy See to dismiss Apuron after the cleric refused to stand down voluntarily. "I can assure you that

the gravely serious allegations against Archbishop Apuron will continue to be dealt with... a canonical trial," the statement said. "His Holiness, Pope Francis, is monitoring the proceedings," he added. The allegations date back to the 1970s, with at least four former altar boys saying they were molested by Apuron, then a parish priest. Apuron, who has headed the Agaña archdiocese since 1986, has not been charged with any crime. Hon's statement did not directly address the veracity of the allegations, instead expressing sorrow over the issue of clerical child abuse. —AFP

DR CONGO BANS OPPOSITION RALLY; 2 POLICEMEN KILLED

KINSHASA: DR Congo authorities banned a huge opposition demonstration yesterday after two policemen died in clashes with protesters calling for President Joseph Kabila to step down. Police had fired tear gas earlier to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing opposition supporters in Kinshasa, as they tried to march on parliament ahead of a planned mass demo to demand that Kabila quit power when his mandate runs out in December. Government spokesman Lambert Mende said that "two policemen were killed" in violence against the ruling party office in Kinshasa's volatile Limete area.

A Catholic nun said one of the policemen had been "burnt alive." "We have now banned the demonstration," Mende said, accusing the opposition of "targeted looting." "These are people who had prepared to create total disorder." Earlier yesterday, youths shouting "Kabila get out" threw stones at police on an main avenue in the heart of the city of some 10 million. Tyres burned and plumes of smoke rose from a burning car and minibus. The demonstrators waved the blue-and-white flags of veteran Congolese opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, 83, whose movement had called for nationwide protests on Monday to demand that Kabila steps down on schedule.

Kabila, who has ruled mineral-rich DR Congo since 2001, is banned under the constitution from running for a third term but he has given no sign of intending to give up his job. Before the clashes, opposition activists burnt a giant poster of the president bearing a message appealing for the two sides to reach a solution to the political crisis through "dialogue". Youths were blocking traffic on Lumumba Boulevard, a main artery, letting only journalists through. A diplomatic source reported further clashes in "several places" on the road to the capital's airport.

Systematic repression

France urged Congolese authorities to ensure that the "delay" in holding the next presidential election is "as short as possible", and called on the government to respect "public liberties, especially the right to demonstrate peacefully". Kinshasa was



KINSHASA: Demonstrators gather in front of a burning car during an opposition rally yesterday. —AFP

AFTER LONG HONEYMOON, CANADA'S PM TRUDEAU FACES TOUGH CHOICES

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has enjoyed remarkably strong opinion poll numbers since winning power in last October's election but now faces tough decisions that could dent his popularity. Trudeau's Liberals, who quickly ran up a big budget deficit as they boosted spending to help kick-start the economy, have launched extended public consultations on several major issues.

When Parliament reconvenes, the government will have to deliver verdicts on challenging environmental and military questions. "There are some policy issues ... that are going to be difficult to politically manage," said pollster Nik Nanos of Nanos Research. "The key question is: How much political capital will Justin Trudeau expend?" A Nanos Research poll earlier this month asking who Canadians preferred as prime minister put Trudeau at 54.1 percent, compared with 16.5 percent for Rona Ambrose, interim leader of the Conservative Party.



MONTREAL, QUEBEC: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during the Global Citizen Concert to End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on September 17, 2016. —AFP

Both main opposition parties lack permanent leaders and will not choose replacements until next year. That, say Liberals, means the time for politically risky calls is now, so voter anger can

dissipate before the next election in October 2019. Last week, Trudeau received a boost when his high-level pressuring of Chinese officials helped secure the release of Canadian Kevin Garratt, who spent two years in jail and was convicted of spying. Ottawa is concerned about the potential blowback from decisions on projects in British Columbia, where the Liberals did better than expected in the last election, said two well-placed political sources.

Ministers must rule by the end of September on a liquefied natural gas export project proposed by Petronas. The deadline for Kinder Morgan Inc's plan to expand its Trans Mountain oil pipeline is Dec. 31. Both projects are opposed by green activists, courted by Trudeau in 2015. British Columbia could prove crucial to Trudeau's hopes of winning another majority government in the 2019 election. Ottawa also faces a difficult October summit with the 10 provinces on setting a national price for carbon. — Reuters

DON'T CONFUSE ISLAM AND TERROR, SAYS FRENCH MUSLIM WOMAN



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande delivers a speech during a France's national tribute to victims of terrorism at the Hotel des Invalides in Paris yesterday.—AFP

PARIS: A young French Muslim woman who lost three family members in the July 14 jihadist attack on Nice made an impassioned plea yesterday not to confuse the Islamic faith with terrorism. Yasmine Bouzegag Marzouk, 21, told a national ceremony in tribute to the French victims of terror attacks that they were carried out by "barbarians who do not follow the law, faith or religion." "On July 14th, this national holiday, our lives were changed forever," she added, her voice breaking with emotion as tears streamed down her face. "We are from a Muslim family and no one should make the link (between Islam and the attacks)," she said.

Bouzegag Marzouk, who herself survived the attack, recalled how one of her relatives, 13-year-old Mehdi Hachadi, was crushed under the

wheels of the truck that sped through the crowd on the Nice waterfront. "The life of a child who had such a promising future was snatched away. He was brought up in the Muslim faith which says we should respect others and show tolerance," she said.

The truck was driven by Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, a Tunisian who the Islamic State group said was one of its followers. Marzouk called on French President Francois Hollande "and his successors" to "put a halt once and for all to these acts of savagery... so that the terror to which French citizens are subjected will end and hatred can no longer be stoked by different religions."

Hollande listened grim-faced to the list of 230 French people killed in terror attacks at home and abroad in the past 12 months. They included

the 130 cut down in Paris by IS gunmen and suicide bombers on November 13, 2015, and the 86 killed in Nice.

Addressing the rain-swept ceremony at the Invalides, Hollande said France was at "war". He announced a reform of the 30-year-old system to compensate victims of terror attacks and their families, saying: "This war has produced so many victims that... the authorities' response and the rules for compensation cannot remain unchanged."

France remains on high alert for attacks. Police flooded into the Les Halles shopping district of Paris on Saturday after a national alert system broadcast warnings that a hostage-taking was under way. It turned out to be a false alarm.—AFP

PUTIN'S PARTY SCORES CRUSHING WIN IN RUSSIA PARLIAMENT VOTE

'APATHY RULES'

MOSCOW: Russia's ruling United Russia party has won a record number of seats in parliamentary polls that could pave the way for President Vladimir Putin to glide to a fourth term in 2018 elections. With more than 98.3 percent of the ballots counted, United Russia had garnered 54.2 percent of the votes for parties, giving it a constitutional majority in parliament, according to results announced yesterday morning. Sunday's ballot for the 450-seat State Duma was smooth sailing for the authorities, with no sign of the mass protests following the last vote, though a historic low turnout could become problematic as Russia faces the longest economic crisis of Putin's rule.

The Kremlin attributed the result to Putin's popularity. "It's obvious that the overwhelming majority of those who voted de facto voiced support for the president," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists. "Once more, we see the president gain an impressive vote of confidence from the people." The vote comes as Putin's ratings remain high at around 80 percent, and the authorities appear to be banking on trouble-free presidential elections in two years' time. Three other parties which made up the last parliament and all back the Kremlin—were the only ones to clear the five percent threshold needed to claim a share of the one-half of seats up for grabs.

The Communists and the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party won 13.36 percent and 13.18 percent respectively, while A Just Russia received 6.2 percent. The other half of the deputies are elected on a constituency basis after a change to the election law. This gives United Russia a total of more than three-quarters of the vote and at least 343 seats in the 450-member parliament, up from 238 previously, and a record for the party.



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a government meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday.—AFP

'Apathy rules'

But it was also the election with the lowest turnout in Russia's history, suggesting many may have been turned off by a system in which the Kremlin wields near-total power and which could raise questions over legitimacy. Only 47.8 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots, compared with 60 percent in 2011, electoral officials said. Turnout was particularly low in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, where less than 30 percent of voters went to the polls. Liberal opposition groups failed to make it into parliament, with neither

Yabloko, nor the Parnas party of former premier Mikhail Kasyanov and assassinated Putin critic Boris Nemtsov, securing enough votes to win a seat.

"I'm upset by such a low turnout at these polls. Russians are letting go possibly the last chance to change the authorities democratically," Kasyanov said after the vote. Dmitry Gudkov, the Duma's only lawmaker to back opposition causes, lost his seat, blaming the outcome on the low turnout. "You can't elect yourself to the Duma if people don't believe in the elections," he wrote on

Facebook. Sunday's election follows a tumultuous few years that have seen Russia seize the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine, sparking its worst standoff with the West since the Cold War, and the start of a military campaign in Syria.

'Not free and fair'

Looming large was the spectre of mass protests over vote-rigging that followed the last legislative polls five years ago and which grew into the biggest challenge to Putin since he took charge in 2000. Since then, the Kremlin has cracked down on the right to protest while making a show of stamping out electoral fraud. The former scandal-tainted election chief was removed in favor of human rights advocate Ella Pamfilova, but she too was accused by the opposition of ignoring violations even when they were caught on camera. Golos independent election monitors said in a statement yesterday that "there were fewer incidents of gross direct falsification than in 2011" but that the vote was "far from what can truly be called free and fair" because of the ruling party's domination of the campaign.

Pamfilova admitted there were problems in several regions but that "the level of transparency was incomparably higher than in the previous electoral campaign." For the first time since Moscow seized the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in 2014, residents there voted for Russia's parliament, in a poll slammed by Ukraine as illegal. Voters in some areas of the vast country were also electing regional leaders. In the North Caucasus region of Chechnya, strongman Ramzan Kadyrov looked set to win the first electoral test of his rule, winning more than 98 percent after more than three-quarters of the votes had been counted. Rights groups had complained that criticism was ruthlessly silenced during his campaign.—AFP



LIBREVILLE: This file photo taken on September 30, 2009 in Libreville shows Marie Madeleine Mborantsuo (C), President of Gabon's constitutional court, flanked by members of the court, attending a session on the first day of the start of a recount of votes at the request of several losing candidates, a month after a presidential election won by Ali Bongo Ondimba.—AFP

SEARCH FOR GABON'S MISSING GOES ON, TWO WEEKS AFTER POLL VIOLENCE

LIBREVILLE: More than two weeks after the start of violence prompted by a contested presidential election in Gabon, the search for missing loved ones continues, sometimes with grisly results. Olivier's eyes are haggard after his days of scouring Libreville ended in the cold room of a morgue. There, in a drawer, together because of a shortage of space—with two unidentified bodies, he found his younger brother's corpse.

On photos Olivier showed AFP, Prosper Mesmin N'gang's face, arm and Juventus football shirt were smeared with blood. He was married with five children. Staff at the Casepaga morgue did not allow Olivier to examine his brother's body for bullet wounds. The official line is that he was collected by an ambulance at around 2 am in PK5, an outlying district of the capital, on the night of August 31.

It was at the height of the riots and looting that followed the announcement that Ali Bongo had won the slimmest of victories in a presidential election held four days earlier. "His wife stayed in their village and couldn't get hold of him. Nobody knew what had happened," explained Olivier, who still knows next to nothing about how his brother died, even if he is convinced the death is linked to political events.

Several people have told Olivier they came across his brother at the headquarters of losing opposition candidate Jean Ping just before security forces mounted a deadly assault on the premises that night. Solange Ntsame Obiang, 56, burst into tears when discussing her own search for a missing loved one, in her case her nephew.

She last saw him at Ping's headquarters, also on the night of August 31. A Ping supporter herself, Obiang says she was detained with 65 other women for six days after the raid. "One of them was pregnant.

She lost her baby," recalled Obiang. When she was finally freed, she learnt of her nephew's death. "I don't eat anymore. I don't sleep," she said.

Different tolls

The government insists only three people died in the post-election unrest, while the opposition, without producing evidence, puts the number at at least 50. At Ping's headquarters, a team has set up a crisis committee and a hotline so that families can share information about their dead and missing.

Organisers of the hotline said they had received 21 reports of death and 19 of missing people, while the committee maintains careful records of photos and videos of bloodied bodies. "It's not exhaustive. Many relatives don't dare come to us because they are afraid of reprisals," said one committee member who asked not to be named.

Samuel Moullili is looking for his 21-year-old brother, who also went missing on the night Ping's HQ was stormed. "I've been to the hospitals, the police stations and funeral parlours, but nobody knows anything," he told AFP. "I have spent whole days in front of the courthouse to see if he would get out of a truck" like hundreds of detainees charged after the riots. "Still nothing," he said.

At a recent news conference, Interior Minister Pacome Moubelet-Boubeya suggested journalists themselves go and check funeral parlours. In the city centre, one of them, Gabosep, said it had received five people killed by gunshots between September 1 and September 7.

Another, SAFF, said it had received several bodies during the same period, all of them "natural deaths," according to a manager. Staff at a third, Casepaga, the one where Olivier found his brother, denied journalists access to the premises.—AFP

BOKO HARAM ATROCITIES HAUNT CAMEROON'S DISPLACED

KOZA: "Boko Haram butchered nine people in front of me. That day I decided to leave my village," says Rachel Davigidam, still devastated by the carnage she witnessed in September 2015. One year on and this 30-year-old Cameroonian is still unable to get the images out of her mind. And this mother of seven cannot see herself returning to her village of Golvadi in Cameroon's Far North, an area that has suffered multiple attacks by Boko Haram jihadists based just across the border in Nigeria.

Over the past year, Davigidam and her husband and children have been living in Koza, a small town surrounded by mountains about 100 kilometers from Maroua, capital of the Far North region. Around 200,000 Cameroonians from the region have fled their villages in fear of the violence carried out by militants from Boko Haram, who last year pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. Jihadists in this region kill, they torch entire villages, they loot and they steal livestock. Sitting on the ground in Koza's stadium, this young mother cradles her youngest, who is just three months old, occasionally breastfeeding him. Around her sit other displaced families.

'Life became intolerable'

Nearby, hundreds of people are waiting in line to receive food handouts from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Over the past 15 months, the ICRC has organized food deliveries in Koza in a bid to combat malnutrition, says Ibrahim Dit Falke, a local who works for the organization. "Each household receives a package of 50 kilos (110 pounds) of rice, 25 kilos of maize flour, 25 kilos of black-eyed peas, 10 litres (20 pints) of oil, a kilo of salt and 12 kilos of enriched flour," he says.

In this area where many of the displaced have gathered, there have been numerous cases of malnutrition, some of them severe. "We are in an area dominated by farming and agriculture, where most households make their living through agriculture," Dit Falke says. "When you cut a household off from its fields, you cut it off from its livelihood." As the food is handed out, Davigidam, who comes from a Christian family, recounts her story.

"Life there became intolerable," she says. "For three months, they would come to my house and flog me and my children," she explains. "They said we were pagans. They demanded that we convert to Islam but we didn't want to." If at the start, the Nigerian jihadists were only targeting Christians, they soon stopped making any distinction between Christians and Muslims, she says, as she gets up to go and collect her food package from a Red Cross volunteer.

'I can't cope'

"I am happy to receive this gift," smiles another woman, Vevad Nadama carrying a sack of rice on her head, as two other women help her carry the rest of the supplies. For the past two years, this 25-year-old has lived in Koza since she fled the border town of Kerawa, which is home to 50,000 people and has been regularly targeted by Boko Haram. "When they killed two pupils in

the village, my husband and I decided to leave," says the mother of two. "There was shooting all the time. We weren't able to sleep in our home, we preferred to hide in the bush."

Another of the displaced, Yauba Sumbi, says he's grateful for the sense of security in Koza, but like many others, he is haunted by what he witnessed. "I am traumatized. I saw dead people, people with their throats cut," he says. "I can't cope anymore." He fled the border town of Amchide in 2014 with his wife but only two of his children. "On the day we left, our neighbourhood was stormed by Boko Haram and there was shooting. We walked for three days and three nights through the bush" to reach Koza. While part of the family managed to escape, he has had no news about his five other children who were unable to get out. "I don't know if they are alive or dead, if they are in Nigeria or Cameroon," he says. "God only knows." —AFP



KOURGUI, CAMEROON: A Cameroonian policeman patrols on September 16, 2016.

NIGERIAN MAN DEFENDS NAMING DOG AFTER PRESIDENT BUHARI

OTA, Nigeria: A man who named his dog after Nigerian President Muhammad Buhari defended his decision yesterday, saying he has nothing but admiration and respect for the leader.

Joachim Iroko Chinakwe, a textile trader, was arrested by police last month and charged with an act likely to cause breach of peace after naming his dog Buhari. But speaking at the magistrate court in the town of Ota in the southwestern state of Ogun, Chinakwe said he only has love for the president. "President Buhari is a man after my heart. I have great love and admiration for him because of his honesty, discipline and integrity," Chinakwe told AFP before court proceedings started.

"I also salute his courage and resilience. Here is a man who ran for the presidency three times and failed. But he did not give up. He ran again for the fourth time and to God be the glory, won," the 40-year-old added.

Chinakwe also revealed the dog wasn't the only family member who shared a name with the head of state. In September, he named his newborn girl "Aisha", after the president's wife. "This is to further demonstrate my love for the Buhari family," said Chinakwe. Chinakwe's lawyer Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa said the case was an abuse of power and should be dismissed. Adegboruwa, a Lagos-based human rights lawyer, is known for his acrimonious relationship with the government and was this year arrested by Nigeria's anti-graft agency. "There is no law that says a man cannot give any name to his dog," he told AFP.

Police maintain the dog case has nothing to do with the president, alleging that Chinakwe inscribed the name on the sides of his dog and paraded the pet in the streets to antagonize a neighbor whose father's name is Buhari.

The matter has been adjourned until November 21.—AFP

RUEFUL MERKEL TAKES BLAME FOR BERLIN DEFEAT

BERLIN: Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday she would turn back time if she could to better prepare Germany for last year's migrant influx, striking a conciliatory tone and taking some blame for her party's drubbing in a Berlin city vote on Sunday.

Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) suffered their second electoral blow in two weeks in Sunday's vote in the capital, slumping to their lowest level since 1990 in the state election in which voters rejected her open-door refugee policy. "I take my share of the responsibility that lies with me as party chairwoman and chancellor," Merkel, sounding the most conciliatory she has in over a decade in office, told a news conference.

In prepared remarks, Merkel said she would do

things differently if she could go back again and prepare better to cope with the influx of around one million migrants who flooded into Germany last year. "If I could, I would turn back the time by many, many years," Merkel said, sounding particularly sombre.

Commenting on a recent poll showing 82 percent of voters wanted a change in her migrant policy, she added: "If I knew what change in policy people wanted, I would be ready to consider it and to talk about it." "But the poll does not give any advice on that," she added. A backlash against her migrant policy has raised questions about whether Merkel, Europe's most powerful leader, will stand for a fourth term next year. Given a dearth of options in

her party, however, she is still the most likely candidate. Asked whether she will run again next year, Merkel smiled and declined to comment. She said she was still motivated. A year before the national election, the Berlin result has deepened rifts in her conservative camp, with her CDU and their Bavarian allies—the Christian Social Union (CSU) — blaming each other within minutes of Sunday's results.

The CSU wants to cap the number of migrants coming into Germany at 200,000 a year. Merkel has so far rejected such a ceiling, but sounded ready for compromise. She said that if the wish of the German people was for the country not to be swamped with uncontrolled and unregulated migration "then that is exactly what I am fighting

for". Merkel is pushing for a European solution to the migration challenge by securing the continent's external borders, agreeing migration deals with countries like Turkey and distributing refugees across Europe.

The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD), which with 14 percent of the vote will enter its 10th of the country's 16 regional assemblies, said it would target a double digit score in next year's national vote after the "terrific" Berlin result. "More and more people are convinced and recognizing that we are a real alternative not just for Berlin but for Germany," AfD co-leader Joerg Meuthen told a news conference in the capital. —Reuters



BELGRADE, SERBIA: This file photo taken on February 27, 2003 shows Dragan Vasiljkovic during a press conference. —AFP

SERB PARAMILITARY CHIEF FACES CROATIA WAR CRIMES TRIAL

ZAGREB: A former Serb paramilitary commander, extradited from Australia last year, will go on trial in Croatia today charged with the torture and murder of civilians and prisoners of war in the 1990s.

Dragan Vasiljkovic-or 'Captain Dragan'-was handed over by Canberra after almost a decade-long legal battle, becoming the first suspected war criminal to be extradited by Australia. The 61-year-old was indicted in January for the detention and torture of Croatian civilians and police in the ethnic Serb rebel stronghold of Knin at the start of the country's 1990s independence war.

As commander of a Serb paramilitary unit, he did "nothing to prevent and punish such crimes" that occurred in 1991, and personally took part in them, according to the prosecutors. Vasiljkovic was also charged with ordering the torture and killing of two detained Croatian soldiers in the village of Bruska, near Benkovac, in the country's south in 1993.

According to the prosecutors, he orchestrated a deadly attack in 1991 on the central town of Glina and the surrounding region in which a civilian and a German reporter were killed while the local population had

to flee their homes. The trial, to be held under heavy security measures, is to open before a tribunal in the central coastal town of Split. More than 50 witnesses are expected to be questioned. At a preliminary hearing held in July, Vasiljkovic pleaded not guilty. His extradition to Croatia in July 2015 was hailed by the victims and their families.

Velibor Bracic, a former Croatian soldier detained by Serb paramilitaries at Knin for nearly three months in 1991, recalled how Vasiljkovic personally beat him while showing his subordinates how to do it properly. "He said: 'If you beat him then you should do it like this' and then he kicked me in face," Bracic told Nova TV upon the suspect's extradition.

He described his detention as "24 hours of mistreatment each day... beatings with rifle butts, hands." Vasiljkovic was first arrested in Australia in 2006 and Croatia has consistently requested his extradition.

In Australia, the Belgrade-born suspect worked as a golf instructor under the name Daniel Snedden. He denied committing war crimes but told media he had trained recruits, killed people in combat and interrogated enemy troops. —AFP

INDIA'S MODI THRASHES OUT RESPONSE TO KASHMIR RAID

SRINAGAR: India's prime minister yesterday summoned top security advisers to thrash out a response to a deadly raid on a Kashmir army base blamed on militants from Pakistan, amid calls for tough action against the nuclear-armed nation.

Narendra Modi has vowed to punish those behind the attack in which gunmen hurling grenades stormed a base, killing 17 soldiers in the worst such attack in over a decade. An 18th soldier died in hospital yesterday. The Hindu nationalist prime minister promised during his election campaign to take a hard line over Kashmir and has faced calls from army veterans and even some in his own party for military action against Pakistan.

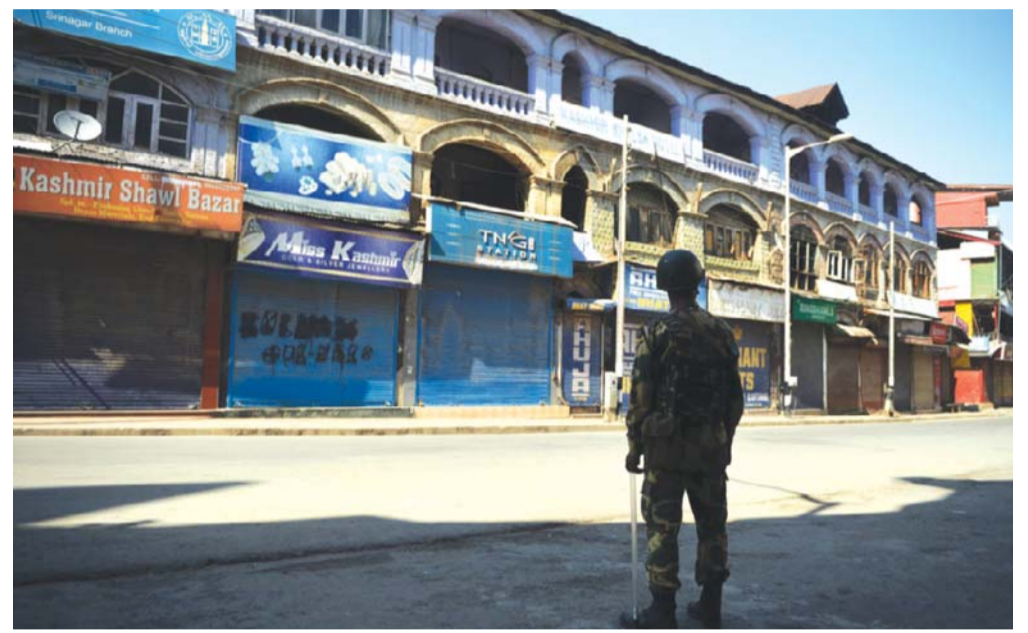
Yesterday he summoned his national security advisers and military leaders to formulate a response, which media reports said could include air strikes on training camps on the Pakistan side of the Line of Control (LoC) that divides Kashmir.

But security experts say India lacks the military capabilities to take on its neighbor in the divided Himalayan region, already tense after weeks of violent clashes between police and demonstrators protesting at Indian rule. "It's not like the US conducting air strikes in Syria to tackle ISIS that's hundreds of miles away from home ground, Pakistan is next door," said Ajai Sahni, executive director at the Institute of Conflict Management think-tank in Delhi. "India knows it can't sustain a 15-day war against Pakistan and Pakistan knows it can't sustain a similar war against India."

Local media also urged caution, with the Indian Express saying calls for military action were "easier made than acted upon".

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but both claim it in full. The two nuclear-armed neighbours have fought three wars since gaining independence from British rule in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

India regularly accuses its arch-rival of arming and sending rebels across the heavily militarised border that divides Kashmir between the two countries, to launch attacks on its forces. On Sunday Home Minister Rajnath Singh accused Pakistan of "continued and direct support to terrorism and terrorist groups" and called for it to be internationally isolated.



SRINAGAR: An Indian paramilitary trooper stands guard during a curfew in the Lal Chowk area yesterday. —AFP

Wreath-laying

As the war of words intensified yesterday, Pakistan's army chief Raheel Sharif said his forces were "fully prepared to respond to entire spectrum of direct and indirect threat". Islamabad meanwhile accused New Delhi of trying to deflect attention from weeks of unrest in Indian-administered Kashmir with what it called "vitriolic and unsubstantiated statements".

"It is a blatant attempt on India's part to deflect attention from the fast deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir since the death of Burhan Wani," Pakistan's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Sunday's attack followed weeks of protests sparked by the killing of the popular rebel leader in a gunfight with security forces. At least 87 civilians have been killed and thousands injured in clashes between protesters and security forces, the worst unrest to hit Kashmir since 2010. Yesterday more than 50 people were injured when security forces fired tear gas and pellet guns at protesters who defied a curfew in southern Kashmir, according to local police.

Sunday'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.

Yesterday soldiers paid tribute to their colleagues, most of whom died when their tents and other accommodation caught fire, at a wreath-laying ceremony in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar.

The army's director-general of military operations Ranbir Singh has blamed Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad, which was implicated in an audacious attack on an Indian air force base in Pathankot in the northern state of Punjab in January that left seven soldiers dead. That attack dashed hopes of a revival of peace talks, which have been on ice ever since. 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 the territory for decades and currently number around 500,000. Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have died in the fighting. —AFP

NEW SURVEY SAYS INDIA'S MODI CONTINUES TO BE WIDELY POPULAR

NEW DELHI: Two years after sweeping to power, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to inspire confidence in a majority of Indians, who are pleased about the state of their economy and see the country playing a growing role in the international arena, according to a survey released yesterday. However, the high rate of satisfaction with Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has not entirely dimmed the popularity of the main opposition Congress party, the Pew Research Center said.

While more than 80 percent of Indians are confident in Modi and his party, about 65 percent view the Congress party and its leaders Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul favorably, the survey found. The poll conducted face-to-face interviews with 2,464 Indians between April 7 and May 24 and has a margin of error of 3.2 percentage points. In 2014, Modi and his party won the most decisive electoral victory that India has seen in over 25 years. But despite the victory that gave his party a clear majority in India's powerful lower house of Parliament, he has struggled to push through economic reforms and legislation at the pace he had promised because his party doesn't have the same numbers in the upper house.

Slammed by critics

He has also been slammed by critics for being silent as some Hindu political groups with ties to his BJP have attacked minority Muslims and Dalits, Hinduism's lowest caste, over allegations that they ate beef or killed cows. Devout Hindus consider cows sacred and worship them as a maternal figure.

Yet neither criticism seems to have dented Modi's popularity. The support for Modi and the BJP comes from both men and women across ages, educational background and income lev-

els, and from people in both urban and rural India, the Pew Research Center said.

More than two-thirds of Indians feel that the South Asian country now plays a more important role in the world than it did a decade ago, and more than half see being part of the world economy as a positive thing because it provides them with new markets and space for growth, it said.

But Indians also remain wary of longtime rivals and neighbors China and Pakistan. About seven in 10 said they feel that China's economic and military clout could cause serious problems for India. Nearly half worry about the relation-

ship between Beijing and Islamabad. Indians support a tough attitude when it comes to dealing with the world. Sixty-two percent favor a military solution in dealing with terrorism, and about the same number also favor increased defense spending, the survey found. However, despite the role Indians believe their country is destined to play internationally, they still believe the country should fix its own problems before helping the world. Only 23 percent want India to help other countries, it said. The domestic issues that worry a vast majority of Indians most are crime, lack of jobs, corruption, terrorism and air pollution. —AP



MUMBAI: A sand sculpture of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seen on Juhu Beach in Mumbai on September 16, 2016. —AFP

TURKEY-BACKED REBELS COULD PUSH FURTHER SOUTH IN SYRIA

ANKARA: Turkey-backed rebels may extend their zone of control in northern Syria by pushing south and are now targeting the Islamic State-held town of Al-Bab, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday.

Turkey's "safety zone" in the region could eventually span an area of 5,000 square km, Erdogan told a news conference before departing for New York where he was due to address the United Nations' General Assembly. Ankara launched its operation in northern Syria known as "Euphrates Shield" last month, aiming to clear Islamic State from Turkey's Syrian border area and to stop the advance of Syrian Kurdish fighters. So far, it has secured a thin wedge of land along its border.

"As part of the Euphrates Shield operation, an area of 900 square kilometers has been cleared of terror so far. This area is pushing south," Erdogan said. "We may extend this area to 5,000 square kilometers as part of a safe zone." Turkey has long argued for the need for a "safe zone" or a "no-fly" zone along its Syrian border, with the aim of clearing out Islamic State and Kurdish fighters and stemming a wave of migration that has fuelled tensions in Europe.

But Western allies have so far balked at the idea, saying it would require a significant ground force and planes to patrol, marking a major commitment in such a crowded battlefield. Erdogan said yesterday the Turkey-backed rebels - a group of Syrian Arabs and Turkmen fighting under the loose banner of the Free Syrian Army - were now focused on capturing the Islamic State-held town of Al-Bab. "Jarablus and al-Rai have been cleansed, now we are moving towards al-Bab... We will go there and stop (Islamic State) from being a threat to us," he said.

Control of Al-Bab

Gaining control of Al-Bab, which lies on the southern edge of what Ankara sees as its potential buffer zone, is crucial to Turkey's plans to keep the Syrian Kurdish YPG fighters in check, analysts say. Ankara's challenge now is to turn the fractured Free Syrian Army into a coherent force as a counterweight to the YPG.

Turkey, a NATO member and part of the US-led coalition against Islamic State in Syria, regards the Washington-backed YPG as a terrorist group and an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Ankara worries that advances by the YPG will embolden insurgents in its largely Kurdish southeast. Erdogan has frequently castigated the United States for its support of the YPG.

Yesterday he accused Washington of exacerbating tension in the region, referring to an incident last week when a small number of US forces entered the town of al-Rai but were forced to withdraw after the Free Syrian Army rebels protested against their presence. The US special forces entered the town to coordinate air strikes against Islamic State. "The Syrian army did not and does not want interference from US special forces," Erdogan said. "Unfortunately, the behaviour of US officials has pushed the FSA to this point," he said, in what appeared to be a reference to Washington's support of the YPG. Separately, Turkey's military said yesterday it hit Islamic State targets in northern Syria in air strikes a day earlier, targeting barracks and an ammunition store.

Erdogan said he plans to address the Syria crisis, the fight against terrorism and Turkey's failed July 15 military coup when he addresses the UN General Assembly later this week. — Reuters

INDIA'S POOR FEAR 'RENT-A-WOMB' INDUSTRY SHUTDOWN

ANAND: At a hostel for dozens of pregnant women, impoverished widow Sharmila Mackwan weighs up her decision to carry twins for another couple—her only ticket out of poverty—as the government moves to close India's multi-million dollar surrogacy industry. She has left her own children at an orphanage for the whole nine months of her pregnancy because her contract stipulates she has to stay at the housing facility, which is attached to the hospital she will deliver at in western Gujarat state. She also knows the 400,000 rupees (\$6,000) she

will eventually earn for safely giving birth to the twins will change her family's fortunes.

But authorities are planning to ban the controversial commercial practice dubbed rent-a-womb—due to concerns women are being exploited. "Surrogacy should stay as otherwise I would have never been able to save so much money even if I had slogged all my life," said Mackwan, who plans to use the money to send her sons, aged 9 and 12, to school and to build a small house. "I am quite scared as I am carrying twins for the first time. But what can I do? I am

just hoping God will take care of me," the 31-year-old added, as she eased into a chair at the hostel's dormitory, where some 60 women sleep in beds side by side in spacious rooms. Mackwan, who is four months' pregnant, is among about 2,000 mainly poor Indian women who earn a relative fortune every year carrying babies for others. After opening up to surrogacy in 2002, India became a world leader in the multi-million dollar industry, with hundreds of foreign couples flocking for cheap and safe services. India tightened rules surrounding the indus-

try in 2012 by barring gay couples and single people from using such services. Last November authorities instructed surrogacy clinics to stop accepting overseas clients.

'Nothing immoral'

India's 2,000-odd clinics charge couples between \$20,000 and \$30,000, a fraction of the price in the US and other Western countries, while offering modern technology, skilled doctors and a steady supply of surrogates. But Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said such serv-

ices were being misused, with the proposed new law aimed at protecting the welfare of the women. "Many so-called childless couples were misusing the wombs of poor women. It was a matter of great worry because there were instances where a girl child or disabled child have been abandoned soon after birth," she said. The proposed law, which still has to be passed by parliament, sparked an outcry among couples desperate for a family, along with heated debate in India about the ethics of hiring out a woman's body. — AFP

PHILIPPINE MILITANTS 'GOT RANSOM FOR NORWEGIAN'

MANILA: A notorious kidnapping-for-ransom gang in the strife-torn southern Philippines enjoyed another lucrative payday when it released a Norwegian hostage after a year in captivity, analysts said yesterday. A bearded and bedraggled Kjartan Sekkingstad was released Saturday on a remote southern island after what analysts said was almost certainly a payment in the thousands of dollars after the Abu Sayyaf demanded millions. The Philippine and Norwegian governments have denied paying ransom for the release of Sekkingstad, while highlighting their efforts to secure his freedom after the kidnappers had beheaded two of his fellow hostages, both Canadian.

Security analysts said the Abu Sayyaf would never release a hostage without ransom. "There was a

ransom payment negotiated by intermediaries of the family with diplomatic help. My information is 30 million pesos (\$625,000) was paid," said Rodolfo Mendoza, senior analyst of Manila-based Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research. "Hostage-taking is the Abu Sayyaf's fund-raising activity," Mendoza, a former police general said.

Sekkingstad's brother Odd KÅre Sekkingstad declined to comment when asked by AFP about reports of a ransom. His sibling was abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from a tourist resort in September 2015, alongside a Filipina who has been freed, and the two Canadians who were beheaded in April and June. Philippine authorities have said the Norwegian was freed due to a military offensive which President Rodrigo Duterte ordered against the mili-

tant, and with the help of a separate Muslim rebel group holding peace talks with the government.

Duterte himself had said last month that 50 million pesos (\$1 million) had been paid for Sekkingstad's release. "The Norwegian, that's already paid," Duterte told reporters. "I don't know (where the money came from), maybe my bank," he said in jest when asked who paid the ransom. Zachary Abuza, a Southeast Asian security expert at the National War College in the United States, told AFP there was no doubt ransom was paid.

"The (Abu Sayyaf) did not release him out of the goodness of their hearts... governments have to deny paying ransoms, as it incentivizes more hostage-taking. But often governments will use third parties." The payment would allow Abu

Sayyaf to buy more guns through the black market, Abuza added.

The Abu Sayyaf, blamed for the nation's worst terror attacks, is a loose network of militants formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. Based in remote Muslim-populated southern islands of the mainly Catholic Philippines and listed by the US as a terrorist organization, some of its leaders have since pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. In 2014 the Abu Sayyaf boasted of receiving 250 million pesos for two German hostages it freed after six months in captivity. In 2013 the militants also released an Australian ex-soldier after holding him for 15 months, with a local politician who acted as a negotiator saying ransom was paid.—AFP



BEIJING: This file photo taken on July 31, 2014 shows Xiao Tie, executive director of the Beijing LGBT Centre, pretending to inject a patient with a mock syringe during a protest outside the Haidian District Court. —AFP

GAY PRIDE: CHINA ACTIVISTS FIGHT 'CONVERSION THERAPY'

NO TOLERANCE

CHONGQING, CHINA: Telling his wife he was gay was never going to be easy. But Yu Hu never thought it would see him committed to a mental hospital and fed a cocktail of drugs to "cure" him.

Yu's wife readily agreed to a divorce, but his own family were nowhere near as tolerant. They arranged for medical personnel to seize him, throw him into a van and strap him to a hospital bed. For 19 days, he was given a mix of unidentified medications, with staff threatening to beat him if he refused to take them, all in the name of "curing" him of his orientation. The 32-year-old was only released when his boyfriend and LGBT activists contacted police in Henan province.

Now Yu is suing his captors, the latest in a series of legal battles aimed at banning supposed "gay conversion therapies". "They must be brought to justice, being gay is not a crime, but what they did to me is," Yu said. "This isn't only happening to me, and this must stop." Yu still has nightmares about the episode last October. His demands are simple: an apology from the hospital and an acknowledgement homosexuality is not a disease to be cured. The case is due to be heard on Wednesday.

'We try to educate doctors'

Homosexuality is legal in China, but was only taken off the list of psychiatric disorders in 2001. While Chinese attitudes to homosexuality have become more accepting in recent years, especially in larger cities, discrimination is still rife.

Government censors banned gay characters on television in March, with new guidelines decreeing: "No television drama shall show abnormal sexual relationships and behaviors, such as incest, same-sex relationships, sexual perversion, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual violence, and so on."

Many Chinese are their parents' only children as a result of the country's often brutally enforced family planning policies, so parental expectations of marriage and grandchildren tend to exacerbate pressures on gay men and lesbians.

Some enter into "cooperation marriages" with a knowing partner in order to satisfy their family's demands. People who undergo conversion treatments—either voluntarily or after submitting to family pressure—spend about 20,000 yuan (\$3,000) on average, according to the Beijing LGBT Center, although some see their costs spi-

ral upwards as doctors encourage more sessions.

In Chongqing, fees are about 4,000 yuan for a course—almost as much as the city's average monthly salary—which can include solitary confinement and even chemical castration. But authorities are more interested in policing activists than clinics, said campaigner Sha Sheng, whose group has helped hundreds of gay men and lesbians after they found themselves in debt and trapped in Chongqing facilities. "Even though a court has said this is wrong, it's hard to fight against gay conversion therapy when the police are constantly shutting down our activities," said Sha.

Other activists are trying to convert the medical providers. "We try to educate doctors, introduce them to homosexual people and show them it's not an affliction to be gay," said Joelle Yao, an activist at the Beijing LGBT Center.

"A lot" of doctors leave the sessions with a "completely different view on homosexuality" she said, adding that Chinese prejudice was more often born of ignorance rather than religious conviction, making it easier to address. But the task remains huge. "We can't reach everyone," she said. "China is just too big." —AFP

GROWING 'CULTURE OF INTOLERANCE' IN INDIA

NEW DELHI: India must overhaul its antiquated laws and cumbersome legal system which are increasingly being misused to silence dissent in the Hindu majority country, a global writers group said in a report yesterday. Hardline Hindu groups have been accused of fomenting intolerance of religious and other minorities since nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi swept to power at general elections in 2014.

Pen International said a survey of authors, lawyers, activists and journalists this year found that this "culture of intolerance has taken root in India and has grown more menacing". Defamation, sedition and those laws pertaining to hate speech were being misused by "intolerant individuals and groups" to severely restrict freedom of expression, it said. "Their (those surveyed) accounts suggest that the unchecked abuse of India's vague and overbroad legislation, and its inefficient legal system, have helped to create a chill within Indian socie-

ty and throughout its public sphere," the report, also by PEN Canada and the University of Toronto's law faculty, said.

A student union leader at a prestigious New Delhi university was arrested and charged with sedition earlier this year for allegedly shouting anti-India slogans. The arrest brought thousands of students and teachers onto the streets in protest and fuelled mounting concern about freedom of speech. The British-era sedition law carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. Prosecutions are rare but it has frequently been used against critics of the government of the day.

Several authors last year returned a prestigious award in protest at what they called government inaction over the murder of atheist scholars and the lynching of a Muslim man suspected of eating beef. Those interviewed for the report also spoke of endless harassment and threats, particularly online, to silence criticism. —AFP

THAIS SEARCH FOR THE MISSING AS 15 DIE IN PILGRIM BOAT ACCIDENT

AYUTTHAYA: Divers located the body of a young boy yesterday as they resumed their search for missing passengers after an overcrowded boat carrying Muslim pilgrims sank on Thailand's Chao Phraya river, leaving at least 15 people dead. The accident happened on Sunday afternoon near the ancient city of Ayutthaya, a popular tourist attraction, when a boat packed with pilgrims returning from a mosque hit a concrete bank in strong currents.

Scores of people lined the bank on Monday morning as divers plunged into the swollen, brown waters for the grim task of searching the partially-submerged pleasure boat for the missing. Distraught relatives wept as the body of an eight-year-old boy was pulled from the wreckage and laid in a white plastic sheet, an AFP team on site reported. Rescuers used a white board to keep track of those still missing which by lunchtime stood at 13 named individuals, six of whom were children. Ayutthaya deputy governor Rewat Prasong said the confirmed death toll stood at 15 with 14 people hospitalized. The dead were not thought to include any foreigners.

The boat's captain is in custody and faces a negligence charge after allowing the double-decked vessel to become overcrowded, police said. "The boat has permis-

sion to carry about 50 people but it was carrying more than 100 people," said Ayutthaya police chief Sudhi Puengpikul. Disaster struck as the boat returned from a memorial for a Muslim scholar at an Ayutthaya mosque. Television footage showed the boat stopping abruptly as it appeared to hit the concrete bank, and sinking in seconds. Thai broadcasters showed desperate scenes of the aftermath of the accident as passengers were pulled from the water while rescuers attempted to resuscitate stricken people.

Safety lapses

Many of the dead were trapped on the lower deck of the boat, which ran into trouble agonizingly close to safety. Officials said its proximity to the bank may have prevented the toll from being even higher. 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, including on boats, with overcrowding, sinkings and crashes common—particularly in busy tourist areas. According to World Health Organization, Thailand has the world's second highest road fatality rate after Libya.—AFP

CHINA LASHES OUT AT JAPAN'S SOUTH CHINA SEA PLANS

BEIJING: China is "disappointed to the point of despair" with Japan's conduct in the South China Sea, it said yesterday, after Tokyo announced it may set up training patrols with the US in the contested region.

China asserts sovereignty over almost all of the strategically vital waters in the face of rival claims from its Southeast Asian neighbors, and has rapidly turned reefs in the area into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes.

In a speech last week Japanese defense minister Tomomi Inada called China's actions a "deliberate attempt to unilaterally change the status quo, achieve a fait accompli, and undermine the prevailing norms", according to a transcript released by Washington-based think tank the Center

for Strategic and International Studies. Inada said Japan would increase its engagement in the South China Sea through joint training cruises with the US Navy, exercises with regional navies and capacity-building assistance to coastal nations. Japan's conduct in the South China Sea "makes one feel disappointed to the point of despair," foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a regular press briefing yesterday, before accusing Japan of meddling in a situation that ought to be resolved via "direct negotiation between involved parties". Japan was attempting to confuse the situation in the region Lu said, adding the island nation had "even resorted to deception in attempts to impose its own views" on the issue on other countries. —AFP

CHINA THREATENS COUNTERMEASURES AFTER DALAI LAMA SPEAKS AT EU PARLIAMENT

BEIJING: China expressed anger yesterday and threatened countermeasures after exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama spoke at the European Parliament in the French city of Strasbourg and met its president, Martin Schulz.

China regards the 80-year-old, Nobel Peace Prize-winning monk as a separatist, though he says he merely seeks genuine autonomy for his Himalayan homeland, which Communist Chinese troops "peacefully liberated" in 1950.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the European Parliament and Schulz had ignored China's "strong opposition" about meeting the Dalai Lama, which ran contrary to the European Union's promises to China on the issue of Tibet. "China is resolutely opposed to the mistaken actions of the European Parliament," Lu told a daily news briefing, adding that its leaders' insistence on taking an erroneous position had damaged China's core interests.

"China absolutely cannot remain indifferent, and we will make the correct choice in accordance with our judgment of the situation," he added, without elaborating on what China may do.

Few foreign leaders are willing to meet the Dalai Lama these days, fearful of provoking a strong reaction from China, the world's second-largest economy. Last week, Beijing warned Taiwan not to allow the Dalai Lama to visit, after a high-profile Taiwan legislator invited him to the self-ruled island Beijing claims as its own.

Tibet's spiritual leader told the European Parliament last week he hoped the Tibetan issue would be resolved but urged the outside world and the European Union in particular

not to hold back from criticising Beijing.

The Dalai Lama, who also met the European Parliament's foreign affairs chairman, Elmar Brok, fled to India in 1959 following a failed uprising against the Chinese. Rights groups and exiles

accuse China of trampling on the religious and cultural rights of the Tibetan people, charges strongly denied by Beijing, which says its rule has brought prosperity to a once backward region. —Reuters



STRASBOURG, FRANCE: The spiritual leader of the Tibetan people the Dalai Lama had earphone adjusted before the start of a talk on religious teachings on September 17, 2016. —AFP

AUSTRALIAN IN 'BURKINI' MADE TO LEAVE FRENCH BEACH: MEDIA

SYDNEY: An Australian Muslim woman who wore a burkini to a French beach said she was asked to leave despite a ban on the controversial full-bodied swimsuit recently being overturned.

Sydney-born Zeynab Alshelhi, a 23-year-old medical student, told Australia's Channel 7 that she travelled to Europe to show solidarity with French Muslims by wearing a burkini—invented by an Australian designer—on the beach.

Footage broadcast Sunday evening showed local bathers make disparaging gestures towards Alshelhi, who is sitting burkini-clad on the sand in Villeneuve-Loubet with her mother. "We were threatened by locals to leave the beach and if we didn't they were going to call the police," Alshelhi said. "Even though it was on the beach that the burkini ban was overturned but the locals were not happy." Nice and about 30 other French towns banned the Islamic swimsuit after a July terror attack in which a man plowed his truck into crowds gathered for Bastille Day fireworks killing 86 peo-

ple. In August, France's highest court suspended the burkini bans declaring the swimsuit's prohibition an "illegal violation of fundamental freedoms".

Aheda Zanetti, the Australian woman who designed the burkini, recently expressed surprise at the furore over her creation, saying it was meant to be a symbol of inclusion and allow Muslim women to take part in beach culture.

But the seemingly innocuous item of clothing has continued to prove an emotive topic and opinion polls in fiercely secular France show burkini bans have the support of a majority of the public. "It starts off at the beach and God knows where it ends," Zeynab added to Channel 7, saying that while there was racism in Australia there were no bans on clothing.

Australia is grappling with a rise in anti-Muslim sentiment after a series of attacks by radicalised youth and last week anti-immigration politician Pauline Hanson called for an end to Muslim immigration and a ban on the burqa. —AFP

SYRIA DECLARES TRUCE OVER, BLAMES REBELS

Continued from Page 1

Under the terms of an agreement, the US military would set up a joint cell with Russian forces to target Syrian jihadists if the ceasefire held. Kerry had earlier insisted the ceasefire was "holding but fragile". He told reporters on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly that American officials were "meeting now with the Russians in Geneva. That process is continuing and we'll see where we are in the course of the day."

However, Russia's defence ministry appeared to bury hopes that the truce would last past yesterday night. "Considering that the conditions of the ceasefire are not being respected by the rebels, we consider it pointless for the Syrian government forces to respect it unilaterally," Lieutenant General Sergei Rudskoy said in a televised briefing. He said "the main issue" was that non-jihadist rebels had not been separated from Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate on the ground.

Violence increased across the country on Monday, with fierce clashes reported east of Damascus and one child killed in regime shelling on the edges of Aleppo. Since September 12, 27 civilians, including nine children, have been killed in areas where the truce had been set to take hold, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The bloodiest day for civilians was Sunday, when a barrel bomb attack killed 10 in a southern rebel-held town and one woman died in the first raids on Aleppo since the truce started.

The ceasefire came under additional strain after a US-

led coalition strike hit a Syrian army post Saturday near the eastern city of Deir Ezzor, where government forces are battling the Islamic State jihadist group. Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad said yesterday the coalition raid showed world powers support "terrorist organizations" like IS. "The latest example of this is the flagrant American aggression on one of the Syrian army's positions in Deir Ezzor," he said.

Senior government adviser Buthaina Shaaban told AFP Sunday that Damascus believed the raid, which killed at least 62 Syrian soldiers, had been "intentional". Loyalist forces backed by Russian and Syrian warplanes were fighting to roll back IS' advance there, a military source told AFP yesterday. Under the US-Russia agreement, fighting was to have halted across Syria and humanitarian aid would reach civilians suffering increasingly dire humanitarian conditions.

Yesterday, convoys of food and medical aid reached two hard-to-reach areas, according to David Swanson, a spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Aid was delivered to tens of thousands in rebel-held Talbiseh, where at least two people were killed by shelling during the truce. Another 78,000 people living in and around Greater Orum in the north of Aleppo province would also receive flour and health supplies, Swanson said. But convoys to rebel-held districts of Aleppo were still stuck on the border with Turkey. UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien said he was "pained" that Aleppo had still not received promised aid deliveries. — AFP



Around 2,500 lifejacket worn by refugees during crossings from Turkey to the Greek island of Chios are displayed on Parliament Square opposite the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday during a photo-call to highlight the number of refugees that have died trying to reach Europe since 2015. — AFP

NEW YORK BOMBING SUSPECT CAPTURED...

Continued from Page 1

"One police officer in the city of Linden was shot in the chest and one was shot in the hand. Mr Rahami also sustained shots," Bollwage added.

His arrest came around four hours after the FBI released a mugshot of the brown-haired and bearded Rahami, calling him "armed and dangerous", in text message alerts sent to millions of people in the New York area. FBI officers late Sunday also found and defused a nest of bombs planted at the train station in Elizabeth. Police want to question Rahami in connection with Saturday night's bombing in New York's Chelsea neighborhood that injured 29 people and Saturday morning's Seaside Park pipe bombing, which forced the cancellation of a US Marine race.

The discovery of the nest of bombs in Elizabeth may also be linked to the two attacks in New Jersey and in Manhattan, where a pressure cooker bomb was also successfully defused. "From the bombs that were undetonated you can often get good evidence. You can get fingerprints, DNA etc," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on CBS. "And the investigation is now targeting certain individuals who might suggest that this did have a foreign connection," he added.

A law enforcement official said investigators regard Rahami as the "main guy" in the two explosions but plan to look into whether any others had a role. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Rahami was not believed to be on federal terror watch lists at the time of the blasts. Linden Mayor Derek Armstead said the break in the case came late yesterday morning, when the owner of a bar reported someone asleep in his doorway. A police officer went to investigate and recognized the man as Rahami, police and the mayor said.

Rahami pulled a gun and shot the officer - who was wearing a bulletproof vest - in the torso, and more officers joined in a running gun battle along the street and brought Rahami down, police Capt James Sarnicki said. Rahami also fired through the windshield of a patrol car, wounding another officer. The wounds to both officers are not thought to be life-threatening, he said. Police did not disclose how they zeroed in on Rahami as a person of interest in the bombings but were known to be poring over surveillance video and examining bomb fragments and components for evidence. At the same time, five people who were pulled over in a vehicle Sunday night were being questioned by the FBI, officials said.

Little is known about Rahami, other than that his family ran a chicken restaurant and sued Elizabeth in 2011, accusing the city of discrimination stemming

from complaints about keeping their business open beyond a curfew. Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage said Rahami's father, Mohammad, and two of Rahami's brothers sued the city after it passed an ordinance requiring their First American Fried Chicken restaurant to close early because of complaints from neighbors that it was a late-night nuisance.

The Rahamis charged in the lawsuit that they were targeted by neighbors because they are Muslims. The lawsuit was terminated in 2012 after Mohammad Rahami pleaded guilty to blocking police from enforcing the restrictions on the restaurant. Ryan McCann, of Elizabeth, said that he often ate at the restaurant and recently began seeing the younger Rahami working there more. "He's always in there. He's a very friendly guy, that's what's so scary. It's hard when it's home," McCann said.

Fifteen years after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, officials stress that lone-wolf attacks perpetrated by individuals who may be inspired by IS or Al-Qaeda propaganda are the greatest terror threat to the homeland. What was still unclear Monday was whether an individual or a wider group was responsible for the bomb attacks and the explosives planted in Elizabeth. Seaside Park is around 100 km from Elizabeth, and 90 miles from Manhattan. "We know a lot more than we did just 24 hours ago. It's certainly leaning more in the direction that this was a specific act of terror," New York Mayor de Blasio told ABC. New York police have beefed up massively in the city, fanning out reinforcements to bus terminals, subway stations and airports.

Although there has been no claim of responsibility for the Chelsea bombing or any of the bombs in New Jersey, a jihadist-linked news agency, Amaq, claimed that an IS "soldier" carried out the Minnesota stabbings. A 22-year-old Somali-American injured nine people in a shopping mall in St Cloud on Saturday before being shot dead by an off-duty police officer.

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, whose lead over Donald Trump in the polls has dipped, said yesterday that the United States needed to invest "more time and more resources" in confronting the lone-wolf threat. "The recruitment and radicalization that goes on online has to be much more vigorously intercepted and prevented," she said in White Plains, New York. Her Republican opponent predicted that there could be more attacks, slamming what he called America's "weak" policies in opening the doors to "tens of thousands" of foreign immigrants. "We're going to have to be very tough," he told Fox television. "I think this is something that maybe... will happen perhaps more and more all over the country," he said. — Agencies

SAUDI FORCES FOIL IS PLOT, ARREST 17

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That attack in January killed two security officers and a civilian, as well as a suicide bomber.

The ministry said the group was also involved in a car bombing against a security officer in the capital, Riyadh, in February, a bombing against a security checkpoint in Riyadh in July 2015, a failed attempt to bomb an oil pipeline in the governorate of Dawadmi, and in the murder of a retired brigadier, whose death was announced in February.

Turki said the security sweep also thwarted four ter-

rorist attacks, including an attempt to attach a car bomb to the vehicle of a Defense Ministry official, a plan to attack general security trainees by placing an explosive device at the gate of their facility. The sweep, he said, also intercepted the delivery of two suicide vests and arrested a Saudi suspect planning to carry out a suicide bombing in Al-Ahsa province. That suspect was allegedly monitoring religious, military and National Guard sites in the area, as well as the Imam Reda mosque that was previously targeted, and had communicated with extremists abroad regarding which site to attack. — Agencies

FINANCE MINISTER WELCOMES GRILLING OVER...

Continued from Page 1

international and domestic economic and financial institutions. Saleh however said the government is currently studying recommendations of the National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee which it received during the government-Assembly informal meeting last month. The government is also considering alternative proposals and is assessing the merits and demerits of every recommendation to eventually adopt the best recommendation that would enable the state to provide a sustainable and dignified life for citizens. The recommendation submitted by the financial committee calls for accompanying the petrol price hike with other reform measures that would not hurt citizens. The minister did not elaborate on the specifics.

Kandari said on Sunday that he will file a request to grill the finance minister in the Assembly's next term opening day in mid-October for raising petrol prices unless the government withdraws its decision or compensates citizens. Lawmakers have strongly criticized the government for hiking petrol prices, which came into

effect at the start of September, and demanded that it must not be at the expense of Kuwaiti citizens.

In another development, the criminal court yesterday set Oct 10 to issue its verdict against MP Abdulhameed Dashti on charges on insulting Bahrain, a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council alliance. Last month, the same court sentenced Dashti, who is living abroad, to 14-12 years in jail for insulting Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and endangering Kuwaiti relations with the two GCC members.

MP Ali Al-Khamees asked Minister of Justice Yacoub Al-Sane if the ministry has informed Dashti of the sentences through legal channels and within the stipulated legal period. He asked the minister about the number of cases filed against Dashti that are being heard in Kuwaiti courts and how many verdicts have already been passed against him. Dashti has missed most of the previous parliamentary term on health grounds and for receiving treatment abroad. MPs have demanded that the Assembly should revoke his membership. Khamees also asked the information minister if any financial rewards had been given to Kuwaiti sportsmen who recently won Olympic or Paralympic medals.



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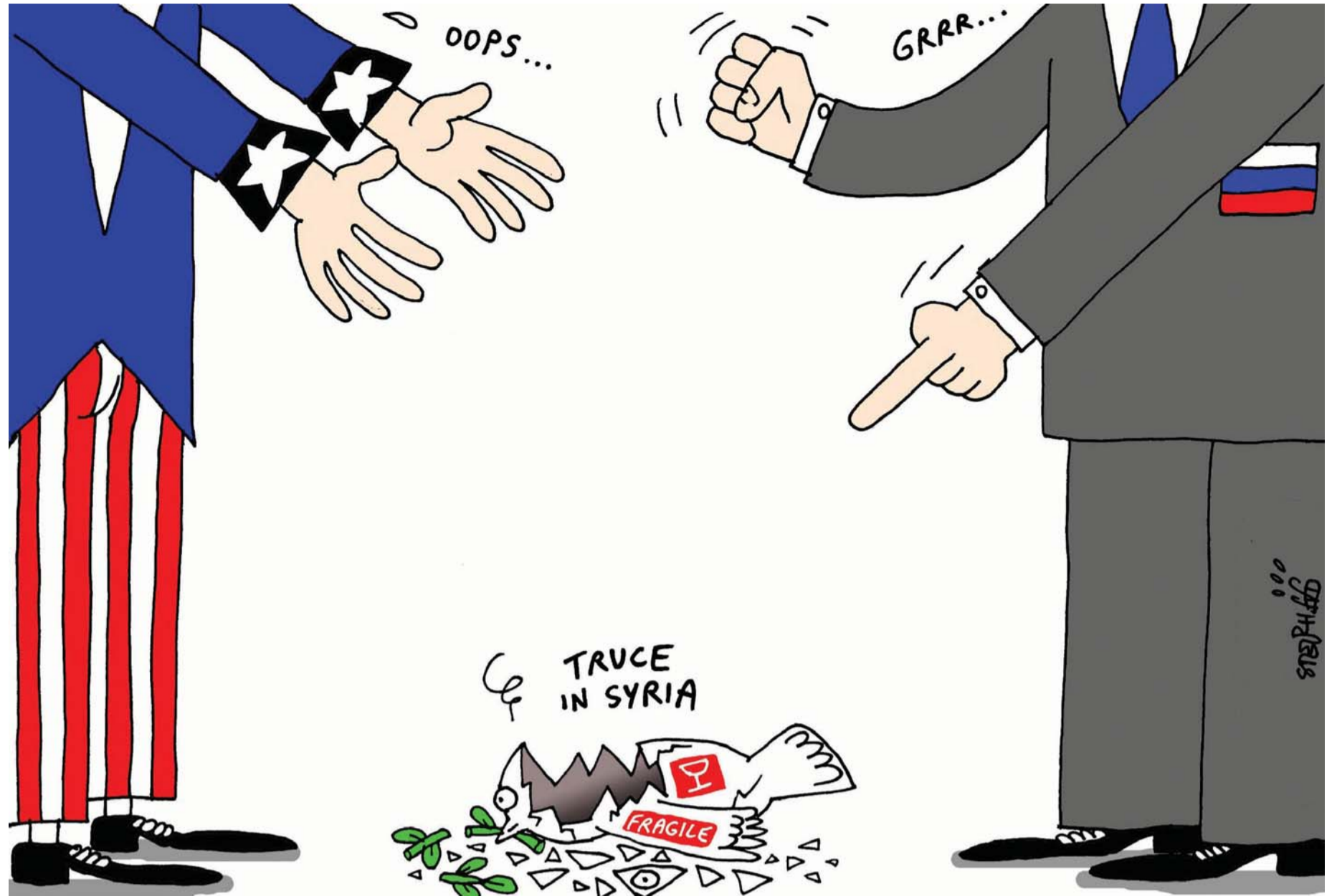
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EASY RESOLUTION IS UNLIKELY FOR DAKOTA PIPELINE

By Catherine Ngai and Ernest Scheyder

A potential rerouting of a long-anticipated pipeline at the center of a protest in North Dakota would be a laborious and costly task, possibly delaying a startup by months and provoking further opposition from Native American and environmental groups who were instrumental in halting construction. The 1,886 km Dakota Access pipeline was slated to start up by the end of the year, transporting more than 470,000 barrels per day of crude oil through four states into Illinois before it hooks up to another pipeline down to Texas.

But in a stunning twist last week, the US Justice Department and other federal agencies intervened to delay construction in what industry and labor representatives called an "unprecedented" move. The halt on the \$3.7 billion project was the result of a groundswell of protest from Native American tribes and environmentalists, some of whom now are vowing to continue the fight until the project is permanently suspended. While there are a few options for rerouting the line, most still cross either culturally important lands to Native Americans or large waterways. The more extensive a reroute, the more likely it is that regulatory obstacles crop up. "We're entering uncharted waters if a reroute happens at this stage and I can't think of another example of a case where this has happened," said Afolabi Ogunnaike, a senior analyst at consultancy Wood Mackenzie. "Should a reroute take place, there are some major challenges."

North Dakota's governor, Jack Dalrymple, told Reuters on Friday that he hoped regulators would give the go-ahead for construction to resume shortly. If that does not happen, an alternative solution does not appear to be easy to come by. Energy Transfer Partners, the company constructing the line, declined to comment. It had said it is committed to completing the project. The protest is concentrated in Cannon Ball, North Dakota, near Lake Oahe, a large and culturally-important reservoir located on the Missouri River in central southern North Dakota, where the line was supposed to cross.

The US Army Corps of Engineers now needs to decide whether it correctly followed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal laws. If they did not, the permit process may need to be restarted, which could take at least 120 days. It is unclear when the NEPA review will be finished. The other option - rerouting the pipeline - also presents substantial challenges. The surrounding land where the pipeline could cross has a number of national parks or wetlands, commercial and residential uses, or Native American reservations.

An early proposal involved sending the pipeline from the Bakken shale, where more than a million barrels of oil is produced daily, a bit further north and crossing the Missouri north of the state capital of Bismarck. The current crossing is about 30 miles south of the state capital. "Knowing that the destination of the pipeline is to the east and looking at where the majority of the oil is sourced from, at some point, you have to cross the Missouri River," said Eric Hansen, director of environmental services at Westwood Professional Services, a surveying and engineering firm that works in North Dakota.

Protests

Activists have said they will continue their protest, fearing damage to the water supply in the event of a leak, though there are many pipelines in the United States that carry fuel under waterways. "No one can live without water. We just want this to stop. We won't leave until it does," said Valerie Eagle Shield, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, the Native American tribe whose lands would be directly affected.

Energy Transfer Partners preferred the more southerly route eventually decided upon because it was 11 miles shorter and would have less impact on the land, according to a US Army Corps environmental assessment from July. It also cost \$23 million less than the first proposed pipeline route. The path with fewest obstacles, experts say, is even further north, heading from the small town of Stanley, located in the Bakken, due east, avoiding the Missouri River altogether.

However, that would require substantial changes and new state and federal permits, and would make it difficult to gather oil from the Bakken, which is not an issue for the current pipeline path. The state and federal regulatory review for the current pipeline took more than two years, according to North Dakota officials. "A permitting process is quite complicated," Hansen said. "As they come up with alternatives, they'll have similar issues to face and re-permitting for any reroutes." In addition, winter is coming, which will make construction a challenge if the situation is not resolved.

Meanwhile, protesters, emboldened by their success, are prepared to take their opposition into the cold winter months, while locals in a section of the line in Iowa are also stepping up their pressure. "This is a large issue, and why expedite it when we have to sit down and consider the ways to move forward. Why rush?" said Dave Archambault II, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, in Fort Yates, North Dakota. —Reuters

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IN FREJUS, FN FACES TEST OF LEADERSHIP

By Ingrid Melander

In the southern French town of Frejus, National Front (FN) mayor David Rachline is performing a balancing act that epitomizes the far-right party's strategy - trying to prove it can run things while retaining its anti-establishment image. The stakes are high for the FN, which won just under a dozen towns including Frejus in 2014 municipal elections, and wants to use its track record in those areas to support its quest for power at a national level.

Aged only 28 and a rising star in the FN, Rachline had a relatively low-key, business-as-usual, start to his tenure. But then he started pushing the party's trademark anti-migration agenda by cutting subsidies to an association helping migrant workers and trying to stop plans to build a mosque. As France's April 2017 presidential election draws nearer, the tension between providing basic city management and courting controversy is becoming more acute and scrutiny is certain to grow after Rachline became campaign director for FN chief Marine Le Pen at the weekend.

Le Pen, seen by opinion polls as likely to make the second round of the presidential election but lose a run-off, gave a ringing endorsement of Rachline and stressed the significance of what he was doing when she launched her campaign in Frejus. "He represents success ... his success in managing his town is a way to silence those who have relentlessly said the National Front could not implement its program," she told reporters on Saturday.

A resort town of 55,000 which hosts three to four times as many people over the summer, Frejus is the biggest constituency managed by the FN, making it an important test of the party. Rachline, who was one of a few dozen mayors who banned the full body burkini swimwear on the beach this summer - an issue which underlined tensions with France's large Muslim population - says he is the victim of unfair criticism by some media and political opponents because of his party allegiance. "I'm a democratically elected mayor who works for the good of the community," he told Reuters in an interview, when asked what being an FN mayor is about. Fixing the town's finances and ensuring its security were his priorities, he added.

Stirring Controversy

Rachline, who joined the FN aged 14, does not shy away from controversy and staunchly defends some of the moves for which critics attack him - including boycotting local journalists. "He is an FN mayor. By the very nature of the FN he needs clashes, this party cannot be only about going more mainstream or it would lose what makes it different," said Sylvain Crepon, a specialist on the FN at the French university of Tours. "He does that skillfully," he said of Rachline. Rachline has fallen out with local journalists, political opponents and activists in recent months.

In June, his administration began boycotting regional newspaper Var-Matin, accusing it of talking down the town and political bias. At the same time, the mayor became involved in a public row with centre-right city councillor Francoise Cauwel, prompting her to file a complaint with local police accusing Rachline of a sexist slur. Rachline says he does not recall using the disputed phrase and that it would not have been that bad even if he had said it. "Things are getting increasingly tense, more radical," Cauwel told Reuters.

After articles on trees being cut down to make space for a concert by veteran rock star Johnny Hallyday, of whom Rachline is a huge fan, the municipality said it would not talk to Var-Matin's local reporting team any more. It also stopped providing the newspaper with routine information including birth and deaths in the town. The municipality's own monthly magazine, distributed to residents for free, devoted three pages in its September edition to complaining about the daily's coverage under the headline "Var-Matin is sullying our town."

Eric Farel, the head of Var-Matin's Frejus team, says such a move is unprecedented. "My feeling is that as we're getting closer to the presidential election they don't want stories that would allow one to say the FN's management of a city is not fine." Some local activists also complain. "We're against the city's current policies and in an FN city when you're against them, you are the enemy, you are ostracized," said Jean-Paul Radigois, the head of an association of inhabitants of Frejus' beach area that opposes the mayor's development plans there. Rachline brushes this aside, saying his project is necessary to develop tourism and give city staff a better place to work. "Democracy is at the moment of elections, I don't know if they (activists) know about that. It's not about petitions," he said.

No Money for Migrants

As for the mosque, now built and operational in an under-privileged borough, Rachline insists his opposition to it is about building permits and not against having a mosque as such. The city and the association that built the mosque have been embroiled for years in legal proceedings that are still ongoing. "In the absence of a building permit, it (the mosque) must be destroyed - like any building, I insist, that wouldn't have a building permit," Rachline said.

He is much more blunt, however, about scrapping a subsidy to the ASTI association that gives support to migrant workers on issues including how to claim pensions. Asked to confirm the end to municipal subsidies to ASTI, Rachline said: "Well, obviously!" And added: "I don't give a cent to migrant workers or to migrants in general." In the streets of the old town of Frejus, with typical Provençal, pastel-coloured houses, reactions are mixed.

Restaurant owner Patrick Loideureau says things have never been better. "When we see how well Rachline and his team are managing Frejus, reducing the debt without raising taxes, if Marine Le Pen came to power, we would be saved," said Loideureau, an FN voter who agrees with the party's anti-immigration agenda. But others differed. "It's hard to be a political opponent in an FN city, we are constantly singled out," said Insaf Rezagui, a local Socialist party representative. The young woman of Algerian descent says her origins are one of the reasons why she's targeted.

In April, Rachline commented on a tweet by a journalist who wrote Rezagui might be a candidate in general elections by asking if there were elections in Palestine. Rachline points out that the FN increased its share of the vote in regional polls that took place 18 months after his election, saying this is proof that residents back his policies. He says he's getting results. The municipality's website says the town's debt per inhabitant will have dropped from 2705 euros (\$3,020) in 2014 to 2447 this year. "We've been told a lot that we wouldn't be able to manage local authorities ... I believe we are showing here that we are capable of this and that we are even more capable than others," he said. —Reuters

WEAKNESS AT HOME HOBBLER MERKEL IN EUROPE

By Noah Barkin

It is hard to think of what more Angela Merkel could have done over the past weeks to nudge fellow European leaders towards a post-Brexit consensus. In the run-up to Friday's EU-27 summit (the bloc minus Britain) in Bratislava, the German chancellor met personally with 24 of her 26 counterparts. She travelled to Warsaw, to Tallinn, to Prague, to Paris and to the Italian island of Ventotene. In the end, all the careful consulting, the earnest effort to show everyone that Germany was not setting the agenda on its own, came to nothing.

Bratislava was a flop. France's Francois Hollande and Slovak host Robert Fico played along, describing the rather thin summit conclusions, dubbed the "Bratislava Roadmap", as a step forward. But Italy's Matteo Renzi and Hungary's Viktor Orban began attacking the document before the ink was dry. "I don't know what Merkel is referring to when she talks about the 'spirit of Bratislava'," Renzi said at the weekend. "If things go on like this, instead of the spirit of Bratislava we'll be talking about the ghost of Europe."

For nearly a decade, Merkel has been setting the direction in Europe. The bloc's response to the euro crisis was made in Berlin. So was the Minsk deal for eastern Ukraine, and last year's EU-Turkey pact to cut the migrant flow to Europe. But Bratislava showed that Merkel's deepening woes at home, underscored by the abysmal result for her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in a regional vote in Berlin on Sunday, is eroding her influence beyond German borders.

"Merkel is discovering in the aftermath of the refugee crisis that she doesn't have too many friends in Europe. And she needs friends and allies on a lot of issues," said a former senior EU official who worked closely with the chancellor during the euro crisis.

The official, who declined to be identified, said he saw no alternative to Merkel in the CDU, in Germany or in Europe. Still, he believes resistance to German leadership will only grow. Merkel is the face of German austerity and of open European borders - the two policies that are energizing populist parties across the bloc, and, officials in some European capitals whisper, may have swung the British vote towards Brexit.

Weakened Figure

The chances of Merkel hunkering down and trying to win a fourth term in an election next year remain high despite a string of state election setbacks and a damaging spat with her Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU), over her welcoming refugee policy. At an unusually self-critical news conference on Monday in which she acknowledged linger-

ing divisions in Europe on refugees, she declined to say whether she would be a candidate. But if she does run and win, she will do so as a weakened figure at home and in Europe. That could have implications on a range of European fronts.

Already, Berlin finds itself on the back foot on economic policy, forced to accept the toothlessness of EU budget rules in the case of deficit-violators Spain and Portugal, and the easy money policies of the European Central Bank. Merkel has also conceded defeat in her year-long quest to convince Berlin's EU partners to accept migrant quotas, agreeing in Bratislava to let eastern European states off the hook by embracing their proposal of "flexible solidarity" in the refugee crisis. Despite that, Orban felt the need to condemn her policies as "self-destructive and naive".

Holding the EU together on sanctions imposed on Russia over the Ukraine crisis could be the next test of German influence. Despite another flurry of shuttle diplomacy by Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, German officials acknowledge in private that they are being forced to think about alternatives to the Minsk deal, to which the lifting of sanctions is tied. "The question is how you transform Minsk into something else," one official said. "It has become an increasingly frustrating exercise which has political costs for those involved."

Renzi and Orban, who pushed back against Merkel in Bratislava, are among the biggest sceptics in the EU of the economic and financial sanctions imposed on Moscow two years ago for its annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and support for rebels in the east. Over the weekend, Slovakia's Fico called the sanctions "ineffective" and damaging to the EU. Russia, he told Reuters in an interview, had done more than Ukraine to meet its commitments under Minsk.

French Vote Key

The other big test for Merkel and the EU is Brexit, the elephant in the room in Bratislava. Her preference since Britain's referendum in June has been to seek a deal with London that keeps the British close. But here too, she faces powerful headwinds, particularly from the French, who are promising to make Brexit as painful as possible for the British. The Berlin-Paris relationship, for decades the driver of closer European integration, may hold the key for how the bloc copes with a new era of disintegration.

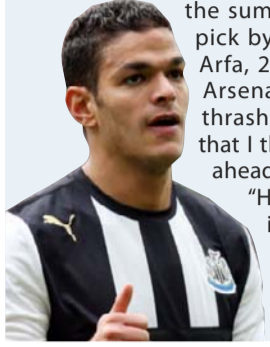
It could also help determine whether Merkel continues to play an important role in shaping policy in Europe or becomes a weakened, more isolated figure. Hollande, who stood loyally by her in Bratislava, is widely expected to be pushed out of office in the spring. If he is replaced by Alain Juppe, the centrist former prime minister, then some see a chance for Merkel to reestablish a degree of consensus and direction for Europe. "In the best of all worlds, you will end next year with Chancellor Merkel and President Juppe. Then Germany and France could become the motor of more Europe again," said the former EU official.

But if the winner of the French election is former President Nicolas Sarkozy, some fear that all bets are off. When they ruled together in Berlin and Paris between 2007 and 2012, Merkel and Sarkozy overcame a rocky start, gravitating towards each other over years of intense crisis-fighting. By the end, they were known by the collective moniker "Merkozy". But in recent months, Sarkozy positioned himself in opposition to Merkel on many of the big issues that count, from refugees and national identity, to Turkey, Russia, Brexit and even climate change. "The divide with Sarkozy has become vast," said one senior German official. "If he is elected it could be a huge problem for Merkel." Then, Bratislava may be looked back upon as the moment when Merkel lost Europe. —Reuters



BEN ARFA STRANDED ON PSG SIDELINES

PARIS: Hatem Ben Arfa's future at Paris Saint-Germain looks increasingly doubtful after the France international winger was again ignored by coach Unai Emery for Ligue 1 action today. It was the third consecutive game that Emery has not selected Ben Arfa, who arrived at PSG in the summer from Nice, the Spanish coach justifying his pick by saying it was a "purely sporting decision". Ben Arfa, 29, has already missed out on the 1-1 draw with Arsenal in the Champions league and the 6-0 league thrashing of Caen last week. "I'm preparing the team that I think to be the best to play the match," Emery said ahead of Tuesday's home Ligue 1 match against Dijon. "He's a player like the others, I think that the players in the squad today are those who have best prepared for tomorrow's game," said Emery, who had explained earlier this month that Ben Arfa needed to "work more". — AFP



S LANKA CRICKET STAR HELD OVER FATAL CRASH

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka police briefly detained a national cricketer after a fatal crash involving his car and a motorcycle on one of the most dangerous roads in the country. Nuwan Kulasekara, 34, was on the A-1 highway when a motorcyclist travelling in the opposite direction hit a barrier dividing the lanes and crashed into the cricketer's vehicle, police said. "He was briefly held as part of routine investigations and released," a police official at Kadawatha, 15 kilometres (10 miles) east of Colombo, said. "The motorcyclist succumbed to his injuries but there were no other casualties." There was no immediate comment from Kulasekara but a close associate told AFP he was shaken after the incident. The veteran seamer made his Test debut against New Zealand in 2005 and went on to play 21 Tests, capturing 48 wickets. He retired from Test cricket in June to concentrate on shorter formats of the game. Police have deployed Buddhist monks to bless dangerous roads, including the A-1, to minimise accidents. Around 2,700 people were killed last year on Sri Lanka's roads, with about half the victims motorcyclists. — AFP

GASCOIGNE FINED FOR RACISM OFFENCE

DUDLEY: Former England footballer Paul Gascoigne has been fined £1,000 (\$1,305, 1,168 euros) and ordered to pay £1,000 in compensation by a court yesterday for making a racist comment to a black security guard at his 'An Evening With Gazza' show last year. Dudley Magistrates Court was told Gascoigne, 49, had humiliated Errol Rowe, who had been given the job of protecting him during his performance in the nearby English West Midlands town of Wolverhampton on November 30 last year, by asking him: "Can you smile please, because I can't see you?" District Judge Graham Wilkinson, fining Gascoigne, told the retired playmaker: "You sought to get a laugh from an audience of over 1,000 people because of the colour of Mr Rowe's skin." It had appeared Gascoigne, who made his name at northeast club Newcastle United before enjoying spells at Tottenham Hotspur, Rome club Lazio and Glasgow Rangers, would contest the charge. — AFP



COZUMEL: British athlete Alistair Brownlee (L) helps his brother Jonathan Brownlee (R) before crossing the line in second and third place during the ITU World Triathlon Championships 2016 in Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico on Sunday. — AFP

MOLA TAKES THE TITLE, BROWNLEES STEAL THE SHOW



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA: Team Penske driver Simon Pagenaud of France celebrates after winning the IndyCar Championship title and the race during the GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma at the Sonoma Raceway in northern California on Sunday. — AFP

PAGENAUD WINS 1ST INDYCAR TITLE IN BANNER PENSKE YEAR

SONOMA: In a yearlong celebration of Roger Penske's 50th year in racing, Simon Pagenaud brought yet another championship to trophy to one of the most storied organizations in motorsports.

The Frenchman won his first career IndyCar title in his sophomore season driving for Penske, and did it in dominating fashion by winning the season finale Sunday at Sonoma Raceway.

Pagenaud only needed a smooth race to put a wrap on this breakthrough season. Instead, he picked up his fifth win of the year and led a strong Penske finish to the final podium. The Penske team went 1-2-3 in the final series standings, the first team to do so since another Penske trio pulled off the sweep in 1994.

"That was a strong run and I take my hat off to the entire team," Penske said. A 14th IndyCar title - and 29th in various forms of motorsports - was guaranteed at the start of the race because only Pagenaud and teammate Will Power were mathematically eligible to win the title.

Pagenaud entered the weekend 43 points ahead of Power, but earned an additional point for winning the pole. Then he led the most laps and won a race that was worth double points in the standings.

"My whole career has been about this day, reaching this level," Pagenaud said. "For an athlete, it's what you work for." Pagenaud's performance was a moot point, though: Power had mechanical issues 38 laps into the race that sealed the outcome. Probably needing to win to unseat Pagenaud, Power instead finished 20th. Pagenaud's final margin was 127 points, the largest points win since Alex Zanardi defeated teammate Jimmy Vasser by 119 points in 1998.

"It was pretty realistic considering it

was (worth) double points," Power said. "It's just how it flows, when it's your year, it's your year, and Simon has done a phenomenal job to lead a 1-2-3 finish."

DREAM TEAM

Power finished second in the standings and Helio Castroneves was third. "Throughout the entire season, he was not only an amazing driver but a champion," Castroneves said of teammate Pagenaud. "Really honored to be working with a guy like that. The whole team was a dream to work with and today was the proof of that."

It's the fourth time Power has finished second in the standings, but it was easy to swallow because he won his only title in 2014. And, he missed the season opening race this year when IndyCar ruled him out with concussion-like symptoms - it was an inner ear infection - so climbing back into title contention was somewhat of a victory.

"If I hadn't won a championship, I guess it would be a pretty bad day," Power said. "But finishing second, considering how I started the year, getting four wins, it's a good year."

A year after losing the title in the final race - Juan Pablo Montoya led the standings wire-to-wire, but a Scott Dixon win in the finale cost Penske the championship on a tie-breaker - the Penske organization cruised to the top of the series. The combination of Pagenaud, Power and Montoya won 10 of the 16 races.

Across all motorsports, Penske this year also achieved its 500th pole, its 100th victory in NASCAR's top Sprint Cup Series, and now an additional championship. The Penske team still has another shot: Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano both had top-five finishes Sunday in the opening race of NASCAR's playoffs. — AP

COZUMEL: Alistair and Jonny Brownlee were brothers in arms at a dramatic finale of the World Triathlon Series as double Olympic champion Alistair hauled an exhausted Jonny over the line in a desperate bid to help his younger brother secure the title.

Jonny, silver medalist in Rio, collapsed having finished second but Spaniard Mario Mola's fifth-placed finish in the final race of the series in the Cozumel, Mexico was enough for the Spaniard to top the overall standings and secure his first ITU world championship title, four points ahead of Briton Jonny. Spain's Fernando Alarza came third. But Mola's overall victory played second fiddle to the show put on by the Brownlee brothers. Heading into the final race of the season, victory would have handed Jonny the world title and with just under a kilometre to go of the run, victory was firmly in his grasp as he led by 50 metres. But dazed by the heat and reeling from exhaustion, the Rio Olympics silver medalist began to wander across the road, allowing

South Africa's Henri Schoeman to overtake him in the final stretch of the 10km run to win on the day. Alistair, who was running in third-place, caught hold of his disoriented brother, wrapping an arm around his shoulder to take his weight over the final few metres, before pushing Jonny over the finish line ahead of himself.

NATURAL HUMAN REACTION

"I wish the flipping idiot had paced it right and crossed the finish line first," Alistair told reporters after the race as Jonny was given medical treatment. "He could have jogged that last two kilometres and won the race. You have to race the conditions. It was a natural human reaction to my brother but for anyone I would have done the same thing. I think it's as close to death as you can be in sport."

Mola said his joy in victory had been tempered by Jonny's struggles with the conditions. "First of all this was not how I wanted to win the world championship," the Spaniard said in a

statement. "Luckily I was able to be in the top five considering Jonny didn't win the race. We want everyone to be safe after the finish line, it's not the way I wanted it, but that's triathlon."

After the 1.5km swim, the Brownlee brothers were in the leading pack that headed into the second transition one minute 39 seconds ahead.

Jonny, 26, set the pace heading into the final run, but Schoeman stayed in touch, eventually capitalising on the Briton's exhaustion to clinch his first world triathlon series win.

An appeal by the Spanish Triathlon Federation to disqualify Jonny for accepting assistance from his brother was dismissed by the ITU jury. Bermuda's Flora Duffy was crowned the women's world triathlon series champion ahead of American Olympic champion Gwen Jorgensen on Saturday. Duffy broke away from the pack with a stellar bike ride, and maintained her momentum in the run to clinch victory. Japan's Ai Ueda finished third in the overall standings. — Reuters



VIVA CONCLUDES 'VIVA REAL MADRID' TRAINING CAMP

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the conclusion of "VIVA Real Madrid" training camp for the 16 qualifying players who travelled to Madrid to practice at Real Madrid Academy's ground in Valdebebas sport city.

The training program included several workshops and activities educating the players on

the best maneuvers, attacks, different scenarios and conditioned games. The program also focused on different technical areas, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing.

Commenting on this occasion, Abdulrazaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA said: "We are proud of the Kuwaiti players who engaged in this training

camp and demonstrated high and significant soccer skills.

We shared those players this unrivalled experience during their trip and we hope they carry on in this journey to reach more success." He added: "VIVA will keep supporting the Kuwaiti youth athletes to fulfill their dreams and accomplish their goals."

BRAZIL'S TEENAGE GIRLS TACKLE TABOOS THROUGH SPORT

RIO DE JANEIRO: Each week in a northern suburb of Rio de Janeiro, a dozen or so girls meet to play handball but are learning far more than how to master the fast-paced game. Part of a project called One Win Leads to Another, organized by UN Women and the International Olympic Committee, the teens take part before each game in group sessions with a psychologist talking about women's rights, reproduction and sexual health.

One Win Leads to Another, which also receives support from the Brazilian Olympic Committee, is one of several programs aimed at building a social legacy in Rio beyond this summer's Olympic Games.

The aim of One Win is to create a "safe space" for girls to discuss subjects that may likely be taboo at home or school, Thays Prado, a project manager at the United Nations' women's agency, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The girls, quiet and shy at first, have opened up, Prado said. "I like the program and have learned a lot about feminism and women's

rights," said 15-year-old Marcelly Victória. "It's my mother's role to approach those topics but as she doesn't do it, I now bring them up myself," she said.

Her mother is relieved and pleased that they can talk about subjects like sexual health at home, she said. Not only do the girls learn but they play better together at handball after the discussion groups, said Anderlina Rocha, the group's psychologist.

They are dedicated. Some travel as long as two hours by public transportation to reach the center. Almost half the girls grew up and live in the Cidade de Deus, or City of God, a notorious favela.

They have been inspired by the recent success of another City of God resident, Rafaela Silva, who this summer took home an Olympic gold medal for Brazil in women's judo.

Another group hoping to capitalize on the momentum of the Olympic Games is BrazilFoundation, a US-based non-profit trying to raise money for a number of local social initiatives in Rio through a #TEAMRIO

fundraising campaign. "The aftermath of the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games left a very positive feeling among Brazilians," said Mônica de Roure, vice president of BrazilFoundation.

But considerable needs remain, such as investment, she said. Government spending on the Olympics provoked much opposition in Brazil, with critics saying most of Rio's population would not benefit from the huge event held in their city.

Most investment centered on the wealthy Barra da Tijuca district, home of the Olympic Village, which is to be turned into a luxury housing development. A new transportation system built for the Games links up southern areas of the city, but critics say the northern and eastern areas, where many working people live, were in greater need of an improved system and that work there would have cost less.

TALKING OPENLY

But some parts of Rio did see important infrastructure changes. A new Olympic

Boulevard and port regeneration project to the north have breathed new life into a core area, for example.

One Win aims to encourage disadvantaged girls in sports in areas far from the high-profile improvements.

It has so far been rolled out at 16 locations around Rio. A discussion of sexual and reproductive issues with teenage girls is of "huge value" in a country, where it is hard to talk openly about such topics, said Prado. They are not discussed often in schools, and a political shift to the right has made such conversations even more fraught, Prado said.

"Some teachers have been accused or denounced for addressing these kinds of issues. They are punished and are fired or threatened," she said. Stereotypes about female roles and behavior intensify when girls in Brazil hit their teenage years, she said. "They alone are responsible for preventing pregnancy and at the same time their bodies are becoming very sexualised," she said. "It is very complicated for them to

deal with all this pressure."

One in five births in Brazil are to mothers aged 19 or younger, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Teen pregnancy affects young women from the "most vulnerable" social groups, said Anna Cunha, a UNFPA program officer.

Experts link teen pregnancy to a lack of sex education and a perception that girls from poor backgrounds do not have opportunities for economic advancement that could be an alternative to early motherhood. For Marcelly and her teammates, the program opens a window to a different kind of future, where women can break with traditional stereotypes.

Raphaella Lacerda, 16, said the classes have boosted her self-esteem, particularly by making her feel less embarrassed about playing sports.

"People think it's not a woman's thing, that you shouldn't feel confident about playing sport," she said. "But the program has helped me to start to understand what I should feel confident about." — Reuters

CYBER HACKERS PUBLISH MEDICAL DATA FOR FARAH, NADAL AND ROSE

LONDON: Olympic champions Mo Farah, Rafael Nadal and Justin Rose were among athletes targeted yesterday in the latest leak of confidential medical documents that the world anti-doping agency (WADA) says were hacked by a Russian cyber espionage group.

Britain's Farah became only the second man to retain the 5,000 and 10,000 metres Olympic titles at the Rio de Janeiro Games last month while compatriot Rose won the first gold medal in golf for 112 years.

Spaniard Nadal, a 14-times tennis grand slam winner, won Olympic men's doubles gold with Marc Lopez. He also won the men's singles title at the 2008 Beijing Games but missed London 2012 due to a knee injury.

WADA has said it believes the hackers, named as APT28 and Fancy Bears, gained access to its anti-doping administration and management system (ADAMS) via an IOC-created account for the Rio Games.

Documents relating to Farah, and published on the fancybear.net website, showed that the distance runner had no active Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) at the time of the Olympics.

He received intravenous infusions of saline solution, morphine sulphate and vicodin administered orally during a period in hospital between July 3-5, 2014 when he had collapsed after a training run.

Prior to that, he was given a TUE for an

80mg dosage of the corticosteroid triamcinolone in October 2008.

Rose had authorisation for daily dosages of the anti-inflammatory drug prednisolone between May this year and June 20. The documents relating to Nadal, who was out for more than two months with a wrist injury that forced him to miss the French Open and Wimbledon before the Olympics, showed exemptions in 2009 and 2012. The fourth release of data so far concerned 26 athletes from Argentina, Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Denmark, France, Britain, Hungary, Spain and the United States. Other high-profile names included Burundi's Francine Niyonsaba, British cyclist Callum Skinner and double Olympic rowing gold medallist Helen Glover. TUEs allow athletes to take banned substances for verified medical needs and there is no suggestion any of those named have broken any rules.

WADA has said the "criminal attack" has recklessly exposed personal data in an attempt to smear reputations.

The agency has also said it believes the attacks are being carried out as retaliation for investigations that exposed state-sponsored doping in Russia. Fancy Bear has previously posted data for U.S. athletes Simone Biles, Elena Delle Donne, and Serena and Venus Williams as well as Tour de France-winning British cyclists Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome. — Reuters



TORONTO: Brandon Saad #20 of Team North America tries to get a shot off past Mikael Granlund #64 and Pekka Rinne #35 of Team Finland in the second period during the World Cup of Hockey at the Air Canada Center on Sunday in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

SWEDEN TOP RUSSIA, N AMERICA STUN FINLAND IN W CUP HOCKEY

TORONTO: Jacob Markstrom stepped in admirably for Henrik Lundqvist as Sweden held on to beat Russia while Team North America dazzled in their debut with a dominant win over Finland at the World Cup of Hockey on Sunday. Markstrom, who started in place of an ill Lundqvist, kept Russia's potent scoring attack off the board until Alex Ovechkin scored with 33 seconds remaining but Sweden hung on for a 2-1 win in the tournament opener for both teams. "You got to be ready every time you come to the rink," said Markstrom, 26, who only learned he was starting in net a couple hours before the game.

"You can't just come in with a muffin and hot chocolate... you got to prepare yourself and get the body to be ready if it's time to go."

Lundqvist is one of the finest goaltenders of his generation and a key reason why Sweden are expected to reach the gold medal game on Oct. 1, but Markstrom showed he was up for the challenge as he made 27 saves in the win.

Markstrom, who has competed in world championships and has won a gold medal on

the international stage, had little time to settle in as he was forced to stop a Vladimir Tarasenko one-timer 30 seconds into the game.

Sweden's Gabriel Landeskog opened the scoring in the second period when his slapshot from just outside the faceoff circle glanced off the post and past the screened Russian goalie, Sergei Bobrovsky. Victor Hedman doubled Sweden's lead two minutes later when he came off the bench and immediately took a feed from Carl Hagelin and sent a one-timer into the net for what proved to be the game-winner. Russia appeared to tie the game with seven seconds left in regulation but a video review showed the puck went into the Swedish net off Ovechkin's glove.

Sweden face Finland today

For Russia, the loss puts added significance on their Monday clash with Team North America, a potent mix of US and Canadian players under the age of 23 who got their three-game group stage off to a flying start.

Team North America, a talent-laden squad

dismissed by many as gimmicky when the tournament format was announced, cruised to a 4-1 win over Finland, the 2014 Olympic bronze medallists who also won a silver medal at this year's world championships. American Jack Eichel put North America on the board five minutes into the game before the young guns put the Group B clash out of Finland's reach with a three-goal second period.

U.S. winger Johnny Gaudreau and Canadian Jonathan Drouin scored during a two-minute span while Canadian Nathan MacKinnon added another with about five minutes to go in the second. Finland, who were outshot 43-25, spoiled Canadian Matt Murray's shutout bid when Valtteri Filppula scored with about four minutes to play. "We're so undervalued and so unknown. No one really knows what we can do, we take that role and run with it," said Team North America captain Connor McDavid. "We're playing the Russians tomorrow, a hockey giant, it's going to be a good test for us but we're excited about it." — Reuters



COLOMBES: Racing 92's New Zealander flyhalf Dan Carter (L) is tackled by Toulon's Welsh fullback Leigh Halfpenny during French Top 14 rugby union match between Racing 92 and RC Toulon at the Yves du Manoir stadium in Colombes on Sunday. — AFP

SUPER RUGBY UNCHANGED FOR 2017 BUT FUTURE TWEAKS

SYDNEY: Super Rugby will retain the same structure for 2017 but there is an acceptance that it is not perfect and changes are possible for the following season, SANZAAR chief executive Andy Marinos said yesterday. The 2016 season was the first with 18 teams, including new franchises in Argentina and Japan, and there were some major mismatches as well as criticism of a conference system which allowed home advantage in the playoffs to some teams despite them having a worse records than others.

"Looking at the overall structure, the competition is locked and loaded for next year," Marinos told a media briefing. "But we are looking at all the anomalies and see how we best can correct it. I'm not saying we will get everything right, but at least we can have a good crack at addressing it." Nothing would be "off the table" when it came to proposed changes to the structure of the playoffs, he added, but expansion meant there could be no return to the days when each team played everyone else.

At a meeting with the national unions, Super Rugby coaches and TV broadcasters in Sydney last week, Marinos said the main concerns expressed had been over the competitiveness of some teams.

"If the teams are all competing well, that does go a fair way towards managing people's expectations around the integrity of the competition," he said.

"The big thrust there is getting the competitiveness back to where it was. It's a damned good competition," he added. "The competition is in a very good space. We had a global audience of 50 million and two million came through the turnstiles." Australia's ability to maintain five

teams and South Africa six was a "concern", Marinos said, but any contraction or further expansion of the competition would have to wait until at least 2018, if not 2020 when the current TV contract expires. Marinos has led a drive to put in place SANZAAR's first 10-year strategic plan and consultants Accenture are due to make a series of recommendations later this year. The Zimbabwe-born former Wales centre, though, clearly believes expansion is essential for the health of southern hemisphere rugby, which provided all four semi-finalists at last year's World Cup.

"There is no shying away from the fact that the money in the game in France and England is a significant threat," he said. "We've already seen a mass exodus of players out of Africa and Australia and, if it continues the way it is, it could impact on the other markets."

"It's a reality that we have to deal with and looking at expansion and looking into new markets - a driver for that is to increase revenue and fund more in our core markets to enable us to retain the best players for as long as possible."

Marinos said that the Australia, New Zealand and South Africa markets were reaching saturation point and the only way to drive "exponential" growth was to move into new countries. The United States was "attractive" but, Marinos said, the lesson of bringing Argentina into SANZAAR had been that expansion should not happen overnight. "You've got to get in there and strategically invest to build sustainability over a period of time so that when they do compete at the top table they are competitive," he said. — Reuters

MICHAEL THOMSON WINS BOISE OPEN

BOISE: Michael Thomson won the Web.com Tour Finals' Albertsons Boise Open on Sunday at Hillcrest Country Club to regain a PGA Tour card. Thomson finished with his second straight 7-under 64, birdieing five of the first seven holes on the back nine, for a three-stroke victory over Argentina's Miguel Angel Carballo.

The 31-year-old Thomson finished at 23-under 261 and earned \$180,000 in the second of four events that will determine 25 PGA Tour cards. He won the 2013 Honda Classic for his lone PGA Tour title.

"It's a huge confidence boost, to know that you can do it on such a big stage on a big level," Thomson said. "These four Web.com Tour Finals events mean a lot to all of us. We all want to get our card, especially the guys that lost it last year. I hope that this continues to breed confidence going forward. I feel good about my game."

He holed out from a bunker for birdie on the par-3 13th. Carballo eagled the par-5 second hole in a 66. "Miguel and I were playing really great," Thomson said. "We were kind of feeding off of each other. When that happens, it makes golf a lot of fun."

Carballo earned \$108,000 to also wrap up a PGA Tour card. "I'm very happy about going back to the PGA Tour," Carballo said. "I'm really happy about it because at the beginning of the year I was playing really bad for the first four months. Midseason, I started playing a little bit better, and I'm happy to be back." Grayson Murray was third at 18 under after

a 64. He already earned a card as a top-25 finisher on the Web.com money list. England's Andrew "Beef" Johnston (68) was 17 under and also earned a PGA Tour card, making \$48,000 to push his two-event total to \$54,910.

"A few sodas! Yeah, I think there will be a Coke or a Fanta or something like that," Johnston joked about his card-earning celebration. "Nah, there's going to be a few beers, man!" The series features the top 75 players from the Web.com money list, Nos. 126-200 in the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup standings - Thompson was 145th, and Carballo 187th - and non-members such as Johnston with enough PGA Tour money to have placed in the top 200 in the FedEx Cup had they been eligible. The top 25 players on the Web.com regular-season money list earned PGA Tour cards. They are competing against each other for four priority, with regular-season earnings counting in their totals. The other players are fighting for 25 cards based on series earnings. Last year, Rob Oppenheim got the last PGA Tour card with \$32,206. Bobby Gates was 25th in 2013 at \$33,650, and Eric Axley took the last card in 2014 at \$36,312. Three-time PGA Tour winner Scott Stallings (71) tied for fifth at 16 under with Ryan Blum (64)

and Canada's Mackenzie Hughes (68). Tied with Thompson for the third-round lead, Stallings eagled the par-5 16th and made a double bogey on the par-4 18th. He has made \$68,875 in the first two events to regain his PGA Tour card after finishing 128th in the FedEx Cup standings. — AP



BOISE: Michael Thomson holds the trophy after winning the Albertsons Boise Open at the Hillcrest Country Club on Sunday in Boise, Idaho. — AFP

SKI SUPPLIER CHIEF SAYS IT HAS BEEN SUED BY BODE MILLER

VIENNA: Austrian-based ski manufacturer Head said yesterday it has been sued by six-time Olympic medalist Bode Miller, who wants to resume World Cup racing with a different equipment supplier.

Head maintained that when Miller ended their nearly 10-year-long partnership in 2015, he signed an agreement not to wear a different ski brand in World Cup or world championship races for the following two years.

Miller, who sat out last season, now

plans to return to the World Cup on skis from New York-based brand Bomber, which he helped develop. In a statement on the company's Facebook page, Head CEO Johan Eliasch said he's "truly very disappointed to see that Bode has no intention to honor his word and that he intends to breach our agreement to that effect." "We will take every action to enforce our rights against Bode," Eliasch said. "That said, Head would welcome Bode's return to World Cup racing, but it

has to be on Head equipment." Miller, who turns 39 next month, never formally retired but hinted several times he was not planning to return to competitive skiing. Head race director Rainer Salzgeber told Austrian radio station ORF Vorarlberg that Miller initially didn't intend to race anymore but apparently changed his mind. "Our contract ran through 2016 but in 2015 he wanted to terminate it early," Salzgeber said. "He signed an agreement he would not compete on different skis.

That was not signed just for fun. He put his signature on it. Let's see what we can do." A two-time overall champion, Miller has not competed on the World Cup circuit since March 2014. However, he took part in the 2015 world championships in Beaver Creek, where he severed his hamstring tendon in a nasty crash during the opening super-G race.

Miller has been using Head skis, boots and bindings since 2006, a year before he broke away from the US ski team to set

up his own independent team. He returned to the American national team two years later.

The Easton, New Hampshire native earned gold in the super-combined event at the 2010 Vancouver Games and won five more Olympic medals, most recently super-G bronze at the 2014 Sochi Games.

A four-time world champion, Miller won 33 World Cup races and took the overall title in 2005 and again three years later. — AP



BOSTON: Hanley Ramirez #13 of the Boston Red Sox hits a solo home run for his second home run of the game during the seventh inning against the New York Yankees at Fenway Park on Sunday in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

CARDINALS MOVE UP IN TIGHT NL WILD-CARD RACE WITH WIN

SAN FRANCISCO: Alex Reyes pitched seven dominant innings in his third MLB start, fellow rookie Aledmys Diaz hit a two-run homer and the St. Louis Cardinals moved up in the tight National League wild-card race, blanking the San Francisco Giants 3-0 on Sunday. The Giants dropped one game behind the New York Mets for the top wild-card spot. The Cardinals closed within one game of San Francisco. Reyes (3-1), considered one of the majors' best pitching prospects, gave up four hits, struck out six and walked two. Seung Hwan Oh pitched a scoreless ninth for his 18th save. Diaz hit his 16th homer, a two-run drive in the third off Albert Suarez (3-4).

RED SOX 5, YANKEES 4

Hanley Ramirez homered twice and drove in four runs to rally Boston, completing a four-game sweep that severely diminished New York's chances of winning the American League East division. Jackie Bradley Jr. had a tying RBI single for the East-leading Red Sox, who overcame a rough start by Drew Pomeranz to post their ninth win in 12 games. Boston remained three games ahead of second-place Baltimore, which beat Tampa Bay 2-1 on Sunday. The Red Sox open a 10-game trip at Baltimore with the first of four games tonight. Gary Sanchez belted his 16th homer since Aug. 3 for the Yankees, who dropped eight back in the division and remained four behind Toronto for the second wild-card spot. Robby Scott (1-0) got two outs for his first major league win. Koji Uehara got three outs for his seventh save. Tyler Clippard (1-1) allowed Ramirez's tiebreaking homer in the seventh.

METS 3, TWINS 2

Gabriel Ynoa struck out eight over 4 2/3 innings in his first major league start to aid the Mets' rickety rotation, and New York completed a three-game sweep. New York took over the top spot in the NL wild-card race, winning for the 11th time in 14 games. Michael Conforto drove in two runs with a first-inning single off Kyle Gibson (6-10) and T.J. Rivera added a solo home run in the third. Lucas Duda went 0 for 2 in his return from a stress

fracture in his lower back, an injury that had sidelined him since May 20. Erik Goeddel (2-1) won in relief. Jerry Blevins got his fourth career save, his second this year.

TIGERS 9, INDIANS 5

Ian Kinsler got his helmet knocked off by a pitch from Trevor Bauer, yelled at the Cleveland right-hander and later was ejected in Detroit's win. Miguel Cabrera got his 2,500th career hit to help the Tigers pull within seven games of Cleveland. The Tigers defeated the AL Central leaders for only the second time in 15 tries this season. Bauer (11-8) hit three batters, including Kinsler in the third. Kinsler grabbed the side of his head, was examined and went to first. Kinsler shouted at Bauer when he scored. Daniel Norris (3-2) won and Francisco Rodriguez recorded four outs for his 43rd save.

ORIOLES 2, RAYS 1

Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 43rd home run to break an eighth-inning tie and carry Baltimore. Manny Machado also homered for the Orioles, who lead Toronto by one game for the top AL wild-card spot. Trumbo homered off Ryan Garton (1-1). Brad Brach (10-3) pitched the eighth and Zach Britton got three outs for his 45th save in 45 tries.

ANGELS 4, BLUE JAYS 0

Mike Trout and Albert Pujols each scored twice, Alex Meyer gave up two hits in five innings for his first career win and Los Angeles beat Toronto. The Blue Jays fell out of a tie with Baltimore for the top AL wild-card spot. Meyer (1-3) struck out a career-best seven and walked three. Marcus Stroman (9-9) went six innings. The game was delayed for 13 minutes in the bottom of the third inning because of bees on the field.

MARINERS 7, ASTROS 3

Seth Smith hit two home runs and Seattle moved up in the AL wild-card race. Smith drove in four runs to back Ariel Miranda (5-1). The Mariners are one game behind Toronto for the second wild-card

spot. Doug Fister (12-12) took the loss.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, DODGERS 9, 12 INNINGS

Brandon Drury singled with two outs in the 12th inning to score Paul Goldschmidt, lifting Arizona over the NL West leaders. Drury had four hits, including a home run, and got his chance in the 12th after the Dodgers intentionally walked Jake Lamb. Ross Stripling (4-8) got the loss. Matt Koch (1-0) got the win.

ATHLETICS 5, RANGERS 2

Khris Davis homered twice, giving him 40 this season for Oakland. Davis is the first A's player to hit 40 homers since Jason Giambi had 43 in 2000. Davis has 10 homers in 15 games against the Rangers. Ross Detwiler (2-3) went 5 1/3 innings and limited AL West-lead-

ing Texas to two runs. Ryan Dull got his third save. Colby Lewis (6-3) allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings in his second start since a two-month stay on the disabled list because of a strained right lat.

ROYALS 10, WHITE SOX 3

Kendrys Morales homered for his 1,000th career hit and drove in four runs while Danny Duffy pitched effectively into the eighth inning for Kansas City. Duffy (12-2) struck out eight. Todd Frazier hit his 37th homer, a White Sox record for a third baseman. Jose Quintana (12-11) fell to 1-9 lifetime against the Royals.

BRAVES 6, NATIONALS 2

Adonis Garcia drove in three runs, Matt Wisler pitched five-plus innings and Atlanta beat the NL East leaders in a rain-shortened

game. The game ended in the bottom of the seventh after a second delay that lasted 1 hour, 50 minutes. Wisler (7-12) allowed two runs. Joe Ross (7-5), reinstated from the disabled list after missing 66 games with right shoulder inflammation, allowed one run and six hits in three innings.

BREWERS 3, CUBS 1

Major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks allowed two runs in six innings for the NL Central champion Chicago in a loss to Milwaukee. Hendricks (15-8), making his first start since losing a no-hit bid in the ninth inning at St. Louis, struck out nine. His ERA rose from 2.03 to 2.06. Tyler Thornburg struck out Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo with two on in the ninth to earn his 11th save in 16 chances. Willy Peralta (7-10) had an RBI single.

REDS 7, PIRATES 4

Joey Votto hit his 25th homer, Tucker Barnhart tied his career high with four RBIs and Cincinnati ended Pittsburgh's four-game winning streak. Votto finished with four hits as the Reds stopped their four-game skid. Dan Straily (13-8) got the win. Ivan Nova (12-7) had been 5-0 since being traded from the Yankees to Pittsburgh on Aug. 1.

MARLINS 5, PHILLIES 4

J.T. Realmuto delivered a go-ahead infield single in the eighth inning and Miami rallied to avoid a sweep. Reliever Mike Dunn (4-1) won in relief and A.J. Ramos pitched a scoreless ninth for his 37th save. With the Marlins trailing 4-2 in the eighth, Christian Yelich hit a two-run homer off Hector Neris (4-4).

ROCKIES 6, PADRES 3

Mark Reynolds homered in the fourth inning and Chad Bettis pitched into the sixth for Colorado. San Diego played a day after Yangervis Solarte lost his wife, Yuliett, following a battle with cancer. The third baseman was with his family Sunday and the Rockies held a moment of silence for her before the game. Bettis (13-7) helped himself with two walks and an RBI. Adam Ottavino got his fifth save. Jarred Cosart (0-4) took the loss. — AP

MLB results/standings

Detroit 9, Cleveland 5; NY Mets 3, Minnesota 2; Cincinnati 7, Pittsburgh 4; Miami 5, Philadelphia 4; Baltimore 2, Tampa Bay 1; Atlanta 6, Washington 2 (7 innings); Kansas City 10, Chicago White Sox 3; Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 1; Oakland 5, Texas 2; LA Angels 4, Toronto 0; St. Louis 3, San Francisco 0; Seattle 7, Houston 3; Arizona 10, LA Dodgers 9 (12 innings); Colorado 6, San Diego 3; Boston 5, NY Yankees 4.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	85	64	.570	-	Washington	88	61	.591	-
Baltimore	82	67	.550	3	NY Mets	80	69	.537	8
Toronto	81	68	.544	4	Miami	74	75	.497	14
NY Yankees	77	72	.517	8	Philadelphia	67	83	.447	21.5
Tampa Bay	64	85	.430	21	Atlanta	58	91	.389	30
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	86	63	.577	-	Chicago Cubs	94	55	.631	-
Detroit	79	70	.530	7	St. Louis	78	71	.523	16
Kansas City	76	73	.510	10	Pittsburgh	74	75	.497	20
Chicago W Sox	72	77	.483	14	Milwaukee	68	82	.453	26.5
Minnesota	55	95	.367	31.5	Cincinnati	63	86	.423	31
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	88	62	.587	-	LA Dodgers	84	65	.564	-
Seattle	79	70	.530	8.5	San Francisco	79	70	.530	5
Houston	78	71	.523	9.5	Colorado	72	77	.483	12
Oakland	66	83	.443	21.5	Arizona	63	86	.423	21
LA Angels	65	84	.436	22.5	San Diego	62	87	.416	22

SMITH BACKS STARC FOR PROTEAS TESTS DESPITE 'GRUESOME' INJURY

SYDNEY: Australia captain Steve Smith thinks Mitchell Starc will be fit to face South Africa in November despite a freak accident in training last week that left the pace bowler with a "gruesome" injury.

Left-arm Starc required 30 stitches last Thursday to close a gash in his left leg caused by a stump that had been dug into the ground at Hurstville Oval in south Sydney and will be in a leg brace for another two weeks.

"It wasn't nice at all," Smith told reporters on Monday ahead of Australia's departure for South Africa, where they will play a lone one-day against Ireland followed by five ODIs against the hosts.

"It was actually probably one of the most gruesome things I have ever seen." "I guess for Mitch, he's got no tendon or ligament damage so given everything goes well over the next couple of weeks, we're confident that'll be okay for the first test

match." Starc, who was being rested from the trip to South Africa along with fellow quick Josh Hazlewood, has established himself as the leader of Australia's pace attack in all three forms of the game over the last couple of years.

The 26-year-old's absence for the first of three tests against the Proteas in Perth from Nov. 3 would be a major setback for the hosts, who also face the South Africans in Hobart and a day-night match in

Adelaide. "It was just one of those things," Smith said. "You go for the ball and almost block everything out. As he was catching it a few of us were saying 'don't go for it' but he took the catch and then what happened after that wasn't great.

"He wasn't overly impressed, but when things like that happen, particularly when he was about to have a bit of a rest and chill out, those are the kind of things you don't want happening." Smith has also had

a chance to rest after being brought home early from Sri Lanka in a move that was heavily criticised in the media.

"I think we could have got the messaging across a fair bit better," Smith admitted. "We knew a fair way out that I was going to leave after the second one-day game.

"The fact we only brought it out the day before probably shocked a few people. "It will do me the world of good looking at what's coming up." — Reuters

MEMORABLE LEICESTER DEBUT FOR ALGERIAN SLIMANI

PARIS: Algerian Islam Slimani made an English Premier League debut to remember at the weekend by scoring twice as defending champions Leicester romped to a 3-0 home win over Burnley.

The 28-year-old striker was making his first league appearance following his club-record 28 million pounds (\$36.4 million, 32.6 million euros) transfer from Sporting Lisbon. Nigerian teenager Kelechi Iheanacho continued to prove an able deputy for the suspended Sergio Aguero with a goal and an assist as Manchester City whipped Bournemouth 4-0.

ENGLAND

ISLAM SLIMANI (Leicester City)

Slimani opened the scoring in first-half injury time with a header from a Christian Fuchs free-kick. He struck again within three minutes of kick-off in the second half, netting with his head for the second time following a flick by strike partner Jamie Vardy.

KELECHI IHEANACHO (Manchester City)

The 19-year-old striker scored City's second goal in the 25th minute at the Etihad Stadium, tucking the ball in from Raheem Sterling's unselfish pass, and returned the favour for Sterling to score early in the second half. He has now scored three goals in his last three appearances.

YANNICK BOLASIE (Everton)

Democratic Republic of Congo winger Bolasie was a constant source of danger as his new club Everton beat Middlesbrough 3-1 to preserve their hold on second place in the table. After sending a header onto the roof of the net, the former Crystal Palace player set up Everton's third goal with an in-swinging cross from the right to which Romelu Lukaku applied the faintest of finishing touches.

ALEX IWOB (Arsenal)

Making a second consecutive start, Iwobi was an integral figure in two of Arsenal's goals in their 4-1 win at Hull City. The 20-year-old Nigerian forward thought he had broken the deadlock in the 17th minute, but his shot was credited to Alexis Sanchez after flicking off the Chilean. Iwobi then set up Arsenal's third goal for Theo Walcott, facilitating a one-two with a clever back-heel.

PAPY DJILIBODJI (Sunderland)

Senegalese centre-back Djilobodji was the fall guy as winless Sunderland fell to a 1-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur. It was his error that yielded the game's only goal, with the former Chelsea centre-back's failure to clear Dele Alli's knock-down enabling Harry Kane to sweep the ball home from close range.

SPAIN

MEHDI CARCELA-GONZALEZ (Granada)

Moroccan midfielder Carcela-Gonzalez capped his first Granada start with a first La Liga goal as he rifled home a low shot from outside the area to open the scoring in a thrilling 2-2 draw at Real Betis. The former Benfica man was also booked in a bad-tempered contest that included nine yellow cards and a red for Granada's Ruben Vezo and Betis substitute goalkeeper Dani Gimenez.

ITALY

MOHAMED SALAH (Roma)

Salah got the chance to visit his old club Fiorentina, but it was to be a bittersweet experience for the Roma forward after the Florence side prevailed 1-0 thanks to Milan

Badelj's late daisycutter. The Egyptian was his lively self but ultimately failed to threaten the hosts' net, firing over on a Kevin Strootman cutback before the interval. He then tried to set up Edin Dzeko only for the Bosnian to be closed down before he could pull the trigger.

KWADWO ASAMOAH (Juventus)

As usual, Asamoah gave his all for Juventus, but facing Inter Milan at the San Siro looked a step too far for the Ghanaian. Inter were determined to eclipse their poor start to the season and Asamoah struggled to find his rhythm in the middle of Massimiliano Allegri's midfield. Worse, it was Asamoah's lazy pass back to the defence that led to Inter's winner. It was pounced on by Ever Banega, who set up Mauro Icardi for Ivan Perisic's headed winner 12 minutes from time.

FRANCE

YOUNES BELHANDA (Nice)

Newly-recruited Nice playmaker Belhanda grabbed a point in a 1-1 draw at Montpellier with a determined late strike meaning his side climbed above champions Paris Saint-Germain into second place in Ligue 1. Moroccan international 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.

BENJAMIN MOUKANDJO (Lorient)

Rock bottom Lorient celebrated their first points of the season after Cameroon's Moukandjo slammed home a penalty on 76 minutes to seal a 1-0 win over Lille. Lorient remain 20th, a point behind five clubs on four points. But the celebration from Moukandjo, who played all three group games for Cameroon at the 2014 World Cup, brought a much needed smile to the Brittany club.

GERMANY

MARVIN MATIP (Ingolstadt)

The Cameroon defender admitted his Ingolstadt team had squandered a golden chance to beat illness-hit Bayern Munich having taken a shock lead before succumbing to a 3-1 defeat. With Bayern's Philipp Lahm, David Alaba, Thomas Mueller and Mats Hummels all ill, Paraguay striker Dario Lezcano put the visitors ahead in Munich before goals by Robert Lewandowski, Xabi Alonso and Rafinha settled the result in the hosts' favour. "There aren't many days when you can beat Bayern at the Allianz Arena and this was one of them," said Ingolstadt captain Matip.

LAMINE SANE, FALLOU DIAGNE (Werder Bremen)

Along with the rest of the Bremen defence, the Senegalese centre-backs had no answers as Borussia Moenchengladbach netted three goals in the opening 21 minutes of a 4-1 rout. The pair were powerless as Thorgan Hazard and Brazil striker Raffael both netted first-half goals before Bremen rallied after the break when new signing Serge Gnabry grabbed a consolation goal.

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Borussia Dortmund)

Unusually, the Gabon striker watched Dortmund's 6-0 drubbing of Darmstadt from the bench. Having scored in Borussia's 6-0 Champions League win in midweek at Legia Warsaw, Aubameyang was kept back for Dortmund's away Bundesliga match at Wolfsburg on Tuesday and home match against Freiburg on Friday. — AFP



MARSEILLE: Olympique de Marseille's French midfielder William Vainqueur (R) vies with Lyon's French midfielder Lucas Tousart during the French L1 football match Olympique of Marseille (OM) vs Lyon at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille on Sunday. — AFP

MARSEILLE DRAW WITH LYON

MONTPELLIER: Struggling giants Marseille failed to get a shot on target in a tense 0-0 draw with Lyon, whose team bus was stoned ahead of the bitter Ligue 1 clash on Sunday.

Potential new Marseille owner, American tycoon Frank McCourt was at the Velodrome alongside club president Margarita Louis-Dreyfus where the under-financed side failed to impress. As the tension mounted Marseille striker Bafetimbi Gomis missed an injury time sitter against his former club leaving coach Franck Passi holding his head in his hands. Marseille are now two points off the bottom of Ligue 1 while last season's runners-up Lyon are in seventh, six points off leaders Monaco.

In the early evening game a penalty deep into injury time gave Saint Etienne a 1-0 win at home over Bastia when substitute Romain Hamouma shook himself down from a foul to convert the spot kick.

Newly-recruited playmaker Younes Belhanda grabbed a point for Nice in a 1-1 draw at Montpellier with a determined late strike 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 pacesetters 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. Coming back off a three months injury lay off Belhanda was looking forwards to hosting Monaco.

"It won't be decisive because the season has

just started, but it's a kind of derby and it's going to be a great match," he said. Favre praised Belhanda's goal saying his side deserved the draw and was happy with a single point given their heavy schedule.

"Coming back into the game with such a good goal shows the our great team spirit. The draw was a fair result." 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. 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. — AFP

RANGERS SUSPEND JOEY BARTON FOR THREE WEEKS

LONDON: Joey Barton's future with Rangers was thrown into doubt after the Scottish giants suspended him for three weeks yesterday following a training-ground bust-up.

Barton, who was told to stay away from the Glasgow club for most of last week, met at Rangers' Ibrox ground with manager Mark Warburton and board members. The club then issued a statement saying: "Joey Barton has today been suspended by the club and will not return to Ibrox or Auchenhowie for a period of three weeks.

"The manager, Mark Warburton, and club believe that time and space is required for both the club and the player to assess all that has happened. "Neither party will make any further statement or comment on this issue." English midfielder Barton was less certain about his position at Rangers after he came out of the talks. After being asked if he was still a Rangers player, Barton told Sky Sports: "I think so." Barton, 34, was told to stay away from the club for several days to "re-evaluate the way I'm thinking" after a fierce row with team-mate Andy Halliday following Rangers' 5-1 defeat by arch Glasgow rivals Celtic, the reigning Scottish champions.

Barton missed Rangers' goalless draw at home to Ross County on Saturday. Warburton, Rangers' English manager, refused to discuss former Newcastle United and Manchester City player Barton's situation after the game, saying it was an "internal matter".

But by then Barton had already gone public with his version of events at Rangers' training ground last Tuesday during a live interview on London-based radio station talkSPORT on Friday.

Barton insisted he was "as committed to Glasgow Rangers as the day I signed", but also



Joey Barton

hinted at criticism of the way Warburton had handled the situation.

"We're asked for an opinion and I'm someone who gives an opinion," Barton said Friday. "Two passionate Rangers players have then shared opinions on how we get better as a team and what's going wrong for us. It's nothing more and nothing less than that."

Barton, who signed a two-year contract in pre-season, added: "The way it's been handled is

strange. When you look at my history and you're told to stay away from the club, it does look like something more has happened, and that's why I've decided to get on the radio and speak, because it's wrong."

Barton's suspension will see him miss the Scottish League Cup quarter-final against Queen of the South today, as well as Scottish Premiership games against Aberdeen and Partick Thistle. — AFP



ATLANTA: Meghan Klingenberg #7 battles for the ball against Stefanie van der Graagt #3 of the Netherlands at Georgia Dome on Sunday in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

PLEA TALKS IN FIFA BRIBERY CASE, US TRIAL DATE SET

NEW YORK: Several defendants in a wide-ranging corruption case involving soccer's global governing body FIFA are in talks on possible guilty pleas, a US prosecutor said yesterday.

Assistant US Attorney Evan Norris spoke in a court hearing in Brooklyn federal court after US District Judge Pamela

Chen set a Nov. 6, 2017 trial date for seven former soccer officials and one former marketing executive.

All eight have pleaded not guilty, but Norris said "we are in ongoing plea discussions with several of these defendants." The eight defendants are among the 42 individuals and entities charged

so far in a case that has rocked the soccer world and Zurich-based FIFA.

US prosecutors accuse the defendants of participating in schemes involving more than \$200 million in bribes and kickbacks, both sought and received by soccer officials for marketing and broadcast rights to tournaments and matches.

To date, 16 people and two sports marketing companies have pleaded guilty. The eight defendants facing the potential trial next year include former FIFA officials and executive committee members Jose Maria Marin of Brazil, Juan Angel Napout of Paraguay, Eduardo Li of Costa Rica, and Julio

Rocha of Nicaragua. Others include Miami-based sports marketing executive Aaron Davidson, Hector Trujillo, a judge from Guatemala and ex-official with its soccer federation, ex-Cayman Islands soccer official Costas Takkas, and ex-Venezuelan soccer official Rafael Esquivel. — Reuters

ATLETICO SEEK FIRST WIN AT BARCA IN A DECADE

MADRID: Atletico Madrid will try to secure their first win at the Nou Camp since 2006 when they face Barcelona tomorrow in a heavyweight clash between La Liga title contenders.

Real Madrid, who are chasing history in their home game against Villarreal the same day, head the standings by three points from Barca after four rounds of matches.

Atletico have enjoyed success against Barcelona at home and especially in the Champions League, knocking them out in the 2013-14 quarter-finals and again last season. Diego Simeone's Atletico beat Celta Vigo 4-0 before Saturday's 5-0 demolition of Sporting Gijon in which Antoine Griezmann, Fernando Torres and Kevin Gameiro combined for all the goals.

"This is the path to follow," Atletico defender Diego Godin told his club's website. "Now we face a great rival. They are an extremely difficult team to play against especially when they play at home."

"We know the quality that Barca has and they've proved it for many years."

Atletico have lost five and drawn three of their last eight games at the Nou Camp in all competitions.

They have conceded a league low one goal but face a Barca attack that has hit the back of the net 13 times, the best in the competition.

The Catalans recovered from a shock 2-1 home league loss to Alaves with a 7-0 rout of Celtic in the Champions League and a 5-1 victory at promoted Leganes on Saturday.

Real have won 16 successive league matches, equalling the record of consecutive La Liga victories set by Barcelona in the 2010-11 season.

Forwards Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale missed the 2-0 win at Espanyol but both are expected to play tomorrow.

"We just have to continue picking up points and doing our job," Real coach Zinedine Zidane told reporters. Sevilla host city rivals Real Betis today without injured defender Adil Rami and midfielder Daniel Carrico. Valencia face promoted Alaves at the Mestalla stadium on Thursday following a run of four straight defeats. — Reuters



CORNELLA LLOBREGAT: Real Madrid's Karim Benzema, left, kicks the ball to scores during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Espanyol and Real Madrid at RCDE stadium in Cornellà Llobregat, Spain, Sunday. — AP

REAL BEAT ESPANYOL 2-0 TO RECORD 16TH STRAIGHT WIN

MADRID: Real Madrid brushed off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale to beat Espanyol 2-0 away and maintain their 100 percent start to the league season while matching the La Liga record of 16 consecutive victories. James Rodriguez scored his first Real goal in five months to give the visitors the lead in stoppage time before the break and Karim Benzema sealed the points in the 70th minute with a close-range finish past former Madrid goalkeeper Diego Lopez.

Athletic Bilbao beat Valencia 2-1 to pile more pressure on the visitors' beleaguered coach Pako Ayestaran, Villarreal downed Real Sociedad 2-1 thanks to a sensational 50-yard strike from Nicola Sansone, while Celta Vigo drew 0-0 at Osasuna. Real stay top of La Liga on 12 points, three above Barcelona and Las Palmas, having equalled Barca's record of 16 straight league wins achieved under Pep Guardiola in the 2010/11 season. "We played a great game from the start with concentration and enthusiasm. The best way to get the points is to come out fired up like we did today," Zidane told Movistar Plus. The Frenchman's Real side also broke the Madrid club's record for consecutive league wins, overtaking the 15-game winning streak under Miguel Munoz in the 1960/61 season. "Of course, the record means a lot to us because it's

proof of the phenomenal work all the players are doing. Getting points is the most important thing but it's also nice to have a record like this," added Zidane.

SORE THROAT

Ronaldo missed the trip to Espanyol with a sore throat, having scored five goals in a 6-0 thrashing last season, while Bale is recovering from a hip injury sustained in Wednesday's last-gasp 2-1 Champions League win over Sporting Lisbon. The absence of the pair allowed Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio to face their former club, while Rodriguez came in for Germany international Toni Kroos in midfield. Colombia's 2014 World Cup Golden Boot winner has not enjoyed a consistent run in the side since Zidane took charge but seized the opportunity, nutmegging an Espanyol defender outside the area and stroking the ball into the bottom corner of the net. Benzema had looked far from match fit against Sporting but was given another chance by Zidane and, after having an effort ruled out for offside in the first half, the Frenchman tapped in Asensio's low cross to finish off a classy team move.

SENSATIONAL STRIKE

Villarreal forward Sansone scored from just over the halfway line as they beat Sociedad to

move up to sixth in the table, level on eight points with Atletico Madrid and Sevilla. The 13 million euros (\$14.50 million) close-season signing from Serie A side Sassuolo let fly from the right hand side of the field to beat goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli in the 25th. Italian Sansone had also given the hosts the lead three minutes earlier from inside the box after the Brazilian former Chelsea striker Alexandre Pato had missed a penalty. Sociedad's Yuri reduced the deficit in the 35th minute but they finished the game with 10 men after fellow defender Joseba Zaldua was sent off in the 89th for a second yellow card. Athletic Bilbao came from behind to beat Valencia, who are bottom without a point or a goal from their four games. "Now is the time to reflect on what we're doing and make a real effort to turn things around on the pitch," said Valencia goalkeeper Diego Alves. "We have a good enough team to improve on where we are at the moment."

Alvaro Medran gave Valencia a dream start by scoring in the second minute but their former striker Aritz Aduriz turned the game in Athletic's favour with two strikes before halftime. Second-bottom Celta Vigo got their first point of the season in a goalless draw at promoted Osasuna, who are a point and a place above them in the standings. — Reuters

MUELLER HOPES TO RETURN FOR BAYERN'S HERTHA SHOWDOWN

BERLIN: Germany forward Thomas Mueller hopes to return to Bayern Munich's line-up for tomorrow's top-of-the-table Bundesliga clash against high-flying Hertha Berlin at the Allianz Arena.

Hertha and Bayern are the only two teams in Germany's top flight to preserve their 100 percent records after the first three league games of the season.

Illness-hit Bayern were made to work hard on Saturday as head coach Carlo Ancelotti rang the changes for their 3-1 comeback win at home to Ingolstadt with Mueller, captain Philipp Lahm and David Alaba all sidelined by a virus.

Mueller returned to team training yesterday and hopes to start against Hertha. "I'll have to see how the next few days of training go," Mueller told FCB.de. "I could start, but I don't believe I can yet manage the 90 minutes."

After ten straight defeats at the hands of Munich, Hertha's last win over Bayern was back in February 2009 and Berlin are realistic of their chances. Head coach Pal Dardai was quick to shake off the tag of 'Bayern Hunters', which the German media gives any side who challenges Bayern's supremacy.

"I don't want to hear that at all," Dardai

insisted when asked if his team is 'hunting' Bayern.

"We are a small, hardworking team, who has to put in the work every week. We want to remain unbeaten. Down there, a big-name coach is working with super players, but there are always miracles in football!"

Hertha's ex-Bayern midfielder Mitchell Weiser scored Hertha's first goal in Sunday's 2-0 home win against Schalke, but admitted his current club will have their work cut-out at the Allianz Arena.

"Now we head, as second in the table, to the first in Munich. It's a nice story for the fans," said Weiser. "Bayern are the only team against whom you need a bit of luck. It's not good enough just to play well there."

Hertha will be without playmaker Vladimir Darida for the coming weeks after the Czech Republic international tore ankle ligaments against Schalke and had an operation on Monday.

"Without Vladi our game will change, but we have good guys who can fill the gap," Dardai said. Swiss midfielder Valentin Stocker is an option having scored off the bench as Darida's replacement against Schalke on Sunday. — AFP



TORREON: Kristian Alvarez (R) of Santos vies for the ball with Matias Britos (L) of Pumas during their Mexican Apertura 2016 Tournament football match at the Corona stadium on Sunday, in Torreon, Mexico. — AFP

RANIERI URGES RESPECT FOR RETURNING KANTE

LONDON: Manager Claudio Ranieri wants Leicester City fans to give N'Golo Kante a warm reception when he makes his first return to the Foxes today with Chelsea in the EFL Cup.

France midfielder Kante was a key figure as Leicester produced a stunning upset to win the Premier League title last season before making a big-money move to Stamford Bridge over the summer.

He was the only major departure from Leicester as the likes of Kasper Schmeichel, Riyad Mahrez and Jamie Vardy all signed new contracts at the King Power Stadium. "I will give him a very warm welcome back and I am sure also our fans, they must appreciate what he did last season and give him a warm welcome," said the Italian Ranieri.

"I will be very happy if our fans clap him at the beginning and afterwards he is an enemy. They must understand that when arrives a big team it is difficult to say no. For this reason I say thank you to Jamie Vardy and his family, and to Riyad, when they decided to

stay here. For us it was important to maintain everybody."

Ranieri made his name in English football as Chelsea manager from 2000 to 2004. He also managed against new Chelsea boss Antonio Conte while the pair were in Italy. "He (Conte) is a winner, but of course he needs time," said Ranieri. "The reality here is different than in Italy and his job is bigger now. But he is right and I think he can lift some trophies. You need to understand the league and your players. The players must understand him and how he manages and how he changes, what he wants. I watch a good Chelsea so far."

Schmeichel will be on the sidelines again as he recovers from concussion which saw the goalkeeper miss Saturday's 3-0 win over Burnley. Ron-Robert Zieler will start in goal for Leicester but Matty James and Nampalys Mendy (both ankle) are not yet fit.

Chelsea captain John Terry is also set to miss the match as he continues his recovery from an ankle injury. — AFP

HERTHA CHALLENGE BAYERN'S IRON-GRIP

BERLIN: High-flying Hertha Berlin will attempt to loosen Bayern Munich's iron-grip in the Bundesliga tomorrow in the German league's top-of-the-table clash.

Hertha's 2-0 win at home to Schalke on Sunday means Berlin and Bayern, the only German clubs who still have 100 percent records with three wins from three, will square off at Munich's Allianz Arena.

"We're enormously happy that we now have nine points, but Bayern is a completely different opponent," admitted Hertha's left-back Marvin Plattenhardt. "We'll need a really good day."

The German league has a round of midweek matches with the highlight being Bayern's hosting of Hertha while Borussia Dortmund, who have posted back-to-back 6-0 wins at Legia Warsaw and Darmstadt, are at Wolfsburg today.

Bayern are at the start of a busy period with four games in ten days including their crunch Champions League group stage game at Atletico Madrid a week tomorrow.

Carlo Ancelotti's Bayern will be without Brazil winger Douglas Costa, who has been ruled out for the foreseeable future with a hamstring injury he suffered in Saturday's 3-1 comeback win against Ingolstadt.

Captain Philipp Lahm, David Alaba, Thomas Mueller and Mats Hummels all missed the Bavarian derby victory with illness. Despite their personnel woes, Bayern look to be on course to claim a fifth straight German league title this season having also routed Werder Bremen 6-0 and won 2-0 at Schalke this season.

But Pal Dardai's Hertha are one of the few teams who look capable of weakening Bayern's hold on top spot. On Sunday, goals by ex-Bayern midfielder Mitchell Weiser and Swiss midfielder Valentin Stocker at Berlin's Olympic Stadium gave Hertha three wins from three.

Today, Dortmund take on Wolfsburg having scored 12 goals without reply in their last two games. Their drubbing of Darmstadt on Saturday came with star forwards Mario Goetze and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang on the bench.

"It would be nice if a 6-0 win becomes our standard result," quipped Dortmund's Germany midfielder Julian Weigl. But Dortmund boss Thomas Tuchel has warned his side they can expect tougher matches at Wolfsburg, then Freiburg on Friday ahead of their plum Champions League group stage tie at home to Real Madrid.

With just one win from their three league games, Wolfsburg were held to goalless draws by Cologne and Hoffenheim in their last two matches. Their new signing, Germany striker Mario Gomez, has yet to score this season. "The goals will come," insisted Gomez, who set up a

golden chance to Julian Draxler against Hoffenheim on Saturday which hit the crossbar.

"The next game is a good chance for that and Borussia Dortmund haven't won the game yet." At the other end of the table, Schalke 04 host Cologne tomorrow desperate for points after three straight defeats.

The same night, Werder Bremen's Under-23 coach Alexander Nouri will take charge of the senior team for the visit of Mainz. Bremen sacked Viktor Skripnik on Sunday following their 4-1 loss at Borussia Moenchengladbach, their fourth straight defeat and the worst start to a season in the club's history. — AFP



BREMEN: Alexander Nouri, new interim coach of German first division Bundesliga football club Werder Bremen, attends a press conference yesterday in Bremen, northwestern Germany. Nouri succeeds Viktor Skripnik, who became the first Bundesliga coach sacked this season after a fourth straight defeat marked the club's worst ever start. Under-23 coach Alexander Nouri will stand-in as first team coach until a successor is found for Skripnik. — AFP

Sports

Mola takes the title, Brownlee steal the show



Sweden top Russia, North America stun Finland in W Cup Hockey



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

ATLETICO SEEK FIRST WIN AT BARCA IN A DECADE Page 19



CHARLOTTE: San Francisco 49ers' Vance McDonald (89) misses a catch as Carolina Panthers' Kurt Coleman (20) defends in the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday. The Panthers won 46-27. — AP

PATRIOTS' GAROPPOLO INJURED, BEAT DOLPHINS 31-24

FOXBOROUGH: Jimmy Garoppolo had three, first-half touchdown passes before leaving in the second quarter with a right shoulder injury as the New England Patriots outlasted the Miami Dolphins 31-24 on Sunday. It was the Patriots' eighth straight home victory over Miami (0-2). It came at a price as New England (2-0) was dealt another blow at quarterback with Tom Brady already out his four-game "Deflategate" suspension. Garoppolo's injury came in a flash. On third down with less than five minutes left in the first half, he was chased out of the pocket and got off a completion to Malcolm Mitchell. Garoppolo was driven into the ground on his shoulder by Miami linebacker Kiko Alonso. Garoppolo initially got up, before going down to one knee and being attended to by the training staff. He ended his day 18 of 27 for 234 yards and the three scores. He was replaced by rookie Jacoby Brissett, who led New England to a touchdown on its first possession of the second half. Brissett was 6 of 9 for 92 yards. LeGarrette Blount rushed 29 times for 123 yards and a touchdown. Martellus Bennett also had five catches 114 and a touchdown. Miami rallied in the second half but couldn't catch up.

PANTHERS 46, 49ERS 27

Cam Newton threw for 353 yards and four touchdowns, and the Panthers overcame four turnovers. Newton threw two TD passes to Kelvin Benjamin and one each to Greg Olsen and Devin Funchess to pass Jake Delhomme for most TD passes in franchise history with 122. Newton showed no ill effects from the four helmet-to-helmet hits he took in Carolina's season opening loss to Denver. He took one shot to the head from linebacker Eli Harold late in the game after a pitchout on an option play, but quickly got to his feet. Newton's first pass was tipped and intercepted by Antoine Bethea, leading to a 49ers field goal. But the 2015 league MVP locked in after that, completing 24 of 40 passes while running for 37 yards on six carries. Olsen gave the Panthers the lead for good in the second quarter when he hauled in a career-long 78-yard touchdown pass after the 49ers bit hard on play-action. That left the Pro Bowl tight end wide open on a seam route. Olsen finished with five catches for 122 yards.

STEELERS 24, BENGALS 16

Ben Roethlisberger threw for 259 yards and three touchdowns to offset a pair of interceptions. DeAngelo Williams churned out 94 yards on a career-high 32 carries and added a 4-yard touchdown grab. Tight ends Jesse James and Xavier Grimble also caught scoring passes from Roethlisberger as the Steelers (2-0) kept Cincinnati in check at rainy Heinz Field. Andy Dalton passed for 366 yards and a touchdown, but needed 31 completions to reach that total, working almost exclusively on dump offs to running backs and tight ends while Pittsburgh clamped down on star wide receiver A.J. Green, who had just two receptions for 38 yards. The rematch of the Steelers' ugly 18-16 win in the wild-card round in January was downright tame. The teams combined for just 10 penalties and only one personal foul.

RAMS 9, SEAHAWKS 3

Greg Zuerlein kicked three field goals, the longest a

47-yarder in the fourth quarter, and the Rams marked the return of pro football to Los Angeles for the first time in nearly 22 years with a win. Plenty of penalties slowed down the game for the announced crowd of 91,046 on a searing day at the Memorial Coliseum, where the Rams commemorated the long-awaited occasion by wearing blue-and-gold throwback uniforms. The Rams (1-1) are still without a touchdown after losing 28-0 at San Francisco in their opener. With field goals accounting for all the offense, it was hardly the high-scoring show Los Angeles sports fans are known to crave. Seattle (1-1) racked up 10 penalties for 114 yards; the Rams had nine penalties for 78 yards.

BRONCOS 34, COLTS 20

Von Miller gave the Denver fans a reminder of his Super Bowl 50 MVP performance, sweeping in for the sack-strip of Andrew Luck that sealed the win. With the Broncos clinging to a six-point lead with 1:51 remaining, Miller burst past right tackle Joe Reitz and swiped the ball from Luck's grasp. Fellow linebacker Shane Ray scooped up the ball and returned it 15 yards for a touchdown. Miller added a sack on the last play as the Broncos (2-0) sent the banged-up Colts limping to their third consecutive 0-2 start. They did it by rattling Luck, who started 5 for 18 before he engineered a couple of second-half touchdown drives. Luck completed just 21 of 40 passes for 197 yards and was sacked five times.

FALCONS 35, RAIDERS 28

Justin Hardy caught a deflected 8-yard touchdown pass to break a tie midway through the fourth quarter. Matt Ryan threw three TD passes, but got lucky on the go-ahead one in the fourth quarter. His third-down throw to Tevin Coleman was broken up, but the ball bounced high in the air and Hardy caught it in the end zone to put Atlanta (1-1) up 28-21. The Raiders (1-1) appeared to tie on the next drive when Amari Cooper caught a 51-yard touchdown pass from Derek Carr. But officials ruled Cooper went out of bounds voluntarily before making the catch, although the Raiders contend-

ed he was pushed by Desmond Trufant. Oakland coach Jack Del Rio then went on fourth-and-2, but Jalen Richard was stopped on a 1-yard gain.

BUCCANEERS 40, CARDINALS 7

Carson Palmer threw for 308 yards and three touchdowns and Arizona (1-1) intercepted Jameis Winston four times. Marcus Cooper, acquired off waivers from Kansas City on Sept. 2, had two interceptions, returning the second 60 yards for a score. Winston also fumbled the ball away once. Winston, who had four touchdown passes against Atlanta in the opener and was NFC player of the week, threw 51 passes, the most in his two NFL seasons, completing 27 for 243 yards for the Bucs (1-1). Palmer completed 18 of 31 passes with no interceptions before sitting out most of the fourth

quarter. All three of Palmer's scoring passes came in the first half, to Larry Fitzgerald, Michael Floyd and Jaron Brown.

CHARGERS 38, JAGUARS 14

Philip Rivers matched his career-high with four touchdown passes, including two to Travis Benjamin and Melvin Gordon ran for one score and had his first 100-yard game. The Chargers (1-1) bounced back from their stunning loss at Kansas City, when they blew a 21-point third-quarter lead and fell 33-27 in overtime. The Jaguars started 0-2 for the fourth time in five seasons. They crossed midfield only six times and committed three turnovers. Casey Hayward led the Chargers' defense with two interceptions of Blake Bortles. Gordon, a second-year pro, scored on a 3-yard run on the game's opening drive, his first TD at Qualcomm Stadium. Gordon went in standing up, and then right guard D.J. Fluker lifted him off the ground in celebration. He finished with 102 yards on 24 carries.

COWBOYS 27, REDSKINS 23

Alfred Morris scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 4-yard run with under five minutes left, leading the Cowboys over his former team. Washington's Kirk

Cousins threw an end-zone interception that set up a long Dallas drive to the winning score. With rookie quarterback Dak Prescott looking poised throughout and scrambling for a 6-yard TD run in the second half, Dallas (1-1) won for only the second time in its past 16 games without the injured Tony Romo - and both of those victories came at Washington (0-2). Prescott finished 22 for 30 for 292 yards.

GIANTS 13, SAINTS 10

Eli Manning hit Victor Cruz on a third-down 34-yard pass to set up Josh Brown's winning 23-yard field goal as time expired. The Giants got off to their first 2-0 start since 2009, while New Orleans lost its second straight. Brown's third field goal capped an 11-play, 70-yard drive that featured two key third-down passes by Manning and a pass interference call on a throw to Odell Beckham Jr. The game was also redemption for the Giants' defense. After allowing Drew Brees to throw for 511 yards and an NFL-tying seven touchdowns, New York limited him to one touchdown, 263 yards passing and 288 yards in total team offense.

RAVENS 25, BRONCOS 20

Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes to Mike Wallace and the Ravens rallied from a 20-point first-quarter deficit. Justin Tucker kicked three field goals and the Ravens (2-0) withstood Cleveland's final drive to improve to 15-2 against the Browns under coach John Harbaugh. C.J. Mosley intercepted Browns quarterback Josh McCown at the goal line with 13 seconds left to seal the win. Baltimore was a point from trailing by three touchdowns in the opening quarter before blocking an extra point and returning it for two points and igniting the comeback. McCown stayed in despite an injured left shoulder for the Browns (0-2), who were hurt by a missed field goal and three costly penalties in the fourth quarter.

TITANS 16, LIONS 15

Marcus Mariota converted a fourth down with a perfectly lofted 9-yard pass TD pass to Andre Johnson with 1:13 left. Mariota dropped the pass over linebacker Tahir Whitehead to Johnson just before safety Rafael Bush could get to the veteran receiver. Tennessee went 93 yards on 13 plays over nearly 6 minutes on the game-winning drive. The Titans (1-1) ended a five-game losing streak, dating to last December, when Mariota threw two TD passes in the fourth quarter after trailing 15-3. The Lions (1-1) had an opportunity to drive for a second straight winning field goal, but Matthew Stafford threw an interception to Perrish Cox at midfield in the final minute.

TEXANS 19, CHIEFS 12

DeAndre Hopkins had 113 yards receiving and a touchdown and Nick Novak kicked four field goals. Novak connected from 32, 24, 31 and 43 yards for the Texans (2-0). Cairo Santos made three field goals in the fourth quarter to cut the lead to 19-12, but Houston recovered the onside kick with less than a minute left. The Texans showed that they are a much different team than the one embarrassed in a 30-0 wild-card playoff loss to the Chiefs (1-1) in January. Houston's defense set a franchise record by recovering three fumbles in the first half. — AP

NFL results/standings

Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 16; Tennessee 16, Detroit 15; Baltimore 25, Cleveland 20; Dallas 27, Washington 23; NY Giants 16, New Orleans 13; Carolina 46, San Francisco 27; New England 31, Miami 24; Houston 19, Kansas City 12; Los Angeles 9, Seattle 3; Arizona 40, Tampa Bay 7; San Diego 38, Jacksonville 14; Atlanta 35, Oakland 28; Denver 34, Indianapolis 20; Minnesota 17, Green Bay 14.

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New England	2	0	0	0	54	45	1.000	Baltimore	2	0	0	0	38	27	1.000	Houston	2	0	0	0	42	26	1.000	Denver	2	0	0	0	55	40	1.000	NY Giants	2	0	0	0	36	32	1.000	Minnesota	2	0	0	0	42	30	1.000	Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	38	64	.500	Kansas City	1	1	0	0	45	46	.500	San Francisco	1	1	0	0	55	46	.500	Philadelphia	1	0	0	0	29	10	1.000	Green Bay	1	1	0	0	41	40	.500	Miami	0	2	0	0	34	43	0	Cincinnati	1	1	0	0	39	46	.500	Detroit	1	1	0	0	54	51	.500	Dallas	1	1	0	0	46	43	.500	Chicago	0	1	0	0	14	23	0	San Diego	0	2	0	0	30	54	0	Washington	0	2	0	0	43	65	0	Atlanta	0	2	0	0	30	54	0	New Orleans	0	2	0	0	47	5	0	Buffalo	0	2	0	0	38	50	0	Cleveland	0	2	0	0	30	54	0	Los Angeles	0	2	0	0	55	73	0	Seattle	0	1	0	0	54	51	.500	Arizona	1	1	0	0	61	30	.500	Indianapolis	0	2	0	0	37	65	0	Carolina	1	1	0	0	66	48	.500	San Francisco	1	1	0	0	55	46	.500	Oakland	1	1	0	0	63	69	.500	Chicago	0	1	0	0	14	23	0	New Orleans	0	2	0	0	47	5	0	Los Angeles	1	1	0	0	9	31	.500	Seattle	1	1	0	0	15	19	.500

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Low salaries No 1 factor causing stress in MENA workplace

Page 22

Nissan's X-Trail continues to dominate marketplace

Page 23



The new C-Class Cabriolet arrives in Kuwait

Page 25

NEW FORD EDGE IS HERE TO RECLAIM ITS TITLE AS MIDEAST'S FAVORITE

Page 26



KUWAIT: A general view of the bustling Kuwait City that houses several banking and financial institutions, hotels and malls. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

KUWAIT'S BANKING SYSTEM OUTLOOK REMAINS STABLE

MOODY'S: GOVT SPENDING, GROWING LOSS-ABSORBING BUFFERS DRIVE STABLE OUTLOOK

LIMASSOL: Moody's Investors Service's outlook for Kuwait's banking system remains stable, reflecting the rating agency's expectation of continued government spending and growing loss-absorbing buffers, which will allow banks to manage modest new problem loan formation and balances an increase in market funding reliance that the rating agency expects in the context of low oil prices. The outlook expresses Moody's expectation of how bank creditworthiness will evolve in Kuwait over the next 12-18 months.

Moody's report, entitled "Banking System Outlook - Kuwait: Government Spending and Growing Loss-Absorbing Buffers Drive Stable Outlook" is available on www.moody.com. Moody's subscribers can access this report via the link provided at the end of this press release.

"Spending by the Kuwaiti government, even as oil prices stay low, will maintain growth momentum and support operating conditions for the country's banks," says Alexios Philippides, Assistant Vice President-Analyst at Moody's. "Execution of the government's new five-year development plan will drive new business for banks, while domestic consumption will remain strong, supporting our projections of 7 percent credit growth."

While the country's economy remains highly dependent on oil, contributing over two-thirds of government revenues and accounting directly for around 45 percent of GDP in 2015 — policymakers are pushing ahead with nonoil related infrastructure projects, as noted in May 2016.

Furthermore, enhanced loss absorption buffers, by way of stronger capital levels (with a Basel III Tier 1 ratio of 15.3 percent at year-end 2015) and a growing cushion of general provisions — 3.8 percent of gross loans as of year-end 2015 — will allow Kuwaiti banks to manage new problem loan formation, which the rating agency expects to be modest.

Downside risks

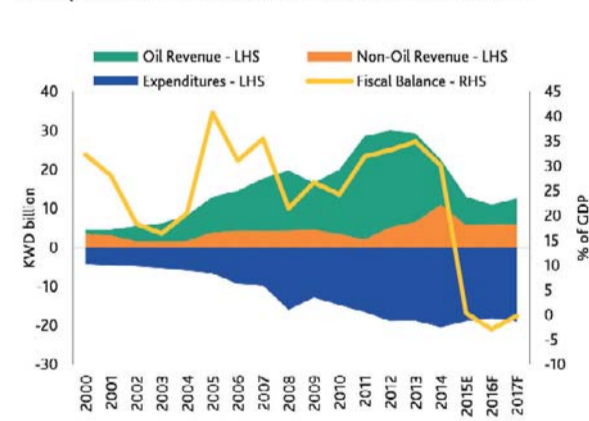
Nevertheless, downside risks to asset quality will remain elevated, owing to high credit concentration and banks' exposure to real estate and equity markets. Direct exposure to the real estate sector accounted for 24 percent of banks' loan books as of March 2016 and real estate transactions by value have continued to moderate compared to a very strong performance in 2014.

The rating agency forecasts nonperforming loans (NPLs) of around 3-4 percent of gross loans for 2016-17, from 3.3 percent for rated banks at year-end 2015.

Profitability will likely remain relatively unchanged, with the system's net income to average assets at just over 1.1 percent during the outlook period. "While net interest and fee income growth will be strong, Kuwaiti banks will continue to book elevated provisions—both domestically and abroad—that had consumed roughly 33 percent of pre-provision income in 2014-15," explains Philippides. "Margins will remain broadly stable as longer term government issuances to fund the fiscal deficit and higher yields on lending will counter higher cost of funds."

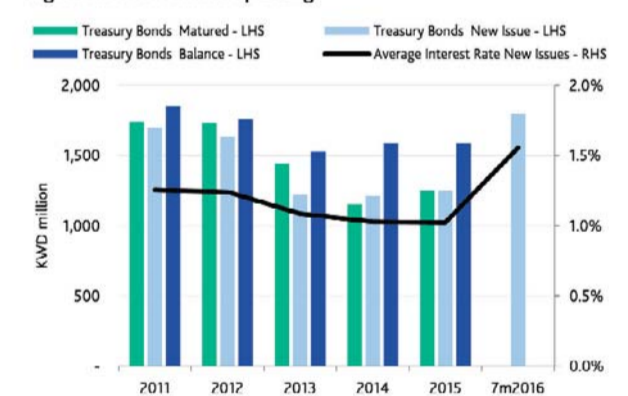
Moody's also notes that Kuwaiti banks are better placed to weather the period of tightening liquidity in the Gulf region than regional peers. Though market funding reliance will increase, as loans will grow faster than deposits, Kuwaiti banks will remain primarily deposit funded and liquidity buffers will remain comfortable. Finally, Moody's expects the Kuwaiti government to remain committed and able to support banks, if needed, despite current fiscal pressures. The government has stepped in to provide capital in the past and can call on financial assets managed by the country's sovereign wealth fund—estimated at \$600 billion at end-June 2016, which is more than five times the size of the country's GDP.

We Expect Kuwait to Post Fiscal Deficits in 2016 and 2017...



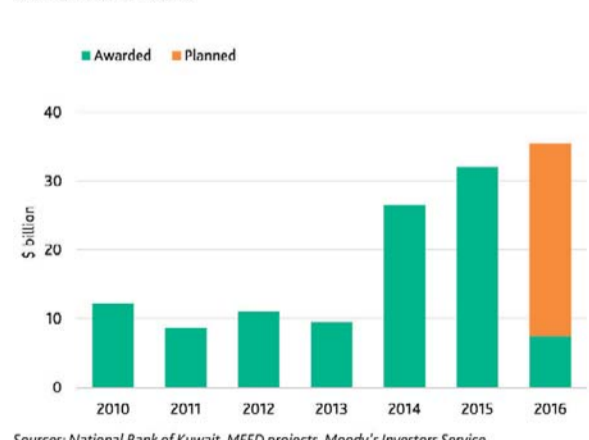
Sources: Ministry of Finance, Moody's Investors Service

... and the Kuwait Government has Issued Debt Domestically At Higher Rates to Finance Spending



Sources: Central Bank of Kuwait, Moody's Investors Service

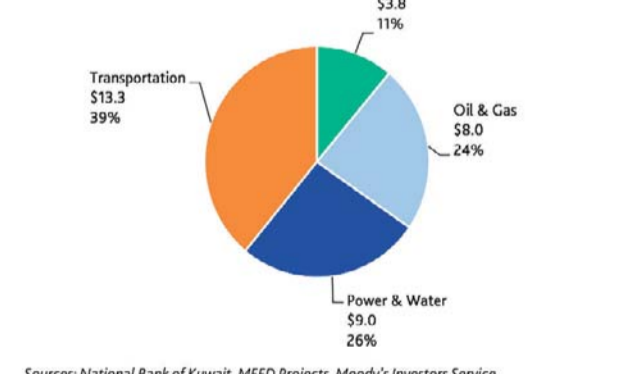
2015 was a Record Year for Project Awards in Kuwait While More are Planned for 2016



Sources: National Bank of Kuwait, MEED projects, Moody's Investors Service

Most of the Projects to be Awarded in 2016 are in the Transportation Sector

Total planned projects for 2016 (in \$ billion)



Sources: National Bank of Kuwait, MEED Projects, Moody's Investors Service

QATAR SLUMPS AHEAD OF FTSE INCLUSION, SAUDI DROPS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Qatar's main equity index slumped 4.0 percent yesterday ahead of the additions of some companies in FTSE's secondary emerging market index, while Saudi Arabia dropped as investors grew weary of further austerity expected to come into effect next month.

Doha suffered from its largest single day drop since January in the heaviest turnover so far this year. Shares in companies set to be included in index compiler FTSE's secondary emerging market index on Sept. 20 were the top losers, with mobile phone operator Ooredoo and Islamic lender Masraf Al-Rayan each falling 5.1 percent. Fund managers said the correction was expected as the rally in anticipation of inclusion in the FTSE index had taken some company valuations above fair value.

Saudi Arabia's stock index dropped 2.1 percent to 5,936 points, only 25 points shy of the technical support on the August low. Nine-tenth of the traded shares declined. Although volume was double that of Sunday's, the general lack of liquidity in the market is one of the greatest concerns, said Santhosh Balakrishnan, equity analyst at Riyadh Capital. "There has been less participation in the market comparatively, and this is the first year that there is no grand re-opening of the markets after the Eid holidays." Saudi Kayan Petrochemical dropped 3.1 percent and the largest Islamic bank Al Rajhi Bank dropped 3.1 percent.

Uncertainty over further austerity hit sentiment, according to local media, the government is expected to hike fees on services including driving licenses, traffic

violations, port fees and several other municipal services on Oct. 2. Last month the cabinet, seeking to boost state revenues in an era of low oil prices, approved proposals to raise a range of government fees including visa charges and fines for some traffic violations.

The insurance sub-index, usually favored by local retail traders, fell 4.1 percent. "In a time of uncertainty no one takes fresh positions and they tend to stay away until clarity comes back,"

DUBAI STEADIES, EGYPT CLIMBS

Global stocks drew support from expectations that the US Federal Reserve would skip a chance to raise rates this week and this helped support Dubai's index, which attracts foreign investors.

The index held onto small gains and added 0.04 percent, with gainers outnumbering losers 13 to 10. The largest listed developer Emaar Properties added 0.4 percent. But some shares which have been outperforming over the last two sessions pulled back, with GFH Financial Group dropping 2.9 percent and Shuaa Capital declining 0.6 percent.

But in Abu Dhabi, the equity index dipped 0.1 percent with main drag from large-cap lenders. Union National Bank fell 3.9 percent and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank lost 0.6 percent. In Egypt, the main index rose 0.7 percent as two-thirds of the most valuable stocks advanced. Shares favored by foreign funds were some of the top performers, with Global Telecom Holding jumping 4.0 percent. —Reuters

LOW SALARIES NO 1 FACTOR CAUSING STRESS IN MENA WORKPLACE: STUDY

BAYT.COM INVESTIGATES FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO STRESS

DUBAI: While much of the stress we experience comes from our personal lives, sometimes, a person's stress can be caused by, or made worse, by work. In its poll entitled, 'Stress in the MENA Workplace', Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, investigates the various factors that contribute to stress in workplaces across the MENA region. The poll has revealed that more than half of respondents in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region agree that workplaces today are more stressful than they were a few years back (52 percent), and more than two thirds (69.1 percent) agree that they feel more pressure at work this year in comparison to last year.

The majority of respondents feel overwhelmed at work (83 percent), with 26.2 percent feeling overwhelmed 'all of the time', and 74.8 percent claiming that jobs at their companies are more demanding than others. More than a third (35 percent) claim to spend too much time at work, while a quarter say that they spend just the right amount of time. Just 2.9 percent admit that they are spending too little time at work.

According to MENA respondents, stress does not affect work performance the most. For them, stress affects their family relations the most, with 27.9 percent of the respondents saying so. This is followed by



their friendships (21 percent), work performance (19.9 percent) and health (16.4 percent). The three main stress factors for MENA respondents are their financial situation (40 percent), their work (19 percent) and their personal issues (18 percent).

While almost a quarter of respondents (24.7 percent) claim to experience an average amount of stress at work, 57.4 percent of them find the workplace stressful; with 17.6 percent admitting that their workplace is 'extremely stressful' and 19.7 percent claiming to experience 'a little stress at work'. 18 percent of the respondents claim that their workplace is not stressful at all.

A low salary is the main stress factor at work for 28.2 percent of MENA respondents. Other stress factors include a lack of

job security (12.3 percent), the workplace environment (9.7 percent) and not having a work-life balance (9.1 percent). In addition, 40 percent of the respondents claim that technologies, like email, laptops and phones, intended to make their lives easier, are actually contributing to work stress; 42.1 percent believe the opposite to be true. When it comes to avoiding work stress altogether, a quarter of the respondents (25 percent) agree that engaging in regular team meetings and working for a company that offers flexible hours (23.9 percent) will reduce the stress component. In fact, more than three quarters claim that they could do a much better job if given more time (77.4 percent).

Over two thirds of the respondents (67.9 percent) admit that they can express their thoughts or complain about their workload, and the majority receive adequate acknowledgment and appreciation when their work is good (82.7 percent). Moreover, 92.2 percent have adequate control, or input, over their work duties, and almost three quarters (73.6 percent) agree that the management is sufficiently sensitive to, and helpful, in resolving needs, conflicts, or other problems that are stressful for employees. To resolve their stress issues, 43.6 percent of respondents exercise more frequently, while 39.7 percent turn to socializing with friends after

work. "Work-related stress can be caused by poor work organization, poor work design, unsatisfactory working conditions, low salaries, and lack of support from colleagues and managers," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions at Bayt.com.

"At Bayt.com, not only do we provide a wealth of jobs and recruitment solutions to connect professionals looking for jobs and companies looking to hire, but we also empower people with access to live data on workplace trends and challenges across the MENA region."

"Our mission is to empower people with the tools and information they need to lead their lifestyle of choice, so we are constantly creating new, innovative solutions to make it easier for employers and professionals to come together and share their ideas and concerns. Bayt.com Specialties, an online networking platform by Bayt.com, is one of these solutions," Masri continued.

Data for the Bayt.com 'Stress in the MENA Workplace' poll was collected online from June 26, 2016 to August 2, 2016. Results are based on a sample of 10,956 respondents. Countries that participated include the UAE, Bahrain, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

News

In brief

US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

KUWAIT: The US dollar's exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.301 yesterday, along with the euro which stood at KD 0.336 compared to Sunday's exchange rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). Exchange rate of the pound sterling went up to KD 0.393 as well as the Swiss Franc, reaching KD 0.308. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002.

Egypt to start talks on \$2bn China loan

CAIRO: Egypt will start talks with China over a \$2 billion loan next week and plans to issue international bonds in October or November, Deputy Finance Minister for Treasury Mohamed Meait said yesterday. The Egyptian government approved the potential sale of \$3 billion to \$5 billion of international bonds in August and engaged JPMorgan, Citi, BNP Paribas, and Natixis as lead managers. Deputy Finance Minister Ahmed Kojak said earlier Egypt was in talks with China over a loan but gave no further details. "All the details are with the central bank," he said. Egypt has reached a preliminary agreement with the International Monetary Fund over a \$12 billion loan program but must secure another \$5-6 billion in bilateral financing to secure the IMF board's approval. An IMF official said last week that the Fund had held "very productive discussions" with authorities in China and Saudi Arabia about their contributing to that bilateral financing.

Egypt plans 2-3 IPOs in first year of privatization

CAIRO: Egypt expects to privatize two or three state-owned companies via listings on the stock exchange in the first year of a privatization program, the chief executive of government-owned NI Capital said yesterday. The program will last for three to five years and will start with state-owned oil companies but will also include state-owned banks, said Ashraf El-Ghazaly. NI Capital is a government-owned, privately managed financial institution that is part of the National Investment Bank. It acts as a consulting authority for the government and manages governmental investment funds. The state owns vast swathes of the economy, including three of its largest banks along with much of its oil industry and huge parts of its real estate. The economy has been struggling to recover since a popular uprising in 2011 drove foreign investors and tourists away. Years of political instability has hit growth in the Arab world's most populous state and halved its currency reserves.

Egypt's GASC gets no wheat offers amid standoff

ABU DHABI/CAIRO: Egypt was unable to garner a single offer at its state grain tender yesterday, traders said, all but assuring that it will be forced to cancel its third consecutive tender amid an ongoing standoff with suppliers over import policies. The country's state grain buyer GASC was tapping global markets for wheat for the third time since Egypt reinstated a controversial zero-tolerance policy towards ergot on Aug 28. Ahmed Youssef, GASC's vice chairman, was not immediately available to confirm a cancellation. Ergot is a common grain fungus that can cause hallucinations when consumed in large amounts but is considered harmless in low quantities.

ARAMCO PLANS MAINTENANCE AT 2 REFINERIES IN NOV-DEC

OSLO/SINGAPORE: Saudi Aramco plans to shut two refineries towards the end of this year for scheduled maintenance, four sources close to the matter said, which could free up more of the state oil company's crude for export.

Saudi Aramco has scheduled maintenance at its refinery in Yanbu and its largest refinery in Ras Tanura in November and December, the sources said. Each shutdown could add 4 million to 8 million barrels of crude into global markets, depending on the extent of the shutdowns and their duration, according to Reuters' calculations.

A rise in Saudi crude exports on top of a recovery in Nigerian production would add to global supply which is likely to weigh on oil prices and push a potential market re-balancing further out into 2017. "It's bullish for refining margins but very bearish for crude," said an oil analyst who declined to be named due to company policy. "Saudi crude exports will climb." Saudi Arabia's fuel output will also fall during the maintenance, in particular middle distillates such as diesel and jet fuel, helping to tighten the market during peak winter demand in the northern hemisphere.

Yanbu Aramco Sinopec Refining Co (Yasref), owned 62.5 percent by Aramco and the rest by China's Sinopec, is expected to shut its 400,000 barrel-per-day refinery complex for maintenance in November, the sources said.

This could last for 10-15 days, one of the sources said. Separately, Saudi Aramco plans to carry out maintenance at the Ras Tanura refinery in December for 20-25 days, which may involve only the 325,000-bpd crude distillation unit (CDU), the sources added.

Saudi Aramco and Sinopec do not comment on refinery operations. Saudi Aramco could export more Arab Light and Arab Heavy crude during the refinery shutdowns, trade sources said, although the producer also has the option to move excess barrels into storage if supply exceeds demand. — Reuters



WOLFSBURG: Protesters take part in a demonstration against the massive transatlantic CETA trade deal yesterday in Wolfsburg, near the venue of a convention of the social democratic SPD party. —AFP

OIL PRICES ADVANCE ON LIBYA UNREST, EYES OUTPUT DEAL

LONDON: World oil prices advanced yesterday as fresh fighting in Libya further stoked supply concerns, while OPEC member Venezuela indicated a deal to limit output is close. Around 1130 GMT, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in November was up 58 cents at \$46.35 a barrel compared with Friday's closing level. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for October added 59 cents to \$43.62 a barrel. Gains were "sparked by news from Libya, where renewed fighting broke out at the weekend between rival groups over the oil export terminals", said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch.

"The expectation of a rapid normalisation of Libyan oil exports is likely to prove illusory, in other words," he added. "What is more, Venezuela's President Maduro expects OPEC to reach an agreement with non-OPEC countries before the end of September to stabilise the oil market."

Oil fell last week on supply glut woes. However, fighting erupted in Libya on Sunday as UN-backed unity government forces attempted to retake oil ports seized last week

by a rival administration. The fighting led a Maltese-flagged tanker to turn back out to sea for safety, abandoning plans to load crude oil at Ras Lanuf. It would have been the port's first export since 2014. Libya has Africa's largest oil reserves but has exported only a few tankers of crude in recent months as a result of unrest.

Meeting looms

Meanwhile, major crude producer states are due to meet in Algeria next week to discuss the global supply crisis and overproduction that has hammered prices for two years. On Sunday, Venezuelan President Maduro said participants in the talks—the 14-nation OPEC cartel and Russia—are now working on a deal and that he had discussed the issue with his counterparts from Iran and Ecuador.

Without revealing details, Maduro said he hoped to make a firm announcement by the month's end. An attempt at an oil output deal in April fell apart when Iran,

which had just emerged from years of Western nuclear-linked sanctions, refused to take part in Doha talks. "It is worth taking any reports of a deal to stabilize output with a pinch of salt given the recent ability of OPEC alone to agree to such a thing, let alone one that involves OPEC and non-OPEC members, but the fact that Maduro has claimed it is close does appear to have got people's attention," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

Last week, oil prices had spiralled lower on gloomy market forecasts, profit-taking and ever-present worries over the global supply glut, ahead of the producers' meeting on September 26-28. New York crude had shed 6.6 percent in value and Brent fell 4.5 percent.

Crude has been dogged by a stubborn supply glut since late 2014, with prices hitting near 13-year lows at the start of this year. Traders are also eyeing a Federal Reserve policy meeting this week for fresh clues about the state of the world's top economy and some guidance on its plans for interest rates. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.960
Indian Rupees	4.528
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.088
Nepali Rupees	2.830
Singapore Dollar	222.540
Hongkong Dollar	39.011
Bangladesh Taka	3.858
Philippine Peso	6.358
Thai Baht	8.728

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.750
Qatari Riyal	83.180
UAE Dirham	786.512
Bahraini Dinar	804.170
UAE Dirham	82.443

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.469
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	137.880
Jordanian Dinar	427.290
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.0158
Morocco Dirham	31.691

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.650
Euro	340.480
Sterling Pound	397.980
Canadian dollar	231.740
Turkish Lira	102.420

Swiss Franc	312.010
Australian Dollar	229.110
US Dollar Buying	301.450

GOLD

20 Gram	264.290
10 Gram	135.070
5 Gram	68.380

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollr	233.320
Sterling Pound	403.380
Euro	338.920
Swiss Frank	298.130
Bahraini Dinar	800.735
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	426.815
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Indian Rupees	4.548
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Bangladesh Taka	3.854
Philippines Pessso	6.495
Cyprus pound	159.645
Japanese Yen	3.915
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	74.815
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.695
Indian Rupee	9.720
Turkish Lira	102.840

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.388130	0.398130
Czech Korune	0.004584	0.016584
Danish Krone	0.041618	0.046618
Euro	0.0333430	0.0342430
Norwegian Krone	0.032727	0.037927
Romanian Leu	0.083861	0.083861
Slovakia	0.009016	0.019016
Swedish Krona	0.031619	0.036619
Swiss Franc	0.302754	0.313754
Turkish Lira	0.097590	0.107890
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.219059	0.231059
New Zealand Dollar	0.214357	0.223857
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.224042	0.233042
Georgina Lari	0.136668	0.136668
US Dollars	0.298500	0.303200
US Dollars Mint	0.299000	0.303200
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003289	0.003873
Chinese Yuan	0.043830	0.047330
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036942	0.039692
Indian Rupee	0.004304	0.004693
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025

Japanese Yen	0.002888	0.003068
Kenyan Shilling	0.003112	0.003112
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069995	0.075995
Nepalese Rupee	0.002808	0.002978
Pakistan Rupee	0.002714	0.003004
Philippine Peso	0.006306	0.006606
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.216920	0.226920
South African Rand	0.015427	0.023927
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001656	0.002236
Taiwan	0.009561	0.009741
Thai Baht	0.008370	0.008920
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796083	0.804583
Egyptian Pound	0.024045	0.029163
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.422641	0.431641
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019779	0.043779
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779554	0.785234
Qatar Riyal	0.082305	0.083755
Saudi Riyal	0.079607	0.080907
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.134124	0.142124
Turkish Lira	0.097590	0.107890
UAE Dirhams	0.080962	0.082662
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

NISSAN'S X-TRAIL CONTINUES TO DOMINATE MARKETPLACE

IMPRESSIVE 54% GROWTH EXPERIENCED ACROSS GCC



DUBAI: Nissan's highly acclaimed X-Trail crossover has well and truly got a foothold on the Middle East marketplace just two years after the launch of the third generation. The X-Trail model was introduced in 2000 and, since then, has forged an enviable reputation as a vehicle perfectly in tune with modern life - something that buyers across the GCC highly appreciate. In the year to date, Nissan can announce that GCC sales of the X-Trail between April and June 2016 have risen 54 per cent when compared with the same period in 2015. The all-round safety features of the X-Trail, such as the Lane Departure Warning (LDW), Moving Object Detection (MOD) and Around View Monitor (AVM), is proving to outsell many of its rivals.

"The X-Trail has become widely hailed as a vehicle that perfectly encapsulates the spirit of adventure that many people in this region possess," said Samir Cherfan, Managing Director of Nissan Middle East. "Its popularity is not a surprise because nothing else is able to match the active lifestyles of our customers - it is equally at home on the dunes or city streets and offers exceptional value for money along with refinement and remarkable levels of built-in safety and practicality."

"These new sales figures prove Nissan's 'Innovation that Excites' approach to making cars has captured the imaginations of GCC buyers, who are some of the most demanding and discerning in the world."

The X-Trail features fresh, modern styling tailored to the needs of anyone with a lust for life. Its interior is uncluttered and elegantly designed, as well as being entirely practical with easily cleanable surfaces. Power comes from a punchy 2.5-litre petrol engine mated to a CVT transmission. The X-Trail can be specified with switchable four-wheel drive, is available with up to seven seats and prices start at \$22,700.

CHINA FACING POSSIBLE DEBT CRISIS, SAYS BANK WATCHDOG

WARNING FUELS FEARS OF BLOWOUT IN CHINESE ECONOMY

BEIJING: China's banking sector could be facing an imminent debt crisis, a global central bank watchdog has warned, fuelling fresh fears of a blowout in the world's second largest economy which could hit the global financial system.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) — dubbed the central bank of central banks — said a gauge of Chinese debt had hit a record high in the first quarter of the year. China's credit-to-GDP gap reached 30.1 percent in the first quarter of 2016, its highest level ever and far above the 10 percent level thought to present a risk to a country's banking system, the Switzerland-based bank said in a quarterly report released late Sunday.

The gauge measures the difference between a country's current credit-to-GDP ratio and its long-term trend. The BIS gave China a red signal: a warning that it could face a financial crisis in the next three years. China's total debt hit 168.48 trillion yuan (\$25 trillion) at the end of last year, equivalent to 249 percent of national GDP, the China Academy of Social Sciences, a top government think tank, has estimated.

The warning comes as Beijing tries to avoid a "hard landing" for the economy while transforming it from one based on state investment and exports to consumer-led growth. Analysts have

warned that the ballooning borrowing risks sparking a financial crisis as bad loans and bond defaults increase.

Global impact

Because China is a key driver of world growth, a crisis in its banking sector could have catastrophic implications around the world, with the global economy still struggling to recover from the 2008 financial crisis. China's credit-to-GDP gap for the period was well above all other countries in the survey, which covered 43 economies including the United States, Greece and the United Kingdom.

The BIS early-warning indicators are intended to capture "financial overheating and potential financial distress" in the medium term and to highlight the fact that rapid credit growth could "sow the seeds" for future crises, it said. China's "Big Four" state-owned banks reported mounting bad loans in the first half of the year. Earlier in the summer an official with the banking regulator said lenders had written off more than \$300 billion of bad loans in the past three years.

Authorities have unveiled a set of policies intended to tackle the problem of souring loans, including debt-for-equity swaps. Analysts say the country's vast foreign-exchange reserves

and control over the banking system could help cushion the economy from financial crises.

"Cleaning up China's debt problem will be expensive, but this process is likely to result in gradually slower economic growth rates, greater volatility, and a higher fiscal deficit/GDP ratio, not the dramatic hard landing or banking crisis" that many fear, said Andy Rothman of Matthews Asia in a note.

And because most potential bad Chinese debt is held by state-controlled companies and banks, Beijing has control over the pace of recognizing and dealing with bad loans, he said. But the impact of a debt crisis could be widespread, the International Monetary Fund has warned.

Its number two official David Lipton said this summer it was "crucially important" for the world economy that China tackle its debt problem, since "we have learned over and over in the past 20 years how disruptions in one country's economy and markets can reverberate worldwide."

The risk of a debt crisis in China remains manageable "though it's undoubtedly growing", Qiang Liao, senior director at S&P Global Ratings, told AFP, adding that the global impact of such a crisis through disrupted trade flows, investment, and changes in risk appetite "could be huge, given the size of the Chinese economy". —AFP



BLAGANC: (L to R) Airbus Group Head of Leadership Development and Culture Change, Jane Basson, Airbus Group CEO Tom Enders, Airbus Group Leadership University Director, Kerrie-Ann Stein-Goujon, and Airbus Human Resources Director, Thierry Baril, attend the inauguration of the Airbus Leadership University yesterday in Blaganc, near Toulouse. —AFP

AIRBUS CHIEF ENDERS SAYS JOB CUTS NOT OFF TABLE

BLAGNAC, France: Airbus chief Tom Enders said yesterday he did not rule out job cuts at the European aircraft manufacturer after a media report said the group was considering slashing costs. "You never exclude anything when you're talking about efficiency and synergy but we're in the process of thinking it all through, how we can make our corporate structures leaner and more efficient," Enders told AFP, when asked if cost-cutting could hit staff. The Financial Times reported Monday that Airbus was eyeing savings that could include job cuts as the company tries to deal with slow sales for the A380 super jumbo and manufacturing problems with the A400M military transport plane. It said the company was seeking to reduce duplication between its aircraft division, which accounts for just over two-thirds of revenues, and the parent company and other divisions.

Enders declined to confirm that any restructuring plan was imminent.

However, he said "cost is always an element in any normal company, competition is relentless, competition is always increasing. "All we're doing is thinking of how we can make this company faster, more efficient, more successful, in tomorrow's business world." In July the company booked a just over 1-billion-euro (\$1.1-billion) charge due to delays in deliveries of the A400M and said it was slowing its production of the A380 as new orders have dried up for the aircraft. The company is meanwhile trying to boost production of its most popular aircraft, the A320, which helped bring Airbus's order book up to 978 billion euros at the end of June.

A possible round of layoffs at Airbus, which is headquartered outside Toulouse, would likely have political reverberations in France as high unemployment is shaping up to be a key issue in the presidential election seven months away. —AFP

BATTERED BY WAR, SYRIA'S WHEAT CROP HALVED THIS YEAR TO NEW LOW

ABU DHABI/BEIRUT: Syria's wheat harvest nearly halved to 1.3 million tons this year, the lowest in 27 years, as fighting and poor rainfall further degraded the farming sector and the nation's ability to feed itself. The government of President Bashar al-Assad was forced to tender this summer for an unprecedented 1.35 million tons of imported wheat from political ally Russia to ensure supply of the flat loaves that are a staple for the Syrian people. Before the five-year-old civil war, Syria was a wheat exporter producing four million tons in a good year and able to export 1.5 million tons.

Now wheat and bread have become an integral part of the war, with wheat farms, seed distribution, milling and bakeries all affected. The Damascus government subsidises bread for the areas it controls and aid agencies offer supported prices in some areas, but Syrians in other parts of the country suffer bread shortages and high prices.

"You know why most people carry weapons?"

THE MOST VULNERABLE

Perilous transport routes have meant the Syrian state has struggled to buy from traditional "bread-basket" areas which lie outside government control. As of August, 9.4 million Syrians were "food insecure", said Adam Vinaman Yao, deputy Syria representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This is over half of about 17 million people thought to still live in Syria.

"The prices of basic agriculture products drastically increased thus reducing access by most consumers and especially the most vulnerable strata of the population," Yao said.

The 1.3 million-ton wheat output estimate given by the FAO compares to 1.7 million tons cited by a government source, but is higher than one million given by the opposition. The opposition interim government, allied with the main opposition political body the Turkey-based Syria National

"WE NEED FERTILISER"

With Islamic State to its south and west, and closed borders with Turkey and Iraq to the north and east, the Hasaka area, in a semi-autonomous region of north-eastern Syria controlled by the Kurdish YPG militia, has suffered shortages of fuel and farming goods, Ekrem Hisso, a former local government head told Reuters. "We need fertilizer but there isn't any. And even when we can find it, one ton this year has reached the price of five tons of wheat," Faisal Hassan, a farmer from the Ras Al-Ain countryside in Hasaka province said.

"Production per hectare used to be up to 40 bags of wheat, but during the war years production has been around 20 bags per hectare," Hassan said. The outlook for wheat is not good. For the coming 2016/2017 planting season the government-run General Organization for Seeds Multiplication only managed to distribute 30,000 tons of wheat seed compared to 450,000 tons prior to the war.

Of the country's total wheat production this year, only around 400,000 tons were procured by the government, a source at the General Organization for Cereal Processing and Trade (Hoboob), the state body responsible for wheat, said. The figure is far short of the one to 1.5 million tons needed to provide bread to government-held areas of Syria.

WHEAT FROM RUSSIA

Hoboob is holding an import tender for one million tons of Russian wheat with a deadline of Sept. 19 and has already purchased 350,000 tons of Russian wheat, a reflection of the country's pressing import needs. Syria's bread-basket provinces of Hasaka, Raqqqa and Deir Al-Zor, which account for nearly 70 percent of total wheat production, are outside government control, but farmers can sell their wheat to the state if they reach collection centres. The small procurement figure comes despite the government raising the price it pays local farmers for wheat.

In areas controlled by rebel groups, excluding Islamic State and the Kurdish YPG, 500,000 tons of wheat was produced before war erupted. "But in this 2016 season it is very, very low and does not exceed 100,000 tonnes. This is because of many reasons, the most important being the war raging in these areas," said Hasan Al-Muhammad, head of the wheat agency run by the Syrian Interim Government opposition and also called Hoboob. Al-Muhammad said in those areas, farmers were selling for \$285 a ton, around \$65 a ton higher than the state Hoboob's prices, but stressed quantities were limited. Bakeries are also hard hit by the crisis in wheat output. "We mostly depend on aid in the form of flour given to us by (aid) groups or by getting flour on the black market," said Abu Karam, manager of a public bakery recently hit by an air strike in rebel-held Idlib. —Reuters



Wheat harvesting in Syria.

Because of bread," said Mahmoud al Sheikh, a health worker from a besieged part of Damascus. "Hunger makes people sell themselves to the armed groups so they can eat and bring food to their families."

Al Sheikh, speaking to Reuters by telephone from the capital's Eastern Ghouta suburb, said earlier in the year his besieged area scarcely saw bread. "Sometimes there's no bread at all. People start to make bread from barley ... It goes on like this for months. People eat cabbage instead - it's enough to test your faith. Really, people's situations become miserable," he said.

The Syrian war has killed more than 250,000 people, created the world's worst refugee crisis, allowed for the rise of the Islamic State group and drawn in regional and major powers.

Coalition, carries out technical and administrative functions of government from within opposition-held Syria.

Two dry spells, one in December and the other between mid-February and mid-March helped to cut the 2016 crop down from the 2.44 million tons in 2015, when most areas had ample rainfall.

In areas where there was rain, like the northeast province of Hasaka which accounts for almost half the country's wheat production, only 472,000 hectares were planted out of a planned 706,000 hectares due to the security situation, Yao said. There has been heavy fighting in Hasaka as an alliance of Syrian Arab and Kurdish fighters backed by US-led air strikes pushed Islamic State militants out of some territory this year.

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OIL REBOUND HAULS UP STOCKS, CURRENCIES

LONDON: Oil prices bounced back from multi-week lows yesterday, hauling up world stock markets and commodity-linked currencies, on hints that producers were close to reaching an output deal. Crude prices rose more than 1 percent, with US futures bouncing off Friday's one-month low to \$43.63 and Brent climbing from a two-week trough to \$46.30 after Venezuela said producers could announce a deal this month.

A firmer oil price bolstered energy company shares in bourses around the world, allowing European stocks to climb after two straight

weeks of losses. Wall Street was set to open up around 0.5 percent. It also helped lift commodity-linked currencies including the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand dollars by around half a percent, while the US dollar was broadly weaker.

Against a basket of other currencies, the greenback lost 0.2 percent to 95.894, giving up some of Friday's gains which were the biggest in a single day since late June. "It is not the first time this year we have had hopes of a deal and they have been dashed, but for now the oil rebound is supporting certain

markets," said Frederik Ducroz, a senior economist at Pictet.

The pan-European 600 index which had fallen to a six-week low on Friday, rose 0.7 percent, with the STOXX Europe 600 Oil & Gas index advancing 0.8 percent. Emerging market shares hit a one-week high, with Hungary as the standout performer after a ratings promotion to investment grade saw the Budapest share index jump to a nine-year high.

Earlier, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gained 1.2 percent in a move that was largely attributed to bets that

the US Federal Reserve would skip a chance to raise rates at a policy meeting this week. Shanghai put on 0.5 percent, while Taiwan jumped 2.8 percent after a string of losses. Liquidity was lacking, with Tokyo closed for a holiday.

A surprisingly large rise in US consumer price inflation reported on Friday seemed to add to the case for a hike and pushed the dollar higher. Yet most recent consumer and industrial activity data has disappointed, leaving the market still pricing in only a 12 percent probability of a rate rise this week, and 45 percent for December.

Assuming no move on policy, the focus will be on the FOMC's forecasts for the funds rate, which this time extend to 2019. "They may use the extension to lower their expectations for rates in 2017 and 2018, so that they end up with the same terminal level of rates, but just take longer to get there," said Marshall Gittler, head of investment research at FXPRIMUS.

"In other words, a slower, more gradual pace of tightening. In that case, I would expect the dollar to weaken." There was little discernible market reaction to bombings in New York City and New Jersey and a stabbing at a Minnesota shopping mall.

The Bank of Japan also meets this week and could well go in the opposite direction by easing policy, though conflicting reports on what it might do have stoked much uncertainty.

Sources have said the BoJ will consider making negative interest rates the centerpiece of future easing by shifting

its prime policy target away from base money. Any steps that markets consider to be less than aggressive would be likely to see the yen push higher and pressure the Nikkei.

Asia markets up

Asian markets mostly rose yesterday as traders gear up for central bank meetings in the US and Japan this week, hoping authorities will press ahead with loose monetary policies. Concern that years of cheap cash could be coming to an end has roiled markets this month, with uncertainty fuelled by conflicting comments from top Federal Reserve officials over the need for an interest rate rise.

In afternoon trade Hong Kong rose 0.9 percent as investors returned from a three-day weekend to play catch-up with Friday's regional rally. Shanghai, which was also closed Thursday and Friday, ended up 0.8 percent while Seoul gained 0.8 percent and Singapore added 0.3 percent. Sydney, however, closed marginally lower at the end of a day interrupted by technical glitches.

Tokyo was closed for a public holiday. The dollar held on to most of Friday's gains against the pound and euro after the release of data showing an uptick in US inflation during August. The euro bought \$1.1162 in Asia, from \$1.1156 in New York but well off the \$1.1242 in Tokyo Friday. The pound was at \$1.3032 compared with \$1.3004 in US trade and \$1.3215 earlier Friday. The dollar was also at 102.09 yen from 102.27 yen. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 19 September 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 4.11	5,430.47	5,426.36	5,430.47	5,410.98
Weighted Index	▲ 1.53	351.18	349.65	351.18	349.08
KSX 15	▲ 4.08	814.56	810.48	814.56	807.08

Volume	#N/A
Value (KWD)	#N/A
Number of Trades	#N/A

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change

MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	92	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	33.5	33.5	30,000	1,005	2	▲ 0.0
IPG	350	350	2,500	875	2	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	770	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	46.0	44.5	80,039	3,575	8	▲ -2.5
GPI	39.0	38.5	901,145	35,031	12	▲ -0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	93	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,013,684	40,486	24	▲ -3.35

KFOUC	168	166	121,365	20,187	5	▲ -0.0
BPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	485	▲ 0.0
ALQOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	650	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	194	194	56,910	11,041	14	▲ 0.0
Basic Materials			176,275	31,227	19	▲ -0.00

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change

SOKOUK	31.5	31.0	35,600	11,146	9	▲ 0.0
KRE	51	51	25,000	1,275	1	▲ 0.0
URC	97	96	3,250	312	2	▲ 1.0
NRE	77	76	632,186	48,087	12	▲ 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	365	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	550	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	146	▲ 0.0
MASGALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	38.0	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	31.5	31.5	20,012	914	4	▲ -0.5
ERESOO	40.0	39.0	785,407	30,978	31	▲ -0.5
MABANEE	790	790	395,795	312,678	10	▲ -10.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	71	▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	22.0	21.0	3,354,762	72,586	46	▲ 0.0
IRC	27.0	27.0	11,283	305	2	▲ 0.0
ALTJARIA	76	76	100,151	7,611	5	▲ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	30.5	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
ALQAARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	22.0	▲ 0.0
MAZAYA	114	114	170,000	19,380	2	▲ 0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	11.0	▲ 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	89	▲ 0.0
TUJARA	39.0	36.5	3,020	110	2	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	22.0	21.0	14,000	296	2	▲ -0.5
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	76	▲ 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
ABYAR	21.0	21.0	2,201,905	46,240	23	▲ 0.0
MUNSHAAT	50	48.0	210,000	10,305	3	▲ -1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	57	56	318,022	18,015	18	▲ 0.0
KBT	38.5	38.0	105,000	4,010	8	▲ 0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0
MENA	20.5	20.5	99,595	2,042	2	▲ 0.5
ALMUDON	29.0	26.5	9,897,142	278,313	186	▲ -2.5
MARAKEZ	33.5	33.0	1,001	33	2	▲ 0.0
REMAL	37.5	34.5	1,397,869	51,214	27	▲ 2.5
AWJ	56	56	3,900	218	1	▲ -2.0
Real Estate			20,116,900	916,069	398	▲ -1.46

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change

KINV	87	86	163	14	7	▲ 0.0
FACIL	170	170	60,000	10,200	6	▲ 0.0
IFA	31.0	30.5	1,216,390	37,100	27	▲ -0.5
NINV	116	112	1,715,599	195,361	60	▲ 0.0
KPROJ	550	540	111,622	60,576	18	▲ 0.0
COAST	44.0	43.0	1,251,120	54,210	51	▲ -0.5
SECH	45.5	45.0	534,869	24,070	14	▲ 0.5
SGC	85	85	20,052	1,704	5	▲ 0.0
ARZAN	31.5	31.5	300	9	1	▲ 0.5
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	85	▲ 0.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	24.0	▲ 0.0
ALAMAN	48.0	48.0	20,000	960	1	▲ 0.0
ALOLA	49.0	47.5	61,610	2,939	5	▲ -0.5
ALMAL	24.0	23.0	4,815,406	113,276	68	▲ -0.5
GIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	27.0	▲ 0.0
AAYAN	31.0	30.5	249,800	7,620	12	▲ 0.0
BAYANINV	32.5	31.5	327,600	10,442	14	▲ -0.5
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	46.0	▲ 0.0
KFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	37.0	▲ 0.0
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	128	▲ 0.0
NIH	56	55	24,000	1,321	6	▲ 1.0
ISKAN	34.5	34.0	364,916	12,408	7	▲ 0.5
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.0
ALDEERA	38.0	37.0	31,737	1,180	7	▲ 0.0
ALSALAM	51	50	1,464,399	73,222	45	▲ 1.0
EKTTITAB	30.0	37.0	213,497	7,918	16	▲ 1.0
ALMADINA	48.5	46.5	1,325,367	62,561	61	▲ 0.0
NOOR	40.0	40.0	120,000	4,800	5	▲ 0.0
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	315	▲ 0.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	1,500	▲ 0.0
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0
KSHC	31.5	30.0	567,828	17,495	19	▲ 0.0
ASHYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	33.0	▲ 0.0
GNAHC	35.0	34.0	334,843	11,513	17	▲ -0.5
AMWAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	21.0	▲ 0.0
ALMUTIAZ	70	70	179,000	12,530	4	▲ 0.0
MANAZEL	28.0	27.5	223,010	6,210	6	▲ 0.0
NIND	116	114	549,824	62,930	18	▲ -2.0
BIHC	28.5	27.5	399,450	11,123	11	▲ -1.0
SENERGY	37.5	36.0	175,102	6,414	11	▲ 0.0
AGHC	59	55	1,661,950	94,399	79	▲ 5.0
KPPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	47.0	▲ 0.0
TAHSSILAT	34.0	34.0	8,500	289	4	▲ -2.5
JEERANH	0.0	0.0	0	0	88	▲ 0.0
EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0
GFH	84	82	292,130	24,160	10	▲ -2.0
INOVEST	66	66	50,000	3,300	2	▲ -2.0
Financial Services			18,370,083	932,254	616	▲ -1.52

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	148	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	100	99	3,700	369	2	▲ 4.0
CATTL	248	244	127,800	31,503	16	▲ -11.0
DANAH	86	84	193,460	16,335	14	▲ -1.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,460	118,914	293,618	19	▲ -20.0
Consumer Goods			443,874	341,824	61	▲ -5.28

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	198	188	12,895	2,504	2	▲ 10
Health Care			12,895	2,504	2	▲ 7.19

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Change

KCIN	930	920	5,000	4,620	14	▲ -10
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	300	▲ -1
SULTAN	52	51	518,098	26,523	25	▲ -1
CABLETV	35.0	34.5	1,500	52	2	▲ 2
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	385	▲ 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	192	▲ 0
OLAFUEJ	114	114	148,954	16,981	11	▲ 0
MUNTAZAHAT	77	75	115,550	8,686	19	▲ -3
JAZEERA	830	810	4,063	3,341	5	▲ -10
SOOR	114	112	17,796	2,013	8	▲ 0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	9	



THE NEW C-CLASS CABRIOLET ARRIVES IN KUWAIT

UNLIMITED LUXURY ACCESS TO THE ROAD AND SKY



KUWAIT: Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company, the authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, has officially announced the arrival of the all-new Mercedes-Benz C-Class Cabriolet in Kuwait. Mercedes-Benz welcomes the open-air season with the first C-Class Cabriolet, thereby rounding off the latest in its exceptional range of dream cars. The sporty four-seater is based on the successful Coupé version. Fascinating design, agile driving characteristics and high day-to-day utility combined with typical Mercedes attributes such as superior presence, safety and efficiency lend it a special charm that appeals to all the senses. The newcomer shares a number of features with the C-Class Coupé, including identical dimensions at 4.6m in length and 1.8m wide, the same grille, LED headlights, high shoulder line, curved boot and tail-lamp design. Distinctive to the convertible is the fabric roof with glass rear screen.

"The C-Class Cabriolet is the entry into the world of premium convertibles from Mercedes-Benz. Fascinating design, agile driving characteristics and high day-to-day utility combined with typical Mercedes attributes such as calm superiority, safety and efficiency lend it a special charm that appeals to all the senses," said Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Company.

As the new entry-level model into the world of Mercedes-Benz convertibles, the C-Class Cabriolet is also a consistent embodiment of the Mercedes-Benz design philosophy: sensual purity as the definition of modern luxury - hot and cool. It exhibits independence of character with a visibly sporty expression and youthfully fresh appeal. Its tightly stretched soft top with glass window transitions harmoniously into the distinctively styled rear end, which has a highly sporty look with its wide shoulders and flat LED

tail lights. With a capacity of 360 litres (285 litres with the roof open), the boot is capable of holding an exceptional amount of luggage for a convertible, thus offering undisputed everyday practicality. At the sides, an elongated drooping line extending over the rear wheel arch lends an emphasis typical of Mercedes-Benz design. The vehicle is already at sports level with the standard 17-inch tyres (18-inch tyres are standard for GCC markets) emphasising the sporty nature of the Cabriolet.

Premium-class fabric soft top

The fully automatic classic cabriolet fabric soft top comes in black in the basic variant, or is optionally available with a multi-layer acoustic soft top in dark brown, dark blue, dark red or

black. Significantly reducing the wind/driving noise, the acoustic soft top offers optimal climate comfort, quiet-running characteristics and full all-year suitability. Based on the S-Class Cabriolet, the soft top also meets high quality standards in terms of durability and function. It can be opened and closed in 20 seconds, and at speeds of up to 50 km/h.

Interior - modernity and lifestyle

The interior ambience is similar to that of the C-Class Coupé, though freshly interpreted with features typical of a convertible. Superior materials and build quality give the interior a modern feel of sportiness and lifestyle. The appointments include heat-reflecting leather in a total of five colour shades (optional) as well as an attractively

curved switch in matt silver chrome in the centre console for opening and closing the fully automatic soft top. The rear seats are in the form of individual seats. Their backrests offer a through-loading feature as standard, and can be split 50:50 for high everyday practicality or can be completely folded down.

Individual highlights

The Cabriolet already comes with a high equipment specification as standard, augmented by a wide range of individualization options, including 13 upholstery variants, such as designo Bengal red / black, seven trim variants, four soft-top colours, twelve exterior paint finishes, and a leather-covered instrument panel. The roof liner of the soft top is available in black, porcelain and crystal grey.

Numerous trim elements in sporty aluminium, carbon-fibre or glass-fibre are complemented by authentic open-pore wood species in shades of brown and black.

The AMG Line (standard for GCC markets) underlines the dynamism of the Cabriolet. It differs by virtue of exterior features such as special bumpers and sills with AMG bodystyling, a diamond radiator grille with pins in chrome, trim strips on the beltline, A-pillars and soft top compartment in matt anodised aluminium and 18-inch AMG light-alloy wheels. In the interior the AMG Line comes with sporty, exclusive highlights, including a multifunction sports steering wheel with flattened bottom section as well as AMG sports pedals.

Sensitive climate control for open-air driving

Specially developed for cabriolets, the climate control system responds to whether the vehicle is being driven with the soft top up or down.

With the roof closed, the system performs in the same way as in the Coupé. With the soft top down, the climate control system adapts by e.g. blowing warmer air onto the driver's hands on the steering wheel and deactivating the air recirculation function.

Vibrant infotainment

Intuitive operation with animations and visual effects is offered by the infotainment system in the new C-Class Cabriolet. Frontbass ensures a listening experience almost on a par with a concert hall - especially if the optionally available Burmester sound system has been specified.

A Bluetooth(r)-compatible mobile phone with data option is all it takes to give the Audio 20 system internet capability. This allows internet surfing without restriction when the vehicle is stationary. The alternatively available COMAND Online system provides a larger display with a resolution of 960 x 540 pixels, while offering fast hard-drive navigation, integral WiFi hotspot functionality and LINGUATRONIC voice control as well as many other features.

Suspension: Sporty, agile and comfortable

The suspension offers a high level of comfort with low road roar and tyre vibration characteristics, while ensuring agile driving dynamics - the basis for driving enjoyment. The suspension on the Cabriolet, which is 15 millimetres lower in comparison with the Saloon, comes as standard with steel springs and a selective damping system.

DYNAMIC SELECT lets the driver choose how the journey should be: sporty, comfortable or fuel-efficient. To this end, the driver can select one of five transmission modes using the DYNAMIC SELECT Switch. Powerful and efficient petrol engines with ECO start/stop function ensure sporty performance and driving pleasure.



EU PROBES FRENCH GAS GIANT ENGIE'S LUXEMBOURG TAX DEALS

BRUSSELS: The EU launched an in-depth probe yesterday into alleged sweetheart tax deals between French gas group Engie and Luxembourg, taking on a major European multinational after similar high-profile investigations into US giants.

The probe into a company owned in part by the French state comes days after the Commission angered Washington by ruling that US tech icon Apple had received favourable tax terms and ordered it to repay 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion) in back-taxes to Ireland. "The Commission has concerns that several tax rulings issued by Luxembourg may have given GDF Suez (now Engie) an unfair advantage over other companies, in breach of EU state aid rules," the European Union's executive arm said in a statement. The investigation into one of France's biggest and most strategic companies opens on the same day as a visit by EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager to Washington, where she is to meet top US officials amid continued complaints over her Apple decision.

"We will look carefully at tax rulings issued by Luxembourg to GDF Suez," Vestager said in the Commission statement. "They seem to contradict national taxation rules and allow GDF Suez to pay less tax than other companies," she added. The Commission said Luxembourg is suspected of having afforded Engie subsidiaries different tax treatments on the same transactions, lowering the company's overall tax exposure significantly. Luxembourg's tax authorities "appear to treat the same financial transaction between companies of GDF Suez in an inconsistent way," the Commission said. This resulted in tax breaks "which are not available to other companies subject to the same national taxation rules in Luxembourg," it added.

LuxLeaks fallout

The Luxembourg government rejected the charge but said it would cooperate fully

with the probe and stressed that an investigation in no way presumed guilt. "Luxembourg believes that no special tax treatment was accorded to Engie companies in the country," the finance ministry said in a short statement. Engie also said it would cooperate with the probe.

Luxembourg has been under intense scrutiny since the LuxLeaks revelations in 2014 showed that current European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker gave companies huge tax breaks, known as tax rulings, while he was prime minister of the tiny country.

Documents leaked to journalists by former PricewaterhouseCoopers employees revealed tax breaks that Luxembourg offered to huge international firms including Apple, IKEA and Pepsi. The revelations, along with the Panama Papers scandal this year, ended up forcing the EU to take urgent steps to stop global firms avoiding tax in Europe, including inquiries into firms like Apple, McDonald's and Amazon. In addition to the historic decision against Apple, the Commission has already decided against Fiat in Luxembourg, and Starbucks in the Netherlands, ordering them to repay up to 30 million euros. Decisions are still awaited against Amazon and McDonald's as well as on a special tax set-up given by Belgium to a number of multinationals, including brewing giant AB Inbev. The Engie cases cited by the Commission yesterday date back to 2008 when Juncker was at the helm in Luxembourg. GDF Suez, Engie since 2015, is a French electric utility company of which the French state owns about 33 percent.

During her three-day visit to the US, Vestager is set to meet Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, in addition to key lawmakers and regulators. A Commission spokesman rejected criticism that the decision against Engie was taken to assure Washington that US companies are not under attack in Brussels. — AFP

BETTER INTEGRATION KEY TO TACKLING ANTI-MIGRANT BACKLASH: OECD

PARIS: Western governments need to tackle a growing anti-migrant backlash by helping newcomers integrate faster, the OECD said, following a sharp increase in immigration to its member states. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a grouping of mostly developed economies, said around 4.8 million people migrated to member countries in 2015 — up 10 percent in a year. In a report to be presented to a UN summit on refugees and migrants opening later in New York, the OECD said the newcomers included a record 1.65 million registered new asylum seekers, nearly 1.3 million of them in Europe where the influx has fanned the rise of right-wing populist parties in France, Germany, Austria and elsewhere.

Across the Atlantic, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has also campaigned heavily on immigration, vowing to build a wall along the Mexican border and deport large numbers of the undocumented. "The public is losing faith in the capacity of governments to manage migration," the OECD's International Migration Outlook report warned.

While the medium and long-term effects of

migration are "generally positive" for economies, "this message is not getting through," the OECD's director for employment, labour and social affairs, Stefano Scarpetta, wrote in his foreword.

Citizens of host countries worry that migration is running out of control, that public services are overstretched, that immigration only benefits the rich and that migrants do not want to integrate, he said. "Countries must acknowledge and address the fact that the impact of migration is not the same for everyone," Scarpetta said.

This includes recognizing that large numbers of low-skilled migrants arriving in an area could damage the job prospects of low-skilled locals. Host countries need to ensure that employers do not use migrants to circumvent minimum wages and labour laws, the report said.

Migrant arrivals in Europe have fallen dramatically since a March deal between the EU and Turkey to stem the tide of people crossing the Aegean Sea, even as others continue to set sail across the Mediterranean from Africa. "The big task, the big challenge now is integration," OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría said at the launch of the report in Paris.

Swedish model

Host countries needed to speed up identification of migrants' qualifications and invest more in language training to help them access work, the report said. Currently, it takes about 20 years before a migrant's chance of employment in Europe becomes equal to that of a non-migrant. Gurria cited Sweden, which received more asylum seekers per capita than any other EU member last year, as an example of a country making strides in fast-tracking work initiatives for newcomers. "They don't wait for migrants to be able to speak Swedish and have qualifications in engineering or whatever. They put them to work and then start teaching them Swedish in the workplace."

The OECD called for greater international cooperation on managing global migration and for destination countries to look at "alternative pathways" for refugees to reach safety without resorting to smuggler boats, by, for example, awarding more student and family migration visas. The organization also suggested a form of "lottery" for refugees registered by the UN refugee agency, which would give "everyone the chance to use the legal route." — AFP

ECB MUST TIGHTEN SCREWS: BUNDESBANK

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank (ECB) must not allow low interest rates and monetary stimulus to last indefinitely, the head of Germany's Bundesbank (central bank) said yesterday.

"Under no circumstances can interest rates remain so low for longer than is absolutely necessary with regard to price stability," Bundesbank president Jens Weidmann told a group of European newspapers including the Sueddeutsche Zeitung. "The risks of ultra-loose monetary policy become larger the longer the phase of low interest rates lasts," he insisted.

The ECB's headline main refinancing rate has stood at zero since early 2016, while its deposit rate is in negative territory-meaning banks pay to park their money in its coffers. Combined with the central bank's offers of cheap loans to banks and

"quantitative easing" policy of buying state and corporate debt, low rates are supposed to drive down the cost of borrowing for businesses and households, which should stimulate growth in the economy. Stronger growth pushes up prices, nudging inflation towards the ECB's target of slightly below two percent.

But while the bank's governing council has pushed rates lower and increased the scale of its bond purchases to 80 billion euros (\$89.3 billion) per month, growth in the 19-nation single currency bloc has remained sluggish. The ECB slightly increased its growth forecast for 2016 to 1.7 percent at an early September meeting-but trimmed its predictions for 2017 and 2018.

Meanwhile, groans from the banking sector have become louder as low interest rates cut into

profits. Weidmann dismissed fears that ending loose monetary policy could nip the economic recovery in the bud. "Possible problems for individual financial institutions or government budgets mustn't stop us from normalizing monetary policy as soon as it becomes necessary," he said. Some governments including Italy and Germany have profited by refinancing their debts at negative rates, Weidmann noted-an example he said shows "low interest rates are further sapping budgetary discipline."

"The mountains of debt will become a problem when rates rise again," he argued. "They may no longer be sustainable." The Bundesbank chief in early August sharply criticised the European Commission's decision not to punish Spain and Portugal for exceeding budget deficit limits. — AFP

ZAIN, UNHCR AND FACEBOOK COLLABORATE TO SUPPORT REFUGEES INITIATIVE IN JORDAN

NEW YORK: At the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development meeting in New York held on 18 September 2016, Zain Group, an innovative mobile operator across the Middle East and Africa, announced a collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Facebook to provide free, open and high-speed Wi-Fi internet connectivity to refugees in the Kingdom of Jordan for five years. This life-empowering service is being provided to refugees and surrounding local communities in key areas identified by the UNHCR, and forms part of the its Connectivity for Refugees initiative.

More than 724,000 refugees are registered with the UNHCR in Jordan, originating mainly from neighboring Iraq and Syria, two countries facing ongoing internal unrest that has resulted in the massive displacement of large populations.

The connectivity project backed by Zain Group, UNHCR and Facebook will offer unlimited, 24/7 outdoor and indoor Wi-Fi access points through Zain Jordan's high-speed 4G mobile network, initially in four primary locations across the Kingdom, namely the Princess Basma Center in Sahab in greater Amman; the Al-Khaledeya Center in Mafraq; the Princess Basma Center in Tafleeh and the Princess Basma Center in Karak.

Reliable internet connectivity is critical to supporting the efforts to make the lives of the refugees

as comfortable and dignified as possible, allowing them to maintain contact with their loved ones back in their home countries, amongst other things.

The refugee centers already offer assistance to refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in the form of psychological support, recreational activities, informal education as well as economic empowerment programs and life skills development. The centers also host regular Help Desks run by UNHCR staff in order to address refugee needs such as registration, documentation, health referrals, financial assistance, and protection counselling. The centers also provide assistance to refugees with special needs and offer various life-enhancing workshops. All these services will be impacted positively by the provision of sound internet connectivity within the centers.

Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group CEO and a Broadband Commissioner said, "As a regional telecommunications provider that has a history of operating in and helping communities in conflict zones, we are well aware of the transformational power connectivity plays in improving the quality of life of people. In addition to staying in touch with loved ones, this initiative will enable refugees in Jordan to stay informed with news concerning their circumstances as well as empowering them to utilize the power of the internet to enhance their economic livelihoods, bringing some peace of mind and dignity to their dire situation." Alan Vernon,



Facebook's Kevin Martin and Zain's Scott Gegenheimer in New York.

Lead for UNHCR's Connectivity for Refugees Programme, said, "UNHCR is very pleased to partner and with Facebook and Zain to bring internet

access to refugees in Jordan. Not only does internet access directly improve the well-being of refugees, but it also enables UNHCR and its partners to communicate more effectively with refugees and deliver improved support to their communities."

Kevin Martin, Facebook's Vice President of Mobile and Global Access Policy, and a Broadband Commissioner said: "Everyone in the world - including the millions of refugees who have been displaced from their homes - deserve access to the opportunities of the internet. Our hope is that by collaborating with the UNHCR and Zain Group, refugee communities in Jordan will now be able to connect with their families and friends, share information, and become part of the global digital community."

This multi-stakeholder collaboration addresses several of the 17 ambitious Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) that were adopted one year ago by 193 world leaders at the United Nations' meeting in September 2015 aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring the prosperity for all in the coming 15 years. This latest partnership touches on several of the SDGs, namely Goal 17, which addresses technology, capacity building and multi-stakeholder partnership targets as well as Goal 4, which seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and the promotion of life-long learning opportunities for all.

DRAGON CITY BRINGS YOU THE UNIQUE 'TASTE OF CHINA'

MANAMA: Bahrain has been home to a vibrant Chinese community for decades. Right from the many exotic Chinese restaurants, ethnic antique shops and Chinese motoring brands, elements of this fine culture are deeply rooted in this island.

September and October are known to be months of celebration for the Chinese folk all over the world because of the many important festivals that fall during the time. As part of its efforts to showcase the true spirit of Chinese festivity, in the Kingdom, Dragon City is set to host a series of exciting events.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month according to the Chinese lunar calendar, a time when the moon is at its roundest and brightest. It is the second grandest festival after the Spring Festival in China. It's an important day reserved for family gatherings, prayers and thanksgiving and a staple delicacy during this festival is the Moon Cake which comes in various flavours, according to the region.

You can also celebrate this grand festival with friends and family at Dragon City on September 15 and take the opportunity to savour a moon cake right here in Bahrain. While there, enjoy a day of retail therapy with the family.

Tea-Art exhibition

Dragon City will also host an exotic Tea-Art exhibition from September 22-24 to mark this important month in the Chinese calendar. The Chinese tea culture is world renowned, and tea brewing and drinking in China symbolizes showing respect, expressing gratitude and coming together with family. Discover this interesting Chinese tradition, only at Bahrain's largest Chinese market!

Honouring the occasion of the 67th National Day of China on 1st October, Dragon City is privileged to host an exquisite art gallery set-up featuring stunning paintings by several Chinese artists. It will be held from October 1-3 in collaboration with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and the Chinese Embassy and sponsored by Diyar Al-Muharrag. The gallery will be on display at the Art Center, near the National Museum.

Shopping at Dragon City will be a rewarding experience this year with shoppers having the fantastic opportunity to win exciting prizes in the form of cars, right until the end of the year. You can win popular Chinese car models as prizes including JAC, Geely, Cherry and the newly introduced Hawtai.

So starting September, Dragon City will be a hub of fun, excitement and rewards in addition to being home to a wide range of stores selling home furnishings, electronic appliances, kitchenware, the latest fashion trends, jewellery, cosmetics, and more!

Dragon City is a first of its kind project in the Kingdom of Bahrain and it includes Dragon Mall, Dragon Apartments, Dining Village, and an allocated area for warehouses. Dragon City is home to more than 787 commercial units, effectively making it the largest wholesale and retail trading centre in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Located South-West of Diyar Al-Muharrag, it is strategically located in close proximity to Bahrain's International Airport, the state-of-the-art Khalifa Bin Salman Port and the Capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Manama, making it ideal and providing easy access to customers from both the Kingdom and beyond. Dragon City gives to its customers, including local consumers, trade customers and tourists, an access to a wide range of offers and high quality Chinese products.



NEW FORD EDGE IS HERE TO RECLAIM ITS TITLE AS MIDDLE EAST'S FAVORITE

LOADED WITH MORE TECHNOLOGY, HIGHER LEVELS OF SOPHISTICATION

DUBAI: Growth in SUV sales globally have been rising steadily as millennials starting families lend strong support to the SUV boom - with surge in the Middle East specifically, expected to double in the next 10 years. Vying for a greater market share, leading the charge on its Middle East launch, is the all-new Ford Edge.

The Edge is a demonstration of what happens when a proven leader gets even better. The original Edge - a perfect blend of sedan comfort and efficiency with SUV functionality - was Ford's first entry into the world of crossover utilities, and it took its seat at the head of the table as the Middle East's favourite.

"Edge buyers are more and more discerning, which drove us to approach the design of the all-new Ford Edge inside out with a more aggressive assault on its segment share in mind," said Kalyana Sivagnanam, VP Marketing Sales and Service, Ford Middle East & Africa. "Having been retooled to meet higher expectations for quality, and reengineered to add more features and technologies for a more rewarding driving experience, Edge is primed to reset the standard in the two-row utility vehicle market, and we can't wait for our customers to experience it." The all-new Edge has been remade in almost every single detail, always keeping in mind the customer, who expects something premium, powerful and special. With a structure more rigid than ever and a suspension tuned to the highest global standards, the 2016 Edge is a high-tech utility that delivers a special driving experience customers will feel from their first moments behind the wheel. (click to tweet)

Crucial to the Edge's claim for number one spot in its segment, is having the competitive upper hand, and the all-new Ford Edge has that in spades. Featuring three engine options, two of which are new powerplants - a standard twin-scroll 2.0-litre EcoBoost four-cylinder and a 2.7-litre EcoBoost V6-Edge already has more to offer than its closest rival. A normally aspirated 3.5-litre V6 engine is also available, and all are equipped with dual exhaust and a six-speed automatic transmission.

When it comes to power, Ford Edge's 2.0-litre outperforms its closest competitor in both performance and EPA-estimated highway and combined fuel economy. With all-wheel drive on the Edge Sport, the 2.7-litre V6 aided by Torque Vectoring Control - a technology not offered by the closest competitor in its class - energizes the idea of a crossover giving an unmatched spirited performance. Edge represents the first Ford vehicle to feature standard EcoBoost power. The twin-scroll 2.0-litre EcoBoost, offering an estimated 253 PS and 378 Nm of torque, is significantly improved over the previous 2.0-litre EcoBoost. Beyond efficiency advantages, this new engine will also provide more capability.

The 2.0-litre EcoBoost is a twin-scroll design enabling optimised camshaft timing for improved engine performance and reduced turbo lag. A new, lighter engine block casting along with new aluminium balance shaft assembly shaves almost three kilograms from the engine's gravitational weight. Other changes include lighter pistons; a newly designed, integrated exhaust manifold; and a new, high-pressure direct-injection fuel system for finer fuel atomization. These upgrades pave the way for an increased compression ratio of 9.7:1, up from 9.3:1, for improved overall fuel efficiency.

On the other side of the engine spectrum is Edge Sport, with an exclusive, all-new 2.7-litre EcoBoost engine that will provide an exceptional combination of power and efficiency. Setting a



new standard in world-class powertrain engineering, this twin-turbocharged V6 is one of the world's most advanced engines. The 2.7-litre EcoBoost uses the same compacted graphite iron in its cylinder block as is used in the 6.7-litre Power Stroke. This advanced cylinder block allows for a remarkably stiff and compact design that returns exceptionally refined noise, vibration and harshness control. The compacted graphite iron core is mated with a die-cast aluminium engine-block ladder frame and composite oil pan, saving weight by applying advanced materials where they are needed most.

The strength of the compacted graphite iron cylinder block allows the 2.7-litre EcoBoost engine to produce impressive power and torque for its size. Compact and efficient, the all-new engine can produce the power and torque of a mid-range V8.

Expected to deliver 340 PS and 542 Nm of torque, this 2.7-litre EcoBoost will ensure Edge Sport is the highest-performance Edge ever.

The suspension in Edge Sport has front and rear

anti-roll bars that are 15 per cent stiffer than the base model, and unique rear monotonube dampers that are larger in diameter. The coil springs are 10 per cent stiffer. Overall, with improved damping and control, Edge Sport offers improved road-holding capability, giving the driver more control, sharper steering and greater confidence.

All three engines are mated to Ford's SelectShift six-speed automatic transmission with paddle-shift activation. Drivers will have the ability to manually select gears via race-inspired paddles on the steering wheel. The paddle-shift system is standard on all models. (click to tweet). The SelectShift transmission features two modes of operation - drive and sport. Sport mode offers a more aggressive shift pattern, allowing the engine to rev higher during acceleration, and hold lower gears longer to support spirited, fast-paced sessions. Unlike many paddle-shift systems, the Edge six-speed automatic is always "live in drive," so the driver won't have to select sport mode to enable operation.



KFH REPLACES 50 ATMs TO OFFER INNOVATIVE SERVICES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has replaced 50 ATMs at its branches in the framework of its ongoing efforts to offer the most innovative banking solutions to customers, yet to maintain the leadership position and to achieve highest levels of customer satisfaction.

KFH aims at improving the level of its ATMs services such as the deposit, withdrawal and cheque deposit transactions, in addition to providing a vast array of banking solutions and functions as per the highest standards of quality, accuracy and security.

The ATMs replacement initiative comes as part of a plan to replace all KFH old ATMs with new ones to be installed over the next 3 months in collaboration with high-profile technological companies. This reflects KFH's unremitting efforts towards offering comprehensive banking solutions that allow it to boost its leadership position, to increase its market share and to improve the level of services.

KFH is keen on offering 24/7 banking services to customers. It strives to keep

pace with the latest technological development for the best interest of customers and the bank alike.

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 446 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 institution. 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.

BURGAN BANK SUCCESSFULLY ISSUES \$500M DEBUT SENIOR BOND

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank KPSC successfully priced their inaugural \$500 million 3.125 percent coupon, 5 year senior issuance (the "bond") under its newly established \$1.5 billion EMTN Program and became the first financial institution to ever issue a public senior bond out of Kuwait. The Bond, which priced at 99.30 percent had a re-offer yield of 3.278 percent and will mature on 14 September 2021. The EMTN Program and the issuance will be listed on the Irish Stock Exchange.

Burgan Group Chief Investment Banking and Treasury Officer, Robert Frost said "We were very pleased that the Burgan bond was well received by both the regional and international fixed income investors. The significant support by the investor community for a first time issuer underlines Burgan's strong credit standing in the markets. The bond further enhances the bank's initiatives to diversify its funding sources."

A series of investor meetings was arranged globally across Singapore, Hong Kong, UAE and London, during which the Burgan team effectively communicated the credit story of the bank and generated substantial interest in the offer-

ing. Despite a heavy supply of FI issuances from the MENA region coming to market post the summer period, Burgan was able to capitalize on the positive investor feedback and an opportunistic issuance window to swiftly execute their debut deal. The company will be using the issuance proceeds for general corporate purposes. On the back of an orderbook in excess of \$1.5 billion with 129 orders, the bond ultimately priced at a spread of 215bps over 5 year Mid-swaps, a significant tightening from the initial price thoughts of "low to mid 200s".

The distribution profile of the book was well balanced, with Middle Eastern investors allocated for 49 percent of the transaction, while UK, Europe, Asian and US (offshore) investors accounted for 21 percent, 13 percent, 14 percent and 3 percent respectively, of the issuance.

In terms of investor type, the offering was distributed as follows: 49 percent for Banks, 41 percent for Fund Managers/Hedge Funds, 7 percent PBs, and 3 percent for others. HSBC acted as the Global Coordinator with Emirates NBD Capital, HSBC, NBAD, SG CIB and Standard Chartered Bank as joint bookrunners on the offering.

SOLAR SCALE-UP IN PAKISTAN HITS ROADBLOCK

BAHAWALPUR, Pakistan: An effort to boost large-scale solar energy production in Pakistan has hit a roadblock after the government cut the rate it pays for solar electricity, frustrating investors. Pakistan's Punjab province government set up the 100-megawatt Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in the Cholistan desert in March 2015 as a pilot project to lure foreign investment for an additional 900 megawatts of power.

Zonergy Limited, a Chinese-owned firm, then agreed to invest \$1.5 billion to produce the power, with a promise to complete the work by June 2016. But last December, Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) reduced the amount the country pays to buy solar electricity from 14.5 cents to 9.25 cents per kilowatt-hour, citing falling costs for solar panels and other equipment. The cut has prompted a lawsuit by Zonergy officials, who last month brought online just 200 megawatts of the promised 900 megawatts of power in Punjab's Bahawalpur district, said Muhammad Amjad, chief executive officer of the solar park, in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Zonergy has gone into litigation over the reduction of the tariff and this is delaying com-

pletion of the project," he said. "We are trying to resolve it as soon as possible." Zonergy officials in Pakistan could not be reached for comment.

Amjad said the tariff reduction was justified as the price of solar panels and other accessories needed to produce the power had declined significantly in the international market in the last year and a half. Even after the reduction, Pakistan still offers one of the world's most generous payments for solar power fed into a national grid, he said.

6,500 Acres of Panels

The solar park has been promoted as one of the largest in the world, spread over 6,500 acres of land in the Cholistan desert in east-central Pakistan. It is located about 20 kilometres from the city of Bahawalpur, and a special security unit has been established for protection of its workers, along with a 22.5 km security wall around the facility. Muhammad Hassan Askari, the park's operations manager, said the solar panels feed into the national grid for around 8-10 hours each day. There is no battery system to store energy for night-time distribution. The original 100 megawatt plant, installed by the Punjab government from its own budget,

produces about 150 gigawatt hours a year, he said, enough to light about 100,000 homes in the country. "The Cholistan desert is one of the best locations in Pakistan for solar energy production," he said, calling the project "financially viable". Askari said that over one million solar panels have been installed so far to produce the combined 300 megawatts of power, and they should help avoid about 280,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

Dust and sand are the greatest technical challenges to deal with at the solar plant, he said, with a permanent team of about 100 laborers hired to wash the panels each week. "The solar park is offering green jobs to around 2,000 workers as they have been trained to install the solar panels and do other related work," Askari said.

Power Shortages

Pakistan faces a year-round electricity shortfall that hits around 7,000 megawatts in the summer, the period of peak demand. The country's rural areas often suffer blackouts of more than 14 hours a day while urban areas can experience up to 10 hours a day without power. Syed Zahir Salahuddin, a Karachi-based electrical energy expert, said that

Pakistan's electricity demand is increasing at 8-10 percent each year, and can be met only through a sustainable energy mix including solar power.

"Pakistan should introduce a uniform tariff policy instead of considering it on case-to-case basis, to encourage competition for private investment in renewable energy," he said. Without private sector investment, solar energy projects will not take off in the country, he warned. He called solar energy a viable power solution for off-grid areas of Pakistan as well as grid-connected ones, as it does not require the government to spend large amounts of money to install transmission lines.

About 44 percent of households in Pakistan are not connected to the grid. More than 80 percent of those are in rural areas, according to the World Bank. Salahuddin suggested the government map all potential sites for solar power plants in the country and then seek investors, offering government financial support for things like transmission lines and land purchases. Askari said he hoped differences between the government and investors over the Cholistan desert project could be resolved in order to drive further investment into solar energy in Pakistan. — Reuters



The Azura wave energy device is seen at the Navy's Wave Energy Test Site.



The Lifesaver wave energy device, which converts the movement of waves into electricity, is seen at the Navy's Wave Energy Test Site at the Marine Corps base at Kaneohe Bay on Oahu in Hawaii. — AP photos

SELF-DRIVING CARS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK

WASHINGTON: The move to self-driving cars is coming faster than most people think, says the head of ridesharing giant Lyft. Within five years, autonomous vehicles will account for the majority of Lyft rides, says co-founder and chief executive John Zimmer. Lyft, which has a partnership with General Motors on autonomous vehicles, says he sees a "transportation revolution" stemming from a shift to self-driving cars, and that by 2025 "private car ownership will all but end in major US cities." "As a country, we've long celebrated cars as symbols of freedom and identity," Zimmer said in a Medium blog post Sunday.

"But for many people - especially millennials - this doesn't ring true. We see car ownership as a burden that is costing the average American \$9,000 every year," Zimmer argues that autonomous vehicles will work better as part of a fleet like Lyft's because the average car is used just four percent of the time and parked the rest of the time. "It will be both more

practical and appealing to access autonomous vehicles when they are part of Lyft's networked fleet," he writes.

Zimmer's comments come days after Lyft rival Uber launched a driverless car service in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and with major automakers and technology firms racing to be part of the movement. The shift is a huge benefit for the environment, according to Zimmer.

"Every year, more and more people are concluding that it is simpler and more affordable to live without a car," he said. "And when networked autonomous vehicles come onto the scene, below the cost of car ownership, most city-dwellers will stop using a personal car altogether." As a result, he commented, "cities' physical environment will change more than we've ever experienced in our lifetimes... we'll have the chance to redesign our entire urban fabric."

Cities of the future must be built around people, not vehicles. — AFP

GOOGLE FACES \$400M BILL AS INDONESIA STARTS TAX PROBE

JAKARTA: Google faces a bill of over \$400 million in Indonesia if authorities find it avoided taxes last year, an official said yesterday, as Jakarta began a probe into the US tech giant. Indonesia last week announced it was launching an investigation into Google, alleging that the company had refused to cooperate with tax officials. Google has insisted that it has paid all taxes due in Indonesia since opening its Jakarta offices in 2011.

Yesterday, tax investigators visited Google's office as the probe got under way, with senior official Muhammad Haniv telling AFP the California-based company had not fulfilled its obligations while earning millions of dollars in Southeast Asia's top economy. If authorities find that Google had not paid all its taxes for 2015, it could be forced to pay what it owes and then a hefty fine, he said.

This could add up to a total of some 5.5 trillion rupiah (about \$420 million). "Foreigners reap trillions of rupiah profit here but refuse to pay tax - that is not fair," said Haniv after visiting Google's office. "If

necessary we will take this to court." He did not comment on what Google could owe for the years before 2015.

In a statement last week Jason Tedjasukmana, the head of corporate communications for Google Indonesia, said the company had always worked closely with the government and had "complied by paying all taxes which apply in Indonesia". Haniv said the probe was inspired by similar moves against Google in the European Union, where the tech giant is facing a series of fiscal probes. Jakarta has also put pressure on other foreign tech behemoths such as Facebook and Yahoo over their tax arrangements inside Indonesia.

Global tech businesses have flooded Indonesia in recent years to capitalize on the exploding number of Internet users in a country with an enormous young population increasingly using smartphones. A third of Indonesia's 255 million have access to the Internet. Analysts say that number is likely to increase as connectivity improves across the sprawling archipelago. — AFP

SAMSUNG SAYS CHINA PHONE FIRE CAUSED BY EXTERNAL HEAT

SEOUL/BEIJING: Samsung Electronics Co Ltd said yesterday a Galaxy Note 7 phone a Chinese user claimed caught on fire was damaged by external heating, seeking to assure customers in the world's top smartphone market the devices being sold there are safe. The incident comes amid a recall of the Note 7 phones across the globe including South Korea and the United States due to faulty batteries causing the devices to catch fire while charging or in normal use. Samsung has said it has sold 2.5 million phones equipped with the suspect batteries.

Late on Sunday, Chinese online financial magazine Caixin cited an Internet user's report that their Note 7 phone, bought from JD.com Inc, had caught fire in what appeared to be the first report in China of a

fire involving the handset. Samsung said in a statement on its China website its investigation of the phone shows "the damage to this product was caused by external heating", without elaborating.

Battery maker Amperex Technology Limited (ATL) said separately yesterday one of its batteries was in the Note 7 phone in question, but added its joint investigation with Samsung determined the incident was not directly linked to a battery made by the China-based firm.

"According to the burn marks on the sample, we surmise that the source of the heating comes from outside the battery, and it's very likely that there was an external factor causing the heating problem," the battery maker said in a statement. — Reuters

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii: In the waters off the coast of Hawaii, a tall buoy bobs and sways in the water, using the rise and fall of the waves to generate electricity. The current travels through an undersea cable for a mile to a military base, where it is fed into Oahu's power grid - the first wave-produced electricity to go online in the US. By some estimates, the ocean's endless motion packs enough power to meet a quarter of America's energy needs and dramatically reduce the nation's reliance on oil, gas and coal. But wave energy technology lags well behind wind and solar power, with important technical hurdles still to be overcome.

To that end, the Navy has established a test site in Hawaii, with hopes the technology can someday be used to produce clean, renewable power for offshore fueling stations for the fleet and provide electricity to coastal communities in fuel-starved places around the world. "More power from more places translates to a more agile, more flexible, more capable force," Joseph Bryan, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy, said during an event at the site. "So we're always looking for new ways to power the mission."

Hawaii would seem a natural site for such technology. As any surfer can tell you, it is blessed with powerful waves. The island state also has the highest electricity costs in the nation - largely because of its heavy reliance on oil delivered by sea - and has a legislative mandate to get 100 percent of its energy from renewables by 2045. Still, it could be five to 10 years before wave energy technology can provide an affordable alternative to fossil fuels, experts say. For one thing, developers are still working to come up with the best design. Some buoys capture the up-and-down motion of the waves, while others exploit the side-to-side movement. Industry experts say a machine that uses all the ocean's movements is most likely to succeed. Also, the machinery has to be able to withstand powerful storms, the constant pounding of the seas and the corrosive effects of saltwater.

"The ocean is a really hard place to work," said Patrick Cross, specialist at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, which helps run the Hawaii test site. "You've got to design something that can stay in the water for a long time but be able to survive." The US has set a goal of reducing carbon emissions by one-third from 2005 levels by 2030, and many states are seeking to develop more renewable energy in the coming decades.

Jose Zayas, a director of the Wind and Water Power Technologies Office at the US Department of Energy, which helps fund the Hawaii site, said the US could get 20 to 28 percent of its energy needs from waves off the US coasts without encroaching on sensitive waters

such as marine preserves. "When you think about all of the states that have water along their coasts... there's quite a bit of wave energy potential," he said.

Wave energy technology is at about the same stage as the solar and wind industries were in the 1980s. Both received substantial government investment and tax credits that helped them become energy sources cheap enough to compete with fossil fuels. But while the US government and military have put about \$334 million into marine energy research over the last decade, Britain and the rest of Europe have invested more than \$1 billion, according to the Marine Energy Council, a trade group. "We're about, I'd say, a decade behind the Europeans," said Alexandra De Visser, the Navy's Hawaii test site project manager.

zonal movements into up to 18 kilowatts of electricity, enough for about a dozen homes. The company working with the Navy, Northwest Energy Innovations of Portland, Oregon, plans a version that can generate at least 500 kilowatts, or enough to power hundreds of homes.

The other buoy, a 50-foot-wide, doughnut-shaped device called the Lifesaver, was developed by a Norwegian company. The 3-foot-tall ring is anchored to the ocean floor with cables; when the buoy is moved by the sea, the cables move, turning the wheels of a generator. It is producing on average of just 4 kilowatts but is capable of generating more. Test sites run by other researchers are being planned or expanded in Oregon and California to take advantage of the powerful waves that pound the West



In this July 26, 2016 photo, Patrick Cross, specialist at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, shows a model of the Lifesaver.

Vanguard

The European Marine Energy Centre in Scotland, for example, has 14 grid-connected berths that have housed dozens of wave and tidal energy devices from around the world over the past 13 years, and Wave Hub in England has several such berths. China, too, has been building and testing dozens of units at sea. Though small in scale, the test project near Kaneohe Bay represents the vanguard of US wave energy development. It consists of two buoys anchored a half-mile to a mile off the coast.

One of them, the Azura, which stands 12 feet above the surface and extends 50 feet below, converts the waves' vertical and hori-

Coast. One of those projects, Cal Wave, run by California Polytechnic State University, hopes to provide utility-scale power to Vandenberg Air Force Base.

The Hawaii buoys are barely noticeable from shore without binoculars, but developers envision dozens of machines working all at once, an idea that could run into the same kind of opposition that wind turbines have faced from environmentalists, fishermen and tourist groups. "Putting 200 machines on the North Shore of Oahu within a mile or two off the coast might be difficult," said Steve Kopf, CEO of Northwest Energy Innovations. "Nobody wants to look out and see wind turbines or wave machines off the coast." — AP

DRUG RESISTANCE MAY PUSH MILLIONS INTO POVERTY

ROME: If drug-resistant infections in people and animals are allowed to spread unchecked, some 28 million people will fall into poverty by 2050, and a century of progress in health will be reversed, the World Bank said yesterday. By 2050, annual global GDP would fall by at least 1.1 percent, although the loss could be as much as 3.8 percent - the equivalent of the 2008 financial crisis - the Bank said in a report released ahead of a high-level meeting on the issue at the United Nations in New York this week.

The rise of "superbugs" resistant to drugs has been caused partly by the increased use and misuse of antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs in the

treatment of people and in farming. "We cannot afford to lose the gains in the last century brought about by the antibiotic era," Tim Evans, the World Bank's senior director for health, nutrition and population, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"By any measure, the cost of inaction on antimicrobial resistance is too great, it needs to be addressed urgently and resolutely," he said.

Greater quantities of antibiotics are used in farming than for treating people, and much of this is for promoting animal growth rather than treating sick animals, economist Jim O'Neill said in a report in May commissioned by the British government. The O'Neill report estimated

that drug-resistant infections could kill more than 10 million people a year by 2050, up from half a million today, and the costs of treatment would soar.

Livestock

Farmers too will be greatly affected. The bank estimates that by 2050, global livestock production could fall by between 2.6 percent and 7.5 percent a year, if the problem of drug resistant superbugs is not curbed. "Investments are urgently needed to establish basic veterinary public health capacities in developing countries," Evans said. Improved disease surveillance, diagnostic laboratories to ensure a disease is identified quickly, inspections of farms

and slaughterhouses, training of vets, and oversight over the use of antibiotics are also needed, he said.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates 60,000 tons of antimicrobials are used in livestock each year, a number set to rise with growing demand for animal products. One of the most important ways to curb the spread of drug resistant microbes in food is to promote good farming practices, said Juan Lubroth, chief veterinary officer of FAO.

"I think this is where we can do most of our prevention - better knowledge on hygiene, vaccination campaigns, so these animals do not get sick and need antimicrobials (drugs)," Lubroth said in an inter-

view from Rome. Public demand for food that is uncontaminated, and better training of health professionals - doctors and vets - are also vital to help contain the problem, he added.

Hospitals and pharmaceutical companies also need to do more to treat their waste, he said.

The World Bank estimates that an investment of some \$9 billion a year is needed in veterinary and human health to tackle the issue. "The expected return on this investment is estimated to be between \$2 trillion and \$5.4 trillion ... or at least 10 to 20 times the cost, which should help generate political will necessary to make these investments," Evans said. —Reuters



POCA, WEST VIRGINIA: The John Amos coal-fired power plant is seen behind a home on May 18, 2014. —AFP

MOST STATES ON TRACK TO MEET EMISSIONS TARGETS THEY CALL BURDEN

LOS ANGELES/WASHINGTON: The 27 states challenging Obama's Clean Power Plan in court say the lower emissions levels it would impose are an undue burden. But most are likely to hit them anyway.

Already, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma and South Dakota appear to be meeting the CPP's early targets. And changes in the power market, along with policies favoring clean generation, are propelling most of the rest toward timely compliance, according to researchers, power producers and officials, as well as government filings reviewed by Reuters.

"We are seeing reductions earlier than we ever expected," US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy said in an interview. "It's a great sign that the market has already shifted and people are invested in the newer technologies, even while we are in litigation." States engaged in the legal battle that is set for an appellate court hearing later this month say their concerns go beyond whether they can meet the mandate. The states, most of them led by Republican governors, say they object to what they view as federal overreach by Obama and the Democrats and want to maintain flexibility to make energy decisions at the state level that reflect changing market conditions.

Ability to comply

Cynthia Coffman, attorney general of Colorado, said her state's likely ability to comply with the CPP's mandate "truly is not the issue." "We don't have anything against clean air," Coffman said. "That really doesn't factor into my decision to say the federal government has gone beyond its legal authority."

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt said that he sees the Clean Power Plan as a form of federal "coercion and commandeering" of energy policy and that the state should have "sovereignty to make decisions for its own markets."

The Obama administration finalized the Clean Power Plan in 2015 as a central part of

meeting US obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement. In February, the US Supreme Court stayed implementation of the rule pending resolution of the states' litigation. Later this month, a panel of the D.C. Circuit Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the case.

The CPP sets carbon-reduction goals for each state, but allows states to decide how to meet them. During the early years of implementation, the goals are guidelines intended to put states on track to meet the final deadline of 2030. If a state fails to submit a plan to the EPA by interim deadlines, the agency can impose its own plan on that state's power producers. Failure to comply by 2030 could open a state up to administrative penalties and lawsuits.

To be sure, some states fighting the mandate would have to drastically change course to meet it. West Virginia, which is leading the legal challenge with Texas, still relies largely on carbon-spewing, coal-fired power. And Wisconsin, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming have large gaps between their current emissions and the plan's mandates. But, in a reflection of how rapidly the power market is shifting, the US government's Energy Information Administration earlier this year reduced its forecast for 2030 power plant carbon emissions by nearly 11 percent, without factoring in reductions that may be generated by the Clean Power Plan.

The projection for the nation as a whole would be nearly two-thirds of the CPP's target by 2030, even if the law never takes effect. A 2015 analysis by consulting firm M.J. Bradley & Associates for the Environmental Defense Fund found that 21 of the 27 states suing to block the Clean Power Plan are on track to meet its 2024 targets with existing plants and planned investments.

Eighteen states are on track to hit the 2030 targets with no changes to current plans, according to the Bradley analysis, which was filed with the court as part of an amicus brief from the Environmental Defense Fund in support of the government. And the outlook has

improved for some states since the Bradley forecast. It didn't expect Arkansas, for example, to meet the 2024 target. But in 2015, after shifting significant energy generation from coal to natural gas, the state reported power plant emissions for the year that were below the 2030 requirement.

Strict timelines

Some of the states contesting the rules say they object to strict timelines. "The CPP is very dramatic in the speed at which it would require things to happen," said Chris Nelson, chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. "If you let the market play out, those things take care of themselves."

Texas also has protested the CPP's timetable, saying it would require the construction of transmission lines that could raise costs for consumers. But the state already has moved heavily into wind and solar in recent years, and is nearing its 2030 goals.

John Hall, Texas director for EDF and a former environmental regulator for the state, said Texas could profit from the rule, noting the state ranks at the top of the list of wind energy producers and is making big moves into solar. "The CPP would enable Texas to make money by exporting wind and solar electricity," he said.

States that export coal or gas-fired power, on the other hand, are concerned about their ability to keep doing so. "It is very important that we don't get caught in the fray of an EPA energy policy that dictates what we do as an exporting state," said Stuart Spencer, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Associate Director. Whatever happens in court, energy policy will remain a highly charged political issue. Republicans are overwhelmingly opposed to the administration's attempts to curb carbon emissions. "When I ran for office, I promised I would do everything in my power to protect coal miners' jobs," said West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey in a statement to Reuters. "I have followed through on that promise." —Reuters

HAWAII LAWMAKERS PROMISE REFORM FOR CONFINED FISHERMEN

HAWAII: State and federal lawmakers are promising to improve conditions for hundreds of foreign fishermen working in Hawaii's commercial fleet, and at least one company has already stopped buying fish from the boats following an Associated Press investigation that found the men have been confined to vessels for years without basic labor protections. Whole Foods halted buying seafood caught by foreign crew until it's clear the men are treated fairly. On Sunday, the Hawaii Seafood Council said that starting Oct 1, the Honolulu Fish Auction will sell fish only from boats that have adopted a new, standardized contract aimed at assuring no forced labor exists on board.

The AP report found commercial fishing boats in Honolulu were crewed by men from impoverished Southeast Asia and Pacific Island nations who catch prized swordfish, ahi tuna and other seafood sold at markets and upscale restaurants across the country. A legal loophole allows them to work on the American-owned, American-flagged boats without visas as long as they don't set foot on shore. The system is facilitated by the US Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection. While many men appreciate the jobs, which pay better than they could get back home, the report revealed instances of human trafficking, tuberculosis and food shortages.

Defecating in buckets

It also found some fishermen being forced to defecate in buckets, suffering running sores from bed bugs and being paid as little as 70 cents an hour. On Capitol Hill, Hawaii's congressional delegation - US Sens Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz along with Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, all Democrats - said they were exploring legislative solutions after being startled by the findings about the state's \$110 million industry, which ranks fifth among the country's highest-grossing fisheries. "It is completely unacceptable that the inhumane treatment of any workers, foreign or not, is legal under US federal law," Hirono said in a statement.

In Honolulu, state Rep Kaniela Ing, chair of the Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs committee, asked state Attorney General Doug Chin to weigh in on whether boat owners should be regulated under Hawaii rules. If so, Ing said there would likely be an injunction ordered to halt labor or business violations. If not, he said he would introduce legislation to protect the workers, who labor up to 22 hours a day. "That loophole doesn't mean it's OK to treat them like slaves," Ing said. Chin said he was reviewing the request.

The Hawaii report is part of the AP's ongoing investigation into human trafficking and labor abuse in the global seafood industry. Last year, reporters found some fishermen locked in a cage on the remote Indonesian island of Benjina. Others were buried under fake names. Their catch was traced to the United States, and the reporting led to more than 2,000 slaves being freed. Federal law requires that US citizens make up 75 percent of the crew on most commercial fishing vessels in America; the fleet in Hawaii has an exemption carved out years ago, largely by lawmakers no longer in office.

"We always would want workers to have decent working conditions," said Hawaii Gov. David Ige. He added that the AP report "highlighted how sometimes people fall in a loophole and they don't get the full protections of labor laws that most of us enjoy." After the story was published, boat owners in Hawaii and seafood sellers quickly

formed a task force which they said was creating a universal contract. They said they are working with buyers and government officials. "I am confident that through this process we will ferret out any vessel from the fleet that is involved in forced labor, labor abuse or substandard working conditions and treatment of the crew," said John Kaneko of the Hawaii Seafood Council.

The investigation found the fishermen are paid as little as \$350 a month, but many also get small bonuses, lifting their monthly pay to \$500 or \$600. A lucky few earn a percentage of the catch, making it possible to triple their wages. Most of the approximately 700 crewmembers in the Hawaii fleet are from the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and the tiny Pacific island nation of Kiribati. Because they have no visas, they aren't allowed to fly into the country, and are instead picked up at foreign ports and brought to Honolulu by boat.

Special relationship with the US

Some crewmembers are from Micronesia and the Marshall Islands and carry green cards because of a special relationship with the US. A few are locals from Hawaii as well. They are allowed to leave the docks when they come in after their three-week fishing trips, but the rest are detained on board by captains who are legally required to keep their passports. Neither US Customs nor the boat association could provide a detailed breakdown of crew nationalities.

John Myking owns two boats and has been fishing for more than 30 years. He crews his vessels mostly with men from Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, but also sometimes hires workers born and raised in the state. He said their pay can range anywhere from \$800 to \$2,000 a month when the fish are biting, to sometimes much less depending on the catch. He is considering adding Indonesian crew to one of his boats because he says it's hard to find local fishermen, but added he believes the men should be allowed to fly into Hawaii and be given visas to leave their ships. He condemned labor abuses.

"If there is a problem with guys being abused, I definitely agree it should be straightened out," he said, adding that many foreign fishermen return to Hawaii repeatedly over many years to work on the fleet. "I guess there are a few bad apples here and there." The boats dock occasionally at ports along the West Coast, including San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, but mainly at Piers 17 and 38 in Honolulu. Their catch ends up at eateries and seafood counters across the country, from Roy's restaurants to markets like Whole Foods and Costco. Companies that responded condemned labor abuse and said they would investigate.

Whole Foods is suspending sales from boats with foreign crew, but will continue to buy seafood from "local, day-boat fishermen with proven fair labor practices," such as vessels with just one or two workers, often friends or relatives, said spokeswoman McKinze Crossland. Environmental, labor and anti-trafficking advocates called for reform.

Kris Coffield, executive director of the Honolulu-based anti-trafficking group IMUAlliance, said he's been receiving complaints from foreign fishermen for the past three or four years. "Among the fishermen we've worked with, there are questions about whether there's debt bondage going on," he said. To get their jobs, some workers have to pay exorbitant fees to agencies that they will never be able to pay back, Coffield said. — AP

STUDY SHINES LIGHT ON LOW WINTER-TIME MALE LIBIDO

LONDON: Exposure to bright light can raise testosterone levels and lead to greater sexual satisfaction in men with low sexual desire, according to the results of a small scientific trial. Scientists at the University of Siena in Italy found that regular, early-morning use of a light box - similar to those used to combat Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD - helped men increase testosterone and improved their sex lives.

Andrea Fagioli, a professor who led the study and presented it at the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology conference in Vienna on Monday, said the treatment may prove useful during the Northern hemisphere's darker winter months.

"The increased levels of testosterone explain the greater reported sexual satisfaction," he said. "In the Northern hemisphere, the body's testosterone

production naturally declines from November through April, and then rises steadily through the spring and summer with a peak in October." Low sexual desire can affect significant numbers of men after the age of 40, with studies finding that up to 25 percent of men report problems. Fagioli's team recruited 38 men diagnosed with either hypoactive sexual desire disorder or sexual arousal disorder - both characterized by a lack of interest in sex.

After taking baseline readings, they divided the men into two groups and gave one regular treatment with a bright light box, while the control, or placebo, group was treated with a light box adapted to give out significantly less light. "We found fairly significant differences," Fagioli said. "Before treatment, both groups averaged a sexual satisfaction score of around 2 out of 10. — Reuters



SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND: This Oct. 14, 2015 file photo shows the Food and Drug Administration campus. —AP

MDS STRENGTHEN ADVICE AGAINST CODEINE FOR KIDS' COUGHS, PAIN

CHICAGO: The American Academy of Pediatrics has strengthened its warnings about prescribing codeine for children because of reports of deaths and risks for dangerous side effects including breathing problems.

The academy's advice, published in a report yesterday in its medical journal, Pediatrics, mirrors warnings from the Food and Drug Administration about using codeine for kids' coughs or pain.

Studies suggest it is still commonly prescribed by doctors and dentists despite the risks and lack of evidence that it works to relieve coughs. Doctors and parents should choose another remedy when possible, including acetaminophen and ibuprofen for pain and simple remedies such as ice or popsicles after tonsillectomies, said Dr. Charles Cote, a Boston anesthesiologist and co-author of the report. "Maybe a little pain is better than the alternative," he said.

The drug

Codeine is an opiate drug once commonly used in over-the-counter cough syrups and as a painkiller, particularly after surgery. But the report notes that a rare genetic variation makes some people metabolize it too quickly, potentially resulting in excessive sleepiness and difficulty breathing. A different genetic variation makes the drug ineffective for pain relief in as many as a third of patients. It is available by prescription, including in cough syrup sold in pharmacies in 28 states, Cote said. Codeine has often been prescribed for pain relief after tonsillectomies but the FDA has advised against this use. These operations are sometimes recommended to treat enlarged tonsils that cause sleep apnea - a common condition involving breathing pauses while sleeping. The condition has been linked with obesity and Cote said children with sleep apnea are particularly vulnerable to codeine-related breathing difficulties. — AP

RIO FERDINAND TWEET SPARKS SOUTHEAST ASIAN FOOD FIGHT

JAKARTA: Former England footballer Rio Ferdinand has unwittingly sparked a cross-border food fight after suggesting that a rice dish was Singaporean, to the horror of Indonesians who claim it as their own. Ferdinand made the food faux pas during a weekend trip to watch the Singapore Grand Prix, when he tweeted a picture of himself holding a plate of the dish next to the comment: "Nasi goreng lunch. Keeping it local in #Singapore".

"Nasi goreng", which literally translates as "fried rice" in Indonesian, generally consists of rice mixed with a sweet sauce and other ingredients such as chilli, vegetables and chicken, and often topped with a fried egg. But the suggestion that the dish was not Indonesian caused horror in the archipelago, which is one of Singapore's neighbors, and sparked a flood of angry tweets. "M8, its Indonesian food, actually. There's no 'nasi' and 'goreng' in Singapore," Agung Prasetyo tweeted at Ferdinand, while others invited the former Manchester United player to their homes to try a dish of real Indonesian nasi goreng.

This angry reaction was met with irritation in neighboring Singapore and Malaysia, which have a historically prickly relationship with Jakarta, with netizens claiming that fried rice is

found in many countries in the region, not solely Indonesia. There was particular annoyance in Singapore, with some suggesting that Indonesians' defiant defense of a rice dish was a stark contrast to its refusal to accept the blame for forest fires on its territory that blanket the city-state with haze every year. "Ohhhh nasi goreng can claim but haze cannot," said Twitter user @HarisBRosli. Yesterday Ferdinand attempted to calm the bickering unleashed by his remark, commenting on Twitter: "Was there really uproar with my Nasi goreng tweet?!! Relax guys...local in SE Asia".

It was just the latest battle over culinary and cultural heritage between the neighbors, whose long shared history does not stop the regular flare-up of petty rows. In 2009 protests erupted outside the Malaysian embassy in Jakarta after Kuala Lumpur was accused of plundering the archipelago's culture when a traditional dance from the Indonesian island of Bali allegedly appeared in adverts promoting tourism in Malaysia.

However it turned out to have stemmed from a misunderstanding—the ad was not a government-sponsored promotion for tourism, but rather a botched trailer for a television documentary about Malaysia. — AFP



ANGERVILLIERS, ESSONNE, FRANCE: This file photo taken on March 18, 2011 shows a woman, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, walking in a corridor in a retirement house. —AFP

ALZHEIMER'S STEMMED BUT NOT STOPPED, SAY EXPERTS

STILL NO EFFECTIVE TREATMENT

PARIS: Soaring rates of population growth and ageing have long been seen as portending a global explosion of Alzheimer's, the debilitating disease that robs older people of their memory and independence. But an unexpected, and hopeful, trend may be emerging. In rich countries at least, recent data suggests the rate of new cases has slowed or even reversed—a tantalizing hint that quality-of-life improvements may protect against dementia.

"These findings are promising, and suggest that identifying and reducing risk factors for Alzheimer's and other dementias may be effective," Keith Fargo, scientific director at the American Alzheimer's Association, told AFP.

Overall numbers will keep growing for now—albeit at a slower rate—as more and more people live ever longer, he noted. "We have stemmed the flow, but we haven't stopped it," added David Reynolds of Alzheimer's Research UK.

According to the World Health Organization, dementia affects some 47.5 million people worldwide—with 7.7 million new cases every year. Alzheimer's is the most common cause, responsible for 60-70 percent of dementia cases. The dis-

ease, which claimed actor Gene Wilder last month, typically progresses from forgetfulness and absent-mindedness to major memory loss and near total dependence as sufferers become unaware of time and place. Towards the end, those afflicted can forget how to eat. Alzheimer's was first identified more than 100 years ago, but there is still no effective treatment or cure, and scientists disagree on its causes. A main culprit is thought to be the buildup of protein plaques on the brain, though one can have Alzheimer's without it. Some recent studies have linked the condition to air pollution, fungus or even accidental transmission during a medical procedure.

Use it or lose it

New studies pointing to an Alzheimer's slowdown in rich countries, especially among men, imply that a healthy lifestyle—and plenty of brain exercise—may slow or stave off dementia. Such trends have been observed in the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Spain. Britain had the biggest reversal—Alzheimer's incidence there dropped 20 percent in as many years.

A study in the journal Nature Communications

in April reported 209,000 new cases in Britain in 2015 — far fewer than the 251,000 forecast in 1991 based on population growth and ageing trends. This meant the likelihood for British over-65s of developing dementia was "lower than it was for the previous generation", the authors concluded. The reasons are not clear.

Some researchers point to improved cardiovascular health stemming from a growing awareness of the dangers of smoking, obesity and a lack of exercise. Better high blood pressure and cholesterol drugs may also play a role. Several studies have linked brain stimulation to lower dementia risk—whether in the form of high-level schooling, a cerebrally-challenging job, or simply filling out a crossword or Sudoku.

"It's the old adage of use it or lose it," Reynolds said. Further research is needed to prove that these factors act as dementia shields. In the meantime, public health policy should encourage "better environments and healthier societies", said Carol Brayne of the Cambridge Institute of Public Health. This is no time for complacency, she and other experts said ahead of World Alzheimer's Day. — AFP

SOUTHEAST ASIAN HAZE CRISIS KILLED OVER 100,000: STUDY

JAKARTA: A smog outbreak in Southeast Asia last year may have caused over 100,000 premature deaths, according to a new study released yesterday that triggered calls for action to tackle the "killer haze". Researchers from Harvard and Columbia universities in the US estimated there were more than 90,000 early deaths in Indonesia in areas closest to haze-belching fires, and several thousand more in neighboring Singapore and Malaysia.

The new estimate, reached using a complex analytical model, is far higher than the previous official death toll given by authorities of just 19 deaths in Indonesia. "If nothing changes, this killer haze will carry on taking a terrible toll, year after year," said Greenpeace Indonesia forest campaigner Yuyun Indradi. "Failure to act immediately to stem the loss of life would be a crime." A spokesman for Indonesia's environment ministry did not immediately have any comment.

Indonesian authorities have previously insisted they are stepping up haze-fighting efforts, through such actions as banning the granting of new land for palm oil plantations and establishing an agency to restore devastated peatlands. The haze is an annual problem caused by fires set in forest and on carbon-rich peatland in Indonesia to quickly and cheaply clear land for palm oil and pulp-wood plantations.

The blazes occur mainly on Indonesia's western Sumatra island and the Indonesian part of Borneo, with monsoon winds typically blowing the haze over Singapore and Malaysia.

But last year's fires were among the worst in memory and cloaked large parts of the region in choking smog for weeks, causing huge numbers to fall ill and sending diplomatic tensions soaring. The new study to be published in journal Environmental Research Letters, which combined satellite data with models of

health impacts from smoke exposure and readings from pollution monitoring stations, estimated that 100,300 had died prematurely due to last year's fires across the three countries. They estimated there were 91,600 deaths in Indonesia, 6,500 in Malaysia and 2,200 in Singapore.

Infants at risk

Greenpeace hailed a "groundbreaking" study they said for the first time gave a detailed breakdown of deaths from last year's fires, but cautioned that the figure was a "conservative estimate". It only looked at health impacts on adults and the effect of dangerous fine-particle matter, known as PM 2.5.

It did not examine the effect on youngsters or of the other toxins produced by the blazes. In reality, infants are some of the most at risk from the haze, said Nursyam Ibrahim, from the West Kalimantan province branch of the Indonesian Medical Association on Borneo. "We are the doctors who care for the vulnerable groups exposed to toxic smoke in every medical centre, and we know how awful it is to see the disease symptoms experienced by babies and children in our care," said Ibrahim.

The study found an increase in the number of fires in peatland and in timber concessions in 2015, compared to the last haze outbreak considered major, in 2006, and that the number of fires in palm oil plantations fell. Shannon Koplitz, a Harvard scientist who worked on the study, said she also hoped the model they had developed could help those involved with tackling the annual blazes make quick decisions "as extreme haze events are unfolding". Last year's haze outbreak was the worst since 1997 due to a strong El Nino weather system, which created tinder-dry conditions in Indonesia and made peatland and forests more vulnerable to going up in flames. — AFP

4-IN-10 JAPANESE ARE VIRGINS: POLL

TOKYO: More than 40 percent of young Japanese single adults are virgins, a government survey has shown, and almost three-quarters of men are not in any kind of relationship. The poll reveals the extent of sexlessness in a country where policymakers worry about low birthrates and the knock-on effect of an ageing society.

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research quizzed more than 5,000 singletons aged 18 to 34 about their lives between the sheets. It found that 42 percent of men and 44 percent of women had never had sex. The survey, carried out in June 2015, showed the number of people who remained chaste in Japan was increasing over time. A similar poll conducted in 2005 found only a third of young singletons had always been celibate—out of preference or otherwise. The 2015 survey also found that seven-in-10 men were not in a relationship, while nearly six-in-ten women were going to bed alone.

Directly comparable international statistics are difficult to come by, but Japanese people across the board appear to have less sex than those in other developed countries. In a 2010 survey by the same government

body, 68 percent of Japanese 18-19 year olds said they were virgins; a study carried out that year in Europe by condom maker Durex found virginity rates among those aged 15-20 were much lower. For example, fewer than 20 percent of young Germans had not had sex by the time they hit 20, while even in socially conservative Turkey, the figure was only 37 percent.

Japan's apparently low libido sits at odds with the impression many visitors have about the country's attitude to sex. Images of impossibly busty and frequently underdressed young women are common in the ubiquitous manga comics and on billboards. Prostitution is readily visible in even smaller cities and the country produces voluminous amounts of often eyebrow-raising pornography. Futoshi Ishii, who heads the body that carried out the sex survey said the root of the issue seemed to be the gulf between how people imagine life should be and how it actually turns out. "They want to tie the knot eventually," he told the Japan Times. "But they tend to put it off as they have gaps between their ideals and the reality." "That's why people marry later or stay single for life," Ishii said. — AFP

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SURFING LOVERS ENJOY EID AT FLOW HOUSE

The Flow House-Kuwait management organized special activities for its visitors during the Eid Al-Adha vacation, said CEO, Mohammed Al-Khenaini, noting that along with other board members, he received and welcomed visitors. Al-Khenaini said besides the regular attraction such as the slides, kids area and the pool, Flow House provides the first of its kind surfing attraction (Flow Rider), where trainers and instructors taught the visitors how to ride the waves - making their visit unforgettable. He also noted that special recreational activities were especially made for the occasion and that visitors of all ages enjoyed them all. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



SCIENTIFIC CENTER RECEIVES 21,000 VISITORS DURING EID

The Scientific Center's PR and Marketing Manager Nawaf Adel Al-Rodaini said that the total number of visitors who visited the center during Eid Al-Adha vacation exceeded 21,000. "These numbers were expected because of the status the center enjoys in Kuwait", he underlined, noting that the center provides the perfect environment blending fun with education for all family members. Al-Rodaini added that the center also provides backup services through a number of cafes, restaurants and snack bars. Al-Rodaini said that the Exploration Hall was closed immediately after the Eid to undergo special renovation.





CENTREPOINT SHOWCASES ITS 'BACK TO SCHOOL' COLLECTION

Centrepoint, the region's largest family fashion retailer, organized a fun filled activities evening for its valued customers at its store in The Avenues. This event comes as part of the brand's initiative to make it exciting for kids to return back to school

with Centrepoint's new back-to-school collection. The fun filled event brought together many children participating in the various activities including a fashion show, face painting and magic show. There were a lot of surprise gifts which were distributed as well.

Centrepoint makes it fun for children with its back-to-school collection that has everything a child needs to stay on trend for the school year! The new collection includes everything from backpacks and water bottles to pencil pouches and stationery items in an

array of attractive designs and affordable prices. Moms can relax this Back to School season, as Centrepoint has covered with all your back to school shopping needs in one destination. Plus the brand will have your children lining up to do all their homework and chores in

exchange for its coveted character collections. The Back to School collections are available at all Centrepoint stores located in Al Rai, Avenues, Hawally, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaibikhat, Kuwait City and Khaitan.



LULU HYPERMARKET CELEBRATES 2016 ONAM AND EID FESTIVALS

Lulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, celebrated the much-loved festivals of Onam and Eid with a promotional campaign that included competitions and festive programs. Special offers on a large variety of items, including food products and festival-related pieces, were the hallmark of the campaign, with offers for Eid celebrations

starting on 8 September and that for Onam starting on 11 September. Sharing the jovial spirit of the festivals, Lulu Hypermarket organized a 2-hour program on 15 September that highlighted the traditional elements of Onam and Eid. Dancers clad in colorful costumes performed traditional dances and musical numbers from both festivals. A large gathering

of people were on hand to witness and share in the jubilation of the festivals. A special draw of the campaign was the Eid and Onam cultural programs that were held on 14 and 15 September. Traditional Eid and Onam songs and dances were the highlight of the cultural evening, with the 'Puli Kali', a traditional Onam folk dance, and energetic renditions of 'chendamalam', a rhythmic

performance on drums, drew loud cheers from the audiences. Another fun-filled activity organized for the occasion was a floral carpet competition held on 15 September where 10 teams presented their vibrant and decorative floral carpets or 'Pookalams'. The winning team received KD100 worth gift vouchers, while gift vouchers of KD75 and KD50 were distributed to the second and third placed teams respectively. All participating teams were appreciated for their efforts with KD20 gift vouchers each. The extensive preparation done by Lulu Hypermarket to encourage customer participation and provide wholesome family entertainment highlights the retailer's keenness to create a distinctive experience at its outlets.

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ST THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT CELEBRATES ONAM

St Thomas Indian Orthodox Christian Youth Movement - (A spiritual organization under St Thomas Indian Orthodox Puzhayapalli Ahmadi Kuwait) conducted the 11th onam celebration - 'Thiruvonapulari 2016' in a unique style on 16th September 2016, which witnessed a colorful event in Kuwait at Al-Sahil Sports club, Abu Halifa. The event was inaugurated by Rev Fr Sanju John and the presidential speech was delivered by Rev Fr Liju P Jose. The felicitation speech was given by Rev Fr Shaji P Joshua and Rev Fr Jacob Kallada.

Church Trustee Benny Varghese, Secretary Anupadathara, OCYM Vice president Vinod E Varghese, Trustee Deepu Mathew, Secretary Sherin M Daniel, General Convener Shiju Simon were given leadership for the program. Thiruvonapulari General Convener Shiju Simon welcomed eminent personalities. The special Onam edition of Yuvadashanam (Souvenir) was released. Souvenir Convener Boban John handed it to Rev Fr Raju Thomas who released it. The function also honored the senior OCYM members BnuOommen & Thomas Thomas.

The event was beautified by Kerala's traditional art and game. The renowned musical band 'DELITES' made memories with musical shows. OCYM secretary Sherin M Daniel gave the vote of thanks to all participants, sponsors and entire St Thomas Indian Orthodox Ahmadi church members. Apart from Onam celebration, St Thomas Indian Orthodox church Ahmadi is organizing charity program to help the poor and the downtrodden.

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS CELEBRATES ONAM WITH GREAT FERVOR

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewelry retailers celebrated this Onam, the festival of harvest with great enthusiasm and passion. This year, the group celebrated Onam with their customers and families in Kuwait and about 40 customers attended the event. The management team members started preparations from early morning and decorated their outlets with intricately designed floral carpet. The customers also joined them in designing the floral carpet (Pookkalam).

The ladies were dressed in white traditional set sari and gents were dressed in traditional dhoti. Special Onam gift was distributed to each family who participated in designing floral carpet (Pookkalam). All were totally in a festive mood as celebrating a festival like Onam far from their home country gives them a different experience as it brings nostalgia, bringing back those golden memories.



MESSAGE FROM INDIA EMBASSY

PHASING OUT OF HAND-WRITTEN PASSPORTS

All Indian nationals in Kuwait holding handwritten passports are advised once again to apply for urgent re-issuance of new passports, in lieu of handwritten passports, under the following circumstances:-

(A) The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had set a deadline of 24 November 2015 for globally phasing out of all non-Machine Readable Passports. From 25 November 2015 onwards, foreign Governments may deny Visa or entry to any person travelling on a non-Machine Readable Passport.

(B) The Government of India has been issuing Machine Readable Passports since 2001. The Passports, however, issued before 2001 and particularly those issued during mid 1990s with a validity of 20 years will fall in the category of non-MRPs. All handwritten passports with pasted photographs are also considered non-MRPs.

(C) Indians living in Kuwait holding handwritten passports as explained in Para(b) above, are advised to apply urgently for re-issue of their passports well before the deadline in order to avoid any inconvenience in obtaining valid visa for international travel.

(D) For more details related to passport services, visit the website - <http://www.indembkwt.org/Pages/Passport.aspx> - or call Shri. Tribhuvan Kumar, Assistant Consular Officer at Tel - 22530600, Ext-261 or Shri KK Pahel, First Secretary(Consular) on Mob: 97229948.

OSN MOVIES HD

- ACTION**
- 10:00 6 Ways To Sundown
 - 12:00 Brick Mansions
 - 14:00 The Dogs Of War
 - 16:00 The Package
 - 18:00 The Dependables
 - 20:00 Brick Mansions
 - 22:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
 - 00:00 The Package
 - 02:00 Faster
 - 04:00 Zero Tolerance

BBC FIRST

- 09:25 Orphan Black
- 10:15 Casualty
- 11:10 Stella
- 12:00 Eastenders
- 12:40 Casualty
- 13:35 New Tricks
- 14:30 Doctor Who
- 15:50 Stella
- 16:35 Casualty
- 17:30 New Tricks
- 18:25 Doctor Who
- 19:45 Stella
- 20:30 Casualty
- 21:25 New Tricks
- 22:20 Doctor Who
- 23:10 Stella
- 00:00 Doctors
- 00:30 Doctors
- 01:05 New Tricks
- 02:05 DCI Banks
- 03:00 DCI Banks
- 03:50 Silent Witness
- 04:40 Orphan Black
- 05:30 Doctors

crime & investigation network

- 09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 10:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
- 11:30 Frenemies
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 13:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 14:00 Homicide Hunter
- 15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 16:00 Monster In My Family
- 17:00 The First 48
- 18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 19:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 20:00 Homicide Hunter
- 21:00 Monster In My Family
- 22:00 The First 48
- 23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 01:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 02:00 Monster In My Family
- 03:00 Homicide Hunter
- 04:00 The Jail: 60 Days In - Season 1 Specials
- 05:00 It Takes A Killer
- 05:30 It Takes A Killer

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 09:00 Lip Sync Battle
- 09:25 Catch A Contractor
- 09:50 Ridiculousness
- 10:15 Ridiculousness
- 10:40 Ridiculousness
- 11:05 Ridiculousness
- 11:30 Impractical Jokers
- 11:55 Impractical Jokers
- 12:20 Tosh.0
- 12:50 Tosh.0
- 13:15 Catch A Contractor
- 14:05 Ridiculousness
- 14:30 Ridiculousness
- 14:55 Impractical Jokers
- 15:20 Impractical Jokers
- 15:45 Key And Peele
- 16:10 Key And Peele
- 16:35 Ridiculousness
- 17:00 Ridiculousness
- 17:25 Catch A Contractor
- 18:15 Key And Peele
- 18:40 Key And Peele
- 19:05 Impractical Jokers

- 18:00 My Cat From Hell
- 18:50 Ultimate Survival
- 19:40 How It's Made
- 20:05 How It's Made
- 20:30 Storm Chasers
- 21:20 Mythbusters
- 22:10 Doki
- 22:35 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 23:00 The Willis Family
- 23:50 Guinness World Records
- Smashed UK
- 00:40 Science Of The Movies
- 01:30 Mythbusters
- 02:20 How It's Made
- 02:45 How It's Made
- 03:10 The Willis Family
- 04:00 Guinness World Records
- Smashed UK
- 04:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 05:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 05:40 Ultimate Survival

IDx

- 09:00 Murder Book
- 09:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 10:36 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 11:24 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 11:49 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 12:12 I'd Kill For You
- 13:00 Web Of Lies
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 I Almost Got Away With It
- 15:30 Tamron Hall
- 15:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 16:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 17:10 The Perfect Murder
- 18:00 Web Of Lies
- 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:40 On The Case With Paula Zahn

- 20:30 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 20:55 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 21:20 I'd Kill For You
- 22:10 I Almost Got Away With It
- 23:00 Web Of Lies
- 23:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 00:40 On The Case With Paula Zahn

- 01:30 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 01:55 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 02:20 I'd Kill For You
- 03:10 Murder Comes To Town
- 04:00 Whitey Bulger: The Making Of A Monster
- 04:50 True Nightmares
- 05:40 I Almost Got Away With It

Disney Channel HD

- 09:15 The Hive
- 09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 09:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 10:10 Hank Zipzer
- 10:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 11:00 Violetta
- 11:45 The Hive
- 11:50 Mouk
- 12:00 Jessie
- 12:25 Jessie
- 12:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 13:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 13:20 Liv And Maddie
- 13:45 Bunk'd
- 14:10 Austin & Ally
- 14:35 Shake It Up
- 15:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 15:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 15:50 That's So Raven
- 16:15 That's So Raven
- 16:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 17:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 17:50 Jessie
- 17:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:00 The TD
- 18:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:40 Hank Zipzer
- 19:05 Star Darlings
- 19:10 Austin & Ally
- 19:35 Austin & Ally
- 20:00 Liv And Maddie

- 14:30 Goldie & Bear
- 14:40 PJ Masks
- 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:10 Doc McStuffins
- 15:20 Miles From Tomorrow
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:45 Goldie & Bear
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 The Lion Guard
- 16:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 17:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 17:50 The Hive
- 18:00 Doc McStuffins
- 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:00 The Lion Guard
- 19:30 Jake And The Neverland

- 19:45 Aladdin
- 20:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:45 Doc McStuffins
- 21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 21:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 22:15 Sofia The First
- 22:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 23:00 The Lion Guard
- 23:30 Goldie & Bear
- 23:55 Unburgalovable
- 00:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 00:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 01:00 PJ Masks
- 01:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 02:00 Sofia The First
- 02:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

- 03:00 PJ Masks
- 03:25 Doc McStuffins
- 03:55 Aladdin
- 04:20 Gummi Bears
- 04:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:20 Calimero
- 05:35 Zou
- 05:50 Loopidoo

XD

- 12:00 Boyster
- 12:10 Super Matrak
- 12:35 Super Matrak
- 13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 13:25 K.C. Undercover
- 13:50 Supa Strikas
- 14:15 Danger Mouse
- 14:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 15:10 Gravity Falls
- 15:35 Lab Rats
- 16:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 16:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 16:50 Boyster
- 17:20 Boyster
- 17:45 Pair Of Kings
- 18:10 Pair Of Kings
- 18:35 Lab Rats
- 19:00 Lab Rats
- 19:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 20:20 Kickin' It
- 20:45 Kickin' It
- 21:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:15 Supa Strikas
- 21:40 Supa Strikas
- 22:05 Lab Rats
- 22:30 Danger Mouse
- 22:55 Kirby Buckets
- 23:25 K.C. Undercover
- 23:50 Anneandroids
- 00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 00:40 K.C. Undercover
- 01:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 01:10 Gravity Falls
- 01:35 Pickle And Peanut
- 02:00 Lab Rats
- 02:25 Supa Strikas
- 02:55 K.C. Undercover
- 03:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 03:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 04:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble



HUGH GRANT **MARISA TOMEI**
 FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LYRICS & TWO WEEKS NOTICE
THE REWRITE
 IN CINEMAS WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8



THE REWRITE ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 10:35 Dash Dolls
- 11:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 12:00 WAGs
- 12:55 El News
- 13:10 WAGs
- 13:10 WAGs
- 14:10 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2016...
- 16:10 WAGs
- 17:05 WAGs
- 18:00 El News
- 18:15 WAGs
- 19:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 20:05 Fashion Police
- 21:00 El News
- 21:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 23:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 00:05 Rob & Chyna
- 01:00 El News
- 02:00 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2016...
- 04:00 Fashion Police
- 05:00 El News
- 05:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 09:50 Migrations
- 10:45 Caught In The Act
- 11:40 Hunter Hunted
- 12:35 The Yard
- 13:30 Live Free Or Die
- 14:25 Shark Men
- 15:20 Caught In The Act
- 16:15 Monster Fish
- 17:10 Cold Water Gold
- 18:05 Comet Of The Century
- 19:00 Shark Men
- 20:00 Yukon Gold
- 21:00 The Yard
- 22:00 Monster Fish
- 23:00 Cold Water Gold
- 00:00 Save The Titanic With Bob Ballard
- 01:00 Breakthrough
- 02:00 Monster Fish
- 02:50 Cold Water Gold
- 03:40 Save The Titanic With Bob Ballard
- 04:30 Breakthrough
- 05:20 Hunter Hunted

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 09:45 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 10:40 Rescue Ink
- 11:35 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
- 12:30 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
- 13:25 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 14:20 Rescue Ink
- 15:15 Animal ER
- 16:10 Animal Intervention
- 17:05 Cameramen Who Dare
- 18:55 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
- 19:50 Wild 24
- 20:45 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 21:40 Rescue Ink
- 22:35 Animal ER
- 23:30 Animal Intervention
- 00:25 Cameramen Who Dare
- 01:20 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 02:10 Rescue Ink
- 03:00 Animal ER
- 03:50 Animal Intervention
- 04:40 Cameramen Who Dare
- 05:30 Orca Killing School

nickelodeon HD

- 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Max & Shred
- 11:24 Henry Danger
- 11:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 12:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:48 Winx Club
- 14:12 Harvey Beaks
- 14:36 Breadwinners
- 15:00 Get Blake
- 15:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 15:48 Henry Danger
- 16:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 16:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 17:00 Winx Club
- 17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 17:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 18:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 18:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 18:60 Winx Club
- 19:00 Breadwinners
- 19:24 The Loud House
- 19:48 Harvey Beaks
- 20:12 Rabbids Invasion
- 20:36 Henry Danger
- 21:00 Game Shakers
- 21:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 21:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 22:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 22:36 The Loud House

- 15:45 Little Charmers
- 15:57 Bubble Guppies
- 16:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 16:40 Zack & Quack
- 16:52 Team Umizoomi
- 17:15 Louie
- 17:22 Louie
- 17:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 17:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 17:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 18:03 Max & Ruby
- 18:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 18:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 18:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 19:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:45 Zack & Quack
- 19:55 Zack & Quack
- 20:05 Team Umizoomi
- 20:28 Louie
- 20:35 Louie
- 20:40 Olive The Ostrich
- 20:44 Olive The Ostrich
- 20:49 Paw Patrol
- 21:01 Paw Patrol
- 21:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 21:35 Dora The Explorer
- 21:59 Max & Ruby
- 22:07 Bubble Guppies
- 22:29 Little Charmers
- 22:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 23:05 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 23:27 Zack & Quack
- 23:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 00:00 Paw Patrol
- 00:13 Paw Patrol
- 00:36 Dora The Explorer
- 01:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 01:11 Zack & Quack
- 01:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 01:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:10 Paw Patrol
- 02:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 02:58 Dora The Explorer
- 03:21 Paw Patrol
- 03:45 Little Charmers
- 03:57 Bubble Guppies
- 04:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 04:40 Zack & Quack
- 04:52 Team Umizoomi
- 05:15 Louie
- 05:22 Louie
- 05:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 05:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 05:58 Olive The Ostrich

- 03:00 2 Broke Girls
- 03:30 2 Broke Girls
- 04:30 The Big C
- 05:00 The League
- 05:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

- 09:00 Better Call Saul
- 10:00 Good Morning America
- 13:00 C.S.I. Cyber
- 14:00 Stitches
- 16:00 Devious Maids
- 17:00 C.S.I. Cyber
- 18:00 Stitches
- 19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 20:00 Live Good Morning America
- 23:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 00:00 Stitches
- 01:00 The Voice
- 03:00 Devious Maids
- 04:00 The Americans
- 05:00 Better Call Saul

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 09:30 Big Fat Liar
- 11:15 Honey, I Shrunk The Kids
- 13:15 Dinosaur
- 15:00 American Girl: Saige Paints The Sky
- 17:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
- 19:00 Inspector Gadget
- 21:00 The Book Of Life
- 23:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
- 01:00 Enchanted
- 03:00 Race To Witch Mountain
- 05:00 The Book Of Life

OSN MOVIES HD

- 09:00 The Two Faces Of January
- 11:00 The Imitation Game
- 13:00 Alex Of Venice
- 15:00 The Two Faces Of January
- 16:45 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 18:30 Miss You Already
- 20:30 The Longest Ride
- 22:45 The Rewrite
- 00:45 American Sniper
- 03:00 The Harvest
- 05:00 How To Make Love Like An Englishman

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

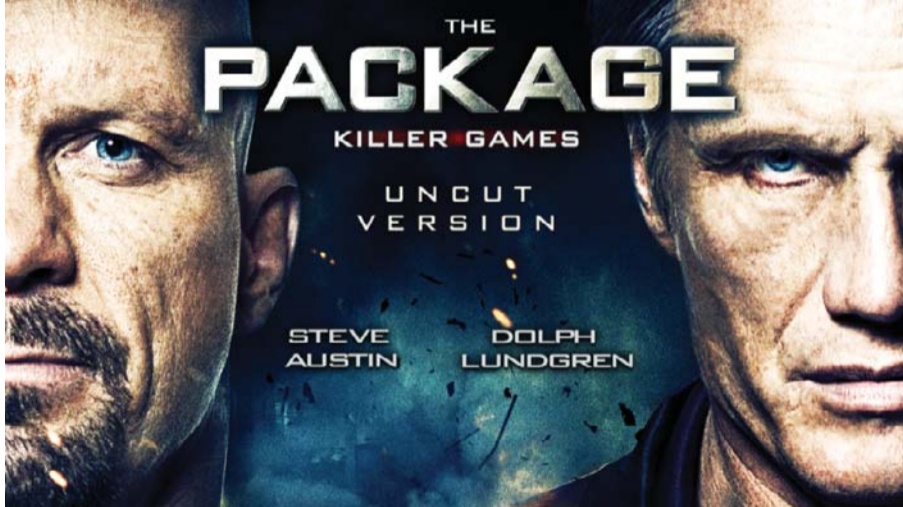
- 10:00 Father Of The Bride
- 12:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
- 14:15 Under The Tuscan Sun
- 16:15 Father Of The Bride
- 18:15 The Hundred-Foot Journey
- 20:30 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 22:30 Under The Tuscan Sun
- 00:30 Hot Pursuit
- 02:15 Tammy
- 04:00 Superbad

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 10:00 Kill The Messenger
- 12:00 United Passions
- 14:00 Romeo & Juliet
- 16:00 The Signal
- 18:00 Searching For Bobby Fischer
- 20:00 The Education Of Little Tree
- 22:30 Second Coming
- 00:30 The Signal
- 02:30 The Fisher King
- 05:00 Gone Girl

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 09:00 Bame And The City Of Thieves
- 10:30 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- 12:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 13:45 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 15:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 17:15 Rugrats Go Wild
- 18:45 Bame And The City Of Thieves
- 20:15 Ghatoktch - Master Of Magic
- 22:00 Bolts And Blip
- 00:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 02:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 04:00 Ghatoktch - Master Of Magic
- 05:45 Bolts And Blip



THE PACKAGE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 19:30 Impractical Jokers
- 19:55 Ridiculousness
- 20:20 Ridiculousness
- 20:45 Catch A Contractor
- 21:35 Tosh.0
- 22:00 Tosh.0
- 22:30 Key And Peele
- 22:55 Key And Peele
- 23:25 Workaholics
- 23:50 Impractical Jokers
- 00:15 Impractical Jokers
- 00:39 Ridiculousness
- 01:03 Ridiculousness
- 01:27 Lip Sync Battle
- 01:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 02:13 Urban Tarzan
- 02:37 Urban Tarzan
- 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 03:30 Amy Schumer: Mostly Sex Stuff
- 04:18 Underground With Dave Atell
- 04:42 Tosh.0
- 05:05 Another Period
- 05:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 20:25 Liv And Maddie
- 20:50 Dog With A Blog
- 21:15 Jessie
- 21:40 Bunk'd
- 22:05 Star Darlings
- 22:10 Gravity Falls
- 22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 23:00 Backstage
- 23:25 Zapped
- 01:05 Liv And Maddie
- 01:30 Jessie
- 01:55 Violetta
- 02:45 Backstage
- 03:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 03:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 04:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 04:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost

Discovery Channel HD

- 09:40 Fast N' Loud
- 10:30 Garage Gold
- 11:00 How Stuff Works
- 11:30 How Do They Do It?
- 12:00 Deadliest Catch
- 12:50 Misfit Garage
- 13:40 Fast N' Loud
- 14:30 Gold Divers
- 15:20 Garage Gold
- 15:45 How Stuff Works
- 16:10 How Do They Do It?
- 16:35 Gold Divers
- 17:25 Deadliest Catch
- 18:15 Trailblazers
- 19:05 How Stuff Works
- 19:30 Storage Hunters
- 19:55 Garage Gold
- 20:20 Gold Divers
- 21:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 22:00 Deadliest Catch
- 22:50 Fast N' Loud
- 23:40 Misfit Garage
- 00:30 How Stuff Works
- 00:55 How Do They Do It?
- 01:20 Gold Divers
- 02:10 Storage Hunters
- 02:35 Garage Gold
- 03:00 Boy To Man
- 03:50 The Island With Bear Grylls
- 04:40 Driving Wild
- 05:30 Fast N' Loud

NAT GEO people HD

- 09:05 Raw Travel
- 09:30 Raw Travel
- 09:55 Delinquent Gourmet
- 10:20 What's For Sale?
- 10:45 Taste Of The Tropic: Taiwan
- 11:35 Eat Street
- 12:00 Carnivale Eats
- 12:25 The Food Files
- 12:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 13:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 13:40 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 14:05 Eat Street
- 14:30 Andy And Ben Eat The World
- 14:55 Raw Travel
- 15:20 Raw Travel
- 15:45 Delinquent Gourmet
- 16:10 What's For Sale?
- 16:35 Taste Of The Tropic: Taiwan
- 17:25 Eat Street
- 17:50 Carnivale Eats
- 18:15 The Food Files
- 18:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:35 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 20:00 Eat Street
- 20:30 Andy And Ben Eat The World
- 20:55 Raw Travel
- 21:25 Raw Travel
- 21:50 Delinquent Gourmet
- 22:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 23:15 Eat Street
- 23:40 Great Escapes
- 00:10 Carnivale Eats
- 00:35 The Food Files
- 01:05 Raw Travel
- 01:30 Raw Travel
- 02:00 Delinquent Gourmet

Discovery Family

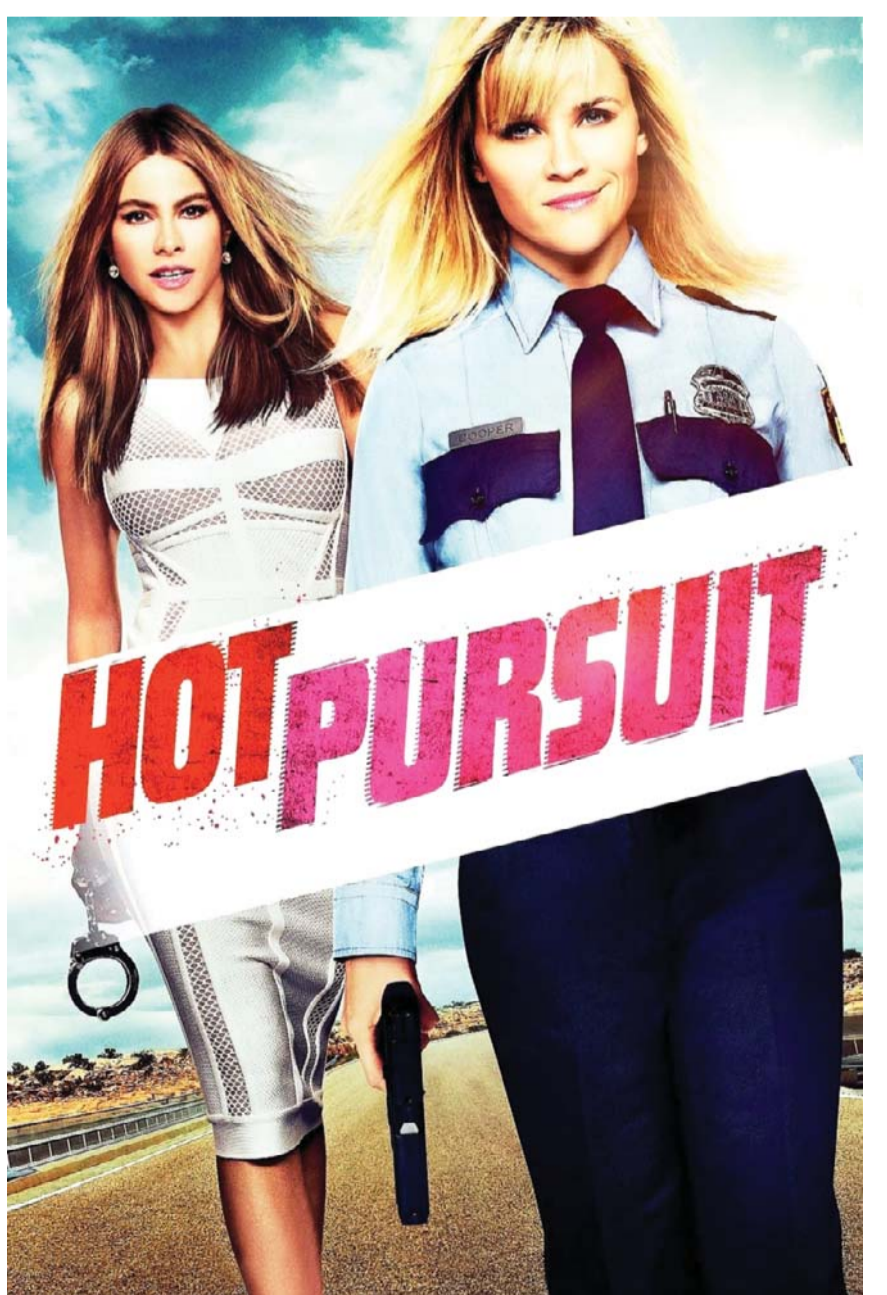
- 09:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 09:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 09:50 Ultimate Survival
- 10:40 How It's Made
- 11:30 How It's Made
- 11:55 Storm Chasers
- 12:20 Mythbusters
- 13:00 Doki
- 13:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 13:50 My Cat From Hell
- 14:40 How It's Made
- 15:05 How It's Made
- 15:30 Science Of The Movies
- 16:20 Mythbusters
- 17:10 Animal Airport
- 17:35 Animal Airport

Disney Junior

- 09:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 09:20 Calimero
- 09:35 Zou
- 09:45 Loopidoo
- 10:00 Art Attack
- 10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 10:35 Calimero
- 11:00 Zou
- 11:30 Loopidoo
- 12:30 Art Attack
- 13:00 The Hive
- 13:10 Zou
- 13:25 Loopidoo
- 13:40 Gummi Bears
- 14:05 Sofia The First

EHD

- 09:40 Dash Dolls



HOT PURSUIT ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/09/2016 TO 21/09/2016)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie
11:45 AM	SHARQIA-1	12:15 PM	FANAR-1
2:00 PM	BEN-HUR	2:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON
4:15 PM	BLAIR WITCH	4:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON
6:15 PM	BEN-HUR	7:00 PM	SULLY
8:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:00 PM	SULLY
10:45 PM	BLAIR WITCH	11:00 PM	SULLY
12:45 AM	BLAIR WITCH	1:00 AM	SULLY
12:45 PM	SHARQIA-2	12:00 PM	FANAR-2
3:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	2:30 PM	SNOWDEN
5:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:00 PM	KILL ZONE 2
7:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	5:00 PM	SNOWDEN
9:45 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	KILL ZONE 2
12:05 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	10:00 PM	SNOWDEN
12:30 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 AM	SNOWDEN
1:00 PM	SHARQIA-3	1:30 PM	FANAR-3
1:30 PM	SNOWDEN	3:45 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
3:30 PM	SULLY	6:00 PM	BEN-HUR
6:00 PM	SNOWDEN	8:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
8:00 PM	SULLY	10:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
10:30 PM	SNOWDEN	12:45 AM	BEN-HUR
12:30 AM	SNOWDEN		
12:00 PM	MUHALAB-1	1:00 PM	FANAR-4
2:30 PM	BEN-HUR	3:00 PM	SULLY
4:45 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:00 PM	SULLY
7:15 PM	BEN-HUR	7:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN
9:15 PM	LIGHTS OUT	9:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN
11:45 PM	BEN-HUR	11:45 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN
	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 AM	FANAR-5
12:30 PM	MUHALAB-2	2:00 PM	BEN-HUR
3:00 PM	SNOWDEN	4:15 PM	BEN-HUR
5:30 PM	SNOWDEN	6:15 PM	BLAIR WITCH
7:30 PM	SULLY	8:15 PM	BLAIR WITCH
10:00 PM	SNOWDEN	10:15 PM	BLAIR WITCH
12:05 AM	SNOWDEN	12:15 AM	BLAIR WITCH
1:15 PM	MUHALAB-3	11:45 AM	MARINA-1
1:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	2:15 PM	SNOWDEN
3:30 PM	SULLY	4:45 PM	SNOWDEN
5:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	7:00 PM	BEN-HUR
8:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	9:30 PM	BEN-HUR
10:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM	SNOWDEN
12:30 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	1:00 PM	MARINA-2
	ASHAN KHARGEN		ASHAN KHARGEN

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A well-qualified (MBA, CPA), Indian Finance Professional is looking for a change in job. 12 years of experience in Investment Banking, Real Estate & FMCG in the middle level position in Kuwait. Excellent communicator and adaptable. Please call 65094498. (C 5213)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shahabuddin holder of Indian Passport No. J4437667, Civil ID No. 270123001513, have changed my name to Shaik Navab Shahabuddin.

Moshes Kota S/o Chandranna, holder of Indian Passport No. P0376514, Civil ID No. 267010141109 has changed my name from Kota Rajendra Kumar to Moshes Kota old name hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Kota

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 Email: Info@Eigllcoman.Com

Rajendr Kumar (old name Moshes Kota) (new name Kota Rajendra Kumar) (C 5211)

I, Subash Vishnu Andraz S/o Vishnu Murgaonkar, holder of Indian Passport No. J 2750368 and Civil ID No. 284010806937 has changed my name to Subash Vishnu Murgaonkar hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Subash Vishnu Murgaonkar. (C 5212)

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FULL TIME/PARTTIME

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 2) Good Communication skills and interpersonal Skills
 3) Preferred (Indians)
 4) Good Salary + commission

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 Mobile No: 97899855

WANTED

- SALES ENGINEER
 Graduate or MBA with minimum 4 years of experience preferably in sales. Fluency in English and transferable visa with Kuwait Driving License is a must. Only eligible candidates apply
- DRIVER
 with valid Kuwait Driving License and transferable visa no. 18. Salary is negotiable.

Contact: 00965-22909309/22909310
 Email: info@ats-kw.com

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)									
Flight Schedule									
DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION									
Arrival Flights on Tuesday 20/9/2016					Departure Flights on Tuesday 20/9/2016				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
ETD	9919	Bahrain	00:10	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:20	MSR 673	Jeddah/Cairo	00:50
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:30	KLM 411	Amsterdam	00:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC 788	Jeddah	15:00	MSC 416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:05	THY 773	Istanbul	01:40
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	OMA 645	Muscat	15:10	DLH 635	Frankfurt	02:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	ETD 920	Abu Dhabi	02:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35	MSC 404	Asyut	02:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45	PGT 859	Istanbul	02:40
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	NIA 251	Alexandria	15:50	ETH 621	Addis Ababa	02:45
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	FDB 051	Dubai	15:50	THY 765	Istanbul	02:45
MSC	403	Asyut	01:30	RJA 640	Amman	16:00	AXB 396	Kozhikode	02:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	JZR 325	Al Najaf	16:15	KKK 6505	Istanbul	02:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	QTR 1072	Doha	16:15	KAC 177	Vienna	02:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR 535	Cairo	16:20	MEA 411	Beirut	03:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR 257	Beirut	16:25	KAC 783	Jeddah	03:30
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	KAC 562	Amman	16:55	UAE 854	Dubai	03:45
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	KAC 680	Istanbul	16:55	RJA 645	Amman	03:55
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:15	OMA 644	Muscat	04:05
FEJ	933	Asyut	05:00	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30	FDB 068	Dubai	04:05
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	CCE 345	Sohag	17:35	ETD 306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	JZR 177	Dubai	17:45	MSR 613	Cairo	04:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR 1080	Doha	17:55	BBC 2018	Jeddah	04:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR 483	Istanbul	18:20	QTR 1077	Doha	04:35
FEJ	957	Sohag	06:00	KAC 786	Jeddah	18:35	RBG 552	Alexandria	04:45
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC 774	Riyadh	18:35	LMU 5111	Cairo	05:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC 502	Beirut	18:35	JZR 560	Sohag	05:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:40	KAC 742	Dammam	18:50	AVV 654	Sohag	05:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC 542	Cairo	18:55	FEJ 962	Sohag	06:00
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55	KAC 618	Doha	18:55	THY 1465	Istanbul	06:00
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	MSR 620	Cairo	18:55	RJA 643	Amman	06:25
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC 104	London	19:00	QTR 1087	Doha	06:30
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC 166	Paris/Rome	19:05	THY 6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	UAE 875	Dubai	19:05	THY 771	Istanbul	06:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:05	GFA 212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC 614	Bahrain	19:10	JZR 240	Amman	06:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	FDB 063	Dubai	19:10	FEJ 958	Sharm el-Sheikh	07:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC 542	Dubai	19:15	FDB 070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JAI 572	Mumbai	19:35	FDB 5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC 674	Dubai	19:45	BAW 156	London	08:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	FDB 059	Dubai	19:50	FDB 054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	DLH 634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC 171	Frankfurt	08:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15	SVA 513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	OMA 647	Muscat	20:20	JZR 256	Beirut	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	JZR 189	Dubai	20:25	KAC 513	Tehran	09:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	MSR 618	Alexandria	20:30	KAC 671	Dubai	09:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR 1088	Doha	20:35	KAC 787	Jeddah	09:30
SYR	341	Damascus	09:15	FDB 5053	Dubai	20:55	KAC 619	Doha	09:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	JZR 534	Cairo	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15	ABY 126	Sharjah	09:45
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	ALK 229	Colombo	21:20	JZR 482	Istanbul	09:45
CCCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	KLM 415	Amsterdam	21:25	KAC 856	Dubai	09:50
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	THY 764	Istanbul	21:30	KAC 101	London/New York	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	CLX 784	Luxembourg	21:35	ETD 302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC 172	Frankfurt	21:50	SYR 342	Damascus	10:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	QTR 1082	Doha	21:55	QTR 1071	Doha	10:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	GFA 219	Bahrain	22:00	IRA 674	Lar	10:40
AVV	651	Alexandria	12:05	NIA 151	Cairo	22:10	FDB 056	Dubai	10:40
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC 501	Beirut	11:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JZR 125	Bahrain	22:15	CCE 346	Sohag	11:10
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	AIC 987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	KAC 561	Amman	11:20
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	PIA 239	Sialkot	22:35	KAC 165	Rome/Paris	11:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR 802	Taif	22:40	KAC 679	Muscat	11:25
FEJ	961	Sohag	12:55	KAC 782	Jeddah	22:50	GFA 214	Bahrain	11:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR 185	Dubai	22:55	MEA 405	Beirut	12:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	JAI 574	Mumbai	23:05	KAC 541	Cairo	12:05
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	MSC 403	Asyut	23:10	UAE 874	Dubai	12:10
IRC	6507	Shiraz	13:35	MSR 614	Cairo	23:30	RBG 554	Alexandria	12:10
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	FDB 071	Dubai	23:35	JZR 324	Al Najaf	12:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:55	JAD 301	Amman	23:45	KAC 785	Jeddah	13:00
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55				AVV 652	Asyut	13:05
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05				FDB 076	Dubai	13:10
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05				JZR 176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	178	Vienna	14:15				MSC 402	Alexandria	13:30
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15				SAW 702	Damascus	13:35
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				FEJ 934	Asyut	13:55
							MSR 611	Cairo	14:00
							THY 767	Istanbul	14:10

CROSSWORD 1376



ACROSS

- A solution containing a phosphate buffer.
- Breed of sled dog developed in Alaska.
- The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- Become adolescent.
- Dish baked in pastry-lined pan often with a pastry top.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- Widely known and esteemed.
- A proud stiff pompous gait.
- An airfield without normal airport facilities.
- The part of the small intestine between the jejunum and the cecum.
- The basic unit of money in China.
- A Hindu disciple of a swami.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- (Greek mythology) An Athenian inventor who built the Labyrinth of Minos.
- The essential qualities or characteristics by which something is recognized.
- Having help.
- A unit of force equal to the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 foot/sec/sec to a mass of 1 pound.
- (prefix) Reverse of or absence of.
- A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
- A master's degree in fine arts.
- Horned vipers.
- (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
- Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
- Large bloodsucking bug.
- Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
- Humble request for help.
- Capital city of the Apulia region on the Adriatic coast.
- So scary as to cause chills and shudders.
- A blanket that is used as a cloak or shawl.
- Make more attractive by adding ornament, colour, etc..
- The basic unit of money in Lesotho.
- Type genus of the family Elephantidae.
- A master's degree in education.
- North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- A protocol developed for the internet to get data from one network device to another.
- Suggestive of the supernatural.
- Transient cessation of respiration.
- An intensive care unit designed with special equipment to care for premature or low-birth-weight or seriously ill newborn.
- Give a certain impression or have a certain outward aspect.
- Give out.
- Leather with a napped surface.
- A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
- The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
- Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
- An ancient kingdom of southern Palestine with Jerusalem as its center.
- Alloy of copper and tin and zinc.
- Detected by instinct or inference rather than by recognized perceptual cues.
- Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- Someone whose business is advertising.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Remove the pins from.
- The cry made by sheep.
- One of the two main branches of orthodox Islam.
- Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- Of or pertaining to or suggestive of a goat (especially in strong odor).
- (Greek mythology) The Titan who was father of Atlas and Epimetheus and Prometheus in ancient mythology.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
- A town twenty miles east of Rome (Tibur is the ancient name).
- (Greek mythology) The Muse of lyric and love poetry.
- Water falling in drops from vapor condensed in the atmosphere.
- (computer science) A kind of computer architecture that has a large number of instructions hard coded into the cpu chip.
- Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
- An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
- A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar and supports.
- Unpleasantly cool and humid.
- A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
- The habitation of wild animals.
- The compass point midway between east and southeast.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are up early this morning, cleaning and preparing for company that you expect to entertain when this workday has ended. A trend begins at work now that encourages you to use more authority and become more visible. Someone may compliment you on your tastes or belongings this afternoon as a few friends, perhaps co-worker friends, gather in your home. There is a greater than usual emphasis on emotional security, which is likely to manifest as putting down roots somehow. Home and family matters can play a big part in this: relatives take on greater importance than ever before. Real-estate matters can be improved upon and a friend or family member that is into real estate will help you learn if you ask.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your strong sense of responsibility, or the actual duties that come your way, may prevent you from fulfilling your own personal ambitions. Those in authority, or who are older and more experienced, may challenge you and hold you back-so you think. Look at your earning power-it is strong. You will always be able to enjoy a good job if you approve of or endorse the product you are either selling or helping to produce. You teach a young person that resentments are a waste of time and the time spent in resentful emotions would cause one to miss a special joy. You have an interest in teaching and helping others. This may lead to an experience in healing and investing. There is still time for some great fun activity with loved ones this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Usually you are very patient with the public. Today, you may have to make an extra effort to move away from too deep a communication and just listen to whatever complaint is present at this time. The answer to the problems you come across today may reveal a special talent. You could be standing in long lines or driving on a crowded highway-patience is important. Close relationships have a big impact on your life and old or disgruntled relationships are transformed or perhaps even ended at this time-new ones however, will come on like gangbusters. Those of you who are not involved with a love partner will have many opportunities opening up to you for finding the right mate. A close friend has a mesmerizing impact on you... Very loving.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Ambition, work and success mean a lot to you and you do not mind a little extra work to reach your success. You may discover that a co-worker is willing to lend a helping hand. You show your pride by the way you do your work and by demonstrating certain talents, such as organizational abilities, problem-solving techniques and negotiating techniques. Expressing these talents now will add a special touch to your work. A meticulous approach to details wins you admiration. A group discussion this afternoon can be especially fruitful in providing information and ideas. Go slow on the cheese just now, you might find that rash on your face and the pain in your tummy disappearing after a few days without cheese. Consider more organic produce.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Later this month, you will enjoy a return of some easier workdays. For now, you may have to call on that extra energy of yours to complete some detailed tasks. It is possible that you could get a co-worker to help share the work. You bubble with charm and could talk an Eskimo into buying a refrigerator. Consider thinning out some of the chores you have set out for yourself after your workday so that you can rest. Your interest in adventure and exercise challenges may bring about some fun discussions on the phone this evening. You and your friends may enjoy planning the next hike through the mountains or the next competitive swimming challenge. You might do some research on the recent supported adventure trips. How about spelunking?



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

It seems the whole world is speeding up these days-everyone is in a rush. If you are not working today, there are lots of good sales and other activities that will keep you quite busy. If you are working there will be much acknowledgment for your hard work. Your career depends upon your own ambition, which is strong now. You are able to use good common sense in making decisions and you will make all the right choices. When things look complicated, use your plan of action. It is not beyond your scope of imagination to ask questions about other companies or other work programs. You are always ready to improve and achieve. Careful-you could embarrass someone if you take over plans for your own party-enjoy.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today, you may feel that you should hurry, hurry, hurry, but getting in a rush will not help to accomplish what needs to be done. Perhaps you could set some things aside and do only the most pressing duties just now. You could be most persuasive with others and may enjoy the art of debate as well as qualifying for the best salesperson in your company. Agreements are easily reached today. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas and thoughts. An outgoing and very expressive cycle has begun for you. There is a yearning to broaden your horizons and further your education. With careful planning and some consideration with regard to your talents, you will do well. See if you can find a good mentor.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your friends are many. These friends are at work, as well as in your personal life. Today, you will find that several of your co-worker friends are willing to help you with some project, even if it means a little overtime without pay. Ideas and interaction with higher-ups may be in the works as well. Working with-rather than against-the flow should be easy to do. An eccentric relative attracts some notice. The home and family scene is likely to be in a state of change. This may mean moving, an addition to the family or a fall cleanup project-perhaps even painting in or outside your house. High-tech equipment invades the domestic environment somehow. This could mean new cleaning equipment, new painting tools or some family project.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your professional activities today excel and you may find yourself teaching others the techniques you use to make your work run smoothly. Quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions are ready. This is a good time to write and communicate with originality. Inventions and breakthroughs are possible. After work today, you may find yourself working with music, color, fabric and the arts-whatever is beautiful. You would make a superb decorator of homes and, in general, all kinds of environments. Your friends may want your advice on these subjects as well. You will enjoy deep conversations with friends today. A young person needs a costume for a party and given only a moment, you create marvelous results.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You will be deeply aware of your own strengths and weaknesses today. This could just mean that you have to call for help when moving furniture or you need to brush up on your typing skills. With little effort, you can find a teacher or get help with the moving of furniture. Do not stay in the problem any longer than necessary. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. You tend toward mental pursuits and admire intelligence-you could write. A problem can be solved or a new subject mastered. Be certain to follow through with travel opportunities. You will communicate with charm and clarity. Take note of new ideas that leap into your thoughts just now. This can be valuable for future development.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others and are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society in general. You have great organizational skills and could help with plans that are in the works for visiting dignitaries or guests that want to buy land or other products your company produces. Some of the visitors may not be from your city or country. A change in an after-work group activity may bring about an opportunity for you to catch up on chores around your place. This may be the best time to go through closets and get rid of the clothes or items that no longer serve you. Family members mean a lot to you and you enjoy the interactions that occur this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Mental organization and discipline may fall apart or be challenged today. This is a busy day and the input from others may cause you to change your plans and just follow the flow of activity. You could be most persuasive with a loved one today and find that you enjoy guiding or advising via phone calls throughout the day. Others sense an interest in their welfare when they are near you. You are eloquent in communication skills and it is possible for you to smooth out a difficult situation with your sense of humor. Chances are that your social skills mean that you are popular with almost everyone and the evening may be full of opportunities to be with neighbors, friends or loved ones in a social gathering of sorts. This could be an outdoor barbecue party.

WORD SEARCH

Types of Music 2

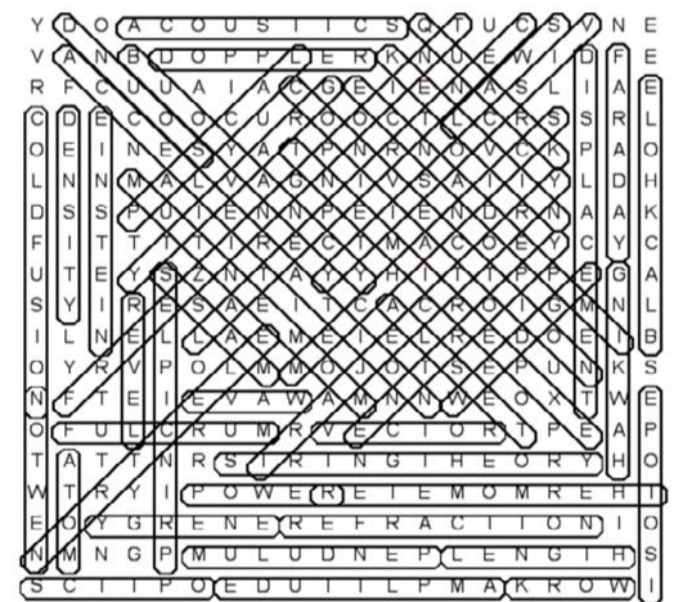
Find and circle all of the different types of music that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 15 letters spell an additional type of music.

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| ACID JAZZ | CLASSICAL | GYPSY | REGGAE |
| AFRICAN | COUNTRY | IRISH | ROCK AND ROLL |
| ALTERNATIVE | DOO WOP | MAMBO | SALSA |
| BEBOP | ELEVATOR | MARIACHI | SURF |
| BLUES | EUROPOP | MIDDLE EASTERN | SWING |
| BOLLYWOOD | EXPERIMENTAL | NEW AGE | TECHNO |
| BOSSA NOVA | FOLK ROCK | NEW ORLEANS | TRIP HOP |
| BRAZILIAN | FUNK | OPERA | TROPICAL |
| CELTIC | GOSPEL | POP MUSIC | URBAN |
| CHAMBER | GRUNGE | PROGRESSIVE | ZYDECO |

Yesterday Solution

Physics 1



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

The hidden message is: YOU NEVER FAIL UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

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

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

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

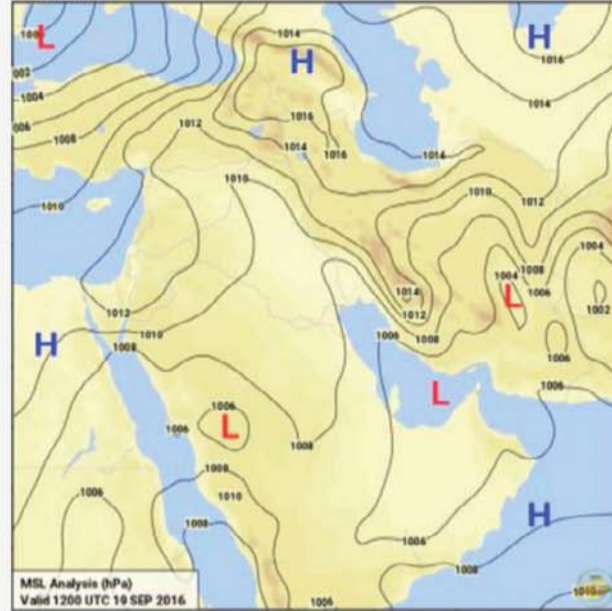
Issued 19/09/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 25 °C

By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h

By Day : Hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing raising dust over open areas

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	hot + raising dust over open areas	hot + raising dust over open areas	hot + raising dust over open areas	hot
Min Temp °C	25	25	25	26
Max Temp °C	41	42	43	42
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	20 - 45	20 - 45	12 - 35

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

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	27	40
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25	40
ABDALLY	22	40
BUBYAN	24	40
JAHRA	26	41
FAILAKA ISLAND	28	39
SALMIYAH	27	37
AHMADI	27	39
JAL ALIYAH	23	39
QAROH ISLAND	28	35
UMM AL-MARADEM	28	36
NUWAISIB	29	37
WAFRA	27	40
MANAGISH	26	39
SALMY	24	38
MUTRIBA	23	41

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	43
Min Temp (°C)	27
Max Rel Hum (%)	35
Min Rel Hum (%)	12
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise

05:35

Sunset

17:48

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:15
Sunrise	05:35
Zuhr	11:42
Asr	15:10
Sunset	17:48
Isha	19:06



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupje	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

FEATURES

FROM ATTEMPTING SUICIDE IN NIGERIA TO MISS TRANSSEXUAL FINAL

Miss SaHHara was born in the wrong country, and in the wrong body. Repression in her native Nigeria almost drove her to suicide, but this weekend she was cruising down the runway in a cream dress-one of several finalists at the Miss Trans Star International beauty pageant in Barcelona, Europe's main such event. Set up in 2010 in the Spanish Mediterranean seaside city, the fifth edition of the contest this weekend crowned Brazil's Rafaela Manfrini as this year's transsexual queen, although winning was secondary for participants who have often experienced discrimination and repression.

"Here all of us are winners already, we won our life," said runner-up Tallen Abu Hanna from Israel. Persecuted by their governments, victims of discrimination or rejected by their own families, many of the 25 candidates went through hell and high water before summoning up the courage to strut their stuff in swimsuits or evening gowns. "This is an attempt to engage society," said Thara Wells, the

contest founder. "We want to go beyond beauty and tell the life story of each girl."

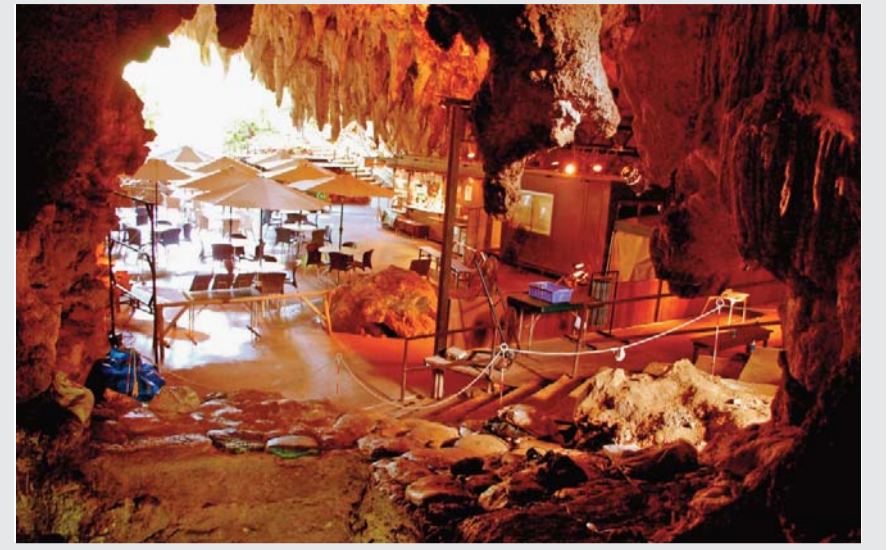
Escape or death

Among the candidates were transsexuals from Japan, South Africa, Colombia, Turkey, and Nigeria, whose activist chat stood out. Sporting a cream dress with a plunging neckline, Miss SaHHara glided down the runway without a hint of shyness, drawing in the 300-strong audience with her light-green eyes. Nothing much remained from the young 19-year-old man who fled Nigeria for London more than a decade ago. "I had severe dysphoria. My breasts weren't growing, I didn't have a female sex organ, I looked at myself in the mirror and I did not feel comfortable with my body," she told AFP before the gala final Saturday. Miss SaHHara, as she is known, always knew she was a woman.

She would put on make-up and wear her mother's high heels. But in Nigeria, where homosexuali-

ty and transsexuality are illegal and punishable by 14 years in jail, her situation was tough. "In the street, they were always attacking me, harassing me," she said. "I came back home and my family would harass me, they said 'you're wrong, you need to change, act like a man.'" She twice attempted suicide and says she was imprisoned in Nigeria for wearing women's attire before escaping to London, first as an illegal migrant, then as a refugee. "There was no way I could have survived in Nigeria, this is why I had to leave," she said. In Britain, she underwent surgery to become a woman with long, curly blond hair, big breasts and full lips. She works as a model and singer, and also manages her own NGO to help transsexuals.

"London gave me the opportunity to pursue my dreams and be my true self," she said. "I'm hoping that by speaking out and coming to Miss Star, I will try to influence people or perhaps influence my government to revoke 14 years imprisonment for LGBT in Nigeria." 2,000 murders since 2006 -In recent years, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people have scored small victories around the world. Nepal, Argentina, Bolivia and Ireland are just some of the countries to have approved laws recognizing transgender people and the United States is considering allowing them into the army. But there is still a lot to do. LGBT people are still persecuted in some 80 countries, and more than 2,000 transsexuals have been murdered since 2006, according to the Trans Murder Monitoring Project, part of the Berlin-based Transgender Europe NGO. "We have very few opportunities in life, very few," said contest founder Wells. Israel's Tallen Abu Hanna concurred, saying transsexuals have huge difficulties in finding jobs. "In the end, lots of them have to have sex for money." She has been lucky though. A Christian Arab Israeli, she has become a celebrity since winning a transsexual beauty pageant in her country, and wants to take advantage of this fame to inspire Arab people, who like she once did may feel trapped "inside a cage." "I became a woman and I found peace between my body and my soul." — AFP



This picture released by Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Art Museum shows the Sakitari Cave excavation site in Okinawa. — AFP

World's oldest fishhooks found in Japan

Fishhooks found on a southern Japanese island date back some 23,000 years, making them among the world's oldest fishing implements, researchers said yesterday. The hooks were discovered in Sakitari Cave on the southern end of Okinawa island several years ago, said Masaki Fujita, chief researcher for the study and a curator at Okinawa Prefectural Museum and Art Museum. "And we have finally concluded that the geological layer in which the fishhooks were found was formed 23,000 years ago," Fujita told AFP.

The hooks, made of the shells of sea snails, were ground into a shape resem-

bling a crescent moon and may have been used to catch parrotfish or eels. They are of comparable age or older than similar fishhooks reported from Timor, also in the Pacific, the researchers said in an article published by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The study also suggested that advanced maritime techniques existed in the Asia-Pacific much earlier than previously thought, Fujita said. "It's amazing to know that the fishing technique that we have now could be the same as the one in ancient times," the researcher said. — AFP



Miss Nigeria Miss SaHHara (left) applauds the crowd during the Miss Trans Star International in Cornellà de Llobregat. — AFP photos

Safat Home's 2017 outdoor collection is here!

Complete your outdoor setting with stylish and premium outdoor sets

Safat Home, Kuwait's leading home furnishing retailer, is proud to introduce its all-new 2017 outdoor collection at its Shuwaikh, Al-Rai and Fahaheel showrooms. Customers who have always wanted to transform their patios, gardens and chalets should look no further than the outdoor section at Safat Home, where they can find products designed to instill life into outdoor spaces, making them extraordinary hubs of relaxation and hospitality.

Made to be lived-in and to endure the test of time, Safat Home's outdoor sets feature an exclusive wealth of furniture items and accessories made by the world's top designers and manufacturers. The range of products available includes sofas, chairs, swings, gazebos, tables, cushions, ceramic accessories and more, plus an exclusive furniture set made from natural and synthetic wicker, all of which are perfect to have friends and family over for BBQ and special occasions. There's also a wide range of outdoor tiles to make your

chalet or garden look even more stunning, which is exclusively available at Safat Home Shuwaikh. To further ensure customers' peace of mind, Safat Home is offering a one-year warranty on most of its new Outdoor Furniture Collection.

Customers are encouraged to browse Safat Home's outdoor furniture catalogue, which has been spectacularly shot in Al-Khairan area to not only appeal to their enjoyment but also to inspire design ideas and concepts on how to display their furniture in a creative matter.

Safat Home welcomes everyone to visit its Al Rai showroom at Safat Al-Ghanim, open from 9:30am until midnight every day, the Shuwaikh showroom, located near Yusuf A Al-Ghanim Service and Maintenance Center, open from 9am to 11pm, Thursday to Sunday, and from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm, Monday till Wednesday, and the Fahaheel showroom, Dabbous St above X-Cite, open from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm.

DS Podium Lady - Automatic: The modern face of a true classic

The addition of PVD rose gold to selected areas of the new DS Podium Lady brings its distinctive elegance into recent history - a classic lady with a hint of urban mystique. The use of bright mother-of-pearl on the dial face adds a contemporary feeling that makes sense, in a timepiece equipped with a high-quality Swiss ETA automatic movement. Feminine in every way, with gorgeous detailing such as Roman numerals, tapered HM hands and a PVD rose gold bezel, the DS Podium Lady connects a timeless era with today's values.

Often, classic design is that precise, challenging art of bringing just the right elements together. The new DS Podium Lady Automatic, with its handsome combination of features and contrasts, brings reliable, classic tradition to a beautiful, feminine timepiece built for today, and with the modern precision of a Swiss-Made ETA automatic movement.

Its delicately sized, fully-polished 29 mm 316L stainless-steel case is topped by an elegant PVD rose gold bezel, in perfect visual harmony with two matching lines in its brightly polished five-row bracelet and matching twin push-button butterfly closure. The balanced design carries on, with an elegant, white mother-of-pearl dial face, contrasting black Roman numerals and black nickelled hands, behind a sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on both faces. A date window is placed at the six o'clock position, for excellent readability. The DS Podium Lady Automatic is indeed a fine fusion of timeless classicism and the finest present-day watchmaking, with its CERTINA DS Concept assembly, as confirmed by



the initials "DS" shown on the crown tip. The DS Podium Lady Automatic is water-resistant up to a pressure of 10 bar (100 m). A number of different versions of the watch are available.



Alyasra Fashion celebrates Fossil store opening in 360 Mall

Alyasra Fashion celebrated the opening of Kuwait's second Fossil store, with a fabulous in-store event in the presence of media members and bloggers. Located in 360 Mall, ground floor, the Fossil store is the second to open in Kuwait, with the first located in The Avenues, Grand Avenue. The American brand is famous for its watches, bags, and premium leather goods.

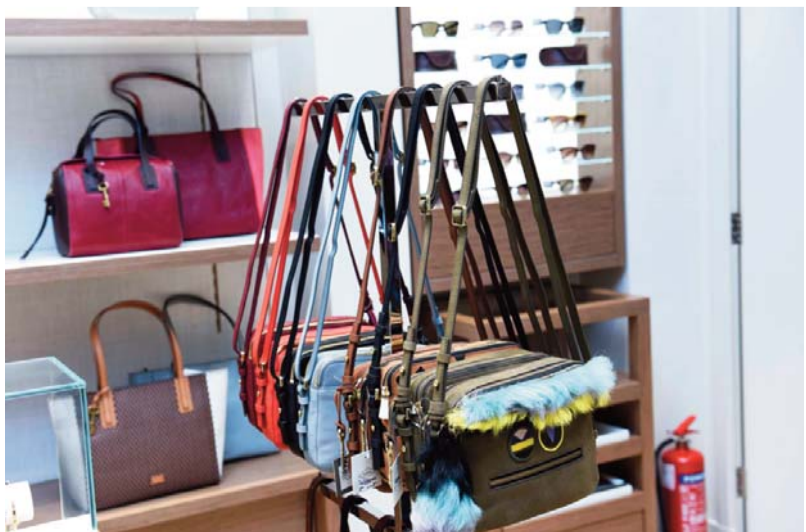
The dynamic new store showcases the latest Fossil Fall collection, Camp Fossil, which plays on the idea of childhood nostalgia with a camping-inspired theme. The store features vintage bags, watches that come in a wide variety of colors and material, and classic accessories including chic eye wear

and jewelry. The new collection pays special attention to the small details by ensuring accessories are extra-functional, giving customers the freedom to follow their adventurous spirits, all the while drawing inspiration from the traditional designs Fossil is known for. Colours like canteen green, lime, butternut and iron, paired to bright mimosa yellow, rose and navy, also feature in the Camp Fossil collection.

Fossil is a contemporary American fashion brand which combines classic styles with modern aesthetics. Since 1984, the brand has produced high-quality fashion products rooted in designs of the past while shaping the present of fashion accessories. Fossil has grown from a small watch company to a

globally recognized brand which has a strong presence in the retail sales industry with a focus on watches, handbags, small leather goods, and jewellery.

Fossil is proud to offer its products in more than 150 countries around the world. The brand has gained notoriety among watch enthusiasts who frequent their stores and connect with the brand via social media networks. Fossil has succeeded in staying true to their long heritage of elegant designs which have come to define the brand.





Kerry Washington arrives at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. — AP/AFP photos



Sarah Paulson



Olivia Culpo



Anna Chlumsky



Rami Malek

Who rocked the Emmys red carpet: Washington, Paulson, Culpo

From Kerry Washington's daring, elegant baby bump to Anna Chlumsky's barrel-shaped, um, dress, the Emmys red carpet was a mixed bag of color and silhouette. Some highlights:

Who rocked the bump?

Washington, deep into her second pregnancy, has been tight-lipped about her due date but the end is clearly near. She dressed for two in a custom, black Brandon Maxwell strapless gown with cutouts above the waist and a long train.

"She got the proportions just right," said Rickie De Sole, fashion market director for W magazine. "It was sexy but not overtly sexy. That's why she's so successful on the red carpet. It was unexpected and fun."

Washington, often forced to hide her pregnancies with big coats and big bags on "Scandal," wore her hair big, loose and curly, further enhancing the look. Joseph Katz, a Beverly Hills stylist, also loved it. "What a chic look. I love what she did with her hair. It was just so cool."

Who rocked the green?

Sarah Paulson did, in an emerald long-sleeve, plunging-neckline Prada so heavily encrusted she looked otherworldly. "It also felt very unexpected," De Sole said. "Very red carpet but modern in its silhouette." It was a huge statement as she walked Sunday's carpet in Los Angeles with the real-life Marcia Clark, the character she played on FX's "People v. O.J. Simpson." She paired her short straight locks with a modular pair of long earrings with jewel earrings that matched her yellow locks. The dress, Katz said, was a perfect match for her fair skin. "It went with her coloring perfectly," he said. Paulson was nominated in two categories, winning acting in a limited series or movie.

Who just rocked

Olivia Culpo, whose biggest claims are being crowned Miss USA in 2012 and once dating Nick Jonas, was in purple eye makeup and the perfect little dress from Zac Posen. It suited her frame and fit her beautifully, hitting above the ankle. It was embellished with varying shapes of white, sewn-on sequins against a neutral tone that went to sheer at the hem. And it was strapless, offering a sexy lift in the chest with ample cleavage. The look hugged until just above the waist, opening a tad to a skirt that still flattered but allowed for movement. Her hair was tight and back, lending a starchy, starchy night quality overall.

Who rocked the twirl?

Priyanka Chopra had THE most fun on the carpet at the Microsoft Theater, twirling there and again onstage as a presenter with Tom Hiddleston. The "Quantico" star wore a one-shoulder custom Jason Wu in red with a Chanel red lip color that was a winning match. The dress separated into two sections at the shoulder, had one cutout on the same side and was belted at the waist. It included a long, full train. Her dark hair was parted on the side and was fastened into a sleek, low ponytail. Chopra kept her jewels to a minimum, but they came with a hefty price tag: a \$1 million worth from Neil Lane, to be exact. They included 10-carat diamond-and-platinum drop earrings and a 10-carat diamond-and-platinum emerald cut ring.

"It just popped on the red carpet," Katz said. "She did a great twirl. That's what the carpet is about, showing the flow and the movement. She just nailed it." Added De Sole: "She had a very bright red lip that just made the whole thing pop. With all the black dresses on the red carpet, you can't miss the girl in red."

Who did not rock?

Sorry, Anna Chlumsky. We really are. We know you gave birth in July, but your stylist done you wrong. Chlumsky, from "Veep," wore a sacklike mini dress that was barrel-shaped, pulling in at the hem. It had huge pieces of drapery-esque fabric that fell off each shoulder, culminating in chunky half-cape, half-train (wreck). The dress had a bumpy texture and was a blush pink color. "That, um, yeah, it wasn't flattering," Katz said. "Clearly he's really into fashion."

Gays who rocked

Rami, Rami, Rami. Malek, Malek! On a good day, you're merely cute. In your Dior Homme white linen and wool blend two-button white dinner jacket, you were the most, with your cousin as your date. The jacket was paired with a black bow tie, black wool tuxedo trousers and a white cotton wing-tip collar shirt, leaving your big Elliot Alderson "Mr. Robot" deep blue eyes to do the rest. "He looked amazing," De Sole said. "Clearly he's really into fashion."

Added Katz: "He looked really cute in the white dinner jacket. For guys, it's all about fit and proportion. It fit him really, really well. Wearing a white jacket like that takes some guts to step out there and he did it. Very cool." Malek won an Emmy on his first nomination, for outstanding lead actor in a drama. Another guy dude: Terrence Howard, in a Lucious Lyon-worthy, black-and-white plaid dinner jacket with a black lapel and TV test-pattern bow tie. Howard was nominated for his over-the-top "Empire" role but didn't win. — AP



Priyanka Chopra

'Sound of Music' actress Charmian Carr dies at 73

Charmian Carr, the actress best known for sweetly portraying the eldest von Trapp daughter in Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music," has died. She was 73. Carr died Saturday of complications from a rare form of dementia in Los Angeles, Carr's spokeswoman, Harlan Boll, said. At age 21, the actress portrayed Liesl von Trapp in the 1965 film version of the musical "The Sound of Music." She famously performed the song "Sixteen Going on Seventeen." After "The Sound of Music," Carr's only other major Hollywood role was starring with Anthony Perkins in the Stephen Sondheim television musical "Evening Primrose." She played a mysterious young woman who lived in a department store.

"It's always sad when a member of the family passes away - and in the case of the family of the movie 'The Sound of Music,' it's especially sad when it is the first of the group to go," said Ted Chapin, president of the Rodgers & Hammerstein organization, in a statement. "Charmian Carr played the oldest von Trapp child, and in some ways she maintained that role in real life - guiding, cheering, supporting and generally

being there for the rest of her 'sisters' and 'brothers.'" 20th Century Fox, the studio that produced the "Sound of Music" film, noted Carr's death. "The Sound of Music lost a beloved member of the family w/ the passing of Charmian Carr. She will be forever missed," the studio said on its Twitter account.

The actress later wrote a pair of books about her "Sound of Music" experiences: "Forever Liesl" and "Letters to Liesl." She fully embraced audiences' reverence for the musical, frequently appearing at fan events commemorating the film, including sing-a-long performances at the Hollywood Bowl. "I tell people that they should consider sing-a-long 'Sound of Music' like going to a therapist," she told The Associated Press before a 2005 appearance. "It's just a kind of therapy. They can move around. They can dance and talk back to the screen. They can skip their appointment with the shrink that week."

Carr went on to become an interior designer in Southern California. Her clients included Michael Jackson and "Sound of Music" screenwriter Ernest Lehman. She was born in Chicago in 1942. Her mother was a vaudeville actress, and her father was a musician and orchestra leader. Her family moved to the San Fernando Valley when she was a child. Carr is survived by her four siblings, her two children and four grandchildren. She is also survived by the six other actors who became part of cinematic history when they were cast as the von Trapp children. "We're second family," said Kym Karath, who played the youngest von Trapp, Gretl, in an AP interview last year to commemorate the film's 50th anniversary. "As adults, we were deeply bonded, so our lives have really interwoven with each other." — AP



'Sound of Music' actress Charmian Carr is seen in an undated photo provided by the Carr family. — AP

London commuters get boost with inspirational quotes

The daily grind of London commuting is being brightened by a collection of black marker pens and white boards-giving city dwellers a welcome boost as they travel through the metropolis. The hall of Oval underground station looks more like a living room than a Tube stop-complete with plants and a small library, while Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 5" plays. It is at this stop on the Underground's Northern Line that Glen Sutherland, an employee of tube operator Transport for London (TfL), whips out a black marker and writes up the "Thought for the Day." Today the quote appearing on the large whiteboard-strategically positioned in front of the escalators used by thousands of people daily-is from Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho.

"There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure," it reads, written in fine writing which harks back to the books of centuries past. The Oval station tradition began in 2004, as a way to brighten up the station and distract passengers-particularly during peak times when the crowded trains are akin to sardine cans. "As you come up from the escalator you hear the music, you get the thought of the day, the books, the bench, you can sit down, have a read, take it easy. "We should start serving coffee in there!" Sutherland tells AFP.

From Steve Jobs to Socrates

The TfL employee hunts down quotes on the internet, he says, wary of what should be avoided: "It's a case of choosing them carefully, you can't put

anything political, sexist, religion." Sutherland often chooses positive messages for the "Thought for the Day," encouraging those who may have got out of bed on the wrong side. "When you arise in the morning, think of what a privilege it is to be alive, to think, to enjoy, to love," is one example from Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. Oval's whiteboard also provides advice and comments on society, such as this line from Oscar Wilde: "Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing."

The quotes can also come from more unusual quarters, such as Yoda from the "Star Wars" films: "Train yourself to let go of everything you fear to lose." Other famous names which have appeared include Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Bob Marley, Bruce Lee, Steve Jobs, Confucius, Shakespeare, Socrates and Picasso. Occasionally "Thought for the Day" takes inspiration from news and current affairs, paying tribute to celebrities who have recently passed away such as David Bowie, Prince and Mohammed Ali. There has also been encouragement for Team GB at the Olympics and a birthday message for Queen Elizabeth II.

Driven by social media

The initiative at Oval has now spread to several other stations, with photos of the "Thought for the Day" being shared on social networks, and numerous bars and shops have also started sharing quotes and witticisms. "Shoes: less money than a shrink," quips a sign at one shop about the therapeutic benefits of shopping, while a pub warns "all hipsters

must be accompanied by an adult." "Beer is the answer, but I can't remember the question," reads another pub sign, traditionally written in white on a blackboard. The messages sometimes use humor rather than straightforward positive PR, such as one board outside a cafe in Stockport: "Come in and try the worst porridge that one woman on TripAdvisor had in her life."

Mandy Miller, a specialist in calligraphy for blackboards, says the fashion for puns and funny comments has come with the growth of social media companies such as Twitter and Instagram. "They rarely say anything about the pub they stand outside or what is on offer, but that's almost irrelevant. It's the photo opportunity that they provide, people like to 'collect' and share them, therefore, the pub gets a mention in the post. The more clever and outlandish the better," says Miller, who goes by the alias "Chalkboard Lady". Roberta Mussato, an Italian passing through Clapham North station which also boasts a whiteboard, is just one enthusiast of the "Thought for the Day". "Either they make you smile or they make you think. In any case it's nice when you're all in the rush and you just take five seconds to read," she says, before getting lost in the fast pace of London life. — AFP



The Nook Neighborhood Coffee shop advertises its coffee with a contentious phrase written on a chalkboard outside the premises in Stockport, north west England. — AFP photos



AWARDS



The cast and crew from 'Game of Thrones' accept the award for outstanding drama series at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.



The cast and crew of 'Game of Thrones' winners of the award for outstanding drama series pose in the press room. — AP/AFP photos

'Game of Thrones,' 'Veep' take top honors at Emmys



Director Miguel Sapochnik accepts the award for Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series for 'Game of Thrones' episode 'Battle of the Bastards'.

"Game of Thrones" conquered the Emmy kingdom Sunday, honored as top drama for the second consecutive year and becoming the most honored prime-time TV series ever on a night of surprises and sharp political jabs. "Veep" repeated as best comedy series and its star, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, won a record-breaking sixth Emmy as best comedy actress. Jeffrey Tambor's trophy as top comedy actor for "Transparent" also was his second. But the top drama acting trophies were far from predictable: Rami Malek of "Mr. Robot" and Tatiana Maslany of "Orphan Black" were the winners, both overcoming heavyweight competition.

"Oh, my God. Please tell me you're seeing this too," said a stunned Malek, who plays an emotionally troubled engineer caught up in a dangerous hacking conspiracy. "Games of Thrones," the fantasy saga based on George R.R. Martin's novels, received a total of 12 awards Sunday and at last weekend's technical arts ceremony for a cumulative 38, besting "Frasier" by one to claim most prime-time series awards ever. The Emmys proved more adroit than the Oscars at recognizing and honoring diversity in Hollywood's top ranks, with trophies going to minority actors and behind-the-scenes artists including writers Aziz Ansari and Alan Yang of "Master of None."

But Viola Davis of "How to Get Away with Murder" failed to repeat her 2015 best drama actress win, the first for a woman of color. Tambor, who plays a transgender character on "Transparent," called on Hollywood to make him the last non-transgender actor to get such a role. A shaking Louis-Dreyfus ended her speech by dedicating the trophy to her father, who she said died Friday. Before that, she honed in on GOP contender Donald Trump's campaign. "I'd also like to take this opportunity to personally apologize for the current political climate," she said. "I think that 'Veep' has torn down the wall between comedy and politics. Our show started out as a political satire but it now feels more like a sobering documentary." She promised to "rebuild that wall and make Mexico pay for it."

Her victory gave her six best comedy wins - five for "Veep," one for "The New Adventures of Old Christine" - and broke her tie with Candice Bergen and Mary Tyler Moore. Maggie Smith was honored as best supporting actress in a drama series for the final season of "Downton Abbey." It was her third win for playing the formidable dowager. As has become her custom, she didn't attend the ceremony. After Smith's win, Kimmel said her Emmy would not be mailed to her but would be kept in the Microsoft Theater's Lost and Found until she shows up to claim it. Ben Mendelsohn of "Bloodline" won as best supporting drama actor and also was a no-show.

John Oliver captured the top variety talk series award for "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," besting competitors including Jerry Seinfeld and host Jimmy Kimmel - who received barbed consolation on stage from Matt Damon, his longtime faux nemesis. The loss "makes a lot of sense," Damon said. "The People v. O.J. Simpson," which earned the second-highest number of nominations, converted five to trophies Sunday. The dramatic retelling of the football star's murder trial was honored as best limited series and writing, and earned awards for stars Courtney B. Vance, Sterling K. Brown and Sarah Paulson.

Paulson, who played prosecutor Marcia Clark, brought her as a guest and singled her out from the stage. Clark was not the "the two-dimensional cardboard cutout that I saw on the news" but a "whip-smart" woman dedicated to justice for the case's victims, Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman. Regina King claimed the award for supporting actress in a limited series for "American Crime," her second trophy for the program.



Cast & crew of 'Veep' pose with the Emmy for Outstanding Comedy Series.

Louie Anderson was honored as best supporting actor in a comedy series for his portrayal of a loving but tough mom in "Baskets." "Mom, we did it!" Anderson shouted, hoisting his trophy and dedicating the award to his late mother, Ora Zella Anderson. "I have not always been a good man but I play one hell of a woman." "Saturday Night Live" cast member Kate McKinnon won the trophy for best supporting actress in a comedy for, officially, playing various characters. But she knew who to credit. "Thank you, Ellen DeGeneres, thank you, Hillary Clinton," she said, naming two of the famous people she's caricatured on the show. The Democratic presidential contender responded quickly with a tweet: "Congratulations on your Emmy, Kate! Big fan of yours, too." The ceremony started out with a political edge. In a video bit, Jimmy Kimmel was shown trying to get to the ceremony and encountering former GOP presidential contender Jeb Bush as a limo driver.

"Did you know you could make \$12 an hour working for Uber?" a game Bush said, smiling. He advised Kimmel that "if you run a positive campaign, the voters will ultimately make the right choice" - then told Kimmel curtly it was a joke. In his opening monologue, the host said he was holding "Celebrity Apprentice" producer Mark Burnett responsible for the "Donald Trump phenomenon." In an attempt at comedy that fell flat, the ceremony announcer indicated that Bill Cosby would be taking the stage. After an awkward silence, Kimmel said it was a joke - the TV star embroiled in decades-old accusations of sexual assault wasn't invited.

A pair of key changes made by the TV academy may have affected the outcomes in Sunday's 27 categories. It revised how votes are cast and counted, switching from a ranking and points system to letting voters simply check off their top choice. That sharpened the selection process and might have affected past winners who managed to collect enough second-place votes to overcome the competition. In another revision, this one implemented last year, voting was expanded from blue-ribbon panels to - depending on the award - giving substantially more or all of the academy's 20,000-plus members the chance to vote for finalists. — AP



The cast and crew from 'Veep' accept the award for outstanding comedy series.



Kit Harington winner of the award for outstanding drama series for 'Game of Thrones' poses in the press room.



Supporting Actress in a Drama Series 'Game of Thrones' Maisie Williams arrives for the 68th Emmy Awards.



Rami Malek accepts the award for outstanding lead actor in a drama series for 'Mr Robot'.



Rami Malek, winner of the award for outstanding lead actor in a drama series for 'Mr Robot,' attends the Governors Ball.



Courtney B Vance accepts the award for outstanding lead actor in a limited series or a movie for 'The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story.'



Peter Scolari appears on stage.



Julia Louis-Dreyfus poses in the press room with the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for 'Veep'.



Tatiana Maslany accepts the award for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for 'Orphan Black'.

AWARDS



Writer/producers David Benioff (left) and DB Weiss accept the Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for "Game of Thrones" episode Battle of the Bastards.



Ryan Murphy and the cast and crew of 'The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story' accept the award for outstanding limited series.



Sterling K. Brown accepts the award for outstanding supporting actor in a limited series or a movie for 'The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story'.



John Travolta winner of the award for outstanding limited series for 'The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story'.



Steven Moffat and crew of 'Sherlock: The Abominable Bride (Masterpiece)' accept the award for outstanding television movie.



Mark Burnett and the cast and crew of 'The Voice' accepts the award for outstanding reality-competition program.



John Oliver and the crew of 'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver' accept the award for outstanding variety talk series.



Damon Wayans, left, presents the award for outstanding variety sketch series to Keegan-Michael Key, center, and Jordan Peele for 'Key & Peele'.



Louie Anderson accepts the award for outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series for 'Baskets'.



Kate McKinnon accepts the award for outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series for 'Saturday Night Live'.



Sarah Paulson winner of the award for outstanding lead actress in a limited series or a movie for 'The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story'.



Tina Fey, left, and Amy Poehler, holding their Creative Arts Emmy awards for best guest actress in a comedy series, appear on stage.



Regina King accepts the award for outstanding supporting actress in a limited series or movie for 'American Crime'.



Taraji P. Henson presents the award for outstanding supporting actor in a drama series.



Actress Michelle Dockery



Claire Danes

Winners

- Outstanding drama series**
Game of Thrones
- Outstanding comedy series**
Veep
- Outstanding lead actor in a drama**
Rami Malek, Mr Robot
- Outstanding lead actress in a drama**
Tatiana Maslany, Orphan Black
- Outstanding lead actor in a comedy**
Jeffrey Tambor, Transparent
- Outstanding lead actress in a comedy**
Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Veep
- Outstanding lead actor in a limited series or TV movie**
Courtney B Vance, The People v OJ Simpson
- Outstanding limited series**
The People v OJ Simpson
- Outstanding reality competition series**
The Voice
- Outstanding television movie**
Sherlock: The Abominable Bride
- Outstanding variety talk series**
Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- Outstanding variety sketch series**
Key & Peele
- Outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series**
Louie Anderson, Baskets
- Outstanding supporting actor in a drama series**
Ben Mendelsohn, Bloodline
- Outstanding lead actress in a limited series or a movie**
Sarah Paulson, The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story
- Outstanding supporting actor in a limited series or movie**
Sterling K Brown, The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story
- Outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series**
Kate McKinnon, Saturday Night Live
- Outstanding supporting actress in a drama series**
Maggie Smith, Downton Abbey
- Outstanding supporting actress in a limited series or movie**
Regina King, American Crime
- Outstanding guest actor in a comedy series**
Peter Scolar, Girls
- Outstanding guest actress in a comedy series**
Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, Saturday Night Live — Reuters

'Game of Thrones' and the rise of primetime violence

As "Game of Thrones" swept the Emmys to become the most awarded narrative series in history, the TV world remarked approvingly that its exceptional production values were being given due recognition. But critics say its success is emblematic of an increasingly disturbing predilection in television for intense violence, with directors swapping old-fashioned scares for the kind of gut-churning gore once confined to R-rated movies.

Since its debut in 2010, the fantasy epic—which has now hauled in 38 Emmys in total, including best drama for two years running—has been the target of criticism for senseless violence and, more controversially, its pervasive use of rape as a dramatic device. Over the years, the show has brutalized women, killed children, depicted graphic sex and had its characters hacked, stabbed, flayed, poisoned, decapitated, burned alive, eye-gouged and eviscerated—all in glorious, close-up detail. News magazine The Atlantic described the show's tendency to "ramp up the sex, violence, and especially-sexual violence" in George RR Martin's source novels as its "defining weakness."

Leigh Whannell, who created and starred in the "Saw" and "Insidious" horror franchises, says the creep of violence into TV was the inevitable result of the small screen usurping cinema as the go-to medium for quality entertainment. "As the broadcasters open up, there's places like Netflix, Hulu and all these different streaming services and more places to show materi-

al, the hunger for material is increasing," he told AFP. "I think the rules of what you can and can't show are widening. A place like Netflix can essentially show whatever they want. They don't have to stick to the rules of an ABC or a CBS."

Blood and guts

The blood and guts clearly isn't a turn off for fans of "Game of Thrones," which has grown its audience in the US—where it is shown on premium cable network HBO—to more than 25 million, and is breaking records across the world. Zombie thriller "The Walking Dead," meanwhile, claims the highest total viewership of any series in cable television history. A host of other violent cable and satellite shows, from FX's "The Strain" and Showtime's "Penny Dreadful" to Cinemax's "The Knick" have all been ratings successes—despite the blood and guts.

And network shows like NBC's "Hannibal" demonstrate that violence isn't confined to cable. A 2013 study by the Parents Television Council stated that "some of the most violent TV-14-rated shows on broadcast TV have similar levels and types of violence as TV-MA-rated (Mature Audience) cable TV shows." "I've always been of the view that if you don't like it, don't watch. If someone doesn't like 'Game of Thrones,' they can switch off," Whannell told AFP. There is some evidence of a correlation between small screen and real-life violence, although proof of a causal link has always been patchy.

Psychologists George Comstock and Haejung Paik ana-



lyzed more than 200 studies published between 1957 and 1990, concluding that fictional violence might have a short-term effect on the mindset of susceptible viewers. Six American medical organizations reviewed the research in 2000 and issued a joint statement to Congress concluding that "viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values, and behavior, particularly in children."

'Screwed up'

Mike Flanagan, the director of Universal's upcoming horror film "Ouija: Origin of Evil," says intense violence, gore, torture

and rape have been much more accepted on primetime TV since the turn of the century. "Our tolerance has been challenged and there's only one direction for those things to go. The more we see, and the more content that is put out there in the marketplace, the more gradually desensitized we become," he told AFP.

"In order to get people's attention, there's this gravity toward pushing the envelope even further." But this isn't necessarily a bad thing, he argues, describing television as a provider of a "safe space" in which people are able to reflect on the darker side of human nature. "One of the positives is that at least we get to explore that side of ourselves in a relatively safe environment and in an environment where we can turn off the TV or where the lights come on after the movie is over," Flanagan said.

Actress and producer Naomi Grossman, who starred in two seasons of FX's "American Horror Story," meanwhile says she wants to see "more sex and less violence" on TV. "I just think Americans have it all screwed up, to be honest," she told AFP. "It's so strange to me that you can't show a nipple, can't show breastfeeding, yet you can see someone's neck get slashed." — AFP



A Buddhist devotee looks on during the Naropa festival, popularly known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalaya', a Buddhist gathering that takes place once every twelve years at Hemis village in Leh. — AFP photos



Performers gather at the Naro palace during the Naropa festival, popularly known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalaya'.



Buddhist monks attend prayer during the Naropa festival.

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO INDIAN HIMALAYAS FOR RARE BUDDHIST FESTIVAL

Hundreds of thousands of monks, devotees and tourists have flocked to India's remote Ladakh region for a rare Buddhist festival, dubbed the "Kumbh Mela of the Himalayas" by promoters. Dancers in bright, silk costumes and striking headgear performed to drum and pipe music as part of the festival being held in a mountain village to commemorate the 1,000th birth anniversary of Buddhist saint Naropa. The Indian saint and scholar is heralded by followers for starting a rich tradition of Buddhist philosophy in the 11th century.

Held only once every 12 years, the Naropa Festival draws huge numbers of Buddhists, especially those from the Drukpa branch which is traditionally practiced in Ladakh and Bhutan. Among those in the crowd in Hemis village for the week-long festival was award-winning Chinese-Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh. India is renowned for its numerous religious festivals - including the main Kumbh Mela pilgrimage for Hindus held every 12 years - during which masses of devotees gather at sacred rivers and temples in often chaotic scenes and in searing temperatures.

In contrast, the Naropa Festival is being held in the tranquil Himalayan village that includes a palace and monastery, located some 45 kilometers (28 miles) from the region's main town of Leh. A highlight of the week-long festival that started on Friday was the display of the sacred Six Bone Ornaments - believed to have belonged to Naropa in an hours-long outdoor ceremony. The Drukpa spiritual leader or the Gyalwang Drukpa unveiled the ornaments - which include a crown, earrings and a necklace - to scores of chanting maroon-robed monks and devotees seated under colorful umbrellas as prayers were performed.



Performers dance during an event at the Naro palace.

"I come from south India. Now I came here to see this festival... there are many people (who) came by airplane and from south India and other countries," Sonam Phuntsok, a monk from India's southern city of Bangalore, told AFP. "It's a very nice place here. And the weather is very good. Lots of people came here, I'm very happy." Another highlight is the ceremonial unfurling of a huge silk tapestry of Tibet's patron saint Padmasambhava. The brocade, known in Tibetan as a thangka, was last exhibited in 2004. — AFP



A Buddhist monk looks on during the Naropa festival.



A Buddhist devotee prays during the Naropa festival.



A performer dances during an event at the Naro palace.



Young Buddhist monks attend prayers during the Naropa festival, popularly known as the 'Kumbh Mela of the Himalaya'.



Performers wait to dance during the Naropa festival.



Dancers perform during the Naropa festival.