



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

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**Info minister
hails Amir's
support of youth
at Tamkeen**

**Ex-IMF boss
Rato on trial
over bankers'
luxury sprees**

**Sea dogs take
the lead at
unique US surf
competition**

**FIFA slammed
over disbanding
of racism
task force**
150 FILS
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40 PAGES

FM DENIES ANY INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION WITH ISRAEL

ACTIVIST REMANDED FOR 21 DAYS FOR INSULTING AMIR


 Min 25°
 Max 40°
 High Tide
 08:22 & 22:25
 Low Tide
 02:35 & 16:01

TRUMP: JERUSALEM ISRAEL'S UNDIVIDED CAPITAL

NEW YORK: Republican candidate Donald Trump pledged Sunday to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided" capital if he is elected president, meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who Hillary Clinton also met that evening. Netanyahu met privately with Trump at his residence in Trump Tower a day before the New York billionaire faced off against Democratic rival Clinton for their first presidential debate.

"Trump acknowledged that Jerusalem has been the eternal capital of the Jewish people for over 3,000 years, and that the United States, under a Trump administration, will finally accept the long-standing congressional mandate to recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the state of Israel," his campaign said in a statement.

Israel captured the Arab eastern half of Jerusalem during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and annexed it in 1980, declaring all of Jerusalem Israel's unified capital. The United States - and most other UN member countries - do not recognize the annexation and consider Jerusalem's final status to be a key issue to be resolved in peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

The US Congress passed a law in October 1995 calling for an undivided Jerusalem to be recognized as Israel's capital and to authorize funding for moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. But no US president - Democrat or Republican - has implemented the law, regarding it as an infringement on the executive branch's authority over foreign policy.

Continued on Page 13



HEMPSTEAD, New York: A student poses with a backdrop of US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and her Republican counterpart Donald Trump at Hofstra University, before their first presidential debate. — AFP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah denied yesterday an Israeli press report claiming Kuwait and Israel are coordinating on intelligence. In a response to a question by a lawmaker, the minister said Kuwait has not changed its position towards Israel. He said that Kuwait's policy on Israel is based on a common Arab stand, and accordingly, a low-level Kuwaiti delegation remained at the UN General Assembly when Israeli prime minister spoke.

Separately, the public prosecution yesterday ordered opposition female activist Sara Al-Derees detained for 21 days pending further investigation after interrogating her on accusations of insulting HH the Amir. Derees gave herself up on Sunday after she learnt that the public prosecution planned to question her over comments she wrote on Twitter deemed offensive to the Amir. The activist's lawyer Khaled Al-Hajeri said he will challenge the public prosecutor's decision to detain his client, saying that the 21-day detention does not apply to her.

A challenge must be heard by a judge on urgent basis. The judge can order her release on bail pending trial. Hajeri said that Derees began an open-ended hunger strike in protest against her detention, which he described as against the law. Before giving herself up, she insisted on her Twitter account that she did not

Continued on Page 13

HIJRI YEAR HOLIDAY

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday announced that Sunday, Oct 2, 2016 would be an official holiday on the occasion of the new Hijri year.

News

in brief

Oman journalists jailed, paper shut

MUSCAT: A court in Oman yesterday ordered the permanent closure of a newspaper which had reported on alleged corruption within the judiciary, and jailed three of its journalists on charges that included undermining the prestige of the state. Ibrahim Al-Mamari, editor-in-chief of the privately owned Azamn newspaper, and his deputy and managing editor Youssef Al-Balushi, were jailed for three years and fined 3,000 rials (\$7,800) each. A third journalist, Zaher Al-Abri, was sentenced to one year in jail and fined 1,000 rials. The court found Mamari and Balushi guilty on four charges, including undermining the prestige of the state, disturbing public order, misusing the Internet, and publishing details of a personal status case. It also convicted Balushi of slander and of publishing a report in violation of a ban imposed on any reporting related to Mamari's arrest.

UAE eyes new laws to regulate drones

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates will finalize laws to more heavily regulate the sale of drones and their operations soon, aiming to minimize risks posed by unmanned aerial vehicles, an official at the aviation regulator said yesterday. "Several incidents have happened and to integrate them (drones) safely into the commercial airspace is a challenge," Mohammed Faisal Al-Dossari, director, air navigation and aerodromes department, UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), said. Current regulations on drones in the UAE, introduced in April 2015, relate mainly to commercial licensing and approving how companies use drones and are under constant development. Dossari told reporters at a regional conference on drones. The new laws will also address airworthiness for heavier drones, standards for pilotless aircraft and pilot training among other issues.

Iran downplays deal, UAE keen on freeze

ALGIERS: Iran downplayed yesterday the chances of OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers clinching an output-restraint deal in Algeria this week even though several other members of the group said they still hoped for steps to tackle a price-eroding glut of crude. As delegations gathered in Algiers, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said expectations should be modest. "This is an advisory meeting and that's all we should expect from it," he was quoted as saying by oil ministry news service SHANA before he left for Algiers. Some ministers and officials expressed hope that a deal could emerge. "For us in the UAE, we are for a decision. We think a freeze will help if it is agreed. We hope that all are going to agree," the United Arab Emirates' energy minister Suhail bin Mohammed Al-Mazroui said.

SAUDI OFFICIALS' SALARIES, BONUSES CUT UNPAID PAKISTANI WORKERS TO FLY BACK HOME

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will cut ministers' salaries by 20 percent and scale back financial perks for public sector employees, according to a cabinet statement and royal decree broadcast on state-run Ekhbariya TV yesterday. It was the first announcement of pay cuts for government employees, who make up about two-thirds of working Saudis. "The cabinet has decided to stop and cancel some bonuses and financial benefits," read a line of text on Ekhbariya, as a minister read to assembled ministers and royals, including King Salman, a list of cuts in various grades in the civil service.

The decision comes as low oil prices have pushed energy-rich Gulf Arab states to rein in lavish public spending. The kingdom racked up a record budget

deficit of \$100 billion last year, forcing it to find new savings and ways to raise money. A royal decree read directly after the broadcast on the TV channel announced the cut in ministers' pay, among them the king's successors: Crown Prince and Interior Minister Mohammed bin Nayef, and Deputy Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman. Housing and car allowances for members of the appointed Shura Council will be cut by 15 percent. Overtime bonuses were curbed at between 25 and 50 percent of basic salaries, while annual leave may no longer exceed 30 days.

An exception to the curbs would be made for troops involved in combat operations along the southern border and abroad as part of an 18-month military interven-

tion led by the kingdom in neighboring Yemen. Saudi Arabia unveiled an economic reform plan this year to wean the kingdom off its addiction to oil, on which it depends for the overwhelming share of government revenue. The "Vision 2030" initiative aims to jumpstart the private sector, provide jobs for a growing population and collect more non-oil revenue.

"It's one more economic measure to balance spending. Of course people don't like it, but it's a sign of the times," Saudi analyst and editor of Arab News Jamal Khashoggi said. "Probably the teachers and many others will be affected by it. It shows why it's important for the private sector and Saudi GDP to diversify," he told Reuters.

Continued on Page 13



NEW YORK: Participants march in the Muslim Day Parade on Madison Avenue on Sunday. — AP

BOMB CASE LATEST HARDSHIP FOR NJ'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY

PATERSON, New Jersey: At the Islamic Center of Passaic County, which draws about 2,000 people each Friday for communal prayers, the talk is about how this year is different. After the Sept 11, 2001, terror attacks, people of other faiths in the surrounding community were generally able to see the difference between the radical perpetrators and American Muslims, said Omar Awad, president of the center. But he suggested that distinction seems to be blurring in the public mind amid the anti-Muslim rhetoric of the presidential campaign and growing anger over terrorist strikes in Europe and the United States, the latest allegedly plotted by a New Jersey Muslim.

"They're trying to strike fear between neighbors, between the very fabric of society that we spent so much time trying to make sure that we knitted," said Awad, a New Jersey native, sitting in the offices of the 27-year-old

Paterson mosque. Like Muslims around the country, New Jersey's have been slogging through a particularly painful year. On the campaign trail, the Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump, falsely claimed that Muslims in Jersey City celebrated when the World Trade Center fell, as he sought to promote a proposed national database for Muslims and increased surveillance of mosques.

Gov Chris Christie, who once sharply dismissed those who questioned the loyalty of a Muslim judicial appointee, has endorsed Trump. And now New Jersey Muslims are facing the broad scrutiny that follows when someone in their community is suspected of being a militant. Ahmad Khan Rahami, a US citizen born in Afghanistan, who worked at his family's chicken takeout restaurant in Elizabeth, has been charged by federal

Continued on Page 13

VIOLENT CRIME RISES IN US: FBI

WASHINGTON: Violent crime in the United States rose last year, the FBI said yesterday, reporting data that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump could use in his debates with Democrat Hillary Clinton. The FBI said that in 2015 there were 1,197,704 violent crimes, an increase of 3.9 percent compared with the previous year. Murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 10.8 percent, and firearms were involved in two-thirds of those cases, the agency said.

The increase in the murder rate was due mainly to rises in seven major cities: Chicago, Baltimore, Houston, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Kansas City, and Washington, DC. On the very day the FBI report was released, a gunman in Houston wounded nine people near an apartment complex before being shot and killed by police. Last Friday, a young male shooter killed five people in a department store in the state of Washington.

The FBI figures were released hours before the hotly awaited first presidential debate between Clinton and Trump. Crime was expected to be one of the key topics for discussion. It is one of the pet issues of Trump, who depicts himself as a tough law-and-order candidate. Trump, who is backed by the powerful US gun lobby, hammers away at his idea that America is a country threatened by uncontrolled illegal immigration, which he blames for violent crime and drug trafficking.

Trump, a billionaire real estate developer, dismisses the government of Democratic President Barack Obama as being soft on crime, and could allude to the FBI report during yesterday night's debate to press this argument and bill himself as the solution to the crime problem. Last week Trump expressed support for profiling - the discriminatory police practice of targeting people for suspicion of crime on the basis of their race, ethnicity or religion. Most victims are either African American or Latino.

Although violent crime increased last year, overall the tendency over the past 20 years has been a decline. Crime levels these days in America are far below the peak

Continued on Page 13

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM KICKS OFF



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah seen at the opening ceremony of the Fifth Youth Empowerment Conference. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

STATEMENT OF LAWYER ABDULHADI OVER DNA LAW

We have filed an application with the Constitutional Court challenging the constitutionality of the DNA Law No 78/2015. We have previously issued a statement on 22/07/2015 further to the National Assembly's approval to pass the said law revealing our intention to challenge its constitutionality due to the serious violations affecting fundamental human rights and personal freedoms protected and sacred by Kuwait constitution.

It is true that, from the beginning, we raised legal concerns on this law and decided to challenge it; nevertheless, we are fully aware of its scientific weight and the risks surrounding it, not just in the present but also in the future. We therefore conducted our research on relevant aspects, reviewed related international precedents and international conventions, and we approached spe-

cialists in human genetics asking for their scientific opinion.

In conclusion, the opinion came unanimous and in line with our previous decision that this law, as is, shall be revoked, since the damage it will cause is certain and goes beyond the borders of state of Kuwait. The risks of this law are not merely present because science of Human Genetics is under rapid and constant development. Genetic scientists and researchers cannot determine at this stage the potential outcome of their studies and genetic tests including the intervention in and manipulation of human genome. As a result DNA samples are not to be taken lightly and collected massively.

In addition to violation of basic human rights, this law is in clear violation to the principles of Islamic Sharia and Jurisprudence of the Sunnah in respect

of proving paternity. This matter cannot be ignored in Kuwait as the country applies and implements the principles of Sharia in paternity issues. As for the attempts to justify the DNA law and its practices, made through several statements we observe in the media, they show lack of basic knowledge in the DNA science and even worse reveal ignorance of the significance of DNA when we see DNA (the human source code) compared to fingerprint or personal image.

Under such situation, discussions or debates will not be productive; the courts have long been the highest reference to which people resorted, in Kuwait and worldwide, to protect their privacy, we therefore had recourse to the court to adjust the path seeking to defend human rights, preserve the spirit of the constitution and consequently maintain the state's prestige.

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah said HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is supporting the fifth Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tamkeen), which reflects the government's concern for the youth. He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the conference on Sunday at Radisson Blu Hotel.

"Since the start of this annual conference in 2012 under the aegis of HH the Amir, the political leadership has shown deep belief in the national role of the youth, who constitute the real treasure of the country," Sheikh Salman said. He added that the success of the conference over the past five years lies in the commitment by its organizers, participants and sponsors to the principles of social responsibility and the values of patriotism.

He confirmed that development can be achieved by empowering the Kuwaiti youth, who make up the largest category of the population, and are the key pillars to achieve progress and sustainability, indicating that investment in the youth is the best bet for the present and the future. The minister pointed out that the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the Public Authority for Youth work with other government and non-government organizations, local and international, to hone the entrepreneurial spirit of the youth in all fields of development.

"I hope that youth volunteers will engage in a public awareness campaign against extremist ideology, sectarianism and terrorism, with a view to promote the values of tolerance, peace and coexistence in keeping with the calls of His Highness the Amir," Sheikh Salman said.

Meanwhile, chairman of the conference Ali Al-Ibrahim said the conference seeks to inspire young entrepreneurs to start small and medium size enterprises, which form the backbone of the economy. Ibrahim noted that the gathering provides a chance for youth to network, improve their talents and benefit from the experience of world renowned academics, industrialists and economists. He appreciated the great efforts exerted by Tamkeen and the recognition it receives from the official authorities.

The symposium is considered an ideal opportunity for Kuwaiti youth to gain valuable insights about entrepreneurship from industry leaders, academics and experts. The 5th Youth Empowerment Symposium will host three successful startup entrepreneurs - Jeremy Liew, Corey Owens and Jennifer Boulanger.

Tamkeen is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental Kuwaiti organization that seeks to empower youth and drive a new era of economic development and growth. Tamkeen is a national initiative that is delivered by Kuwaiti youth to the youth in Kuwait. They have been holding this annual youth symposium, as well as holding separate events during the year, to educate, inform and inspire. They also work to assist youth business leaders by providing a training and development leadership program.



Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah and Ali Al-Ibrahim honor Kuwait Times

KIPCO ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC SPONSORSHIP OF THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - has announced that it will be a Strategic Sponsor of the 5th Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tamkeen). The event will be held under the auspices of HH the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on October 25-26. This is the second year that KIPCO supports the conference. Throughout the past twelve months, KIPCO has hosted the Tamkeen Program, a series of closed-door sessions where entrepreneurs can interact on a personal level with business leaders. KIPCO and its Group companies have collaborated once again with Tamkeen this year to launch the 2nd KIPCO Tamkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs.

Speaking at a ceremony celebrating Tamkeen's 5th anniversary, Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director said: "We are delighted to be sponsoring the Youth Empowerment Symposium once again. Our strategic

partnership with Tamkeen has allowed us to interact directly with young people who aspire to set up their own businesses, as well as with entrepreneurs who are keen to strengthen their business base and expand their activities. Through our Group companies, we have been able to support these young people with our collective expertise and know-how."

She added: "Our collaboration with Tamkeen - the conference, the KIPCO Tamkeen Award and the Tamkeen Program - reflects our strong belief in the important role that the private sector must play in order to support the growing SME sector and the diversification of the local economy." Registration for the KIPCO Tamkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs will close on September 29. The 'Startup Battle' will take place during the Tamkeen conference, where the finalists will compete before a live audience. The winner will be announced at the closing of the event.



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The most advanced network in Kuwait received the award for best SOA Vision for "Enterprise Services" in the Middle East and Africa for the year 2016, from ICMG corporation for excellence in executing its vision in Enterprise Architecture domain as per international standards and the high efficiency of its services.





KUWAIT'S MAJOR ROAD PROJECT NEARLY COMPLETE

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced yesterday that Jamal Abdunnasser road project is near completion. The project execution - which has reached 78 percent is of one of Kuwait's major development enterprises. The renovation works, including causeways and turning points, will conclude early next year, Ahmad Al-Hesani, the Assistant Undersecretary for Roads Engineering said in a statement. The project is aimed at transforming the road into an 11-km-long multiple-storey highway. Mahmoud Haji Ramadan, the chief project engineer, said the venture execution is proceeding according to schedules affirming it would enhance the roads' traffic accommodation capacity. Kuwait is building a network of new roads and highways as part of the development and strategy and to resolve the traffic problems. — KUNA



KUWAIT BUILDING CRIMINAL INSPECTION HEADQUARTERS

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Labor and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Al-Omar has signed a contract for establishing, furnishing and maintaining a building that will house the headquarters of the General Directorate for Criminal

Inspections, at a total cost of KD 36.377 million. The Ministry said in a statement yesterday that the building will be situated on a 30,000-sq-m plot of land in South Surra. The four-storey building will include multiple-floor parking lots. — KUNA



INFLATION UP 2.9%

GCC COMMITTEE DISCUSSES BOURSES' INTEGRATION

KUWAIT: The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for August 2016 recorded an increase estimated at 2.90% compared to August 2015, the Central Statistical Bureau said. The index figure for the month recorded an increasing at 141.9, by 0.14% as a result of the rise in prices of some major groups of influential figures in the movement and low standard of some groups, it said in its monthly report. The index for the group of "food and beverages" increased in the month of August 2016 by 0.39%. So the annual inflation rate for this group decreased in August 2016 by 0.19% compared with August 2015, it showed. The index for the group of "tobacco and narcotics" stood in August 2016 at 152.5, as in the last month without any change. Its annual inflation rate increased in August 2016 by 0.53% compared with August 2015.

The Index for "clothing and footwear" went up by in August 2016 by 0.31%. Its annual inflation rate rose in August 2016 by 1.25% compared with August 2015, it added. Regarding "home furnishings and equipment maintenance", the index hiked in August 2016 by 0.14%. So the annual inflation increased in August 2016 by 3% compared with August 2015, the report said. The Index for "health" stood in August 2016 at 130.8%, as in the last month without any change, and the annual inflation rate went up in August 2016 by 1.95% compared with August 2015.

Concerning "transport", the index stood in August 2016 at 122.9%, as in the last month without any change, and the annual inflation rate dropped in August 2016 by 1.92% compared with August 2015. The index of "communication" stood in August 2016 at 101.5%, as in the last month without any change, so the annual inflation rate increased in August 2016 by

0.40% compared with August 2015, it added. "Recreation and Culture" index stood in August 2016 at 128.8%, as in the last month without any change. So its annual inflation rate increased in August 2016 by 0.70% compared with August 2015.

The "education" group's index stood in August 2016 at 139.6%, as in the last month without any change, and its annual inflation rate went up in August 2016 by 3.48% compared with August 2015, the report indicated. "Restaurants and hotels" group's index stood in August 2016 at 143.8%, as in the last month without any change. So the annual inflation rate rose in August 2016 by 4.05% compared with

August 2015. The index of the group of "miscellaneous goods and services" increased in August 2016 by 0.45%, so its annual inflation went up by 1.77% in August 2016 compared with August 2015.

Meanwhile, a GCC Financial Committee discussed, on Sunday, the integration of the stock exchange markets in the GCC countries and the unification of its policies and regulations. The committee also tackled, in its 15th meeting, mechanisms of monitoring the GCC stock exchange markets, its trading times, and the establishment of an online portal. In addition, the meeting touched on the latest developments of these markets. — Agencies

TWO VEHICLES COLLIDE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two vehicles collided and caught fire along Mina Abdullah scrapyard road, said security sources, noting that both drivers were uninjured.

Violations detected

An inspection committee comprising of 40 elements from PAAAFR, Municipality, EPA, environment police, demolition committee and KFSD inspected Sulaibiya agricultural area, where many violations were detected, including wrongly stored hazardous and inflammable chemicals, unlicensed constructions and buildings on government property.

e-crime charges

Following the case of an advert on the social media networks on the sale of a police patrol, Mol's Relations and Security Media announced that criminal investigators have arrested the person responsible for the advert. The suspect has been referred to relevant authorities with e-crime related charges.

Boat crew rescued

The crew of a wooden boat arriving from a neighboring country was recently rescued near Aouha island after a leak, KFSD's PR and Media Department said, noting that rescue teams also managed to prevent the boat from sinking.

MOI SEEKS INCREASED MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Information (Mol) strives to work progressively to bring the nation's goals and ambitions to fruition, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday. Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of a media conference that he is patronizing, Sheikh Salman said that the Ministry looks to enhance its capabilities through partnerships forged with international organizations, such as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Moreover, he noted that the conference centers on a new form of media, as he highlighted the significance of the sector in serving the nation's best interests, adding that the conference will unveil a year-long program aimed at developing

national media. Meanwhile, the Mol's Undersecretary of the Media Planning and Development Department Mohammad Al-Awash noted that the ministry has been able to depict an extraordinary image of Kuwait through its works.

He also added that the partnership with BBC is a new endeavor that consists of eight projects the ministry is undertaking to further develop the media sector. In his speech, Samir Faraj, an official from BBC Arabic, said that current methods to convey messages to the audience are not adequate, noting that there is room for further improvement. The encompassing media conference tackles a myriad of issues that run the gamut from the digital world to the internet and numerical archives. — KUNA

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Crime

Report

FORGING MEDICAL REPORT

KUWAIT: A bedoon and a female citizen were arrested for forging a medical report claiming that the bedoon, who has security restrictions against him, has cancer, so he could get a passport and travel abroad for treatment.

7 Kuwaitis arrested

Seven citizens were arrested in Qadsiya for fighting, said security sources, noting that the fight was over old grievances.

Vehicle missing

Guards at Mol's impoundment garage in Amghara reported that unidentified robbers managed to steal a vehicle from the garage. They said that the robbery was discovered when the owner paid the fines and came to retrieve his vehicle, only to find it missing.

Masked men with cleavers

A citizen reported that three masked men carrying cleavers barged into his house in Saad Al-Abdullah. They assaulted his daughter and stole her mobile phone.

Homebrewed liquor

Ahmadi detectives arrested three Asians selling homebrewed liquor, using a minibus that belongs to a laundry company they work for.

Woman attacked

A female citizen reported that after rejecting his calls, someone she knows attacked her while she was alone in a chalet. However, the alleged suspect fled the scene when police arrived.

Fire at Imam School

A fire broke out at Imam Malek secondary school for boys in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, said security sources, noting that the school had to be evacuated while firemen fought the blaze. They found the fire started in a ventilation fan.

Kuwaiti gang nabbed

A five-member gang of Kuwaitis was arrested for forging cheques to steal money from major companies and establishments. Security sources noted that the suspects confessed that their leader was based in Jordan and that they got a 30 percent commission for each operation. The sources added that Interpol has been contacted to locate, arrest and extradite the boss. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

SPAGHETTI ACTION

Al-Anbaa

By Salah Al-Sayer

The father of bint al-noukhatha (the captain's daughter in Kuwaiti dialect) is not a ship captain simply because it is a fish, as this name is used in Kuwait to describe the banded seabream that looks like the colorful clothes only a captain's daughter could wear. Therefore, names can sometimes be deceptive, because people who are named handsome or beautiful are not at all good-looking. Iconic Arab singer Fairouz once sang the following lines in one of her famous songs: 'Names are just words...they have nothing to do with us...our eyes are our real names'.

Likewise, origins do not represent true identities. Not all Indians like chilli in their food. Names do not reflect home or nationality. Peanuts (known as Sudanese beans in the Arab world) originate from Brazil. Many families in the Arab world have names like the Algerian, the Iraqi, the Egyptian and the Moroccan without having anything to do with these

countries. Many people in Kuwait still believe that raqqi soap (Aleppo soap made out of olive oil) is made out of raqqi (watermelon) peel, while it actually got its name by originating in the Syrian city of Raqqa.

The bottom line is that just because the terrorist organization IS hoists an Islamic flag and occupies Arab territories does not necessarily mean it is Arab or Muslim, especially when we live in times full of deceit. We do not know that the most famous movies showing life in the American West were produced by Italians and shot in Spain. According to cinema historians, they are even known as 'Spaghetti Westerns'.

So it is most likely that in the near future, we might discover a similar link between IS and Arabs just like that of US and Italian movies, where the actors were known to everybody while the producers were anonymous. Action!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

5-STAR PRISON? WHY NOT?

By Mudaffar Abdullah

It is imperative that MEW immediately issues a study showing that using LED lights will annually save KD 900 million and put it into practice in order to change our concept and culture of consumption. In an interview with the interior ministry's assistant undersecretary for correctional facilities and law enforcement Maj Gen Khaled Al-Deyyeen, a reporter talked about various practices at the central prison and detention centers like Talha.

Deyyeen remarkably described the prison as a five-star jail, and this generated a great deal of sarcasm on social media networks, where bloggers criticized the prison's management and reminded of the many previous incidents and practices that violate prison laws. I personally find the five-star description a proper one, because after all, the main purpose of prisons is to act as correctional facilities and not places of revenge. We hope the new building would be better in both bricks and staff. However, the interview revealed many mistakes that will probably be carried over to the new building.

Thanks to the frantic efforts exerted by members of the parliamentary human rights committees in previous parliaments, such as Mohammed Al-Mershad, Ahmed Al-Nassar, Abdul Mohsen Jamal and others and the efforts of consecutive prison wardens, situations at the central prison have undoubtedly changed compared to those before the invasion. Unfortunately, what is socially happening seems to surpass the prison's management to achieve the goal of the law, as Kuwait has turned into a place for drug dealing, trafficking and transport, in addition to the spread of bribery and corruption.

Deyyeen did not deny that some inmates get out with more criminal behaviors they learn in prison, that a high percentage of them go back to committing the same crimes, that drugs and mobile phones are being smuggled to those behind bars and that many ex-cons find trouble finding jobs. This has existed since the beginning of the 1990s, which reflect the prison's need for development. The same has been said about Talha detention center for two decades, where some deportees are detained for over a month and suffer from lack of recreation, are unable to file complaints and lack of translators for non-Arab deportees.

To have a five-star prison is very positive for the state and would make as proud of the welfare prisoners get, as in many other countries. Yet, the problem will always remain in the people running this facility and how acquainted they are with modern technology and security sciences needed to turn a prison into a correctional facility. —Translated by Kuwait Times

KUWAIT STICKS TO ARAB STANCE TOWARDS ISRAEL

KUWAIT: Kuwait is committed to the stance of Arab nations towards Israel, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's remarks came in response to a question posed by an MP regarding common Arab practice on how to deal with Israel during international congregations, noting that Arab delegations have typically stayed put whenever an Israeli official addresses major assemblies.

Moreover, he added that Arab nations are cognizant that Israel is a member of the United Nations (UN), which entitles it to certain positions and rights, thus, it is incumbent upon Arab delegations to remain seated during speeches by Israeli officials. Speaking on Kuwait's commitment to the Arab position towards Israel, the Foreign Minister



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

said that Kuwaiti officials have always reprimanded Israel in speeches at international events, while pressing the international community to shore up support for Palestine.

Furthermore, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled noted that Arab nations' animosity towards Israel is embedded in resolutions issued by the Arab League, ones that Kuwait strictly adheres to. To further reinforce Kuwait's commitment to that position, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled paraphrased His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, when he said that "Kuwait will be the last Arab nation to have ties with Israel." The Foreign Minister also underscored that Kuwait will remain firm in its support of the Palestinian cause, part of a concerted Arab stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. —KUNA

BURGAN BANK SPONSORS A NEW NATIONAL PROJECT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank yesterday announced its sponsorship of a new national project aiming at preserving the marine environment in Kuwait. The project is organized by "Kuwait Marine Team" and is held for the first time in Kuwait. The Kuwait Marine Team was founded during 2014, and consists of a group of young Kuwaitis who united through their love of volunteer work and their love of the sea, which is an interest brought to us through our ancestors since the founding of Kuwait.

The team held three competitions since its foundation, which include the first Annual Forum for Sea Pioneers; the Fishing Contest; as well as the Second Contest of catching of the Kingfish with the participation of 140 teams from the GCC. The bank pointed out that the national project to preserve the marine environment, includes the cleaning of Kuwait's different islands and shores, the installation of marine stalls, and the planting and placing of coral reefs and fish colonies, pointing out that it includes three main axes, which are the shore and the medium and large depths, which are rich in coral reefs, and would apply to the southern atolls in Kubbar and Um Al Maradim and Qaruh, and in Khiran beaches and streams, and others.

The objective of this project is to spread awareness and educate the public on preserving the marine environment,



while encouraging the public to practice reducing the irresponsible behavior by the visitors of the islands and beaches of Kuwait. The bank further explained that its support to this project stems from its commitment and strategy towards Corporate Social Responsibility, and its keenness on protecting the marine environment in Kuwait while supporting Kuwaiti youth and their initiatives in all sectors of the community.

The project is being implemented by talented Kuwaiti youth volunteers, and in collaboration with certified and specialized national centers in the field of diving, along with government entities concerned with maritime safety and protection, the environment and health issues in general. Borgan Bank will be keen on con-

tinuing to support the activities of Kuwait's Marine Team in the coming period, through its major role of being a leading financial institution in support of youth activities and initiatives.

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

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Donald who? Most N Koreans don't care about US election

MOROCCAN SECULAR PARTY TO OPPOSE ‘CREEPING CONSERVATISM’



ALEPPO: Syrians walk past empty stalls at a market in the rebel-held area of the northern Syrian city of Aleppo on September 19, 2016, after humanitarian relief failed to enter the city under seige. — AFP

COVERING SYRIA THROUGH HUNGER, FEAR

A JOURNALIST’S JOURNEY OF DEATH, STRIFE AND COURAGE

ALEPPO: For Karam Al-Masri, AFP’s reporter, photographer and video journalist in rebel-held Aleppo, the past five years have been a series of tragedies: detention by the regime, and then the Islamic State group, the death of his parents in an air strike, the siege of his hometown, hunger and bombardment. Though it all, he has continued to report, with unwavering courage, the story of his ravaged city. This is his story:

Before the revolution in Syria began in 2011, my life was very simple. I was a law student at Aleppo University. But today, I’ve lost everything—my family, my university. I’m an only child. What I miss most is my family, my father, my mother. Particularly her. I think about her every day, I see her in my dreams. To this day, losing her hurts me. I live alone, I don’t have anyone. Most of my friends are gone, either dead or in exile.

My life since the beginning of the bombing in Aleppo has become about trying to stay alive. It is like I live in the jungle and I’m trying to survive until tomorrow. When the planes come, I try to find shelter in a more secure building. When there is artillery fire, I go to the lower floors. I’m constantly fleeing. Before the siege, I relied on fast

food places, but now everything is closed. I don’t know how to cook, and there are days when I only eat one meal, and others when I have none at all. Before the siege, I spent the day outside looking for stories to film. But since the siege, I’m hungry and weaker and I stay at home more.

When the uprising began in 2011, I was nearly 20 years old. Two or three months later, I was arrested by the regime’s political intelligence services. I spent a month in prison, including a week in complete isolation in a tiny cell. It was awful, but I was released during an amnesty in 2011. At the beginning of the uprising there were peaceful demonstrations. There was no bombing. There was nothing to fear except detention and snipers in the street.

Kidnapped by IS

The following year, in July 2012, Aleppo was divided into two, with the eastern side held by rebels and the western side by the regime. In November 2013, when I was 22, I was kidnapped by Daesh (the Islamic State group). They took me from an ambulance with my friends, a paramedic and a photographer. We were all taken to an

unknown location. It was worse that the regime’s prisons. It was very, very tough. The photographer and I were released six months later after an “amnesty” but our third friend, the paramedic, wasn’t as lucky. He was decapitated after 55 days in prison. They filmed it and showed us the video: “Look at your friend, that’s what will happen to you soon.” We were utterly terrified. I was constantly afraid. I thought “tomorrow it will be my turn, the day after tomorrow it will be my turn.”

I still remember every detail. The 165 days in IS detention are etched into my memory. In the first 45 days, they only fed us every three days. The food was a half portion of Arabic flatbread, or three olives or an egg. I didn’t see a single shabbih (pro-regime militant) — all those held with us were rebels, activists and journalists.

I was tortured during both detentions, but it was worse with the regime because they wanted me to confess who I was working with. With Daesh, the charges were set from the beginning—I had a camera and for them I was an infidel—so there was no need to interrogate me. I lost my family at the beginning of 2014, when I was still being held by IS. A barrel bomb hit our building,

killing all the residents inside, including both my parents. I only found out when I was released. My friends tried to persuade me not to go to my house and told me what had happened. I spent a month in complete despair. I knew nothing about my parents when I was in prison, and then when I was released, they were gone. They had been waiting for news about me, and in the end, they weren’t there to celebrate my release. In 2016, the city came under siege. But for me the siege is less difficult than prison, and the loss of my parents.

Window to the outside world

I got the idea of becoming a cameraman in 2012, when I filmed protests with my phone and uploaded the images online to show what was really happening, that it wasn’t just 10 people or just terrorists like the regime said. There were people who didn’t want the regime anymore, they wanted freedom, democracy, justice. In 2013, I started as a freelancer with AFP and gradually I improved. I would watch reports on foreign channels and see how they filmed, what angles they used, and try to do the same.

I never thought about becoming a reporter,

but over time I’ve come to like this job. I have enormous respect for journalism, and I’m honest in how I practice it. Even if I sympathize with the opposition and I live in opposition-held territory, even if I participated in anti-regime demonstrations, I avoid filming subjectively and taking the opposition’s side in my work. I think this job is sacred, and I’m very careful. If something is in doubt, or doesn’t seem real, I don’t film it.

Working with journalists abroad, or outside of the besieged areas is like a window for me to send a message to the outside world. The massacres and the bombings have become normal, along with images of children under rubble, the injured, bodies torn to pieces. I’ve gotten used to it, not like before. At the end of 2012, during the first massacre, when I saw a man with his leg torn off, I felt ill and I fainted at the sight of blood, because it was the first time. Now it’s something normal to me. The hardest thing for me would be going back to my family home. Until today, I haven’t had the strength to go. Since 2014, it’s the only area in Aleppo that I prefer to avoid, I can’t bear to. It would stir up old memories. I’m told the building has been destroyed... — AFP

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REBELS, FAMILIES ABANDON HOMS UNDER GOVT DEAL

DAMASCUS: More than 130 rebels and their families were bussed out of the last rebel-held district in Syria's Homs yesterday, the third such evacuation from the city since last year. A source from the Homs governorate told AFP that 131 rebels, in addition to 119 family members, quit Waer district for Dar Al-Kubra, an opposition-held area in the northern parts of Homs province. "We will continue evacuating armed men from the neighborhood. The process will be finished in the next few weeks," Homs governor Talal Barazi told Syrian state televi-

sion. Families were seen carrying luggage onto large green buses with the help of Syrian Red Crescent volunteers, as army soldiers looked on. Yesterday's was the third evacuation since rebel groups, worn down by a three-year government siege, struck a deal with Damascus to leave the district. The agreement was reached in December and will eventually see Waer come under full government control. Homs was once dubbed the "capital of the revolution" because of the large-scale protests held there when the Syrian uprising began

in March 2011. An estimated 600,000 people live under siege across Syria, according to the United Nations. Yesterday, the UN's World Food Program said it delivered life-saving food aid to civilians in four besieged towns in Syria for the first time since April. Madaya and Zabadani, near Damascus, are encircled by government forces while Fuaa and Kafraya in the northwest are besieged by hardline rebels.

The aid deliveries took place on Sunday and saw 53 trucks enter Madaya and Zabadani, with another

18 to Fuaa and Kafraya, according to the International Committee for the Red Cross. But WFP's country director in Syria said concerns were still high for the estimate 250,000 residents of eastern districts of Aleppo city, besieged by government troops since early this month. "We call on all parties to this terrible conflict to immediately open transport routes that allow unconditional, unimpeded, sustained and safe humanitarian access to those in eastern Aleppo and every family across Syria that needs our support," Jakob Kern said. — AFP

MOROCCAN SECULAR PARTY TO OPPOSE 'CREEPING CONSERVATISM' IN ELECTION

WARNS OF DANGERS OF GROWING REACTIONARY THOUGHT

RABAT: The head of Morocco's main secular party has vowed to combat "creeping conservatism" as it takes on the country's ruling Islamists in parliamentary elections next month. In an interview with AFP ahead of the October 7 poll, Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) chief Ilyas El Omari warned of the dangers of growing reactionary thought in Morocco.

On the west coast of North Africa just south of Spain, Morocco has long been considered among the most liberal of nations in the Arab world. But Omari said that since the Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) came to power in 2011, the country has changed. "We are aiming to develop society by tackling creeping conservatism both within the state and outside,"

said the 49-year-old party leader, wearing an open-necked shirt and steel-rimmed glasses. "What's happening in our society is scary... violent reactions against the modernization of social mores," he said.

The Islamist PJD led by Abdelilah Benkirane swept to victory in 2011 polls and has since headed a coalition that includes liberals, Communists and conservatives. It denies any links or support for Islamic extremism and is campaigning on a record of guiding Morocco through the turbulence of the Arab Spring, economic woes and a constitutional overhaul. Still, Omari said the PJD is "clinging to its ideological positions" and said his party is better placed to run the country. Speaking to AFP at a hotel

where he was launching the PAM's campaign, he said the party was placing women's rights and representation at the heart of its agenda. He said his party aimed to get 30 women into parliament, which currently has 67 female MPs including 11 from the PAM and 20 from the PJD.

'We need women in parliament'

The PAM has presented two electoral lists entirely made up of women, along with six others headed by women—a first in the Arab world, say party activists. "We want to put our words into action. Everyone is talking about equality today, but we don't see progress. We need women in parliament," Omari said. The PJD accuses Omari's party, founded in 2008 by Fouad Ali El Himma, an advisor to King Mohammed VI, of being too close to the royal palace—an accusation Omari rejected.

"Most Moroccan parties were created by people close to the king—including the PJD," he said. "If someone has a problem with the monarchy, the king or his advisors, he should have the courage to say so." Omari also flatly rejected any possibility of forming a coalition with the PJD. The PAM sees itself as the defender of modern, democratic values, campaigning under the slogan "Change Now" and warning that another PJD-led government could spell "catastrophe".

Omari called on the Islamist party to clearly distance itself from militant views. Benkirane, the prime minister, prompted an outcry earlier this year when he quoted Ibn Taymiyah, a militant 13-century theologian who inspires many of today's jihadists.

"We know who adopts Ibn Taymiyah's doctrine. That doctrine... calls for jihad and takfir (denouncing other Muslims as non-believers)," Omari said. Omari launched his party's election campaign at a hotel in Casablanca that was the scene of a 2003 jihadist attack that left 45 dead. "Innocents were killed here," he said.

"The killers said 'yes to death, no to life'. We have chosen this place to declare the opposite: 'yes to life'." — AFP



RABAT: Supporters of Moroccan Islamic Justice and Development Party (PJD) wave the party flag during a meeting in Rabat on September 25, 2016, ahead of the upcoming parliamentary election. — AFP

US NETWORK OF TURKISH CLERIC FACING PRESSURE

WASHINGTON: A network of more than 150 US charter schools linked to followers of Fethullah Gulen, the Pennsylvania-based Muslim cleric the Turkish government blames for instigating July's failed coup, has come under growing financial and legal strain, according to school officials, current and former members of Gulen's movement, and public records reviewed by Reuters. The publicly financed schools, a key source of jobs and business opportunities for US members of Gulen's global movement, have sharply slowed their expansion in recent years, public records show. The slowdown comes amid a series of government probes in more than a dozen states into allegations ranging from misuse of taxpayer funds to visa fraud. The investigations launched by state and federal officials have not resulted in criminal charges or directly implicated Gulen, whose name is not on any of the charter schools. The increased pressure on the schools also comes as the Turkish government is cracking down on Gulen supporters at home and presses hard for Gulen's extradition.

Just three new schools were opened each in 2015 and this year to date, down from a peak of 23 new schools in 2010, according to a Reuters review of the public records of 153 charter schools and their management companies around the country. The decline runs counter to the steady growth over the past six years of all US charter schools, which receive taxpayer funds but are exempt from some rules that govern traditional state-run public schools.

At the same time, 15 schools have been closed or transferred to owners with no connection to Gulen's movement since 2010. In at least 11 of those cases - including in Georgia, California, Pennsylvania and Ohio - the management firms or individual schools themselves had faced official investigations, Reuters found. "Since these investigations and pressures from media coverage have been going on, the schools are much more, maybe five times more careful, in terms of their finances, how they hire contractors," said Hakan Berberoglu, acting executive director of the Illinois-based Niagara Foundation, which aims to promote the inter-faith dialogue espoused by Gulen, its honorary president. "They are much more careful in how they expand," he told Reuters. Berberoglu said that the schools are

not officially affiliated with Gulen and are not centrally controlled by anyone. In another sign of a slowdown, the number of visa applications the schools submitted for guest workers from Turkey and other countries declined to 360 last year from more than 1,000 in 2010, immigration records show. The trend reflects a desire by the schools linked to Gulen followers to avoid further government scrutiny, according to current and former members of the movement.

In the wake of the failed coup, Ankara's attorneys in the United States have stepped up an aggressive campaign to try to persuade local, state and federal authorities to open new inquiries and discredit the charter schools and other US operations linked to Gulen. Asked about signs that the movement is under stress in the United States, Alp Aslanoğlu, Gulen's spokesman, said: "We are not worried about that." Many Gulen supporters in Turkey are now looking to their US-based brethren for material support and safe haven, according to current and former members of the movement. "It's been my job to save people, to help people who want to come over here," said one US-based Turkish businessman, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his efforts to assist would-be immigrants. The reclusive imam Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, denies involvement in the coup attempt.

Base of Business

Gulen's global movement - known as "Hizmet", which means "service" in Turkish - seeks to spread what his supporters say is the charismatic preacher's moderate brand of Islam, which promotes Western-style education, free markets and inter-faith communication. The United States has become the Gulen movement's most important base of business operations outside Turkey except for Germany, according to independent experts on the movement. In addition to the schools, followers run a loosely affiliated collection of businesses, civic associations and charities. Some Turkish-American-owned contractors who do business with the schools have been targeted in state and federal investigations over allegations they received preferential treatment, according to current and former members and

legal documents. Berberoglu said the schools have hired and done business with members of the movement because they can be relied on as trustworthy and capable. "You want these schools to be successful, you need to depend on people that you know," he said.

Groups linked to the Gulen movement, including several whose directors have also led charter schools, have sponsored hundreds of US congressional trips to Turkey and nearby countries in the past eight years, according to congressional records. But such trips have mostly halted since 2015 when the Justice Department launched a criminal probe of possible irregularities in funding sources for some of the travels.

Aslanoğlu acknowledged that some of the schools were started by Gulen "sympathizers". He added that the movement led by the 77-year-old cleric exerts no central control, and some followers say his role is strictly inspirational. The school network has put down deep roots in the United States over the past nearly two decades with administrators deftly navigating the public funding process. A series of bond sales have totaled \$683 million since 2006, according to data collected by Reuters. Bond sales by four of the school chains alone in 2014 - the latest annual data available for this niche - accounted for 6 percent of the entire tax-exempt US charter school bond market that year.

Legal Actions

US lawyers for Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan say they suspect the schools are a front that generates \$500 million annually that is funneled from Gulen's movement for subversive activities against the Turkish state, such as bribing officials. The attorneys do not provide specifics on how they believe this is done. Aslanoğlu, Gulen's spokesman, dismissed the accusations as "false" and unsubstantiated, describing it as part of a vendetta against "movement participants" outside of Turkey. In at least one instance - a Texas case - the Turkish government's post-coup accusations against a large school chain have prompted renewed scrutiny. The Texas Education Agency said in late July they were reviewing a complaint filed by the Turkish government's legal team of alleged fiscal improprieties by Harmony Public Schools, a Houston-based firm that runs 48 charter schools. — AFP



ALEPPO: In this Wednesday, Sept 21, 2016, file photo, provided by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, rescue workers work the site of airstrikes in the Al-Sakhour neighborhood of the rebel-held part of eastern Aleppo. — AP

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER: CEASEFIRE DEAL NOT DEAD

BEIRUT: Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al-Moallem said in a TV interview broadcast yesterday that an internationally-brokered ceasefire for Syria is still viable, as rescue workers in Aleppo

cleaned up from what they said were the worst airstrikes on rebel-held areas of the northern city in five years. Al-Moallem, in the interview on Mayadeen TV from New York, also said President Bashar Assad's administration is prepared to take part in a unity government, incorporating elements from the opposition, an offer that has been rejected in the past by his opponents.

The interview comes amid spiraling violence in Syria, particularly around the contested city of Aleppo. According to opposition activists, more than 200 civilians have been killed in the past week under a sustained aerial campaign that UN envoy Staffan de Mistura called one of the worst of the 5 1/2-year war. The United Nations Security Council convened an emergency meeting but failed to take any action because of deep divisions between Russia and the Western powers.

"What Russia is sponsoring and doing is not counter-terrorism, it's barbarism," said US Ambassador Samantha Power. "It's apocalyptic what is being done in eastern Aleppo." Al-Moallem accused the US, Britain, and France of convening the Security Council meeting a day earlier in order to support "terrorists" inside Syria. But he said ongoing communications between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov meant a truce agreement brokered two weeks ago is "not dead."

'Obvious preparations'

Syria's military declared the cease-fire ended one week ago. The spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin said the cease-fire in Syria is ineffective, but that Moscow is not losing hope for a political solution to the country's crisis. However, Dmitry Peskov told reporters Monday that the Kremlin is concerned that "terrorists are

using the cease-fire regime to regroup, to replenish their arsenals and for obvious preparations to carry out attacks."

Peskov also took issue with harsh criticism by the United States and Great Britain over Russia's actions in Syria. He said Russia considers the tone of the criticism unacceptable and "such rhetoric is capable of causing serious harm to the resolution process" in Syria. Al-Moallem's comments came as a second group of rebel gunmen and their families began evacuating from an opposition neighborhood in central Syria this month.

Some 120 gunmen and their families are expected to leave the Al-Waer neighborhood in the central city of Homs as part of an agreement to restore the government's authority over the neighborhood, Homs Governor Talal Barazi said. The developments further signal Assad's determination to settle the country's 5-1/2 year long war on his own terms, securing surrenders through sieges and staying in power at least through an interim period to steer the country out of crisis.

Pro-government forces have kept the Al-Waer neighborhood under a steadily tightening siege since November 2013, prohibiting food and medical supplies from reaching the remaining 75,000 residents, down from 300,000 before the start of the war in 2011. In exchange for the evacuations, the government is permitting aid convoys to supply the neighborhood with badly needed food and medical supplies. A Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy of 36 trucks delivered assistance for 4,000 families in the district Saturday.

UN humanitarian officials have condemned the sieges against civilians as "medieval" and in contravention to international law. In New York, Al-Moallem reaffirmed his government's proposed roadmap to end Syria's war, saying Damascus would support a referendum on a new constitution followed by parliamentary elections and the formation of a unity government. — AP

AHMADINEJAD SHOULD STAY OUT OF ELECTION, SAYS CONSERVATIVES

TEHRAN: Iranian conservatives called on former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to stay out of next year's election following a speech by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday. In a cautiously worded statement ahead of a theological class, Khamenei said: "A certain person came to me and I told him not to do a certain thing, believing it would be to the benefit of both the person himself and the country." Although he did not mention Ahmadinejad by name, several conservative figures interpreted his words as a rebuke to the controversial former president who led the country from 2005 until the 2013 presidential election.

"Mr Ahmadinejad must be very thankful and grateful for the leader's advice and he will definitely listen to this advice and not run for the election, and will be of service to people in some other position," said Mohammad Gharavian, a cleric in the holy city of Qom, according to ISNA news agency.

Ahmadinejad has made numerous public appearances in recent months,

leading to speculation that he was planning a comeback in the presidential election next May.

Khamenei implied that such a move would create "a bi-polar atmosphere" that would "damage the country". Ahmadinejad's inflammatory rhetoric—particularly regarding Iran's nuclear program and hostility towards Israel—was blamed for deepening tensions with the West, but his populist approach and humble roots means he has retained popularity with poorer sections of Iranian society.

By the end of his term, he had alienated even the conservative establishment and faced wide-ranging criticism over his handling of the economy and failure to show sufficient deference to the supreme leader. President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate who oversaw a deal with world powers to end sanctions in exchange for curbing Iran's nuclear program, is expected to run for a second term, although he faces mounting pressure from conservatives who say the deal has brought few benefits to Iran. — AFP

JORDAN IMPOSES MEDIA BLACKOUT

AMMAN: Jordan's judiciary yesterday slapped a media blackout on the murder of a Christian writer who was gunned down outside an Amman court where he faced charges over an anti-Islam cartoon. The information ministry said the aim was to preserve "the secrecy of the investigation" and that the blackout applied to both social and

traditional media. Nahed Hattar was hit by three bullets before the alleged assassin was arrested at the scene of Sunday's shooting in Amman's central Abdali district, official media said.

The assailant-bearded and robbed like a conservative Muslim—shot the 56-year-old as he made his way up the steps outside the court. The

gunman, identified as a 49-year-old Jordanian, gave himself up to police, a security source said. A judicial source said on Sunday that the assailant was remanded for 15 days and charged with premeditated murder, meaning that he could face the death penalty if convicted.

The suspect had acted alone and was not linked to any "terrorist"

group, a source close to his interrogation said, asking not to be named. Hattar faced charges over a cartoon posted on his Facebook page, under the title "God of Daesh" (the Islamic State jihadist group), showing a bearded man in bed smoking with two women lying on either side, and addressing God as a servant. — AFP



LONDON: Empty chairs, with images showing the faces of some of the 43 missing Mexican students, are pictured during a protest outside the Mexican Embassy. — AFP

PARENTS OF MEXICO’S MISSING STUDENTS LIVE IN CLASSROOMS

AYOTZINAPA: They turned classrooms at their children’s college into dormitories, sleeping on the floor, but parents of 43 Mexican students missing since 2014 won’t rest until they find them. The mothers live in one classroom that still has a whiteboard, while fathers bunk in another. Mosquito nets hang over their mattresses, but that didn’t stop one mother from being infect with Zika.

Two tables serve as makeshift altars with photos of their boys next to religious icons. They pray to see their sons alive again, two years after they disappeared in a case that remains unsolved, causing widespread anger at the failure of President Enrique Peña Nieto’s government to find the students.

Around 20 parents have made the teacher training college in Ayotzinapa, southern Guerrero state, their home since September 27, 2014, the day after their sons vanished from the city of Iguala. The night before, dozens of young men from the school had gone to Iguala to seize buses for a protest in Mexico City, but they were attacked by local police. Prosecutors say the officers handed 43 of the students to a drug cartel, but what happened next has been the subject of heated debate.

The attorney general’s office initially said the cartel killed the students after confusing them with a rival gang, incinerated their bodies at a garbage dump and tossed the remains in a river. Only one student has been identified through a bone fragment found at the river. But independent experts from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights rejected that conclusion, saying there was no scientific proof of such a massive fire at the landfill. The parents always doubted the government’s conclusions and the report helps them cling to hope that their sons can still be found. The attorney general’s office says it will soon use laser scanning technology to look for clandestine graves in other locations and investigate if police from other towns were involved in the mass disappearance.

The parents moved to the college because they live in remote parts of the impoverished state, and traveling is expensive for them. They wanted to be closer to the protests, and fight to find their children. Maria Elena Guerrero’s voice shakes when she says she believes her son, Giovanni Galindo, who would be 21 years old today, is still alive.

A cardboard hangs on the wall with verses written by Uruguayan poet Mario Benedetti: “Don’t give up. Please, don’t give up, even if the cold burns, even if fear bites, even if the sun sets and the wind goes silent.” Before the tragedy of September 26, 2014, Maria Elena Guerrero was a stay-at-home mom, caring for her two children and her husband, Alfredo Galindo, a primary school teacher who studied at Ayotzinapa.

She returns to her real home once a month to see her 18-year-old daughter, Sandra, “because she feels lonely,” said Guerrero, 45. But it’s her own daughter who sends her back to the college, saying “you have to fight for my brother.” Since they left their jobs, the parents receive donations in a shared bank account. A paper hanging on a door says they must attend protests to earn the aid. Nicanora Garcia Gonzalez has been working since age five. She’s a baker who made bread in a wood oven back at her home on the Pacific coast of Guerrero. But her job now is to find her son, Saul Bruno Garcia. A picture of him rests on the table next to her mattress alongside medicine. She also has a photo of her daughter-in-law’s brother, who is also missing.

“They were friends from kindergarten to primary and secondary school. They came here together and they were taken away together,” Garcia Gonzalez said. The 57-year-old woman passes the time crocheting towels, which she sells. “We stand together because we have no other choice. We’re here, in the same place, suffering the same pain. Their pain is my pain and we feel like a family here,” she said. — AFP

TROUBLED LAWYER SHOOTS AT 9 PEOPLE IN HOUSTON

HOUSTON: A troubled lawyer opened fire on morning commuters in Houston yesterday, injuring at least nine people before being fatally shot by police, authorities said. Six victims were taken to hospitals and three were treated at the scene after being shot at while inside their vehicles in the wealthy neighborhood of West University Place, acting Houston Police Chief Martha Montalvo told reporters.

One of the victims was in critical condition and another was in serious condition. Montalvo declined to identify the suspect but said he was a lawyer and had concerns about his law firm. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, in Cuba on a trip to develop trade relations, told reporters,

“The motivation appears to be a lawyer whose relationship with his law firm went bad.” The police bomb squad was securing the suspect’s car, which had numerous weapons in it and police were planning to search his house.

Broken glass from shattered car windows littered a parking lot in an upscale shopping center near where the suspect fired 20 to 30 shots.

An unidentified woman, standing next to a car with two bullet holes in the windshield, told a local television station she heard “the bullets literally whiz by my window.” Live video streams showed numerous police cars and ambulances in the area. There were also a few vehicles seen with bullet holes. — Reuters

MALL SHOOTING SUSPECT: ‘CREEPY,’ MULTIPLE ARRESTS AND DISPUTES

FRIGHTENED NEIGHBORS KEPT SAFE-GUARDS READY

OAK HARBOR: The 20-year-old man suspected of killing five people with a rifle at a Macy’s makeup counter was described by a neighbor as so “creepy, rude and obnoxious” that she kept a Taser by her front door. He also had a string of run-ins with the law in recent years, including charges he assaulted his stepfather. As investigators tried to piece together information on Arcan Cetin, who was arrested Saturday evening after a nearly 24-hour manhunt, a picture emerged of a troubled young man. Court records show more than a half-dozen criminal cases in Island County alone since 2013. Authorities said the gunman in the attack at the Cascade Mall in Burlington opened fire in the department store’s cosmetics department Friday night, killing a man and four females ranging from a teenager to a senior citizen. The killer then fled.

Cetin said nothing and appeared “zombie-like” when he was taken into custody on a sidewalk outside his apartment complex some 30 miles away in Oak Harbor by a sheriff’s officer who recognized him as the suspect in the rampage, authorities said. Cetin immigrated to the US from Turkey and is a legal permanent resident, officials said.

Motives still blurry

As the surrounding area absorbed news of the arrest, critical questions remained, including the gunman’s motive. The FBI said early Saturday that there was no indication the shooting was terrorism, but local authorities said later in the day that they were ruling nothing out. On Sept 17, a 20-year-old man stabbed 10 people at a Minnesota mall before being shot to death by an off-duty police officer. Authorities said they are investigating the attack by Dahir Ahmed Adan as a possible act of terrorism.

On Sunday, investigators searched Cetin’s vehicle and the apartment complex and were seen carrying boxes from a rear, upstairs unit. The four-unit building was surrounded with yellow police tape. Detectives would not say what they found. Amber Cathey, 21, lived in an apartment next to Cetin for



MOUNT VERNON: This late Saturday, Sept 24, 2016, image from video by KIRO7 photographer Jeff Ritter shows suspected Cascade Mall shooter Arcan Cetin at Skagit County Jail in Mount Vernon, Wash., after his arrest in Oak Harbor. — AP

the past three months and said she was so frightened by him that she complained to apartment management and kept a stun gun handy.

Cathey said she blocked him on Snapchat after he sent her a photo of his crotch. “He was really creepy, rude and obnoxious,” Cathey said. She said she would try to avoid him by walking the long way around to her apartment if she saw his car in the parking lot. The two were in high school together as well, and Cathey said he acted the same way then. The Seattle Times reported that court records show Cetin faced three charges of assaulting his stepfather. The newspaper said Cetin also was arrested on drunken driving charges. It gave no details on when the arrests took place or how the cases may have been resolved.

PENTAGON CHIEF: NUKE EXPERT BUT SAYS LITTLE ABOUT THEM

WASHINGTON: As defense secretary to a president who famously envisioned “a world without nuclear weapons,” Ash Carter has said remarkably little about them. He has been quiet on a range of nuclear issues, including the Pentagon’s \$8 billion effort to correct an array of morale, training, discipline and resource problems in the Air Force nuclear missile corps, revealed by The Associated Press in the last three years. Nor has he publicly explained in detail the utility of nuclear weapons, in an age of attacks by non-state actors like the Islamic State, to build support for spending hundreds of billions on a new generation of them.

When asked, he has left no doubt that he sees nuclear weapons as the “bedrock” of US security. But he rarely reveals the underpinnings of his thinking. This is all the more notable because Carter, a physicist by training and policy wonk by reputation, cut his professional teeth on nuclear weapons during the Cold War. He probably knows more about them than any defense secretary since William Perry, a longtime nuclear expert, led the Pentagon a generation ago.

This quiet approach is expected to end when Carter visits Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota yesterday. There, he plans to deliver a speech on nuclear deterrence, the notion that a robust and ready US nuclear force will make clear that the cost of hitting the US would outweigh any benefit. It will mark his first visit to a nuclear weapons base since becoming defense chief in February 2015. Minot is home to Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles that stand in underground silos, ready for nuclear war. A portion of the Air Force’s B-52 bomber force, including a number equipped to carry nuclear bombs, also are at Minot.

High-priority issues

Like the three other men who have run the Pentagon for President Barack Obama, Carter has plenty of other high-priority issues to consume his time and attention, including the war against the



Defense Secretary Ash Carter

Islamic State group. Carter also has chosen to focus on what he calls the “force of the future” - a set of policy initiatives meant to modernize the way the defense establishment recruits and develops members of the armed services.

And he has given a great deal of attention to Silicon Valley and other technology hotbeds that he sees as potential keys to translating civilian innovation into US military advantage.

Nuclear weapons issues have taken a back seat, at least publicly. “Secretary Carter has not said much on nuclear weapons, but his actions speak volumes,” says Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund, an advocacy group that argues for nuclear reductions and against the administration’s plan to commit hundreds of billions to build a next-generation nuclear arsenal. “He has been the Dr No of nuclear reductions, defending every program contract and resisting every cut in the nuclear force.”

A spokesman for Carter disputes that the Pentagon chief has been quiet about nuclear issues. “He regularly speaks about the importance of the nuclear triad to our security, its importance in reassuring our allies and deterring potential adversaries, and the need to ensure that we maintain and mod-

ernize that capability,” said Gordon Trowbridge, the Pentagon’s deputy press secretary. Carter has talked quite a lot about the nuclear weapons of other countries. He chastised Russia for nuclear “sabre rattling,” endorsed the US nuclear deal with Iran and criticized what he has called North Korea’s nuclear “pursuit and provocations.” But when it comes to America’s own weapons, he has mostly limited himself to broad references to their importance. Before this week, Carter had not given a speech about nuclear weapons nor visited a nuclear weapons base. His immediate predecessor, Chuck Hagel, visited two of the three Air Force bases that operate Minuteman 3 missiles, plus one of the two Navy bases for Trident nuclear submarines. Hagel also visited a B-2 bomber base to highlight his support for an Air Force’s plan to build a new nuclear bomber.

Police said that they interviewed the suspect’s former girlfriend, who has worked a different Macy’s. No other details were released, including her name. Social media accounts apparently belonging to Cetin showed he had a fondness for the military and video games. A Twitter account showed, among other things, selfies, photos of him in younger years and pictures of Turkish food. He once participated in paintball and said he “can’t wait for Halo 5,” the first-person shooter video game. He also tweeted: “Shout out to the ROTC peeps.” A Facebook account showed he liked military-related sites. Cetin also appeared to have blogs on the site Tumblr that had not been updated in many months. They included seemingly random posts about serial killer Ted Bundy, a collection of selfies, the top-secret Area 51 Cold War test site and photos of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. The two blogs linked back to each other and one of them linked to what appeared to be his Twitter page.

Oak Harbor is a city of 22,000 on Whidbey Island with many military families associated with the nearby Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The names of the dead from the mall shooting were not immediately released by police. But the Seattle Times identified one as 16-year-old Sarai Lara. Her mother said she survived cancer as a young girl and was a happy student. — AP

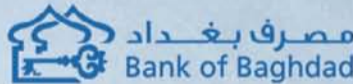
Nuclear question

Among Carter’s most substantial remarks about nuclear weapons was his response earlier this month to a question from a student at the University of Oxford in England after Carter spoke about the American defense relationship with Britain. Carter was asked whether he worries that important nuclear issues are being ignored or neglected.

“Well, it’s a blessing to be able to take the public’s mind off the nuclear question,” Carter began. He said he was thankful that nuclear issues are “not in the headlines.” He called deterrence the cornerstone of US strategic defense policy because “we’ve never found another way to manage the unprecedented risk inherently posed by the technology of nuclear weapons.” He added, “We’re going to have nuclear weapons as far into the future as I can see. And they need to be safe, they need to be secure, they need to be reliable.” “Fortunately you don’t see us using” nuclear weapons, Carter said in response to a question last week from a sailor at the Pentagon. “And that’s a good thing.” Nuclear weapons, he said, are “there in the background as a guarantor of our security.” — AP

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UK'S JOHNSON ON 1ST TURKEY TRIP SINCE BREXIT TENSIONS

ISTANBUL: Boris Johnson yesterday made his first visit to Turkey as Britain's foreign minister, months after leading the successful "Brexit" campaign that played on anti-Turkish sentiments. Johnson, who is of partly Turkish ancestry, began his trip with a visit to a camp for Syrian refugees in the southeast. He is due to head to Ankara on Tuesday for political talks.

The flamboyant former London mayor may find aspects of his visit awkward after he penned the winning entry in a competition on offensive poetry about President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, published by the conservative British magazine *The Spectator*. The trip is the highest-level visit to Turkey by a British official since the failed coup on July 15 in which a rogue military faction tried to overthrow the Turkish strongman.

"Turkey is a vital partner to the UK," Johnson wrote on Twitter. "Pleased to visit for first time as Foreign Sec for talks with Govt, civil society & Syrian Opposition." Johnson, one of the most prominent public faces of the campaign for Britain to leave the European Union, previously made a strong case for Turkish membership of the bloc. But the Brexit campaign repeatedly raised the specter of millions of Turks being free to live in Britain as a reason to pull out of the 28-nation bloc.

David Cameron, who resigned as British prime minister after the Brexit vote, also said during the campaign that Turkish EU membership was not "remotely on the cards" and may not happen until the year 3000, further angering Ankara. Johnson, never shy of controversy, won the competition calling for a rude verse about Erdogan, organized in solidarity with a German comedian facing prosecution for doing the same.

Turkish great-grandfather

Turkish officials have played down a possible setback in the two countries' relationship, saying British-Turkish ties are too important to be hostage to Johnson's statements. Before the Brexit vote, Britain was always seen as one of

the strongest supporters of Ankara's bid for EU membership. A spokeswoman for the British embassy in Ankara told AFP that Johnson had arrived in Turkey, where he is to meet Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

He is also due to visit the Turkish parliament in the capital Ankara which was extensively damaged by airstrikes on the night of the coup. Johnson landed in Gaziantep in southeastern Turkey near the Syrian border to visit a refugee camp, the private Dogan news agency reported. Escorted by a convoy, Johnson first visited a site where UN aid trucks are stationed and then travelled to Nizip refugee camp near the Syrian border, it added.

Turkey, a fierce opponent of President Bashar Al-Assad, is playing host to nearly three million Syrian refugees who have fled the war, and pressing for a safe zone on the Syrian side of the border to house refugees. Johnson has also made headlines in Turkish media because of his Turkish great-grandfather Ali Kemal, who was a politician and a journalist in the early 20th century. Turkey's relations with Europe have soured after the coup attempt due to concerns over Ankara's subsequent crackdown on alleged coup plotters. Ankara has angrily rejected the criticism that the vast purge might breach rights norms that Ankara must meet for accession into the EU. — AFP

CALAIS MIGRANT CAMP IS TO BE RAZED BY YEAR-END: HOLLANDE

PLAN TO SPREAD ASYLUM SEEKERS AROUND COUNTRY

CALAIS: French President Francois Hollande said yesterday the sprawling "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais would be dismantled by the end of this year under a plan to spread asylum seekers around the country. "I have come to Calais to confirm the decision that I took with the government... to dismantle (the camp) definitively, entirely and rapidly, that means by the end of the year," Hollande said on his first visit to Calais as president.

Hollande called on British authorities to help in assisting the migrants, most of whom are desperate to reach Britain. "I am determined to see

across the Channel to England. Hollande met police, local politicians, NGOs and business leaders in the northern port city but was not expected to visit the camp itself.

'British obligations'

The Socialist president has been under pressure from right-wing rivals to close down the "Jungle". A flurry of preparations in Calais suggest the operation to raze the collection of makeshift shelters may begin shortly. The government has said the migrants, who are mostly from Sudan and Afghanistan, will be moved to

sovereign decision, it does not mean it is freed from its obligations towards France," he said. Hollande said the vote also had no effect on the bilateral Le Touquet agreement which effectively means that the British border extends to Calais's ferry ports, where British immigration officials check passports and inspect vehicles.

Hollande's visit comes just days after his conservative predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy—who is hoping to return as president in next year's election—visited Calais to promote his tough line on migration. Migration has been a low-key issue of Hollande's four-year presidency. But he has been forced to take a stronger stance on the issue, under pressure from Sarkozy and far-right leader Marine Le Pen.

Key election theme

Both Sarkozy and Le Pen have made immigration and national identity key themes in early campaigning for next year's election, which has echoes of the US race for the White House. On a visit to one of the new reception centers in the central city of Tours at the weekend Hollande said France would not be a "country of camps."

Calais has become a symbol of Europe's failure to resolve the migration crisis that continues to divide the continent, after people fleeing war and misery across the Mediterranean began pouring into Europe in unprecedented numbers. Plans to relocate the Calais migrants have sparked controversy and protests, with residents in some parts of the country vehemently opposed to taking them in.

Several hundred people demonstrated at the weekend in Versailles, west of Paris, against plans to move a group of migrants there. The "Jungle" camp has also become a sore point in relations between France and Britain. Last week, building work began on a British-funded wall to clamp down on repeated attempts by migrants to stow away on trucks heading for Britain. Rights groups have criticized the hardship and dangers facing the migrants living in the camp, particularly the hundreds of unaccompanied minors.

A 14-year-old Afghan boy was killed by a car earlier this month as he tried to climb aboard a truck. Under EU rules, under-18s travelling alone are allowed join family in Britain. Around half of the unaccompanied minors in Calais are estimated to have family across the Channel. But the process of trying to reunite them with their relatives has been dogged by delays. — AFP



CALAIS: Migrants living in the "Jungle" migrant camp walk past a sign posted along a road that leads to the town of Calais in northwestern France. — AFP

the British authorities play their part in the humanitarian effort that France is undertaking" in Calais, Hollande said, flanked by security forces. Between 7,000 and 10,000 migrants are currently living in the "Jungle", the launchpad for their attempts to stow away on lorries heading

164 reception centers around the country "before winter".

Hollande said Britain's vote to exit the European Union did not diminish its responsibility for the migrants camped across the Channel. "Just because the United Kingdom has taken a

EU WARNS SWITZERLAND AFTER VOTE ON CURBING MIGRANTS

BRUSSELS: The EU warned Switzerland yesterday over a vote by one of its cantons backing curbs on migrants, an issue being closely watched in London as a possible template for Brexit negotiations. A measure making it more difficult for foreign workers to be employed won 58 percent of the vote in a referendum on Sunday in the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino, which borders Italy. Brussels said the vote would further complicate thorny negotiations over a national vote in early 2014 in which Switzerland voted for similar curbs, despite them violating the EU's free movement rules.

"The EU and Switzerland have been in intense talks for months now in order to find a solution on how to implement the Swiss popular vote on free movement in a way that respects obligations under the free movement agreement," said Margaritis Schinas, spokesman for commission head Jean-Claude Juncker. "Yesterday's vote will not make the already difficult talks any easier," he told a daily briefing. EU Commission President Juncker will visit Switzerland at the end of October to continue discussions in order to find "an agreement acceptable to both sides" in Schinas.

Switzerland is not an EU member but is signed up to the bloc's Schengen agreement, which allows passport-free travel and free movement of workers. The referendum in Ticino was presented by the conservative Swiss People's Party. The vote's result still requires approval from the Swiss federal government.

However Bern is unlikely to look kindly at the Ticino vote, as it struggles to repair frayed relations with the EU and figure out how to apply the 2014 vote. The EU is keen to take a hard line on Switzerland shirking its duties from bilateral agreements ahead of the bloc's negotiations with London over its departure from the bloc.

Pro-Brexit campaigners want Britain to limit migration from EU countries but keep access to the single market—a combination that EU leaders have repeatedly warned is impossible. — AFP



BAKU: Azerbaijan's soldier vote at a polling station during a referendum on boosted presidency. — AFP

AZERBAIJAN HOLDS REFERENDUM ON STRENGTHENED PRESIDENCY

BAKU: Azerbaijanis went to the polls yesterday in a controversial referendum on handing extra powers to long-serving President Ilham Aliyev, with opposition and rights groups criticizing the proposed constitutional changes as undemocratic. The amendments would extend the president's term in office from five to seven years, create a powerful new first vice-president position and axe the current age minimum of 35 to stand for president.

Opposition groups staged mass protests ahead of the referendum, denouncing it as Aliyev's bid to extend his family's long grip on power in the oil-rich former Soviet republic. The Council of Europe's constitutional law experts said the draft modifications of the constitution "would severely upset the balance of power by giving unprecedented powers to the president." Amnesty International said "the amendments will lead to violations of the right to freedom of association."

"The referendum has been accompanied by arrests and intimidation," the rights group said

in a statement. "Those who have attempted to criticize and campaign against these proposals have faced assaults and harassment by the authorities."

The Central Election Commission said that voter turnout had reached 30.6 percent by noon (0800 GMT). At polling stations in the capital Baku many voters said they supported the proposed changes to the constitution, crediting Aliyev with ensuring political stability during his tenure.

"I voted in favor of the constitutional changes because they are proposed by our president. I trust him and believe that what he proposes is good for Azerbaijanis," said Lala Khalilova, a 46-year-old school teacher. But some expressed skepticism about the referendum, saying it only serves Aliyev's political ends. "There were no debates ahead of the referendum. It's all about extending Aliyev's rule," said shop assistant Usif Asadov, 39. "I voted against it. In democratic countries, there are no perpetual leaders." — AFP



PALE, Bosnia: Bosnian people wave flags during the speech of Milorad Dodik, President of the Bosnian Serb region of Republika Srpska, during celebrations after the result of the referendum. — AP

BOSNIAN PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE DUBIOUS BOSNIAN SERB REFERENDUM

SARAJEVO: Bosnia's state prosecutor has opened an investigation into a Bosnian Serb referendum that was held in violation of the constitution, he said yesterday. A statement from Chief Prosecutor Goran Salihovic said the case will be treated as a "priority," and certain people will be called for questioning. Bosnian Serbs voted overwhelmingly Sunday in favor of keeping a disputed holiday that a constitutional court had said discriminates against non-Serbs. The court had also banned the referendum, which was organized by the local government in the Serb region of Republika Srpska.

Referendum organizers said that preliminary results showed 99.81 percent of voters in Republika Srpska were in favor of the holiday and that turnout was 55.7 percent. Non-Serbs living in Republika Srpska mostly boycotted the vote. During the 1992-95 war - which killed 100,000 people and turned half of the country's population into refugees - Bosniaks and Croats were persecuted and almost completely expelled from Republika Srpska's territory.

The region didn't gain independence after the war, but ended up as an autonomous part of Bosnia. Bosniaks and Croats who returned there view the holiday as a celebration of their expulsion while Republika Srpska marks the day with religious ceremonies, hinting the region is still meant just for Serbs. The West had called for the referendum not to be held, but the

Bosnian Serbs were backed by Russia. Western officials said they might consider halting projects in the mini-state or impose travel bans on its leaders and freeze their assets.

Although facing charges as the initiator of the vote, Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik celebrated the result with thousands of people, fireworks and Serb flags late Sunday in Pale, the wartime capital of Republika Srpska. "I'm so proud ... of all those who voted today, and I have to say - shame on all Serbs who did not show up at the referendum today," he said at the gathering, hinting he expected a higher turnout.

Opposition parties in Republika Srpska claim Dodik scheduled the vote a week before a local election to divert campaign topics from corruption and poverty to nationalism. "Obviously this was a pre-election gathering," that costed tax payers 750,000 euros (\$840,000) and only served the interests of Dodik's party, Bosnia's foreign minister said of the referendum. Bosnian Serb authorities said they plan to change their law on holidays in line with the constitutional court's ruling, most likely so that the holiday stays but those who don't want to celebrate don't have to. Even if this solves the dispute over the holiday, the referendum itself defies the constitutional court's ban and violations of the constitution can be punished with a jail term of between six months and five years. — AFP

UGANDA OFFICIALS TAKE ON THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS ROAD

MPIGI: Wearing pristine white with her woolen socks pulled high, Ugandan traffic police officer Edith Nanteza exudes natural authority at the roadblock, barely lifting a hand as she waves motorists over. This is no routine exercise. Nanteza is on the frontline of operation "Fika Salama"—Swahili for "arrive safely"—a high-profile attempt by the government to regain control of what the country fears has become the planet's deadliest highway.

From the top of a hill, Nanteza surveys the road, a heat haze shimmering over the tarmac highway stretching into the distance. "Over 200 people have died on this road since January. It's been a massacre," she says. By comparison, Bolivia's Yungas Road, a notorious mountain pass better known as "Death Road", averages between 200 and 300 deaths per year.

That would put the 130-kilometre Kampala-Masaka highway on at least similar ground with its 200 dead in the first eight months of 2016. Witchcraft, poor roadwork and dangerous driving-all have been blamed for the killer highway whose users will often turn to prayer before taking the road. In the local police station in Mpigi, Nanteza points to the mangled wreckage piled up in the yard.

"Recently 21 people, including a child, died in a single accident," she says while shooing away a goat. "A car tried to overtake the vehicle in front but collided with a trailer truck which lost control and crashed into two full minibus taxis." Nsubuga Shabal, who was travelling to Kampala with his wife and seven-year-old son, was caught up in the carnage. "My wife died on the spot. Our child is now living with relatives. He's still injured and needs treatment but I can't provide anything since I'm still recovering," he says. "And I lost my job because I can't walk properly due to my injuries."

'Human error'

Assistant Commissioner of Police Sarah Kwibika is in charge of operation Fika Salama. "Ninety percent of the accidents

are due to human error," she says. "Speeding, risky overtaking on bends, overloaded trucks, unroadworthy vehicles and driving while drunk are the main causes. It's all about driver behavior." Others claim the road itself, which was upgraded with the help of international donors, is dangerously inadequate. The busy highway was resurfaced in the late 2000s, then widened with extra lanes to reduce accidents.

Kristian Schmidt, who heads the EU office in Uganda, this month demanded action after a government-commissioned report found that more than a billion US dollars had been misappropriated in corrupt roadwork deals in the last seven years. Last year, all 900 road authority employees were sacked on the instructions of Uganda's President Museveni. Now, with the death toll rising, the concern is people might avoid the 'highway to hell' altogether.

The devil's work

The Kampala-Masaka road provides essential access from the Kenyan coast through Uganda to Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. But despite its importance as a conduit for local traffic, regional transportation and tourism, people are increasingly afraid to travel on it. Last month, a UN trailer which was carrying crucial food relief to Burundi crashed off the road, destroying a house.

And tourists on safari who are hoping to see rare mountain gorillas near the Uganda-Rwanda border are now opting to fly there by light aircraft rather risk travelling on the ill-fated highway. The high stakes have even compelled some religious groups to take extreme action. By the roadside, Reverend Bibiru pours oil over the painted lines as 15 of his followers chant and pray. "This is the first time we have conducted a road exorcism," he says. "A lot of witchcraft took place while the highway was being built, that's why so many people are dying here," he explains. "It is the devil who has made this road so dangerous." — AFP

SACKED PAKISTANI ACTOR SORRY FOR INDIA TWITTER ‘MADNESS’

LONDON: A Pakistan-born UK actor apologized yesterday for using “unacceptable language” about Indians, which saw him fired from Britain’s most popular TV soap. Marc Anwar, 45, joined “Coronation Street”, the world’s longest-running TV soap opera, in 2014 as a member of the show’s first Muslim family. But he was sacked from the show after the Sunday Mirror newspaper published screenshots from his private Twitter account, which hit out at India over the Kashmir dispute.

“Indians killing our Kashmir brothers and sisters,” he wrote. He called Indians “b*****ds” and used other insulting terms. “I would like to offer my sincerest apologies to anyone that I may have offended with my tweets on Friday evening, and especially people from India,” he said in a video he uploaded to YouTube yesterday. “This was never my intention. The language was unacceptable. I feel I’ve let a lot of people down: my family, my friends and my former colleagues. “This I again very

sincerely apologize for.

“On Friday evening I saw, on the news, children being pulled out of rubble, people being pelted with pellets, women mourning their dead in Kashmir. “This upset me very deeply and in a moment of madness I ranted out. I vented my anger. “My feelings were very sincere for the people of Kashmir,” he said. “I hope that everyone that I have offended can find it in their hearts to forgive me.”

His character, love cheat gym boss Sharif Nazir, will still appear in scenes that have already been filmed for upcoming episodes. The actor has appeared in Hollywood films including “Captain Phillips” and “51st State”. “Coronation Street”, which began in 1960, became the longest-running soap opera in the world in 2010. Set in a fictional suburb of Manchester in northwest England, it remains one of Britain’s most-watched programs with around eight million viewers. Guest stars have included Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne. —AFP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Kashmiris burn effigies of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj during a protest to show their solidarity with Indian Kashmiri. —AFP

VILLAGERS BATTLE RESERVOIR THAT WILL SUBMERGE HOMES

DEMULAGHAT: The peacefulness of the lush green fields of paddy and maize lining the road to Demulaghat village in Telangana, India belies the anger of villagers protesting against the southern state’s plans to acquire about 21,000 acres of land for a reservoir. The Komuravelli Mallanna Sagar reservoir will irrigate 1.2 million acres of drought-prone land, according to state officials. Nearly a dozen villages will be submerged in the process, displacing more than 25,000 people, including those in Demulaghat who have been protesting for more than three months.

“If the state wants water, why should we be kicked out? This is our land, our village,” said Roopa Mandoli, 34, who owns and cultivates two acres of land with her husband. “If we are to give up everything, then we should at least be adequately compensated by the state. With the kind of money they are offering us, we will be impoverished,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, as villagers standing beside her nodded.

Conflict over land rights has increased in recent years in India, one of the world’s fastest growing economies, with rising demand for land for industrial use and development projects. Residents of Demulaghat, the largest of 14 villages that will be affected by the proposed reservoir, have held a relay fast and marched to the highway holding placards and chanting slogans. One farmer from a nearby village killed himself. Policemen stopped the highway protest, beating back villagers with

batons and injuring dozens, activists say. The government has banned “unlawful assembly” and processions in Demulaghat, and restricted visitors.

Now, villagers gather in an open space under a colorful awning, their protest slogans and pictures of the baton charge stuck on the walls, and watched constantly by several policemen. “It’s like a military zone,” said Kiran Kumar Vissa, a campaigner with Rythu Swarajya Vedita, an umbrella organization of NGOs working on agriculture issues, in Hyderabad city. “The government is using intimidation to coerce the villagers into handing over their land,” he said.

Lack of clarity

India has introduced several land laws in the past decade to give the vulnerable more rights, but many of these laws are diluted and do not protect poor farmers enough, activists say. Last month, the Supreme Court said land acquired by West Bengal state for a Tata Motors factory must be returned to farmers as it was not acquired for a “public purpose”, ending a decade-long fight by the displaced farmers.

Rights groups protesting against the Mallanna Sagar project say there is a lack of clarity in the state’s land acquisition policy, and that the government has not released detailed reports on the project and its environmental and social impact. Last year, the newly-created Telangana state issued a government order known as GO123, to enable easier acquisitions of land for public projects. —Reuters



The ancient city of Bagan

MYANMAR’S BAGAN LIKELY TO MAKE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AFTER QUAKE

MYANMAR’S MOST VENERATED RELIGIOUS SITES

YANGON: Myanmar’s ancient city of Bagan is “very likely” to be listed as a World Heritage site, a UNESCO official said yesterday, promising a boon to a tourist attraction battered by a recent earthquake. Bagan is home to more than 2,000 ancient Buddhist monuments that are among Myanmar’s most venerated religious sites and is a major attraction for its nascent tourist industry. The former military junta tried to get Bagan listed as a World Heritage site some 20 years ago but was rebuffed, seemingly because of haphazard renovations under its rule.

An earthquake last month destroyed many of those botched restorations. That will allow fresh work more in keeping with the original design, UNESCO said, boosting Bagan’s chances of taking a coveted place on the list of the world’s most prized cultural artifacts. “The chances are very likely” that Bagan will be recognized as a World Heritage site in 2019, according to the head of UNESCO’s Yangon office, Sardar Umar Alam. “The experts that are working on the site, they are confident that yes, the site stands a good chance,” he told AFP.

The plan start the lengthy application process next year with an eye on making the list by 2019. Experts said the bungled junta-era restoration, much of it hastily done with modern materials, significantly altered the original architecture and design of some monuments. “They just used bricks and steel and started fixing them just like normal buildings and it really, really created an issue,” said Alam.

UNESCO Myanmar is now coordinating an international team to work on the monuments and is supporting the government in its bid to apply for World Heritage status next year. The renovation of the first group of 41 “priority monuments” is expected to take around two years. A total refurbishment of the 453

damaged monuments may cost up to \$12 million. The citadels, burial grounds and Buddhist stupas of Myanmar’s Pyu ancient cities, north of Mandalay, were added to the World Heritage list in 2014.

Dutch man arrested

In other news, a Dutch tourist has been detained in Myanmar for insulting religion after being accused of pulling the plug on a speaker relaying a late-night Buddhist sermon in Mandalay. Klass Haytema, 30, has been held since Friday night when he allegedly disconnected the cable linking an amplifier and a speaker at a hall playing the sermon after he complained that it was disturbing him, police said.

“The religious hall is not far from the hotel where he was staying... he said he did it because it was too noisy for him,” Kyi Soe, police chief at Maha Aung Myay township, told AFP. An angry crowd followed the man back to his hotel, where he was taken into custody by police and later transferred to a Mandalay prison. “We detained him for insulting religion,” he said, adding it was under section 295 of Myanmar’s penal code. He is yet to be charged but the law carries up to a two year jail term and fine.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar is deeply devout and several foreigners have been found guilty of insulting religion. In July a Spanish tourist was deported from Myanmar after monks complained about a tattoo of Buddha he had on his leg. Last year a New Zealand bar manager spent 10 months in jail for “insulting religion” by using a Buddha image to promote a cheap drinks night. Buddhist nationalism has surged in Myanmar in recent years, with the country’s Muslim minority-around five percent of the population-facing particular pressure.

Suu Kyi unwell after trip

Myanmar’s de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been forced to take a rest from her state duties after becoming unwell during a state trip abroad, her office said yesterday. The 71-year-old was diagnosed with gastritis after returning from a visit to Britain and the US, her first trip to her Western allies since taking office in March. Pictures of her being pushed through Yangon airport in a wheelchair posted on social media sparked concern about the Nobel Laureate’s health and quickly went viral.

“She feels weak as she did not have much time to rest during the trip,” her office said in a statement. “She has a stomach ache as she did not have time to have regular meals,” it added, adding that she “just needs to rest for a while”. Suu Kyi’s health has long been a topic of speculation in Myanmar, where she is deeply revered after decades leading the struggle against the former military junta. Since her release in 2011 from long years under house arrest she has kept a notoriously frenetic schedule despite her advanced years and slight frame.

But occasional bouts of ill health stopped her campaigning in 2012 and forced her to cancel public appearances last year. Earlier this year she also had operations to remove cataracts from both eyes. Suu Kyi holds several key cabinet positions including foreign minister, as well as leading the government in a specially created role of state counselor. Many of her government cabinet members are also fellow democracy veterans of advanced years, leading a country with an otherwise burgeoning youth population. Her doctor, Tin Myo Win, said he was “very busy with the health of Aung San Suu Kyi” when briefly reached by AFP, but declined to give further details. —Agencies

HR GROUP URGES PAKISTAN TO HALT KILLINGS BY POLICE

ISLAMABAD: Human Rights Watch yesterday accused Pakistan’s police of routinely carrying out extra-judicial killings, torture and arbitrary arrests, and called on Islamabad to implement urgent reforms of its under-resourced forces. The findings were contained in a new report based on interviews with more than 30 police officers and 50 victims or witnesses of abuse across three of the country’s four provinces. In addition to noting habitual rights violations-including more than 2,000 so-called “encounter” killings in 2015, which are often believed to have been staged-the report said police often found themselves in thrall to powerful individuals who subvert the law for their

own purposes. “Pakistan faces grave security challenges that can be best handled by a rights-respecting, accountable police force,” said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “Instead, law enforcement has been left to a police force filled with disgruntled, corrupt and tired officers who commit abuses with impunity, making Pakistanis less safe, not more.” In the biggest city Karachi, encounter killings have surged since 2013 as paramilitary forces and police have stepped up raids against Taliban militants, criminals and armed political activists.

The term is used to describe staged confrontations in which police or troops

kill suspects and later claim they were acting in self-defense. The report found that those from marginalized groups-refugees, the poor, religious minorities, and the landless-are at particular risk of violent police abuse. It said: “Torture methods include beatings including with batons and leather straps, stretching and crushing legs with metal rods, sexual violence, prolonged sleep deprivation, and mental torture, including witnessing others being tortured.”

“Senior officials told Human Rights Watch that physical force is often threatened and used because the police are not trained in professional investigation and forensic analysis methods, and thus

resort to unlawfully coercing information and confessions.” Local politicians meanwhile are able to halt investigations against suspects with political connections, and to harass or file charges against opponents. In addition to being on the frontline of the country’s battle against homegrown Islamist terror, Pakistan’s police forces contend with high-levels of organized and violent crime-including kidnappings for ransom and drug trafficking. A recent wave of high-profile murders of women in the name of family honor have cast a spotlight on blood-money laws which allow the relatives of victims to forgive perpetrators in exchange for money. —AFP

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TAIWAN ATTACKS HONG KONG OVER STRING OF VISA DENIALS

TAIPEI: Taiwan lashed out at Hong Kong yesterday, saying the city had recently denied visas to several Beijing-skeptical Taiwanese politicians as the island's relations with China worsen. Ties between Taiwan and Beijing have turned increasingly frosty since new president Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) took office in May.

Although Taiwan is self-ruling it has never declared formal independence and China still sees it as part of its territory. Beijing is highly suspicious of Tsai

and the DPP, which is traditionally an independence-leaning party. Now Taiwan is accusing semi-autonomous Hong Kong of doing Beijing's bidding by refusing to allow a series of DPP politicians to enter the city. Two DPP lawmakers say they were denied visas to attend forums. A third was refused entry when his connecting flight was cancelled in the southern Chinese city in August.

A professor with DPP connections was also refused a visa last month and leading protesters from Taiwan's anti-

China "Sunflower Movement" say they have been denied visas in the past. Taiwan's China affairs minister Chang Hsiao-yueh described the denials as "very unreasonable." "Hong Kong should not have been pressured by China to restrict our lawmakers travelling to Hong Kong," she told reporters. "We express utmost dissatisfaction and regret to the Hong Kong government."

Chang told parliament later yesterday that Taiwan's office in Hong Kong had approached local government officials

over the issue but had yet to receive "good results", without elaborating. Taiwanese media quoted a Hong Kong forum organizer as saying China's Taiwan Affairs Office had instructed that "all DPP officials" be denied entry to Hong Kong. An immigration spokeswoman in Hong Kong said the department did not comment on individual cases.

Taiwanese residents can usually apply online for "pre-arrival registration" for Hong Kong free of charge. Beijing is pressuring Tsai to accept the concept

that there is only "one China", as did her predecessor Ma Ying-jeou from the China-friendly Kuomintang party. She has refused to do so. As a result, Beijing has cut all official communications with her government. It has been accused by Taipei of pressuring a number of countries to deport Taiwanese fraud suspects to China rather than their home territory. Taiwan has also blamed China for blocking it from attending a major United Nations aviation meeting in Canada starting this week. — AFP

DONALD WHO? MOST N KOREANS DON'T CARE ABOUT US ELECTION

'CAPITALIST COUNTRIES LIKE THE US JUST BUY THE PRESIDENCY'

PYONGYANG: With a tightly controlled state media, little access to outside information and a deeply instilled belief that whoever runs the White House is bound to be their sworn enemy, North Koreans aren't expecting much from the US presidential elections - if they know about them at all.

Say the name Donald Trump to most North Koreans and you will get a blank stare. Same goes for Hillary, though some remember the name Clinton. Some remember that Bill Clinton was, as US presidents go, a little more willing to engage with their country than most, though that was long, long ago and didn't last very long. President George W. Bush quickly rolled that back and declared North Korea part of the "axis of evil."

"I don't know about the US elections and I don't care," said Kim Un Byol, a 27-year-old office worker in Pyongyang. "As long as we have Marshal Kim Jong Un and nuclear weapons, we have nothing to worry about." The outcome of the US elections in November could have major ramifications for North Korea - or maybe bring more of the same. It's far from clear how either presidential candidate intends to deal with Pyongyang, or how Pyongyang will deal with a new administration in Washington. For the most part, the state-run media has been quiet on the topic.

'Money-squandering competition'

Earlier this month, however, it lambasted the elections as a "hot money-squandering competition." "Elections in the US are little short of tycoons' ceremonies of choosing their running dogs, utterly indifferent to the will and desire of the popular masses," KCNA, the state-run news agency, reported on Sept 3. "Only moguls fully enjoy free suffrage in the US Without money one can never become a successful politician in the US that openly asserts 'money fertilizes politics.'" "Money is every-



PYONGYANG: In this Friday, Sept 23, 2016, photo, a North Korean woman walks down the street where murals of the late North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung, left, and Kim Jong Il decorate the streets. — AP

thing in the US society," it added, citing WikiLeaks as divulging that "Democrats got even the present chief executive involved in horse-trading with tycoons to collect more election funds from them."

"It is nonsensical to discuss genuine human rights and democracy in such a political climate of the US," it concluded. Of course, North Korea has a very different way of running its own elections. There is no public debate over policy. That is decided by the ruling Workers' Party and Kim Jong Un, who does nominally stand for elections to his seat in the national parliament but has never been challenged for his hereditary position as the country's supreme leader. Voters have only one choice on their ballots. They can choose either yes or no - virtually no one votes no.

Going to the polls is expected of all eli-

gible voters, and turnout rates are generally reported at around 99 percent. But while the elections are in political terms mostly a formality, along with being celebratory-style events, they have solid practical applications. Mustering the nation every so often is a chance for the authorities to hone their mobilization skills, check up on the efficiency of local leaders and get a snapshot of internal movements.

Kim, the Pyongyang office worker who spoke to The Associated Press on her lunch break recently, echoed the argument that the US elections are actually less democratic than the North's, "where the people love the leaders and the leaders love the people." "In capitalist countries like the United States, they buy the presidency so they never take care of their people," she said. "Obama fusses a lot about human rights, but I heard about

a lot of things like shootings and police killing black people. The US should focus on its own humanitarian issues."

'Strategic patience'

Pyongyang has been extremely critical of President Barack Obama's ongoing policy of "strategic patience," which boils down to minimum engagement with North Korea, punitive measures in response to its nuclear tests and rocket or missile launches, and building up ties with allies in the region to put more pressure on North Korea to either back down or feel the economic pain of heightened sanctions and isolation from international markets.

While the media often slams Obama, it hasn't said much about the presidential campaign. In June, while still the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Trump got some good press here for suggesting he would be willing to meet Kim Jong Un and was open to re-examining the deployment of and possibly withdrawing US troops from South Korea. One state-sanctioned news outlet juxtaposed the "wise" Trump with what it called "dull Hillary." But it attributed the column attributed to a "China-based scholar," deflecting the notion that North Korea might officially support the comments.

In the meantime, Pyongyang is pushing ahead with its nuclear and missile programs, so whoever wins in November will likely have to deal with North Korea one way or another - and North Korea isn't known for its generosity with olive branches. "Obama is trying to force our system to collapse, but that's just a pipe dream," said Pang Hak Song, a 29-year-old student at Pyongyang Architectural University. "The US is our enemy and I don't want to even say that country's name. But if I had anything to say to the new president, it would be to give up their hostile policy toward our country if they ever want peace." — AP

DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE

BEIJING: A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves:

Vietnam official calls for restraint

Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh on Saturday called on all parties involved in South China Sea territorial disputes to exercise self-restraint and solve disagreements by peaceful means. Pham, addressing the United Nations General Assembly during its annual ministerial meeting, said parties should abide by international law, including the U.N.'s Convention on the Law of the Sea, and respect diplomatic and legal processes. The issue of ownership of territories in the South China Sea has become heated in recent years. China claims virtually the entire sea as its own, citing historical reasons. That has pitted it against Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei. US President Barack Obama said earlier this month at a meeting with leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that a ruling on July 12 by an international arbitration panel in the Hague, Netherlands, against China was binding and "helped to clarify maritime rights in the region."

US, Philippines hold exercises

Philippine military officials on Thursday announced the first large-scale combat exercises between US and Filipino forces under President Rodrigo Duterte, who has been critical of American security policies. Military officials said the annual maneuvers by about 1,400 U.S. military personnel and 500 Philippine marines will involve amphibious landing and live-fire exercises at a northern gunnery range from Oct 4 to 12. Duterte has had an uneasy relationship with the US and has taken steps to revive ties with China, which were strained over South China Sea conflicts. He repeated in a speech Thursday that he would not allow Filipino forces to conduct joint patrols with the US military in the South China Sea because that could spark an armed conflict in Philippine territory. He has also said he wants US forces out of the country's south, where he said minority Muslims resent the presence of American troops. Still, Duterte has said he will not abrogate the mutual defense treaty with the US and will maintain the long alliance with America.

Taiwan protests exclusion

Taiwan on Wednesday protested its exclusion from a United Nations conference on the fishing industry, allegedly at the behest of China. Taiwan's official Central News Agency reported late Wednesday that the Foreign Ministry delivered a letter to the Food and Agricultural Organization protesting what it called "discriminatory treatment" against two Taiwanese representatives who were barred from the organization's fisheries meeting in Italy. It said China, which claims Taiwan is part of China, was behind their rejection but did not say how that information was obtained.

Taiwanese representatives had participated in the biennial conference since 2003 as experts or members of non-governmental organizations. As an island with a major deep-sea fishing industry, Taiwan had argued that its presence at the conference was appropriate and necessary. China has long used its diplomatic influence to isolate Taiwan, but has

increased those efforts since its new independence-leaning president, Tsai Ing-wen, took office. Taiwan formally exercises an overlapping claim with China to almost the entire South China Sea, although it occupies only one island in the dispute Spratly chain and has not directly challenged the claims of other countries involved.

Obama urges peaceful resolution

In a speech Tuesday at the opening of the UN General Assembly, President Barack Obama urged countries to follow international legal precedents and avoid building up military forces in the area. "In the South China Sea, a peaceful resolution of disputes offered by law will mean far greater stability than the militarization of a few rocks and reefs," Obama said in his address to world leaders and others gathered for the annual meeting. As he looks toward leaving office, Obama is seen as having made a final attempt in September at outreach in the Asia-Pacific, hoping that the much-vaunted U.S. "pivot" to Asia will be enough to cement traditional alliances and thwart attempts by China or others to topple America as the region's premier military power. — AP



NEW YORK: In this Saturday, Sept 24, 2016, file photo, Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh addresses the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters. — AP

DUTERTE PIVOTS TO CHINA, RUSSIA AS INVESTORS FLEE

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he would visit Russia and China this year to chart an independent foreign policy and "open alliances" with two powers with historic rivalries with the United States. Duterte said the Philippines was at the "point of no return" in its relations with former colonial ruler the United States, so he wanted to strengthen ties with others, and picked two global powers with which Washington has been sparring with on the international political stage.

He last week declared he would soon - and often - visit China, with which ties remain frosty over a South China Sea arbitration ruling won by the Philippines in July. He said Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was expecting him in Moscow. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have rival claims. An arbitration court in The Hague in July invalidated China's claims to the waterway in a case brought by the Philippines, a ruling that Beijing refuses to recognize.

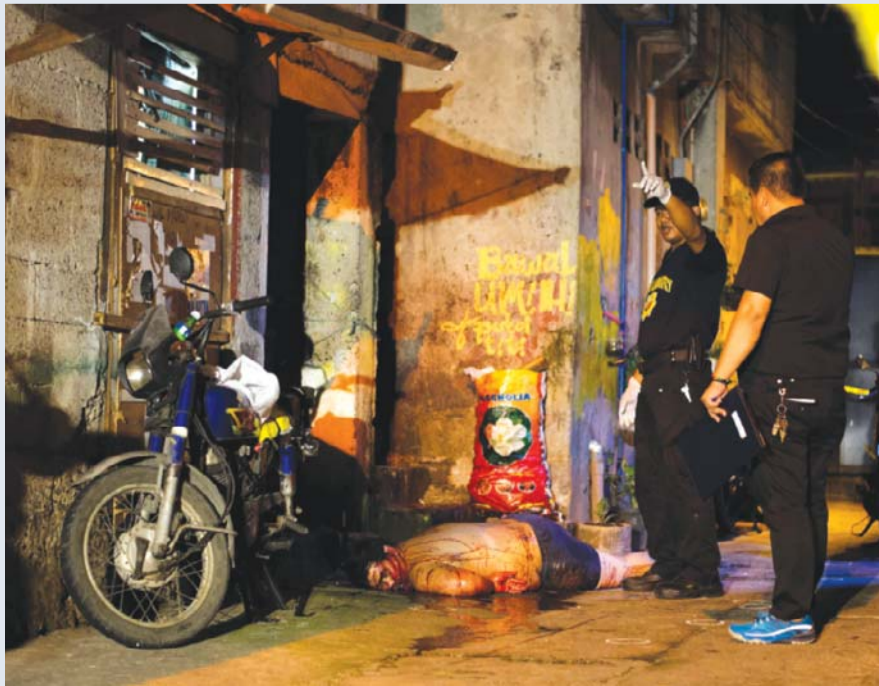
"I am ready to not really break (US) ties but we will open alliances with China and... Medvedev, he is awaiting there for my visit," Duterte told reporters, adding he would open up the "other side of the ideological barrier." He welcomed investment and shrugged off rating agency Standard and Poor's concerns last week about the

Philippine economy on his watch and his unpredictability. "Never mind about the ratings," he said. "I will open up the Philippines for them to do business, alliances of trade and commerce."

Falling peso

The peso fell to its lowest since 2009

yesterday and foreign investors have dumped local shares for six straight weeks, worried about Duterte's anti-US rhetoric and brutal war on drugs, which has alarmed rights groups at home and abroad. Duterte also said he would open up telecoms and airlines, which are two domestic sectors long controlled by local



MANILA: Police officers investigate the dead body of an alleged drug pusher. — AFP

News

in Brief

Australian state names, shames cheeky offences

SYDNEY: Consider it a warning to exhibitionists an Australian state has officially listed "mooning or streaking" as examples of offences which can be dealt with under the law. Victoria's Attorney General Martin Pakula said yesterday there had always been an offence of indecent or offensive exposure which could have covered those who choose to whip their clothes off in public. But "mooning" and "streaking" are now cited as examples in the Crime Amendment (Sexual Offences) Bill which reformed more than 50 crimes and was passed on September 1 — separating the more comic form of indecent exposure from serious sexual nudity. "In the context of separating those two offences out... we've given examples of what might fall into each category," Pakula told Melbourne radio station 3AW. "We don't want a situation where someone who might streak at the cricket is bundled in to the same category of offender as someone who might jump out in front of a 13-year-old girl and flash," he said. "They're very different types of offences and the legislation for the first time makes that clear." But writer Lucy Valentine tweeted that it showed a "nanny state gone too bloody far", joking that mooning and streaking were "two of the most essential acts of civil disobedience". "The comical nature of the Australian but-tocks is a deeply entrenched piece of culture, and it's one I refuse to allow to be disparaged," she wrote in a light-hearted article for broadcaster SBS.

'Snake on a train' halts Japan bullet express

TOKYO: A Japanese bullet train was forced to make an emergency stop yesterday after a snake was found slithering between the seats, local media reported. A passenger spotted the 30 centimeter serpent poking between a gap in the seats, prompting the train, travelling between Tokyo and Hiroshima to stop and allow police to capture the slippery stowaway. Despite its menacing appearance, the brown snake was not believed to be poisonous and no injuries were reported, according to Japan's public broadcaster NHK, speculating that the reptile could be a juvenile ratsnake. Train staff made announcements asking if any passengers had misplaced a snake, but no one came forward and police were still looking for the owner, media added. Japan's bullet trains are famous for their punctuality and the Nozomi 103 service was no exception, arriving in Hiroshima right on time despite the reptilian intrusion. Five years ago a meter-long Honduran milk snake, also non-venomous despite its fearsome red and black stripes, was discovered on a bullet train near Kyoto, bringing it to a halt.

Thai police seek ID on body found in freezer

BANGKOK: Thai police are attempting to identify a dismembered body found in a freezer when they raided an apartment and arrested three men - two thought to be American and one British - suspected of trafficking in forged passports. Forensic experts will conduct a digital autopsy using a CT scan and extract DNA material from the corpse found in the raid Friday in an effort to identify it, police spokesman Krisana Pattanacharoen said yesterday. Bits of human tissue and teeth are the only things left that can be used to identify the body, chopped up into six pieces and frozen for months, said Dr Triyarith Temahivong, deputy director general of Thailand's Central Institute of Forensic Science. "The body still has human tissue stuck on it, which DNA can be extracted from," he said. "The teeth can be used as well for identification through dental records, but the person's nationality, age or gender can't be determined at all at this time so we'll see from the digital autopsy." Police have contacted the US FBI and Interpol for assistance. Krisana said police are also uncertain of the identities of the three suspects because they had multiple passports that could be fake or altered. They were arrested on charges of resisting arrest, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, forging official documents and concealing a corpse. — Agencies

players and criticized for being uncompetitive. He did not elaborate.

The volatile leader's vitriol against the United States has become a near-daily occurrence and source of both amusement and concern. Yesterday he accused Washington of "hypocrisy" and said Americans were still "lording it over us". His latest swipe included ruling out participation in a maritime conflict should it be initiated by the United States, despite a 1951 treaty between the two countries under which Duterte said Manila was legally obligated to back Washington.

"I am about to cross the Rubicon between me and the U.S.," he said, "without elaborating. 'It's the point of no return.' It is unclear whether Duterte's outbursts will impact relations between the two countries. Militaries of both sides are due to carry out joint exercises in the first half of October.

The US embassy in Manila yesterday announced two-week deployment of a pair of C130 planes and 100 troops at an air base in the central Philippines, the third of its kind this year, as part of a rotational troops agreement. Separately, Duterte said the United Nations, European Union and United States would get a free hand to investigate the killings in his anti-narcotics campaign, but only under Philippine laws.

Deaths in the campaign have averaged over 40 a day since Duterte took office on June 30. — Reuters



ALEPPO: Syrian rescue workers and residents carry the body of a victim following an air strike in the rebel-held Salaheddin district of this city on Sunday. — AFP

VIOLENT CRIME RISES IN US: FBI

Continued from Page 1

years in the 1990s. The FBI said it collects data on the violent crimes of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The FBI said burglaries fell 7.8 percent and larceny-thefts declined 1.8 percent, but motor vehicle thefts increased by 3.1 percent.

The release of the report comes as murder rates have risen in several US cities in 2015 and 2016, mainly Chicago, where authorities have reported more than 500 homicides since January. That is more than all of last year. Experts say different factors come into play depending on the city, mainly drug trafficking, gang wars and the availability of guns. — AFP

FM DENIES ANY INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION...

Continued from Page 1

insult HH the Amir in the tweets she was being questioned for. She said she was criticizing her critics, and did not mean the Amir. Derees has previously been handed a jail term for insulting the Amir on Twitter, but she was pardoned by the Amir.

Meanwhile, no decision has been taken yet on the emergency session of the National Assembly to debate the hike in petrol prices by the government since the start of September. Acting speaker Abdullah Al-Tameemi said 33 MPs have signed the motion to hold the session and not 32 as he said on Sunday. He however did not say when the session will be held.

TRUMP: JERUSALEM ISRAEL'S UNDIVIDED CAPITAL

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu's office issued a statement about the roughly hour-long meeting but made no mention of Trump's pledge on Jerusalem. "Prime Minister Netanyahu discussed with Mr Trump issues relating to Israel's security and its efforts to achieve stability and peace in the Middle East," it said. The Trump statement said he promised Netanyahu that the United States would provide Israel with "extraordinary strategic, technological and military cooperation" if he is elected.

"Mr Trump recognized Israel as a vital partner of the United States in the global war against radical Islamic terrorism," it said. "They discussed at length the nuclear deal with Iran, the battle against ISIS and many other regional security concerns." The campaign also said the two discussed Israel's experience with its security fence used to wall off Israel from the West Bank. Trump has made building a wall along the US-Mexico border a signature campaign promise.

Clinton met privately with Netanyahu at the W Hotel in New York, where the Israeli leader has been attending the UN General Assembly. In a campaign statement the White House hopeful stressed "overarching strategic interests" between the two countries and affirmed her support for a robust military aid deal the US recently promised Israel. The statement underscored that the two nations would work in tandem to "enforce and implement the nuclear deal with Iran," US President Barack Obama's signature diplomatic initiative, which

Israel has fiercely opposed.

Clinton also promised Netanyahu to help Israel confront regional "terrorist threats," according to the campaign. "The Secretary reaffirmed her commitment to work toward a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated directly by the parties," the statement read. It would guarantee "Israel's future as a secure and democratic Jewish state with recognized borders and provides the Palestinians with independence, sovereignty, and dignity".

In recent weeks Washington has toughened its criticism of Israel's accelerated building of settlements on occupied land in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, warning that it could destroy hopes for peace with the Palestinians.

Yesterday, Palestinian leaders yesterday accused Trump of abandoning any hope of a two-state solution. "Trump's statement shows disregard for international law (and) longstanding US foreign policy regarding the status of Jerusalem," Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said in a statement. "Previous statements delivered by his adviser on Israel show a total abandonment of the two-state solution, international law and UN resolutions." The Palestinian foreign ministry issued a statement criticizing Trump as well as Clinton, accusing her of overly favoring Israel at the expense of the Palestinians. "The state of Palestine will not serve as a bargaining chip for gaining the Jewish vote in the United States," the statement said. — Agencies

BOMB CASE LATEST HARDSHIP FOR NJ'S MUSLIM...

Continued from Page 1

officials in two states with planting bombs in New York and at a military charity run and a train station in New Jersey. Federal authorities said he praised Muslim extremists and prayed he'd be martyred.

"I don't want the stigma to go out that there's some kind of issue in Elizabeth, that it's a hotbed for people with radical ideas, because it's not," said Hassen Abedellah, an attorney and Elizabeth native, who is president of the Darul Islam mosque in the city.

Abedellah said he was "in shock" when he learned that Rahami was being sought by police. Abedellah could not say for sure whether Rahami had ever worshipped at Darul Islam, but said the suspect could have passed through, since many Muslims in the community at one time or another have attended Friday prayers there.

It is the latest difficulty for one of the larger Muslim communities in the United States. Muslims comprise about 1 percent of the US population, but make up about 3 percent of the residents in New Jersey, according to the Pew Research Center. New Jersey Muslims are predominantly African-American, Arab or South Asian, plus Muslim asylum seekers from the Balkans and elsewhere. Several Muslims serve as state judges and mayors, among other public positions. In Elizabeth, Muslims have had a presence since at least the mid-20th century, developing mainly from a community of African-American Muslims and eventually growing to encompass immigrants from around the world, Abedellah said. Friday prayer at Darul Islam can draw as many as 500 people.

The Sept 11 attacks hit hard in New Jersey. Hundreds of victims of the suicide hijackings came from the state. In the aftermath, Muslim leaders joined with other religious and community leaders to quell any backlash. Mohammad Ali Chaudry, a Pakistani-born economist who had lived in New Jersey since the 1970s, ran for public office in 2001 in Basking Ridge and said he encountered no bias. "Not a single person during that walking campaign, going door to door, asked me what my religion was," said Chaudry, who went on to serve on the township committee and, eventually, as mayor. "They were concerned about what am I going to do about the deer problem. We have a lot of deer. How am I going to keep taxes down?"

Still, suspicion followed the community. Reports by AP revealed that the New York Police Department had been monitoring the daily life of Muslims in New Jersey, New York and beyond, including monitoring the Muslim Students Association at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, and Muslim businesses and mosques in Newark. New York City has since settled lawsuits accusing the department of waging a covert campaign of religious profiling and illegal spying. "People felt very uncomfortable knowing that they are part of society but not really accepted as being part of the society," said Mikal Nash, a professor at Essex County College in Newark and author

of "Muslims in Newark, New Jersey: A Social History."

New Jersey also found itself at the center of movement against Islamic law, or sharia, in the US, after a state judge denied a woman a restraining order against her husband, who she said beat and sexually assaulted her. The judge said the husband's Islamic religious views meant he believed he was entitled to sexual relations at any time with his wife - legal reasoning that Muslim law experts rejected and a ruling an appellate court later reversed. Yet, the case was seized on by advocates for bans on Islamic law in other states.

In New Jersey, the number of anti-Muslim hate crimes reported to the government remains low but is increasing, rising from four in 2014 to 14 last year, according to researchers at the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, Bernardino. But tensions can be seen in the vocal resistance to building mosques in some communities, with an ongoing fight in Bayonne and another in Basking Ridge that has stretched over four years and is now in court.

Christie's political pivot has been especially disheartening for New Jersey Muslims. They had viewed the governor as a reliable ally. Five years ago, he drew notice for slamming critics of his decision to appoint an American Muslim, Sohail Mohammed, to the Superior Court. "They're criticizing him because he's a Muslim American," Christie said, condemning conspiracists who argued Mohammed would bring Islamic law into state courts. "This sharia law business is crap. It's just crazy. And I'm tired of dealing with the crazies," Christie said.

Chaudry, a longtime Republican, said he was stunned when the governor backed Trump this year. Chaudry had worked with the New Jersey attorney general's office on Muslim outreach and was appointed by Christie to a state commission on public service. But because of Trump, he left the GOP to join the Democrats, and has since been heavily involved in registering Muslims to vote, conducting outreach after Friday juma, or communal prayers, and surrounding the recent celebration of the Eid al-Adha holiday. He is also coordinating public speaker training for young people at his mosque. "You have to be at the decision table," Chaudry said.

Despite the tumult, and the glare from the Rahami case, New Jersey Muslims are persevering. The Islamic Center in Paterson is encouraging families to attend a holiday celebration called "Great Muslim Adventure Day" at the Six Flags amusement park in New Jersey. And next weekend in Elizabeth, where Rahami lived, more than 300 people are expected to attend the sixth annual meeting of the American Muslim Consumer Consortium, on marketing to Muslims and commemorating their achievements in the business world. "I encourage Donald Trump and his supporters to come and see what the real American Muslim community in the US is all about," said Sabiha Ansari, a co-founder of the conference. "We are just as patriotic, proud and American as anyone else." — AP

SAUDI OFFICIALS' SALARIES, BONUSES CUT

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Twitter users responded to the announcement with dismay. One Twitter user, Rayan Al-Shamri, said the move boded ill for the future: "God be with the citizens, we are back to the time of poverty."

The cuts to public sector perks, effective Oct 1, are the stiffest in a series of recent measures to boost revenue. Last month the cabinet approved proposals to raise a range of government fees including visa charges and fines for some traffic violations such as "drifting," or the reckless skidding of cars at high speed - a pastime for some Saudi youth. It cut subsidies for power and water last December, then sacked the minister responsible following a public outcry over how the new water tariffs were applied.

Separately, hundreds of Pakistani construction workers are to fly home from Saudi Arabia this week but without the salaries they have waited months to receive, embassy officials told AFP. A total of 405 Pakistanis owed wages by once-mighty Saudi Oger will fly home from tomorrow courtesy of the Saudi government, said Abdul Shakoor Shaikh, the Pakistani embassy's community welfare attaché. They are among more than 6,500 Pakistanis who, he said, have not been paid by the construction giant for that past eight or nine months.

Large contingents of Filipinos and Indians have also gone months without pay from Saudi Oger, which is led by Lebanon's billionaire former premier Saad Hariri. In all, more than 30,000 Saudi Oger workers are affected.

Employees of Oger and other construction companies, which are dependent on state contracts, have suffered because of delayed receipts from a Saudi government whose oil revenues have collapsed over the past two years.

Shaikh said 275 Pakistanis have already flown home under an aid plan announced last month by King Salman. The 100-million-riyal (\$27-million) fund helps stranded workers with food, medical needs, a trip home, exit visas or, if they want, transfer to another employer in Saudi Arabia. Shaikh said the Saudi labor ministry "has facilitated a lot" in caring for the workers and has also helped to file court claims against Saudi Oger.

The embassy is authorized to receive the back wages for most of the workers and, when it arrives, will forward the money to those who return home, officials at the mission said. "But the problem persists. We cannot say that Saudi Oger has started paying the salaries," Shaikh said. Exit visas for more than 2,000 of the Pakistanis have been completed, and the rest must decide whether to also go home.

A relatively small number, more than 70, have transferred to other companies in Saudi Arabia but Shaikh said other sectors do not pay as much as construction. Shaikh was confident the workers would eventually receive their delayed wages. "The judicial system is good compared to other countries," he said. In May, Saudi Binladin Group, another construction titan, began paying delayed wages to its remaining staff after laying off tens of thousands of employees. — Agencies

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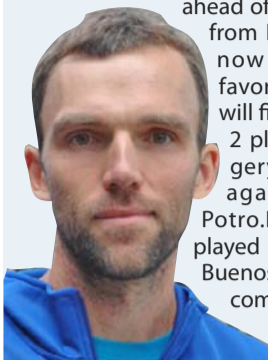
On Sept. 9, just three days after Cladoosby made his plea at the White House, US District Judge James Boasberg rejected a request from the tribe to block the \$3.7 billion project. Minutes after that ruling, the Interior and Justice Departments, along with the Army Corps, suspended construction on a two-mile stretch of federal land below the Missouri River. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said federal regulators, who could still ultimately approve the project, called the pause to make sure the concerns of all parties were taken into account. James Gette, a senior official in the environment and natural resources division of the DOJ, noted in a Sept 16 hearing that construction was halted mainly because the Dakota Access pipeline didn't have an easement for the area where the tribe gets its drinking water.—Reuters

Investigative weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* said Hollande had asked Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi to turn down the invitation. The French president's office denied it had intervened and Renzi's office said he was never scheduled to attend the Lyon summit. Macron's team say if Hollande's ratings, the lowest for a president in France's post-war history, fail to pick up by the end of the year, more politicians will rally behind him. —Reuters

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KARLOVIC RETURNS TO DAVIS CUP FINALS

ZAGREB: Zeljko Krajan, Croatia's Davis Cup captain, says veteran Ivo Karlovic will return in the final against Argentina. Krajan said on Monday that Karlovic's return "is the best possible news" for Croatia ahead of the best-of-five series to be played in Zagreb from Nov. 25 to Nov 27. Krajan says "Our chances now look much better. ... I think we are the favorites." A serve-and-volley specialist, Karlovic will fill the gap in the likely absence of Croatia's No. 2 player, Borna Coric, who underwent knee surgery. Marin Cilic will lead Croatia in the finals against Argentina and Juan Martin Del Potro. Karlovic, the 37-year-old ranked 20th, last played in the Davis Cup in 2012, facing Argentina in Buenos Aires. He has said he retired from the team competition to avoid injuries. — AP



TOTTENHAM TO PROMOTE YOUTH FOOTBALL IN CHINA

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur became the latest club to join the soccer drive in China as the Premier League side will take part in a year-long initiative to develop the game at grassroots level in the Asian country. The London club's global coaching team will follow methods used at their academy to provide 42 physical education teachers an insight into coaching at the elite level, which will help train 8,000 primary and middle school students in Guangzhou. "We understand the importance of football development in China and, given our track record, we are perfectly placed to harness the talent and passion for the game in China to help develop young players who could become future stars of the game," Grant Cornwell, head of global coaching, told the club's website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com) In addition, 40 children - both from Guangzhou and underprivileged areas of China - will visit the United Kingdom for the Jaguar China-UK Football and Cultural Exchange in November, and will undergo a week of intensive training at Tottenham's training centre. Chinese companies are increasingly interested in buying stakes in European soccer clubs not only as profitable investments, but also as a way to help President Xi Jinping's bid to raise the profile of the sport. — Reuters

LAUDRUP RETURNS TO MANAGEMENT IN QATAR

DOHA: Michael Laudrup is set to return to football management by taking charge of Qatar league champions Al Rayyan, the club's board announced yesterday. Former Barcelona and Real Madrid star Laudrup will replace Jorge Fossati, who was appointed as coach of Qatar's national team over the weekend. "The board of Al Rayyan football club have reached an agreement with Denmark's Michael Laudrup to be the manager of the club," read a statement on the club's website. "It is expected that Laudrup will arrive in Doha within the next few hours to officially sign the contract." Laudrup, previously the coach at English Premier League team Swansea City, beat off competition from former Tottenham manager Christian Gross, according to another statement on the club's website posted earlier in the day. It will be the 52-year-old Dane's first return to management since surprisingly leaving fellow Qatar Stars League (QSL) side Lekhwiya last year after he coached them to the 2015 title. — AFP



WENTZ IMPRESSES AGAIN, EAGLES BEAT STEELERS

PHILADELPHIA: Carson Wentz threw for 301 yards and two touchdowns, a fierce defense shut down Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown and the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 34-3 on Sunday to remain unbeaten. The rookie No. 2 overall pick connected with Darren Sproles on a 73-yard, catch-and-run TD and tossed a 12-yard TD pass to Jordan Matthews. After beating the Browns and Bears in the first two games, the Eagles (3-0) proved they could compete with the big boys. The Steelers (2-1) averaged 31 points the first two weeks and are considered Super Bowl contenders. Pittsburgh was 19-2 against rookie quarterbacks since 2004. But Wentz is no ordinary rookie. Everyone is jumping on the Wentz wagon in Philadelphia. And he was the No. 3 quarterback until Sam Bradford was traded to Minnesota just eight days before the season opener. Sproles finished with six catches for 128 yards and Kenjon Barner and rookie Wendell Smallwood each had their first career rushing TDs.

BRONCOS 29, BENGALS 17

Trevor Siemian threw a career-high four touchdown passes in his first road start and was nearly perfect under fourth-quarter pressure, rallying Denver over Cincinnati. The defending Super Bowl champions are 3-0 under Siemian, who took over after Peyton Manning retired and Brock Osweiler went to Houston. He completed 11 of 12 passes while rallying the Broncos to a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. The previous Bronco to throw for four touchdowns was Manning in 2014 against the Dolphins. Siemian went 23 of 35 for 312 yards and a passer rating of 132.1. Siemian had a 41-yard touchdown pass to Emmanuel Sanders to get it started, and stood in under a heavy rush and connected with Demaryius Thomas on a 55-yard score with 4:23 left to clinch it. Sanders finished with nine catches for 117 yards. The Bengals got their dormant running game going, but were still out of sync as they fell to 1-2 for the first time in five years. Jeremy Hill ran for a pair of touchdowns and 97 yards.

PACKERS 34, LIONS 27

Aaron Rodgers threw for 205 yards and four touchdowns, including two in the first half to Jordy Nelson, and Green Bay snapped out of its offensive funk before holding off Detroit. Rodgers was 15 of 24, leading the Packers to touchdowns on their first three series. Nelson had 101 yards on six catches, returning to the form that made him one of the NFL's best receivers before missing the 2015 season with a knee injury. The Packers (2-1) led 31-10 at the

half before the Lions slowly chipped away. Marvin Jones' 35-yard touchdown catch with 3:34 left got Detroit (1-2) within seven. Jones had a career-high 205 yards on six receptions. Matthew Stafford passed for 385 yards and three scores for the Lions, who held advantages in total yardage (418-324) and time of possession, holding the ball for 35 minutes.

COWBOYS 31, BEARS 17

Dak Prescott led scoring drives on all four Dallas possessions in the first half before throwing his first career touchdown pass, and the Cowboys beat Chicago to snap an eight-game home losing streak. With his second straight win, Prescott doubled the number of victories the Cowboys (2-1) had in 14 games without injured quarterback Tony Romo over three seasons before the rookie fourth-round pick showed up. Prescott was 19 of 24 for 248 yards in Dallas' first home win since last year's opener. Prescott's first TD pass was a 17-yarder to Dez Bryant for a 31-10 lead in the fourth quarter, and he's up to 99 throws without an interception to start his career. Philadelphia rookie Carson Wentz has 102, and those are the two highest career-opening totals in NFL history. Rookie Ezekiel Elliott had his first 100-yard game for Dallas, finishing with 140 yards on 30 carries and a 14-yard run when he hurdled safety Chris Prosinski. Chicago is 0-3.

VIKINGS 22, PANTHERS 10

Sam Bradford threw a touchdown pass to Kyle Rudolph, Marcus Sherels returned a punt for a score and Minnesota snapped Carolina's 14-game home winning streak. The Vikings (3-0) put the clamps on Cam Newton, intercepting the league's reigning MVP three times and sacking him eight times, one of those resulting in a safety by Danielle Hunter. The eight sacks were the second-most ever against Newton. The Panthers (1-2) had come in averaging 42 points per game in their past three home games, but could do little after bolting to a 10-0 lead. The Vikings held Carolina receivers Kelvin Benjamin and Devin Funchess without a catch. Bradford improved to 2-0 as the Vikings starter, completing 18 of 28 passes for 171 yards. With Adrian Peterson injured, Matt Asiata and Jerick McKinnon combined for 70 yards rushing on 22 carries. Rudolph had seven catches for 70 yards, including a 15-yard TD catch to put the Vikings ahead for good in the early in the third quarter.

SEAHAWKS 37, 49ERS 18

Russell Wilson threw for 243 yards and a touchdown before suffering a left knee injury and Seattle rolled to a rout of San Francisco.

Wilson was injured with about 10 minutes to go in the third quarter getting pulled down awkwardly on a sack by San Francisco's Eli Harold. Harold was called for a horse collar penalty, but the bigger concern was how he fell on Wilson's left leg. Wilson stayed down on the field for a few moments before walking off. Wilson missed the first play of his career due to injury, but returned to throw one more pass. The completion led to the third of Steven Hauschka's three field goals for a 27-3 lead and after that Wilson's day was done.

COLTS 26, CHARGERS 22

Andrew Luck shook off a sore throwing shoulder, then watched T.Y. Hilton break a tackle on a 63-yard touchdown pass with 1:17 to play, giving Indianapolis a victory over San Diego. It's the second time this season Luck has produced a late score to give Indy a lead in the waning seconds. But, unlike the season opener two weeks ago, the Colts (1-2) recovered two fumbles in the final 62 seconds to preserve the win. Luck finished 24 of 37 for 331 yards with one TD and one interception to earn his 15th come-from-behind win - not bad for a guy who missed practice Wednesday and did limited work Thursday in practice because of the injury.

REDSKINS 29, GIANTS 27

Dustin Hopkins kicked a 37-yard field goal late in the fourth quarter for his fifth of the game and Washington Redskins avoid a near-disastrous 0-3 start with a win over the penalty-and error-prone New York. Kirk Cousins threw touchdown passes of 44 yards to DeSean Jackson and 55 to Jamison Crowder as the banged-up Redskins (1-2) handed new coach Ben McAdoo his first loss with the Giants (2-1). Su'a Cravens ended the Giants' final drive with an interception in New York territory. It was Eli Manning's second pick of the quarter, with the other coming in the end zone by Quinton Dunbar after New York got to the Redskins 15 on a big play by Odell Beckham Jr.

RAMS 37, BUCCANEERS 32

Case Keenum threw for the Rams' first touchdown since relocating back to Los Angeles, and Todd Gurley rushed for two more scores in a victory over Tampa Bay. The Rams (2-1), who did not get into the end zone in the first two games of the season, also scored on Ethan Westbrooks' 77-yard fumble return and Tavon Austin's 43-yard reception in the fourth quarter before thunder and lightning caused a 69-minute weather delay with two minutes remaining. Keenum, who used three field goals to beat Seattle 9-3 in Week 2, completed 14 of 25 passes for 190 yards, two TDs and one interception, which Bucs linebacker Kwon Alexander returned 38 yards for a first-quarter touchdown. In addition to throwing a TD pass to Austin for a late 11-point lead, he got the Rams on track early with his 44-yard scoring pass to Brian Quick for the franchise's first TD as the L.A. Rams since 1994. Jameis Winston threw for 405 yards and three TDs for Tampa Bay (1-2). He threw an interception that set up one of Gurley's two 1-yard touchdown runs and was stripped by the Rams' Robert Quinn on the fumble that Westbrooks returned up the left sideline for a 31-20 lead.

CHIEFS 24, JETS 3

Kansas City Chiefs returned two turnovers for touchdowns, intercepted three passes in the end zone and forced eight turnovers total in a victory over New York. Marcus Peters had two of the picks for the Chiefs (2-1), including the first of four off the Jets' Ryan Fitzpatrick in the fourth quarter. Daniel Sorenson had another, Derrick Johnson returned his 55 yards for a touchdown, and D.J. White snagged his in the end zone with 1:54 left in the game. The eight turnovers were the most by the Jets (1-2) since they set a franchise record with 10 in a loss to the New England Patriots on Nov. 21, 1976. Alex Smith was 25 of 33 for 237 yards and a touchdown for Kansas City, while Spencer Ware added 75 yards rushing. But it was the performance of the defense - and all those Jets turnovers - that helped the Chiefs bounced back from their first regular-season defeat in 12 games.

RAVENS 19, JAGUARS 17

Justin Tucker kicked a 54-yard field goal with 1:02 remaining, lifting Baltimore over Jacksonville. Tucker raised both arms in celebration as his fourth field goal of the day split the uprights with plenty of distance. The Ravens improved to 3-0 for the third time in franchise history and first since 2009. The Jaguars fell to 0-3 for the third time in the last four years and surely will hear more talk about coach Gus Bradley's job security. Bradley is now 12-39 in four seasons, the second-worst winning percentage of any NFL coach with at least 50 games. Tucker also made kicks of 43, 42 and 37 yards.

BILLS 33, CARDINALS 18

LeSean McCoy scored twice and safety Aaron Williams returned a botched field-goal snap 53 yards for a touchdown in leading



PHILADELPHIA: Pittsburgh Steelers' Antonio Brown (84) is brought down by Philadelphia Eagles' Rodney McLeod during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, in Philadelphia. — AP

Buffalo over Arizona. Quarterback Tyrod Taylor also scored on a 20-yard run at a time the Rex Ryan-coached Bills spent the past week taking the brunt of criticism after opening the season 0-2. The win also came on the heels of Ryan firing offensive coordinator Greg Roman and replacing him with running backs coach Anthony Lynn. McCoy scored on 24- and 5-yard runs, and finished with 110 yards rushing after combining for just 117 in his first two games. Taylor had 76 yards rushing, including a 49-yarder, the longest by a quarterback in team history. Arizona is 1-2.

RAIDERS 17, TITANS 10

Derek Carr threw for 249 yards and a touchdown, and Oakland beat Tennessee with its defense finally coming up with some big plays. The Raiders (2-1) forced three turnovers and had a sack after coming into this game having given up more yards than any team since at least 1940 through the first two games. Coach Jack Del made a couple of lineup changes, starting linebacker Cory James and rookie safety Karl Joseph, their top draft

pick. Oakland never trailed and took control in the second quarter, scoring 10 points and out-gaining the Titans 129-40 to take a 17-3 lead into halftime. The Titans (1-2) rallied from a 15-3 deficit a week ago in beating Detroit 16-15, and they thought they at least had forced overtime when Marcus Mariota found Andre Johnson alone in the end zone for a touchdown. But officials flagged Johnson for interference on Raiders cornerback TJ Carrie.

DOLPHINS 30, BROWNS 24, OT

Jay Ajayi scored on an 11-yard run with 8:26 left in overtime, and Miami escaped with a win over Cleveland. Ajayi's winner came one play after Miami quarterback Ryan Tannehill found a wide-open Jarvis Landry for a 32-yard gain, as the Dolphins (1-2) avoided what would be their first 0-3 start since 2011. Tannehill threw for 319 yards and three touchdowns for Miami, and Landry caught seven of those passes for 120 yards. Cody Parkey missed three field goals for Cleveland, including a 46-yarder as time expired in regulation. — AP

NFL results/standings

Buffalo 33, Arizona 18; Oakland 17, Tennessee 10; Miami 30, Cleveland 24 (OT); Baltimore 19, Jacksonville 17; Green Bay 34, Detroit 27; Denver 29, Cincinnati 17; Minnesota 22, Carolina 10; Washington 29, NY Giants 27; Los Angeles 37, Tampa Bay 32; Seattle 37, San Francisco 18; Kansas City 24, NY Jets 3; Indianapolis 26, San Diego 22; Philadelphia 34, Pittsburgh 3; Dallas 31, Chicago 17.

American Football Conference								National Football Conference							
AFC East								NFC East							
W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT									
New England	3	0	0	0	81	45	1.000	Philadelphia	3	0	0	0	92	27	1.000
NY Jets	1	2	0	0	62	78	.333	NY Giants	2	1	0	0	63	61	.667
Miami	1	2	0	0	64	67	.333	Dallas	2	1	0	0	77	60	.667
Buffalo	1	2	0	0	71	68	.333	Washington	1	2	0	0	68	92	.333
AFC North								NFC North							
Baltimore	3	0	0	0	57	44	1.000	Minnesota	3	0	0	0	64	40	1.000
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	0	65	66	.667	Green Bay	2	1	0	0	75	67	.667
Cincinnati	1	2	0	0	56	75	.333	Detroit	1	2	0	0	81	85	.333
Cleveland	0	3	0	1	54	84	0	Chicago	0	3	0	0	45	83	0
AFC South								NFC South							
Houston	2	1	0	0	42	53	.667	Atlanta	1	1	0	0	59	59	.500
Tennessee	1	2	0	0	42	57	.333	Tampa Bay	1	2	0	0	70	101	.333
Indianapolis	1	2	0	0	81	95	.333	Carolina	1	2	0	0	76	70	.333
Jacksonville	0	3	0	0	54	84	0	New Orleans	0	2	0	0	47	51	0
AFC West								NFC West							
Denver	3	0	0	0	84	57	1.000	Los Angeles	2	1	0	0	46	63	.667
Oakland	2	1	0	0	80	79	.667	Seattle	2	1	0	0	52	37	.667
Kansas City	2	1	0	0	69	49	.667	San Francisco	1	2	0	0	73	83	.333
San Diego	1	2	0	1	87	73	.333	Arizona	1	2	0	0	79	63	.333



KJA'S FAISAL AL-QENA'E HONORED FOR HIS SERVICES

KUWAIT: In a special ceremony held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, the Honorary Chairman of the Asian Sports Press Union, Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA)'s

Secretary and head of its sports committee, Faisal Al-Qena'e was recently awarded in appreciation for his 35 year long career and services in the line of Asian sports press.

WOMAN ACE TAKES ON MEN IN EXTREME-SPORT AIR RACING

LAUSITZRING: For Melanie Astles, the only woman pilot to compete in the Red Bull Air Race, flying low and fast is a childhood dream come true and offers her the chance to literally go up against some of the best aerobatic pilots in the world.

The race aboard single prop, high-performance aerobatic planes, takes place this year over three continents and eight venues.

It started in March, in Abu Dhabi, with 22 competitors and winds up on October 15-16 in Las Vegas, in the United States for the final round after a stop in Indianapolis on October 1 and 2. Flying at speeds of 370 km/h (230 miles/hour), pilots launch into a slalom-like obstacle course, winding their way between and around 25-metre-high (82-feet) light-

cloth, air-filled pylons, just above water or ground level. The planes race against the clock, taking off one after another and flashing through the obstacles with just 3.5 metres to spare at each wingtip. "The psychological aspect is really important because you need to be completely focussed for one minute and 30 seconds, 110%, and a mistake of just one millisecond will cost you the race," says Astles, who was born in Rugby, England, to an English father and French mother, but who grew up mainly in France. For the first time since the Red Bull Air Race was first run 13 years' ago, a woman is competing in this adrenaline-high, male-dominated extreme-sport where you need to be physically-fit to cope with the G force accelerations that slam

you against the cockpit seat as if on a super-charged fairground ride.

But you also must be fully in tune with your plane, hardly conscious of touching the control stick. Asked if she ever feels frightened, Astles says she's much too focused on performance. "I'm very calm in the plane and you can't be frightened, you don't have time for that," she says.

CHAMPION

Being the only woman in the field does however add to the pressure, she says, but it's also an opportunity to be a role model for other women pilots. She once dreamed of becoming an Air Force pilot, like many of her male competitors in the Red Bull international

air race. But she left school aged 18, uninterested in academics. "I worked at a petrol station, got some money together and, bit by bit, paid for my flying lessons," she says.

Today, aged 34, she is both a flying instructor and a five-time French aerobatics champion. "I've always loved to race, be it car racing, motorbike racing, I've always loved that. It's part of me," she says, adding her hero is the late Formula One Grand Prix legend Ayrton Senna. The race is all that and more. "It's airplane meets motor-racing, meets downhill skiing," explains Paul Bonhomme, Astles' coach, and himself a former Red Bull Air Race champion. "You might sacrifice a bit of time into one turn, but that will save you more time on the exit, same as car-racing,

very similar to downhill slalom skiing," he adds. Competing at the Lausitzring race-track, in eastern Germany, the planes come roaring out of the sky, trailing smoke for higher visibility, looping their way around the pylons before candle-climbing away into the sky. The ground teams-serving pilots in the beginners' 'Challenger class' or top 'Champion class'-keenly observe each other as they compete to gain micro-seconds by reducing wing drag, or work up computer programmes to analyse the best trajectories.

The number of pilots competing in the race is now down to 21 after Austrian pilot Hannes Arch died in a helicopter crash, in early September, while flying privately at home. — AFP

INJURED CRAIG OUT AS NZ RECALL PATEL

NEW DELHI: New Zealand's Mark Craig has been ruled out of the rest of the test series against India because of a side strain and will be replaced in the squad by fellow off-spinner Jeetan Patel, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said yesterday.

Craig claimed two wickets in the first test in Kanpur but left the field after sustaining an injury to his left side while bowling in the second innings.

"We're really disappointed for Mark, knowing the work he's put in to prepare for this series," coach Mike Hesson said in a statement.

The 29-year-old will fly home for rehab-

ilitation and is likely to take four weeks to fully recover. In a like-for-like replacement, 36-year-old Patel returns to the squad having played his last test against South Africa in 2013. "Jeetan is up to speed from a bowling load perspective having recently completed a successful county season - so he will be ready for the rigours of test cricket," Hesson said.

"He'll also add invaluable experience to our young spin group." Patel is the second spinner of Indian-origin in a touring party that also includes leg-spinner Ish Sodhi. Kolkata hosts the second of the three tests from Friday. — Reuters



Kuwaiti motor-cyclist Muaz Al-Ansari with Mohammad Al-Khlaifi

KUWAITI RIDER REIGNS IN AQUABIKE CHAMPIONSHIP

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti rider Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq grabbed the first and second places in third round of Aquabike World Championship that concluded its activities in Shanghai, China on Sunday. Al-Abdulrazzaq, in remarks to KUNA, expressed his happiness and satisfaction with his achievement.

The Kuwaiti world champion said that a technical problem during the race has prevented him from snatching the first place in the first round.

He expressed his gratitude to the technical crew accompanying him, praising the continued support of the public and private sectors through the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Public Authority for Sports, Zain Telecom and Kuwait Finance House for the

great care and encouragement they offer. Al-Abdulrazzaq is the only Arabic champion who won the world title seven times in the professional categories.

Kuwaiti motorcyclist wins

In another development Kuwaiti motorcyclist Muaz Al-Ansari came first in the first and second rounds of the Trans-World championship held in California, the US. In a telephone contact with KUNA, Al-Ansari said he ranked first in the "novice-fit" competition, beating top-notch champions. Up to 700 champions are taking in the Trans-World tournament.

Al-Ansari added that his fellow citizen, Mohammad Al-Khlaifi, came third in the beginners-250 category. — Agencies



Kuwaiti rider Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq



KANPUR: India's Ajinkya Rahane and captain Virat Kohli (2L) remove the stumps after the wicket of New Zealand's Neil Wagner during the fifth day of the first cricket Test match between India and New Zealand at Green Park Stadium in Kanpur yesterday. — AFP

INDIA THUMP NEW ZEALAND TO CELEBRATE 500TH TEST IN STYLE

KANPUR: India celebrated their 500th test in style when they overcame New Zealand's final dogged resistance with mesmeric spin and masterful swing to claim the series opener by 197 runs yesterday.

New Zealand were always going to do well to manage anything more than delaying the Indian celebrations when they resumed on 93 for four in their pursuit of an improbable 434-run victory target on a track offering generous spin and bounce.

To their credit, they kept the home bowlers at bay for 50 overs on a turning day-five track before collapsing for 236 to give the hosts a comprehensive victory in the milestone test. Ravichandran Ashwin claimed 6-132 to complete his 10-wicket match haul and prove why he is considered India's premier spinner. His spin partner Ravindra Jadeja was adjudged man-of-the-match for claiming six wickets and scoring 92 runs without being dismissed in either innings. "A target of 430-odd on a fifth day wicket is very, very hard to get," home skipper Virat Kohli told reporters. "All your batsmen, right till number 10, have to bat really well (to achieve that). We knew it's just a matter of being patient."

"Having batted on that wicket, and all the batsmen would vouch for this, you could not defend your way out of the game," Kohli added.

When final day's play began under an over-cast sky, overnight batsmen Luke Ronchi and Mitchell Santner (71) continued their resistance against the in-form Indian spinners at Kanpur's Green Park Stadium. Kohli predictably began with spin from both ends but the batsmen mixed caution with aggression to defy their hosts.

RONCHI BREAKTHROUGH

Left-arm spinner Jadeja finally made the breakthrough when he induced Ronchi into an ill-timed slog against the turn and Ashwin

SCOREBOARD			
KANPUR, India: Final scoreboard of the first Test between India and New Zealand in Kanpur yesterday:			
India 1st innings 318 (M. Vijay 65, C. Pujara 62; T. Boult 3-67, M. Santner 3-94)	M. Santner c Sharma b Ashwin	71	
	BJ. Watling lbw b Shami	18	
	M. Craig b Shami	1	
New Zealand 1st innings 262 (K. Williamson 75, T. Latham 58; R. Jadeja 5-73, R. Ashwin 4-93)	I. Sodhi b Ashwin	17	
	T. Boult not out	2	
	N. Wagner lbw b Ashwin	0	
	Extras (lb2, nb1)	3	
	Total (all out; 87.3 overs)	236	
India 2nd innings 377/5 declared (C. Pujara 78, M. Vijay 76; M. Santner 2-79, I. Sodhi 2-99)	Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Guptill), 2-3 (Latham), 3-43 (Williamson), 4-56 (Taylor), 5-158 (Ronchi), 6-194 (Watling), 7-196 (Craig), 8-223 (Santner), 9-236 (Sodhi), 10-236 (Wagner)		
New Zealand 2nd innings (overnight 93/4)			
T. Latham lbw b Ashwin	2		
M. Guptill c Vijay b Ashwin	0		
K. Williamson lbw b Ashwin	25		
R. Taylor run out	17		
L. Ronchi c Ashwin b Jadeja	80		
	Bowling: Shami 8-2-18-2, Ashwin 35.3-5-132-6, Jadeja 34-17-58-1, Yadav 8-1-23-0, Vijay 2-0-3-0.		
	Result: India win by 197 runs		

pouched the skier at point. The dismissal pretty much summed up a test in which India's spin duo, who shared 16 of the 20 Black Cap wickets between them, combined to wreck New Zealand's hopes of a result.

It was a tame end to Ronchi's 102-run partnership with Santner, a defiant battle spread over 36 overs that proved the local spinners were not unplayable. Ronchi hit nine boundaries and a six before his rush of blood to the head ended his innings on 80.

In a match dominated by the spinners, Mohammed Shami also displayed his reverse swing mastery and got one to jag back into BJ Watling's pad before he uprooted Mark Craig's middle stump with another swinging delivery.

Craig will now return home to recover from a

side strain. He was replaced in the squad by Jeetan Patel. Santner completed his fifty but was then served a near unplayable ball from Ashwin, which pitched way outside the leg-stump, turned and bounced viciously to kiss the shoulder of the bat before nestling in Rohit Sharma's waiting hands at silly point.

The off-spinner then trapped Neil Wagner leg before to seal the victory. Kolkata hosts the second of the three tests from Friday. "They are a good side, particularly in their home conditions and they showed that again," said New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. "As a unit, we want to be able to apply pressure for longer, which isn't always easy in this part of the world against a side like India. But it's certainly a challenge for us moving forward." — Reuters

PAKISTAN TARGET T20 WHITEWASH OVER WI

ABU DHABI: Coach Mickey Arthur urged Pakistan to be ruthless and achieve a rare clean sweep against world champions West Indies in the third and final Twenty20 in Abu Dhabi today. Pakistan hold an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series after the nine wicket and 16-run victories in the two back-to-back matches in Dubai. Arthur said the series win is the first step in building a new team, five months after they crashed out of the World Twenty20 in India. "Without a doubt the series win is the first step in the right direction," said Arthur yesterday. "We want to win it 3-0 and want to be ruthless with our attitude."

Pakistan have never won two T20 matches in a three-match series. Their spin assault saw West Indies crumble for 115 on Friday, with left-arm spinner Imad Wasim grabbing a career best five for 14. They then scored 160 for four before

restricting the West Indies for 144 for nine on Saturday.

Arthur believes his players are achieving targets after losing a one-day series 4-1, but winning the only T20 on their recent tour of England. "We set ourselves some realistic goals."

"First of all we want to play the brand of cricket that's up with the task, we want players who can do the job and I think we want some way to finding out some players in this series who can do that," said Arthur who replaced Waqar Yousif after the World T20.

Arthur was satisfied with Pakistan's batting approach, specially in the power-plays.

"Some of the things we identified in the England series was power play thing and that is pleasing that we have improved on that. "The dot ball percentage (we play) was always far too high, so we had to rotate the strike more and

we particularly worked hard to score off good balls and have done good power hitting."

Arthur hoped dashing batsman Umar Akmal will redeem his career, recalled to the T20 squad after five months and in the one-day team after a year and a half. "I had a very serious chat with Umar," said Arthur of Umar being dropped for disciplinary reasons.

"He knows where he stands, but he has been outstanding and has stuck to his work and he is working very hard and I am enjoying working with him." Arthur believed West Indies were finding life difficult against his spinners.

"Look, it's always an area where we try to expose opponents in these conditions and we have done that with spin bowling."

"These are our conditions so we try to expose them in our conditions and we have been smart in these conditions." — AFP

FORD PLANNING TO TAKE TOULON TO ‘NEXT LEVEL’

TOULON: Mike Ford vowed to bring the excitement back to Toulon after being unseated as the three-time European champions' backs coach yesterday.

The former Bath head coach said he would take the mis-firing giants to the "next level" as they attempt to regain the French and European titles.

"First of all, it's the biggest club in Europe and they've been the most successful of the last four or five years," said Ford, 50. "So the challenge is an exciting one, to work with a great group of coaches and some world class players-as a coach, that's all you can ask for."

Toulon had a poor start to the new Top 14 season but earned a morale-boosting 23-21 win over then-unbeaten Clermont

on Sunday that moved them up to fifth.

The club's outspoken president Mourad Boudjellal said following that success that he may quit the club due to press criticism but he has nonetheless moved to boost his coaching resources.

"Mourad rang me up two weeks ago to discuss and talk rugby. He obviously liked the way Bath played," said Ford.

"Initially it was just a conversation about how the game should be played and how does he like to see the game played. "Mourad said to me he wants to see an exciting brand of rugby, he wants to win but also he wants to score tries, and he believes I can add to that."

Ford insisted he has been brought in to work with, rather than replace, under-

fire head coach Diego Dominguez.

"Me and Diego have talked several times, he's the boss, I'm here to help. "My skill set is coaching on the field, so I will help with attack, defence and the backs.

"There's a lot of good things in place already here structure-wise and over the coming weeks I'll just tweak things to hopefully take the team to the next level."

'FANTASTIC SQUAD'

Ford believes Toulon have everything they need to be successful again having won three straight European titles from 2013-2015. They also reached the Top 14 final in each of those seasons, although won it only once in 2014.

"It's a fantastic squad, I've coached

internationally against many of them so I know Matthew Giteau, Ma'a Nonu very well, Leigh Halfpenny, (Juan Fernandez) Lobbe. When we were at Bath we tried to sign Duane Vermeulen, so there's a lot of players I know personally and in all the squad there's a lot of talent."

Ford will also link up with Toulon's kicking coach Jonny Wilkinson again. Ford was an England assistant coach when Wilkinson was at the height of his playing powers.

"Me and Jonny have a good relationship and we spoke several times about Toulon-he said it was a perfect place for me to go as a coach," added Ford.

His main aim, though, will be to get the team scoring tries-they've managed

only 11 in six matches this season.

"I was an international defence coach for 10 years and all you ever do as defence coach is watch other people's attack, so over the 10 years I became pretty comfortable with the sort of attack that's difficult for defences," said Ford.

"So when I went to Bath I just turned that around and implemented an attack structure that I knew from my defensive days was very difficult to defend." If he can manage that, Boudjellal may abandon all talk of quitting the game.

The club host third-placed Montpellier on Sunday while they begin their European Champions Cup campaign at home to title-holders Saracens on October 15. — AFP

CULBERSON'S HOMER CLINCHES TITLE FOR DODGERS

LOS ANGELES: The Los Angeles Dodgers clinched their fourth straight NL West title, winning the crown in Vin Scully's final home game when Charlie Culberson homered with two outs in the 10th inning to beat the Colorado Rockies 4-3 Sunday. Culberson hit his first homer of the season and just sixth of his career off Boone Logan (2-5) and the ball landed in the lower left-field seats, touching off wild cheers and a raucous celebration at home plate. The Dodgers charged out of their dugout and surrounded Culberson, jumping up and down.

They donned championship T-shirts and hats from carts wheeled on the field. The Dodgers took off their caps, turned toward Scully's broadcasting booth and held them in a salute to the 88-year-old Hall of Famer, who has just three games at San Francisco next weekend before ending his 67-year career. The Dodgers became the first NL West team to win four straight division titles. Joe Blanton (7-2) pitched the 10th to get the victory.

PADRES 4, GIANTS 3

Rookie Manuel Margot tripled in the seventh inning and scored the go-ahead run on Wil Myers' single as San Diego dropped San Francisco a game behind the New York Mets in the NL wild-card race. A few minutes before this game ended, the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Colorado in 10 innings to win the NL West title. The Dodgers came into Sunday seven games ahead of the Giants. Margot, called up Wednesday from Pacific Coast League champion El Paso, tripled to right center off Cory Gearrin (3-2) with one out in the seventh and scored on Myers' single to right. Margot doubled in the first and hit an RBI single in the second, both off rookie Ty Blach, who was making his first big league start, in place of the injured Johnny Cueto. Brandon Morrow (1-0) got two outs for the victory. Brad Hand got the last five outs for his first save.

CUBS 3, CARDINALS 1

David Ross homered and teamed with Jon Lester for another scoreless performance, and Chicago hurt St. Louis' wild-card chances. Ben Zobrist had three hits and scored two runs as Chicago finished with a major league-best 57-24 home record.

It's the most home wins for the Cubs since they went 58-19 at the West Side Grounds in 1910. The Cardinals lost for the third time in four games, wasting a chance to improve their playoff positioning. They remain a half-game back of San Francisco for the second NL wild card. Lester (19-4), one of the top candidates for the NL Cy Young Award, struck out seven in 6 2/3 innings. The left-hander allowed three hits and walked one while improving to 10-0 with 1.34 ERA in his last 13 starts. Carlos Martinez (15-9) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings.

WHITE SOX 3, INDIANS 0

Carlos Rodon struck out a career-high 11 over eight dominant innings and the Chicago White Sox denied Cleveland any chance of winning the AL Central title by beating the Indians 3-0 on Sunday. Rodon (8-10) blanked the Indians on just two singles and easily handled the division leaders who still haven't wrapped up a playoff spot and have gone flat at the worst time possible.

Cleveland needed to win its regular-season finale at home and Detroit to lose to Kansas City for the Indians to clinch their first division championship since 2007. Now, they will have to try and do it on the road against the Tigers, whom they've beaten 13 times in 15 games this season. The clubs open a four-game series Monday at Comerica Park. It was a disappointing finish for the Indians at Progressive Field, where they went 50-27 and had 11 walk-off wins in a season of comebacks. Cleveland had three errors for the



LOS ANGELES: Dustin Garneau #13 of the Colorado Rockies slides home ahead of a tag from Carlos Ruiz #51 of the Los Angeles Dodgers to take a 2-0 lead during the third inning at Dodger Stadium on Sunday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

second straight game. Carlos Sanchez had two RBIs off Josh Tomlin (12-9).

BLUE JAYS 4, YANKEES 3

Ezequiel Carrera drove in the tying run with a squeeze bunt in the ninth inning, Edwin Encarnacion hit a winning single and Toront hled its AL wild-card lead.

Toronto leads Baltimore by 1 1/2 games for the top AL wild-card spot. The Blue Jays have won a team-record eight straight at home against the Yankees. New York ended its 33-inning scoreless streak, but lost for the 11th time in 14 games.

After the Yankees scored twice in the ninth off closer Roberto Osuna (3-2) for a 3-2 lead, the Blue Jays bounced back. Dellin Betances walked Melvin Upton Jr. to begin the bottom of the ninth and took third when Kevin Pillar singled off Tyler Clippard (3-6). Carrera followed with a squeeze bunt, and both runners advanced as Clippard's attempted scoop sent the ball rolling past catcher Gary Sanchez toward the backstop. Clippard struck out Devon Travis before Josh Donaldson was intentionally walked to load the bases. Encarnacion's slow roller between first and second scored the winning run.

ORIOLES 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Hyun Soo Kim hit his fifth home run, a two-run shot in the second inning, and Baltimore completed a three-game sweep of Arizona. The Orioles entered the day a half-game ahead of Detroit for the second AL wild card and trailed Toronto by 1 1/2 games for the top spot. The Orioles begin a crucial three-game series at the Blue Jays today. Baltimore finished the regular season 50-31 at Camden Yards. Arizona has been swept 13 times this season, including six on the road. Orioles rookie Dylan Bundy (10-6) allowed the one run on three hits with five strikeouts over five innings. Baltimore's Zach Britton picked up his American League-leading 46th save in 46 chances. Manny Machado went 2 for 4 for his team-high 54th multi-hit game.

ROYALS 12, TIGERS 9

Salvador Perez homered to cap a cycle by Kansas City's first four batters of the game, and the Royals went deep three more times to beat Detroit and drop the Tigers in the AL wild-card race. The defending World Series champions avoided elimination from this year's postseason race by chasing Detroit starter Matt Boyd (6-5) before he retired a hitter. Kansas City started the game with a single, a triple and a double before Perez's two-run homer made it 4-0. The Tigers fell 1 1/2 games behind Baltimore for the second wild-card spot. The loss cut Cleveland's magic number to clinch the AL Central to one - the Indians start a four-game series in Detroit on Monday night.

RED SOX 3, RAYS 2, 10 INNINGS

Dustin Pedroia used nifty baserunning to score from first base on David Ortiz's double in the 10th inning and AL East-leading Boston won its 11th straight. Pedroia singled off Eddie Gamboa (0-1) to start the inning. The relay throw on Ortiz's hit to right center beat Pedroia to plate but he avoided Luke Maile's first tag. Pedroia's momentum carried him past the plate and when he went back to touch it Maile was charged with an error when the ball dropped off his glove on another tag try. Joe Kelly (4-0) went 2 2/3 scoreless innings for the win. Red Sox starter Eduardo Rodriguez struck out a career-high 13 in 5 1/3 innings.

METS 17, PHILLIES 0

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a grand slam, Jose Reyes drove in four runs and the Mets got the largest shutout victory in team history to maintain the NL wild-card lead. On an afternoon when batters circled the bases like the cartoon Gashouse Gorillas, the Mets romped

in their final regular-season game at Citi Field. Reyes batted four straight times with the bases loaded and Cabrera hit his 23rd home run this season. Curtis Granderson reached 30 home runs for the first time since 2012 and rookie Robert Gsellman (3-2) allowed three hits over seven innings. New York's previous high for runs in a shutout was 14, against the Chicago Cubs in 1965 and Cincinnati in 1998. Wearing 1986 commemorative uniforms, New York began the day tied with San Francisco for the NL's two wild cards, a half-game ahead of St. Louis. Jake Thompson (3-6) allowed three runs and five hits in four innings.

REDS 4, BREWERS 2

Brandon Finnegan pitched five scoreless innings in his final start of the season, lifting the Cincinnati past Milwaukee. Finnegan (10-11) scattered three hits and struck out four, needing only 54 pitches to get through five innings. Raisel Iglesias pitched the ninth for his fourth save in five chances. Finnegan, obtained in the July 2015 trade that sent Johnny Cueto to Kansas City, went 4-3 with a 2.23 ERA in his final 11 starts. The left-hander pitched 172 innings this year, up from 105 1/3 innings splitting time between the major and minor leagues in 2015. Milwaukee starter Willy Peralta (7-11) pitched six innings, allowing three runs - two earned - on five hits and three walks while striking out five.

ASTROS 4, ANGELS 1

Joe Musgrove pitched seven strong innings, Evan Gattis, Tony Kemp and Tyler White homered, and Houston snapped a three-game slide to preserve its playoff hopes. Houston began the day three games behind Baltimore for the second AL wild-card spot. Musgrove (4-4, 4.06 ERA) allowed one run on seven hits while striking out four. Closer Ken Giles rebounded from a blown save in Friday's 10-6 loss to Los Angeles. He walked one and struck out two in the ninth for his 14th save. Daniel Wright (0-5, 6.95) lasted six innings for the Angels. He gave up three runs on seven hits, including two homers, while striking out four and walking two.

MARINERS 4, TWINS 3

Nelson Cruz homered twice before leaving with left wrist soreness, Jesus Sucre homered for the first time in 14 months and Seattle beat Minnesota. Taijuan Walker (7-11) danced around danger for most of his 5 2/3 innings, allowing nine hits and three earned runs. Nick Vincent, Steve Cishek and Edwin Diaz then combined for 3 2/3 innings of no-hit relief,

including Diaz's 17th save in 19 chances. Trying to make the postseason for the first time since 2001, Seattle is 2 1/2 games behind Baltimore for the second American League wild-card spot with a week to play. Max Kepler homered and Robbie Grossman had three hits for Minnesota in its 100th loss. This is the second time in team history the Twins have had triple-digit losses: The 1982 squad finished 60-102. Hector Santiago (12-10) allowed four earned runs in 5 2/3 innings for Minnesota.

ATHLETICS 7, RANGERS 1

Jharel Cotton pitched seven crisp innings and Oakland avoided a series sweep. Ryon Healy had three hits, including a two-run homer, and Stephen Vogt drove in three runs to help the A's win after being shut out in back-to-back games. Adrian Beltre hit his 32nd home run for Texas. The Rangers, who clinched the AL West on Friday, fell into a tie with the Boston Red Sox for home-field advantage in the playoffs. Texas (92-64) holds a slight tiebreaking advantage based on division record. Oakland will be sitting out the postseason and had lost the first five games on this homestand but ended it on an encouraging note behind Cotton (2-0). The rookie right-hander allowed one run, struck out five and faced two over the minimum while quieting the Rangers' potent offense. Coming off consecutive shutout losses in the first two games of the series, the A's did all of their scoring in the second to chase starter Colby Lewis (6-4).

NATIONALS 10, PIRATES 7

Nationals star Bryce Harper injured his left thumb making an awkward slide to avoid a pretend tag by Pittsburgh third baseman Jung Ho Kang, and the teams later cleared the benches in Washington's win. Harper's thumb was sore and the reigning NL MVP will have X-rays yesterday. Harper led off the third inning with a triple for the NL East champions. As Harper neared third, Kang acted as if a throw was coming and faked a tag. Harper went down, was checked by a trainer and stayed in. He scored on Anthony Rendon's double and was replaced in the field in the bottom half. The next time Kang came up, Nationals starter A.J. Cole threw a fastball behind him and was immediately ejected by plate umpire Jordan Baker. The benches cleared, with Washington's Jayson Werth in the middle of the skirmish. Pirates outfielder Sean Rodriguez was ejected. Washington rallied for five runs in the eighth off former teammate Felipe Rivero (1-5). Shawn Kelley (3-2) got the win. Former Pirates closer Mark Melancon got his 43rd save. — AP

MLB results/standings

Toronto 4, NY Yankees 3; Kansas City 12, Detroit 9; Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2 (10 Innings); Chicago White Sox 3, Cleveland 0; NY Mets 17, Philadelphia 0; Baltimore 2, Arizona 1; Washington 10, Pittsburgh 7; Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 2; Houston 4, LA Angels 1; Seattle 4, Minnesota 3; Oakland 7, Texas 1; LA Dodgers 4, Colorado 3 (10 innings); San Diego 4, San Francisco 3; Chicago Cubs 3, St. Louis 1.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	92	64	.590	-	Washington	91	64	.587	-
Toronto	86	69	.555	5.5	NY Mets	83	73	.532	8.5
Baltimore	85	71	.545	7	Miami	77	78	.497	14
NY Yankees	79	76	.510	12.5	Philadelphia	70	86	.449	21.5
Tampa Bay	65	90	.419	26.5	Atlanta	63	92	.406	28
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	90	65	.581	-	Chicago Cubs	99	56	.639	-
Detroit	83	72	.535	7	St. Louis	81	74	.523	18
Kansas City	79	77	.506	11.5	Pittsburgh	77	78	.497	22
Chicago W Sox	74	81	.477	16	Milwaukee	70	86	.449	29 1/2
Minnesota	56	100	.359	34.5	Cincinnati	65	90	.419	34
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	92	64	.590	-	LA Dodgers	90	66	.577	-
Seattle	82	73	.529	9.5	San Francisco	82	74	.526	8
Houston	82	74	.526	10	Colorado	73	83	.468	17
LA Angels	69	87	.442	23	San Diego	66	90	.423	24
Oakland	67	88	.432	24.5	Arizona	64	91	.413	25.5

SIX VIE FOR ASIAN SPOTS ON FIFA COUNCIL AFTER QATARI BANNED

PANAJI: Six Asian candidates will vie for three seats on the reformed FIFA Council in Goa today after a senior Qatari official was barred from the election due to an ongoing investigation into corruption.

The FIFA Council has replaced the largely discredited Executive Committee under reforms instituted in the wake of the corruption scandal which has engulfed soccer's world governing body over the last 16 months.

The three successful candidates at today's Asian Football Confederation

extraordinary congress in Goa will represent Asia on the body along with Bahraini vice president Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and members from Japan, Malaysia and Kuwait. Saoud Al-Mohannadi, vice-president of the Qatar Football Association, had announced his candidature and cleared the necessary FIFA integrity check but was ruled out late on Sunday.

"FIFA has advised the Asian Football Confederation that, based on the report of the Investigatory Chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee, it has decided Saoud A.

Aziz Al-Mohannadi (Qatar) is not eligible to stand in the elections for the FIFA Council," the AFC said in a statement.

A FIFA ethics investigator last month recommended Al-Mohannadi be banned from the game for at least two-and-a-half years for refusing to cooperate with an inquiry. FIFA did not give details on the subject of the investigation but said it was not related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup, to be hosted by Qatar. Al-Mohannadi has denied any wrongdoing. Asia's three additional seats on the Council, which has

been significantly expanded as part of reforms introduced by new FIFA President Gianni Infantino, include one reserved for a woman. Australian Moya Dodd, the chairwoman of the FIFA task force for women's football and formerly a co-opted member of the old FIFA Executive Committee, will take on fellow AFC Executive Committee members Mahfuza Ahkter of Bangladesh and Han Un-Gyong of North Korea.

Zhang Jian of China, Iran's Ali Kafashian Naeni and Zainudin Nordin of Singapore

will vie for the other two seats at today's congress, which will be attended by Infantino. The 51-year-old Zhang is the general secretary of the Chinese Football Association while Naeni, 62, is a seasoned football administrator from Iran. Nordin, 53, is the head of Singapore's football body and is a member of the AFC's governance reform task force.

The new 36-member Council, charged with setting the overall strategic direction of world football, will hold its first meeting in Zurich on Oct 13-14. — Reuters

WOZNIACKI OFF TO GOOD START AT RETIREMENT-HIT WUHAN

WUHAN: Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki made a strong start at the WTA Wuhan Open as the tournament was hit by a wave of retirements yesterday.

Wozniacki-fresh from a title victory at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Sunday—took two sets to secure her place in the second round, as double Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and Briton Johanna Konta also made convincing starts.

Four players quit mid-match, taking the tally to six in just two days at the Chinese tournament, which is also missing injured world number two Serena Williams.



WUHAN: Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark hits a return during her match against Samantha Stosur of Australia at the WTA Wuhan Open in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei province yesterday. — AFP

Wozniacki was sidelined by injury for nearly three months earlier this year but has made a strong late-season comeback, reaching the semi-finals of the US Open and bagging her first crown of the season in Tokyo. The 26-year-old Dane flew straight to Wuhan after Sunday's final where she dispatched Australian Samantha Stosur in two sets, winning 6-3, 6-2 on an ace.

"I'm on a roll, so hopefully I can keep pushing myself and play well," she told reporters after the match.

Kvitova served six aces-mirrored by her teenage opponent's six double faults—to sweep to a 6-3, 6-1 victory against Latvian Jelena Ostapenko. "The beginning of the match was just terrible. Afterwards, I was just

more relaxed and more confident," the Czech player told reporters. "I think the key was kind of attacking her second serve," she added. Meanwhile, Konta eased past German Annika Beck 6-1, 6-2 to get her campaign off to a flying start. "She fought all the way through and we had a lot of close games so I don't think the scoreline quite reflects the level of the match," Konta said after the match.

RUN OF RETIREMENTS

The Australian Open semi-finalist will meet Zhang Shuai of China, who beat compatriot Peng Shuai in three tightly fought sets 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4. The pair last met in Melbourne, where Konta halted qualifier Zhang's fairy-tale run in the quarter finals.

"We had a great match at the Australian Open and I haven't played her since so I think it will be a great battle," Konta said.

But Britain's Heather Watson, Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia and Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova all joined the injury list as they retired from their first-round matches.

Meanwhile, Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania bowed out in the second set of her second-round meet with world number five Simona Halep. The late-season tournament, which comes just two weeks after the year's final Grand Slam, the US Open, also saw five retirements last year-including in the final.

Yesterday's pull-outs enabled American Madison Brengle, Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan and Japan's Misaki Doi to progress to the second round with unexpected ease.

An all Czech second round meet saw US Open finalist Karolina Pliskova beat Lucie Safarova in a close two sets, 6-3, 7-5.

Kvitova was able to level her season's score with Ostapenko, who beat the Olympic bronze medallist twice at the beginning of the year, before the Czech ousted her at the US Open.

Illness hampered the start of the 26-year-old Kvitova's season, which also saw her split with her coach of seven years David Kotyza, and she has slipped to 16th in the rankings—her lowest in five years. But she won her first Olympic medal at Rio, losing in the semi-finals to eventual gold medallist Monica Puig before beating American Madison Keys for the third podium spot.

Wimbledon quarter-finalist Dominika Cibulkova took three sets to beat French qualifier Alize Cornet 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 and next faces German Laura Siegemund. — AFP

S KOREA RECALLS SON FOR W CUP QUALIFIERS

SEOUL: South Korea coach Uli Stielike has recalled Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min ahead of next month's 2018 World Cup qualification games against Qatar and Iran.

Stielike allowed Son to miss the 1-1 draw with Syria earlier this month to focus on his career with Tottenham in the Premier League.

For Son and Spurs, it was a successful move. The attacker scored four goals in the subsequent three league games, including a double in the 2-1 win at Middlesbrough on Saturday that lifted Spurs into second spot.

"If you look at his performances of late, you can see that Son is playing well," Stielike said Monday. "His confidence is high and he is having a positive influence on his team overall." South Korea hosts Qatar on Oct. 6 and plays Iran in Tehran five days later in important continental qualifiers.

Son joined Tottenham from Bayer Leverkusen in August 2015 but, partly because of injuries, struggled to settle in his

first season in England and was restricted to four goals. Tottenham head coach Mauricio Pochettino said Son just needed more time to adjust. "It is difficult for all the players who come from outside England because the Premier League is the toughest league in the world," Pochettino was quoted as saying. "After one year and the summer he is a different person - he's more mature and he knows the league and he's settled in fantastically now. When a front player scores goals it is easy for him to settle." Two other Premier League players have been included in South Korea's squad. Swansea City's Ki Sung-yeung and Lee Chung-yong of Crystal Palace both featured in the 3-2 win over China on Sept. 1 and the subsequent draw with Syria.

The 2002 World Cup semifinalist is aiming to qualify for a ninth successive World Cup. The top two from each of the two six-team groups in Asia qualify automatically for the 2018 edition in Russia. — AP



SEOUL: File photo shows South Korea's Son Heung-min, right, fight for the ball against China's Yu Hai during the soccer match for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier at Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul, South Korea. — AP



TORONTO: Team Europe goaltender Jaroslav Halak makes a save on Team Sweden's Patrik Berglund during first-period World Cup of Hockey semifinal action in Toronto, Sunday. — AP

EUROPE BEAT SWEDEN 3-2 IN OT, ADVANCES TO WORLD CUP FINALS

TORONTO: Tomas Tatar stuffed in a shot, triggering quite a celebration. Tatar scored his second goal 3:43 into overtime to give Team Europe a 3-2 victory over Sweden on Sunday in the World Cup of Hockey semifinals. As Swedish goaltender Henrik Lundqvist lay on the ice with his head down, the Europeans huddled up in the right corner and bounced on their skates in jubilation.

Europe coach Ralph Krueger was thrilled for his players, but he wanted them to pump the breaks on the party. "It's important we don't get giddy," Krueger said. "We want to give Canada and the world a really good final."

The eight-nation European team will begin a best-of-three series against Canada on Tuesday night for the World Cup of Hockey title.

Europe will be heavy underdogs against the host Canadians, who have won two straight Olympic gold medals and 14 consecutive games in best-on-best tournaments since losing to the U.S. in the preliminary round of the 2010 Olympics.

The Europeans are OK with being counted out because they know they wouldn't even have an opportunity to compete against Canada for their individual countries. "This is our chance to go far in a tournament like this," Norway's Mats Zuccarello said. "I think we just cherish that moment and this chance." Few, if anyone, expected the roster of players from the

continent's non-traditional hockey powers to be among the final two in the event created by the NHL and the NHL Players' Association. Everybody, though, with at least a passing interest in the sport would recognize at least some of the players who started Sunday's game: Anze Kopitar, Marian Hossa and Zdeno Chara. "You put all those countries together, there's lots of good players there," Canadian coach Mike Babcock said.

And with goaltender Jaroslav Halak, the Europeans seem to have a shot to stun Canada. Halak made 37 saves against Sweden. "We wouldn't be here without fabulous goaltending," Krueger said. Lundqvist, who helped the Swedes win gold at the 2006 Olympics, made 28 saves. He had a shot to prevent both of Tatar's goals. On the winner, Lundqvist got caught out of position after playing the puck behind his net. Zuccarello sent the puck from the left boards toward the net and Tatar stuffed it in from the right side. The score stood after a video review.

KICKING MOTION

"I knew I didn't do a kicking motion, so I was hoping they were going to see it on the replay," Tatar said. The loss may end up being the last time a pair of ageing standouts, Lundqvist and Daniel Sedin, play for Sweden.

"I hope I have a chance to work with them again," Swedish coach Rikard Gronborg said. On

Tatar's go-ahead goal 12 seconds into the third period, Lundqvist failed to handle the puck cleanly with his glove and it was costly.

Tatar scored off his own rebound after beating defenseman Anton Stralman to the loose puck to make it 2-1.

"It handcuffed me a little bit," Lundqvist acknowledged. Stralman redeemed himself midway through the third period by preventing the puck from going crossing the goal line after Thomas Vanek's shot on a breakaway trickled past Lundqvist. Sweden's Erik Karlsson made it 2-all with 4:32 left in regulation. Karlsson shot the puck from just inside the blue line on the right side of the rink and Swiss defenseman Roman Josi swiped at the puck with his stick and redirected it into his own net.

Both teams had the lead once before overtime and scored once to pull into a tie. Sweden's Nicklas Backstrom broke a scoreless tie early in the second with a goal that stood after coach Ralph Krueger challenged that Backstrom interfered with Halak. Marian Gaborik tied the game at 1 late in the period.

Europe outshot the Swedes 15-9 in the second and they may eventually lament not being more aggressive offensively when they had the lead for about 14 minutes of the period, missing out on an opportunity for a rematch of the 2014 Olympic finals against Canada. "I don't think we were passive," Gronborg insisted. — AP

ROHINGYA FOOTBALLERS TACKLE PREJUDICE IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR: Racing from one end of the football pitch to another, the players in bright yellow and pink jerseys pass the ball between them, weaving around their opponents, tackling each other and occasionally, committing a foul.

As a small crowd cheers them on, it looks like any other amateur match taking place on a Sunday afternoon in countless cities around the world. But on this pitch in Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur, the teams face a challenge like no other. The players are young refugees from the Rohingya Muslim minority in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar, who are trying to tackle the prejudices they face in society in one of the few arenas they truly feel equal.

For Mohammed Farouque, whose perilous journey to Malaysia included a journey on a crowded boat and a stay in people-smuggling camp in the jungle, the sense of liberation is something new. "Since my birth, I haven't known freedom," said Farouque, one of the refugees who runs the Rohingya Football Club in Kuala Lumpur. "We can openly play football here. In Myanmar we are not even allowed to go out of our houses. I had to leave my country to save my life." Tens of thousands of Rohingya have fled to Muslim-majority Malaysia to escape harsh discrimination in their homeland, where they are not recognised as citizens. After the perilous and sometimes deadly voyage to Malaysia, their problems are far from over. The 150,700 refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia live in the shadows of the society, barred from working officially or receiving formal education. Often seen as illegal immigrants, they generally have limited con-

tact with Malaysians.

With football, the Rohingyas have more than one goal in mind. They see it as a way of keeping young members of the community out of trouble, as well as a chance to break down barriers with citizens of their adopted homeland.

"In Malaysia, we are not allowed to work and we have no support. We don't want our young people to get involved in crime, so we encourage them to get together to play football," said Farouque. "We want to show the world the Rohingya can achieve something great," added the 23-year-old as he took a break during a match with another Rohingya team from Malaysia's central state of Malacca.

'WE LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF'

The Rohingya Football Club was set up in 2015 and its players are aged between 18 and 30. The club so far has taken on a few Malaysian sides in friendly matches, including teams comprised of staff from the state energy firm and a private broadcaster.

Their initiative has also inspired the Rohingya community in other cities to set up teams. At the friendly match with the visiting team from Malacca, the two sides fought it out at a community field in Ampang, a neighbourhood a short drive away from the city centre, where the iconic Twin Towers dominate the skyline.

About 100 other refugees and locals gathered on the sidelines, watching the game and cheering on the teams. Malaysian Pannir Selvam, who was refereeing the game, said he found out about the refugee football team after he saw the

young men training on the pitch.

As well as volunteering as a referee, he sometimes joins in with matches, and says the refugees have shown a "spirit to strive for excellence". "They were having a lot of fun, I enjoyed playing with the team. I am happy and proud of them," the 60-year-old said. "We need to do more. We are Malaysians, we live with them under the same roof, in the same country, we need to get to know them better," he said.

Despite their enthusiasm, the Rohingya footballers only train once in while due to a lack of money. The club needs about \$350 every month to cover costs including the hiring of a venue for training - but it is so far relying on the limited resources the refugees can pull together themselves.

OLYMPIC REFUGEE TEAM

For many refugees, the sport provides a temporary escape from their hardship and a chance to call time on the discrimination they face in their day to day life.

"Playing football is very relaxing," said Saiful Shahidul, 18, from the visiting Malacca team, who works on a construction site to support himself and the family. "I would like to be a professional football player one day," he added, shyly, saying his favourite player is football star Cristiano Ronaldo. As for Farouque, his ambitions have entered a whole new league after seeing the first ever Refugee Team at the Rio Olympics this year. "Inshallah (God willing) we will be playing at the Olympics one day like the Refugee Team," he said. — Reuters

DISGRUNTLED RONALDO EYES MORE RECORDS AT DORTMUND

DORTMUND: Disgruntled Cristiano Ronaldo could make more Champions League history today as his Real Madrid side look to end their losing streak at high-flying Borussia Dortmund. A hat-trick for Ronaldo in Dortmund, who was left fuming after being substituted on Saturday, would see him become the first player to score a century of European goals.

Ahead of the flight to Dortmund, Real coach Zinedine Zidane subbed Ronaldo for the final 20 minutes of Saturday's 2-2 Spanish league draw at Las Palmas. The Portuguese superstar was furious with the decision, storming off the field without acknowledging Zidane.

It did nothing to help his mood when Las Palmas equalised five minutes from the end. Madrid fans have backed Zidane over his handling of the club's all-time top scor-

er with 83 percent supporting his decision in a poll carried out by Madrid sports daily AS. Ronaldo's free-kick equaliser in Real's 2-1 comeback win against Sporting Lisbon in their first Group F, the same night Dortmund won 6-0 at Legia Warsaw, left him on 97 goals in European club competition. His main rival in the race to 100 goals is Barcelona's star Lionel Messi, who has 89.

But Borussia want to maintain their unbeaten home record against Real, who have won just four times in 29 away games against German clubs. Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park stadium has particularly bad memories for Madrid, who have lost their last three visits to the Bundesliga giants. Their 2-0 defeat at Dortmund in the 2014 quarter-finals came a year after their 4-1 thumping in the 2013 semi-finals when Robert Lewandowski scored all four goals

for Borussia. They also lost a group stage game 2-1 at Dortmund in 2012.

REAL SLUMP

Real's serene run since Zidane took charge in January has hit a slump in the past week. The European champions dropped points against Villarreal and Las Palmas to snap a 16-game winning streak in the Spanish league. Confidence is high in the Dortmund camp.

After their shock 1-0 defeat at newly-promoted RB Leipzig a fortnight ago in the Bundesliga, Dortmund have netted 20 goals in the four games since. They are second only to Bayern Munich in Germany's top flight. As Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang put it after last Tuesday's 5-1 demolition of Wolfsburg: "At the moment no one can stop us. At the very most,

maybe Bayern. "But we can't be too happy and have to keep working hard." True to his word, the Gabon striker netted his sixth goal in seven games in Friday's 3-1 win at home to Freiburg.

Aubameyang was limping after the victory, but is expected to face the Spanish giants. Ahead of the Real visit, a tough home match was exactly the warm-up Dortmund needed, according to coach Thomas Tuchel. "After the high-scoring and cosy easy games, that came at the perfect point in time," said Tuchel after the 6-0 demolitions of Legia and Darmstadt before a big win at Wolfsburg.

BARTRA DOUBT

Dortmund's main injury concern is former Barcelona centre-back Marc Bartra, who has a groin injury. Goetze is expected

to partner Raphael Guerreiro in Dortmund's attacking midfield.

French teenager Ousmane Dembele and Germany's Andre Schuerle are set to play on the wings to feed crosses into Aubameyang and Co. Germany midfielder Julian Weigl will play as the lone defensive midfielder in front of the back four.

For Madrid, Ronaldo will start alongside Gareth Bale in the star-studded Real attack. Karim Benzema is expected to beat out Alvaro Morata for the number nine role after coming off the bench to score Real's second against Las Palmas. However, the visitors will be without Brazilian duo Marcelo and Casemiro through injury.

Casemiro's absence means ex-Bayern midfielder Toni Kroos will be forced to operate as the holding midfielder on his return to Germany. — AFP

‘DRAGON SLAYER’ SLIMANI BACK TO TORMENT PORTO

LEICESTER: Leicester City may be unfamiliar Champions League opponents for Porto, who visit the King Power Stadium today, but Islam Slimani is a player they know all too well. During his three seasons with Sporting Lisbon, the Algeria striker scored six goals against Porto in six appearances, earning him the nickname 'The Dragon Slayer' from the Lisbon club's fans.

Now paired up front with Jamie Vardy for Leicester, he will hope to resume his torment of the Portuguese giants as the English champions play the first home top-tier European game in their 132-year history. Leicester broke their transfer record to sign Slimani, 28, from Sporting on transfer deadline day, paying a fee of around £28 million (\$36.3 million, 32.3 million euros).

But he is every bit as rough-cut as Vardy, who joined Leicester from non-league Fleetwood Town in 2012, or his Algeria team-mate Riyad Mahrez, who was signed from French second-tier side Le Havre. Slimani was playing in the Algerian fourth division at the age of 21 and did not make the move to Europe until he was 25, joining

Sporting from Algiers outfit CR Belouizdad.

A raw, rangy and technically unrefined target man, he moved to Sporting as back-up for Colombian striker Fredy Montero and was initially used as an impact substitute. Gradually, however, he became an integral cog in the Sporting machine and by the time he left the club, he had scored 48 goals in 82 Portuguese league appearances.

He also starred in their triumphant Portuguese Cup campaign in 2014-15, scoring in normal time and a penalty shootout as Sporting overcame Braga to win their first trophy since 2008. His time at the Estadio Jose Alvalade coincided with a power shift in Portuguese football. Porto had won nine of the 11 league titles prior to Slimani's arrival, but as Benfica re-emerged as Portugal's dominant power, so their Lisbon rivals Sporting began to surpass Porto, too.

Sporting finished above Porto in two of Slimani's three seasons at the club and he fittingly signed off with a goal in a 2-1 win over the Dragons in his final appearance before joining Leicester.

‘WORKS HIS SOCKS OFF’

Slimani's reputation as a bruiser is another reason why Porto's centre-backs will be apprehensive about crossing swords with him again. In an ill-tempered Portuguese Cup tie against Benfica last season, he was caught on camera lashing out at Greek midfielder Andreas Samaris. Porto, meanwhile, accused him of liberal use of his elbows following his farewell appearance last month.

In a sarcastic Twitter post, the club shared a picture of Slimani accompanied by the caption: "They won, but were left with elbow pain due to the number of times they used them to attack our players." Nevertheless, Slimani's willingness to get his hands dirty appealed to Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri, whose team's 5,000-1 title win was built on hard graft and defensive rigorously.

Slimani scored two headed goals-his trademark-in a 3-0 win over Burnley on his league debut, but Ranieri chose to highlight his defensive contribution.

"It's the first time the fans have watched him and they saw strong he is and how well he defends," said the Italian, whose side won 3-0 at Club Brugge in their opening Group G fixture. "He can press, press, press, all around the pitch." Team-mate Danny Simpson said: "He works his socks off and that's what we're about. That's why it's been easy for him to slot in." Belying his tough-guy image, Slimani wept as he left the pitch following his final Sporting game against Porto. But it could be Porto's defenders who have tears in their eyes come today. — AFP



LEICESTER: Leicester City's English midfielder Demarai Gray attends a team training session at the Leicester City's training ground in Leicester, central England, yesterday. Leicester City are set to play Porto in a UEFA Champions League group G stage football match today. — AFP

TOTTI STILL MAGIC AS ROMA ICON TURNS 40

MILAN: As hard as he tries, Roma coach Luciano Spalletti is unlikely to convince fans this week that Francesco Totti is just another player for the Serie A giants.

Today Totti turns 40 and the one-club man who is in his 25th and likely last season with the 'Giallorossi' (Yellow and Reds) is still, when he gets the chance, producing the magic. "For me, he's been the top player in Italy for the past 25 years," said Sinisa Mihajlovic, whose Torino side upset Totti's pre-birthday party celebrations by beating Roma 3-1 in Turin on Sunday.

"He's one of the best ever. It's amazing to see what he can still do with a ball." Known as the 'Golden Boy' as a precociously-ly-gifted teen, and revered as the 'King of Rome' throughout a storied career that saw Totti, if not his underachieving club, rise to the top, fans expect a fairytales ending this season. It is over 23 years since Totti made his Roma debut in the final minutes of a 2-0 win at Brescia in March 1993. And his latest milestone serves as a reminder of how Totti has evolved, adapted to and excelled in a changing game during some of the wonder years of Italy's top flight.

"He is an example for us all and someone we all look up to," said Cristiano Ronaldo last February as Real Madrid prepared to face Roma in the Champions League. "If you play at the level he does, it's good for him, for football and also for the children, because we give them the idea that football has no limits."

When Totti took the captain's armband from Brazilian defender Aldair under pioneering Czech coach Zdenek Zeman in 1998, he had answered his calling.

Two seasons later, he helped end Roma's 18-year wait for the Serie A title, in

2001. When Roma weren't winning, he was stunning rivals with an astonishing array of ball skills and goals.

TIME MACHINE

Totti has "purged" bitter city rivals Lazio on more than one occasion, goaded other rivals with equally provocative messages on T-shirts and, last year, hit the headlines after celebrating a brace against Lazio by running to the 'Curva Sud' and using a telephone to take a 'selfie' with thousands of fans in the background.

Totti is unlikely to challenge Silvio Piola's all-time Serie A record of 274 league goals, which included over 100 for Lazio.

Two days before his birthday, Totti hit his 250th league goal, beating Joe Hart for the second time in two years having scored the leveller in a 1-1 draw against Manchester City in 2015 to become the oldest scorer in the Champions League at 38 and three days. Even Roma's stoic coach Spalletti, who has battled to remind everyone that Totti is 'one of many Roma players', had to doff his cap.

"I want four or five Tottis in this team," Spalletti said after he came off the bench to provide an assist for Dzeko and then score the winner from the spot in a dramatic, rain-delayed 3-2 win over Sampdoria last week. "If I don't play him, people get annoyed at me but I want to produce another player like him. One great player is not enough." As expected, Totti raced to the Curva Sud, ripped off his shirt and was mobbed by the entire Roma bench as he milked the applause. "That was the first time I felt afraid of taking a penalty," said Totti. "You just can't afford to miss under the Curva!" — AFP

PSG DEFENDER SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR POLICE ASSAULT

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain defender Serge Aurier was sentenced to two months in jail yesterday for assaulting a police officer following an incident outside a Paris nightclub in May. The court heard that the troubled Ivory Coast international refused to cooperate when asked to leave his tinted-glass Porsche Cayenne car which police said was incorrectly parked outside the club in the early hours in an upmarket district of the French capital.

Police said the incident turned violent when an agitated Aurier elbowed one of the officers in the chest, causing him to have to take a day off work. "The driver got out of the car straight away and apologised but the front passenger (Aurier) refused to show his hands," the policeman said in court. He said he had to grab Aurier to make him exit the car, at which point the player elbowed him.

Aurier denied the charge and was allowed to walk free from the court because no order for immediate incarceration was issued, while PSG later confirmed his lawyer had lodged an appeal. It means the full-back could play for PSG in their Champions League tie against Ludogorets in Bulgaria tomorrow. "The club takes note of his condemnation. An appeal has been lodged at the end of the hearing by the player's lawyer," said a PSG statement. "Serge Aurier will continue to benefit from the presumption of innocence ahead of the appeal court's decision."

DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS

The 23-year-old, who has had recent disciplinary problems with his club, rejected the police account of the incident and said he was the victim of violence. He has filed a complaint against the police. The court also ordered him to pay 600 euros (\$674) in damages and interest as well as 1,500 euros in court costs. He was described by the public prosecutor as having "lacked lucidity" during the incident and acted in a "puerile and immature" manner. Aurier, who said in court he earns 200,000 euros a month, was in trouble with his club last season after making derogatory comments about his then-PSG coach Laurent Blanc and other team-



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's defender Serge Aurier (R) arrives to the Paris courthouse early yesterday to answer a charge of elbowing a police officer. The 23-year-old Ivory Coast international, accused of assaulting a police officer after he was stopped in May 2016 when leaving a Parisian nightclub in the early hours of the morning, was sentenced to two months in prison yesterday. — AFP

mates, including current Manchester United star Zlatan Ibrahimovic, on a social media video post. He was suspended by his club for five weeks but owned up to having committed "a stupid mistake".

However, when filming a video to apologise for his comments, Aurier behaved in an "indifferent" manner and needed several takes to get his apology right, according to France Football magazine. PSG owner Nasser Al-Khelaifi even yelled at him that he would "stay five hours if necessary, but you'll do what we ask", added the magazine.

The year before, Aurier copped a three-match ban from UEFA after reacting to a PSG victory in the

Champions League by posting a video on Facebook in which he called the referee a "son of a b...h".

But since returning to pre-season training in July, Aurier has impressed his bosses. "The club wants to underline the player's professional attitude shown since his return on July 4. "At the same time, Paris Saint-Germain reaffirms our affection and respect for the forces of order and the jobs they do."

However, his court appearance comes on the back of Aurier being sent off in PSG's 2-0 Ligue 1 defeat at Toulouse on Friday night, their second reverse of the season. — AFP



MONACO: Bayer Leverkusen's Mexican Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez (2nd R) takes part in a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match AS Monaco vs Bayer Leverkusen yesterday at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco. — AFP

‘LITTLE PEA’ CHICHARITO IS BAYER’S BIG DEAL

BERLIN: His nickname 'Chicharito' means 'little pea', but ex-Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez is proving to be a big deal for Bayer Leverkusen ahead of today's Champions League match at Monaco. The 28-year-old netted a hat-trick-his second in Germany's top flight-in helping Leverkusen come from 2-1 down to claim a 3-2 win at Mainz on Saturday.

"Thank God, he's in form at just the right time," said Leverkusen's coach Roger Schmidt after the Mainz fightback. After five years at Old Trafford, Chicharito quit the Red Devils in August 2015 for Leverkusen's 'Werkself' and has banged in 21 goals in 32 league games in Germany's top flight.

Having fractured his arm in an accident at home in August, Hernandez was not fully fit when he played the first 45 minutes of Leverkusen's opening Champions League group match at CSKA Moscow a fortnight ago. He helped his side to a 2-0 half-time lead, only for the Russians to fight back for a 2-2 draw. The Mexico international is key to Leverkusen's chances of getting a first win against Monaco at the fourth attempt.

SCORE TO SETTLE

"We have a small score to settle with Monaco," said striker Stefan Kiessling after three defeats and a draw with the club from the tiny principality in recent years. Hernandez's hat-trick at Mainz

proves he is back to his best, according to Schmidt. "He wasn't fully fit, but now he's back on top form. It also helped him that he had a strike partner in the closing stages when Stefan Kiessling came on as that gave him more room to operate," said Schmidt. "He doesn't hesitate when he gets a chance." He certainly didn't when the chance came along to bag the winner two minutes into injury time.

"I am obviously very happy, but my thanks go to my team-mates, who had a big game," said Hernandez. "We had some luck, but the late goal was a reward for that hard work." The victory was important after two recent set-backs, for both Leverkusen and Chicharito. He missed a penalty in their 2-1 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt ten days ago and then failed to score in last Wednesday's goalless draw with Augsburg. With four league goals this season, he is just one behind Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski amongst the Bundesliga's top scorers.

"He certainly did not win all his battles, but he won the important ones. That demonstrates his wily ability to know where the ball should go," said Leverkusen's director of sport, ex-Germany international Rudi Voeller. Chicharito's stats in Mainz speak volumes: he scored three goals and hit the post with his four attempts. "I don't know anybody who is as good as he is in front of goal,"

marvelled Leverkusen's Germany forward Kevin Volland. Signing the Mexican international was a big coup for Bayer. Hernandez has already played in a Champions League final, when his Manchester United team lost 3-1 to Barcelona in the 2011 showcase at Wembley. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Monaco FC v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	21:45	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
CSKA Moskva v Tottenham Hotspur	21:45	beIN SPORTS 7 HD
Sporting CP v Legia Warszawa	21:45	beIN SPORTS 8 HD
Borussia Dortmund v Real Madrid	21:45	beIN SPORTS 1 HD
Leicester City v FC Porto	21:45	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Copenhagen v Club Brugge KV	21:45	beIN SPORTS 9 HD
Sevilla v Olympique Lyonnais	21:45	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
GNK Dinamo Zagreb v Juventus	21:45	beIN SPORTS 4 HD

Sports

**Kuwaiti rider
reigns in Aquabike
Championship**



**India thump NZ
to celebrate 500th
test in style**



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

SIX VIE FOR ASIAN SPOTS ON FIFA COUNCIL AFTER QATARI BANNED Page 18



MANCHESTER: Amanda Davies, Sport Presenter, CNN International (L); Clarence Seedorf, former International footballer, Netherlands (2L); FIFA General Secretary Fatma Samoura (3L); Ben Biggs of the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA) (3R); Roisin Woods from Kick It Out (2R); German former International footballer Thomas Hitzlsperger (R) and Abhijeet Barse from Slum Soccer (C) winner of the first ever FIFA Diversity Award during the Soccerex Global Convention at Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester, northwest England yesterday. Slum Soccer is an organization which uses football to bring about a change in the lives of street dwellers based in India. — AFP

FIFA DISBANDS RACISM TASK FORCE, SAYS JOB DONE

MANCHESTER: FIFA's abolition of its anti-racism task force was denounced as a shameful betrayal yesterday as the governing body went on the defensive to re-affirm its commitment to fighting discrimination.

The Associated Press revealed Sunday that the anti-racism group was being dismantled after FIFA decided that its mission had been completed after three years.

Kick It Out , English soccer's anti-discrimination organization, said it was "perplexed" by FIFA's decision, given the World Cup is being staged in 2018 in Russia "which is notorious for racism and abusive activities towards minorities."

Jordanian federation president Prince Ali said he found it "incredibly worrying" that the task force was being scrapped given the "very real and apparent" discrimination problem that remains in soccer.

"The fight against racism is far from over and the notion that the current FIFA leadership believes that the 'task force's recommendations have been implemented' is shameful," said Prince Ali, a former FIFA presidential candidate and FIFA vice president. "Now the idea that FIFA believes that it's the right time to disband its anti-racism task force is ridiculous."

Prince Ali believes the task force should have been empowered to work further with soccer authorities and governments to use the sport to tackle discrimination

in wider society.

"There is still so much work to do, and FIFA must show leadership, take responsibility for reform and be accountable if change isn't put into practice," Prince Ali said. "Transparency, trust, credibility and integrity are the values that should run through everything FIFA does. Not tackling the plague of racism and discrimination properly is an absolute betrayal of those values."

The task force was established in 2013 by then-FIFA President Sepp Blatter and headed by Jeffrey Webb, a vice president of world soccer's governing body until he was arrested in 2015 as part of the American investigation into soccer corruption.

RACKETEERING CHARGES

Webb, who pleaded guilty to racketeering charges, was replaced in September 2015 as task force chairman by Congolese federation president Constant Omari. "The reality, as with many programs within FIFA, is that the task force was never given real support since its conception and its role was more about FIFA's image than actually tackling the issues," Prince Ali said.

FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura fended off the criticism, insisting her organization remains committed to combatting discrimination in the world's most popular sport.

"The task force had a very specific mandate that to our knowledge it has fully fulfilled," Samoura said at the SoccerEx convention. "Its recommendations have now been turned into a program and a strong one."

Samoura was appointed in May as the organization's first female and first African top administrator of world soccer's governing body as part of the overhaul under Gianni Infantino. The Senegalese former United Nations official said her "presence here is a strong testimony that for FIFA, it is a zero tolerance policy" on discrimination and it is an inclusive organization.

Responding to criticism of the task force being shut down, Samoura said, "We can live with perceptions, but we are taking very seriously our role as the world governing body of football to fight discrimination."

Kick It Out urged FIFA to publish a "clear and concise strategy" on its fight against discrimination and promotion of equality. It was one of three organizations in the running to win FIFA's new diversity award from Samoura at a ceremony at SoccerEx.

Although racism is no longer rampant in English soccer, 402 incidents of discrimination were recorded by Kick It Out last season - up more than 40 percent from two years earlier, although reporting mechanisms have been enhanced.

"There is clear evidence that discrimination, preju-

dice and hate are on the rise in developed societies, particularly in Europe but also in different forms across the world," Kick It Out said in a statement. "Football should seek to lead the way in combating such intrusions.

"It is clear that organizations that are actively campaigning against racism and discrimination will be deeply disheartened to hear news of the disbandment, as they look to FIFA for leadership in a game which is so popular across the world."

The pressing problems for FIFA are in Russia with less than nine months until the country stages the Confederations Cup, the warm-up event for the 2018 World Cup.

Earlier this month, European soccer's governing body, UEFA, ordered Russian club Rostov to close a section of a stadium for a Champions League game as punishment for the racist behavior of fans.

The most recent research from the Moscow-based SOVA Center and the UEFA-affiliated FARE Network reported a surge in the number of racist displays by Russian soccer fans, with most cases going unpunished. Researchers logged 92 incidents of discriminatory displays and chants by Russian fans in and around stadiums in the 2014-15 season, compared to a total of 83 for the previous two seasons combined. — AP

BELOVED GOLF GREAT ARNOLD PALMER DIES AT 87: USGA

WASHINGTON: Arnold Palmer, the golf great whose charisma and common touch drew a legion of fans known as "Arnie's Army" and propelled the game into the mainstream, died Sunday at the age of 87.

"Arnold Palmer will always be a champion, in every sense of the word," the US Golf Association said in a statement mourning the death of "golf's greatest ambassador."

"He inspired generations to love golf by sharing his competitive spirit, displaying sportsmanship, caring for golfers and golf fans, and serving as a lifelong ambassador for the sport.

"The game is indeed better because of him, and in so many ways, will never be the same." Palmer, a native of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he had been since Thursday while undergoing heart tests, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported. No cause of death was immediately given.

"We just lost one of the incredible people in the game of golf and in all of sports," 18-time major champion Jack Nicklaus said. "He has always been a fighter and he never gave up on anything. He didn't give up even now. Maybe his body did, but I know Arnold's will and spirit did not." Palmer, known as "The King," captured seven major tournaments during his illustrious career, taking The Masters four times (in 1958, 1960, 1962 and 1964), the British Open twice (in 1961 and 1962) and the US Open once (in 1960).

His go-for-broke style enthralled fans, and he became one of golf's first television superstars, helping make the sport accessible to a much wider audience.

His rise-along with those of Nicklaus and Gary Player-set the stage for the sport's huge broadcast rights fees and prize money riches, which were later enhanced by the success of Tiger Woods.

"Thanks Arnold for your friendship, counsel and a lot of laughs," Woods said on Twitter after news of Palmer's death. "Your philanthropy and humility are part of your legend.

"It's hard to imagine golf without you or anyone more important to the game than the King."

Palmer looked frail when he joined fellow icons Player and Nicklaus for the ceremonial first tee shot at the Masters in April.

For the first time in 10 years, he didn't swing a club, instead sitting in a chair to watch the spectacle. In June, he elected not to travel to Oakmont, Pennsylvania, for the US Open in his home state.

Although Palmer's presence around the game had become less regular in recent years, today's young stars were aware of the iconic player's impact on their sport.

"Let's be honest, it's kind of a nerdy sport," Australia's Jason Day said this year. "Arnold Palmer made golf sexy."

Palmer, born September 10, 1929, was the

son of the club professional and greens superintendent at Latrobe Country Club. Palmer started caddying at 11 and went on to work almost every job at the club.

Fans identified with his blue-collar background, and he never forgot his roots even as he piloted his own jet to charity functions and business meetings and became a friend of presidents and corporate big-wigs.

Palmer attended Wake Forest University on a golf scholarship. At age 24, he won the 1954 US Amateur at the Country Club of Detroit. Later that year, Palmer turned pro. In a career that spanned more than six decades, he won 62 PGA Tour titles, putting him at fifth on the Tour's all-time victory rankings.

He led the PGA Tour money list four times, and was the first player to win more than \$100,000 in a season.

He played on six Ryder Cup teams and was the winning captain twice. In 1974, Palmer was one of the original inductees into the World Golf Hall of Fame. "For all who love the game of golf and love to see it played, there has never been a sight quite like Arnold Palmer walking down the fairway toward the 18th green," said former president George W. Bush, who awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004. In 2012, Palmer was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, giving him both of the highest honors the United States can give to a civilian. — AFP



AUGUSTA: This file photo taken on April 4, 1995 shows Arnold Palmer stands by a plaque that will be installed on the course at Augusta National Golf Club to mark the anniversary of Palmer's 40th Master's Tournament. Arnold Palmer, the golf great whose charisma and common touch drew a legion of fans known as "Arnie's Army" and propelled the game into the mainstream, died Sunday at the age of 87. — AFP

Page 25



TENSION WITH US MOUNTS AHEAD OF BASEL MEETING

"Credit risk, including the floor, is the whole ball of wax, so if you delay that, you delay the whole thing," a banking industry official said. —Reuters

In Egypt, the main index added 0.9 percent. Commercial International Bank, the largest listed bank stock and a favourite of foreign funds, jumped 3.2 percent. But monthly activity is below August's level, a sign that investors are waiting for final confirmation from the International Monetary Fund of a \$12 billion loan to Egypt, a deal which has been in the making for the last eight weeks. —Reuters

KAMCO WINS THE ‘BEST BOND ISSUANCE OF YEAR GCC’ AWARD

GLOBAL BUSINESS OUTLOOK RECOGNIZES KAMCO’S EFFORTS IN DEBT MARKETS

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, has been awarded the “Best Bond Issuance of the Year GCC” from Global Business Outlook, a UK based business publication that focuses on Banking, Insurance, Brokerage, Islamic Finance, Hedge funds, Brands, Energy, Hospitality, Real Estate and Technology. This award highlights KAMCO’s pioneering efforts in debt capital markets; as one of the top tier lead managers locally and regionally.

After applying for the award, the Global Business Outlook jury considers all nominees and selects a winner based on established criteria relevant to the nominees’ submission. KAMCO was selected amongst nominees as the winner of the “Best Bond Issuance of the Year GCC” award considering the bond issuances executed during the year, along with KAMCO’s successful track record during 2016 in comparison to other players in the market. Gulf Bank’s Subordinated Tier 2, Basel III - Compliant Bond issue for KD 100 million, Burgan Bank’s Subordinated Tier 2, Basel III - Compliant Bond issue for KD 100 million and Kuveyt Turk’s Tier 2 capital-boosting Sukuk worth \$350 million issuance were the main bond issuances considered for the award, in which KAMCO acted as the joint lead manager for each.

Khaled Fouad, Chief Investment Officer of KAMCO, said, “We are proud to announce that this achievement highlights our presence and outstanding effort as bond issuance Joint Lead Manager locally and regionally. Our collabora-



Khaled Fouad, Chief Investment Officer at KAMCO

tive work with other Joint Lead Managers backed by our talented employees has influenced our active engagement towards supporting the local debt capital markets. In addition to our active role, we will continue to seek attractive opportunities to enable local and regional investors in reaching their investment goals. We

also consider these bond issuances as a breakthrough in enhancing and positioning KAMCO as the preferred Investment Banking and Asset Management provider in Kuwait and the region, while enhancing the local private sector.”

KAMCO Investment Company is a premier investment company based in Kuwait and is regulated by the Capital Markets Authority with one of the largest private sector AUMs in the region.

Established in 1998 and listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in 2003, KAMCO is a subsidiary of United Gulf Bank (UGB).

It has become a leading regional company within its sector offering innovative products and services to its clients, holding over \$11.2 billion of client AUM and has successfully completed 85 investment banking transactions worth over \$12 billion as of 31 December 2015.

With almost two decades of experience in conducting business in Kuwait’s dynamic investment industry, KAMCO has successfully established a robust reputation for solidity, characterized by its prudent, conservative investment philosophy and spirit of transparency, which has consistently commanded the goodwill of a wide patron-base.

The company will further aggressively build upon its core competencies to offer MENA-wide investment management consultancy and services, backed by its proven track record in stringent risk mitigation, investment product innovation, and a cautious investment approach towards local, regional and international capital markets.

OIL MARKET WEAK DESPITE RECOVERY: SAUDI ARAMCO

DUBAI: Oil prices have been recovering but are still weak, the head of Gulf giant Saudi Aramco said yesterday, warning that market volatility could persist in the near future.

“While the oil market has recovered from its most severe period, it’s still weak,” Aramco chief executive officer Amin Nasser said at an energy conference in Dubai. He said global supply has begun to fall, “especially US shale oil”, due to the cancellation or deferring of investments in new oil and gas capacity.

“Despite volatility, the market is heading toward rebalance, and prices are likely to strengthen with time,” Nasser said. “However, market volatility could remain with us for the near future,” he added. Oil prices rose modestly on Monday ahead of a meeting of producers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries cartel and Russia in Algeria this week that could agree to cap supplies.

At about 0740 GMT US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for November delivery was up 29 cents at \$44.77 while Brent crude gained 23 cents to \$46.12. Despite the positivity, fears remain that an agreement cannot be reached in Algiers. Previous attempts to do so in April were scuppered by Iran, which had just emerged from years of Western-imposed nuclear-linked sanctions.

Oil prices have been hammered by a stubborn supply glut since late 2014 that has seen supply far outweigh demand, resulting in 13-year lows earlier this year. — AFP



TOKYO: People cross a street in front of an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian shares were mostly lower yesterday as market attention turned from action from central banks to the US presidential race, with a closely watched debate upcoming. —AP

MOROCCO’S BMCE BANK REPORTS 18% RISE IN PROFIT

RABAT: Morocco’s BMCE Bank reported yesterday an 18 percent rise in first-half net profit to 1.25 billion dirhams (\$129 million) on higher margins in its domestic market. Consolidated net banking income rose 13 percent to 6.7 billion dirhams, thanks to interest rate cuts that improved margins in the bond market and financial intermediation activity, BMCE said in a statement.

Morocco’s central bank has cut interest rates three times in less than two years in an effort to boost growth that was hit by the worst drought

in decades. Return on equity (ROE) rose to 15.5 percent from 13.9 percent at the end of 2015. Total assets rose 8 percent to 281.5 billion dirhams.

The bank said 64 percent of its profit came from Morocco, its main market, 27 percent from elsewhere in Africa and 9 percent from Europe. Along with other Moroccan lenders, the bank has in the last few years faced a rise in bad loans in its domestic market and in Sub-Saharan Africa. BMCE said total risk costs rose to 1.05 billion dirhams from 807 million dirhams in the first

six months of 2015 and provisions covered 74 percent of bad loans, up from 67 percent at the end of 2015. BMCE reported 8.4 billion dirhams in bad debts, up from 7.3 billion at the end of 2015. In 2013, it became the first private financial institution from North Africa to issue bonds on international capital markets, raising \$300 million. BMCE is preparing to launch an Islamic subsidiary with Bahrain-based Al Baraka Banking Group after the Moroccan parliament approved a bill regulating Islamic banks and sukuk issues. — Reuters

HEDGE FUNDS ROTATE FROM US HEATING OIL TO GASOLINE

LONDON: Hedge funds have become increasingly bullish about the outlook for gasoline prices even as they have become more cautious the prospects for heating oil this winter. Hedge funds and other money managers have raised their net long position in US gasoline blendstock futures and options by almost 27 million barrels since the end of July.

Hedge funds have a net long position of almost 22 million barrels, up from a net short position of 5 million barrels eight weeks ago, according to an analysis of position records published on Friday.

But in heating oil hedge funds have cut their position from a net long of 22 million barrels four weeks ago to a net short of 2 million barrels in the week ending Sept 20. Hedge funds are net short of heating oil futures and options for the first time since April, according to position data published by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Concern about the high level of US gasoline stockpiles has abated as stocks have fallen by almost 17 million barrels since late July. Gasoline stocks are now just 6 million barrels or 3 percent higher

than at the same point in 2015, down from a year-on-year surplus of 26 million barrels or 12 percent in July.

Gasoline consumption is running at a very high rate after the end of the summer driving season, according to weekly estimates from the US Energy Information Administration.

US refineries have continued processing an unusually high volume of crude in late August and through September to meet strong demand. But the consequence of heavy refining runs is that distillate stockpiles have started to rise after falling through most of the second and third quarters.

Distillate stocks are up 13 million barrels or 9 percent from the same time last year and up from a surplus of just 3 million barrels or 2 percent four weeks ago. Earlier in the summer, most analysts were talking about a gasoline glut, which would force refiners to cut refinery throughput, and support distillate markets in the autumn and winter. But with gasoline stocks under control and refineries still processing at high rates to meet demand from motorists, the focus has shifted to the potential over-production of distillates. — Reuters

TELECOM EGYPT MULLS BUYING MORE SPECTRUM

CAIRO: Telecom Egypt, the state fixed-line monopoly, said yesterday it was considering buying more spectrum, weeks after acquiring a fourth-generation (4G) license that will allow it to directly offer mobile phone services for the first time. “Telecom Egypt has presented a request to the National Telecom Regulatory Authority to understand the terms and conditions related to any other spectrum on offer so it can be studied and evaluated,” it said in a statement on the stock exchange website.

Egypt is selling four 4G licenses as part of a long-awaited plan to reform the telecoms sector and raise much-needed dollars for depleted government coffers. It gave its existing four operators priority to acquire 4G licenses, but the only company that took up the offer was Telecom Egypt, which has long sought a way to offer mobile serv-

ices directly. Telecom Egypt bought its license for 7.08 billion Egyptian pounds (\$797 million) last month.

The country’s three existing mobile phone operators - Orange , Vodafone and Etisalat - all turned down the licenses saying the amount of spectrum on offer was not sufficient to allow them to offer 4G services efficiently. Egypt’s telecom regulator said last week it would consider an international auction of the licenses in light of the rejections.

Kuwait’s Zain, China Telecom, Saudi Telecom and Lebara KSA have all expressed interest in Egypt’s market. It was not clear if Telecom Egypt was looking to buy spectrum left available should any of the remaining three licenses find no taker or if it was hoping to secure entirely new frequencies. — Reuters

EGYPT EYES \$10BN IN FDI AS IT UPGRADES INFRASTRUCTURE

CAIRO: Egypt hopes to attract \$10 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) next year and will automate the process of establishing a company, its investment chief said, highlighting efforts to revive the economy and earn much-needed hard currency.

The most populous Arab country has been scrambling to attract investment needed to restore growth since the 2011 uprising, which ushered in protracted political turmoil and scared away tourists and foreign investors - key sources of hard currency. Mohammed Khodeir, CEO of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), said Egypt drew over \$6.8 billion in FDI in the 2015-16 fiscal year and hoped for \$10 billion in 2016-17 after big upgrades to ageing road and power infrastructure.

Khodeir said that not all the targeted FDI might come in dollars but all of it would be fresh investment. “Egypt has had a very difficult five years preceded by a historical baggage of things that needed to be done and were not done, and Egypt has taken a decision to confront this,” he told Reuters in an interview. “So you have issues such as subsidies being tackled, issues such as electricity infrastructure, files that have been left alone for so many years.”

Egypt’s cabinet approved a long-awaited draft law on investment last year aimed at making deals less vulnerable to

legal disputes or changes in government, and reducing stifling bureaucracy. But the law was widely criticized over a lack of clarity on issues including taxes and the role of GAFI.

Khodeir said authorities were seeking feedback on the law, and this could form the basis for possible amendments. “Learning from experience, we are adopting a very inclusive approach, making sure our stakeholders contribute their thoughts. We asked investors for their wish list.”

Khodeir would not say which aspects of the law might change. “There will be amendments if there is consensus within the market and the stakeholders that a new law is needed.” The government hopes a raft of new legislation will help slice through notorious red tape and make it easier and quicker for investors to do business. Khodeir said the process of incorporating a company had been simplified through the introduction of a one-stop-shop, though securing regulatory licenses remained slow.

“If you’re a factory, you need certain specific regulatory approvals...That’s the second phase that we’re trying to embed into the one-stop-shop.” Khodeir said it would also be possible to incorporate a business online as early as next year. “We’re working and doing everything we can to have it automated in 2017.” — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.993
Indian Rupees	4.542
Pakistani Rupees	2.885
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Nepali Rupees	2.839
Singapore Dollar	224.200
Hongkong Dollar	38.971
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Philippine Peso	6.310
Thai Baht	8.742

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.643
Qatari Riyal	83.070
ani Riyal	785.473
Bahraini Dinar	803.110
UAE Dirham	82.335

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.050
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.423
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	137.760
Jordanian Dinar	426.640
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015
Syrian Lira	2.0155
Morocco Dirham	21.484

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.250
Euro	341.090
Sterling Pound	395.340
Canadian dollar	231.430
Turkish lira	103.160

Swiss Franc	314.840
Australian Dollar	233.640
US Dollar Buying	301.050

GOLD

20 Gram	268.710
10 Gram	137.270
5 Gram	69.480

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.450
Canadian Dollr	229.805
Sterling Pound	392.985
Euro	340.530
Swiss Frank	294.247
Bahrain Dinar	799.545
UAE Dirhams	82.575
Qatari Riyals	83.785
Saudi Riyals	81.375
Jordanian Dinar	426.180
Egyptian Pound	33.962
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.071
Indian Rupees	4.527
Pakistani Rupees	2.881
Bangladesh Taka	3.848
Philippines Peso	6.270
Cyprus pound	159.409
Japanese Yen	3.985
Syrian Pound	2.410
Nepalese Rupees	3.830
Malaysian Ringgit	73.990
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.695
Thai Bhat	9.700
Turkish Lira	102.000

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

Europe		
British Pound	0.385950	0.395950
Czech Korune	0.004555	0.016555
Danish Krone	0.041469	0.046469
Euro	0.0333735	0.0342735
Norwegian Krone	0.033267	0.038467
Romanian Leu	0.083750	0.083750
Slovakia	0.008997	0.018997
Swedish Krona	0.031355	0.036355
Swiss Franc	0.305467	0.316467
Turkish Lira	0.097808	0.108108
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.222798	0.234798
New Zealand Dollar	0.213191	0.222691
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.224365	0.233365
Georgina Lari	0.136487	0.136487
US Dollars	0.298100	0.302800
US Dollars Mint	0.298600	0.302800
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003299	0.003883
Chinese Yuan	0.043770	0.047270
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036891	0.039641
Indian Rupee	0.004253	0.004642
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025

Japanese Yen	0.002916	0.003096
Kenyan Shilling	0.003108	0.003108
Korean Won	0.000264	0.000279
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070079	0.076079
Nepalese Rupee	0.002804	0.002974
Pakistan Rupee	0.002740	0.003030
Philippine Peso	0.006237	0.006537
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217526	0.227526
South African Rand	0.016285	0.024785
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001654	0.002234
Taiwan	0.009493	0.009673
Thai Baht	0.008374	0.008921
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795023	0.803523
Egyptian Pound	0.024009	0.029127
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.422075	0.431075
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019737	0.043737
Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Omani Riyal	0.778515	0.784195
Qatar Riyal	0.082196	0.083645
Saudi Riyal	0.079500	0.080800
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.133780	0.141780
Turkish Lira	0.097808	0.108108
UAE Dirhams	0.080853	0.082553
Yemeni Riyal	0.001366	0.001446

TURKISH STOCK SLIDE AFTER MOODY'S CUTS RATING

ISTANBUL: Turkish shares tumbled 4 percent and bonds and the lira weakened sharply yesterday after Moody's cut its credit rating to "junk", raising risks of an outflow of foreign funds and a squeeze on external borrowing.

Turkey depends on investment to fund its current account deficit - one of the biggest in the G20 - and service its foreign debt. Ratings downgrades could force it to pay more to borrow in international markets. In its decision late on Friday, Moody's cited worries about the rule of law after a failed putsch and risks from a slowing economy. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 3.1 percent in the second quarter from 4.7 in the first and officials see it slowing further.

Standard and Poor's made a two-notch cut by right after the failed putsch. Of the major agencies, only Fitch has Turkey on investment grade and that is due for review at the start of 2017. Moody's cut will therefore trigger an outflow of funds by foreign investors such as pension funds, who require at least two agencies to rate sovereign debt at investment grade, said Gökçe Celik, chief economist at Finansbank.

That will push "the cost of external borrowing higher while rendering the currency weaker," Celik said in an email. The main stock index was down 4 percent to 76,511 at 1105 GMT, on course for its biggest one-day decline since the days after the attempted coup of July 15. The losses were driven by banking shares, which fell nearly 6 percent.

Borrowing costs surged with the 10-year benchmark yield rising to 10.01 percent from 9.51 percent on Friday. The lira weakened to 2.9880, after touching 3.0040 in illiquid trade overnight, and was on track for its biggest one-day slide since July 19.

Moody's cut the government's long-term issuer and senior unsecured bond ratings debt to non-investment grade Ba1 from Baa3. It kept its outlook on the rating

"stable," saying Turkey's flexible \$720 billion economy and strong fiscal track record offset balance-of-payments pressures.

'INEVITABLE DECISION'

"This was an inevitable decision ... Low rates of growth and a poor domestic political backdrop are hardly conducive to a benign investment climate," Commerzbank said, forecasting weakness in the lira and cash bonds. Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım said on Saturday that Moody's was not being impartial nor basing its rating solely on economic factors.

Around \$2 billion-\$3 billion could flow out after the downgrade, an influential adviser to President Tayyip Erdoğan said on Monday. JP Morgan has estimated potential outflows could be much greater, saying in July that a junk rating could prompt the sale of \$10 billion in sovereign and corporate bonds.

So far, there has been little outflow and the possibility of is remote, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmuş said, castigating those who tried to "undermine" Turkey's economic credibility.

"Arguably, the downgrade could make it more difficult for Turkey to attract the foreign financing needed to fund its current account deficit, which could lead to a much weaker lira and slower GDP growth," said William Jackson, an economist at Capital Economics. "However, I think the ability to attract capital flows will have much more to do with external factors than Turkey's credit rating," he said, referring to US interest rate decisions. Some say the sell-off offers an entry point for investors. "Once the sell-off runs its course, opportunistic investors may step in due to attractive yields offered by local bonds," Rabobank economist Piotr Matys said in an e-mail. "Average GDP growth at around 4 percent (year on year) in the coming years may also prove a valid argument to consider purchasing Turkish assets." — Reuters



ROBINSON: John Deere lawn tractors are on display at a Home Depot in Robinson Township, Pa. Financing at Deere & Co, which leases much of its farm and construction equipment, has risen in recent years. —AP

WILL BOOM IN LOANS AT RETAILERS, MANUFACTURERS TURN TO BUST?

ROLE OF DEBT IN BOOSTING SALES HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMY

NEW YORK: They sell diamond rings in malls and used cars at dealerships, make wrench sets for mechanics and giant combines for farmers. Not one has "bank" in its name, but they are all big lenders, and getting bigger by the day. If you're wondering how companies can get people to buy things when wages have been barely rising, check out the financial statements of some of the nation's retailers and manufacturers. Money lent out at Signet Jewelers, CarMax and tool maker Snap-on has jumped more than 50 percent in four years at each of these companies, 2.5 times the growth of loans at banks. Financing at Deere & Co, which leases much of its farm and construction equipment, has risen 27 percent. Companies see the loans as a useful, safe way to drum up business. Customers seem to love them, too.

What's not to like?

If you listen to short sellers, plenty. Short sellers are investors who place bets that pay off when stocks drop, and they say that is going to happen with stocks of some of these non-traditional lenders. They say companies have gotten sloppy in picking who to lend to after seven years of super low interest rates and easy-money monetary policy, and defaults are coming. "The longer the environment lasts, the more risk in the system builds," says Brad Lamensdorf, co-manager of the AdvisorShares Ranger Equity Bear fund, which has bet against Signet and Snap-on. "The losses are not going to be at the banks, it's going to be shareholders of these companies."

The loans under attack are a tiny fraction of the total in the US, but the issues these short sellers raise about the role of debt in boosting sales has implications for the broader economy. A Federal Reserve report published earlier this month showed that US companies, governments and households have \$13 trillion more debt than they did before the 2008 financial crisis, a 39 percent increase. Assuming some of the

money has helped fuel spending and the economy recover, how much longer can the boost be expected to last? Investors in some of the companies under fire are starting to worry. Stock in Signet, for instance, has plunged 38 percent since the start of the year.

The retailer, which owns Zales and other jewelry chains, has been targeted by Marc Cohodes, a famed short seller for three decades. Earlier this year, he turned to a technique he used years ago to anticipate trouble at mortgage lender NovaStar Financial, which eventually failed: sift through personal bankruptcy filings to see if a company shows up as creditor.

Cohodes says that 3,274 people across the country who went bust in the first three months this year said they owed money to Signet, up 72 percent from a year earlier.

In an emailed response, Signet says that its appearance in bankruptcy filings has held steady compared to total filings. It also says its loan portfolio, which is up 60 percent in four years, follows "strict risk tolerance" standards. "Suggestions that Signet's sales are driven by loosening standards are simply wrong," it says.

The lending business is growing fast at Snap-on, too. The company, which sells wrench sets to car mechanics, has \$464 million in loans out to customers now, up from \$305 million four years ago. So far, the mechanics have been paying back what they owe. The company says it's got things under control, and notes that it has been lending since the 1930s and is no rube when it comes to judging credit risk.

Still, many of the mechanics that buy its tools are in iffy financial shape, a fact not denied by the company. The average rate that Snap-on charges customers reflects the high risk: 18 percent. Its stock has fallen 11 percent since the start of the year. Problems may also be brewing at Deere & Co, whose leasing business has boomed as crop prices have fallen and farmers become reluctant to buy. The company adjusts the rate it charges farmers based in part on what

it estimates the equipment will be worth when returned. If it assumes a high value, it can charge farmers less. Jim Grant, publisher of Grant's Interest Rate Observer, smells trouble.

Estimating the likely value of equipment upon its return involves a lot of guesswork, Grant says, and getting the figure wrong could cost the company big now that its leasing business has grown. Deere's financing unit is expecting to eventually get back \$4.2 billion worth of farming and construction equipment it has leased out. That figure has ballooned 60 percent in less than two years. Deere did not respond to requests for comment. With a new government report out earlier this month showing wages finally up solidly, and with a recession seemingly far off, it's possible that the new loans at these companies will continue to perform well.

But old-timers recall a similar confidence about loans at telecom gear makers Lucent Technologies and Cisco Systems in the 1990s, before their customers stopped paying. Or how Harley-Davidson had to eat nearly \$90 million in losses on loans to its bike customers after the 2008 financial crisis. Or how the federal government had to bail out Ally Financial, the former financing arm of General Motors, around the same time. Then there is the danger that, even if all this buying-on-credit does not result in big losses, it's done too good of a job and sales will flatten. Grant, who has written extensively about problems at non-traditional lenders, is concerned. By getting people who might have saved to buy now, he notes, lending essentially steals sales from the future. All else being equal, that means fewer customers in coming years. One company to watch: CarMax, which reported yet another quarter of disappointing sales last Wednesday, sending its stock down 2 percent. Loans at the nation's largest used car dealer have jumped 92 percent in four years. Loans bring "tomorrow's consumption into the present," warns Grant. "That's a good thing for the present, and not such a good thing for tomorrow." — AP



TAMARAC: Lennar Corporation townhomes are under construction at Chelsea Place in Tamarac, Fla. The Commerce Department reported yesterday on sales of new homes in August. —AP

SALES OF NEW US HOMES TUMBLE 7.6% IN AUG

WASHINGTON: New US single-family home sales posted their biggest decline in nearly a year in August after soaring to nine-year highs the month before, with analysts saying the trend in sales remains positive. The Commerce Department said yesterday new home sales fell 7.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 609,000 units last month. Sales were up 20.6 percent from a year ago.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast single-family home sales, which account for roughly 10 percent of all home sales, falling to a rate of 600,000 units last month. July's sales pace was revised up 5,000 units to 659,000 units. That level of annualized sales is the highest since October 2007. "New home sales moved lower in August, but sales were at an expansion high in July and the longer-term trend remains positive due to strong homebuyer demand," said David Berson, chief economist at Nationwide and former chief economist at Fannie Mae.

Shares in homebuilders were mostly flat after the data, outperforming the broader stock market, which was down about half a percent. Shares in the nation's largest homebuilder D.R. Horton Inc were

down 0.14 percent and Lennar Corp shares rose 0.06 percent. Toll Brothers was down 0.2 percent.

The broader PHLX housing index, which includes builders, building products and mortgage companies, was trading up 0.10 percent. Another housing report last week showed a solid increase in permits for single-family dwellings as the housing market continues to strengthen overall amid a tightening labor market that is pushing up wages.

New home sales have also benefited from a dearth of previously owned houses available for sale. Last month, the inventory of new homes on the market rose 1.7 percent to 235,000 units.

New single-family home sales fell 34.3 percent in the Northeast to the lowest level since September 2015. Sales were down 2.4 percent in the Midwest and 12.3 percent in the South but rose 8.0 percent in the West to the highest level since September 2007. At August's sales pace it would take 4.6 months to clear the supply of houses on the market, up from 4.2 months in July. The median price for a new home fell 5.4 percent from a year ago to \$284,000. — Reuters

GOLD STEADIES AS FOCUS SWITCHES TO US PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

LONDON: Gold steadied yesterday as last week's rally ran out of steam, with markets awaiting a US presidential debate later in the day for pointers on the outcome of November's election. The metal ended Friday little changed but was up 2 percent week on week, its biggest weekly gain in nearly two months. That was driven chiefly by the US Federal Reserve's cautious tone on interest rates after its policy meeting tomorrow.

However, uncertainty over the outlook for US monetary policy and sluggish demand for physical metal in Asia kept a lid on gains later in the week. Spot gold was at \$1,336.95 an ounce at 1130 GMT, little changed from \$1,337.21 late on Friday. US gold futures for December delivery were down 10 cents at \$1,340.70. "Gold remains stuck in a relatively tight range for a third day," said Saxo Bank's head of commodity research, Ole Hansen. "Demand from hedge funds and investors ... has been absent in recent weeks. This

despite a benign US rate outlook, (Donald) Trump gaining in the polls and a weaker dollar and stock market weakness today, driven by losses in the banking sector." US Commodity Futures Trading Commission data showed on Friday that hedge funds and money managers cut their net long position in COMEX gold for the second straight week in the seven days to Sept 20. "Underlying support remains, but having traded sideways for the past three months, investors have become cautious," Hansen said.

"A technical break above \$1,346 would force a response and the strength of that would indicate whether it's onwards and upwards or back down to test support." Stock markets declined in Europe and Asia, tracking losses on Wall Street, as appetite for assets seen as higher risk was blunted by the looming US presidential debate and uncertainty about oil prices ahead of an informal OPEC meeting. — Reuters

GOLDMAN AXING NEARLY 30% OF ASIA INVESTMENT BANKING JOBS

LONDON: Goldman Sachs is cutting almost 30 percent of its 300 investment banking jobs in Asia outside Japan in response to a slowdown in activity in the region, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. The Wall Street bank is reducing the number of bankers working on mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and equity and debt capital markets deals, the sources said. It will be left with slightly more than 200 bankers across Asia. Most of the jobs cuts are likely to take place in Hong Kong, Singapore and China, where Goldman's main Asian offices are located, according to the sources, who said the process was underway.

A Goldman Sachs spokesman declined to comment. The company, whose investment banking revenue fell 11 percent to \$1.79 billion in the second quarter, has been hit by a lacklustre environment for deals across Asia. The total value of M&A deals across the Asia-Pacific region has dropped to \$572.9 billion so far this year, from \$745.7 billion in the same period of 2015, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Goldman said in July it had embarked on a cost-cutting plan that would save \$700 million a year in response to a "challenging backdrop" for revenue. It still tops the Asia-Pacific M&A league tables but in the first half of the year it came third after JPMorgan and Citi as the biggest bank by revenue in Asia, according to data published on Friday by industry analytics firm Coalition. One of the sources said no managing directors in Asia were in the running to be made partners this year while three existing partners in the region had been stripped of their titles.

RETRENCHMENT

Goldman and other big investment banks are

grappling with a harsh environment after the region's economies and markets failed to deliver sustained growth after the 2008 financial crisis. The banks' business has also been eroded by local competitors.

In 2015 Goldman reduced the number of its investment bankers in Singapore - a hub for Southeast Asia - to about 35 from 50, several sources said. There have been further departures this year, including its Southeast Asia chairman Tim Leissner.

Many of Goldman's European rivals have announced plans to scale down their operations in Asia. Barclays said in January that it would cut

about 1,000 staff in its investment bank operations worldwide, with the bulk happening in Asia, while Societe Generale decided to close its equities research desk in India.

Other European banks including BNP Paribas and Deutsche Bank are expected to scale back operations in non-core Asian markets while last year Asia-focused Standard Chartered shut down its equities franchise. Goldman employs just over 100 bankers in China, where it was one of the first foreign investment banks to start operations. But like other banks it has been hit by a drop in Chinese trading volumes and competition from local banks. — Reuters



BUENOS AIRES: Argentine President Mauricio Macri (second left) US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew (second right) and Argentine Economy Minister Alfonso Prat-Gay take part in a meeting in the military section of the Jorge Newbery airport, in Buenos Aires yesterday. —AFP

WORLD STOCKS DROP BEFORE TRUMP-CLINTON SHOWDOWN

LONDON: European and Asian shares retreated yesterday with investors focused on how Donald Trump would fare in a US presidential debate against Hillary Clinton, while oil prices firmed before an informal OPEC meeting. Wall Street looked set to open lower, according to index futures, before the first of three debates, which was due to begin at 0100 GMT/2100 ET.

Half of America's likely voters will rely on the presidential debates to help them make their choice between Republican Trump and Democrat Clinton in the Nov. 8 election, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released yesterday. "A good performance from Mr.

Trump could see market volatility increase, particularly if investors think there is a possibility that he could actually win," wrote Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets in London.

European stocks fell, dragged down by a pullback in the shares of major banking and energy companies. Deutsche Bank shares hit a record low. The pan-European STOXX 600 index fell 1.4 percent and remains down by around 7 percent since the start of 2016.

"We feel that with central bank meetings behind us, the focus will now be more on political risks and so have been spending more time trying to understand the potential

implications for a Trump victory," said Mark Dowding, co-head of investment grade debt at BlueBay Asset Management.

He said that while a Trump victory could be seen internationally as bad for global assets, US domestic investors were more sanguine. Turkish stocks, bonds and the lira sold off yesterday after Moody's slashed its credit rating to junk, against a backdrop of broader emerging markets weakness.

Announcing the downgrade late on Friday, Moody's cited worries about the rule of law after a failed putsch, as well as risks from a slowing economy, in a move which could push up Turkey's cost of borrowing. Oil prices

rebounded after Algeria's energy minister said on Sunday that all options were possible for an output cut or freeze at this week's informal meeting of OPEC producers. Brent crude was up 56 cents to \$46.45 by 1138 GMT.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan extended early losses and was down 0.89 percent, while Japan's Nikkei stock index .N225 ended down 1.3 percent. Wall Street logged weekly gains but ended with solid losses on Friday. Still, the S&P 500 managed to record its best weekly performance in more than two months after the US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady on Wednesday.

minus 0.10 percent.

On equities markets, Hong Kong spent the day in negative territory and its position worsened as the afternoon sawed on. The Hang Seng Index shed 1.6 percent to close at 23,317.92.

The news was just as bad in Shanghai, where the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index dropped 1.8 percent to 2,980.43. Sydney closed flat, while Taiwan gave up one percent and Seoul slipped 0.3 percent. Yesterday's loss of altitude followed a disappointing Friday in the US, where the Dow slid 0.7 percent and the tech-rich NASDAQ gave up 0.6 percent. Shares in Apple and Yahoo led the charge downwards.

The yen was higher yesterday, with currency traders apparently emboldened by last week's Bank of Japan move to target 10-year government bonds in its latest bid to fuel inflation. The dollar was buying 100.62 yen in late-afternoon Asian trade against 101.02 yen in New York on Friday.

"The Bank of Japan has lost control of the yen," said Matthew Sherwood, head of investment strategy in Sydney at Perpetual Ltd. "The only hope for Japan and the yen may be an aggressive Fed, but this is looking next to impossible despite an apparent split in the Fed Open Market Committee." —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

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Monday 26 September 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -2.36	5,407.87	5,410.23	5,410.14	5,386.10
Weighted Index	▼ -0.66	352.10	352.76	353.56	351.11
KSX 15	▼ -2.20	814.06	816.26	818.77	811.11

Volume	80,549,209
Value (KWD)	10,888,656
Number of Trades	2,266

Security	High	Low	Trades		Last	Change
			Volume	Value (KD)		
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	92	— 0.0
IKARUS	33.0	33.0	50,000	1,650	1	33.0 — 0.0
IPG	345	345	3,438	1,186	3	345 — 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	770	— 0.0
ENERGYH	45.0	44.0	80,100	3,525	11	44.0 ▼ -2.5
GPI	38.5	38.0	1,664,906	63,206	22	38.5 — 0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	93	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,796,444	69,628	37	762.46 ▼ -5.61

KFOUC	166	162	130,000	21,236	9	164 ▼ -2.0
BPCC	490	480	660,940	319,301	22	490 ▲ 5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	600	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	200	194	367,871	72,614	31	198 ▲ 4.0
Basic Materials			1,158,811	413,151	62	916.34 ▲ 6.05

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	370	— 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	300	— 0.0
CABLE	385	380	10,050	3,819	3	385 — 0.0
SHIP	154	152	5,280	813	2	154 ▼ -2.0
PCEM	960	960	101,622	97,557	4	960 — 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	285	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	66	— 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	285	— 0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	325	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	128	— 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	190	— 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	48.0	47.0	2,769,054	130,919	94	47.0 ▲ 0.5
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	40.0	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	61	59	80,090	4,735	11	59 ▼ -2.0
AGLTY	475	470	815,061	387,081	28	475 — 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	192	— 0.0
CLEANING	38.5	38.0	245,190	9,352	10	38.5 ▲ 0.5
KGL	41.5	41.5	125,000	5,188	16	41.5 ▼ -0.5
KCPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	170	— 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,560	1,460	103	160	2	1,560 — 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	180	— 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	400	— 0.0
GFC	26.0	25.0	10,000	255	3	26.0 — 0.0
MAYADEEN	29.0	28.0	228,600	6,510	8	29.0 — 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	650	— 0.0
MTCC	55	53	69,200	3,761	13	55 — 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	690	— 0.0
ALAFCO	210	208	500,000	104,069	8	208 ▼ -4.0
MUBARRAD	55	53	457,500	24,602	24	53 ▼ -2.0
LOGISTICS	71	71	39,500	2,805	1	71 — 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	80	— 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	79	— 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	75	— 0.0
FCEM	80	79	366,299	28,951	12	80 — 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	90	— 0.0
SPFC	99	91	104,945	10,286	4	99 ▲ 5.0
Industrials			5,927,494	820,861	243	1156.30 ▼ -1.62

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	148	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
PAPCO	96	96	5,250	504	1	96 ▼ -3.0	
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	246	— 0.0
DANAH	80	86	200,310	17,523	27	89 ▲ 1.0	
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	— 0.0
FOOD	2,520	2,520	461,000	1,161,720	44	2,520 — 0.0	
Consumer Goods			666,560	1,179,747	72	1141.00 ▼ -3.60	

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0
VIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	218	— 0
Health Care			0	0	0	1077.97	— 0.00

KCIN	930	930	500	465	1	930 ▼ -10	
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0
SULTAN	53	51	285,500	14,908	17	53 ▲ 2	
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.5	— 0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0
IFAIR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	— 0
OUFAFUEL	116	112	10,856	1,236	12	112 — 0	
MUNTAZAHAT	79	76	71,360	5,516	42	79 ▲ 1	
JAZZERA	830	820	328,446	271,978	17	830 ▲ 10	
SOOR	112	112	31,499	3,528	10	112 ▼ -2	
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0
ALRAI	138	136	54,579	7,531	4	136 ▼ -4	
ZIMAH	41.0	40.0	36,730	14,738	16	40.0 ▼ -1	
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0
Mezzan	990	990	35,000	34,650	2	990 ▼ -10	
Consumer Services			1,179,470	354,549	121	894.94 ▲ 0.26	

ZAIN	345	335	6,607,800	2,947,500	100	340 — 0
OOREDOO	1,240	1,140	164,409	202,700	19	1,180 ▼ -60
HITSTELEC	39.0	37.5	3,830,808	146,333	53	38.5 ▲ 1
VIVA	900	880	58,263	51,615	39	890 ▲ 10
Telecommunications			12,721,280	3,348,148	211	593.55 ▼ -0.98

NBK	600	590	495,748	292,534	28	590 ▼ -10	
GBK	234	230	1,418,167	329,040	30	232 — 0	
CBK	410	400	153,431	61,815	18	410 ▲ 15	
ABK	315	315	160,000	50,400	7	315 — 0	
ALMUTAHID	390	380	38,361	14,857	11	390 — 0	
KIB	190	188	808,401	151,980	17	190 ▲ 2	
BURG	325	320	115,087	37,393	8	325 — 0	
KFIN	470	460	1,729,526	804,514	52	465 — 0	
BOUBYAN	395	385	1,186,829	462,760	36	390 ▲ 5	
AUB	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	— 0
ITIIMR	37.5	36.5	79,000	2,857	4	37.5 — 0	
WARBABANK	168	166	630,630	104,687	60	166 — 0	
Banks			6,614,180	2,312,837	271	795.61 ▲ 2.44	

KINS	246	246	2,000	492	2	246 ▼ -2	
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	— 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	— 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108	— 0.0
KUWAITIRE	190	190	5,000	950	1	190 — 0.0	
FTI	48.0	43.5	13,159	589	14	45.0 ▼ -1.0	
WIETHAQ	29.5	29.5	18,387	542	2	29.5 — 0.0	
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
Insurance			30,546	2,574	19	903.30 ▼ -3.05	

Security	High	Low	Trades		Last	Change
			Volume	Value (KD)		
SOKOLK	31.0	30.5	336108	10,251	17	31.0 ▲ 0.5
KRE	51	50	3,472,900	173,797	29	51 — 0.0
URC	98	98	100	10	1	98 ▲ 3.0
NRE	76	75	35,940	2,704	4	76 ▼ -1.0
SRE	370	370	5,000	1,850	1	370 ▲ 5.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550 — 0.0
AREEC	146	146	500	73	1	146 — 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5 — 0.0
ARABREC	31.5	30.5	460,593	14,008	9	31.5 ▲ 0.5
ERESCO	40.0	39.5	271,217	10,715	16	39.5 ▼ -0.5
MARANEE	790	790	5/4,896	454,167	28	790 — 0.0
INJAZZAT	70	70	10,000	700	1	70 — 0.0
INVESTORS	21.5	21.0	2,131,322	44,768	34	21.0 — 0.0
IRC	27.0	26.0	10,210	265	3	27.0 ▲ 0.5
ALTJARIA	77	76	36,022	2,774	5	77 — 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.5 — 0.0
AAYANRE	62	60	60,000	3,646	2	60 ▼ -2.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70 — 0.0
ALAOARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.0 — 0.0
MAZAYA	112	110	550,740	60,583	9	110 ▼ -2.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0 — 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89 — 0.0
TIJARA	40.0	39.0	78,111	3,048	9	40.0 ▲ 1.0
TAAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5 — 0.0
ARKAN	79	79	6,200	490	2	79 ▲ 4.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162 — 0.0
ABYAR	21.0	20.5	1,929,990	39,852	26	20.5 ▼ -0.5
MUNSHAAT	49.5	47.0	64,695	3,099	4	49.5 ▲ 1.5
FIRSTDUBAI	59	57	850,452	49,017	29	58 ▼ -2.0
KBT	38.0	37.5	801,755	30,269	17	38.0 — 0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176 — 0.0
MENA	21.0	17.5	109,000	1,958	4	21.0 ▲ 1.0
ALMUDON	30.5	28.5	4,424,718	130,293	100	29.0 ▲ 0.5
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.5 — 0.0
REMAJ	43.5	41.0	2,946,634	108,110	92	41.5 ▲ 0.5
AWJ	60	60	2,000	120	2	60 ▲ 2.0
Real Estate			18,769,102	1,146,648	444	822.97 ▲ 3.07

KINV	85	82	63,070	5,211	8	85 — 0.0
FACIL	176	172	33,532	5,768	8	176 ▲ 2.0
IFA	30.5	29.5	2,838,000	84,100	47	30.5 ▲ 0.5
NINV	112	108	1,774,498	194,669	66	110 ▲ 2.0
KPROJ	550	540	36,294	19,799	4	540 — 0.0
COAST	43.5	42.5	1,782,800	76,640	67	43.0 ▼ -0.5
SECH	44.0	44.0	92,000	4,048	5	44.0 — 0.0
SGC	85	85	5,000	425	1	85 — 0.0
ARZAN	31.0	30.5	22,500	689	2	31.0 ▲ 0.5
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86 — 0.0
KMEFIC	25.0	22.5	45,500	1,095	8	25.0 ▲ 0.5
ALAMAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0 — 0.0
ALOLA	46.5	46.0	80,031	3,606	5	46.5 ▲ 0.5
ALMAL						

HOW RUSSIA'S CENTRAL BANK CHIEF HELD THE LINE

MOSCOW: One Thursday evening in March, Elvira Nabiullina, governor of Russia's central bank, faced down a rival in the struggle for influence inside President Vladimir Putin's entourage. At a meeting chaired by Putin, Economy Minister Alexei Ulyukayev sought the president's blessing for the central bank to give 140 billion roubles (\$2.2 billion) to lenders, according to a person who was briefed on the meeting by Nabiullina.

Banks would use the extra money, Ulyukayev argued as he sat before Nabiullina in a Kremlin conference room, to lend to companies suffering amid Russia's economic downturn. Some of Putin's friends in the business world would benefit too. Nabiullina objected, saying that releasing money would drive up inflation and undermine her monetary policies. Putin, sitting at the head of a hardwood table, backed the central banker. "The trust in her from Putin and (Prime Minister Dmitry) Medvedev is quite high," Alexei Kudrin, who was finance minister until 2011 and is still influential in Kremlin circles, said in an interview.

Nabiullina's ability to hold the line - often drawing Putin to her side against other close associates - reflects deep ideological and personal rifts emerging at the Kremlin amid an economic downturn caused by falling oil prices and Western sanctions. Putin's inner circle is dividing into two broad camps: On the one side are associates - many of whom have security backgrounds like Putin - who want a strong Russian state with military muscle and control over strategic economic sectors.

On the other side are Nabiullina and her allies who believe in economic openness. Over the past two years, the 52-year-old central banker has steered Russia through one the deepest recessions since the end of Communism.

Nabiullina's policy of letting the rouble fall pushed up the cost of imports, which in Russia include many basic goods. That drove consumer price inflation last year to 12.9 percent. For most people, wages have not risen as fast, and in some cases have even fallen. Yet the weaker rouble, along with her policies of keeping interest rates high, curbing inflation and limiting cheap money to banks, has staved off an economic meltdown, experts say. In pursuing her strategy, she has also survived protests from powerful Putin associates, according to more than a dozen people at the central bank, government and close to the government. One of the biggest opponents of her agenda, for example, is Igor Sechin, head of Russia's biggest oil

company, Rosneft, and a strong ally of Putin's. Sergei Glazyev, the man Putin has appointed as an economic advisor, is also an open critic of the central banker's policies. A former spy of the KGB secret services, Putin's 15 years in power have been marked by the nationalization of private business and an aggressive foreign policy that has hurt Russia Inc. worldwide. By siding with Nabiullina, Putin is also making macro-economic stability a priority. The Russian central bank and the economy ministry declined to comment on the March meeting. Nabiullina, through the central bank, declined to be interviewed for this story. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said in reply to Reuters questions that the central bank was independent and the Kremlin never sought to influence it.

But he said: "As a whole, the president supports the macro-economic policy of the central bank ... As a whole, he does indeed rate highly Nabiullina's professional qualities and professionalism." He said Putin regards macro-economic stability as an absolute priority. That the head of Russia's central bank would have the support of the president is, to a certain extent, understandable; Putin picked her. Nabiullina herself has important backers, including the head of Russia's biggest commercial bank.

There have been missteps too: Several of her ideological opponents, and one person close to the central bank, said the bank did not act quickly enough to reassure markets when the rouble took a sharp plunge in December 2014. Nabiullina at the time said it would have been futile to hold back global market forces. Yet there are signs that Nabiullina's influence is increasing beyond that of her predecessors.

For example, the central bank recently began drafting memos for middle ranking government and Kremlin officials on how to speak in public about the currency, according to two sources close to the central bank. The guidance, which no previous central banker has issued in such a wide-ranging way, came in the wake of a long bout of rouble volatility on currency markets.

INFLUENTIAL BACKERS

Among Nabiullina's original backers for the central bank post in 2013 was German Gref, chief executive of Sberbank, Russia's biggest bank, according to the people who spoke to Reuters.

Gref served as economy minister from 2002-2007, and Nabiullina served as his deputy before replacing him in the job. Gref is a Putin loyalist who

can exercise indirect influence over policy, but he is not part of the Putin inner circle. Gref did not reply to an email seeking comment. Nabiullina also had other connections. Her husband, Yaroslav Kouzminov, is rector at the Higher School of Economics, Russia's most influential economic university. The couple are part of a wide network of friends maintained by Vyacheslav Volodin, first deputy chief of the Kremlin staff who is poised to become next speaker of parliament, people who know the couple said.

People who have worked with Nabiullina said she has a low-key management style. She does not publicly discuss politics or other issues beyond the realm of her central-banking responsibilities.

Russia was tipped into economic crisis shortly into Nabiullina's term as governor. In 2014 when world prices for oil, Russia's main source of revenue, plummeted. At the same time, the conflict over Ukraine provoked western sanctions and an investor stampede out of Russian assets.

Nabiullina had to quickly make a series of decisions that would define her governorship.

The first was her decision, when downward pressure on the rouble became intense, to drop the policy of trying to keep the rouble within a corridor. After that, the currency became extremely volatile, falling to an all-time low of close to 86 per dollar in early 2016, from around 35 to the dollar when the Ukraine crisis escalated in early 2014. That caused pain for ordinary Russians, whose savings in dollar terms were wiped out and for whom the price of imported goods in the shops shot up. Companies with foreign currency debt were in trouble.

"The brightest example of her independence is that she insisted on the floating rouble regime," said Kudrin. Letting the rouble float protected the bank's gold and foreign exchange reserves, which would otherwise have had to be spent to defend the currency. Exporters, especially oil firms, benefited; because their revenues were in hard currency, their earnings, in rouble terms, grew.

But the floating rouble also brought high inflation, and that required another watershed decision. On the night of Dec. 15, 2014, with panic mounting on the domestic foreign exchange market, the central bank announced it would hike the key interest rate by 650 basis points to 17 percent. Banks were threatened with major losses, because their clients would struggle to make repayments at the new rate. Andrei Kostin, chief executive of VTB, Russia's second biggest bank, and a powerful Putin ally, said big

lenders went to the Kremlin and the government to ask for measures to mitigate their losses.

Kostin's office wall is decorated with multiple photographs of him in Putin's company. "We were told: 'We will stick to the central bank's policy; money will be expensive, and we will not take measures which would lead to banks increasing their profitability,'" Kostin recalled in an interview with Reuters in June. "We will help with the capital - you will take on losses."

GROWTH LOBBY

Nabiullina's policies have made her enemies within the Putin entourage. Ulyukayev, the economy minister, has often clashed with Nabiullina, said sources close to the government and the central bank. In February last year, Nabiullina publicly chided the Rosneft state oil giant-whose head Sechin is a strong Putin ally and a man few dare openly oppose. The central bank chief said Rosneft's need to finance its large foreign debt was creating market expectations that Rosneft would sell roubles. That, in turn, was pushing down the currency. In an unusual move, Sechin went to visit Nabiullina, according to two people with knowledge of the meeting. The sources said they did not know what was discussed. But since early 2015, Rosneft stopped issuing rouble bonds to refinance its debt. "One doesn't want to be accused of manipulating the national currency," said one of the people. Rosneft did not respond to Reuters questions.

Glazyev, the Putin adviser who has been asked, along with others, to come up with ideas for a new economic policy for Russia, also has radically different views from Nabiullina.

Glazyev's ideas include capital controls, a ban on US dollar usage in Russia and printing money to revive economic growth. Glazyev declined an interview request. Another person involved in generating ideas for a new policy is Boris Titov, head of a small political party called "Growth." He too criticizes Nabiullina's policies, saying that her tight monetary policy is choking economic recovery. "You cannot wait when in crisis...cash should be provided," Natalia Burykina, former head of the financial committee in parliament, has also clashed with Nabiullina over banking supervision. Burykina left the committee last year after what some said was a clash with Nabiullina. Burykina denied that she had been pushed out. She said there was a clear reason for Nabiullina's influence: "Support from the president of Russia." — Reuters



MADRID: Former IMF chief, ex Spanish Economy Minister and former president of Caja Madrid, Rodrigo Rato and also former president of Caja Madrid, Miguel Blesa (r) sit in the dock during the first day of the "Black cards of Bankia" trial over bankers' luxury sprees, at the High Court in San Fernando de Henares, near Madrid yesterday. — AFP

EX-IMF HEAD RATO STANDS TRIAL IN SPAIN OVER CREDIT CARD USE

MADRID: Crowds jeered at former International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo Rato when he arrived at a Madrid court yesterday to face trial for his alleged misuse of company credit cards on extravagant personal expenses. Rato and 64 other executives and former board members from lender Bankia and its founding savings bank Caja Madrid are accused of illegally spending 12 million euros (\$13.48 million) for personal use on so-called "black cards" between 2003 and 2012.

Prosecutors are seeking a four-and-a-half year prison sentence for Rato, Bankia's chairman shortly before it needed a state bailout in 2012 at the height of the euro zone debt crisis. Rato, a former Spanish finance minister and one-time contender to lead the ruling centre-right People's Party, has denied wrongdoing in the case, as has Miguel Blesa, his predecessor at the bank.

The case has infuriated Spaniards who were hurt by the crisis. As the two former managers arrived at the court in the outskirts of Madrid for the trial's preliminary proceedings, a group of people who had lost money following Bankia's bailout shouted "hijo de puta" (son of a bitch) and other insults at them.

Blesa will return on Friday to testify, a court spokeswoman said, with Rato likely

returning early next week. Blesa's lawyer, Carlos Aguilar, declined to comment. Rato's lawyer, Ignacio Ayala, did not respond to requests for comment. Aguilar told the court that the evidence presented was "invalid" since they infringed on the accused's rights, El Pais newspaper said.

Tales of luxurious spending on the "black cards" sparked widespread public anger when the scandal broke in 2014, at a time when Spain was only just emerging from financial crisis triggered in part by Bankia's near-collapse. The cards were used to buy jewels, holidays and expensive clothes, according to documents filed with the court, but also to fund more mundane trips to the cinema.

Rato is accused of notching almost 100,000 euros of bills over his two-year tenure at Bankia. Rato, who headed the IMF between 2004 and 2007, has paid back the amount, according to previous court statements. Prosecutors want a six-year sentence and 9.3 million euros in damages for Blesa, who was chairman of Caja Madrid from 1996 to 2010. Caja Madrid later merged with other banks to form Bankia. Bankia's stock market listing, which took place under Rato's watch in mid-2011, is also being investigated by Spain's High Court, though there is no decision yet whether that case will go to trial. — Reuters



MUNICH: Virgin's founder Richard Branson laughs during the company founder-and investor meeting Bits & Pretzels in Munich, southern Germany yesterday. — AFP

GERMAN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SOARS AS BREXIT FEARS 'WANE'

DATA SIGNALS ROSIER OUTLOOK FOR GERMAN ECONOMY

FRANKFURT: German business confidence soared to its highest level in more than two years in September, the Ifo economic institute said yesterday, recovering from a post-Brexit slump and signalling a rosier outlook for Europe's largest economy. The closely-watched index unexpectedly jumped to 109.5 points from 106.3 points in August to reach its highest reading since May 2014, the Munich-based Ifo said. "The German economy is expecting a golden autumn," Ifo president Clemens Fuest said in a statement.

Analysts surveyed by Factset had predicted the mood to stay unchanged. The figure is all the more surprising after the index suffered a steep fall in August, when Ifo said the German economy had fallen into "a summer slump" as companies worried about the fallout from Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

"The prominent Ifo index suggests that Brexit fears have disappeared as quickly as they had emerged," said Carsten Brzeski, chief economist at ING Diba. Ifo said morale had improved across the board, from manufacturing and retailing to the services sector, with confidence in the construction industry reaching a new high. "Companies are clearly more optimistic about the months ahead. They are also more satisfied with their current business situation," said Fuest.

'Pinch of salt'

But analysts cautioned against reading too much into the survey, after a recent string of disappointing data out of Germany pointed to a gloomier picture. German exports plummeted in July as demand weakened from outside the euro area, while industrial production shrank and demand for industrial orders showed only a slight increase. Nordea Markets' Holger Sandte said the September optimism should be taken "with a pinch of salt." "We find the improvement a bit too strong to really reflect what is going on



LONDON: A woman carries a shopping bag as she walks past an Aldi supermarket store in London yesterday. Aldi UK announced yesterday that it will invest £300 million (\$389 million, 346 million euros) to revamp its stores over the next three years. Aldi and its German rival Lidl have boomed in Britain, grabbing market share from traditional supermarkets Asda, Morrison, Sainsbury's and Tesco, as customers tightened their belts to save cash. — AFP

in the economy," he said. Capital Economics analyst Jennifer McKeown agreed. "In all, we doubt that growth will be as strong as the Ifo now suggests, particularly with a modest rise in inflation set to damage the previously healthy consumer recovery," she said.

"But it does suggest that the German economy will continue to outperform its peers and reduces concerns raised by the latest hard data that growth could be grinding to a halt." Ifo's headline figure is based on a survey of some

7,000 businesses who are asked about the current climate and their expectations for the next six months. Within the index, current business sentiment climbed from just under 113 points in August to 114.7. Confidence in the future outlook soared from 100.1 points to 104.5. Germany's Bundesbank expects the economy to grow by 1.7 percent this year and 1.4 percent in 2017, according to forecasts released before the Brexit referendum was held in June. — AFP

DEUTSCHE BANK SHARES PLUNGE TO HISTORIC LOW

FRANKFURT: Shares in Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest lender, hit a record low yesterday after reports at the weekend that Berlin had refused state aid for the embattled lender. The sell-off saw shares plunge by more than 6.6 percent by around 1300 GMT to stand at 10.65 euros (\$12), making it by far the DAX 30's worst performer.

At one point in the session, Deutsche Bank shares stood at 10.63 euros, a historic low. "Given the state of the news, people are selling almost in a panic," said analyst Michael Seufert of NordLB bank. Investors were blindsided by news earlier in September that US regulators were seeking a \$14-billion fine from Deutsche Bank over its actions leading up to the subprime mortgage crisis in 2008.

German news weekly Focus at the weekend reported that Chancellor Angela Merkel had ruled out any chance of offering state aid or interceding with the US authorities. Analysts offered some crumbs of comfort for Deutsche watchers, with Seufert noting "there's no reason at the moment why the bank would have to ask the government for help".

Merkel spokesman Steffen Seibert meanwhile said there were "no grounds" for reports that Deutsche might receive state funding. But the government would be unlikely to allow Deutsche to fail in the event of a true crisis, Andreas Utermann, chief investment officer at

Allianz Global Investors, told Bloomberg Television yesterday. With around \$2 trillion of assets on its balance sheet, Deutsche Bank is "too important for the German economy" for the government to allow it to fail, Utermann said.

In the near term, investors fear that even if Deutsche negotiates a much lower deal with the US Department of Justice, the looming fine will still exceed the \$5.5 billion the bank has set aside to cover its roughly 8,000 open legal cases.

A larger fine could force chief executive

John Cryan into raising more capital, potentially diluting the value of existing Deutsche Bank shares. Even once a deal has been reached with the DoJ, Deutsche is still under investigation by the New York Department of Financial Services over alleged money laundering in the bank's Russian arm.

Deutsche Bank stock has lost half of its value on the Frankfurt exchange since January, after the lender booked an almost 7.0-billion euro loss in 2015. — AFP



FRANKFURT: The logo of Germany's biggest lender Deutsche Bank during the company's annual shareholders' meeting in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP

ZAIN GROUP WINS MICROSOFT AZURE EXPRESSROUTE PROGRAM STATUS

ZAIN SUBSIDIARY MADA AMONG LARGEST NET PROVIDERS IN ME

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces that its fully owned global services subsidiary, Mada Communications, has been granted Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute Program status. This permits Zain to deliver innovative Microsoft software and cloud experiences to enterprises across its expansive IP/MPLS network.

Microsoft's Azure ExpressRoute allows corporates to create private connections between Azure data centers and infrastructure on-premises or in a colocation environment. These connections do not go over the public Internet, thus offering greater reliability, faster speeds, lower latencies, and higher security than typical Internet connections. In some cases, using ExpressRoute connections to transfer data between on-premises systems and Azure has been known to yield drastic cost benefits.

Zain's state-of-the-art owned and operated, resilient IP/MPLS network spans the Middle East, Europe, the Far East and the US, connecting through network-to-network interface (NNI) arrangements with major world partners. Through its latest partnership with Microsoft, Zain will now be able to offer connections from its corporate users to one of the world's industry-leading cloud platforms - Microsoft Azure.

As part of the agreement Zain Group will also be able to bring customers onto Microsoft Azure through its Zain Global Network, providing them with seamless,



secure and reliable dedicated private network connectivity.

Commenting on the partnership, Henri Kassab, Henri Kassab, Managing Director, International, Wholesale & Roaming at Zain Group said, "Microsoft's trust in Zain validates the investment we

have and continue to make in our IP/MPLS network, with our motivation for such developments being the offer of the best possible quality of service to our customers. Our network ranks among the largest internet/DATA providers in the Middle East with 760+ Gbps peak

traffic. Hence we are enthusiastic about the enhanced convenience, connectivity and product portfolio we will be offering customers by our inclusion into the ExpressRoute program."

Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait commented, "Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait commented, "Zain Group is one of the leading communications operators in the Middle East, and our relationship with them will help expand the range and reliability of the services they offer to customers. Reliable, resilient connectivity is the cornerstone of development for economies and societies. ExpressRoute has been tailored for large-scale service provision, delivering for Microsoft Azure Cloud customers enhanced security, reliability, low latency and flexibility of scale allowing for compute and storage capacities as needed. This latest relationship between Zain and Microsoft will empower customers to be more productive, supported by leading-edge bespoke connectivity offerings."

Zain Group has identified the enterprise segment as a core strategic focus for the operator, and through Mada Communications, the operator continues to work towards providing seamless, differentiated multi-services to enterprise and corporates. Zain remains committed to providing best-in-class services to its client base and this latest agreement with Microsoft is a further demonstration of this unwavering commitment.



AGILITY, MAERSK JOIN TO SLASH CO2 EMISSIONS

BAAR, Switzerland: Agility, a leading global logistics provider, has signed an agreement with Maersk Line, the world's largest container ship operator, to cut CO2 emissions by 15 percent per container transported on Agility shipments by 2020.

The agreement is part of Maersk's Carbon Pact Challenge, an initiative under which the ocean carrier and its customers work together to drive down harmful emissions and reduce the environmental impact of shipping.

As part of their agreement, Agility and Maersk will look for ways to cut emissions by shipping cargo on more fuel efficient ships, optimizing shipping networks and routes, and taking other alternative steps to reduce CO2 emissions such as investigating how to integrate CO2 emission indicators into the regular business information flow and procurement of ocean shipping.

"Responsible companies are looking for innovative, commercially viable ways to reduce the impact of their business on the environment," said CasPouderoyen, Agility Senior Vice President for Global Ocean Freight. "In Maersk, we have one of the most creative and committed partners in the shipping industry. Our Carbon Pact partnership with them will benefit Agility customers and the planet."

The International Maritime Organization says ocean shipping accounts for 10 percent of global CO2 emissions for transportation. Road traffic (73 percent) and air transportation (12 percent) are the leading sources of CO2.

Agility and Maersk are both members of the Clean Cargo Working Group, an international coalition of logistics providers, ocean carriers and retailers committed to improving the environmental performance of marine container transport.

Agility works closely with its customers

to measure and improve the environmental performance of their supply chain activities. It also is committed to reducing its own environmental impact. Details of those efforts are available in Agility's 2016 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, "Deepening Impact"

Maersk Line is the world's largest container shipping company, known for reliable, flexible and eco-efficient services. Maersk Line provides ocean transportation in all parts of the world serving customers in more than 115 countries. Maersk Line employs approx. 25,000 employees and operates more than 600 container vessels.

Maersk Line is part of the Maersk Group, headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Agility brings efficiency to supply chains in some of the globe's most challenging environments, offering unmatched personal service, a global footprint and customized capabilities in developed and developing economies alike. Agility is one of the world's leading providers of integrated logistics. It is a publicly traded company with more than \$4.3 billion in revenue and more than 22,000 employees in over 500 offices across 100 countries. Agility's core commercial business, Global Integrated Logistics (GIL), provides supply chain solutions to meet traditional and complex customer needs. GIL offers air, ocean and road freight forwarding, warehousing, distribution, and specialized services in project logistics, fairs and events, and chemicals. Agility's Infrastructure group of companies manages industrial real estate and offers logistics-related services, including e-government customs optimization and consulting, waste management and recycling, aviation and ground-handling services, support to governments and ministries of defense, remote infrastructure and life support.

GLOBUS FAMILY OF BRANDS STRENGTHENS ITS PRESENCE IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The Globus Family of brands, a leading provider of escorted travel products has announced its entry into Kuwait through an association with Al-Afrah Al-Sharqiya Gen Trading & Contracting Co. WLL. In addition to operations that aim to make it easy for the travelers in Kuwait to book and pay for their vacations locally, the agreement includes active sales and marketing support that will enable this new partner, to build mutually successful business opportunities in the coming years.

Globus Family of Brands, the world's largest escorted coach tour company which markets vacations under the Cosmos, Globus, Monograms and Avalon Waterways brands, has a strong presence in the Middle East including the UAE, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and have consolidated their market share in the region by partnering with Al-Afrah Al-Sharqiya Gen. Trading & Contracting Co. WLL in Kuwait to focus on the outbound leisure travel segment.

The Globus Family of brands office in

India is responsible for the Middle East region and will provide support to Al-Afrah Al-Sharqiya Gen Trading & Contracting Co WLL, Kuwait to help garner sales of Globus family vacations worldwide.

"By establishing this relationship, our goal is to strengthen the Globus family of brands' presence in Kuwait and increase outbound traffic on our various brands that offers numerous worldwide destinations," said Varesh Chopra, Regional Director - South Asia & Middle East markets for the Globus family of brands.

"By opening an exclusive set-up for Globus family in Kuwait under a new infrastructure, we want to ensure that we can concentrate more to provide high quality services to our customers and introduce this new experience of travel packages. Tours designed by Globus family provide value for money to travelers without compromising on sightseeing and basic holiday needs. Their Professional & experienced Tour Directors take care of you while on tour", said PNJ Kumar, CEO of Caesars Travel Group.



The delivery of the new Mercedes-Benz S-Class.

A R ALBISHER AND Z ALKAZEMI HONORED TO WELCOME GERMAN AMBASSADOR

KUWAIT: A R Albisher and Z A Alkazemi, the Authorised General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait welcomed Karlfried Bergner, the newly-appointed ambassador of the German Embassy in Kuwait, to their Shuwaikh facilities.

Warmly received by directors Bisher Albisher and Mohammed Albisher and the company's CEO Michael Ruehle, Ambassador Bergner enjoyed a tour of the Mercedes-Benz passenger car showroom and dedicated AMG Performance Centre, and the main passenger car service centre and spare parts facilities. The tour provided the opportunity to discover how one of Germany's most renowned luxury brands - Mercedes-Benz - is represented in Kuwait and to explore the extensive range of Mercedes-Benz vehicles available. At the end of the visit, the Ambassador also took delivery of his Embassy's new Mercedes-Benz S-Class official vehicle. Commenting on the Ambassador's visit, Ruehle said: "It was an honor for us to welcome Ambassador Bergner to our facilities for the first time and to demonstrate why Mercedes-Benz is the most frequently chosen and trusted car brand for dignitaries and diplomats around the world. We are delighted His Excellency accepted our invitation and we look forward to the continuation of a long partnership with him and the German embassy. We would like to welcome His Excellency to Kuwait and wish him every success during his time here and many happy motoring miles with the new S-Class."



ABK SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES 'BE THE NEXT ABK EMIRATES SKYWARDS MILLIONAIRE' DRAW



KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) successfully concluded its 'Be the Next ABK Emirates Skywards Millionaire' campaign as it held its 4th and final monthly draw on 7 September, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce.

The winners this month are:

- 1) Fawaz Mohammed Ibrahim, Head Office Branch, Winner of 500,000 Skywards Miles
- 2) Khalid Musaed ALSayer, Head Office Branch, Winner of 300,000 Skywards Miles
- 3) Noura Abdaziz ALarfaj, Jabriya Branch, Winner of 200,000 Skywards Miles

ABK offered a total of 4,000,000 Skyward Miles during this four month long campaign. The draw was available to ABK's Credit and Prepaid cardholders, who were eligible to enter the draws upon spending a minimum of KD 100 during the transaction periods specified by the Bank.

The success of the campaign was reinforced with the positive feedback the Bank received from its customers. This is testament to ABK's understanding of its clients' interests and needs. ABK looks forward to launching other campaigns in the future and is hopeful that they will appeal to its customers just as this campaign has.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ANNOUNCES 96-HOUR SEAT SALE WITH AMAZING GLOBAL DISCOUNTS

KUWAIT: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has launched a 96-hour seat sale, giving Kuwaiti travellers the opportunity to enjoy an unforgettable journey with their families, loved ones and friends to some of the airline's most popular destinations.

The airline is offering amazing discounts across its Economy and Business Class cabins for travel until the end of May 2017, through Etihad Airways' 96-hour Seat Sale. Etihad Guest members will also earn double miles in Economy Class, and triple miles in First and Business Class for travel to all destinations.

The 96-hour window to make the bookings starts on September 25, 2016 and lasts until September 28, 2016. However, travel validity for bookings made under this promotion will be from October 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

Flights are available from as little as KD 132 for Economy Class to Geneva, and only KD 568 for Business Class to London, with many other destinations on sale including Bangkok, New York, Casablanca, Kuala Lumpur, Paris and Phuket.

Terms and Conditions apply. For more information visit etihad.com, or contact your nearest travel agent.





KUWAIT: The top management of the Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the authorized agent of the luxury vehicles Infiniti in Kuwait during the launch of the all-new Infiniti Q30. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

A NEW LUXURIOUS INFINITI JOINS THE FAMILY, THE ALL-NEW Q30 FROM INFINITI AL BABTAIN



KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the authorized agent of the luxury vehicles Infiniti in state of Kuwait launched the all-new Infiniti Q30. The Infiniti Q30 active compact is a new type of premium vehicle for a new type of consumer. Representing Infiniti's first entry into the fast-growing premium compact segment, the Q30 will play an important role in continuing to drive the growth of the brand here in the region.

The Q30 takes Infiniti's signature design cues and evolves them into new dynamic shapes. The double-arch grille with 3D mesh, for example, has grown from the Q50, with a more fluid movement into the headlamps. The dramatic curves and turbulent lines flow up the bonnet, over the fenders and across the body line into the strong shoulder of the car.

The signature C-pillar arcs forward in a dynamic crescent shape that emphasizes motion, even when stationary. The contrast of the long, low-slung roof-line, conjuring an image of a rakish shooting brake in silhouette, and elevated stance add to the visual impact. This also adds to a sleek look that gives the impression of the car being in motion even when standing still. The balance of sculptural shapes moving past one another creates a harmonious design that can be appreciated at a glance.

An important, differentiating characteristic of the Q30's design is its combination of elevat-

ed stance with an overall height that is comparable with models in the traditional compact segment. The Q30's height (1,495mm) allows for a higher hip point (531mm), which aids ingress and egress. The A-pillar design is intentionally slim, contributing to enhanced visibility for a confident driving experience.

The Q30 Sport stands a little lower (1,475mm), accentuating the already distinctive, coupe-like silhouette, which is emphasized by a shallow side glass area, while also providing for agile ride and handling. Driving performance will also be differentiated, thanks to individual suspensions settings and distinctive ride and handling characteristics - offering premium compact buyers a choice that is specific to their personal needs and preferences.

The Q30 Premium includes LED front fog lamps, body-coloured and heated door mirrors, as well as chrome dual rectangular exhaust finishers. 18-inch alloy wheels add to the Premium grade's striking appearance.

Technology

On the technology front, the Q30 delivers in spades as the best equipped with the highest level of assistive technology in the segment. This includes' Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection, Intelligent Parking Assist, Forward Collision Warning with Forward Emergency Braking and Blind Spot Warning.

A first for Infiniti and this category, the

Intelligent Parking Assist is designed to work in the three most common parking situations, tight parallel parking, 90 degree backing-in and heading -in parking. Using 12 sensors in the front and rear, the system automatically steers the vehicle into place with the additional help or audio and visual warnings whilst the driver controls the brake and accelerator.

Ranking among the best in the premium compact segment, front passenger seat width is 1,393mm; rear passenger seat width measures 1,349mm; head room (without sunroof) is 108mm in the front and 43mm in the rear of the car. There is 626mm of leg room in the front and 538mm in the back, and 1,324mm and 1,244mm of hip room front and rear, respectively.

Cargo capacity is highly competitive, notably the boot capacity of 430 litres. Aided by a wide, square aperture, and practical, squared-off dimensions, the boot will easily hold two large suitcases, with 60:40 split-fold rear passenger seats liberating additional space for larger cargo. The Infiniti Q30 will be available with 1.6L or 2.0L Turbo variants in a 2WD configuration. The 2.0L Turbo will also be offered with an optional AWD drivetrain. The 2.0L Turbo engine delivers 208hp and 350Nm torque. When equipped with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, the highest-performing engine in the range is capable of powering the Infiniti Q30 from 0-to-100kph in 7.3 seconds.



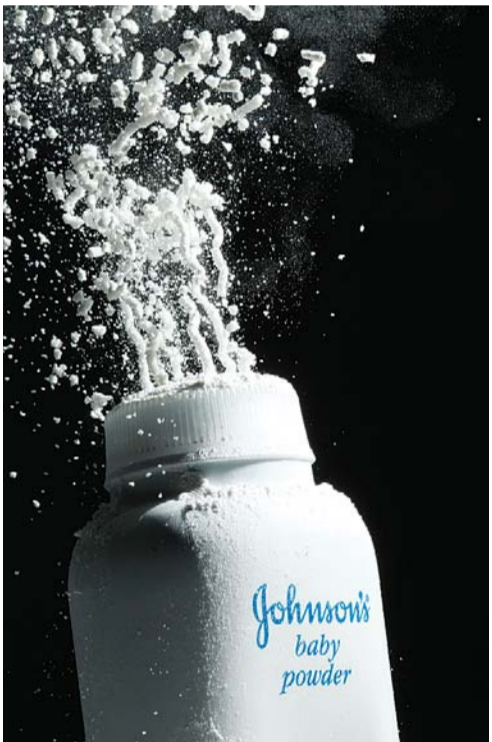
RESEARCH FINDS TALC DOESN'T CAUSE CANCER; JURIES DISAGREE

'THE RISK FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WOMAN, IS PROBABLY VERY SMALL'

TRENTON CITY, New Jersey: Two lawsuits ended in jury verdicts worth \$127 million. Two others were tossed out by a judge who said there wasn't reliable evidence that the talc in Johnson & Johnson's iconic baby powder causes ovarian cancer. So who's right? And is baby powder safe? Most research finds no link or a weak one between ovarian cancer and using baby powder for feminine hygiene, a practice generations of American mothers have passed on to their daughters. Most major health groups have



TRENTON CITY, New Jersey: This undated photo provided by Onder, Shelton, O'Leary & Peterson, LLC shows Gloria Ristesund. —AP photos



PHILADELPHIA: In this April 19, 2010 file photo, Johnson's baby powder is squeezed from its container in Philadelphia. —AP

declared talc harmless. Johnson & Johnson, whose baby powder dominates the market, says it's perfectly safe. Yet some 2,000 women have sued, and lawyers are reviewing thousands of other potential cases, most generated by ads touting the two big verdicts. Meanwhile, another trial begins this week. A look at the issue:

What is talc?

Talc is a mineral that is mined from deposits around the world, including the US. The softest of minerals, it's crushed into a white powder. It's been widely used in cosmetics and other personal care products to absorb moisture since at least 1894, when Johnson & Johnson's Baby Powder was launched. But it's mainly used in a variety of other products, including paint and plastics.

Does it cause ovarian cancer?

Like many questions in science, there's no definitive answer. Finding the cause of cancer is difficult. It would be unethical to do the best kind of study, asking a group of people to use talcum powder and wait to see if it causes cancer, while comparing them to a group who didn't use it. While ovarian cancer is often fatal, it's relatively rare. It accounts for only about 22,000 of the 1.7 million new cases of cancer expected to be diagnosed in the United States this year. Factors that are known to increase a woman's risk of ovarian cancer include age, obesity, use of estrogen therapy after menopause, not having any children, certain genetic mutations and personal or family history of breast or ovarian cancer.

What research can be done

Two other kinds of research are possible. Neither of them, though, can conclusively prove something causes cancer. One looks back in time, after an illness has occurred. It compares two groups of people, one with the illness, one without, and asks about past exposures that might be factors. But people have trouble remembering details years later. The second approach follows a large group of people. It assesses their health at the start and follows them for years, recording any illnesses while tracking possible influences such as diet and use of medication, alcohol or other substances. Scientists generally find these "prospective" studies most reliable.

What research shows

The biggest prospective studies have found no link between talcum powder applied to the genitals and ovarian cancer. But about two dozen smaller, look-back studies over three decades have mostly found a modest connection - a 20 to 40 percent increased risk among talc users. However, that doesn't mean talc causes cancer. Several factors make that unlikely and there's no proof talc, which doesn't interact with chemicals or cells, can travel

up the reproductive tract, enter the ovaries and then trigger cancer. One large study published in June that followed 51,000 sisters of breast cancer patients found genital talc users had a reduced risk of ovarian cancer, 27 percent lower than in nonusers. An analysis of two huge, long-running US studies, the Women's Health Initiative and the Nurses' Health Study, showed no increased risk of ovarian cancer in talc users.

What experts say

If there were a true link, Dr Hal C. Lawrence III says large studies that tracked women's health for years would have verified results of the smaller look-back ones. "Lord knows, with the amount of powder that's been applied to babies' bottoms, we would've seen something" if talc caused cancer, said Lawrence, vice president of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The National Cancer Institute's Dr. Nicolas Wentzensen says the federal agency's position is that there's not a clear connection.

"It is very hard to establish causal relationships," he said, adding, "A lot of ovarian cancers occur in women who have never used talc, and many women have used talc and not gotten ovarian cancer." Research director Elizabeth Ward of the American Cancer Society says it is unusual to have so much discrepancy between studies. "The risk for any individual woman, if there is one, is probably very small," Ward said.

What lawyers and courts say

Like the studies, courts have produced mixed results. In the first trial two years ago, a South Dakota jury found Johnson & Johnson liable for one woman's ovarian cancer but didn't award any damages. This year, state court juries in St Louis awarded plaintiffs \$72 million and \$55 million - verdicts the company is appealing. But US District Judge Nelson Johnson in Atlantic City threw out the first two of the 400 lawsuits in his court. He reviewed the research and testimony from two doctors who are the plaintiffs' key expert witnesses and concluded the two aren't reliable, noting they had previously written that there was no proof talc causes ovarian cancer. Other courts approved them as experts, noted the plaintiffs' attorney, Ted Meadows of Montgomery, Alabama.

J&J attorney John Beisner says the health care giant plans to fight every lawsuit, rather than settle, "for the fundamental reason that the science on which they're based is totally lacking." Most of the pending cases are in Missouri, California and New Jersey, where J&J is based. In the case set to begin Monday in St. Louis, lawyers for Deborah Giannecchini of Modesto, California, say she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2012 after years of talcum use. Her lawsuit accuses the company of "negligent conduct" in making and marketing its talc. —AP



WASHINGTON: This file photo shows a pregnant woman walking outside the State Department in Washington, DC. —AP

'MORNING SICKNESS' LINKED TO LOWER MISCARRIAGE RISK

MIAMI: Morning sickness is linked to a lower risk of miscarriage, according to research out yesterday that suggests a woman's nausea and vomiting early in pregnancy may have protective effects for the fetus. Between 50 and 80 percent of pregnant women report feeling nauseous or throwing up during their first trimester, said the findings in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine.

The condition is often called "morning sickness," though it can affect women at all times of the day and night. In a study of 797 women, nausea and vomiting with vomiting were associated with a 50 percent to 75 percent reduction in the risk of pregnancy loss, said the report, led by Enrique Schisterman of the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The women had all had one or two prior pregnancy losses. They tracked their nausea symptoms in a diary, and their pregnancies were confirmed by urine tests. Prior research has also suggested that nausea and vomiting are linked to a lower risk for pregnancy loss.

Some experts believe nausea may encourage a healthy pregnancy by leading women to eat less, thereby reducing the risk of exposing the fetus to toxins. The reduction in food intake also appears to lower levels of circulating insulin and encourage growth of the placenta, research has shown. The new study did not delve into reasons why nausea and vomiting may lower the risk of miscarriage. An accompanying editorial in JAMA by Siripanth Nippita of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Laura Dodge of Harvard Medical School described its contribution to existing medical literature as "valuable for several reasons," including its large size and rigorous methods for comparing symptoms among women who experienced an early pregnancy loss with those whose pregnancies continued. "Given these methodologic advantages over previous investigations, we hope that such studies can further deepen our understanding of the underlying causes of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy," they wrote. —AFP



BALLINA, NEW SOUTH WALES, Australia: This handout photo released by New South Wales Department of Primary Industries yesterday shows life savers chasing a shark off the Ballina's popular Lighthouse Beach following a shark attack that injured a 17-year-old surfer. —AFP

TEENAGE SURFER MAULED AT AUSTRALIAN SHARK HOTSPOT

SYDNEY: A 17-year-old surfer was attacked by a shark off Australia's east coast yesterday, with locals saying he was lucky his board bore the brunt from a suspected great white. The teenager, named as Cooper Allen in local media, was bitten on the leg while surfing at Ballina Shire's popular Lighthouse Beach-the scene of several attacks in recent years. Fellow surfers rushed to his aid, helping him back to the beach where he received first aid from off-duty nurses.

Surf Life Saving New South Wales said the teen suffered "severe lacerations" but police said his injuries are not considered life-threatening. "But obviously, with a shark wound, they're always quite severe," New South Wales police chief inspector Nicole Bruce told reporters. "(He) received lacerations and bite marks to his upper-thigh area, he was assisted into the shore and off-duty nurses treated him. "We've got the surfboard and the bite marks will be analyzed by the DPI (the Department of Primary Industries)."

With school holidays in full swing, police declared beaches across Ballina, some 740 kilometers (460 miles) north of Sydney, closed for 24 hours. Of the 14 unprovoked shark attacks off the New South Wales coast in 2015, most occurred along a 60-kilometer hotspot from Evans Head to Byron Bay which includes the town of Ballina. Bruce said it was too early to say what kind of shark was responsible, but a 3.5 meter great white was spotted at Lighthouse Beach by aerial surveil-

lance after the attack. It was chased out to sea by lifesavers on jet skis.

"There has been (a) sighting of a great white, a four-meter shark, further off the shore but no-one actually saw which shark it was that's bitten him," she said. Efforts to contain the marine predators have so far proven difficult, with a shark eco-barrier trial at Lighthouse Beach and nearby Lennox Head recently scrapped due to rough conditions. "You can never be in the clear, I suppose, it's just one of those things, you share the water with them, it could happen any day, anywhere," said Bruce.

Craig Nolan, president of the Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation the timing of the attack, ahead of the start of southern hemisphere summer, was unfortunate. But he added: "Apparently the prime attack was on the board, so it took the brunt." As the injured teenager remained in a stable condition in Lismore Base Hospital, Ballina Mayor David Wright said he understood the shark was a great white and that it had come up from behind.

He said that it had wrapped its jaws around the rear of the surfboard, including its fin, and over the victim's leg. But he said the board had helped prevent more serious injury. Wright said despite the latest incident, surfers would still flock to the north coast beaches. "It certainly won't stop surfers," he told AFP. —AFP

INDIA TO RATIFY PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NEW DELHI: India's prime minister said Sunday that his country will ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change early next month. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government will ratify the agreement Oct 2, coinciding with the birth anniversary of India's independence leader

Mohandas Gandhi, who believed in a minimum carbon footprint. Modi made the announcement at a meeting of his Bharatiya Janata Party's leaders in the southern Indian town of Kozhikode. India accounts for around 4.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. UN Secretary General

Ban Ki-moon said this month that 60 countries accounting for about 48 percent of emissions had already joined the agreement.

The Paris Agreement asks both rich and poor countries to take action to curb the rise in global temperatures that is melting glaciers, raising sea levels and shifting rainfall patterns. It requires governments to present national plans to reduce emissions to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). On Sunday, Modi said global warming especially poses a threat to coastal countries and cities.

Last week, Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar said he expects to announce that countries accounting for over 55 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions have formally joined the treaty - the threshold needed to trigger the landmark agreement - when he presides over the 22nd UN Climate Conference in Marrakesh that starts on Nov 7. The Morocco conference is expected to hammer out the difficult details of how to make the agreement work and raise the \$100 billion needed each year to meet its ambitious goals. Mezouar said developed countries are expected to come up with \$100 billion in climate financing each year, with half of that going to help countries adapt to green energy and the other half to mitigating the effects of climate change. —AP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

MELTING GREENLAND ICE THREATENS TO EXPOSE COLD WAR WASTE

COPENHAGEN: A snow-covered former US army base in Greenland-dubbed "a city under ice"-could leak pollutants into the environment as the climate changes, raising difficult questions over who is responsible for a clean-up. In 1959, US army engineers began constructing a futuristic project in northwestern Greenland that might as well have been lifted from a Cold War spy movie. A network of tunnels under the snow contained everything from research facilities to a hospital, a cinema and a church-all powered by a small, portable nuclear reactor. The pollutants left behind include PCBs used in building supplies, tanks of raw sewage and low-level radioactive coolant used in the nuclear reactor that once stood there.

"When the waste was deposited there nobody thought it would get out again," William Colgan, an assistant professor in the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University in Canada, told AFP. But a study led by Colgan, published in August in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, found that higher temperatures could eventually result in toxic waste from the base being released into the environment. "Neither the US or Denmark has done anything wrong per se, but the world has changed," he said.

Accommodating up to 200 soldiers, "Camp Century" was officially built to provide a laboratory for Arctic research projects, but it was also home to a secret US effort to deploy nuclear missiles. Code-named "Project Iceworm," that part of the operation was never mentioned in the treaty between the US and Denmark, once the colonial master of Greenland, a territory that is now largely self-governing. But the spectacular project-which even included a test railway under the snow-was never fully realized. Three years later scientists found that the glacier was shifting much faster than previously thought, threatening to crush the tunnels, and the base was abandoned in 1967.

Warmer climes

Assuming the site would remain frozen in perpetuity, the US army removed the nuclear reactor but allowed waste-equivalent to the mass of 30 Airbus A320 airplanes-to be entombed under the snow. Half a century later that decision is being questioned as temperatures in the Arctic rise at a higher pace than in the rest of the world. By 2090, the amount of ice melting may no longer be offset by snowfall, meaning the toxic chemicals could start leaking into the environment, the study

found. Before then, fissures in the snow could lead to melt water seeping into the crushed tunnels, currently located around 35 meters (115 feet) below the surface.

Since excavating the site would be hugely expensive, Colgan believes a clean-up operation would have to wait until the camp has been uncovered by the melting ice. Greenland Foreign Minister Vittus Qujaukitsuq said the study's findings were "worrying" and that his government was working to ensure that it was established who would be responsible for cleaning up the site. The former government in the capital Nuuk had in 2014 requested a report from Copenhagen on possible contamination from Camp Century without receiving "any assessment of the extent or character of the waste" described in the study, he said in a statement. Danish Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen said in a statement that his government would "now look closer at these aspects together with the relevant expertise... in close dialogue with Greenland." After Colgan's report was published, the US Department of Defense released a statement saying it "recognizes the reality of climate change and the risks it poses. The Department is aware of the report but has not evaluated it." —AFP



BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan: This file photo taken and released on March 14, 2016 by the European Space Agency (ESA) shows a Russian Proton-M rocket carrying the ExoMars 2016 spacecraft blasting off from the launch pad at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome. —AFP photos

SCIENTISTS FIND NEW FAT CLUES IN FAECES

LONDON: Scientists in Britain have found a new link between the diversity of bacteria in human poo - the human faecal microbiome - and levels of harmful types of body fat. In research that may help explain why excessive weight problems and obesity tend to run in families, the scientists said high levels of visceral fat - which is linked to risks of chronic disease - were linked to having a relatively small range of bacteria in faeces. People with a high diversity of bacteria in their faeces had lower levels of visceral fat, according to the study published yesterday in the journal *Genome Biology*.

Visceral fat is harmful because it sits around important organs like the liver, pancreas and intestines. It is linked to higher risks of diabetes and heart disease. The scientists used data from stool samples from 1,313 twins already involved in a large research project called *TwinsUK*. Extracting DNA information about faecal microbes from the samples, they then compared that

to six measures of obesity, including body mass index, visceral and other fat levels, and upper to lower body fat ratios. They found the strongest links with visceral fat.

Michelle Beaumont, who led the work at King's College London, said it showed "a clear link between bacterial diversity in faeces and markers of obesity and cardiovascular risk." But she cautioned that since this was an observational study, it could not give any causal mechanisms for how gut and faecal bacteria might affect fat. Jordana Bell, also from King's twin research department, said more studies were needed to understand precisely how gut microbes influence human health and to explore possible new ways of preventing obesity. Further research would also help in investigating a possible role for procedures like faecal transplants - a treatment currently used in patients with an infection called *C difficile* colitis which replaces their unhealthy faecal microbiome with a healthy one from a donor. —Reuters

'BACKWARD' INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAY HOLD SOLUTIONS TO WORLD HUNGER

TURIN, Italy: Using the contents of a deer's intestines to make soup may not be everyone's cup of tea, but then neither was quinoa before it became a trendy superfood known for its health benefits. Both are foods of indigenous peoples who may hold solutions on how to feed a growing population and cope with the impact of climate change, campaigners and researchers said at an international food festival in the Italian city of Turin. Just three crops provide 60 percent of the world's calories: rice, wheat and maize, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), leaving the global food larder vulnerable to changes in climate and the spread of new plant diseases. Indigenous peoples are some of the few who can expand the world's food base, said Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa, indigenous peoples team leader at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

"Indigenous peoples are the last people that are domesticating (wild) plants ... and they are the last people to have knowledge to domesticate plants,"

he said, speaking at the Slow Food festival, where hundreds of farmers, campaigners and academics have gathered. Their means of growing food is an important model as the world grapples with how to grow enough to feed a population which is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, up from more than 7 billion today, Fernandez de Larrinoa said. But their way of farming is threatened both by pressure from companies wanting to take their land, and a growing number of indigenous people themselves wanting to move to cities, he said.

Innovative and resilient

Indigenous peoples live on or use 25 percent of the world's land, and they protect 80 percent of global biodiversity, according to the World Bank. They are innovative, extremely resilient and successful at adapting to climate change, said Vanda Altarelli, a specialist in indigenous issues and president of SONIA, a Rome-based non-profit group that works with marginalized groups worldwide. —Reuters

ROSETTA: HOW TO END THE FAIRYTALE

'HELLO EARTH! CAN YOU HEAR ME?'

PARIS: Once upon a time, two intrepid space adventurers called Rosetta and Philae set out from Earth to explore a comet far, far away. So begins the fairy tale adventure of Europe's comet chaser and robot probe, steel boxes with charming cartoon counterparts and a global following of fans fated for heartbreak when the pair severs ties with Earth forever. "I think there will be a lot of tears," European Space Agency (ESA) senior science advisor Mark McCaughrean told AFP ahead of D-Day on September 30. After two years in orbit around comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, hundreds of millions of kilometers (miles) from home, Rosetta will terminate its groundbreaking deep-space mission by touching down on the icy dust-ball.

Running out of power, Rosetta will join already-spent robot lab Philae in an eternal loop around the Sun on the surface of their new alien world. The signal will die as the craft's antenna bends away from Earth. Trouble is—many children, even some adults, have come to think of the machines as cute cartoon characters—a sister with her small brother bravely prodding and sniffing a comet and sending data back to Earth. Do these story-book heroes now die? Rosetta and Philae's exploits have made them rare science celebrities, each with its "own" Twitter account. They have sold T-shirts, hoodies and plush toys.

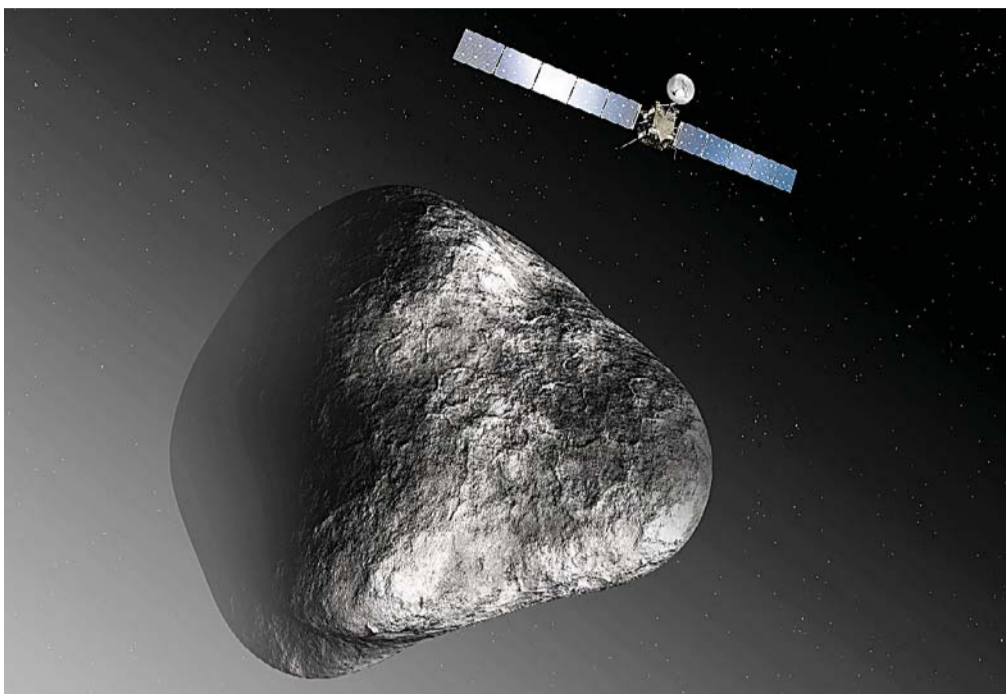
Cartoon videos endow the duo with human features—eyes to see with, mouths for smiling, eyebrows that lift in amazement, as well as arms, hands and for Philae—a pair of spindly legs. They are made to exhibit emotions as well: affection, trepidation, courage and exhilaration. Now the very people who gave birth to the endearing duo face a difficult task. "In a sort of coldblooded way, we need to make sure that people understand that it really is over," said Mark McCaughrean, who has been closely involved in the mission's public profile. "OK, we've created these loveable characters and so on, but there's a limit, it has to end."

Falling asleep

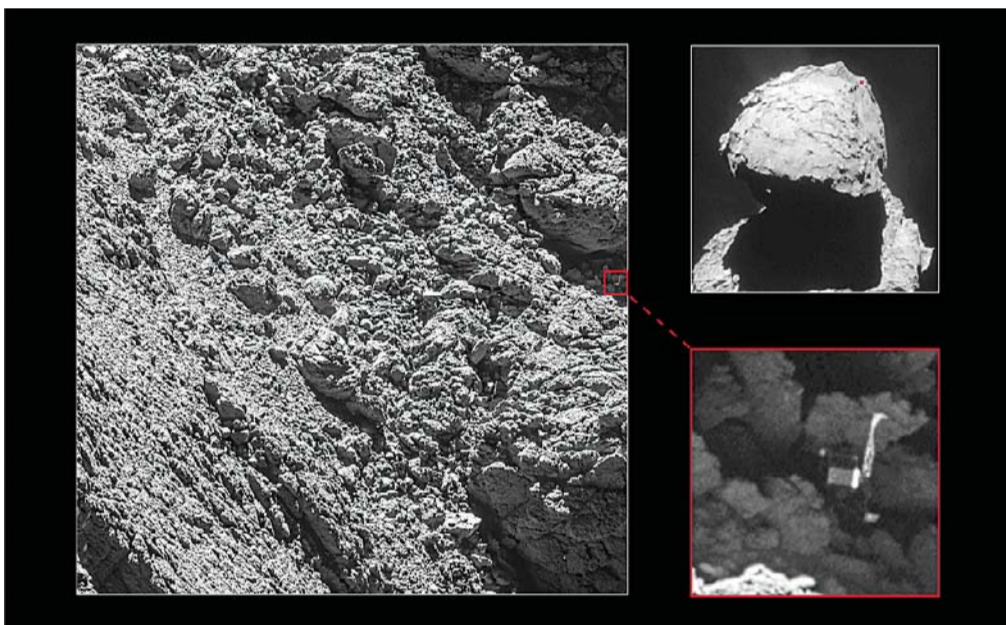
The fairy tale began in January 2014, when Rosetta "woke up" after hibernating for nearly three years to conserve energy on her 10-year journey from Earth to 67P—a veritable deep-space Sleeping Beauty. ESA released the first cartoon video the previous month, entitled: "Once upon a time." "We thought we wanted this idea of a fairy story, a princess being woken up, and that just took off—it took off enormously," said McCaughrean. Subsequent movies followed Rosetta's journey, Philae perched on her head and jumping up and down as he insists: "Are we there yet? Are we there yet?" The real drama came in November 2014, when Rosetta released Philae onto the comet surface.

A cartoon depicts Philae strapping on a pair of studded boots and a hard hat, stuffing a cheese sandwich and compass into a backpack, and bidding Rosetta a fond farewell before leaping boldly into space. Things did not go according to plan. Washing machine-sized Philae bounced several times before ending up in a shaded crevice, away from the Sun's battery-charging rays. It ran 60 hours worth of experiments and sent results home before entering standby mode.

In the ESA animation, the little lander falls asleep on the cold, dark comet surface, clutching a blanket, at the foot of a cliff it had decorated with photos and newspaper clippings. "We didn't have to kill Philae. He was falling asleep," said McCaughrean. The big question at the time was whether Philae would wake up again as the comet moved closer to the Sun. It did, several times. With Rosetta, however, the mission will end, irrevocably, as soon as the craft touches the comet surface.



IN SPACE: This handout file photo released by the European Space Agency (ESA) on December 3, 2012 shows an artist's impression of the Rosetta orbiter at comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.



IN SPACE : This handout file photo released on September 5, 2016 by the European Space Agency (ESA) shows images of the landing craft "Philae", viewed for the first time since its crash landing, taken by ORIS narrow-angle camera on September 2, 2016 from a distance of 2,7 km.

Gone forever

The communications campaign was conceived, ESA chief executive Jan Woerner said, to account to the European public "where their taxes go". "We're duty-bound to play this role with the European public, to try and inspire the new generation," added Fabio Favata of the agency's robotic exploration directorate. In many ways, anthropomorphisation was an obvious choice. There were two protagonists, communicating with one another and cooperating on a decades-long odyssey into unexplored territory.

Nevertheless, the success surprised many. Philae has nearly 450,000 Twitter followers. It's first message after briefly waking up in June 2015, "Hello Earth! Can you hear me?", was retweeted 30,000 times and 'liked' 25,000 times. "I must be frank, it was... surprising, the level of

public engagement," said Favata. Even hard-nosed ESA scientists were taken in. "The emotion which we will all feel next week, I think even in ESA there will be a degree of the anthropomorphisation," admitted McCaughrean.

For social and consumer psychologist Dimitrios Tsvirikos at University College London, the campaign worked because "it was playful, it was accessible and it allowed people to understand what might be happening without being intimidated." "I'm a scientist as well, (and) when it comes to communicating about science I think in the past we've been a bit too harsh with the general public," he told AFP. Tsvirikos does not expect mass mourning. "At the end of every video game there's a fantastic line that says: 'Game over,'" he said. "We are now accustomed to see characters dying." —AFP

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The Ambassador of Georgia Roland Beridze hosted a reception on the occasion of Independence Day at Crowne Plaza hotel. Top officials, diplomats, and media representatives attended the event. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayat

AL MUHALLAB MALL ‘SCHOOL CAMPAIGN’



Al Muhallab Mall held an exciting back to school campaign for kids to equip them with tools they can use all year long along with engaging them in a fun exciting atmosphere during their holidays. The “Al Muhallab Mall School” campaign was very convenient for all children and parents, which took place through EidAl Adha holidays, from the 8th until the 16th of September, 2016.

Children had the chance to face paint and play games in the school of Al MuhallabMall along with school music playing in the background and a fun and interactive MC engaging with them during the different games and stations. The children had the chance to win points and through those points they received their school stationery gifts. They were also able to take a picture with their certificates once they finish playing the games in the school, to feel a sense of accomplishment and to bring positive vibes for the meaning of school to this young generation.

Stationery supplies such as rubbers, pencil cases and bags were among the gifts to the children who attended the event. The gifts were divided by points starting from 100 points up until 1000 points. Inside the school of Al Muhallab Mall, there were 10 games and each game had 100 points where children can win 100 points depending on their efforts. The games in the school of Al Muhallab ranged from bowling, memory games, fish catching, basketball and other interesting games.

Al Muhallab Mall’s recently refurbished brand identity and corporate strategy aims at engaging with the general public through specially designed monthly activities and events that meet the needs of every segment of the society. To know more about the Kids’ Summer Program, customers can call the landline at (+965) 22662020. To know more about Al Muhallab Mall, follow the Mall’s social media channels on Instagram: @AlmuhallabMall, Twitter: @AlmuhallabMall, or Facebook: Almuhallab Mall.



IISM CELEBRATES TEACHERS DAY



India International School Mangaf paid homage to the great teacher Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and celebrated his birthday to acknowledge the dedication and contribution of teachers for the society. Lots of activities were initiated by the students to express their love, affection & gratitude towards their beloved teachers. Beautiful bouquets were made by the students of Classes I - III. Students of classes IV & V wrote heart touching letters with fanciful decorations for their favorite teachers.

In the special assembly organized for the students of classes VI - VIII, the stage was made vibrant with a performance of skit (The Greatest Teacher), a song of appreciation, a poem of felicitation and a speech. It was followed by a cultural feast by the students of classes IX-XII. They made the day explicable for teachers by showcasing their talents through dance, music, mime and games in a vivacious manner. The occasions were graced by the presence of the school Director Malayil MoosaKoya, Principal FM Basheer Ahmed, Sr Vice Principal Narinder Kaur, Vice Principals Saleem, Sophy John, Sapna Raoof, Indulekha and the KG Head Nilofer Qazi.



THE LONG-AWAITED ARABNET KUWAIT CONFERENCE



Held under the patronage and with the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Homoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and with the sponsorship of the Kuwait National Fund (KNF), the highly-awaited first edition of ArabNet Kuwait will take place on October 4-5, 2016 at Arraya Ballroom in Kuwait City.

The exclusive event is set to gather over 500 digital leaders and decision makers from Kuwait, the GCC and the world, to highlight the state of digital economy and business in Kuwait, delve into the latest trends in web and mobile, and showcase top entrepreneurs while hosting hands-on workshops to hone local talent. The 2-day conference will feature over 50 high-caliber, international and regional speakers, who are themselves initiators of change, and ready to introduce the latest into Kuwait and MENA.

Her Excellency Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah, the Undersecretary of State for Youth Affairs, will shed

light on the entrepreneurship ecosystem in her home country. Other joining speakers include Abdulla Alajmi, CEO at Knet (the national e-payment system in Kuwait); Andrew Hyde, Director of New Programming at Techstars; Lloyed Lobo, Chief Growth Officer at Speakeasy.co and Co-Founder at TractionConf.io and Boast Capital; Sharif El-Badawi, Partner Lead - VCs and Startups at Google and Venture Partner at 500 Startups; and Yaser Bishr, Executive Director of Digital at Al Jazeera Media Network.

A high level agenda is set to tackle 3 key themes this year, online media, digital entrepreneurship, as well as e-commerce and payments. Panel discussions and talks will cover topics such as social media platforms and trends, native and programmatic advertising, video content, as well as the entrepreneurship and investment landscapes in Kuwait and the region.

"ArabNet aims to stimulate the growth of the Kuwaiti digital sector by helping companies stay

ahead of the latest technologies and trends, and connecting promising startups with investors and clients" said Omar Christidis, ArabNet Founder and CEO. Workshops will target startup founders to boost their businesses, while ArabNet's signature competitions, Ideathon and Startup Demo, will provide the opportunities for entrepreneurs to showcase their ideas and/or companies.

The ArabNet Kuwait 2016 conference will be held on October 4 - 5 at Arraya Ballroom, on Al Shuhada Street in Kuwait City. Past ArabNet events have notably attracted top speakers, participants, and partners from corporations such as Smart Dubai, OMD, Souq.com, Du, Touch, Alfa, TBWA, Facebook, DMS, Majid Al Futtaim, JWT, STC, Twitter, Starcom, Criteo, SkyNews, VISA, Leo Burnett, Deloitte, LBC, Microsoft, Uber, Vivaki, GE, MakerStudios (Disney), FP7, 500Startups, International New York Times, and many more. To learn more, go to: www.arabnet.me/conference/kuwait

AUDIT, TAX AND CONSULTING FIRM BDO HOLDS SEMINAR ON COMMON REPORTING STANDARDS

BDO Al Nisf & Partners ("BDO"), a leading audit, tax and consulting firm in Kuwait and member of BDO International, the world's fifth largest network of accounting firms, conducted a seminar last Wednesday 21 September 2016 in JW Marriott on a global initiative for Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) - Common Reporting Standard (CRS) developed by the OECD in 2014. The seminar was presented by Gerdy Roose - Tax Partner in BDO Luxembourg and Rami Alhadhrami - Associate Tax Director in BDO Kuwait. The seminar was conducted after Kuwait signed the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement (MCAA) on Automatic Exchange of Information on 19 August 2016 at OECD in Paris, reconfirming Kuwait's commitment to begin reporting in 2018 under the CRS.

During the seminar which was attended by key officials from the banking, investment and insurance sector, BDO explained that financial institutions in Kuwait will be expected to report financial information to the Kuwait Ministry of Finance on account holders that are residents of countries that are treated as Reportable Jurisdictions under CRS. The Kuwait Ministry of Finance will then securely transmit such information to the account holders' countries of resi-

dence on an annual basis if such countries are treated as Reportable Countries. The intended date for the Kuwait Ministry of Finance to begin reporting to other reportable jurisdictions is September 2018.

The seminar outlined how the CRS is a broad reporting regime and part of a global standard proposed by the OECD in 2014 that draws extensively on the intergovernmental agreement to implement FATCA, which was introduced earlier by the United States in 2010. Gerdy Roose, Tax Partner, explained that CRS requires financial institutions resident in participating jurisdictions to implement due diligence procedures to document, identify and where applicable report the reportable accounts under CRS to their local authority. Gerdy explained that the CRS covers banks, brokers, certain collective investment vehicles and certain insurance companies.

The seminar covered the fundamentals of CRS, entity classifications requirements under CRS and how it is different to FATCA. In addition, BDO outlined the due diligence and reporting that need to be performed by financial institutions in Kuwait under the CRS. Gerdy Roose explained the key differences between FATCA and CRS and highlighted that more entities will be subject to CRS than FATCA. He clarified that while FATCA is concerned about US nationals and residents, the CRS is concerned about residence of account holders rather than nationality, and therefore the holders of accounts in Kuwait will need to be reported to the authority of their residence country if they are not considered as resident in Kuwait.

Rami Alhadhrami, Associate Tax Director, spoke about Kuwait being the first signatory of the MCAA in the Gulf Cooperation Council, although Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE have committed to signing the MCAA agreement. Rami described key steps that Kuwait financial institutions should take in order to get ready for the implementation of CRS including carrying out a gap assessment, amendment of internal procedures and adapting IT systems in order to be able to identify financial accounts held directly or indirectly by non-Kuwait tax-residents and exchange information in 2018. Rami mentioned that Kuwait will have to prepare and pass local legislation to enforce CRS compliance.



KFH PARTICIPATES IN TAMKEEN'S JOB FAIR

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in Youth Empowerment Symposium's Job Fair held at the Australian College of Kuwait. The job fair witnessed huge students and visitors turnout. KFH's participation stems from its interest in the youth segment and efforts to support graduates and help them find the suitable job. KFH's Direct Sales and HR teams were accessible in a special booth for the bank during the fair. The teams offered sufficient information to the visitors and applicants about the nature of work at the banking sector, the development role KFH plays, in addition to the bank's businesses and the regulatory and sharia principles. The job fair also included practical workshop in the employment field. The workshop was delivered by Prof Lina Ramtsfeld from Stanford School-Sweden and received great interest and appreciation.



RAHUL JANSEVA-KUWAIT THANKS INDIA'S GANDHI

Rahul Janseva-Kuwait - a social organization of Indian National Congress organized a program at Paragon Indoor Stadium to thank Congress President Sonia Gandhi and Vice President Rahul Gandhi for appointing S Thirunavukkarasar MA, BL as the President of Tamilnadu Congress Committee, and to greet

Thirunavukkarasar for his new assignment. Thirunavukkarasar is the very well-known politician in India. He has served as the Minister in the Union cabinet - Government of India and the Minister in the Tamil Nadu State government too. His political and social works are appreciated and memorable, since his first entry in 1977.



RED BULL STREET STYLE TOURNAMENT

Kuwait will be hosting the world's most prestigious freestyle football contests "Red Bull Street Style" on Thursday 29th September at Al Kout Mall for 16 year old participants and above. The qualifier will be held a day before at Everton FC Academy and only the best will be nominated to compete the next day. Only one winner will be selected to represent Kuwait alongside 43 other countries in the World Final in London.

Red Bull Street Style is a game and global event series that aims to find the best overall freestyle football player in the world, and so, the most creative, technical and stylish player will be crowned Red Bull Street Style World Champion by a group of five freestyle experts. In Kuwait, the judging jury will comprise 3 judges: the renowned freestyler Chris Njokwana from South Africa, Everton Academy Director Mike Fin and

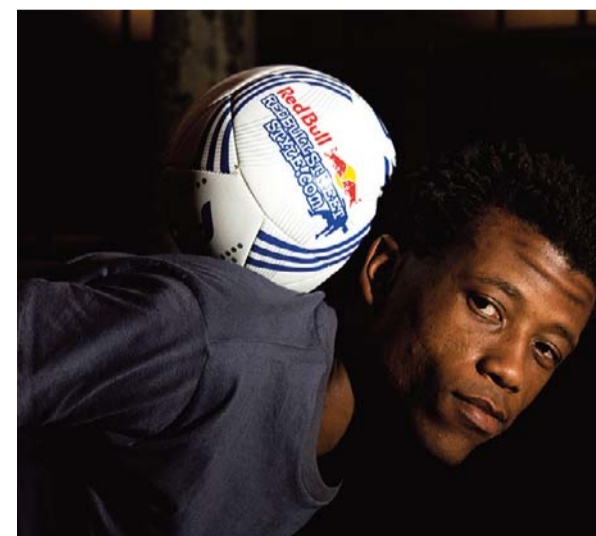
Head of the Sports Section at Al Rai Newspaper Sohail Houwayeck.

The participants will be assessed based on their strong level of comfort in all forms of the sport. The judges are looking for a creative and technical combination of floor and standing tricks, foot, head and body tricks. Innovation and originality are critical to win this element of the game. Repetition in a battle and from one battle to another is not appreciated. A natural connection with the opponent, crowd and music is important. Stage presence, fun reactions, improvisation and entertainment (having fun) are elements of style.

This year, the stakes are higher than ever, as the Red Bull Street Style World Final has been recognized as the official World Championship of freestyle football by the sport's glob-

al federation. The rules are simple: three minutes, two players, one ball. The format is a head-to-head competition involving two freestylers on stage for a three-minute battle. This means that each 30 seconds one freestyler has to pass the ball to his/her opponent; each freestyler will have the ball three times during every battle.

In the historic Pelourinho Square in Salvador, Brazil, the World Final of Red Bull Street Style 2014 - the world's premier freestyle football tournament - lived up to its hype, with the best of the best battling it out for the biggest prize in their sport. At the World Final in Salvador, Brazil, the very best competitors from more than 40 nations tried to impress the jury by showing off stunning tricks. Andrew Henderson from the United Kingdom was announced the winner in front of a big - and vocal - crowd.



BBC
FIRST

09:25	Orphan Black
11:10	Casualty
12:00	Stella
12:30	Eastenders
12:30	Casualty
14:25	New Tricks
15:20	Doctor Who
16:15	Stella
17:05	Casualty
18:00	New Tricks
18:55	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
04:50	Orphan Black
05:40	Doctors

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	Tosh.0
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	Tosh.0
15:45	Key And Peele
16:10	Nathan For You
16:35	Ridiculousness
17:00	Ridiculousness
17:25	Catch A Contractor
18:15	Key And Peele
18:40	Nathan For You
19:05	Impractical Jokers
19:30	Tosh.0
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	Nathan For You
23:25	Workaholics
23:50	Impractical Jokers
00:15	Tosh.0
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	Joe Rogan: Rocky Mountain High
04:18	Underground With Dave Atell

23:50	Girl Meets World
00:15	Dog With A Blog
00:40	Best Friends Whenever
01:05	Liv And Maddie
01:30	Jessie
01:55	Violetta
02:45	Backstage
03:10	H2O: Just Add Water
03:35	H2O: Just Add Water
04:00	Binny And The Ghost
04:25	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:50	Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10	Hank Zipzer
05:35	Binny And The Ghost

Disney
JUNIOR

09:10	Henry Hugglemonster
09:20	Calimero
09:35	Zou
09:45	Loopdidoo
10:00	Art Attack
10:25	Henry Hugglemonster
10:35	Calimero
10:50	Zou
11:00	Loopdidoo
11:15	Art Attack
11:35	Henry Hugglemonster
11:50	Calimero
12:00	Zou
12:20	Loopdidoo
12:35	Art Attack
13:00	The Hive
13:10	Zou
13:25	Loopdidoo
13:40	Gummi Bears
14:05	Sofia The First
14:30	Goldie & Bear
14:40	PJ Masks
14:55	Jake And The Never Land Pirates
15:10	Doc McStuffins
15:20	Miles From Tomorrow
15:35	Jake And The Never Land Pirates
15:45	Goldie & Bear
16:00	Sofia The First
16:25	The Lion Guard
16:55	Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:20	Minnie's Bow-Toons
17:25	Sheriff Callie's Wild West
17:50	The Hive
18:00	Doc McStuffins
18:30	Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:00	The Lion Guard
19:30	Jake And The Neverland Pirates
19:45	Aladdin
20:15	Sheriff Callie's Wild West
20:45	Doc McStuffins
21:15	Minnie's Bow-Toons
21:20	The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
21:50	Miles From Tomorrow

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

23:25	K.C. Undercover
23:50	Annedroids
00:15	Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
00:40	K.C. Undercover
01:05	Counterfeit Cat
01:10	Gravity Falls
01:35	Counterfeit Cat
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: Ultron Revolution
04:40	Disney Mickey Mouse
05:00	Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

09:40	Dash Dolls
10:35	Dash Dolls
11:30	Celebrity Style Story
12:00	WAGs
12:55	EI News
13:10	WAGs
14:10	EI News
15:10	WAGs
18:00	EI News
18:15	WAGs
19:10	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00	EI News
21:15	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:10	Rob & Chyna
01:00	EI News
02:00	Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
03:00	Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
04:00	WAGs
05:00	EI News
05:15	Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

itv
hd
CHOICE

09:25	Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
10:20	Tonight At The London Palladium
11:15	Murdoch Mysteries
12:10	Who's Doing The Dishes?
13:05	The Chase
14:00	Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
15:00	Tonight At The London Palladium
16:00	Murdoch Mysteries
16:55	Who's Doing The Dishes?
17:50	The Chase
18:45	Emmerdale
19:15	Coronation Street
20:15	Who's Doing The Dishes?
21:10	The Chase
22:00	Victoria
22:55	Royal Stories
23:20	Catchphrase
23:50	Murdoch Mysteries
00:45	Emmerdale
01:15	Coronation Street
02:10	The Chase
03:00	Victoria
03:55	Royal Stories



SWORD OF VENGEANCE ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

04:30	The Food Files
04:55	David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:20	David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:45	Rustic Adventure Argentina

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
CHANNEL HD

09:50	Myigrations Caught In The Act
10:45	Hunter Hunted
11:40	The Yard
12:35	Yukon Gold
13:30	Yukon Gold

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
19:00	Breadwinners
19:24	The Loud House
19:48	Harvey Beaks
20:12	Rabbids Invasion
20:36	Henry Danger
21:00	Game Shakers
21:24	SpongeBob SquarePants
21:48	SpongeBob SquarePants
22:12	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
22:36	The Loud House
23:00	Sanjay And Craig
23:24	Harvey Beaks
23:48	Breadwinners
00:12	Henry Danger
00:36	Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
01:00	100 Things To Do Before High School
01:24	Game Shakers
01:48	SpongeBob SquarePants
02:12	SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24	Breadwinners
03:48	Breadwinners
04:12	Sanjay And Craig
04:36	Sanjay And Craig
05:00	SpongeBob SquarePants
05:24	SpongeBob SquarePants
05:48	Henry Danger

22:41	Shimmer And Shine
23:05	Dora And Friends
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

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

09:00	Rudderless
11:00	Anna
13:00	Boychoir
15:00	Fast Girls
17:00	Filly Brown
19:00	Stolen From Suburbia
21:00	Assassin's Bullet
23:00	Fast Girls
01:00	The Reluctant Fundamentalist
03:30	Haunting In Hollow Creek
05:30	Suite Francaise

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

10:00	Panic Room
12:00	The Taking Of Pelham 123
14:00	Deep Rising
16:00	Sword Of Vengeance
18:00	Justice League: Gods And Monsters
20:00	The Taking Of Pelham 123
22:00	The Fugitive
00:15	Sword Of Vengeance
02:00	The Maze Runner
04:00	Kingsman: The Secret Service

OSN FIRST HD
COMEDY

09:00	Dr. Ken
09:30	Last Man Standing
10:00	Living With Fran
10:30	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
11:30	George Lopez
12:00	The Bernie Mac Show
12:30	Suburgatory
13:00	Late Night With Seth Meyers
14:00	Living With Fran
14:30	George Lopez
15:00	Dr. Ken
15:30	Wrecked
16:00	Fresh Off The Boat
16:30	Suburgatory
17:00	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
18:00	The Bernie Mac Show
18:30	Living With Fran
19:00	George Lopez
19:30	Suburgatory
20:00	Last Man Standing
20:30	Wrecked
21:00	Fresh Off The Boat
21:30	The Simpsons
22:00	The Simpsons
22:30	The Bernie Mac Show
23:00	Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:00	Dr. Ken
00:30	Last Man Standing
01:00	Hot In Cleveland
01:30	Fresh Off The Boat
02:00	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:00	The Simpsons
03:30	The Simpsons
04:30	The Big C
05:00	The Big C
05:30	Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN MOVIES HD
FAMILY

09:30	Three Men And A Little Lady
11:30	Treasure Planet
13:15	Wall-E
15:00	Camp Nowhere
17:00	Tangled
19:00	Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend?
21:00	Cinderella
23:00	The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch... Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
04:15	The Young Black Stallion
05:15	Cinderella

OSN MOVIES HD

10:30	Minions
12:30	McFarland, USA
15:00	Fast & Furious 7
17:15	The Best Of Me
19:15	4 Minute Mile
21:00	Stonehearst Asylum
23:00	Ant-Man
01:00	Spooks: The Greater Good
03:00	Miss America
05:00	The Overnight

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

10:00	Confessions Of A Shopaholic
12:00	Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star
14:00	10 Things I Hate About You
16:00	Hot Rod
18:00	Krippendorf's Tribe
20:00	Indian Summer
22:00	10 Things I Hate About You
00:00	Blue Streak
02:00	Now Add Honey
04:00	Are You Here

OSN MOVIES
FESTIVAL

09:00	Calendar Girls
11:00	Parkland
12:45	Ed Wood
15:00	Roger Waters The Wall
17:30	Prefontaine
19:30	Beyond The Edge
21:30	Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
23:45	Roger Waters The Wall
02:00	Tracks
04:00	Black Swan

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

10:15	Jingle All The Way 2
12:00	When Mamie Was There
14:00	Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
16:00	Moomins And The Comet Chase
17:30	The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
19:00	Hatching
20:30	Goat Story 2
22:00	Ploidy Police Car On The Case
00:00	Moomins And The Comet Chase
02:00	Cher Ami

SC
discovery
science

10:00	Step Up Revolution
12:00	Madoff Part 1
14:00	Chef
16:00	Jackie & Ryan
18:00	The Good Dinosaur
20:00	Madoff Part 2
22:00	Chef
00:00	Imogene
02:00	The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1
04:15	Straight Outta Compton
06:00	Discovery Science HD
09:00	Extreme Engineering
09:48	Mythbusters
10:36	Strangest Weather On Earth
11:24	Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
12:12	How Do They Do It?
12:36	Food Factory
13:00	How Do They Do It?
13:26	Mythbusters
14:14	Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
15:02	Extreme Engineering
15:50	How Do They Do It?
16:14	Food Factory
16:38	Mythbusters
17:26	Mythbusters
18:14	Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
19:02	How Do They Do It?
19:26	Food Factory
19:50	Extreme Engineering
20:38	Meteorite Men
21:26	Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
22:14	Mythbusters
23:02	Extreme Engineering
23:50	Mythbusters
00:40	Strip The Cosmos
01:30	Sci-Fi Science

TLC
HD

09:15	Cake Boss
09:35	The Undateables
10:20	Little People, Big World
10:45	Little People, Big World
11:10	Toddler's & Tiaras
12:00	Bakery Boss
12:50	Say Yes To The Dress
13:15	Say Yes To The Dress
13:40	Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
14:30	Little People, Big World
14:55	Little People, Big World
15:20	Kate Plus 8
16:10	Love, Lust Or Run
16:35	Cake Boss
17:00	My Big Fat Fabulous Life
17:25	Say Yes To The Dress
17:50	Bakery Boss
18:40	The Undateables
19:30	Oprah: Where Are They Now?
20:20	Oprah Prime
21:10	Toddler's & Tiaras
22:00	Little People, Big World
22:25	Little People, Big World
22:50	Kate Plus 8

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

04:42	Tosh.0
05:05	Another Period
05:30	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

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
17:30	Jessie
17:55	Disney Mickey Mouse
18:00	The 7D
18:15	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:40	Hank Zipzer
19:10	Star Darlings
19:15	Austin & Ally
19:35	Austin & Ally
20:00	Liv And Maddie
20:25	Liv And Maddie
20:50	Dog With A Blog
21:15	Jessie
21:40	Bunk'd
22:05	Star Darlings
22:10	Gravity Falls
22:35	Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:00	Backstage
23:05	Alex & Co.

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 , 2016





KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (22/09/2016 TO 28/09/2016)

SHARQIA-1		HELLIONS		3:45 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	11:15 PM
SULLY	12:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM		Premiere Show "Bilal: A New Breed of Hero"	
SULLY	2:45 PM	HAVENHURST	8:00 PM		9:00 PM	
PETE'S DRAGON	4:45 PM	HELLIONS	10:00 PM		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	11:45 PM
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	7:00 PM	HAVENHURST	12:05 AM			
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 PM			
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	11:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:15 PM			
SULLY	1:00 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:00 PM			
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	8:45 PM			
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:30 PM			
SHARQIA-2		FANAR-5		12:45 PM	360° 2	
PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM	SULLY	2:45 PM		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	12:15 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:45 PM	SULLY	2:45 PM		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	2:15 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	4:30 PM	SULLY	4:45 PM		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	4:15 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	7:15 PM	PINK - Hindi	6:45 PM		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	6:15 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	10:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:45 PM		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	8:15 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:45 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 AM		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	10:15 PM
					SNOWDEN	12:15 AM
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-1		12:30 PM	360° 3	
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12:15 PM	SULLY	12:30 PM		SULLY	11:45 AM
HAVENHURST	3:00 PM	SNOWDEN	2:30 PM		SULLY	2:00 PM
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	5:00 PM	BEN-HUR	5:00 PM		SULLY	4:30 PM
HAVENHURST	7:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM		OOZHAM - Malayalam	6:45 PM
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	9:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM		SULLY	9:45 PM
HAVENHURST	12:30 AM	SULLY	12:05 AM		SULLY	12:05 AM
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-2		12:45 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:30 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:30 PM		SULLY	11:30 AM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	2:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	1:30 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:30 PM
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	4:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:30 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	4:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	6:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:15 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	7:00 PM
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	9:00 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:00 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:45 PM
HAVENHURST	10:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:45 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 AM
HAVENHURST	12:45 AM					
MUHALAB-2		MARINA-3		11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.2	
SULLY	12:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:30 AM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:45 PM
SULLY	3:00 PM	SULLY	2:15 PM		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	3:30 PM
PINK - Hindi	5:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	4:15 PM		PETE'S DRAGON	5:15 PM
MAJNU - Telugu	5:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:30 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:00 PM	SULLY	8:45 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	10:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:15 PM	HAVENHURST	10:45 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	12:15 AM
SULLY	12:30 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:45 AM			
MUHALAB-3		AVENUES-1		12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:00 PM	LIGHTS OUT	12:00 PM		BEN-HUR	12:00 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	1:30 PM	LIGHTS OUT	2:00 PM		BEN-HUR	2:15 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:45 PM	PINK - Hindi	4:00 PM		HAVENHURST	4:30 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:30 PM	OOZHAM - Malayalam	7:00 PM		LIGHTS OUT	6:15 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	10:00 PM		HAVENHURST	8:00 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:05 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM		HAVENHURST	10:00 PM
					HAVENHURST	12:05 AM
FANAR-1		AVENUES-2		1:15 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
SULLY	11:45 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN -2D-4DX	1:30 PM		SULLY	12:45 PM
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	1:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	4:15 PM		SULLY	2:45 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	4:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	6:30 PM		HELLIONS	4:45 PM
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	6:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN -2D-4DX	8:45 PM		SULLY	6:45 PM
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	9:30 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN -2D-4DX	11:30 PM		HELLIONS	8:45 PM
THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12:15 AM				HELLIONS	10:45 PM
					HELLIONS	12:45 AM
FANAR-2		AVENUES-3		1:15 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	11:30 AM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	1:15 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 PM
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	1:30 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	4:00 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	3:15 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	6:45 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:00 PM
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	5:30 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	9:30 PM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	8:45 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12:15 AM		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:30 PM
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	9:45 PM					
ASHAN KHARGEN	11:45 PM					
FANAR-3		360° 1		12:15 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
HAVENHURST	12:00 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12:15 PM		PETE'S DRAGON	1:00 PM
HAVENHURST	1:45 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	3:00 PM		SULLY	1:30 PM
		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	5:45 PM		FRI	
		THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	8:30 PM		PETE'S DRAGON	3:30 PM
					PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM
					ASHAN KHARGEN	8:00 PM
					ASHAN KHARGEN	10:15 PM



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DESIGNATION	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT	JOB REQUIREMENT
MOBILE CRANE OPERATORS	Without Kuwait Driving License is Acceptable	Experience in operating Cranes from 70T to 1000T capacity with safe operating practices.
EQUIPMENT OPERATORS	Without Kuwait Driving License is Acceptable	Experience of equipment's like Loader / Dozer / Excavator / JCB / Boom Truck / Man Lift
HEAVY VEHICLE & TRAILER DRIVERS	Without Kuwait Driving License is Acceptable	Experience of driving Heavy Vehicles / Dumper Trailer Trucks

Interested Candidates may immediately send their Resume, Copies of Passport with Visa Page (Article 18) / Izn Amal / Valid Kuwait Driving License as an attachment to hmrgr@integrated-me.com or call at 97281312 / 67077436. We will get in touch with those candidates whose resume will be shortlisted by us.
Our Website: www.integrated-me.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mohammed Masood S/o Abdul Rehman Masood**, holder of Indian Passport No: G0522643 & Civil ID No: 291050502263 has changed my name to **Mohammad Mashood DK** here after in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of **Mohammed Mashood DK. (C 5217)**
27-9-2016

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for a 28 year old Marthoma boy with master degree in mechatronics from University of Victoria - Canada, and currently working in Canada. Proposal invited from parents of educational girls. Email: sobinthomas0007@gmail.com (C 5215)
22-9-2016

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is
1889988

EMERGENCY 112

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 04:20
Shorook 05:39
Duhr: 11:39
Asr: 15:05
Maghrib: 17:39
Isha: 18:56



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 27/9/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 27/9/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
ETD	9919	Bahrain	00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:30
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	OMA	645	Jeddah	15:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDB	051	Dubai	15:50
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	RJA	640	Amman	15:15
MSC	403	Asyut	01:30	JZR	325	Al Najaf	15:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	KAC	562	Amman	16:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
THY	1414	TXZ	05:05	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
JZR	529	Asyut	06:40	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	618	Doha	18:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	104	London	19:00
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
SYR	341	Damascus	09:15	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
THY	6376	Istanbul	10:30	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
AVV	651	Alexandria	12:05	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	782	Jeddah	22:50
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
CLX	784	Luxembourg	13:10	JZR	239	Amman	23:20
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:55	JAD	301	Amman	23:45
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05				
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15				
KAC	178	Vienna	14:15				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20				

CROSSWORD 1383

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15				16									17		
18				19			20			21			22		
23					24				25		26				
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65	66	67						68	69					70	71
72						73		74					75		
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79						80							81		

ACROSS

1. The unit of frequency.
4. A rejection of belief.
12. A city in north central Morocco.
15. The 26th letter of the Roman alphabet.
16. A desert in southwestern Africa - largely Botswana.
17. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
18. Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
20. An ancient city of Sumer located on a former channel of the Euphrates River.
21. The crew of an aircraft.
23. A quick reply to a question or remark (especially a witty or critical one).
26. A city in Veneto on the River Adige.
27. The main organ of photosynthesis and transpiration in higher plants.
28. Jordan's port.
30. (prefix) Outside or outer.
33. The ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle.
34. Covered with or as with a canopy.
38. A gift or money given (as for service or out of benevolence).
41. Genus of sticky herbs with yellow flowers open in morning or evening but closed in bright light.
42. Liquor and water with sugar and lemon or lime juice.
43. An expression of greeting.
44. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
46. The fifth day of the week.
47. Of or relating to apnea.
49. Make secure by lashing.
51. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
53. A shape that sags.
54. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
55. A golf shot that curves to the right for a right-handed golfer.
56. Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow fruits.
57. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
59. English monk and scholar (672-735).
63. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
65. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
68. A state of readiness to respond.
72. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
75. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
76. Produced by a manufacturing process.
77. A can with a long nozzle to apply oil to machinery.
78. Acute ulceration of the mucous membranes of the mouth or genitals.
79. A primeval personification of air and breath.
80. Waterproof hip boots (sometimes extending to the chest) worn by anglers.
81. Chief port of Yemen.

DOWN

1. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).

2. A beautiful and graceful girl.
3. Pass gradually or leak through or as if through small openings.
4. An edict of the Russian tsar.
5. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
6. Bluish warm-water marine food and game fish that follow schools of small fishes into shallow waters.
7. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
8. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
9. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
10. Capital of Armenia.
11. A bomb with incendiary effects.
12. A card game in which players bet against the dealer on the cards he will draw from a dealing box.
13. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
14. A neutral middle vowel.
19. A commercial center and river port in western Germany on the Rhine River.
22. Large toothed frog of South and Central America resembling the bullfrog.
24. (military) Signal to turn the lights out.
25. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
29. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
31. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
32. A genus of Scolopacidae.
35. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
36. After a negative statement used as an intensive meaning something like 'likewise' or 'also'.
37. Any of several plants of or developed from the species Dahlia pinnata having tuberous roots and showy rayed variously colored flower heads.
39. Armor plate that protects the chest.
40. French engineer who constructed the Eiffel Tower (1832-1923).
45. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
48. An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
50. The amount of electromagnetic radiation leaving or arriving at a point on a surface.
52. A kind of malacostracan crustacean.
58. Quieten or silence (a sound) or make (an image) less visible.
60. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
61. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
62. Remote city of Kazakhstan that (ostensibly for security reasons) was made the capital in 1998.
64. How a result is obtained or an end is achieved.
66. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
67. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
69. A person who has lied or who lies repeatedly.
70. A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
71. The mother of your father or mother.
73. The act of hauling something (as a vehicle) by means of a hitch or rope.
74. Late time of life.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You can expect some recognition today, if recognition is what you need. Most of all you can see for yourself the progress and insight that you have gained through your work experiences. This is a great time to be with others in work or play. You may feel that you are in a good place and in touch with all who are around you; the lines of communication are open. Your sharp perceptions make finding new solutions easy. You always bring an unexpected twist or insight to anything you set your mind to accomplish. You are able to teach or help others to be more original when it comes to the words or thoughts they use. You can use the mind in original ways, particularly with your excellent eye-hand coordination. Conversations are fast-paced all day long.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

By the noon hour you may be surprised at the work you have accomplished. You find yourself in a very practical mood. Your instinct now is to complete any unfinished business that exists. You avoid delays by following through on your unfinished projects this afternoon. Make sure any plans are double-checked the rest of this week for accidental errors like a missing signature, etc. You resist the temptation to socialize just now and can really make progress with the work you aim to accomplish. This evening a meeting of some political importance may be where you want to place your energies. You appreciate a winner and are drawn to the successful and powerful, such as politics this evening. There are good networking opportunities now.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Invitations and unexpected acts of kindness spur you on to better and greater things in the workplace. A new perspective from a co-worker needs attention and you encourage this person to write out this idea and make a presentation to higher-ups. You respect the customs of other cultures and may find the noon hour a wonderful time to get to know a new co-worker that is from another country. Your home life seems in balance with your career and you may even enjoy allocating some time to a little community service. Your plans to relax later this evening may move you to stop in a bookstore or library before going home. You want to find some interesting form of entertainment that you can dive into so you can forget work for a while.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A new friend may bring you confirmation and encouragement on some future plans. This may just prove to be a day of large accomplishments. Headway is made in some personal project as well as a work project. These next six to seven years will find a coming together of circumstances that will help you rise up the corporate ladder, so to speak. In summary, this time marks a more outward and enjoyable series of years. Friends and a social life are in order and in general, a rewarding and untroubled life. Reading material presents questions that may be in the category of religion. Check and recheck your sources and then come to your own conclusions; do not take someone's word for something that was not researched.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Steer clear of arguments and possible hard feelings. It may not be easy to get your thoughts over to others this morning. It is best for your concentration if you could stay with your own work until after the noon break. Assimilating information and experience, learning lessons and putting them into practice are the focus this afternoon-tend to details. You may have radical and inventive ideas that hold the key to realizing your ambitions and advancing your status soon. A shakeup could be in the works. Financial matters may dominate but do not take away from the fact that this is a good time to plan or take a little vacation. If you are not romantically involved at this time-there are opportunities to meet someone special at a social gathering tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a busy but successful workday. Much can be accomplished. Meetings scheduled today and tomorrow will be more profitable than meetings at any other time this month. You have an inner drive to be thorough and responsible in minute details-self-disciplined. You can relax later today and know that you have done a really good job for your company. Your attempt to remain untouched and impersonal seems doomed to failure-you enjoy communicating with all sorts of people. This evening you may enjoy playing cards or board games with friends. You enjoy games that stimulate the thinking muscles and you enjoy watching others find the right answer. This is a great time to organize and get things accomplished.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Moods & Emotions 3

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell an additional word.

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

ANGER
APPRECIATIVE
ARROGANT
BITTER
CALM
CHEERFUL
CONFIDENT
CURIOUS
DISGUST
DUBIOUS

EDGY
ENVIOUS
EXUBERANT
FEAR
FRANTIC
FRETFUL
GLAD
GLEEFUL
GRATEFUL
GRIEF

GRUMPY
HAPPY
HOPE
INDIFFERENT
JEALOUS
JOLLY
JOYFUL
MOROSE
MOURNFUL
NERVOUS

OUTRAGE
PUZZLED
REGRET
SADNESS
SCARED
SCORNFUL
SORRY
SURPRISE
TRANQUIL
WORRY



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may want to cover and protect the outdoor furniture from the winter weather soon. Now is a good time to make a list of steps that will help you find the right size storage you will need, perhaps a storage shed. Planning ahead and making phone calls to set up the purchase of a storage shed may be on your mind this morning. You can quickly handle personal matters during your allocated break or lunchtime break. Your career direction gets some support now. You may benefit from an older person or one in authority this day. You feel vibrant, alert and are able to say all the right things. You may find yourself repeating or illustrating some idea; patience will get you where you need to go. Enjoy a fun time tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your mind is full of practical ideas, particularly related to your job or skills. You always seem to come up with new ideas with which to manage things better, make things work-practical thoughts. You will find that the longer you work in your position, the more often your boss will come to you with suggestions. Soon, it will be time to add this up and make a raise for you. Your financial situation is about to brighten considerably. Your innate intensity is visible to all. There is a sense of the eternal aspects of life that makes authority and leadership positions natural and unavoidable. Use care in establishing a new relationship. Give yourself and this other person plenty of time to discover the talents that each of you bring to the relationship.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It's a time for prudence and stewardship, a time to tend to the details. Achievement, ambition and authority take on a greater importance now. Organizing and administering people and projects will become central to your lifestyle. You are beginning to really move forward now and can expect rewards in your career. There is a growing self-confidence present now. There is also an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your active life at this time. You tend towards mental pursuits and admire intelligence. In addition to developing your technical skills, you polish your people skills. A physical problem is healing.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Going in to work today you contemplate your financial situation and hope that nothing disrupts your careful plans. Debts or other expenses have been draining your resources, but now, it seems, you are beginning to keep a balance in your accounts. A co-worker may need your help today; in fact, several co-workers may need your help. You could find yourself teaching or guiding others. There is a big demand for teachers in a large company with regard to the new technology. You could create your own profession by teaching teachers in different companies. The subject could be in advertising, insurance, etc. You complete whatever is left unfinished and then hurry home to some special celebration with friends or family. Good news is headed your way.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You like to solve problems whether you are in a work, sports, technical or home sort of situation. Secrets, taboos and mysteries appeal to you. Staying within the boundaries of the secrets of life itself is enough to keep you busy full-time. You may be tempted in the practice of gossip occasionally-careful. The study of psychology might be useful in your attempts to understand people, whether you decide to be any sort of counselor or not. There must be a psychology 101 type of class that would be helpful as well as of interest to study. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance now. Clear communication skills are what you strive to achieve. Something new and fun is coming your way on the home front.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a great time to work in a team. You may be chosen for a particular job or to lead the team. This afternoon more than one person will come to you seeking answers. Your presence and obvious concentration are intense, yet the people that know you tend to gravitate toward you when they have problems. There is something special about cutting through the chatter to hear the basic truth. You are able to dig beneath the surface and find the simple truth of a matter each and every time a problem arises. You have much compassion and empathy toward those that try methods of improvement. Your home and family life is strengthened. A family gathering is in the works and you, the social organizer, may help to find a gathering place.

Yesterday's Solution

Look Up!

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

AIRPLANE
BIG DIPPER
BIRDS
BLIMP
BLUE SKY
CHIMNEY SMOKE
CLOUDS
COMET
DRONE
FIREWORKS

GALAXY
HAZE
HELICOPTER
HOT AIR BALLOON
JET EXHAUST
JUPITER
KITE
LIGHTNING
MARS
MERCURY

METEOR SHOWER
MOON
PLANETS
POWER LINES
RAINBOW
SATELLITE
SATURN
SKYDIVER
SKYSCRAPER
SKYWRITING

SMOG
SOLAR ECLIPSE
STARS
STREET LIGHT
THE SUN
TREETOP
UNIVERSE
VENUS

The hidden message is: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

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

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	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 Ikhlās Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 26/09/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 40 °C

By Day : Hot with moderate becoming light gradually north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h
By Night : Fair with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h

SFC. CHART

MSL Analysis (SfP) Valid 0000 UTC 26 SEP 2016

Four-Day Forecast:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	hot	hot	hot + blowing dust	hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	25	26	24	23
Max Temp °C	40	41	39	38
Wind Direction	variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly later on	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 16	08 - 30	20 - 40	15 - 40

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

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	28		38	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	26		40	
ABDALY	23		38	
BUBYAN	23		38	
JAHRRA	27		39	
FAILAKA ISLAND	26		37	
SALMIYAH	29		35	
AHMADI	30		35	
JAL ALIYAH	23		38	
QAROH ISLAND	31		34	
UMM AL-MARADEM	31		34	
NUWAISIB	26		37	
WAFRA	23		38	
MANAGISH	23		38	
SALMIY	22		36	
MUTRIBA	23		39	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C) 38
Min Temp (°C) 28
Max Rel Hum (%) 35
Min Rel Hum (%) 05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction 50 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR 0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr 04:20
Sunrise 05:39
Zuhr 11:40
Asr 15:05
Sunset 17:40
Isha 18:57

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	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Plastic Surgeons Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60	Paediatricians Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gujar 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282	Endocrinologist Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
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-Daaoory 25731988 Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166 Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426	Family Doctor Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581	Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955	Physiotherapists & VD Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288
General Practitioners Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaazem 25736920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae 25333501	Psychiatrists Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0	Dentists Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111	Rheumatologists: Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290
Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534 Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955 Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi 22616660 Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120 Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787	Neurologists Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali 22633135	Internist, Chest & Heart DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210
	General Surgeons Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148	Gastrologists Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667	Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555 MD, PH.D, FACC
	Internists, Chest & Heart Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mubarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr. Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3		Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Singapore scion buys 49 percent stake in Rolling Stone

A Singapore firm headed by a scion of one of Asia's richest families has bought a 49 percent stake in Rolling Stone, with plans to diversify the iconic magazine into new business including live events and merchandising. BandLab Technologies, a music and technology start-up headed by 28-year-old Kuok Meng Ru, bought the stake for an undisclosed sum and will partner current owners Wenner Media, the firms said in a statement late Sunday. Rolling Stone International, a new subsidiary to be headed by Kuok, will organize events including concerts and develop merchandising and hospitality services, Bloomberg News reported.

Rolling Stone International will "build on the brand's worldwide appeal and recognition", the firms said in a statement. Kuok is the son of Singapore palm oil magnate Kuok Khoon Hong-founder of Wilmar International, the industry's biggest trader-and grand-nephew of Robert Kuok, Malaysia's richest man who is worth more than \$11 billion according to Forbes. "Rolling Stone's impact on culture over the years has been immeasurable and I'm truly honored to be joining the team on the next phase of its journey," said Kuok, a Cambridge graduate.

BandLab Technologies' portfolio already includes a cloud platform and social network for musicians, a music-making website, an instrument accessory design studio and Southeast Asia's largest distributor of audio equipment. "We are thrilled to have found an extraordinary partner for Rolling Stone as we focus on the brand's global expansion," Gus Wenner, Wenner Media's head of digital, said in a statement. "We see an enormous opportunity to diversify the brand into new markets and new areas of business."

Music and pop culture magazine Rolling Stone was found-



A vendor shows the latest issue of the Rolling Stone magazine on sale in Singapore yesterday. — AFP photos

ed in 1967 by Gus Wenner's father, Jann S Wenner, and Ralph Gleason with a \$7,500 loan from friends and family. According to Singapore daily The Straits Times, the deal has been in the works for some 15 months after Kuok was introduced to Gus Wenner. Bloomberg News reported that the two twentysomethings struck up a friendship over their interest in music and digital media, as the Wenners were looking

for a way to expand their reach in Asia, home to more than half the world's population. "It became much bigger than what we began with," Kuok told Bloomberg News. "It was really more of a meeting of minds and visions and long-term partnership that made it possible." In addition to its focus on pop music, Rolling Stone forged its reputation by featuring some of the best writers in the US-such as Tom Wolfe and



A vendor pulls out one of the Rolling Stone magazine on sale in Singapore.

Hunter S Thompson-and by turning its covers into showcases for top photographers and controversial subjects. New York-based Wenner Media owns and publishes 12 international editions of the magazine, as well as Us Weekly and Men's Journal. — AFP



In this image released by Sony Pictures, Byung-hun Lee, from left, Ethan Hawke, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Vincent D'Onofrio and Martin Sensmeier appear in a scene from 'The Magnificent Seven.' — AP

'Magnificent Seven' rides Denzel's star power to \$35M debut

Movie stars don't open movies anymore? Tell that to Denzel Washington and Tom Hanks. The pair, once co-stars in "Philadelphia," have together dominated the last three weeks of the box office. After Clint Eastwood's Miracle on the Hudson docudrama "Sully," starring Hanks as Captain Chesley Sullenberger, topped ticket sales of the last two weeks, "The Magnificent Seven" rode Washington's star power to an estimated \$35 million debut over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. Though both Washington and Hanks are in their early 60s, their box-office clout might be just as potent as ever. The debut of "Sully" was Hanks' fourth best opening of his career; the opening of "The Magnificent Seven," Antoine Fuqua's remake of John Sturges' 1960 Western (itself a remake of Akira Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai"), is Washington's third best.

Both films boasted other enticements. Eastwood is himself a draw. And the ensemble of "The Magnificent Seven" most notably includes Chris Pratt, the "Guardians of the Galaxy" star and a potential heir apparent to Washington and Hanks. But Washington and Hanks ranked as the overwhelming reason audiences went to see either movie, according to comScore's survey of moviegoers. "They are the model of consistency and they are the model of quality," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "These are guys who can draw a huge audience in any type of movie that they're in. It's not like they're pigeonholed into one kind of franchise. Denzel Washington can be part of a genre, the Western, that doesn't

exactly have teenagers scrambling to the movie theater."

Sony Pictures' "The Magnificent Seven" wasn't cheap to make - it cost about \$90 million - so its path to profitability isn't assured. Directed by Fuqua (whose "Training Day" and "The Equalizer" also starred Washington), the film made splashy premieres at both the Toronto International Film Festival and the Venice Film Festival. Coming in at a distant second was Warner Bros' "Storks," an animated release where the large-winged birds have given up the baby delivery business for online sales. The film, which cost about \$70 million to make, opened with \$21.8 million. Directed by Nicholas Stoller and Doug Sweetland, its voice cast is led by Andy Samberg.

Modern wide releases

The rest of the top 10 was populated by holdovers, with "Sully" slotting in at third with \$13.8 million in its third week. It has now grossed \$92.4 million domestically. A potentially bigger test of Hanks' drawing power awaits the actor next month with the release of "Inferno," in which he reprises his role as Robert Langdon in the Dan Brown franchise. "The Magnificent Seven" slots in as one of the biggest openings for a Western ever, though the genre's heyday predated modern wide releases. The only Westerns to debut better, not accounting for inflation, bended the genre in other directions: sci-fi in the case of "Cowboys & Aliens" (\$36.4 million in 2011) and animation in "Rango" (\$38.1 million, also in 2011).

The Western, like Washington and Hanks, has proven quite

durable at the box office in recent years. The Coen brothers' "True Grit" (which grossed \$171.2 million in total), Alejandro Inarritu's "The Revenant" (\$183.6 million) and a pair of Quentin Tarantino releases ("Django Unchained," with \$162.8 million, and "The Hateful Eight," with \$54.1 million) have all proven the genre's fortitude. "When you read this script as well as Antoine's vision of it, you knew it was going to be cool and relevant," said Rory Bruer, distribution head for Sony. "When you talk about genres or things that might not, on the surface, look to be the best play, it's always going to about what's in the story and how that story is told." Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. "The Magnificent Seven," \$35 million
2. "Storks," \$21.8 million
3. "Sully," \$13.8 million
4. "Bridget Jones's Baby," \$4.5 million
5. "Snowden," \$4.1 million
6. "Blair Witch," \$4 million
7. "Don't Breathe," \$3.8 million
8. "Suicide Squad," \$3.1 million
9. "When the Bough Breaks," \$2.5 million
10. "Kubo and the Two Strings," \$1.1 million — AP

Viola Davis describes becoming Rape Foundation advocate

Viola Davis said Sunday that her own experiences with sexual assault led her to become an advocate for the Rape Foundation and encouraged others to visit treatment centers so they'll become supporters. "You must," she said. "And then let your heart do the rest." "Myself, my mother, my sisters, my friend Rebecca, my friend from childhood, we all have one thing in common: We are all survivors of sexual assault in some way, shape or form," Davis said Sunday at a benefit for the foundation. It provides free medical treatment, counseling and legal aid to sexual assault victims at its Rape Treatment Center and Stuart House, which specializes in caring for sexually abused children.

An advocate for the group since playing its founder in a 2010 film, Davis was among the guests of honor at the organization's annual fundraising brunch held at billionaire Ron Burkle's Greenacres estate in Beverly Hills, California Davis said half of the survivors helped by the Rape Foundation are children, adding that one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before age 18. Her own sister is among the casualties: She was sexually assaulted at age 8 and still struggles today. "I continue to pray for my sister," said Davis, who has previously spoken publicly about her sister's attack.

The brunch was held in a tented space in Burkle's backyard, where "Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman, "Vampire Diaries" actress Nina Dobrev and the supporting cast on Davis' "How to Get Away With Murder" were among the guests in 95-degree heat. David Schwimmer was the master of ceremonies. The actor-director started working with the Rape Foundation during his "Friends" days and has served on its board of directors for the last 12 years. He said the brunch supports a year's worth of services at the Rape Treatment Center and Stuart House. The Rape Foundation also provides educational programs for first responders and middle- and high-school students. — AP



This file photo shows Viola Davis arriving at the 4th Annual Woman Making History Brunch at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. — AP

Raindance: 'After Adderall' Elliott on his rapport with Franco

Every writer dreams of selling the movie rights to their work, all the more so when a famous actor is putting up the money. But when Stephen Elliott optioned his memoir "The Adderall Diaries" to the super-prolific indie star James Franco, the dream became more of a journey down the rabbit hole. The experience is reflected in Elliott's dream-like no-budget docu-drama "After Adderall," in which the writer plays himself and slowly comes to the realization that he hasn't just sold his story, he has also given away the rights to his life. Some scenes are exaggerated, some are invented, some are verbatim, but Elliott insists that it's an extremely accurate depiction of the experience as he lived it. "In a weird way," he says, "fiction can get at the truth better than non-fiction."

Shot in eight days for just \$10,000, "After Adderall" has the look of a much more expensive movie, thanks in part to some well-known names in the cast (Elliott recruited Michael C Hall and Lili Taylor via friends in the literary world) and some experienced hands in the tech department, notably DoP Adrian Peng Correia and editor Michelle Botticelli. Interestingly, though, Elliott has no commercial plans for "After Adderall", and aside from its current festival run, which ends in November in Key West, it's unlikely that the film will see any form of distribution ("It's basically a student movie," he jokes). Instead, Elliott sees his film as a creative experiment. "It's a really, really literary movie," he explains. "It's much more like a book than most movies are."

Q: Where did the inspiration for "After Adderall" come from?

A: I'd written a book called "The Adderall Diaries" after not writing for a couple of years. It was my seventh book. I'd got involved in the murder trial of this guy that had girlfriends in common (with me). He'd confessed to eight murders; it was a very sensational, crazy murder trial. In meantime, my father had also

confessed to a murder in his unpublished memoir - I had been looking into that for a long time and had not really been able to find out very much about it. The book was a combination of those two things, a very artful exploration of meaning and truth, and I was surprised when James Franco decided to option it. Although I didn't think too much of it, to be honest, because I figured these things get optioned all the time and nobody ever actually makes them.

Q: Did he say why he liked it?

A: He told me that he had found my book because I gave a lecture about it in one of his classes [at Columbia]. But he wasn't actually there that day. Somebody had videotaped the lecture - he had seen the tape of the lecture, and that was why he'd bought the rights to my memoir. Which struck me as so bizarre: he bought it because he saw me talk about it. Not because he read it!

Tribeca film festival

Q: What happened next?

A: I asked James if I could write the script and he said, "Yeah." So I wrote a script for him, and everybody on the team liked the script, and that was that. A couple of years passed and then I got a note from James asking me to meet and talk about "The Adderall Diaries." I go to meet him and he's not there, instead there are these two graduate students. That was the beginning of the weirdness.

Q: How weird did it get?

A: Well, a bunch of time passed, and they actually ended up making the movie. They shot the movie just a few blocks from where I was living. I went to go on set and they said no, I

wasn't allowed on set. Then they started test-screening the movie, and I was hearing from friends who were going to these screenings. I asked if they wanted me to see an edit and give them my feedback, and they said, "No, that's OK." Then I found out it was playing at the Tribeca film festival, because it was in the newspapers. They contacted me to ask me a question about the credits, and I said, "Aren't you going to tell me that you're playing Tribeca?" They apologized and gave me tickets to the premiere. I was so inspired by the premiere, and the kind of absurdity and the surrealness of seeing your memoir, your life portrayed on screen by these famous actors, that it got me thinking about questions of identity. Who owns your story, and can you ever be authentic when telling your own story? So I wrote the script for "After Adderall".

Q: How long did it take?

A: It took me two weeks. It just flowed out of me. I'd been working full time for a magazine called Epic and I had some money, so I decided just to make it. I shot it in eight days, on \$10,000, and that was it. It was super easy. I didn't have contracts with any of the actors because I never had any intention of selling distribution or making any money from it. Nobody worried about being ripped off because we were all not making money together. We made it, and it turned out great. It was an amazing creative experience, because once you take the profit motive out of a project it becomes really, really fun.

Q: Does James Franco know about the film? Did you run it just past him?

A: No, I didn't. I'm sure he knows about it by now, it's been around for a while and I've certainly not been hiding it. I've been promoting it. I haven't talked to him in a long time and I'm not

sure what his feelings are. It seems like the kind of movie he would like, but I don't know, I don't understand him at all. I don't really know he feels about anything. At the same time, it's not an angry film - did you ever worry about people thinking you were bitter about the experience? I definitely did not want my movie to be about settling a score or getting revenge, or anything like that. It just inspired me, so [Franco's] movie was a gift, in a lot of ways. It sold books and I got a chunk of money. Not crazy money, but \$85,000 dollars is a lot. The biggest part was that it inspired me to write this movie, and inspiration is hard to come by. Writing is not easy for me.

Q: How have audiences reacted to the film?

A: It's very easy to tell if it's working or not, it's very objective. If people laugh, it works, if they don't, it doesn't work. The response has been really, really good so far. Raindance is the first big festival that we're playing at, so it's the first time that any kind of real media information about the movie is getting out there. In all honesty, I don't see this movie ever being distributed widely. Maybe more of a cult film, a 'midnight showings' kind of movie. I don't think I'm even going to put it online.

Q: What do you hope for it?

A: Ideally maybe somebody will see it and they'll ask me to act in their movie, or I'll get to write for some other media projects. I'd love to do more film and television writing. I'm such an outsider to these worlds, even in the literary world. I've always just been an outsider - I just do these things and hope for the best, really. — Reuters

An end to fashion elitism? Not in Milan

Social media are being credited with democratizing the landscape of fashion in London and New York. But in Milan's swankiest shopping street, an end to the industry's ingrained elitism, with its invitation-only events and cosy tribalism, still seems a long way off. Via Montenapoleone, home to the flagship stores of the cream of Italian design, is where the conceptual currency of the catwalks is converted into hard cash. And in its glittering stores, platinum credit cards will keep the cash tills ringing long after the fashionistas have decamped to the next catwalk fest in Paris.

Window-shopping with a friend, local Lila Sciacca says few in the city would dispute the economic benefits of fashion week: 48 million euros (\$54 million) was City Hall's estimate of the revenues driven by the last bash. An amateur dress-maker, Sciacca is one of millions of fashion fans who stream live webcasts of the catwalk shows to digital devices. But the exclusivity of the shows still rangles. "At the shows it is always the same cast of people," she told AFP. "If you are not an insider or in the business, you have to be connected."

"And let's be frank, how many people can actually afford these clothes we are talking about when every day is a struggle to survive?" Also grumbling over fashion's exclusive reflexes is Milan's new mayor, Giuseppe Sala. The organizer of last year's successful World Expo, Sala recently told fashion chiefs that, "in terms of participation, there is much more than can be done." Italy's Chamber of Fashion hit back, citing 30 publicly accessible events running in parallel with the latest shows.

Instagram clout

Among them was "Outside In", an open air exhibition

of new images by acclaimed British photographer Rankin that lined Via Montenapoleone. A veteran of the days when the club of fashion obsessives was much smaller than it is now, Rankin says his images of models in boxes displaying different emotions was designed as a celebration rather than a critique. "I really hate elitism in itself, so I am probably the opposite of most of the industry," he said. "But the art of fashion is something I have come to appreciate more and more so I did not want (the street exhibition) to be negative, I wanted it to be a celebration of what it is about."

The photo-sharing website Instagram has had a hugely disruptive impact on the fashion world. The vast followings of models like Gigi Hadid, Kendall Jenner and Cara Delevigne have made them hugely influential players, giving them the kind of commercial clout that was once the preserve of a handful of editors of glossy magazines. Rankin, the co-founder of influential 1990s style magazine Dazed & Confused, says the change is exciting, even if he has some misgivings. "I love photography so much I can't not get excited by a whole new generation that maybe would never have had the opportunity to learn or even think you can go to college to do photography. At the same time I studied for six years to become a photographer so when somebody shows me their Instagram picture I go slightly 'whoah'."

Stores will survive

"David Bailey had a great quote when he was asked about Instagram and social media and said 'It is just lots more people taking bad photos'. 'Instagram and social media and being able to buy straight from the catwalk is the antithesis of what it

used to be about. 'It used to be a small world but it has gone from 100,000 people to maybe two to three million that are absolutely obsessed by it.' The Rankin exhibition was the latest in a series commissioned by Guglielmo Miani, president of the Via Montenapoleone Association, an organisation comprised of 140 luxury brands associated with the famous street. Miani says allegations of snobbish exclusiveness are wide of the mark. "The truth is that this is a working week for professionals so it is, in a way, a closed circuit. That is why we decided to have an open-to-everyone exhibition."

Growing online sales are also part of the disruptive wave fashion is currently surfing but Miani is confident it is one Via Montenapoleone and its counterparts in London, Paris and elsewhere can ride out. "The (store) experience is getting more enriching all the time," he said. "We just saw the new Dolce and Gabbana store opening, Brunello Cucinelli is opening soon. The physical space of the store is still very important. 'Globally e-commerce is about ten percent of luxury goods. It is going to grow but at the same time there are markets like Iran that are going to want to buy clothes and they will want to have stores there. 'Via Montenapoleone will be around for another 100 years, maybe 200 years and hopefully it will be even more special than today.' — AFP

Model Gigi Hadid, left, is flanked by model and actress Lauren Hutton as they take the catwalk for Bottega Veneta women's Spring-Summer 2017 collection, presented in Milan, Italy, Saturday.— AP



Basra Fashion Night



Models display creations during the Basra Fashion Night event in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on September 25, 2016. Six designers from Iraq, Lebanon and Iran presented their folklore inspired creations. — AFP photos



YOUNG STARS OF SOCIAL MEDIA FILL DOLCE & GABBANA FRONT ROW

Social media stars have brought a fresh buzz to Milan Fashion Week. As word of their whereabouts spreads, gaggles of fans gather outside the restaurant or show venue where they are gathered, hoping for the chance to get a selfie - the pixel version of the 15 minutes of fame. Here are some highlights from the fifth day of Milan Fashion Week womenswear previews for next spring and summer on Sunday. They include, Stella Jean and Missoni and Federica Pellegrini:

Simplicity

The Missoni looks for next season flow and wrap, emphasizing the fineness of the brand's knitwear. The silhouette is exceedingly clear: Micro mini or long and flowing. Tank dresses have surprising color combinations, stripes of dark green or black, and with strong shades of red, green and yellow. Metallic yarn runs through the collection.

The knitwear is close to the body, with curves emphasized by scarves or sweaters wrapped around the middle. Palazzo pant jumpsuits create movement and flow, as do long trailing cardigans over shorter dresses. "I really all of the sudden felt the need for something clean, pure simple. So I really went for a very simple silhouette."

From bikini to burkini

Federica Pellegrini showed over her Olympian abs in a bikini top and white linen pants by Raffaella D'Angelo. The champion swimmer says that the experience of modeling for the swim and beachwear label has created an interest in fashion for a possible next career - but only after the Tokyo Games in 2020. "Every time I feel a different emotion, compared to when I swim. At the end of my career, maybe I will stay in the fashion world," she told the news agency ANSA after the Saturday show. D'Angelo opened the show with an ornamentally printed burkini in somber shades, winning applause from the crowd.

"This isn't meant as a provocation, but as an opening," the designer told ANSA, saying her choice to show a burkini was meant as a sign of respect for Islamic culture. She also noted, wryly, that how women dress at the beach has long been the source of social discussion. "This year we celebrate 70 years of the bikini. A century ago, we all went around all covered. We don't need to be scared of novelty," she said. While in neighboring France debate over burkinis on beaches was sparked by local bans, Italians have shown more acceptance.

Geek chic

Hatian-Italian designer Stella Jean's collections continually cross borders, seeking what is mutual through fashion. For next season, the unifying force is soccer, the world's most popular game. "Latitudes, cultures and traditions merge through football, creating a society that does not need technology to live," the designer said in notes. The motto: more soccer, less wifi.

The soccer jersey, inlaid with the captain's armband, plays a central role in the collection, paired with feminine skirts. Tailored shirts flow into sarongs, skirts are layered over shirt dresses, almost like backward aprons, and belted blazers are worn with pleated skirts bearing the ship prints by the painter Prefete Duffaut. The designer called the uniform looks "geek chic." Stella Jean said she took inspiration from Myanmar, the local variant of soccer, called chinlone, the overlaps of Burmese robes and "the grace and strength of Aung San Suu Kyi."

Charity auction

Models Adriana Lima and Sara Sampaio helped drive up the bidding for a trip to the 2016 Victoria's Secret fashion show as the amfAR charity raised nearly \$2 million for AIDS research at a gala Saturday night, a Milan record. Also on hand for the annual event was Heather Graham and Karolina Kurkova. Lapo Elkann, whose fam-



ily controls both the Fiat Chrysler and Ferrari carmakers, was honored with the AmfAR courage award for his support of the charity, which aims to find a cure to AIDS by 2020. "I've been fortunate in my life, and for me to be generous is normal. If not it would be a shame," Elkann said. He then urged the well-heeled attendees, who he noted spend freely on expensive cars, airplanes and clothes, "instead of being generous on vanity, be generous on things that have a purpose." Part of the proceeds from the event will go to the victims of last month's deadly earthquake in central Italy.





Models wear creations for Stella Jean women's Spring-Summer 2017 collection.



Model Adriana Lima poses for photographers as she arrives for the amfAR charity dinner during the fashion week in Milan, Italy.



Lapo Elkann



Model Karolina Kurkova



Amanda Lear



British singer Charli XCX



Model Sara Sampaio poses for photographers as she arrives for the amfAR charity dinner.



US burlesque artist Dita Von Teese



Yvonne Scio



Indian folk dancers from the Panghat Group of Performing Arts pose for a photograph during a dress rehearsal for an event to mark the forthcoming Hindu festival 'Navaratri', or the Festival of Nine Nights, in Ahmedabad. The Navaratri festival begins on October 1. — AFP photos



A surf dog prepares to catch a big wave.

Sea dogs take the lead at unique US surf competition

Dogs big and small, and some in tandem with their owners, braved the large swell that greeted them at a surfing competition with a difference in California Sunday. Some dogs bailed off their boards in spectacular wipeouts as waves pounded the shore, but that didn't prevent many of the pups from wagging their tails at the Surf City Surf Dog event in Huntington Beach. Dogs and their owners came from as far away as Florida, Australia and Brazil for the eighth edition of the annual event in aid of animal charities.

The rides were the last and most popular phase of the three-day event that started Friday. Canine and human competitors had 12 minutes to catch their top five waves, with judges evaluating them on their confidence level, length of ride and overall ability to ride the wave. "We got some small, but mighty SurFurs out there," organizers said on Facebook. The winner of the dog-only Shredder division was Bono, a Labrador owned by Ivan Moreira of Brazil. — AFP



Surf dog Sully surfs a large wave.



A surf dog is paddled out to catch a wave.



A surfing dog and its human fight through incoming surf to catch waves.



A surf dog catches a large wave.



A surfing dog rides a wave.



A surf dog catches a big wave during the 8th annual Surf City Surf Dog event at Huntington Beach, California. — AFP photos



A surfing dog reaches the beach at the end of a ride.



A surfing dog and man compete in a tandem dog/human heat.