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Expats to pay increased health insurance of KD 130 annually

Harbi breaks ground on new hospital for expatriates

New lab tests blamed for eye-watering onion prices

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Food merchants are asking state officials to intervene in order to speed up the slow pace of inspections of fruit and vegetable imports, which has resulted in delays in the delivery of supplies to the market. This has caused the prices of some products to shoot up, most notably onions, whose prices have shot up from KD 2.5 for a bag to KD 10.

Facing a public outcry and accusations of pricegouging, merchants at the Furda Market in Sulaibiya, Kuwait's largest fruit and vegetable market, blamed the health ministry for introducing new measures at its laboratories to examine the quality of imported food.

Chairman of the Union of Kuwaiti Traders and Food Manufacturers Abdullah Al-Buaijan said the union had received complaints from importers about the delay in examining samples from over 200 containers carrying 600 tons of fruits and

By Faten Omar and Agencies

KUWAIT: The health insurance fees for expats will jump to KD 130 annually as new hospitals and clinics that will exclusively serve foreign residents are being built. The Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Dhaman) and Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi yesterday took part in a groundbreaking ceremony for such a hospital in Ahmadi governorate. Harbi told reporters the health insurance hospital is one of the main components of the healthcare system for expatriates, which is implemented and managed by Dhaman as a leading development model for public-private partnership within the government's work program and development plan.

Dhaman CEO Dr Ahmed Al-Saleh said according to ministry decisions, health insurance for expats will cost KD 130 (\$425) annually, covering primary and secondary healthcare. He noted that increasing the insurance fees from KD 50 to KD 130 came after thorough comparative studies of the systems followed in other GCC states and the development factors sought in Kuwait.

Harbi said over two million expats working for the private sector and that their families will benefit from the Dhaman health services in various governorates. Two additional hospitals will be built in Farwaniya and Jahra, in addition to 12 medical centers, which will reduce crowding at public hospitals and primary healthcare centers. Harbi added the Ahmadi hospital will open in 2020. It consists of four storeys and a basement spread over a total area of 36,793 sq m. The hospital has a capacity of 300 beds spread over various departments, including surgery and intensive care. It has more than 70 outpatient clinics of different medical special-



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi (right) and other officials take part in a groundbreaking ceremony for a health insurance hospital for expats in Ahmadi governorate yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

deliver these important hospital projects to serve and In response to a projected population growth of two provide healthcare to residents of Kuwait," Harbi said.

ties. "The health ministry looks forward to help Dhaman as part of Kuwait's national healthcare expansion plan. million people by 2026, Dhaman plans to build second-

was established as a public-private partnership project locations across Kuwait.

The Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Dhaman) ary care hospitals and primary health clinics in various

Mugabe under house arrest as military takes control



HARARE: Zimbabwe's military was in control of the country yesterday as President Robert Mugabe said he was under house arrest, although generals denied staging a Mugabe's coup. decades-long grip on power appeared to be fading as military vehicles blocked roads

outside the parliament in Harare and senior soldiers delivered a late-night television address to the nation. "The president... and his family are safe and sound and their security is guaranteed," Major General Sibusiso Moyo said, slowly reading out a statement. "We are only targeting criminals around him who are com-



regulate traffic yesterday. — AFP

mitting crimes... As soon as we have accomplished our mission we expect that the situation will return to normalcy." Moyo added: "This is not a military takeover of government".

But the African Union, in a strongly-worded statement, said the crisis "seems like a coup' and called on the military to immediately halt their actions and respect the constitution. Alpha

Conde, who is also Guinea's president, said the AU condemned the actions of top brass in the southern African nation as "clearly soldiers trying to take power by force". The generals' actions pose a major challenge to 93-year-old Mugabe, who has ruled Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980.

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Outrage, lawsuit and even divorce after MoI starts impounding cars

By B Izzak and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Lawmakers yesterday expressed anger over the traffic department's action of impounding vehicles for offences like using mobile phones while driving and failing to buckle up, and threatened action against the interior ministry. Several MPs raised questions on whether the ministry has the legal power under the law to seize vehicles for traffic violations, while prominent opposition MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei charged that there is some suspicion of serious wrongdoing in the whole affair.

According to security sources, traffic statistics showed that the first eight hours after putting the new regulation into practice yesterday (from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm) witnessed the impoundment of

489 vehicles - 48 in Ahmadi governorate, 65 in the Capital, 80 in Hawally, 15 in Farwaniya governorate, 46 in Jahra, 40 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, 142 on highways and eight by a special police patrol.

The sources added that if the violating motorist is a woman, a senior citizen or if there is a family onboard, the vehicle will not be immediately impounded and the violator would instead be fined and blocked on traffic systems until he/she willingly hands in the vehicle for impoundment. In a series of questions to the interior minister, Tabtabaei asked if the ministry has conducted a study about the mechanism of implementing the decisions allowing the seizure of vehicles for mobile phone use and if the driver and the front-seat passenger are not using seatbelts. He asked if the study included positive and negative aspects of the measure and demanded a copy of such findings. Tabtabaei was referring to three additions to the traffic law of 1981 that allows traffic authorities to seize vehicles for those offences.

The lawmaker asked if Kuwait has reviewed the experiments of other countries that apply the same measures, or if it is the only country in the world applying such penalties.

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Erdogan pledges continued military support for Qatar

DOHA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged his country's continued military support for Qatar during a visit to Doha yesterday, according to state media, amid an ongoing Gulf political crisis. Erdogan also signaled the "readiness" of Turkey's private sector to help Qatar with its multibillion projects for the 2022 football World Cup, according to the Qatar News Agency. He held talks with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani during the visit, reported QNA.

It also said the two countries signed a number of financial, tourism and research agreements. "Erdogan stressed the continued support of Turkey to the State of Qatar in various fields, especially in the industrial and military," read the QNA statement.

Turkey has a military base in Qatar, which Ankara says has facilities for around 3,000 troops. During yesterday's visit, Erdogan visited the Turkish military base with senior Qatari officials, including Defense Minister Khalid bin



DOHA: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani yesterday. — AP

Mohamed Al-Attivah. Erdogan's backing came during his second official visit to Qatar, a close ally, since a bitter regional crisis began five months ago, threatening to destabilize the Gulf. The increasingly entrenched dispute erupted on June 5 when Qatar was politically and economically boycotted by a quartet of neighboring countries over its alleged support for terrorist groups and relations with Iran. Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, denies the charges and says the dispute is an attack on its sovereignty.

Continued on Page 11

Aoun accuses Saudis of holding Hariri hostage

BEIRUT: France said yesterday that Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, who Lebanon's president says is being held hostage by Saudi Arabia, will visit France with his family in coming days. Hariri travelled to Rivadh on Nov 3 before abruptly resigning in a televised statement a day later. He has stayed in Riyadh and top Lebanese officials and senior politicians close to Hariri have told Reuters he was forced to quit. Hariri and Saudi Arabia have both denied he is being held in Riyadh or was coerced to resign. Hariri has said he will return to Lebanon in the next few days to formally submit his resignation.

The crisis has thrust Lebanon onto the frontline of a Middle East contest for power pitting a Saudi-led bloc against Iran and its allies, including the Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. French President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement that he had invited Hariri to France after speaking to him and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The invitation is to visit for a few

BEIRUT: A poster of outgoing Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri is seen hanging on a traffic signal on Hamra Street yesterday. — AFP

days and is not an offer of political exile, Macron said, speaking in Germany. "We will not accept (Hariri) remaining a hostage whose reason for detention we do not know," Lebanese President Michel Aoun said in a statement. Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, the head of Aoun's political party, said the situation was "not normal" but that Beirut wanted "good relations" with Riyadh. Aoun has said he will not accept Hariri's resignation until he returns to Lebanon to formally tender it and explain his reasons, which Hariri has said he will do in the coming days.

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'Abolish 153' campaign symposium discusses violence against women

Advocacy and politics, where do they meet?



on the need to address violence against women in society

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: The Abolish 153 campaign continued its awareness activities with a symposium held last Tuesday at Al-Shaheed Park, where activists gathered to discuss the topic of violence against women. The symposium, titled 'Advocacy and Politics, Where Do They Meet?' hosted four prominent figures in human and political activism from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Georgia, who spoke about the agony of women all over the world, citing evidence and research, as well as their praise for international action by activists to put an end to it.

The discussion was moderated by Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh, who gave an introductory speech followed by a speech from Sundus Hussain, Abolish 153 campaign member, who explained that there is a strong trend to eliminate all forms of violence against women and young girls in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Therefore, steps should be taken by state institutions to protect women, she said.

Dr Ghanem Al-Najjar, political science professor and an International Commissioner with the Jurists in Geneva, spoke about Somalia and the issue of female circumcision there, saying: "The problem there is that no

one believes that it needs to be addressed, since it is a legacy traditionally transferred across generations. We are talking about more than 90 percent of women who have been circumcised." He also emphasized that the existence of more than 60 million refugees today is an unprecedented number,

and that the world is in a moral dilemma because of rape in asylum centers. Not enough Meanwhile, Baia Pataraia, founder of the

Women's Georgia Movement, spoke of her experience of lobbying against the Georgian government to enact and enforce a law against sexual harassment.

"There are not enough laws to deter such acts, and women need to feel protected by laws in order to defend themselves. Sexual harassment, due to customs and traditions, has been normalized; women are required to coexist with and accept it. This applies to



A general view of the audience

all women around the globe, even in safer societies," she explained.

Kuwaiti MP Omar Al-Tabtabaie attended the symposium to show his support, saying that he along with other lawmakers want positive change to take place within

Proposal could

discussion

in parliament

take years before

society. Tabtabaie expressed appreciation to the efforts shown by the Abolish 153 campaign members in order to persuade lawmakers to put forward a draft law to repeal Article 153 of the penal code of the State of Kuwait, which states that any man who surprises his mother, sister, daughter or wife in an unsavory sexual act (zina) with a man and

kills her or him or both will be treated as committing a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of three years jail time and/or a fine of 3,000 rupees (KD 225).

Tabtabaie said however that this demand faces a problem caused by the slow mechanism in which draft

laws are looked into in parliament. "It may take three years for this proposal to be the subject of discussion," said Tabtabaie. "There is a lot to change, but this change should be accompanied by the process of creating a culture of respect for those laws among members of society."

Absence of law

Dr Maha Al-Muneef, the regional adviser to the International League for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, said: "Awareness in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not surface until 2000, when the media began to highlight the issue of violence against children, because it is easier to sympathize with children, as the media strongly criticized the absence of a law that protects and provides services to the victims."

She added, "The actual action by the government and community institutions took four years. The problem is that there aren't enough studies and statistics showing the size of the problem at the stratum of the Kingdom. There are only few studies conducted in some areas, but they share similar results that indicate a large number of cases of domestic violence, which is not limited to physical abuse, but also control and deprivation of expenditure."

Artist rebels against social taboos in works





DOHA: Kuwaiti formative artist Mashael Faisal participates in the exhibition. ---KUNA



Paintings of Kuwaiti formative artist Mashael Faisal.

DOHA: Kuwaiti formative artist Mashael Faisal has taken part in a joint exhibition with her Qatari colleague Nasser Al-Attiah, themed 'Another Dream.' Her paintings depict issues preoccupying male and female Kuwaitis and the yearning for breaking some social taboos. Bulging human eyes and trimmed limbs are symbols reflecting social chains, she said. She has put 12 works on display at Al-Markhiya Gallery. The exhibition, which opened on Tuesday with attendance of the Kuwaiti Third Secretary Mohammad Al-Omar, would run till January 11.-KUNA

42nd Int'l Book Fair underway

KUWAIT: The 42nd annual International Book Fair opened yesterday at the Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref. The event is organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and runs through November 25, 2017. Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah attended the inauguration ceremony, along with other state officials, diplomats, authors and book enthusiasts. Nearly 500 publishing houses from 30 different countries are participating this year, offering a collection of books that include 11,000 new publications. This year's edition is held simultaneously with Kuwait's celebrations for being selected as the 2017 Capital of Arab Youth. —KUNA









Local

Merchants demand action as slow lab tests drive vegetable prices up

Price of bag of onion up from KD 2.5 to KD 10

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Food merchants are asking state officials to intervene in order to speed up inspections of fruit and vegetable imports which has resulted in delays in entering supplies to the market, thus causing increased prices for some items. Several stores recorded sharp increase in prices of certain items, most notably onions whose prices almost tripled in recent days due to shortage in supply.

Facing public outcry and accusations of raising prices unjustifiably, merchants at the Furda Market in Sulaibiya, Kuwait's biggest fruits and vegetables market, blamed the Health Ministry for introducing new measures at its laboratories to examine the quality of imported food, explaining that results of these new tests are made 'too late' which delays the delivery of needed supplies to the market in time.

Chairman of the Union of Kuwaiti Traders and Food Manufacturers Abdullah Al-Buaijan urged Health

Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi to intervene and solve the problem, noting that the union had received complaints from various importers about the delay in examining samples from over 200 containers carrying 600 tons of fruits and vegetables.

Buaijan added that the samples examination lab capacity was limited and that this led to accumulating hundreds of shipments waiting to be examined; for over 20 days in some cases. He warned that samples are usually collected at border exists, put in plastic bags and then withheld at the exits for over three days before being taken to labs. He explained that this damages the samples because of the vapor accumulating inside the bags and are not even refrigerated. Such prolonged measures caused a lot of damage to onion shipments that had been withheld for over two months and will have to be destroyed. The shortage

Union laments poor storage conditions at borders

in opinion supplies resulted in the increase of its price from KD 2.5 for a bag of onion to KD 10.

Health proposals

Member of the health committee at the parliament MP Khalid Al-Otaibi said the committee will finalize proposals that are of

interest to citizens, and will send them to the National Assembly to vote on them. He said that the proposals mainly address building hospitals and health centers, as well as adding more groups under the retirees' health insurance program. "We asked for new groups to be added to the Afia law, including retirees' wives, widows who receive salaries from the social security, children of retirees under 18, homemakers of various ages and those with special needs," Otaibi said. He added that despite the health ministry's reservations on adding

these groups due to the financial cost, "we insist on continuing to apply pressure to add the groups that deserve to be under the umbrella of the law."

As for medical errors, Otaibi said "we have all suffered from medical errors that have become a phenomenon lately in scary numbers." "We the legislators must look into it and deal with it within a comprehensive law, hold those who make mistakes accountable and compensate those affected," he said. "We discussed a

proposed law on practicing medicine, which contains a full chapter of patients' rights," he added.

Costs

Official reports revealed that the commerce and industry ministry's expenses totaled KD 159.2 million in 2016/2017. honored five co-op societies for taking



this file photo.

There was a drop in expenses compared to the previous two years (2014/2015 and 2015/2016) by 29.4 percent and 36.7 percent respectively. The reports showed an increase in collected revenues in 2016/2017 compared to the previous two years by 51.4 percent and 46 percent. There was a drop in collected revenues for the year 2016/2017 by 1.2 percent, more than what was estimated, with a total of KD 156,000.

Co-ops honored

The Kuwait Society for Small Projects

practical steps in response to the social affairs ministry's decision to provide investment areas for small business owners. This decision was made in 2015 as part of efforts exerted by the ministry to open new horizons for small business owners by providing areas supervised by the ministry where they can market their products and services. Social Affairs Minister and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh hoped that more co-op societies would understand the necessity of supporting owners of small businesses, adding that licenses for kiosks in co-ops will be issued soon.

Fake cop arrested in Farwaniya

KUWAIT: Police arrested an ex-convict who impersonated a detective and pretended to issue traffic tickets to drivers, as officers found a stolen police ID, handcuffs and ticket books, in addition to promissory notes and a mixture of drugs on him. Patrol officers had grown suspicious of the man who appeared to be operating a checkpoint in Farwaniya while using a private car. They approached the man and then placed him under arrest after verifying his identity. The suspect was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

checked his ID and discovered that he was a police detective, then searched his car and found drugs inside. The man was sent to Drugs Control General Department (DČGD). Separately, police arrested two men, Egyptian and Kuwaiti, for possession of hashish and drug abuse. Both were sent to DCGD.

Sexual harassment

A man was sent to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station for sexual harassment. The man had tried to run when he was approached by police, but was apprehended and taken to the police station. The Egyptian man was not carrying an



Drug possession

Farwaniya police arrested a detective with possession of drugs. The man was pulled over for reckless driving, before police found out that he was driving under the influence of drugs. They

ID, but police were able to identify him through a fingerprint check, which revealed that he is wanted by authorities on sexual harassment charges filed by a Filipina woman. He was taken to the relevant authorities for legal action.

Fugitive caught

Capital police arrested a citizen who has been on the run for two years and wanted to serve two years in jail. The man resisted arrest and tried to escape before being brought under control. – Translated from the Arabic Press

Company gets change order for KD 20m tender

KUWAIT: Combined Group Contracting Company has received a change order on the tender for construction of oil pipelines and affiliate

works for Kuwait Oil Company in North Kuwait. The contract value stands at KD 20 million (\$65.4 million), equivalent to the 24.4 percent of the tender transaction value. The company said in a statement posted on Boursa Kuwait website yesterday that the development would lead to positive yields during execution period of the change order, noting it would notify the bourse about any further developments. The CGCC was established in 1965. It was enlisted at Kuwait bourse in 2006, with a capital amounting to KD 14.8 million (\$48.39 million). — KUNA







Local

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait City landmarks seen on a partially cloudy day. Meteorologists predict a noticeable drop in temperatures next week across the country. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KOC hosts Kuwait 3rd **Flow Measurement Technology Conference**

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) announced yesterday hosting of the third edition of Kuwait Flow Measurement Technology for Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition. The three-day event will kick off on November 19 at the Hilton Kuwait Resort in Mangaf with participation of a number of regional and international oil and gas companies, Ismail Abdullah, Deputy CEO of West Kuwait Directorate at KOC, said in a press statement. The conference focuses on the practical application of measurement technology, highlighting latest research results on all

aspects of flow measurement, Abdullah, also head of the conference's steering committee, noted.

The event represents a unique opportunity to follow-up on latest state of the art flow measurement technologies, he said. It is also a chance to explore cooperation prospects through such an ideal platform for dialogue and communication with prominent specialists and professionals, Abdullah added. The accompanying exhibition will display some of the state-of-the-art innovative technologies, in addition to new products and services related to the oil and gas flow measurement, he noted.

Meanwhile, Rashed Al-Marri, chairman of the conference's technical committee, indicated that Kuwait will host the annual event for the third time in row on behalf of the Middle East region. Some of the notable companies and state institutions taking part in the event are General Electric, Emerson, Krohne, Aramco, KOC, KNPC, EQUATE, and Kuwait University, added Marri. — KUNA

Al-Najat Association sponsors 1,500 Syrian students in Turkey



Official calls for boosting Arab-Chinese sea transport ties

ALEXANDRIA: President of the Arab Sea Ports Federation (ASPF) Sheikh Sheikh Yousef Abdullah Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah has stressed necessity of enhancing the Arab-Chinese cooperation in maritime transport. Sheikh Yousef, who is also Director General of the Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) and the Arab transport sector, made the call in a statement on Tuesday after attending the 52nd meeting of ASPF's board and the second of the Arab Federation of Transport in Alexandria, Egypt.

He added that they had discussed a host of topics website by the end of the year. — KUNA

focusing on how the Arab transport sector and ports could benefit from China's "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) initiative that combines the land-based "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the maritime "21st Century Maritime Silk Road." He added that participants decided to organize a workshop in Kuwait in January to prepare for a scheduled visit by the ASPF and the Arab transport sector to China to hold discussions on the initiative.

Sheikh Yousef voiced hope for enhancing cooperation with China, and increasing the Arab exports to the vast Chinese market. The meeting also addressed a study on forming an emergency integrated team for the federation to intervene in case a catastrophe hits any Arab port, he said. For his part, ASPF Secretary General Admiral Essam Al-Din Badawi emphasized the need of sharing information and expertise among the Arab countries on sea ports. Badawi reiterated ASPF's keenness on developing the human element. He also said work is proceeding by leaps and bounds to complete the federation's

Syrian students. — KUNA

ANKARA: Kuwait's Al-Najat Charity Society announced yesterday sponsoring more than 1,500 Syrian refugee students in the cities of Hatay and Sanliurfa in southern Turkey. The society has schools in several countries, including Turkey, for development and progress of societies and peoples are achieved through education, said Director of the external education department Ibrahim Al-Bader, who is visiting the 'Saed' school in Sanliurfa.

Bader pointed out that the Syrian students are receiving the best education and educational services that combine authenticity, modernity and Islamic values, adding that the Shanli Orfa School achieved first place among schools in the southern regions of Turkey. He also revealed Turkish Ministry of Education approved establishing the Al-Najat charity school to host more than 1,000 students. Bader also said Al-Najat Charity also sponsored more than 50 students in a number of universities abroad, stressing the association's keenness to support these students to complete their educational journey to be active in progress and renaissance of their countries. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Brazil to Kuwait Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta hosted a reception recently on the occasion of the 195th Anniversary of Independence of the Federative Republic at JW Marriott Hotel. Higher officials, diplomats, media person and cross section of the Brazilian community in Kuwait participated in the event.— Photos by Joseph Shagra



Local

Premier receives Bulgarian **Foreign Minister**

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace, in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria Ekaterina Zaharieva and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Head of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikha Etmad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs, Waleed Al-

Khubaizi, and Kuwait's Ambassador to

Bulgaria Yaqoub Al-Ateeqi. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled held a meeting later with his Bulgarian counterpart, during which they reviewed aspects of cooperation between Kuwait and Bulgaria, and discussed ways to boost and enhance their cooperation in all fields and on various levels. They also exchanged views on recent regional and international situation developments, in addition to addressing subjects of mutual interest. —KUNA

Speaker receives NATO lawmakers

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received a visiting NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) delegation yesterday. During the encounter, the two sides stressed the importance of parliamentary communication between nations to best serve humanitarian affairs and preserve the safety and stability of the region and the wider world, the Kuwaiti parliament's Al-Dostour news service said.

Meanwhile, talks focused on several matters of mutual significance and the latest developments on the regional and global fronts. The meeting was held in the attendance of Kuwaiti lawmakers. National Assembly Secretary Awda Al-Ruwai alongside Khalaf Al-Enezi and Khalil Abul. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria Ekaterina Zaharieva. – KUNA



Kuwait's First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah shakes hands with Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Ekaterina Zakharieva.



KUWAIT: Brunei's Legislative Council Speaker Abdul Rahman Taib departed Kuwait yesterday after a four-day visit to the country where he met his Kuwaiti counterpart Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Taib was seen off at the airport by head of the hosting delegation Majed Al-Mutairi, Kuwait's Ambassador to Brunei Fahad Al-Dhafeeri and Brunei's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Kuwait Pengiran Aliuddin. Ghanem had held official discussions with his visiting counterpart three days ago. The talks focused boosting bilateral cooperation, coordinating positions on global issues and regional and international developments. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Brunei's Legislative Council Speaker Abdul Rahman Taib is seen of before departing Kuwait yesterday. --- UNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets a member of a visiting NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation. –KUNA

Sternberg foundation's gold medal goes to Kuwaiti Ambassador

LONDON: The British charity Sternberg Foundation Interfaith awarded yesterday Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United Kingdom Khaled Al-Dowaisan a special golden medallion, in appreciation for his efforts and support to dialogue and building communication between cultures.

In a ceremony marking the occasion at the Kuwaiti Embassy in London, Dowaisan expressed his admiration and honor for the award, noting that he was a close friend to the late Sir Sigmund Sternberg, the founder who established the charity in 1969.

The Kuwaiti ambassador said that he shared with Sternberg his passion for enhancing dialogue between various religions due to his belief in humanity and goodwill, which was created by one God.

Dowaisan added that Sternberg had deep belief in the charity and its noble goals, a man who dedicated his life to show the similarities among the three major reli-



LONDON: Kuwaiti Ambassador to United Kingdom Khaled Al-Dowaisan (right) is pictured with Michael Sternberg. – KUNA

gions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This high distinction was granted following the unanimous decision of the award judges. The medal was granted in recognition of Dowaisan's many years of endeavor and exceptional contribution to the improvement of understanding between the faiths in the United Kingdom and across the world. --KUNA



International



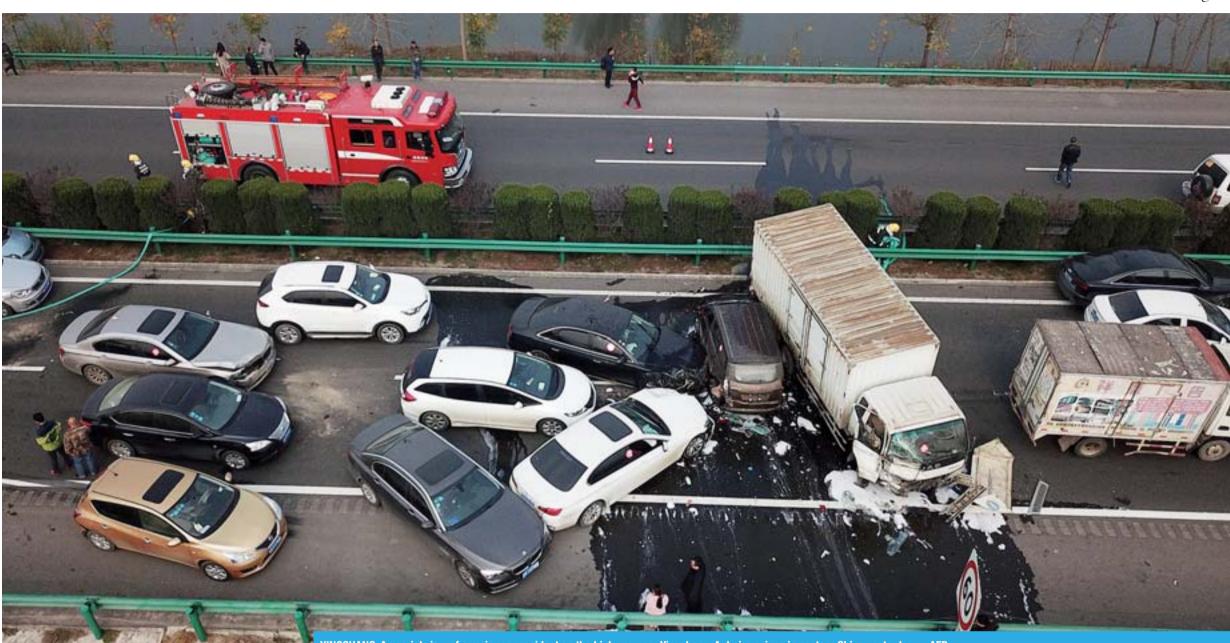
Israel offers quake aid to archenemy Iran

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California

gunman kills 4 in a rampage



(INGSHANG: An aerial view of a major car accident on the highway near Yingshang, Anhui province in eastern China yesterday. —AFP

Horrific highway pile-up kills 18

Pile-up involves at least 30 vehicles

SHANGHAI: A highway pile-up involving at least 30 trucks and over 100 firefighters to the scene. Deadly spending. China has been in the grips of a metro- approved projects worth billions of dollars in recent cars killed 18 people in eastern China yesterday, local authorities said, leaving dramatic scenes of twisted regulations are often flouted or go unenforced. China

and burnt-out wreckage and a towering column of black smoke. Grisly footage from the aftermath in the city of Fuyang in Anhui province showed sedans violently crushed to around half their original size under large cargo trucks and blood stains on vehicle doors as the sound of people crying could be heard. Police said another 21 people were injured including 11 severely in the latest horrific tragedy to strike China's accident-prone highways.

Officers said the brutal mash-up was caused by low visibility due to "fog", but China's notorious air pollution may have also played a role. The Fuyang government had issued a heavy pollution alert for the area, advising residents to minimize outdoor activities. The accident caused several of the vehicles to catch fire in a blaze that raged for more than two hours and left several cars completely charred. Video of the aftermath on Chinese news websites showed one shocked-looking man sitting on the road next to a car while a dead body lay just a few meters (yards) awav.

The local fire department said it dispatched 14

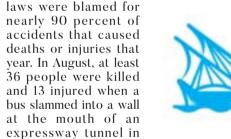
Six years a slave, N Korea defector revisits dark past

LONDON: After arriving in Britain, North Korean defector Jihyun Park tried to forget the horrors of slavery and forced labor that had led her to seek refuge in a strange land until her son surprised her with a question. "He asked me, 'Mummy, why did you abandon me?'. I cried. I didn't think he had remembered," she said. "But later I realized that this was not just my son's question; it's a question for all North Korean children separated from their families. And that's why I tell my story."

Park, 49, who works for advocacy group the European Alliance for Human Rights in North Korea, now lives in a quiet market town in the north of England, but she grew up in North Hamgyong Province in North Korea, the world's most secretive state. In the 1990s famine killed hundreds of thousands there. "My father urged me to leave - it was his dying wish," said Park, who will speak about slavery at the Thomson Reuters Foundation's annual Trust Conference. The young maths teacher found a broker who promised a good job in neighboring China but instead she was sold as a wife to an alcoholic farmer for 5,000 yuan (\$750). "He said I've paid for you so you must work. I spent six years as his slave," Park said. "It was not marriage, it was assault. He was a gambling addict and drank. He hit me and violated me all the time." Park worked up to 16 hours a day, ate only rice and salted vegetables, and had to sit separately from the family. Although there were other North Korean "wives" in the area they were not allowed to meet. After a year she gave birth to a baby son, Chol, who became the centre of her world.

Chol was five when his mother was arrested and deported to North Korea where she was sent to a labor camp. "I didn't get to say goodbye to my son," she said. Activists believe thousands of North Korean women are in hiding in China. Those sent back to the totalitarian state risk incarceration, forced labor and even execution. Rights groups estimate 80,000 to 120,000 North Koreans are in labor camps. "The conditions were unspeakable," Park said. "We were worked like animals." The prisoners farmed mountainous terrain from dawn to dusk, pulling ox-carts laden with soil. They worked barefoot despite the stony ground. If they stopped they were beaten. —Reuters

suffered more than 180,000 traffic accidents in 2015, after population restrictions were loosened last year killing 58,000 people, authorities said last year. to allow more cities to have metro systems. Violations of traffic



In another development, China has hit the brakes

on subway projects in at least three cities and Beijing is asking others to slow down their plans, local gov-

ernments and media have reported, indicating con-

cerns over high debt from city-level infrastructure

northern China, authori-

Beijing hits brakes

ties said.

Such infrastructure

spending has helped to

shore up economic

growth but is now being

scrutinized more closely

after the government

pledged to clamp down

on financial risks.

warned about the risk of

asset bubbles due to

high levels of corporate

and household debt in

the economy. China's

overall debt has jumped

have

Policymakers

Beijing hits brakes on subway boom over debt concerns

> to more than 250 percent of GDP from 150 percent at the end of 2006.

> Financial magazine Caixin, citing unnamed sources close to the matter, reported that authorities in Inner Mongolia's Hohhot and Baotou cities have scrapped

Shaanxi province's capital of Xi'an, said in a statement this month some of its plans had not yet been approved by the state planner, the National Development and Reform Commission. "The NDRC has become more cautious about approving metro construction plans and it will be difficult to achieve approval within the year," it said, adding that one of the factors was debt concerns over the Baotou metro.

The Economic Observer newspaper said it was told by the Wuhan city planner that the NDRC was re-evaluating the country's subway construction situation. The Baotou city planner declined to comment when contacted by Reuters vesterday. The NDRC and authorities in Hohhot and Wuhan did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Guotai Junan analyst Gary Wong said such a crackdown on metro projects was appropriate given that many remote and financially weak cities had undertaken metro projects. He said he did not anticipate a large impact on locomotive suppliers such as CRRC Corp who have shifted focus to metros to offset the slowing high-speed rail market. —Agencies

'Social media suicide' in spotlight after Japan 'Twitter killer'

TOKYO: The grisly beheading of nine young people lured by a suspected serial killer after tweeting suicidal thoughts has sparked debate about the use of social media in Japan, which has one of the world's highest suicide rates. The suspect, Takahiro Shiraishi, dubbed the "Twitter killer", reportedly lured his victims-aged between 15 and 26 - by trawling social media, and the gruesome discovery has prompted the government to consider tightening internet regulations to restrict suicidal posts.

But some experts say social media provides an important means of emotional release in a country grappling with strong cultural taboos around suicide and depression and caution against any clampdown. Police apprehended Shiraishi while investigating the disappearance of a 23-year-old woman, who had reportedly tweeted she wanted to take her own life. "I'm looking for someone to die with me", she tweeted using the hashtag "suicide recruitment".

Like his other victims, Shiraishi reportedly used social media to draw her in, telling her he could help her commit suicide or even die alongside her. But Twitter also proved to be his downfall, as police persuaded a young woman to contact him via social media to arrange a meeting, enabling investigators to trap him.

Four days after the bodies were found in Shiraishi's apartment in a Tokyo suburb last month, Twitter unveiled new rules stating that users "may not promote or encourage suicide or self-harm" but it stopped short of banning tweets expressing a wish to kill oneself. For its part, the government is considering tightening regulations on "inappropriate" websites on suicide, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said last week at a meeting with ministers. Suga added the government should also boost support for young people who post desperate messages online, but did not offer further details.

'Suicide websites'

Japan has the highest suicide rate of any Group of Seven (G7) industrialized nation, with more than 20,000 people taking their own lives each year. While the overall suicide rate has been falling since its 2003 peak, it has continued to rise among young adults and schoolchildren-the most likely users of social media. Some 500 Japanese under 20 years of age kill themselves each year and a Nippon Foundation survey last year showed that one in four people had seriously considered suicide.

In some cases, victims have committed mass suicide after meeting on so-called "suicide websites", a phenomenon that has prompted the government to crack down on people using the internet to post their death wishes. The issue first hit the headlines in 2005, with 91 people in total committing "group suicide" after contacting each other online. In response, the police and communications ministry asked internet service providers to contact them if individuals posted suicidal thoughts online and included details of when and where they planned to kill themselves.

A year later, police began requiring internet providers to delete websites that encourage suicide or recruit people who want to commit mass



TOKYO: Takahiro Shiraishi covers his face with his hands as he is transported to the prosecutor's office from a police station in Tokyo. —AFP

suicide. But their efforts have not paid off. In 2009, five people attempted to commit suicide by burning coal briquettes inside a car in Fukuoka in southern Japan after contacting each other online. A 30-year-old man suffered brain damage as a result, while the other four people were arrested for failing in their responsibility to protect lives and for assisting suicide. -AFP



Turkey condemns militants' 'escape'

ANKARA: Turkey yesterday condemned as "an extremely grave revelation" the potential escape of hundreds of jihadists from the Syrian city of Raqa, saying it underscored the perils of Washington's alliance with Kurdish fighters. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said over 3,000 civilians had left Raqa on October 14 as part of a deal negotiated between officials from the provisional Raqa Civil Council and Syrian IS fighters. The US-led coalition later acknowledged that of these up to 300 were seen as "potential" IS fighters, following a BBC report that hundreds of jihadists, including foreigners, had left as part of the deal.

IS lost control of Raqa on October 17 after months of fighting against the SDF, a Kurdish-dominated force regarded with disdain by Turkey. The Turkish foreign ministry described the information as an "extremely grave and eye-opening revelation", accusing the SDF of negotiating with IS to evacuate fighters. The SDF is dominated by the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara views as a "terror" group linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) waging an insurgency inside Turkey. Ankara has long lambasted Washington for working with and arming the YPG as the main US ally in the fight against IS.

'Terror corridor'

The ministry said the purpose of the YPG was not to fight IS "but to create illegitimate faits-accomplis on the ground, to occupy territories and to alter their demographic structures," the ministry said. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed he would not allow a "terror corridor" controlled by the YPG in Syria close to Turkey's border. He has also warned that Turkey could yet mount a military operation against the YPG to oust the group from the northern Syrian town of Afrin.

Concerns over the Raqa deal came to the fore this week after the BBC reported on Monday that hundreds of IS fighters, including foreigners, had left Raqa in a massive convoy assembled on October 12. But at the time the US-led coalition against IS said it was "very adamant" that foreign IS fighters not be allowed to leave Raqa. Coalition spokesman Colonel Ryan Dillon said on Tuesday that "out of the 3,500 civilians that came out of... Raqa at that time, approximately less than 300 were identified and screened as potential (IS) fighters." Turkey has suffered a series of attacks blamed on IS militants over the past two years, the latest in January at an elite Istanbul nightclub during which an IS gunman killed 39 people. — AFP

Israeli PM offers quake aid to archenemy Iran

'Enmity between governments doesn't prevent sympathy'

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has offered aid to the victims of the weekend's deadly earthquake in Iran insisting enmity between the two governments does not prevent humanitarian sympathy. The offer, made in a video conference with the Jewish Federations of North America, was largely rhetorical. Iran does not recognize the Jewish state and Israeli media reported that the offer was swiftly turned down through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

But it comes as many of the tens of thousands left homeless by the quake have vented anger at the Islamic regime for what they say has been the slow response of the charitable foundations set up after the revolution of 1979. "I saw these heartbreaking images of men and women and children buried under the rubble," Netanyahu told the meeting in Los Angeles. "A few hours ago, I directed that we offer the Red Cross medical assistance for the Iraqi and Iranian victims of this disaster. "I've said many times that we have no quarrel with the people of Iran. Our quarrel is only with the tyrannical regime that holds them hostage and threatens our destruction.

But our humanity is greater than their hatred." More than 400 people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless by the quake that struck on the Iran-Iraq border late on Sunday. Israel regards Iran and its close ally Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah as its most dangerous foes. Iran has been a staunch supporter of Palestinian militant

groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Tens of thousands of Jews of Iranian ancestry have played a prominent role in the state of Israel, counting among their number a former president, a former army chief and several former government ministers.

Meanwhile, Iranian survivors pleaded yesterday for water, tents

and other emergency supplies as aid trickled into hit city of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, a convoy of about 20 remote villages near the Iraqi border. The government ambulances arrived with medicine while Red Crescent



SARPOL-E-ZAHAB: An Iranian army soldier inspects a smashed car by the debris of an earthquake damaged building in Sarpol-e-Zahab in western Iran yesterday. - AP

ordered rescuers to keep searching for people trapped under the rubble following the 7.3-magnitude quake

which struck the mountainous region late Sunday, toppling build-Aid slow ings and leaving thousands homeless. At least to reach 500 people were killed in Iran, all in the western earthquake-hit province of Kermanshah, and eight in Iraq, accord-Iranian villages ing to authorities in the two countries.

In total, nearly 8,200 people were reported to have been injured. In villages north of the badly

teams brought tents, water, food, and blankets. But much of the assistance came from ordinary Iranians, some of whom travelled more than 100 kilometers from a neighboring province. "God bless them!" resident Abdol Gaderi, 45, said of the volunteers, but "we need running water, electricity, and mobile toilets". Villagers voiced fears of disease breaking out because of the corpses of animals under the rubble.

In Ghaleh Bahadori, where around 30 Red Crescent tents had been provided, residents pleaded for more help. "This is not enough," said Tooraj Mohammadi, adding that most families in the village had been left homeless. "Thirty people died here. We buried them ourselves in coordination with the police," he said. In Iran alone, the guake is estimated to have caused damage of 26,000 billion Iranian rials (about \$6.3 billion), Kermanshah provincial deputy governor Mojtaba Nikkerdar said, quoted by the ISNA news agency. — Agencies



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International

Murder, money laundering in Malta, a challenge for EU

Sanctioned companies are rarely exposed publicly

EU Parliament

to vote on rule

of law in Malta

BRUSSELS: The European Union has called very publicly for Malta to bring to justice the killers of a journalist who accused the Mediterranean island's leaders of profiting from global corruption. But it has for years been much less vocal-and had little success-in ensuring Malta act to prevent money laundering, according to sources familiar with the work of the Maltese authori-

ties and a Reuters review of EU and Maltese data. The data show the smallest EU state has been slow to apply international guidelines on naming firms that do not take action against dubious practices, and the number of convictions and sanctions for money laundering has been low. Malta has also con-

sistently registered fewer reports of "suspect transactions" from banks, casinos and other financial operators than any other EU state, according to the data, despite having a disproportionately large financial sector. The European Parliament on Tuesday debated the rule of law in Malta, and will vote on a resolution that says "several serious allegations of corruption and breach of anti-money laundering" obligations were not investigated by the Maltese police.

But criticism of Malta on money laundering-in lowkey reports by international supervisory bodies and by anti-corruption campaigner Daphne Caruana Galizia, killed by a car bomb on Oct 16 - appears so far to have had little impact. "Malta has sold its sovereignty to dirty money. The European Commission should take a more active role in investigating the condition of rule of law in Malta," Sven Giegold, a member of European Parliament from Germany's Greens party who campaigns against financial crime, told Reuters.

He said an international investigator was needed to counter a "culture of impunity and fiddling between political and economic elites" in Malta. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat told Reuters last month Malta's financial services sector was "as transparent, solid and compliant as any other European jurisdiction". European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans told lawmakers on Tuesday the EU executive had "no general concerns" about Malta's compliance with anti-money laundering laws though "improvements could be made on various levels."

Finance hub

Despite having a population of only 420,000, Malta, a former British naval stronghold south of Sicily, has a

financial sector that dwarfs many EU countries. It is also the European leader in online gaming. In 2016. assets of banks and financial institutions in Malta were more than 20 times its gross domestic product, about five times the equivalent figure for Germany and nearly four times the euro zone average, European Central

Bank figures show. Yet in a report on the EU's antimoney laundering efforts that was released without fanfare in September, Europol said Malta reported fewer suspect transactions than other EU states between 2008, when it adopted the euro, and 2014. Europol also raised concerns that Malta and Cyprus may be failing to report as many cases as they should.

The supervisory authorities "receive very few reports given the size of their banking sectors and the significance of these jurisdictions in offshore financial services," Europol said.

Malta's Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU), the country's anti-money laundering agency, received 202 reports of suspect transactions in 2014, the last year for which Europol data are available. Lithuania recorded the next fewest-over 50 percent more than Malta in a financial sector one sixth the size. By contrast, the Netherlands, a much bigger economy, reported 277,532 dubious movements in 2014, the highest number in the euro-zone. FIAU's deputy director, Alfred Zammit, told Reuters it was impossible to conduct a "meaningful comparison" among EU countries based on available statistics because of different structures and reporting regimes in member states.

"It is indeed arguable that given the size of the financial sector in Malta, one would expect to see more suspicious transaction reports submitted to the FIAU,"



VALLETTA: People give the v-sign as they attend the funeral of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, in Valletta on Friday, Nov 3, 2017. — AP

Zammit said. But he said Malta was tackling the problem by increasing awareness of the obligation to report by organizing training sessions. The annual number of reports in Malta more than doubled from 2014 to 2017 although the proportion of those that were passed to the police fell to 11 percent last year from 24 percent in 2013, FIAU data show. The Maltese police and the FIAU did not respond to questions from Reuters on how many of these cases were investigated or led to successful prosecutions.

Convictions

Malta's court handed down four money laundering criminal convictions last year but disclosed none in the financial sector. The results of a European Parliament inquiry released this month said the number of convictions was "extremely low" and the institutions implementing and enforcing rules on money laundering were "highly politicized". Banks not complying with moneylaundering rules have received small fines which in few cases were made public, contrary to guidelines recommending exposure to deter wrongdoing.

Zammit said the public disclosure of a higher number of sanctioned institutions would have been "disproportionate when compared to the nature of the breach". Moneyval, the anti-money laundering watchdog of the Council of Europe, Europe's leading human rights organization, has also raised concerns. It said in a 2012 report that Malta's reporting of suspicious transactions was low for the size of its market. In a subsequent report in 2015, Moneyval found the country "largely compliant". A Moneyval spokesman told Reuters the latest report was however not based on a full assessment of the Maltese legal framework.-Reuters

News in brief

Pope auctions Lamborghini

Trump returns

election cycle defending their new colleague, or overturn the will of Alabama voters by casting him out of the Senate. If Moore loses and the seat flips Democratic control, the party loses a critical vote in its razor-thin Senate majority, with issues like tax reform and immigration set to be considered in the coming months. "I have to get back into the country to see what's happening," Trump told reporters over the weekend as he flew from Danang, Vietnam to Hanoi during his fivenation tour of Asia. But behind the scenes, he was vexed by the issue. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Trump had been involved in dealing with the Moore situation "in great detail" during the trip. McConnell said he and Trump discussed the question on Friday, with chief of staff John Kelly and Vice President Mike Pence weighing in on subsequent days. Trump's 12-day trip, the longest of his presidency, was quickly overshadowed at home by the shocking accusations of sexual assault on minors by Moore, who was embraced publicly by the White House last month after winning the state's GOP primary. The shocking revelations dominated cable news for days, as Moore denied the allegations and pledged to stay in the race. Even Chinese President Xi Jinping was drawn in. "Who is Roy Moore?" Xi asked Trump privately after they delivered joint statements to reporters, in a moment described by two White House officials not



VATICAN CITY: Luxury sports car maker Lamborghini has presented Pope Francis with a brand-new, special edition Huracan that will be auctioned off with the proceeds donated to charity. Lamborghini officials presented the sleek, white car with yellow-gold detailing to Francis yesterday in front of the Vatican hotel where he lives. The pope promptly blessed it. Some of the funds raised from the Sotheby's auction will go to rebuilding Christian communities in Iraq devastated by the Islamic State group. The Vatican said yesterday that the aim is to allow displaced Christians "to finally return to their roots and recover their dignity." Base prices for the Huracan, introduced in 2014, usually start at around 183,000 euros. A special edition built for a papal charity would be expected to fetch far more at auction.

Flash flood kills 6

ATHENS: At least seven people died yesterday and more were missing after a strong overnight downpour flooded three towns in Greece, officials said. The flooding struck the towns of Mandra, Nea Peramos and Megara, a semi-rural area west of Athens where many warehouses are located. "Everything is lost, the disaster is biblical," Mandra mayor Ioanna Kriekouki said. "We have people who are trapped... we need machinery to get them out of their homes," said Kriekouki, who was also immobilized in her home. Five people were found inside and outside their homes, the fire department said. Another two bodies were found in the coastal areas of Aspropyrgos and Elefsina, the coastguard said. State TV ERT said at least three more people were missing. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said the deaths had been caused by "disastrous flood" and expressed deep sorrow. TV images showed large vehicles such as tanker trucks, buses and lorries nearly completely submerged in the muddy torrent.

Rare quake hits S Korea

SEOUL: A rare 5.4-magnitude earthquake hit South Korea's southeast vesterday afternoon, the second most powerful quake on record in a country that seldom experiences significant tremors. The quake, felt across much of the country including in the capital Seoul, struck at the shallow depth of nine kilometers near the industrial city of Pohang at around 2:30 pm, the Korea Meteorological Administration said. Seven people were injured, Seoul's public administration ministry said, but they warned that number could rise because the quake was shallow. The Korean peninsula is rarely troubled by significant quakes. But seismic activity is closely monitored because a spike in activity is often the first indication that North Korea has carried out a nuclear test. The port city of Pohang is home to the headquarters of Posco, the world's fourth largest steelmaker. No immediate damage was reported in the firm's steel mills.

to GOP panic

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump spent five days in Asia largely keeping the Alabama Senate scandal at bay. He won't be so lucky on US soil. The president returned to Washington on Tuesday night and walked straight into a party panic over the sexual misconduct accusations dogging GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore. Having pushed publicly and privately for Moore to get out of the race, Republicans believe their last best shot is Trump, who they hope can persuade his fellow political rebel to fall in line. Trump has given little indication of whether he's interested in playing the role of party heavy. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders has echoed other Republican leaders, saying last Friday that Moore should step aside if the allegations are true. But as other Republicans began to call for Moore to quit the race, Trump was notably silent in public. On Tuesday, he didn't address the issue when he spoke with reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew back to Washington, nor did he respond to shouted questions about Moore as he entered the White House that night.

For Trump and Republicans, there are no good options. If Moore wins, they can either spend an already harrowing midterm

ALABAMA: Republican candidate for US Senate Judge Roy Moore and his wife Kayla Moore speak during a campaign event at the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama. — AFP

authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

GOP officials cautioned that the actions of Washington Republicans, including the president, were unlikely to affect Moore's decision-making - and that any moves against him could backfire in an antiestablishment political environment. The president backed Moore's unsuccessful rival, Sen. Luther Strange, in the Republican primary. Moore has the backing of Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon. And Bannon's conservative news site, Breitbart, has led the charge in trying to discredit the allegations against Moore.

One person familiar with the president's thinking said Trump has been slow to call for Moore to exit the race in part because he risked embarrassment if, as expected, Moore defied him. On Tuesday, the Republican National Committee halted its efforts on Moore's behalf, following similar action by the National Republican Senatorial Committee on Friday. Three Republicans familiar with the RNC's decision, but not authorized to discuss it publicly, said Trump signed off on the move to cut Moore loose.— AP

California gunman kills 4 in a rampage

CALIFORNIA: The gunman behind a rampage in Northern California was out on bail for a charge of stabbing a neighbor, had been the object of complaints from neighbors who said he had been firing off hundreds of rounds of ammunition, and had been the subject of a domestic violence call the day before the attack. Yet Kevin Neal was free and able to use a semiautomatic rifle and two handguns Tuesday to shoot 14 people, killing four, in seven different locations across his rural community, including an elementary school, before he died in a shootout with police.

It's not yet clear what the terms of Neal's bail were, and whether he would have been allowed to possess and fire the weapons on his property at the end of a dirt road in Rancho Tehama Reserve. Nor did sheriff's officials give details on the domestic violence call. But his many contacts with authorities raised questions of why he was out of custody and able to go on the 45-minute rampage that began with the killing of two neighbors in an apparent act of revenge before he went looking for random victims. Cristal Caravez and her father live across a ravine from the roadway where the gunman and his first victims lived.

She said they and others heard constant gunfire from the area of the gunman's house, but couldn't say for sure it was him firing. "You could hear the yelling. He'd go off the hinges," she said. The shooting, "it would be during the day, during the night, I mean, it didn't matter." She and her father, who is president of the homeowners association, said neighbors would complain to the sheriff's department, which referred the complaints back to the homeowners association. The sheriff wouldn't do anything about it," said Juan Caravez. The gunman's sister, Sheridan Orr, said her brother had struggled with mental illness throughout his life and at times had a violent temper.

She said Neal had "no business" owning firearms. Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston said the shooter was facing charges of assaulting one of the feuding neighbors in January and that she had a restraining order against him. Johnston did not comment on the shooter's access to firearms. Johnston declined to identify the shooter until his relatives were notified, but



RANCHO TEHAMA RESERVE: A crime scene photographer takes photos of a Sheriff's vehicle that was involved in a shooting in Rancho Tehama, California. — AFP

he confirmed the gunman was charged with assault in January and had a restraining order placed against him. The district attorney, Gregg Cohen, told the Sacramento Bee he is prosecuting a man named Kevin Neal in that case. Neal's mother said her son, who was a marijuana grower, was in a long-running dispute with neighbors he believed were cooking methamphetamine. The mother, who spoke on condition she be named only as Anne, lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she raised Neal. She said she posted his \$160,000 bail and spent \$10,000 on a lawyer after he was arrested in January for stabbing a neighbor. Neal's mother said the neighbor was slightly cut after Neal grabbed a steak knife out of the hand of the neighbor who was threatening him with it.- AP



International

With just one mosque, Belgrade's Muslims are forced to improvise

Islamic community says authorities block mosque construction

BELGRADE: In the shadow of a demolished mosque, three new mosques to be built and says the shortage raises dozen men gathered in a house in a gloomy district of northern Belgrade. The Muslim call to prayer drifted out through the open door. "This was a family home. We can pray in it, but it's (the building) not legal," said Hilmija, a 47-year-old Muslim and member of Serbia's Roma minority, as he entered. "It's humiliating." The house - and the ruins it stands next to - represent just some of the ad hoc efforts of around 20,000 Muslims in the Serbian capital to gather in worship in a city which is overwhelmingly Orthodox Christian.

Belgrade has one mosque - dating from 1575 when the city was part of the Ottoman Turkish empire - and it has a fraught relationship with Islam. Many Muslims left during the collapse of socialist Yugoslavia, when Serbia backed its ethnic kin in Bosnia in the massacre of Muslim Bosniaks and fought a counterinsurgency war in its own southern province of

Kosovo against mainly Muslim Albanians. The shortage of Belgrade mosques was thrown into sharp relief this year when authorities tore down a makeshift mosque in the northern district of Zemun Polje on the eve of Ramadan in May.

Local Muslims initially came out in protest to block the demolition, but the buildozers returned with a police escort after dark. All that is left is a jumbled mass of broken concrete and twisted rebars. Muslims now gather in prayer in the house next door and in other private homes around the city. The Islamic community in Serbia says Belgrade authorities have repeatedly ignored requests for

questions about the country's commitment to minority rights, an important gauge of its readiness for membership of the European Union.

The EU, which Serbia is negotiating to join, has taken notice, warning in a 2016 progress report: "The rights of persons belonging to a national minority to establish and register religious institutions, build and use places of worship need to be fully guaranteed in practice". European Commission officials did not reply to requests for comment. The Secretariat for Urban Planning in Belgrade's city

hall denied blocking construction of new mosques, saying it had no record of any building requests from the Islamic from Community of Serbia.

Mufti Muhamed Hamdi Jusufspahic, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Community of Serbia, said Serbia's byzantine bureaucracy and suspicion of Islam meant the cards were stacked against them.

"We've sought permits on a number of occasions for a number of locations, for decades ... but we never reached the point of even qualifying to submit papers," he said. "Every request would be put in the drawer." The Serbian justice ministry said it was unaware of any problem. "Serbia fulfils all EU criteria on securing religious rights and liberties, along with provisions from the constitution," Mileta Radojevic, who heads the ministry's department for cooperation with religious communities, said in an email to Reuters.

In total, Serbia is home to around 230,000 Muslims, accounting for some 3.1 percent of the population, concentrated mainly in the southwestern Sandzak region that borders Bosnia, Kosovo and Montenegro. In 2004, in response to a wave of Albanian attacks on minority Serbs in Kosovo, rioters set the Belgrade mosque ablaze and torched another in the southern city of Nis.

Both have since been restored. Emin Zejnulahu, mufti of

the demolished mosque in Zemun Polje, said Muslims would not be deterred. "We must practice our religion, regardless of the obstacles," he said. "We have to be good neighbors to everyone, regardless of their faith and nationality."- Reuters

Small cities choke as India remains callous to bad air

MORADABAD: In the northern Indian city of Moradabad fumes from burning electronic waste blend with seasonal smog to create an even deadlier mix of pollutants than in Delhi, where filthy air has caused public outcry and made global headlines. India's smog crisis has centered on the capital but pollution is as bad or worse beyond its borders, with millions in smaller cities like Moradabad barely aware of the

gases and fine airborne particles, hit 500 the absolute maximum beyond which no further readings can be obtained.

The dial remained stuck there for almost a week. The smog mingles with tiny particles released by burning e-waste that the WHO says can cause "irreversible damage" to children's immune and nervous systems in high doses. There was little evidence of masks or other precautions being taken even as smog hung so thick it burned the eyes and blurred visibility. On a rooftop, pollution researcher Aprajita Singh inspected an air quality monitor and filters she had changed just hours earlier. The white discs had turned completely black. "Air quality in this city is very, very bad. It has an averse impact on our health," Singh, an expert on the damaging impacts of e-waste said.





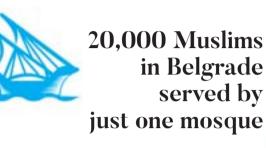
mosque, three dozen men gathered in a house in a gloomy district of northern Belgrade. Belgrade has one

mosque - dating from 1575 when the city was part of the Ottoman Turkish empire. - AP

News in brief

Bullet-ridden bodies

QUETTA: Pakistani police yesterday found 15 bulletridden bodies of kidnap victims near the border with Iran, a favored route for human traffickers taking workers illegally to Europe. The bodies were found abandoned in a mountainous region of Buleda, in Baluchistan province, 600 km south of the provincial capital of Quetta, district commissioner Bashir Ahmad Bangalzai said. He said documents and other belongings found on the bodies suggested that they were en route to Iran illegally. Human smuggling is big business in Pakistan and other poor South Asian countries. There have been instances of workers being killed in border areas, or sometimes dying during road or sea travel. It was not clear what prompted the killings, said Bangalzai. He said all 15 came from Pakistan's eastern province of Punjab. "We're getting in contact with their families," he said. A police official said all 15 were reported to have been kidnapped on Tuesday.



harmful effects of the air they breathe.

For more than a week toxic smog has hovered over densely populated regions of northern India and Pakistan, sending pollution levels soaring to many times the World Health Organization safe limit. Delhi, the world's most polluted capital city, became the epicenter of the crisis as doctors declared a public health emergency and sent millions of students home from school. But in Moradabad, like many cities across northern India, air pollution was also off the charts. Yet few appeared fazed at their city's degraded environment despite the metallic taste hanging in the air.

"There is no pollution," declared resident Shetty Bhai, as dozens of furnaces in the background billowed reeking smoke from smoldering e-waste into the air. "We face no issues and work, play and run normally. We don't suffer from any disease," he said. The city's nearly one million inhabitants face a toxic brew beyond what instruments can measure. The air quality index, a combined measure of poisonous

Health worsening

WHO in 2016 reported that 10 of the world's top-20 polluted cities were in India, including four in the enormous state of Uttar Pradesh east of Delhi. Moradabad is just a dot on the map in this impoverished state-which at 200 million people has the population of a large country. But its dire air is emblematic of the annual pollution scourge that stretches far beyond Delhi as burning crops, industrial smog and car emissions blend with cool, still air to create a toxic mix. In the capital, local authorities shut brick kilns and industrial sites in an attempt to curb conditions described by the city's chief minister as a "gas chamber".

But in Moradabad, the city's mainstay industry in e-waste scavenging roars on. Metal salvagers illegally burn huge mounds of discarded electrical chips by the riverside, hoping to extract traces of gold and

MORADABAD: A worker walks with his horse after dumping waste from brass factories on the banks of Ramganga river in Moradabad. —AFP

silver while exposing city dwellers to fumes laced with heavy metals and carcinogens. The dirty industry has boomed in recent years amid a slump in brass processing, and ever greater clouds of metallic smoke have hovered over the city's streets. "The main cause of worsening air pollution is rampant electronic waste burning. Pollution levels have peaked in the last decade," Singh, the researcher said.

Health experts say a lack of awareness around the harmful impacts of smog in smaller northern Indian hubs like Moradabad puts these pollution blackspots at enormous risk. "Local newspapers write about pollution in New Delhi, but there is no mention of pollution in Moradabad,"

Anamika Tripathi, project coordinator with the National Air Monitoring Program said. Monitoring is also a huge issue. India has just 30 real-time pollution monitoring sta-tions for its nearly 1.25 billion people, most of them in Delhi, leaving blank spots across its northern Indian smog zone.

This means tens of millions remain largely oblivious to harmful spikes in airborne pollutants, particularly PM2.5, microscopic particles that lodge deep in the lungs. Azeem Iqbal, a leading pulmonologist in Moradabad, said his caseload had skyrocketed in the past fortnight. Most were ewaste scavengers who spend long days inhaling toxic fumes over piles of smoldering metal, Doctor Iqbal said. —AFP

Cow vigilantes arrested

NEW DELHI: Indian police have arrested two Hindu farmers in connection with the killing of a Muslim man suspected of smuggling cows to a slaughter house, the investigating officer said yesterday. Hardline Hindu groups have gained prominence since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in 2014, and the protection of cows, considered holy by many in the Hindu-majority country, is a priority for them. Police found the body of Ummar Khan, 35 on Friday on railway tracks in Alwar district, in the northwestern state of Rajasthan. The two suspects were detained on Monday and arrested the next day, said Rahul Prakash, the top police officer in Alwar. "It is a clear case of murder over the issue of cow protection and we have also found that the victim was running a cow-smuggling racket," Prakash said.

Lorry crash kills 15

BUNIA: At least 15 people were killed when a lorry tumbled into a river in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, official sources said yesterday. Four people were also hurt after the vehicle came off the road at Isiro as it returned from a local market, Haut-Uele province governor Jean-Pierre Lola Kisanga said. Kisanga said the incident near the border with Central African Republic and South Sudan was being investigated. Another source said 16 people were injured while the 7sur7.cd news website said more than 60 people were aboard in total. A local official blamed excess speed as the cause of the crash. Road accidents are a regular occurrence in the Democratic Republic of Congo given its poor infrastructure. Sunday saw 33 people killed in the south east of the country after a freight train loaded with fuel crashed and caught fire.

Singapore train collision

SINGAPORE: At least 28 people were injured in a train collision in Singapore yesterday, officials said, the latest incident to hit the troubled metro system. The injured passengers were taken to hospital with most sustaining minor injuries, said the Singapore Civil Defense Force. Transport officials said a train hit a stationary faulty train at the elevated Joo Koon station in the far west of the city state during the morning rush hour. "At 8.19am, a second train stopped behind the first faulty train. At 8.20am, the second train moved forward unexpectedly, and came into contact with the first train," regulator Land Transport Authority (LTA) and train operator SMRT said in a joint statement. They later said 26 passengers and two SMRT employees had been sent to nearby hospitals with "light to moderate injuries", adding that most of the victims were discharged after treatment. Both LTA and SMRT said they are investigating the incident, which sparked a fresh round of criticism on social media of the metro system, once the pride of Singapore and the envy of its neighbors.

Celebrations spread after **Australia backs** same-sex marriage

SYDNEY: Celebrations swept across Australia yesterday as voters emphatically endorsed same-sex marriage after more than a decade of divisive debate, and political leaders immediately began moves to enshrine the historic shift in law by Christmas. Thousands of marriage equality supporters took to parks and squares across the vast country, hugging, dancing and singing under clouds of glitter when the results of the two-month-long postal survey were announced.

Revelers wrapped in rainbow colors swarmed the entertainment districts of Sydney, Melbourne and other cities, closing streets as the party continued late into the evening. "This means everything, this means everything," shouted one partygoer named Chris at a huge rally in Sydney, fighting back tears and hugging his partner Victor. "It has been fantastic. I have been with my partner for 35 years and he was so joyed up that he burst into tears," added another reveler, Gerry Boller. Almost 62 percent of the 12.7 million people who participated voted "yes" to the question: "Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry?

Just 38.4 percent voted "no", according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which carried out the poll. Irish-born Qantas Airlines chief Alan Joyce, who is openly gay

and campaigned strongly for the "yes" campaign, also fought back tears as he spoke of his delight. "I was so proud of Ireland in May 2015 when they became the first nation in the world to vote for marriage equality... But today I am even more proud of Australia, the country of my selection," he said in Sydney. Nearly 80 percent of eligible voters took part in the poll, with the 'yes" vote winning a majority in all of Australia's states and territories.

'Yes for love'

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, a moderate conservative who backed the yes" camp, hailed the result of the nonbinding vote and vowed to pass a bill legalizing marriage equality "before Christmas". Australians "voted yes for fairness, yes for commitment, yes for love", Turnbull said, adding that he had already been invited to 'stacks" of gay weddings once the law takes hold. "Now it is up to us, here in the Parliament of Australia... to get on with the job the Australian people have tasked us to do and get this done, this year, before Christmas." Within hours of the vote result, Dean Smith, a Senator from Turnbull's Liberal Party who is gay, introduced a bill that would legalize gay marriage while allowing religious institutions and clergy to refuse to celebrate same-sex unions if they conflict with their beliefs.

Hardline opponents in Turnbull's party have pressed for more extensive religious protections to allow commercial service providers to reject same-sex weddings and let parents pull their children from school programs they feel undermine heterosexual traditions. They have support notably from Muslim and some conservative Christian communities which returned a high per-



SYDNEY: Supporters of the same-sex marriage 'Yes' vote gather to celebrate the announcement in a Sydney park yesterday. —AFP

centage of "no" votes in the survey. But Turnbull rejected those calls this week and he and the opposition Labor Party are expected to back a bill based on Smith's proposal with a "conscience vote" in the two houses of parliament.

"We will have a bill that will deliver on the instructions the Australian people have given us to change the law to allow samesex couples to marry. That is our job. It is over to us now," he said. A survey of federal politicians by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation published Tuesday found that 72 percent of House members and 69 percent of Senators would support the change

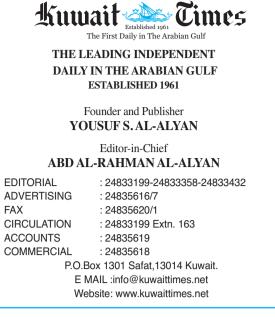
to marriage laws. Turnbull called the postal vote in the face of opposition from hardliners who refused to back a national plebiscite on the issue. The move was opposed by proponents of same-sex marriage, who wanted direct legislative action.

They said the lengthy vote process was both a waste of money-it cost just under Aus\$100 million (US\$76 million) - and exposed gay people and their families to hate speech. "No" campaigners said they would continue defending their cause. "In a democracy, just because you win it doesn't mean you... bulldoze forward," said Senator Eric Abetz, a prominent "no" campaigner. —AFP





Analysis



Poland turns to fossil soul mate Trump as coal output flags

"Whenever you need energy, just give us a call," US President Donald Trump said on a visit to Poland in the summer. Now, with winter setting in, Warsaw is taking him up on the offer. Poland's state coal trader Weglokoks is to due receive its first ever shipment of US coal imminently and industry sources expect state or private buyers to take at least three more cargoes over the next seven months, even though Europe as a whole is shifting away from the most carbon-intensive energy source.

With both countries led by fossil fuel advocates, the benefits are mutual. Poland has to meet a shortfall left by the failure of national mining giant PGG to achieve its production targets, while US miners are relying on export growth as power utilities at home switch to cheaper, cleaner alternatives. Poland's government, which like the Trump administration is championing its national mining industry, came to power in 2015 promising energy self-sufficiency for the European Union's biggest coal-burning nation.

Energy Minister Krzysztof Tchorzewski rejects any suggestion of crisis due to the problems at PGG, even though smaller traders have often queued for coal in recent weeks. "A psychosis related to coal shortages has appeared on the market," he told reporters. "I can say that this winter no one will be cold in their homes because of a lack of coal." Tchorzewski declined to comment on possible imports and PGG, the EU's biggest coal miner which accounts for almost 60 percent of Polish output, has yet to announce its 2017 production data.

However, the pledges of national self-sufficiency made by Prime Minister Beata Szydlo - a miner's daughter - are under strain as PGG will miss its 2017 target of 32 million tons by 4 or 5 million tons, industry sources say. Last year the companies that now form PGG mined 33.5 million tons out of Poland's total output of 57.2 million. The shortfall will be relatively small in 2017 but is likely to grow in



Italy election pits populists vs populists

One candidate for prime minister in Italy's election next year says he'll slash taxes by 50 billion euros and hike the budget deficit to pay for it. Another wants to bring back the lira Italy used until 2002 - and then there are the populists. To most people, that label belongs to the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, which leads opinion polls ahead of the vote due to be held by May. But looking at the main parties' economic plans it is hard to judge who deserves it most.

The economy is growing at its fastest clip since 2010 but politicians of all stripes say they will use the extra resources to cut taxes and spend more, rather than pay down the biggest debt burden in the euro zone after Greece's. Italy was at the heart of the euro zone debt crisis in 2011 and the election is seen the next source of potential instability in the currency bloc, especially if parties carry out the maverick policies they are proposing.

The vow to chop up to €50 billion (\$60 billion) off income and corporate taxes and renege on Italy's commitment to balance its budget comes from the leader of the ruling Democratic Party (PD), former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. He wants to hike the deficit from a targeted 2.1 percent of gross domestic product this year to 3 percent and then hold it at that level, and said this month he would "bang his fists on the table" in Brussels to get his way. for a deep double dip recession between 2008 and 2013 from which the country is only gradually recovering. A survey commissioned by the European Parliament last month showed only 39 percent of Italians felt their country had benefitted from EU membership, putting it bottom among the bloc's 28 nations. Policies considered responsible by Europe's political and economic mainstream are seen as vote-losers in Italy, where 5-Star has often set the political agenda in recent years.



Berlusconi himself has often been called populist since he entered politics in 1994 promising "lower taxes for everyone," but now both he and Renzi are casting themselves as moderate leaders whose role is to halt the maverick 5-Star. The 81-year-old media tycoon's main coalition partner is Matteo Salvini, head of the anti-immigrant Northern League and an ally of French National Front leader Marine Le Pen and Geert Wilders of the right-wing Freedom Party in the Netherlands.

The League has its own scheme for a parallel currency, which it calls mini-BOTs, named after Italy's shortterm Treasury bills, which it sees as a probable stepping-stone to exiting the euro. As well as a parallel currency, Salvini wants to introduce a single tax rate of 15 percent for individuals and companies instead of the current five staggered income tax brackets of between 23 and 43 percent.

The party's economic spokesman Claudio Borghi told Reuters the "flat tax" would reduce revenues by €40 billion (about 2.5 percent of GDP) but this would soon be offset by a reduction in tax evasion and a boost to growth He said the League planned to introduce this radical tax plan in its first budget, to obtain a "surprise effect", and it was no problem if it pushed up the budget deficit and raised objections in Brussels. "We have no intention of respecting current deficit targets," he said. "We couldn't care less about the opinions of others because we pay in to Europe more than we get back, so why should others have a say on our spending or our deficit?" 5-Star has about 28 percent of the vote, according to opinion polls, followed by the PD on 25 percent and the center-right allies the Northern League and Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy!), each with around 15 percent. Under the largely proportional electoral system, no party or coalition is expected to win a majority of seats in parliament. -Reuters

years to come.

The Navios Helios, a vessel which has brought the 73,616-ton shipment for Weglokoks from Baltimore, is waiting off the Baltic port of Gdansk and will probably enter the harbor today afternoon, a port spokeswoman said. Until now, only private importers have bought coal cargoes from the United States, and the industry sources say the Weglokoks purchase proves the trend is gathering momentum. "Everyone is trying to buy US coal. If you have coal now, you're the king," an executive at one Polish mine said.

Common cause with Trump

Europe is playing a leading role in United Nations action to limit global warming. Talks on implementing the 2015 Paris climate agreement are underway in Germany and scientists say world carbon emissions are set to rise this year to a new record, dashing hopes that they had already peaked. Since Szydlo's nationalist Law and Justice Party came to power, Warsaw has been at odds with the EU over several issues, including environmental standards. Poland will host next year's round of U.N. climate talks in the southern city of Katowice - the center of the coalproducing Silesia region and PGG's home.

In promoting a national coal industry and trying to preserve jobs in traditional heavy industries, Poland can appear to have more in common with Trump than its western European partners. However, while Trump has decided to pull the United States out of the Paris agreement, Warsaw is staying in. The government of Silesian-born Szydlo has opposed EU policies to reduce carbon emissions as they set binding targets, but backs the Paris deal as it did not impose specific obligations on signatories.

Warsaw does share at least one EU energy aim in seeking to avoid dependency on Russia, which has in the past curbed gas supplies piped via Ukraine to countries including Poland. The EU's answer is to reduce energy consumption but Poland, which relies on coal to produce 80 percent of its electricity, is simply seeking alternative sources to Russia. Trump is eager to oblige. "America stands ready to help Poland and other European nations diversify their energy supplies, so that you can never be held hostage to a single supplier," he said on his visit in July. Polish imports of US coal have already leapt more than 500 percent in the first half of this year, figures from the US Energy Information Administration show.

Huge and inefficient

Warsaw is banking on coal even more than Washington. Despite Trump's incentives, US utilities are shutting coal-fired plants and shifting to gas, wind and solar power. By contrast, Poland is building three new coal power stations. But Polish mines are suffering from years of underinvestment. PGG has yet to prove it can meet the demand of power generators and some district heating plants on which many homes rely for winter warmth.

Previously known as Kompania Weglowa, the company was saved from bankruptcy when state-run utilities bailed it out in 2016. It merged with another ailing coal firm, KHW, this year. Chief Executive Tomasz Rogala blames what he says are temporary problems on cost-cutting, but it is unclear how much investment will increase. Analysts at the state-run ARP agency, which monitors the Polish coal market, expect imports this year will definitely exceed the 8 million tonnes reported in 2016. Some private analysts believe the figure could be as high as 10 million. This comes at a cost: European coal prices are around \$85 a tonne, just below their highest level since June 2013 due largely to Chinese demand. —Reuters The plan to print a "new lira" for domestic use while keeping the euro for international trade comes from center-right leader and four-times prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who says the scheme will boost consumer spending and economic growth. None of the main parties is campaigning on an economically orthodox platform of fiscal consolidation likely to please financial markets or the European Commission. Populism is thriving in Italy mainly because fiscal rigor prescribed by the EU is widely blamed

Sessions seeks balance over Clinton probe

In asking senior federal prosecutors to examine a number of Republican grievances, Attorney General Jeff Sessions is trying to strike a balance. He appears to be attempting to placate a boss who has repeatedly suggested that Sessions' own job might be in jeopardy for failing to investigate his Democratic rivals. At the same time, Sessions is taking a step toward defending the Justice Department's credibility by leaving the actual work to senior officials whose findings, while unlikely to please everyone, would have more credibility.

In a letter this week, the department directed senior federal prosecutors to "evaluate certain issues" raised by Republican lawmakers. Among them: whether a special counsel should be appointed to look into allegations that the Clinton Foundation benefited from an Obama-era uranium transaction involving a Russian state company, a deal President Donald Trump himself has continually urged the Justice Department to investigate.

Unlike other members of the president's Cabinet, the attorney general is construed as mostly an independent operator, under longstanding policy, practice and executive protocol. The Justice Department is not supposed to be influenced by the White House in deciding which cases to prosecute and which to discard after a review. The department's top staff is a mix of career officials and political appointees who juggle investigations behind closed doors while working more publicly to advance the administration's law enforcement agenda.

Sessions may be trying to dig himself out of a bind with a move that allows him to say he handled the allegations properly by referring them to prosecutors, who could then credibly close the case without

'Irresponsible promises'

Luca Ricolfi, a sociology professor at Turin University and prominent political commentator, said the election is likely to produce a hung parliament and this meant politicians felt free to make promises they would probably never have to honor. "As there are no reasonable parties at this election, Renzi can make irresponsible promises to try to win votes because the center-right and 5-Star are even more irresponsible," he said.

Rohingyas send what little they can to relatives

In a dimly lit shop in Kuala Lumpur, where dried fish, herbs and pickled tealeaves imported from Myanmar are on display, two men sit behind a counter inspecting banknotes. "We send money to Balukhali and Kutupalong every day," one of the men, wearing a long white robe and an Islamic skullcap, said to a Rohingya man approaching the counter. "Send today, money arrives on the same day," he said.

The shop is among many in the Malaysian capital that Rohingya use to send money to the two vast refugee camps in Bangladesh since a military crackdown in August prompted over 600,000 members of the ethnic group to flee Myanmar. The Rohingya, a Muslim minority denied citizenship in Myanmar, have been escaping persecution in their mostly Buddhist homeland for decades but the latest exodus was the worst in years.

With Rohingya families still heading to the camps, refugees who left in earlier waves who have managed to establish some sort of modest livelihood are pooling together their limited resources to send money to the newly displaced. Much is flowing from Malaysia, a Muslim-majority country that is home to more than 50,000 Rohingya refugees and asylum-seekers, where many of them work as daily laborers, hawkers and construction workers.

Money transfer companies have reported a spike in remittances since the crisis erupted in August. But the community is also tapping popular mobile money services and a centuries-old transfer system with roots in the Middle East to send financial aid to the camps for families to buy food, medicine and other necessities.

'They have nothing now'

Rohingya refugee Kamal, who has been in Malaysia since 2012, said his parents and six siblings fled to Bangladesh's Balukhali camp in October and are counting on him for financial support. Among them is his 65-year-old diabetic father who needs a regular supply of medicine. "They have nothing now, they have to buy every single thing," Kamal told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a rented low-cost flat on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur that he and his wife share with another couple. "To boil water, they have to buy firewood and a bunch of wood is 40 taka (50 cents), which is enough to get a meal," said the 30-yearold refugee, who uses a pseudonym to protect his identity.

Kamal uses bKash, a popular Bangladeshi mobile money service, to send money to his family from wages he earns working odd jobs - sometimes 1,000 taka (\$12) and sometimes up to 5,000 taka (\$60) - as often as he can. His family picks up the money in Bangladesh from certified agents using a code. An employee at a licensed money transfer firm in Pudu, an area in central Kuala Lumpur frequented by refugees, said she had received an average of 30 money transfer requests daily to Bangladesh since the latest violence erupted.

In the past, Myanmar refugees would typically send money to their homeland, rather than Bangladesh, said the staff member, who declined to give her name. Remitting money through an official transfer store requires the Rohingya to show their UN refugee cards. That's not something all Rohingya in Malaysia possess – it can be a slow process for a newly arrived asylum-seeker to apply for refugee status, and applications are not always successful.

Those without official documents have turned to a network of informal transfer outlets modelled on the ancient "hawala" system which is based on trust, and typically leaves no paper trail. The system involves agents accepting funds in one country and promising to pay a beneficiary in another country in exchange for a fee that is smaller than at a bank. Hawala is popular among migrants in the Middle East and has been used to remit money to remote areas, where banking is out of reach or too costly.—Reuters

assistant attorney general, nor Sessions named the senior prosecutors who will be involved in the review sought by Republicans. But they will most likely be career officials accustomed to operating free from political sway. While the term "senior prosecutor" could also refer to a politically appointed US attorney, Sessions would face immediate backlash for putting the probe in the hands of a Trump-appointee. But while this may offer Sessions a greater measure of iob security for now, a hearing of the

job security for now, a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday showed he has so far satisfied very few of his critics. Despite attempts to reassure Democrats to the contrary, the mere issuance of the letter immediately raised alarms that Justice was attempting to do the bidding of the president, who has publicly lamented that he has so little direct influence over the agency's affairs.

debasing the Justice Department. Neither

the letter, signed by Stephen E Boyd, an

And Republicans, who have long called for an investigation of Hillary Clinton, questioned why a probe hasn't been underway by now. "If you are now just considering it, what's it going to take?" Rep Jim Jordan of Ohio asked Sessions during the five-hour oversight hearing where the issue consumed a great deal of the focus. Jordan said it looked like there was already enough evidence to appoint a special counsel. "It would take a factual basis," Sessions said, adding that "looks like' is not enough basis to appoint a special counsel."

The committee's top-ranking Democrat, Rep John Convers of Michigan, questioned whether Sessions was being improperly influenced by Trump. Sessions said several times that any such review involving Hillary Clinton would be done without regard to political considerations. "I have not been improperly influenced and would not be improperly influenced," Sessions declared. "The president speaks his mind. He's bold and direct about what he says, but people elected him. But we do our duty every day based on the law and the facts." —AP





HARARE: Soldiers man their position with a military vehicle outside the office of President Robert Mugabe yesterday. — AP

Mugabe under house arrest ...

Continued from Page 1

In neighboring South Africa, President Jacob Zuma, one of Mugabe's closest allies, said he had spoken to the veteran leader by telephone. "(Mugabe) indicated that he was confined to his home but said that he was fine," the South African government said in a statement. It urged calm and restraint - an appeal that was echoed by the African Union, the European Union and Britain, Zimbabwe's former colonial master.

Tensions between Mugabe and the military establishment, which has long helped prop-up his authoritarian rule, erupted publicly in recent weeks. The ruling ZANU-PF party on Tuesday accused army chief General Constantino Chiwenga of "treasonable conduct" after he forcefully criticized Mugabe for sacking vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa. Mnangagwa's dismissal had left Mugabe's wife Grace, 52, in prime position to succeed her husband as the next president - a succession strongly opposed by senior ranks in the military.

As the situation deteriorated late on Tuesday night, prolonged gunfire was heard near Mugabe's private residence. Yesterday, state television played liberation struggle songs, while many citizens in Harare shopped at markets, drove to work or queued outside banks despite the turmoil. "We needed change in this country, our situation has been pathetic. The economy has been in the doldrums for a very long time," housewife Keresenzia Moyo, 65, told AFP in Harare. "What is good is that this has happened at the top and it is not affecting us people on the ground. People could be killing each other.'

The US embassy warned its citizens in the country to "shelter in place" due to "ongoing political uncertainty". South Africa urged Zimbabwe to resist any "unconstitutional changes" of government, and said it was sending envoys to Harare on behalf of the SADC bloc of southern African nations to help resolve the impasse. Mugabe and Grace have made no public comment and their exact whereabouts are unknown, while government and army spokesmen were not available to comment. "The government's silence on the military deployments seem to confirm that President Mugabe has lost control of the situation," Robert Besseling, of the London-based EXX Africa risk consultancy, said. Mugabe is the world's oldest head of state, but his poor health has fuelled a bitter succession battle as potential replacements jockey for position. In speeches this year, Mugabe has often slurred his words, mumbled and paused for long periods. His lengthy rule has been marked by brutal repression of dissent, mass emigration, vote-rigging and economic collapse since land reforms in 2000. Speculation has been rife in Harare that Mugabe had sought to remove

army chief Chiwenga, who is seen as an ally of ousted Mnangagwa. Mnangagwa, 75, was previously one of Mugabe's most loyal lieutenants, having worked alongside him for decades. Earlier this year Zimbabwe was gripped by a bizarre spat between Grace and Mnangagwa that included an alleged ice-cream poisoning incident that laid bare the pair's rivalry. Grace Mugabe - 41 years younger than her husband - has become increasingly active in public life in what many say was a process to help her eventually take the top job. She was granted diplomatic immunity in South Africa in August after she allegedly assaulted a model at an expensive Johannesburg hotel where the couple's two sons were staying. As the economy began to fail after the year 2000, Zimbabwe was engulfed by hyperinflation and was forced to abandon its own currency in 2009 in favor of the US dollar. The country, which has an unemployment rate of over 90 percent, is due to hold elections next year with Mugabe pledging to stand for office again.

By yesterday afternoon it was business as usual in Harare's suburbs while there was less traffic than normal in the city center. Soldiers continued to man armored cars but had relaxed searches on vehicles on some checkpoints. Residents spoke in awe of events that had previously seemed unthinkable. "I don't support the army but I am happy to see Mugabe gone, maybe this country can start to develop again," said Rumbi Katepfu, preparing to shut her mobile phone shop early in downtown Harare. "I did not think this would ever happen... We used to think Mugabe and Grace were invincible."

As evening fell there were fewer people on the streets than usual, including vendors who usually trade their wares after dusk. On the road leading to parliament, opposite a Catholic cathedral, soldiers sat on a bench puffing cigarettes. Nearby, in a park, a lone couple shared a chocolate bar, seemingly unconcerned by the presence of the troops. "What's there to fear? This is a free country," said Nathan Mpariwa, stroking the hand of his partner.

Mugabe supporters seemed disinclined to fight to defend him. Tinashe Murisi, washing a car emblazoned with a picture of Mugabe in the poor township of Mbare a few minutes from the city center said: "All Lneed is peace few minutes from the city center, said: "All I need is peace in the country and the rest we don't have to get involved in that what does not concern us." "It's an amazing thing that is happening. It was about time but it might be 20 years too late," said Billy, 30, a Zimbabwean working as a marketing officer in South Africa. Asked if he would return to Zimbabwe if the economy was revived, he said: "Definitely, there is no place like home." "This is a correction of a state that was careening off the cliff," Chris Mutsvangwa, the leader of the liberation war veterans, told Reuters. "It's the end of a very painful and sad chapter in the history of a young nation, in which a dictator, as he became old, surrendered his court to a gang of thieves around his wife." The opposition Movement for Democratic Change called for a peaceful return to constitutional democracy, adding it hoped the military intervention would lead to the "establishment of a stable, democratic and progressive nation state". - Agencies

Outrage, lawsuit and even divorce ...

Continued from Page 1

Tabtabaei demanded a list of numbers of tow trucks used to ferry violating vehicles and the names of owners - whether individuals or companies. The lawmaker later said on Twitter that there is a suspicion of benefits for a particular company which is providing winch trucks and the area to keep the impounded vehicles. He vowed that he will not remain silent against the reported profiteering in the issue. MP Riyadh Al-Adasani also sent a series of questions to the interior minister about the issue, saying that the traffic department should raise fines instead of seizing vehicles, some of which have been damaged. Adasani asked about the legal basis of the traffic deci-sions allowing impounding the vehicles, saying that the traffic law does not contain such decisions. He demanded to know the legal foundation that allowed the ministry to add the decisions to the traffic law.

The lawmaker demanded the study that the ministry conducted before imposing the new penalties and questioned why the ministry did not increase fines rather than seize vehicles. He also asked if the body that is authorized to impound the vehicles and collect charges for the

Aoun accuses Saudis of holding Hariri hostage

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia has long been considered Hariri's main external supporter. Aoun is a political ally of Lebanon's Hezbollah, a powerful Shiite group with close ties to Iran. Lebanon's coalition government was formed last year through a political deal that made Aoun president, Hariri prime minister, and included members of Hezbollah in the cabinet. Saudi Arabia last week accused Lebanon of having declared war on it because of Hezbollah's role in other Arab countries. It regards Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Riyadh's main ally, the United States, has struck a different tone, continuing its support for Lebanon includ-ing military aid. The European Union has also repeatedly stated its support for Lebanon, which hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees. In an interview on Sunday night with a television station he owns, Hariri warned of economic sanctions against Lebanon and of a threat to the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese workers living in Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies.

"Nothing justifies Hariri's lack of return for 12 days. We therefore consider him detained," Aoun said. He added that Lebanon had confirmed that Hariri's family were under detention in their house in Saudi Arabia and were searched whenever they entered or left it. Speaking in Italy, Foreign Minister Bassil said: "We will continue all steps...for this problem to be solved in a brotherly way through good

Erdogan pledges support for Qatar

seizure and keeping the vehicles is the interior ministry itself, a government department or a private company. Adasani said that if the body is a private company, he demanded the names of its owners and the way they obtained the area to keep the seized vehicles and the tow trucks. He demanded all legal approvals in this connection. MP Askar Al-Enezi called on the interior minister to review the application of the decisions, saying impounding vehicles for traffic offenses is an unnecessary and oppressive measure. MP Mohammed Al-Dallal described the measure as "abusive and unnecessary", and stressed that the penalties punish the violator's entire family.

Meanwhile, lawyer Mohammed Al-Ansari yesterday filed a case contesting the new measure, noting that it posed a constitutional violation. Ansari argued that a vehicle is a private property and cannot be impounded, according to the law. "Violators can be heavily fined instead of having their vehicles impounded for two months," he underlined.

The decision to impound cars also had other repercussions, as only a few hours after it came into effect, a divorce took place. Lawyer Hawraa Al-Habeeb said on social media that a client for whom she was working to settle matters between him and his wife to avoid a divorce called her to insist he wanted a divorce. He said he was on the phone with his wife when a police patrol stopped him. Habeeb said her client urged his wife to hang up, but she insisted on completing the call.

relations that we want to have with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia." He added, however: "If Saudi Arabia has a problem with Iran or with Hezbollah, they have to solve it with Iran, not with Lebanon and not with all the Lebanese."

Hariri wrote on Twitter that he was "perfectly fine" and would return, "God willing, to dear Lebanon as I promised". Yesterday he said he would return in a couple of days but that his family was staying in Saudi Arabia, calling it "their country". Hariri holds Saudi nationality and his family fortune is based on the construction company - Saudi Oger - built by his father Rafiq Al-Hariri, who served twice as Lebanese prime minister and was assassinated in 2005.

Okab Sakr, a member of parliament for Hariri's Future Movement, told Reuters he had spoken yesterday to Hariri and that he told him neither he nor his family were being held. On Tuesday, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said after meeting Bassil in Paris that she expected Hariri and his family to return to Lebanon soon. Sources from across Lebanon's political spectrum have said Hariri struck a more compromising tone in his Sunday interview than in his resignation statement, when he bitterly attacked Iran and Hezbollah. The sources said this represented a retreat by Riyadh attributable to Western pressure.

Yesterday, Aoun said Riyadh had not responded to Arab countries who tried to secure Hariri's return so he had asked the international community to help. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian arrived in Riyadh late yesterday and was due to discuss Lebanon with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and meet Hariri today, a French diplomatic source said. France has close relations with Lebanon, which was under French control between the world wars, and with Hariri, who has a home in France and spent several years in the country. - Reuters



Continued from Page 1

Erdogan was in Qatar 24 hours after visiting Kuwait, which has acted as a mediator during the Gulf dispute. Relations between Turkey and Qatar are exceptionally friendly. Qatar's Sheikh Tamim was the first foreign leader to phone Erdogan during the unsuccessful Turkish coup in July 2016, according to Turkish state media.

Trade between the two countries at the end of 2015 stood at \$1.26 billion. This is figure is likely to grow, partly because of the Gulf crisis, as Qatar has used Turkey to replace traditional regional food suppliers because of the boycott. Recent contracts won by

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets Turkish soldiers during his visit to the Qatari-Turkish Armed Forces Land Command Base yesterday. — AP

Turkish companies in Oatar include one to build a 10lane highway. In 2016, Qatari broadcaster beIN Media announced it had purchased Turkey's pay TV company Digiturk. — AFP





Sports

12

Jackson to stand trial for rape in January

BELFAST: Ireland rugby international Paddy Jackson will stand trial on one count of rape and another of sexual assault on Jan. 22, a judge told a Belfast court yesterday. Ireland flyhalf Jackson, 25, pleaded not guilty, the first time he has formally responded to the charges since they were brought against him in July. They relate to an incident alleged to have occurred at a house in

Belfast a year earlier. Ulster teammate Stuart Olding, 24, faces two counts of rape over the same incident and is due before the same court on Friday for a trial date to be set. His lawyer has said Olding strongly denies the accusations. Neither will play at club or national level until the court case is concluded, the Irish Rugby Football Union has said. Jackson has played 25 tests for Ireland, mainly as an understudy to British and Irish Lions flyhalf Johnny Sexton. Olding has represented his country four times at centre. — Reuters

Lewandowski says, finding back-up a 'difficult' task

BERLIN: Poland hotshot Robert Lewandowski believes Bayern Munich will have their work cut out finding an adequate back-up striker to fill his boots when he is resting. Last month the 29-year-old said he wanted the German champions to find someone who can carry the striking load on occasions so last season's Bundesliga player of the year can take a break. But the self-assured former Borussia Dortmund forward believes it will be no easy task. "I knew it would be difficult to find a back-up for me," the striker, who hit 30 league goals in each of the past two seasons, told yesterday's Sport Bild. "It's clear that we're talking about a top international forward, and that category of player wants to be on the pitch in the decisive matches. "One option would be an ambitious young player, with the desire to learn as back-up for an experienced professional.' Lewandowski, twice the Bundesliga's top goalscorer in the last four years, said in October that he was delighted that Bayern had listened to his wishes and promised to look for someone in the winter transfer window.--AFP

Chandika favored to be Sri Lanka's new coach

COLOMBO: Having tendered his resignation as Bangladesh's cricket coach, Chandika Hathurusinghe is favored to take up the position of Sri Lanka's head coach. That is according to Sri Lanka's sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara, who told reporters he is confident of Hathurusinghe joining Sri Lanka. Bangladesh cricket officials said last week that Hathurusinghe submitted a letter of resignation during the Bangladesh team's tour of South Africa last month, after being criticized for the team's poor performance. Bangladesh cricket officials have said Hathurusinghe did not give reasons for his decision or discuss the matter with the board. It is still uncertain how Hathurusinghe's contractual obligations with Bangladesh Cricket Board, which runs up to 2019 World Cup, will be resolved. Jayasekara told reporters yesterday that Sri Lanka Cricket has invited Hathurusinghe to serve as the head coach until 2019. —AP



First round finished with France on 18 votes

I'm proud

France was

chosen

LONDON: France won the vote to stage the 2023 World Cup yesterday as rugby union's top administrator denied being "humiliated" after the sport's global governing body had published a report recommending the tournament go to South Africa instead.

The World Rugby report, widely criticised by both France and Ireland, the third bidding country, was not binding on the remaining members of the World Rugby Council, who voted in London. Yesterday's decision, announced by World Rugby chairman Bill Beaumont, means France will be staging a World Cup for the second time, having previously hosted the 2007 edition. The tournament also comes a year before Paris hosts the 2024 Olympic Games.

In order to be chosen, the successful bidder needed a simple majority of 20 out of the 39 remaining votes-France, Ireland and South Africa were barred from participating in the ballot. The first round finished with France on 18 votes, 1995 hosts South Africa on 13 and Ireland, who've yet to be the main hosts of a World Cup, eight.

With Ireland dropping out, France beat South Africa by 24 votes to 15 in the second round. "We've been fortunate to have three great bids," said Beaumont after

England-so I can understand the disappointment." Beaumont, the captain of the 1980 British and Irish Lions beaten in a Test series in South Africa, added: "Like a game of rugby, some you win, some you lose."

Last month, World Rugby published an evaluation report which said South Africa should be chosen given it had an overall rating of 78.97, compared with 75.88 for France and 72.25 for Ireland, across a range of criteria. The report aimed to provide objective standards for a process previously dogged by allegations of backroom 'horse-trading' between countries. But it immediately came under attack from both France and Ireland, with World Rugby issuing a rebuke to both

those countries as Beaumont re-affirmed its backing for the report Bernard Laporte, the president of the French Rugby Federation, was especially damning, telling AFP in an interview last month: "On security, we have the same number of points even though there are 52 murders a day in South Africa. It's crazy."

But Laporte, a former coach of the France national side and a former French

government minister, was in more conciliatory mood yesterday, saying: "I'm proud France was chosen. We had a solid dossier like our two rivals. We will do our announcing yesterday's decision. "Certainly delighted best." He later added: "We (the French) like fighting, we



LONDON: The winning French bid team celebrate around the Rugby World Cup trophy after they won the right to hold the Rugby World Cup in 2023, in London, yesterday. Three competing countries South Africa, Ireland and France bid for the rights to hold the RWC in 2023, following RWC 2019 in Japan. - AP

DOM: NO

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statement: "We did everything in our power to bring lenge by saying SA Rugby now considered the process the tournament to South Africa and we expected to "closed". The 2023 tournament, the 10th Rugby World have that right confirmed today." Taking a swipe at the vote, he said the "view of the experts" had been overturned by World Rugby Council members "who may have had other factors to take into account".

for France. It will be a really exciting tournament," the like winning and winning something difficult." former England captain added.

'WIN SOME, LOSE SOME'

Meanwhile Beaumont denied World Rugby had been "humiliated" by the rejection of the report's recommendation. "Just because it went to France doesn't mean there is humiliation," he said.

"I was involved in a bid (for 2007) with England that got three votes many years ago-two of them were from

Sumo grand

champ 'facing

police probe'

TOKYO: A sumo grand champion may

face a police probe into the alleged

assault of a junior wrestler, authorities

said yesterday, as more details

emerged of a scandal that has rocked

Mongolian "yokozuna" (or grand

champion) Harumafuji is alleged to

have smashed a beer bottle over a fel-

low wrestler's head and hit him repeat-

edly after the younger man pulled out

his smartphone while he was speaking

to him. Headlines screaming "arrest"

and "retirement" were splashed over

the front pages in the sumo-obsessed

country, as the 33-year-old is likely to

have to step down from his lofty posi-

A spokesman for the sumo associa-

tion told AFP that a police report had been filed on behalf of the 27-year-old

assaulted wrestler-Takanoiwa, also

The sumo association has set up a

committee to investigate the issue but

declined to comment further "until we

find out the truth about the incident",

he said. Police could not confirm they

have received the report, but said: "It

would be true if the victim's side said

so." "Generally speaking, police start

probing the case when we receive a

report," said a spokesman, who

declined to give his name. The alleged

assault took place last month when

from Mongolia-by the fighter's team.

in Japan

Japan's national sport.

tion if charged.

SOUTH AFRICAN 'DESOLATION'

South Africa Rugby chief executive Jurie Roux had warned that going against the report's outcome would "laugh in the face of transparency and process". That led to accusations of arrogance but South Africa officials made no attempt to hide their "bitter disappointment" and "desolation" with yesterday's vote.

SA Rugby president Mark Alexander added in a

SUL MITCHELL

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Irish Rugby Football Union chief executive Philip Browne said the outcome of the vote exposed the report's flaws. "Look at the raw facts, one third of the votes were in favour of the recommendation-that speaks for itself," Browne told reporters.

Both bid losers wished France well and insisted they would respect the vote, with Roux ruling out a chal-

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Cup, will coincide with what has long been regarded as the 200th anniversary of the sport when William Webb Ellis picked up a ball and ran with it at Rugby School in England.

It will follow the 2019 edition in Japan and, for the second time in a row, means a Rugby World Cup will take place a year before the same country stages the Olympics, with Tokyo hosting the 2020 Games. England staged the most recent World Cup in 2015 which saw New Zealand win a second straight title after they triumphed on home soil in 2011. — AFP

Lin Dan stunned in China Open first round

SHANGHAI: Badminton legend Lin Dan saved seven match points before being dumped out of the first round of his home China Open yesterday, stunned by Indonesia's world number 17 Jonatan Christie. The 21-19, 21-16 defeat will ramp up speculation that the 34-yearold Lin, widely regarded as the best badminton player of all time, may soon call it quits as he approaches the end of his brilliant career. Seeded third, Lin, a five-time China Open champion, was guilty of a catalogue of errors in going down to Christie in 42 minutes in a shock upset in the Chinese city of Fuzhou.

The 20-year-old Christie plays Hong Kong's Angus Ng in the second round. "When we shook hands before the match I felt his hand was cold and I sensed he was nervous," Christie, who lost to Lin in straight games at their last meeting in June, told the official BWF World Superseries website. "I realised that even though he was a past World and Olympic champion, he could get nervous too, so that made me confident." Christie added: "One of the best days of my life, I beat Lin Dan at his home crowd."

But for a late rally by Lin, the result might have been even more embarrassing. Christie had an astounding 11 match points, and even though Lin clawed back seven of them, the Chinese played a weak shot wide of the sideline to go tumbling out of the tournament. Lin's great rival, the Malaysian Lee Chong Wei, had no such trouble in a 21-5, 21-7 demolition of Taiwan's Hsu Jen-hao. —AFP



Mongolian wrestlers were relaxing over drinks after a tournament.

According to several media reports, Harumafuji flew into a rage when Takanoiwa tried to take out his phone to take a call during a conversation.

'LIKE A GOD'

Kyokushuzan, a former Mongolian sumo wrestler who heard details from people who were at the scene, told private broadcaster TBS: "When I heard about it, I thought to myself 'this is awful'." "A yokozuna is like a God and it is not good if such a person gets drunk and hits someone," he said. According to the Mainichi Shimbun,

which cited several unnamed sources, the angry Harumafuji beat the younger wrestler with his hands repeatedly even after a bleeding Takanoiwa collapsed, chastising him for not paying attention while he was speaking.

About 10 sumo wrestlers, including two other Mongolian grand champions and Japanese wrestlers were at the drinking session, the report said. The ancient sport has an extremely strict protocol, and yokozuna are expected to be beyond moral reproach in addition to showing superior strength and technique in the ring.

Daichi Suzuki, chief of the Japan Sports Agency, told reporters Tuesday that his agency was conducting hearings on the incident. "We are absolutely against violence and we must eradicate it," he said. The affair even reached the top levels of government, with the chief cabinet secretary taking questions on it at his regular briefing. "It's important to find out what actually happened," said Yoshihide Suga.

"Many people want wrestlers to do their utmost in training ... and behave with the long history (of the sport) in mind," he told reporters. —AFP

Ooredoo to continue support for Abdulaziz **Al-Rashed**

Abdulaziz Al-Rashed

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, announced its ongoing support to its brand ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Rashed, the young Kuwaiti triathlon champion. The voung athlete is competing in the Xterra Triathlon in Hawaii later this month, where he competed last year and won a gold medal to be the first Arab athlete winning in this prestigious competition.

Al-Rashed reiterated his commitment towards utilizing this participation to further raise the Kuwaiti flag high in international sporting events, noting that he will be participating in more international events that he will announce later in the year. Triathlons are multiple-stage competitions involving the completion of three continuous and sequential endurance discipline: swimming, cycling and running.

Commenting on this, Senior Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're proud of our young athlete Abdulaziz Al-Rashed



Mijbil Alayoub

for his achievements and commitment to this sport, and we're certain that he will make more achievements in the future with the right support. Our sponsorship from Abdulaziz stems from our deep-rooted belief in enabling youth to reach their potential.

During the period of his sponsorship with Ooredoo, he won several national, regional and international events. He placed first in Kuwait's Triathlon which was held at the Corniche Club last year. He also won the third position in Sharm El-Sheikh ALAMEDA Triathlon, which represents the pinnacle of triathlon competitions in Egypt, providing recreational triathletes with a once in a lifetime opportunity to compete on the same course as Africa's and Arabs' known champions.



Crosby, Sheary lead Penguins past Sabres 5-4 in overtime

Ryan, Connor each score 2 as Oilers top Vegas

PITTSBURGH: Sidney Crosby ended a long goal mark of 183:16 set last season for the longest in team drought and assisted on Conor Sheary's winner 16 seconds into overtime as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Buffalo Sabres 5-4 on Tuesday night. Crosby scored his sixth of the season, Sheary had a pair of goals and Patric Hornqvist added one for Pittsburgh. Philadelphia, shut out for an NHL-high fifth time this in four straight games. Kessel, the team's leading scor-

er, has at least one point in five straight games and 16 of 20 this season. Matt Murray made 28 saves for the Penguins, who won their sixth in a row at home. Pittsburgh is 12-0-1 in its last 13 games against the Sabres, including seven consecutive wins at home. Crosby scored for the first time in 11 games, and Buffalo's

Jack Eichel ended an eight-game drought, both in the scored for the Oilers, who snapped a two-game skid. second period.

CANUCKS 3, KINGS 2

Sven Baertschi broke a 2-2 tie with a power-play goal at 4:07 of the third period as Vancouver handed Los Angeles its third straight loss and fourth in a row at home. Henrik Sedin and Bo Horvat also scored for the Canucks, Derrick Pouliot had two assists and Anders Nilsson made 30 saves in his first appearance since Oct. 26. Tanner Pearson and Anze Kopitar scored in the first 3:14 to give the Kings a 2-0 lead, and Los Angeles outshot the Canucks 7-0 through the initial 9 1/2 minutes. The Kings came in with the No. 1 penaltykill unit in the NHL at 91.9 percent, but the Canucks went 2-for-3 on the power play after coming in 2-for-21 over their past six games.

WILD 3, FLYERS 0

Devan Dubnyk posted his third straight shutout with 30 saves and Nino Niederreiter scored 12 seconds into the game for Minnesota in a win against Philadelphia. Dubnyk's third shutout of the season stretched his scoreless streak to 195:05, breaking his

history. Dubnyk has stopped the last 103 shots he's faced. Eric Staal and Jason Zucker each scored an empty-net goal for Minnesota, which has won a season-best three straight. Brian Elliott made 17 saves for Phil Kessel got his eighth of the season and has goals season. Niederreiter broke Zucker's streak of six straight goals for the Wild, one shy of the NHL record

for consecutive goals scored by a player for one team.

OILERS 8, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2

Nugent-Hopkins and Connor McDavid each had two goals for Edmonton in a victory over Vegas. Oscar Klefbom, Patrick Maroon, Matt Benning and Mark Letestu also

Cam Talbot stopped 22 shots. Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and James Neal had the goals for the expansion Golden Knights, who have lost three of four. Maxime Lagace gave up seven goals on 29 shots before being replaced by Dylan Ferguson, the fifth goalie to play for Vegas this year.

PREDATORS 6, CAPITALS 3

Mattias Ekholm and Kevin Fiala each had a goal and an assist to lead Nashville past Washington for its fifth straight victory. Craig Smith, Nick Bonino, Filip Forsberg and Miikka Salomaki also scored for Nashville. Pekka Rinne made 26 saves, and 12 players had at least one point for the Predators. T.J. Oshie scored twice and Alex Chiasson also had a goal for Washington, which had won two consecutive games. Braden Holtby made 19 saves and was replaced by Philipp Grubauer at the start of the third period. Grubauer turned aside all six shots he faced.

BLUE JACKETS 2, CANADIENS 1, OT

Zach Werenski scored 1:09 into overtime, lifting Columbus over Montreal. Josh Anderson had a goal

2:29 into the game for Columbus, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves, allowing only a goal to Paul Byron early in the third period. Charlie Lindgren, making his fifth consecutive start for Montreal, stopped 23 shots. Werenski beat him with a wrist shot to the roof of the net on his glove side.

PANTHERS 4, STARS 3, OT

Jonathan Huberdeau had two power-play goals and Vincent Trocheck scored the winner in a shootout to lift Florida over Dallas. Aleksander Barkov scored in regulation and the shootout for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo stopped 40 shots, plus two more in the tiebreaker. Jamie Benn had two goals for Dallas, and Remi Elie also scored. Tyler Seguin had a goal in the shootout. Kari Lehtonen made 26 saves during his first start in four games. Alexander Radulov added two

assists for the Stars and has at least one point in nine straight games.

LOS ANGELES: Adrian Kempe #9 of the Los Angeles Kings controls the puck in front of Sven Baertschi #47 and

Michael Del Zotto #4 of the Vancouver Canucks during the first period at Staples Center. — AFP

JETS 4, COYOTES 1

Connor Hellebuyck made 32 saves and Winnipeg defeated Arizona for its second victory over the struggling Covotes in four days. On a night when the Jets inducted Dale Hawerchuk into their Hall of Fame and lifted his No. 10 banner to the rafters, the home team easily handled the franchise that moved from Winnipeg to Arizona 21 years ago. Joel Armia, Bryan Little and Adam Lowry scored in the second period for the Jets, who also beat the Coyotes in Arizona last weekend to finish a three-game road trip. Andrew Copp opened the scoring. Antti Raanta made 10 saves on 13 shots for Arizona before being chased after Little's breakaway goal in the second. — AP

India want S Lanka to make them



Federer beats Zverev to reach last



12 players had at least one point Ryan for Predators

'uncomfortable'

KOLKATA: India want underdogs Sri Lanka to force them into an "uncomfortable" zone in their latest Test series starting today, captain Virat Kohli said. Kohli said his world number one Test side have to use the series to toughen up ahead of their visit to South Africa in January and England later in 2018. "If you can embrace playing in difficult conditions that will be the difference," Kohli told reporters.

"We want to be uncomfortable, we want to embrace being uncomfortable and that's the most important thing. "We want to build our games in such a way that we want to look forward to playing anywhere in the world." India are unbeaten in a home series in any format since being defeated by South Africa in a one-day challenge in 2015. Sri Lanka are yet to win a Test on Indian soil, but they head for the opener in Kolkata with renewed hopes after winning two Tests against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates last month.

Sri Lanka do not have happy memories from their last encounter against the Indians. They lost all three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international at home in July-September.

The humiliating show prompted Sri Lanka's selection panel, led by batting great Sanath Jayasuriya, to resign. Kohli said India and Sri Lanka had to put on an exciting show to ward off suggestions that some of the sheen has been stripped from the series because the neighbours have played so many times in recent years. The two played Tests in Sri Lanka in 2015 then a limited overs series in India in 2016, ahead of the two tours this year. India will travel to Sri Lanka in 2018 to play the Independence Cup T20 tournament. Kohli acknowledged the risk of overkill. "It definitely has to be taken into consideration because you don't want fans going away from the game," he said.

KOLKATA: India's captain Virat Kohli gestures as he talks during a press conference in Kolkata yesterday, ahead of the first Test cricket match between India and Sri Lanka. — AFP

"We have to maintain a balance of how to engage fans and keep players fresh at the same time and keep cricket exciting and keep it competitive through out the year. That point will be discussed in future definitely." Kohli said India "have to be at our absolute top intensity all the time". Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal confirmed meanwhile that veteran Angelo Mathews will bat at the key number four position, but will not bowl as he recovers from injury. "He gives us confidence as a batting unit," said Chandimal. "He will bat at number four. He has all the experience, and at the top of the order, and we will get maximum out of it."

Mathews has not scored a Test hundred since August 2015, typifying Sri Lanka's slump in the past three years. The second Test begins on November 24 in Nagpur with the final match in Delhi from December 2. The two sides will also play three one-day internationals and three Twenty20 matches. - AFP

Reserve Joe Harris led the Nets with 19 points while Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 16.

RAPTORS 129, ROCKETS 113

DeMar DeRozan scored a team-high 27 points as Toronto ended Houston's six-game winning streak. Kyle Lowry and C.J. Miles scored 19 points apiece for Toronto, with the latter drilling 6-of-9 three-pointers off the bench. Houston sliced a 20-point deficit to 108-103 midway through the fourth quarter but followed with a string of turnovers that fueled another Raptors run to a double-digit lead. James Harden paced Houston with 38 points and 11 assists.

SPURS 97, MAVERICKS 91

LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 32 points and Patty Mills also hit a season-high 19 to lead San Antonio past Dallas. The Spurs, still playing without Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker, took a 34-31 lead with about eight minutes to go in the second quarter and managed to hold on the rest of the way. The Spurs have won five of their past six games. The Mavs, who dropped to 2-13, shot below 35 percent for most of the game and finished just 10-of-34 from beyond the three-point arc. Rookie Dennis Smith Jr led Dallas with 27 points. - Reuters

four at ATP Finals

LONDON: Roger Federer held young pretender Alexander Zverev at bay in a gripping contest Tuesday to reach the last four of the ATP Finals and stay on course for a seventh end-of-season crown. The world number two saw off a spirited challenge from the much-hyped German 7-6 (8/6), 5-7, 6-1 in front of a boisterous pro-Federer crowd to become the first man through to the last four at the O2 Arena.

"It was a good battle and I always enjoy myself at this beautiful arena," said Federer, who has now reached the semi-finals 14 times. "I have so much fun playing in London and I have been so successful here. Thank you for making it such a special night.

"I'm happy and relieved that I can play freely against (Marin) Cilic, instead of it being a nailbiter. It's been a tough group so to be through in two matches is great."

Both players were scratchy on serve at the start of the match but were quickly into the groove in a tight first set that saw no breaks of serve, though Zverev had to fend off two set points in the 12th game to force a tie-break.

The 20-year-old third seed raced into a 4-0 advantage only to see the Swiss charge back to lead 5-4. Zverev earned a set point of his own at 6-5 but could not convert and Federer made his third set point count.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion broke in the first game of the second set to establish an iron grip on the round-robin match but Zverev hit back in the fourth to get back on level terms.

Federer only landed 43 percent of first serves in the second set and it finally cost him in the 12th game, when Zverev capitalised on his third set point to force a decider. The Swiss re-found his focus and some consistency on serve in the decider as Zverev's level dipped, earning three breaks to close it out 6-1.

Zverev has been touted as the leader of a pack of young players hungry to oust the creaking old guard but Federer, who has suffered only four defeats all year, shows



LONDON: Roger Federer returns a ball to Alexander Zverev during their match on day three of the ATP Finals at the O2 Arena in London. — AP

no sign of slipping. Coming into the match Federer, 36, and Zverev had faced each other four times and each had won twice. This year, Federer beat the German in Halle but Zverev returned the favour at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

SOCK WINS

Earlier, also in the Boris Becker group, Jack Sock kept his dreams of a fairytale finish to his season alive, beating Wimbledon finalist Marin Cilic 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4). "It's been an interesting morning so far," said the American. "The fire alarm went off at 4:00 am and we had to exit the building. But I love playing here in London. It's an amazing atmosphere, you make me feel like home." The top two players from each of the two groups of four progress to the semi-finals. Federer, who beat Sock in his first match, is the standout star at the tournament after the withdrawal through injury of world number one Rafael Nadal. Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka are all longterm absentees from the Tour this season. — AFP

NBA results/standings

San Antonio 97, Dallas 91; Toronto 129, Houston 113; Boston 109, Brooklyn 102.

		n Conferen tic Divisio			Western Conference Northwest Division									
	W	L	PCT	GB	Minnesota	8	5	.615	-					
Boston	13	2	.867	-	Denver	8	6	.571	0.5					
Toronto	8	5	.615	4	Portland	7	6	.538	1					
NY Knicks	7	6	.538	5	Oklahoma City	6	7	.462	2					
Philadelphia	7	6	.538	5	Utah	6	8	.429	2.5					
Brooklyn	5	9	.357	7.5										
						Paci	fic Divisio	n						
	Central Division				Golden State	11	3	.786	-					
Detroit	10	3	.769	-	LA Lakers	6	8	.429	5					
Milwaukee	7	6	.538	3	LA Clippers	5	8	.385	5.5					
Cleveland	7	7	.500	3.5	Phoenix	5	10	.333	6.5					
Indiana	6	8	.429	4.5	Sacramento	3	10	.231	7.5					
Chicago	2	9	.182	7	Sacramento	5	10	.201	1.0					
	Southe	east Divisi	on			South	west Divisi	ion						
Washington	8	5	.615	_	Houston	11	4	.733	-					
Orlando	8	6	.571	0.5	San Antonio	9	5	.643	1.5					
Miami	6	7	.462	2	New Orleans	8	6	.571	2.5					
Charlotte	5	7	.402	2.5	Memphis	7	6	.538	3					
Atlanta	2	12	.143	6.5	Dallas	2	13	.133	9					

Masked-man Irving leads Celtics to 13th win in a row

NEW YORK: A masked Kyrie Irving scored 25 points as the Boston Celtics ran their winning streak to 13 games with a 109-102 victory over the Brooklyn Nets. Irving was considered questionable for the game after taking an inadvertent elbow from team mate Aron Baynes 1:50 into Friday's game against Charlotte. He missed Boston's 12th straight win on Sunday against the Toronto Raptors but returned with a protective mask over his face, shot 8-of-20 in 29 minutes and helped Boston finish off its latest win. Marcus Morris added 21 points 10 rebounds while Al Horford bagged 17 points and 11 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season. Rookie Jayson Tatum added 19 points and Jaylen Brown chipped in 14 for the Celtics, who are on their first 13-game winning streak since winning 14 straight from Nov. 22 to Dec. 22, 2010.





Makeshift England frustrate Brazil in 0-0 Wembley draw

Alves involved in a spat with Jake Livermore

LONDON: Toothless Brazil flattered to deceive as the it. Tonight we just showed resilience, guts and some five-times world champions were held to frustrating O-0 draw by a makeshift England side in a disappointing friendly at Wembley on Tuesday. Brazil manager Tite fielded all of his big guns, including the world's most expensive player Neymar, but despite the sambarhythm that beat out from their 5,000 fans, the men in the famous yellow shirts failed to light up a cold night.

England manager Gareth Southgate probably learned more about some of his fringe players who, as they did in a goalless draw with world champions Germany last week, defended with great discipline, even if the hosts offered little in attack.

Brazil cruised through South American qualifying to

reach next year's World Cup, and had won 13 of their 16 matches since Tite took over, but rarely tested Joe Hart, who became the first England goalie to keep a clean sheet against them since 1990.

The closest they came was when Fernandinho grazed the post. "They were very tight at the back,"

Fernandinho said. "It was hard making chances in the before being crowded out before Brazil counterfirst half. In the second half we created more space but unfortunately we couldn't score."

England's starting 11 boasted 208 caps to Brazil's 454 but despite being under pressure defenders Joe Gomez, making his first start, John Stones and Harry Maguire all impressed, while Marcus Rashford was a powerful presence up front.

"In terms of heart, resilience and spirit it was up there with anything I've been involved in," Southgate, without several players who will be on the plane to Russia, said. "We couldn't get hold of the ball and keep

outstanding defending."

BALL-WATCHING

With Neymar, Gabriel Jesus and Philippe Coutinho in a Brazil starting lineup packed with experience and quality, the match had the potential to be a torrid evening for England. The hosts spent most of the match watching the ball being pinged around, although for all Brazil's intricate patterns the visitors were disappointing in the final third of the pitch where Neymar and Jesus barely had a sight of goal.

England keeper Hart, earning his 75th cap, enjoyed a quieter evening than he could possibly have imagined.

all of his

big guns

"I thought the defensive backline were phenomenal," he said. "Joe (Gomez) played against one of the best players in the world (Neymar)

and was excellent. We have played two of the best teams in the world, we didn't win, but we didn't lose." The second half was

slightly livelier, with Rashford bursting through early on

attacked and Neymar poked a clever pass to Dani Alves who forced a smart save from Hart. Alves also became involved in a spat with England midfielder Jake Livermore after reacting angrily to an innocuous tackle.

Brazil's best two chances came late on with Coutinho going close, substitute Fernandinho's daisy-cutter clipping the post and Paulinho's effort from a narrow angle pushed away by Hart.

Substitute Dominic Solanke could have won it for England at the death but his touch let him down in front of goal. — Reuters



ONDON: England's defender John Stones (R) vies with Brazil's striker Neymar during the international friendly. football match between England and Brazil at Wembley Stadium in London. —AFP

Taxing times for China's wantaway foreign stars

SHANGHAI: Expensive flop Carlos Tevez could leave China soon, but other foreigners pining for a move in World Cup year may be disappointed by clubs desperate to retain their pricey stars. The unsettled Argentine, branded "very homesick boy" by fed-up Chinese fans, has endured a miserable 11 months in the Chinese Super League (CSL) and hinted that he is eager to return to Argentina. Shanghai Shenhua are paying the 33-yearold forward some of the highest wages in world football, an estimated 730,000 euros a week, and could agree to let Tevez go after the two-legged Chinese FA Cup final this month against Shanghai SIPG. But other overseas players wanting to quit the CSL now that the season has ended are less likely to get their wish. Replacing them will cost their clubs dear-the result of a Chinese Football Association (CFA) ruling in May that effectively slapped a 100 percent tax on the purchase of foreign players, bringing a sudden halt to the influx of foreigners signed for eve-watering sums. Perennial champions Guangzhou Evergrande, under new coach Fabio Cannavaro, have already declared they want to field an all-Chinese team by 2020, though it remains to be seen if they can do that and still remain the team to beat in the CSL. "Certainly someone like Tevez could leave, but only because he hasn't been very good," said Ji Zhe, director at London-based sports marketing firm Red Lantern and an expert in Chinese football. "Paulinho left Guangzhou Evergrande for Barcelona, but that's a difficult move to turn down. We have seen key players extend contracts, like Renato Augusto at Beijing Guoan recently and Fredy Guarin at Shenhua earlier in the year. "Now that they cannot spend freely, CSL clubs will try their hardest to keep hold of their most prized foreign assets rather than letting them go." That view is shared by Beijing-based Mark Dreyer, founder of China Sports Insider, which specialises in sports business news in the country. "In the past a lot of the teams would change foreigners very regularly and often not for the best reasons because agents and everyone else along the way would take their cut, even if that meant sacrificing long-term stability," said Drever.

Aguero collapses at halftime as Argentina lose to Nigeria

MOSCOW: Argentina striker Sergio Aguero collapsed in the dressing room at halftime before they lost 4-2 to fellow World Cup qualifiers Nigeria after taking a twogoal lead in a friendly in Krasnodar, Russia on Tuesday.



Tite fielded

"If you just extend the contract of an existing player you don't need to replace him with another player and pay that 100 percent tax."

'HUGE GAMBLE'

Next summer's World Cup muddies the waters. China did not qualify for Russia but players from countries that did will be desperate to impress their national coaches between now and when the tournament begins in June-not easy to do with the Chinese season over and the 2018 campaign not kicking off until spring.

Tevez's Shenhua team-mate Giovanni Moreno was reported to be considering a return home out of concern for his place in the Colombia World Cup squad. Whether Shenhua would allow the popular attacking midfielder to go is another matter.

Ji said the likes of Oscar, SIPG's 60-million-euro man from Chelsea, could also be tempted to force a move back to a higher-profile league in the hope of reclaiming his spot in the Brazil squad.

"But that would be a huge gamble for him, he stopped playing for Brazil when we was at Chelsea anyway," said Ji. "Furthermore, someone like Renato Augusto at Guoan and Gil at Shandong Luneng still get called up by Brazil even though they play in China."—AFP

The Argentine Football Association (AFA) said in a statement that Aguero, who scored in the first half, was taken away for routine examinations but added: "The player is well". His Premier League club Manchester City said the 29-year-old Aguero had been cleared by doctors to return to England as planned after he suffered what they called "a dizzy spell".

"Sergio never lost consciousness, and was taken to hospital for precautionary medical checks," City said on their official website (www.mancity.com).

Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli rested Lionel Messi following the 1-0 win over next year's World Cup hosts Russia on Saturday and it seemed that they could cope without him. Ever Banega curled in a free kick, awarded after Nigeria goalkeeper Daniel Akpeyi picked the ball up outside his area, in the 28th minute and Aguero finished off a sweeping counter-attack eight minutes later.

But Kelechi Iheanacho inspired Nigeria's fightback. First, he emulated Banega by scoring from a free kick on the stroke of halftime and then set up the equaliser by pulling the ball back for Alex Iwobi to net seven minutes after the re-start.

The Super Eagles took the lead two minutes after that when Brian Idowu sidefooted home from the edge

RASNODAR: Nigeria's John Ogu, right, jumps for the ball during the international friendly soccer match betweer Argentina and Nigeria in Krasnodar, Russia. — AP

of the area to finish off a counter attack. A superb goal by Iwobi completed the comeback in the 73rd minute as he collected the ball, slipped it between Javier Mascherano's legs and fired past Agustin Marchesin.

Argentina staggered through their World Cup qualifying campaign, only clinching their place at the finals with a 3-1 win in Ecuador in their final match.

"It's a difficult game to explain," said Sampaoli. "We could have been 3-0 or 4-0 ahead in the first half and

we went in with a 2-1 lead. "My biggest worry was the way the team played when we were behind. I know we are capable and have the individual talent to be able to get out of these situations and I'm worried about what happened tonight. "We played an incredible first half but we lost our way in a match which could confuse a lot of people." Aguero will be assessed by Manchester City's medical team ahead of this weekend's Premier League trip to Leicester City.— Reuters

Global media paid bribes, **FIFA trial hears**

NEW YORK: The first witness in the FIFA trial painted a damning picture of corruption in South American soccer on Tuesday, saying millions of dollars in bribes were paid for TV rights to major tournaments.

Alejandro Burzaco, the former chairman of an Argentine sports marketing company, pleaded guilty in November 2015 to racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies and agreed to pay \$21.6 million in restitution. In US federal court, he detailed how his Torneos y Competencias S.A. company paid millions of dollars in bribes to South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) executives

for more than a decade to secure television rights to major tournaments. Bribes were sent by wire transfer to Swiss bank accounts or passed on as cash "in bags or envelopes," Burzaco added. Fox Pan American Sports, part of 21st Century Fox, Brazil's TV Globo, Argentine group Full Play and Spain's MediaPro were

among those who paid-all partners of Torneos y Competencias. Fox Sports' parent company, 21st

Century Fox, did not immediately respond to a request to comment. The FIFA corruption trial began Monday, two and a half years after the United States unveiled the largest graft scandal in the history of world soccer. Three South American defendants are in the dock, charged with racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies. They are Jose Maria Marin, ex-head of Brazil's Football Confederation, former FIFA vice president Juan Angel Napout, who was elected president of CONMEBOL in 2014, and Manuel Burga, who led soccer in Peru until 2014. Burzaco said he bribed all three defendants, alleging that Marin received payments of \$300,000, going up to \$450,000 a year. The trial is due to last five to six weeks, and prosecutors are expected to present hundreds of thousands of pages of evidence and dozens of witnesses. If convicted by a jury, they risk up to 20 years behind bars for the most serious offenses.

'PRESIDENTIAL TREATMENT'

But much of Burzaco's most damning testimony implicated men not on trial in New York, including ex-South American soccer boss Nicolas Leoz, and his deputies Julio Grondona and Ricardo Teixeira.

The three of them would have received around \$600,000 a year in bribes, he said. Grondona died in 2014 and while Leoz is under house arrest in Paraguay, his lawyers have so far frustrated all attempts to extradite him. Leoz, Grondona, a former FIFA finance chief and Argentine Football Association president, and Teixeira, former president of the Brazilian Football Confederation, were given "presidential NEW YORK: Juan Angel Napout of Paraguay, one of three defendants in the FIFA

scandal on trial in Brooklyn, arrives at the Federal Courthouse in Brooklyn yester day. — AFP

2010, Teixeira and Grondona rounded on him, Burzaco testified. "They shook him up. They asked: 'What are you doing? Are you the one not voting for Qatar?" he quoted them as saying. A month later, Grondona received \$1 million from Teixeira for voting for Qatar, Burzaco said. The defendants are just three of the 42 officials and marketing executives, not to mention three companies, indicted in an exhaustive 236-page complaint detailing 92 separate crimes and 15 corruption schemes to the tune of \$200 million.-AFP

treatment," he said. They were whisked

around by private jet, with "three or four

Mercedes" parked on the tarmac ready

and waiting on arrival at CONMEBOL

headquarters. "They had presidential or

diplomatic or royal treatment," Burzaco

testified. "Like a special dignitary, there

were no customs, no immigration." He also

told how they were paid for their votes on

the executive committee for choosing

hosts of the World Cup. When Leoz failed

to vote for Qatar to host the 2022 World

Cup at FIFA headquarters in December



Khedira praises plucky Germany after France draw

Didier Deschamps admits he was disappointed with the draw

COLOGNE: Sami Khedira said world champions Germany proved their never-say-die spirit as Lars Stindl's last-gasp equaliser preserved their 21-match unbeaten run in Tuesday's 2-2 friendly draw against France

A first international double by Alexandre Lacazette in Cologne put France on the verge of a deserved victory in a clash of two of the favourites for next year's World Cup. The Arsenal striker scored either side of a Timo Werner goal, before Stindl struck in the 93rd minute to maintain Germany's unbeaten run dating back with the result in Cologne and the stalemate at

to their 2-0 defeat by France in the Euro 2016 semi-finals.

"We had some luck in the first half, but we also had our chances to score," said Khedira, Germany's stand-in captain with Manuel Neuer injured.

"It is quite normal when playing in different line-ups that you have one or two problems," he added after

Germany made six changes from Friday's goalless draw with England. "I think that we have been able to compete at a very high level overall this year.

"We pressed hard after the break. "We conceded the goal from nothing to make it 2-1, but we also showed the morale to come back from behind."

France coach Didier Deschamps admitted he was disappointed with the draw. "It's a bit disappointing, we were close to getting the win," said the 1998 World Cup winner. "We didn't pay enough attention at the end, but we made life hard for a strong German team."

Having rescued Germany's unbeaten run with the

equaliser, Stindl said the result capped a good year for Germany, who qualified for next year's World Cup with a perfect 10 wins from 10 qualifiers.

"Luckily we scored in the last attack," said the Moenchengladbach forward, who scored Germany's winning goal in the Confederations Cup final in July.

"All in all, we have put in two good performances against two strong opponents, and I think it was an allround successful 2017 for the German FA." Germany head coach Joachim Loew said he was content both

We had some luck in the

Wembley against England. "First of all, I'm very happy with both tests against England and France - they

were two tests at the high-est level. "We played better in the second half, after not everything worked out the way we expected in the first.

"It can always happen that you are behind at the break, we wanted to put

more pressure in the second half and then we got our chance." Germany host Spain and Brazil in friendlies next March as the holders tune up for their defence of the World Cup title in Russia next June.

Pleasingly for Loew, Mario Goetze, who hit the winner in the 2014 World Cup final, came on for his first international appearance since last November, after illness and injury, to set up the equaliser.

"It was a positive story for me today and a step in the right direction and I'm glad I'm back in. That was a great thing for me," said the Borussia Dortmund midfielder. — AFP



COLOGNE: France's forward Antoine Griezmann (R) and France's midfielder Steven N'Zonzi vie for the ball with Germany's midfielder Mario Goetze (C) during the international friendly football match Germany against France. — AFP

Russia snatch thrilling friendly draw with Spain

MOSCOW: Spain were held to a thrilling 3-3 friendly draw by World Cup hosts Russia in Saint Petersburg on Tuesday, despite a brace of penalties from centre-back Sergio Ramos. Barcelona full-back Jordi Alba's strike and Ramos' first spot-kick put the visitors in control, but goals either side of half-time from Fedor Smolov and Alexei Miranchuk pulled Russia level. Although Real Madrid defender Ramos put Julen Lopetegui's men back in front, Smolov also completed a double to grab a draw. Spain still extended their unbeaten run under Lopetegui to 15 matches. "Russia showed a high level of play tonight as their players all looked extremely motivated," Lopetegui said. "Russia haven't played any competitive games and their players worked flat out in every single friendly match. But

we also played well tonight. Both of our recent friendlies have been very useful for our team." The 2010 World Cup winners, fresh from Saturday's 5-0 victory over Costa Rica in Malaga, dominated posession early on and Alba put the away side into a ninth-minute lead by heading in a Marco Asensio cross. Ramos made it two in the 35th minute after Zenit midfielder Daler Kuzyayev handballed in the area.

Krasnodar forward Smolov halved the deficit four minutes before the break, when he received a pinpoint pass by Miranchuk in the area and fired the ball



Future of US soccer at stake in election: Gans

LOS ANGELES: The United States' humiliating failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup may have left millions of fans across the country in shock, but for

first half

past David De Gea.

Lokomotiv Moscow midfielder Miranchuk levelled six minutes into the second period, firing home after Yury Zhirkov's shot hit Nacho and bounced back into play. Ramos completed only his second international brace after scoring two against San Marino in 2005, but Smolov equalised again with a powerful strike from just outside the area with 20 minutes to go. Spartak Moscow midfielder Denis Glushakov was forced to go in goal in injury-time after keeper Andrei Lunev was knocked out in a clash with Rodrigo, but Spain failed to find a winner.

ST PETERSBURG: Russia's Daler Kuzyayev, atop, struggles for the ball with Spain's Asier Illarramendi during the international friendly soccer match between Russia and Spain in St Petersburg, Russia. — AP

Russia wing-back Konstantin Rausch, who plays with German Bundesliga side Cologne, said he was happy with his team's performance. "I'm really pleased that today we showed true team spirit,"

he said. "After Spain claimed a 2-0 lead we continued fighting and it paid off. "We've all been battling hard for every single ball tonight. It was a good game for our team." — AFP

Sublime Eriksen propels Denmark to World Cup

DUBLIN: Christian Eriksen's magnificent hat-trick inspired Denmark to a 5-1 demolition of the Republic of Ireland in Tuesday's second leg of their play-off in Dublin to clinch a spot at next year's World Cup.

Following Saturday's stalemate in Copenhagen, Ireland got their home leg off to the perfect start when Shane Duffy headed them into the lead after only six minutes, but Denmark struck twice before the break and three more in the second half to seal their place in Russia.

"It is an incredible feeling. We have been fighting for so long to get to the World Cup. We are very much looking forward to it," said Eriksen. "It is not often I score any hat-trick so of course it is incredible." The equaliser arrived in fortuitous circumstances on 19 minutes when Cyrus Christie helped bundle in Andreas Christensen's effort, but there was nothing lucky about Eriksen's thunderbolt for the second or his second-half brace. Nicklas Bendtner, on as a late substitute, completed the rout in the final minute with a penalty after a clumsy trip on him by James McClean, extending Ireland's wait for a first World Cup appearance since 2002. "We're really disappointed. We were well beaten in the end," said Ireland coach Martin O'Neill.

"The two goals we conceded within a couple of minutes knocked us. We had to chase the game and Denmark took advantage. They deserved to go through." O'Neill, who had already agreed a new contact to lead Ireland into the qualifiers for the 2020 European Championship, will ship criticism for again selecting his team without the craft of Wes Hoolahan. The 35-year-old, one of four Ireland players likely to retire from international football, was only introduced at the interval with Ireland needing three goals to redeem their cause.

Duffy will certainly be around for the next campaign and his role as a central figure was solidified by his sec-



DUBLIN: Denmark's striker Nicklas Bendtner celebrates after scoring their fifth goal from the penalty spot during the FIFA World Cup 2018 qualifying football match, second leg, between Republic of Ireland and Denmark at Aviva Stadium in Dublin. — AFP

ond crucial goal of the campaign. After Daryl Murphy earned a free-kick on the halfway line, Robbie Brady's delivery was telegraphed perfectly for the giant centreback to arrive on cue to nod past the onrushing Kasper Schmeichel.

That early breakthrough ensured the game opened up and Murphy nearly added a second only to ripple the side-netting with a volley.

ERIKSEN MAGIC

Denmark began to take encouragement from the space they were finding behind the home side's rigid defence and a piece of magic from Pione Sisto conjured the equaliser. His raid from the wing left Stephen Ward for dead and the left-wing cross found Christensen, whose close-range effort clipped the inside of the post and deflected in off the luckless Christie.

Three minutes later and the task deepened for Ireland. Ward was again exposed by losing the ball and Nicolai Jorgensen picked up Eriksen and he found the

top corner past Darren Randolph with a first-time shot from 25 yards. O'Neill's decision to ring the changes at the break did little to ease the pressure as Sisto forced a reflex save from Randolph with a shot from distance. All Ireland could muster was the odd half chance from set-pieces, leaving space for Denmark and Eriksen to capitalise on.

After nearly grabbing his second on 56 minutes, the Tottenham talisman made no mistake on 63 minutes when he completed a flowing move between four players by curling a left-footed shot beyond the outstretched arm of Randolph. While McClean and substitute Shane Long spurned openings for Ireland to try claim some respectability, they conceded again from another Ward error. The Burnley man's feeble attempt at clearing a cross enabled Eriksen to dash in and rocket his shot into the top corner for his hat-trick.

To compound Ireland's woe, they conceded a late penalty which Bendtner gave Randolph no chance with by hammering into the top left corner. — AFP

Steve Gans, the debacle had been a long time coming.

The 57-year-old Boston attorney's worst fears came to fruition last month when the USA were eliminated after a 2-1 loss at Trinidad & Tobago in their final qualifying game. The defeat means the United States will be frustrated spectators when next year's finals in Russia kick off, the first time since 1986 that the country has missed the world's greatest tournament.

Gans is now one of the front-runners in a crowded field bidding to unseat United States Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati when his post comes up for re-election next February. So far, seven challengers to Gulati's 11-year reign have emerged for an election that promises to be the most significant for US soccer in decades. "The future of soccer in America is at stake here, including the future of the United States men's national team, which is going in the wrong direction," Gans told AFP in an interview.

Gans was one of the first to declare against Gulati, having embarked on a nationwide "listening tour" in May to take the temperature of American soccer at all levels of the game. He confirmed his plan to run before the US World Cup exit.

"I wanted to hear if the things that I was hearing from the people urging me to run, were representative of the wider soccer community," Gans said, revealing that common themes soon emerged from different constituencies within the sport.

'IGNORED, MARGINALIZED'

Many youth and adult soccer officials from different states expressed frustration with the USSF leadership, Gans said. "They have felt ignored, they have felt marginalized, and they're a very important historical part of US soccer," Gans said. "The reality is they need to be shown respect. Their ideas, their programs, should be given seriousness of purpose. And they need to have input rather than top down edicts coming from US Soccer telling them how it's going to be." At the top of the pyramid, Gans emphasizes the importance of making the right appointment to coach the US national team. Although he is open to appointing an overseas coach, he believes the hiring of Jurgen Klinsmann in 2011 was a mistake. Klinsmann was fired in 2016 after losing the two opening games of the final round of CONCACAF qualifiers, picking up a severance package worth \$6.2 million on his way out. "I would have handled that completely differently," Gans said. "I'd pick a better manager in the first place. I wouldn't pick the biggest name just to pick the biggest name."

Appointing an overseas coach would hinge on whether the candidate could demonstrate an understanding of the challenges of the job. "You do your due diligence on every single person you bring into this league, country or national team," Gans said. "It's slightly different with a national team coach. It's not about 'Would they treat it as a holiday?' It's more, 'Would they understand what is different about America?'-the vastness of the country, the amount of travel, plaving on artificial turf, the American personality, those kind of issues. "You need to make sure that they 'get' it."- AFP











Australia qualifies for 2018 WCup

Jedinak scores second-half hat-trick

SYDNEY: Mile Jedinak stepped up when it counted most, propelling Australia into next year's World Cup with a hat trick yesterday in a 3-1 victory over Honduras that secured the next-to-last spot in Russia.

The Australia captain was in doubt for the intercontinental playoff series with a groin injury that had forced him to miss the end of the Asian qualifying campaign, when the Socceroos narrowly missed out on direct entry.

But Jedinak played a full game in the 0-0 draw in San Pedro Sula last Friday and, aided by the state-ofthe-art rehabilitation program on Australia's charter flight home, took the free kick that broke the scoring drought in the 54th minute at Sydney's Olympic stadium. His free kick curled to the left of the wall and deflected sharply in off defender Henry Figueroa, bringing the parochial 77,060-strong crowd at Sydney's Olympic stadium to life. He converted from the spot in the 72nd after referee Nestor Pitana penalized Bryan Acosta for a hand ball and again calmly slotted home another penalty in the 85th after Robbie Kruse was dragged down in the area. After 22 games and 27 months, the win ensured Asian Cup champion

Australia qualified for its fourth consecutive World Cup. by chance," said Postecoglou, who took on the "It wouldn't have mattered who scored. I'm happy to

chip in," Jedinak said. "We got the job done and that's all that matters - it's going to be a big 2018." Honduras

scored a consolation goal deep in injury time in a scramble in front of goal with Alberth Elis and Maynor Figueroa both taking swipes at the ball from close range.

The result meant Asia got a full quota of five teams into the World Cup in Russia, with 31 of the 32 places decided. Peru was hosting New Zealand to determine the last qualifier

later yesterday. Under-fire coach Ange Postecoglou said he was delighted for his Australian team, and declined to comment on his future amid speculation that he may not stay on to take them to the World Cup.

"They got what they deserved - it wasn't by luck or

Tour de France winner, retired from cycling last December. UKAD said it had been unable to confirm or refute the account that the package delivered to Team Sky contained Fluimucil. Team Sky general manager Dave Brailsford had told British lawmakers that the package contained the legal decongestant Fluimucil. "Put simply, due to the lack of contemporaneous evidence, UKAD has been unable to definitively confirm the contents of the package," UKAD said in a statement.

"In light of the significant public interest in this particular investigation, which has previously been discussed by the Parliamentary Select Committee for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, UKAD can confirm that this investigation has now been drawn to a close," it added.

"It follows that UKAD does not intend to issue any antidoping charges in relation to the package." UKAD chief xecutive Nicole Sapstead said a lack of accurate records had caused problems. "Our investigation was hampered by a lack of accurate medical records being available at British Cycling," she said. "This is a serious concern." The 37-yearold Wiggins welcomed the UKAD statement but strongly criticised the way the case had been handled. -Reuters

Ventura parts company with Italy after World Cup fiasco

trated the Australian attack.

ROME: Veteran coach Gian Piero Ventura is no longer in charge of Italy's national team, the Italian football federation (FIGC) said yesterday, two days after the side failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

Australian job just before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

"They believed in something that we started, and right

to the end they displayed the kind of resilience and

flank, Honduras lifted its tempo in the first half and frus-

Honduras coach Jorge Luis Pinto said the Australians

clearly worked to neutralize Elis out wide, and the

momentum shift was too great after the opening goal.

belief that has made me

proud all the way along.

They did it their way, and got great rewards for it."

invested heavily in the char-

ter flight to get home

Sunday after the first leg,

the Honduras squad took a

commercial flight and

arrived a day later. But with

veteran skipper Maynor

Figueroa returning, and with

Elis adding pace on the

While the Australians

It was not clear from the FIGC's statement if Ventura had been sacked or had resigned, but the president of the referees association Marcello Nicchi told reporters after a FIGC meeting in Rome that the coach had been "Australia were very strong and aggressive and put pressure on us. In the first half the game was more balanced - in the second half, the (first) goal took a toll," Pinto said. "The second goal, there was contact with the player's hand, but it wasn't intentional."

Honduras earned its place in the playoff with a 3-2 win over Mexico on a hectic last day of qualifying in North and Central America and the Caribbean, securing fourth spot and ensuring the U.S. missed out.

Australia advanced after beating Syria for fifth place in Asian qualifying, with veteran Tim Cahill scoring twice in Sydney. Cahill was involved when Australia edged Uruguay on penalties in a playoff in 2005 to qualify for the following year's World Cup in Germany. He was also there when the Australians qualified directly from Asia for 2010 and 2014. There is a good chance he'll be in Russia, too, well after he has turned 38 years of age.

"To help my country qualify for four World Cups is something I will be proud of when I get ... even older," the former Everton player said. "I feel like a young kid. I would've done anything to be part of this group and I will do anything to stay a part of it." — AP

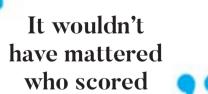
"removed from his post." Italy were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Sweden in the second leg of their European

playoff on Monday, losing 1-0 on aggregate, and will miss the finals for the first time since 1958. Many Italian newspapers also called for the resigna-

tion of FIGC President Carlo Tavecchio following the World Cup fiasco, but in Wednesday's statement, the soccer federation said he had declined to quit.

Instead, it said he would put forward "various proposals" at a forthcoming FIGC meeting, without giving further details. Ventura replaced Antonio Conte following Euro 2016 and was initially given a two-year contract. In August, it was extended until the Euro 2020 tournament because the FIGC said it was happy with the team's progress. On announcing Ventura's appointment, Tavecchio had described him as a "master of football". Ventura has never won a major title or coached top tier teams such as AC Milan, Inter Milan or Juventus. He spent much of his career in the lower divisions, but enjoyed a long, steady career and had a reputation for nurturing young talent.-Reuters

It wouldn't who scored



closes Team Sky, Wiggins 'mystery package' probe

UK Anti-Doping

LONDON: The UK Anti-Doping agency (UKAD) has closed its Team Sky "mystery package" investigation and will not be making any charges, it said yesterday. Team Sky have come under the microscope in recent months after an investigation was launched into a package ordered by former team doctor Richard Freeman and delivered to British rider Bradley Wiggins at the 2011 Criterium du Dauphine race.

Wiggins, a five-times Olympic champion and the 2012

Kuwait Stablished 1061 Times

JUSILESS Apple to help India develop anti-spam app after face-off

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017



offset weak consumer spending



Oil price decline weighs on markets ahead of US tax vote







DUBAI: From left to right, Barry Biffle, CEO of Frontier Airlines, Barry Eccleston, president of Airbus Americas, Bill Franke, managing partner of Indigo Partners, John Leahy, COO - Customers of Airbus, Jozsef Varadi, CEO of Wizz Air, Enrique Beltranena, founder and CEO of Volaris, and Estuardo Ortiz, CEO of JetSMART, pose for a photo in Dubai yesterday. —AP

Airbus lands biggest-ever deal at Dubai show

Aerospace firm to sell 430 planes to Indigo Partners for \$49.5bn

DUBAI: Airbus signed a \$49.5 billion deal vesterday to sell 430 airplanes to the Phoenix-based private equity firm that owns Frontier Airlines, striking the European aerospace company's biggest deal ever at the Dubai Air Show.

Meanwhile, Boeing reached an agreement with low-cost carrier FlyDubai to sell 225 Boeing 737 MAX 10 aircraft - a deal valued at \$27 billion. The developments came ahead of the biennial air show closing today. "It's ended up going out on a high," airline analyst John Strickland of JLS Consulting said. "It shows once again the importance of this part of the world to the big airplane manufacturers."

The Airbus deal with Indigo Partners will see 273 A320neos and 157 A321neos split up among Denver-based Frontier, JetSMART of Chile, Volaris of Mexico and Wizz Air of Hungary, all ultralow-cost airlines associated with Indigo.

The A320neo and the A321neo are twin-

engine, single-aisle planes popular among airlines because of their reduced fuel consumption. The surprise announcement came after Airbus on Sunday suffered the embar-



rassment of believing it had struck a major deal with the state-owned carrier Emirates to sell its A380 double-decker jumbo jet, only to see Boeing sit on the podium with the airline and sign a \$15.1 billion deal.

"Just to clarify: This is not an A380 press

conference," joked John Leahy, Airbus' sales chief, as the start of the announcement. A32Oneos list for \$108.4 million apiece and A321neos at \$127 million. Airlines and manu-

facturers negotiate lower prices for big deals like these, something Indigo's managing partner Bill Franke was quick to stress afterward speaking to journalists.

"Here's hoping," he said. "Their objective is to sell aircraft at the best possible and our objective is to buy aircraft at the best possible price. I've known Mr. Leahy for 25 years. Sometimes he wins, sometimes I win."

Asked if he won this round, Franke said: "That'll be a good question." Airbus' previous biggest-ever sale came in August 2015, when it sold

250 A320neos to Indian budget airline IndiGo, a deal estimated to be worth \$26 billion at list prices. IndiGo and Indigo Partners are separate firms with separate management. Shares in Airbus rose on the news, trading 2.7 percent higher at 85.75



the Airshow in Dubai yesterday. —AP

euros in Paris in an otherwise lower market. Franke is a pioneer of the cheap tickets and high fees airline business that has spread overseas and is growing in the United States. Such carriers offer low base fares but adds fees to stow a carry-on bag, get an assigned seat and other extras. That's led to soaring customer complaints against Frontier. — AP

Sanad Holding earns \$7m in net profits

KUWAIT: Sanad Holding Company declared yesterday it earned KD 2.19 million (\$7.16 million) in net profits in the past nine months compared to KD 172,4,000 (\$563,7,000) in the 2016 corresponding period. The company disclosed on Boursa Kuwait website that the earnings per share amounted to 18.29 fils against 1.4 fils same period in the past year. It attributed the profits to selling an affiliate company, profits' distribution and proceeds from selling available enterprises. The company was established in 1998. It was enlisted in the bourse in 2007, with a capital of KD 12 million (\$39.24 million).

Earlier, Alargan International Real-Estate Company said it posted KD 5.07 million (\$16.5 million) worth of profits in the past nine months, in con-

trast to KD 1.1 million (\$3.5 million) in the 2016 corresponding period. Earnings per share stood at 19.90 fils against 4.54 fils, rising by 338.33 percent. Alargan company was established in 2002, It was enlisted at the bourse in 2007, with a capital amounting to KD 26.5 million (\$86.6 million). It deals in property trades, manages properties, provides studies and con-sultations. Meanwhile, Egypt-Kuwait Holding Company reaped KD 21.33 million (\$69.7 million) worth of net earnings in the past nine months, against KD 12.48 million (\$40.80 million) same period in 2016 — rising by 71 percent. The company said in a statement posted on Boursa Kuwait website yesterday that the earnings per share stood at 21.4 fils compared to 12.80 fils, climbing by 67 percent.

The company was established in 1997. It was enlisted at the bourse in 2001, with a capital amounting to \$500 million (KD 153 million). Its operations outside Egypt include participation in establishing companies, contributing to projects and financial portfolios. — KUNA

Venezuela 'selective default' declared, govt insists it is paying up

CARACAS: Venezuela and the jewel of its petroleum-dependent economy, state oil company PDVSA, were declared in partial default by ratings agencies Tuesday, but the government insisted it was in the process of paying up. Standard & Poor's declared Venezuela in "selective default" after it failed to make \$200 million in payments on two global bond issues by the end of a 30-day grace period on November 12.Fitch, meanwhile, placed PDVSA in selective default for a week's delay in the payment of two bonds totalling some \$2 billion, which matured November 2 and October 27.

And Fitch downgraded cash-strapped Caracas itself to "restricted default" late Tuesday over its failure to make overdue payments on its sovereign bonds. "Fitch Ratings has downgraded Venezuela's Long-Term Foreign Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'RD' (Restricted Default) from 'C' and affirmed the Long-Term Local Currency IDR at 'CC'," the ratings agency said in a statement said. Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez said Venezuela was already catching up on the payments.

'Today, we have begun interest payments on Venezuela's foreign debt and last week, PDVSA made its debt interest payments," he said on state television. "We pay our debts, despite what the ratings agencies, the US Treasury, the European Union or (US President) Donald Trump say."

A committee of 15 financial firms meeting in New York meanwhile put off a decision for a third straight day on whether to declare a "Failure to Pay Credit Event" at PDVSA.

They will reconvene today to determine whether holders of PDVSA debt with default insurance-credit default swaps-can collect payment. PDVSA is vulnerable to creditors potentially moving to seize crude shipments or refinery assets abroad, particularly from its US subsidiary Citgo. If a selective default spreads to other bond issues, particularly the nation's \$150 billion sovereign debt, the South American country would likely be declared in full default.

A full default-recognition that Venezuela is unable to repay its massive debt-would have enormous consequences for the country, whose population is already suffering severe food and medicine shortages because of a lack of money to import them.

China, meanwhile, said its massive financing of Venezuela was "proceeding normally," and Russia was expected to sign an agreement as early as Wednesday to restructure \$3 billion of Venezuelan debt, according to sources in Moscow familiar with the matter. Beijing and Moscow have emerged as Venezuela's most reliable sources of funding, with China owed \$28 billion and Russia \$8 billion.

Caracas has less than \$10 billion left in hard currency reserves, but must make \$1.4 billion in debt payments before year's end, and another \$8 billion next year.

'New category of risk'

For now, Venezuela appears to have bought a little more time. "Ultimately, it seems like bondholders are waiting and giving them some time... The incentives are for the bondholders to wait and see if they are going to be paid," said analyst Risa Grais-Targow of the Eurasia Group consultancy.

But, she told AFP, "the rating agency defaults open up a new category of risk." "There may be some investors that may be forced to sell because of that, because they are not allowed to hold debt at a certain category of risk," Grais-Targow added. President Nicolas Maduro has formed a commission to restructure Venezuela's sovereign debt and PDVSA's. - AFP





Mercedes-Benz V-Class displayed at Dubai Int'l Motor Show 2017

Comfort and luxury on a large scale

DUBAI: Mercedes-Benz Vans has placed the spotlight at this year's Dubai International Motor Show on its V-Class, a model that has redefined the MPV. The V-Class has been exceptionally well received in the region with MENA retail sales for 2017 (January to October) already delivering approximately a 40 percent increase over 2016.

As the largest member of the passenger car family, the V-Class has set new benchmarks in its segment with its superior design and host of innovations. With capacity for up to eight people, the vehicle combines exemplary functionality with high-class appeal, efficient driving pleasure and a five star safety rating that distinguishes automobiles bearing the three-pointed star. This makes the Mercedes V-Class the perfect vehicle for those who appreciate great spaciousness, but do not want to sacrifice style and comfort.

The V-Class is offered in three variants: Standard, Avantgarde and Exclusive. A particularly luxurious variant of the MPV is the V-Class EXCLUSIVE. With an incomparably high level of exclusive equipment and appointments, it raises style, comfort and functionality of the V-Class to an even higher level and marks the pinnacle of the model series. The V-Class AVANTGARDE option includes the option of an Exterior Sports package and an Interior Design package, and a range of other extras.

For the first time in this segment, Mercedes-Benz is also offering the AMG Line equipment package, enabling the new MPV to be individualized to suit any taste and requirement. As a result, the model meets a wide variety of customer needs and is just as attractive for families as it is for people who need a variable and spacious interior for their leisure and sports activities. Even more than that, it is ideally suited to use as a luxurious VIP or hotel shuttle.

The demand across the region for the V-Class has significantly exceeded forecasts for 2017, and confirms our global strategy in establishing this new segment combining luxury travel and exceptional functionality," said Thomas Greipel, General Manager, Mercedes-Benz Vans MENA. "V-Class models sold in our region also enjoy additional enhancements to ensure peak performance despite the heat, dust and local fuel quality conditions. There is no need therefore to compromise on performance or comfort in a vehicle that accommodates an MPV sized passenger requirement, thanks to the V-Class."

Emotional, dynamic appearance - size in a new guise Even at first glance the V-Class is unmistakably a member of the Mercedes-Benz passenger car family and sets an emotional highlight in its segment.



The new V-Class demonstrates that an elegant and dynamic appearance is also possible in size XXL. The V-Class is a versatile, multitalented vehicle that offers value, efficiency and safety at the highest level. As a result it is addressing a completely new customer group - among them those who are in need of a generous amount of space but never wanted to drive an MPV because style, a sense of well-being and also ride comfort have so far been lacking in this segment.

Mercedes-Benz Intelligent Drive - exemplary safety A high level of driving comfort and an exemplary standard of safety are ensured by a total of ten innovative driver assistance systems. They are based on stateof-the-art radar, camera and ultrasound sensors, which were introduced in the E-Class and S-Class under the name "Mercedes-Benz Intelligent Drive". Standard equipment includes Crosswind Assist, which helps the driver to stabilize the V-Class in strong, gusting crosswinds, and ATTENTION ASSIST, which can warn of inattention and drowsiness. An available option is Active Parking Assist. It makes parking the new MPV as easy and convenient as parking a compact car.

Also optionally available are the 360∞ camera, DIS-TRONIC PLUS adaptive cruise control with COLLI-SION PREVENTION ASSIST, Lane Keeping Assist, Blind Spot Assist, the LED Intelligent Light System and Adaptive Highbeam Assist. Most of these assistance systems are available in this segment for the first time.

The PRE-SAFE(r) system, familiar from the passenger car models, is available as an optional extra to further enhance safety. When an accident threatens, it initiates protective measures to ensure that the belts and airbags offer optimum protection during a collision.



New standard of agility and driving pleasure

To enhance personal driving pleasure, the V-Class is the only vehicle in its segment to offer the AGILITY SELECT function in conjunction with the automatic transmission. At the push of a button the driver can select from four driving modes: economical, comfortable, sporty and manual. Engine, accelerator and transmission response are then adapted accordingly.

Modern style and high-class appeal

The interior of the V-Class is a completely new MPV experience. And not only because it is pleasantly quiet. High-quality materials with a pleasant touch and feel and a harmonious color concept, intricate details as well as a progressive and sensuous design idiom convey outstanding high-class appeal in the segment and that hallmark "welcome home" feeling typical of Mercedes-Benz cars. Fine nappa leather is also available for the seats, steering wheel and shift lever. This inviting atmosphere is rounded off by subtle ambient lighting in three colors.

NBK Capital platinum sponsor for annual CFA and professionalism. Our goal is to help them reach **Charter** award ceremony in Kuwait

A new dimension in comfort

The V-Class also sets new standards in comfort and variability with a host of innovations. The Mercedes-Benz MPV is the only vehicle in the segment to offer optional 4-way lumbar support and active seat ventilation with reversing fans to ensure a consistent relative humidity at the contact area with the leather seat for driver and front passenger. Also unique in this class of vehicles is the enhanced THERMOTRONIC automatic climate control system, which is available in addition to the standard-fit TEMPMATIC system. It has various ventilation modes to offer individual climate control. The FOCUS, MEDIUM and DIFFUSE climate modes have distinct settings for air flow and distribution. Even for hot climate regions, the V-Class climate control system ensures pleasant temperatures both in the front and in the rear part of the vehicle due to its enhanced cooling capacity. With additional optional extras like air-conditioned front and rear seats, large panoramic roof, iPad holders in rear and LED-illuminated thermo cup holders and the large center console with integral cooler compartment, the V-Class makes all passengers feel as comfortable as in their living rooms.

NBK•CAPITAL their high level of excellence

Flydubai commits to **\$27 bn order for** 225 Boeing 737 **MAX** aircraft

flvdubai has extended its network to 97 destinations in 44 countries and we look forward to the arrival of the new aircraft from 2019 in support of

KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai vesterday announced a commitment to a \$27 billion order for 225 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to support the growth of its fleet. This is the third aircraft order placed by the airline with Boeing in its eight-year history and follows orders placed in 2008 and 2013. This new aircraft order will support its continued expansion within a geographic area that is home to 2.5 billion people.

The airline by the end of the year will have a fleet of 61 Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft and Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft. In addition, there is a pipeline of 70 aircraft due for delivery by 2023.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, Chairman, flydubai, commented on the aircraft order and said: "Today's aircraft order underlines the success of flydubai's founding vision helping to strengthen trade and tourism links across its network and has contributed to the enhanced connectivity of Dubai's aviation hub. In under a decade,

our future ambitions.'

With yesterday's announcement, this will bring the total number of aircraft the airline has on order to 320. Ghaith Al-Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer, flydubai added: "Today marks the next chapter in flydubai's success story.

Since we launched in 2009, flydubai has opened up 67 previously underserved markets serving our passengers across the region. We welcome the continuation of our long partnership with Boeing. We ordered this aircraft model as it has given us the versatility and flexibility to carry 44 million passengers since our first flight.'

'We are extremely honored that flydubai has selected to be an all-Boeing operator for many years to come. This record-breaking agreement builds on our strong partnership with flydubai and the other leading carriers of this region," said Boeing Commercial Airplanes President & CEO Kevin McAllister.

'With flydubai's proven business model and ambitious growth plans, we look forward to hun-dreds of flydubai 737 MAXs connecting Dubai with the rest of the world."

flydubai was established in 2008 to create opportunities for travel, tourism and trade within the flying radius of its fleet of Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 and Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft.

KUWAIT: NBK Capital has announced the sponsorship of the 10th Annual Charter Award Ceremony, organized by the local Chartered Financial Analyst Society (CFA Society Kuwait) on Monday, 20 November 2017, at Salwa Al-Sabah Hall - Marina Hotel Kuwait.

Shaikha Khalid Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of NBK and Chairperson of NBK Capital will be Chief Guest at the event. Shaikha will address the Charter Awardees and the audience as well as distribute certificates to this year's new Charter Holders.

The event will be attended by Paul Smith, CFA, President and CEO of the CFA Institute, prominent members of the financial and investment society in Kuwait, members of CFA Kuwait, and representatives of NBK Capital. Dr Amlan Roy, the Global Demographics expert will be the Guest Speaker at the event. CFA Society Kuwait, an organization that promotes the highest ethical standards and professional excellence within the local investment community, organizes this event annually to recognize professionals who have successfully completed the rigorous CFA program to earn the designation.

On this occasion, Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO of NBK Capital, said, "The CFA Institute is a strategic partner for NBK Capital. We both share the important responsibility of supporting these individuals who have demonstrated

new heights in their financial careers." He added, "Our sponsorship falls under NBK Capital's Corporate and Social Responsibility "CSR" strategy, and as evidence of the extent of our commitment to invest in the development of our people, and



Faisal Al-Hamad

open new opportunities for them to build a prosperous future. Today, we welcome a new group of these ambitious professionals into the exciting world of finance, and we want to congratulate them on their great achievements".

Mijbel Al-Qattan, CFA, President of CFA Society Kuwait, said: "We would like to thank NBK Capital for their continued support and partnership in the development of Kuwait's investment management industry, as this underpins our common goal for investment professionals to contribute towards economic growth. With the changing market dynamics, professionals need to be qualified in order to adapt to changes whilst delivering value to clients through greater levels of transparency and ethical practices which puts the interest of investors first.'

This is the seventh year that NBK Capital will sponsor the CFA Graduation, which is reflective of the robust relationship the company has with CFA institute's member society in Kuwait. CFA Society Kuwait is an association of local investment professionals, consisting of portfolio managers, security analysts, investment advisors and other financial practitioners, that has served CFA charter holders and CFA Program candidates locally since 2008.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.	Canadian dollar Turkish lira Swiss Franc	239.240 788.900 306.100	Malaysian Ringgit Chinese Yuan Renminbi	72.220 46.005		Chinese Yuan Hong Kong Dollar	0.044183 0.036789	0.04
ASIAN COUNTRIES	Australian Dollar	233.280	Thai Bhat Turkish Lira	10.145 78.895		Indian Rupee	0.004109 0.000018	0.00
apanese Yen 2.674	US Dollar Buying	302.150	Turkish Lira	18.895		Indonesian Rupiah		
ndian Rupees 4.625						Japanese Yen	0.002583	0.00
akistani Rupees 2.875		GOLD	RAHRAIN	EXCHANGE COM	ΡΔΝΙΥ	Korean Won	0.000261	0.00
rilankan Rupees 1.972	20 Gram	249.070	DAINAIN			Malaysian Ringgit	0.068404	0.07
epali Rupees 2.936	10 Gram	127.450	CURRENCY	DUV	CELL	Nepalese Rupee	0.003027	0.00
ngapore Dollar 223.630	5 Gram	64.570	CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	Pakistan Rupee	0.002653	0.00
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nai banı 9.195			Danish Krone	0.043492	0.048492	Taiwan	0.009926	0.01
GCC COUNTRIES	Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate	Euro	0.348374	0.355874	Thai Baht	0.008823	0.00
audi Rival 80.947	US Dollar	303.000	Georgian Lari	0.113140	0.113140			
atari Riyal 83.372	Canadian Dollar	239.540	Norwegian Krone	0.033065	0.038265		Arab	
Omani Riyal 788.332	Sterling Pound	399.145	Romanian Leu	0.059096	0.075946	Bahraini Dinar	0.797647	0.80
Bahraini Dinar 806.030	Euro	354.630	Russian ruble	0.005098	0.005098	Egyptian Pound	0.014548	0.00
JAE Dirham 82.645	Swiss Frank	303.680	Slovakia	0.009051	0.019051	Iranian Rival	0.000084	0.02
	Bahrain Dinar	804.185	Swedish Krona	0.032115	0.037115	2	0.000207	0.00
ARAB COUNTRIES	UAE Dirhams	82.885	Swiss Franc	0.297713	0.308713	Iraqi Dinar		
gyptian Pound - Cash 19.700	Qatari Riyals	83.710 81.660				Jordanian Dinar	0.423250	0.43
gyptian Pound - Transfer 17.170	Saudi Riyals Jordanian Dinar	428.645		Australasia		Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.00
emen Riyal/for 1000 1.218	Egyptian Pound	428.045	Australian Dollar	0.223073	0.235073	Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.00
unisian Dinar 123.060	Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973	New Zealand Dollar	0.201754	0.211254	Moroccan Dirhams	0.023606	0.04
ebanese Lira/for 1000 2.022	Indian Rupees	4.642				Omani Riyal	0.781604	0.78
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Iorocco Dirham 32.479	Bangladesh Taka	3.704	Canadian Dollar	0.232531	0.241531	Saudi Riyal	0.079807	0.08
1010000 Dimani 32.413	Philippines Pesso	5.906	US Dollars	0.299250	0.303670	Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.00
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	Cyprus pound	18.030	US Dollars Mint	0.299750	0.303670	Tunisian Dinar	0.117283	0.12
S Dollar Transfer 303.350	Japanese Yen	3.665		51200100	0.00001.0	Turkish Lira	0.073428	0.08
Suro 356.130	Syrian Pound	1.590		Asia		UAE Dirhams	0.081166	0.08
Sterling Pound 399.360	Nepalese Rupees	2.913	Bangladesh Taka	0.003306	0.003890	Yemeni Rival	0.000986	0.00



US consumer prices rise barely, core CPI firming

Housing costs drive modest gain in inflation

WASHINGTON: US consumer prices barely rose in October as the boost to gasoline prices from hurricanerelated disruptions to Gulf Coast oil refineries were unwound, but rising rents and healthcare costs pointed to a gradual buildup of underlying inflation.

The Labor Department said yesterday its Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1 percent last month after jumping 0.5 percent in September. That lowered the year-on-year increase in the CPI to 2.0 percent from 2.2 percent in September. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI nudging up 0.1 percent in October and rising 2.0 percent on a year-on-year basis. Gasoline prices fell 2.4 percent after surging 13.1 percent in September, which was the largest gain since June 2009. September's jump in gasoline prices followed Hurricane Harvey, which struck Texas in late August and disrupted production at oil refineries in the Gulf Coast region.

Food prices were unchanged after nudging up 0.1 percent in September. Excluding the volatile food and energy components, consumer prices rose 0.2 percent in October amid a pickup in the cost of rental accommodation, healthcare costs, tobacco and a range of other goods and services.

The so-called core CPI gained 0.1 percent in September. October's increase lifted the year-on-year increase in the core CPI to 1.8 percent. The year-on-year core CPI had increased by 1.7 percent for five straight months. The slight pickup in the monthly core CPI could offer some comfort to Federal Reserve officials amid concerns that stubbornly low inflation might reflect not only temporary factors but developments that could prove more persistent.

The Fed's preferred inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index excluding

food and energy, has consistently undershot the US central bank's 2 percent target for more than five years. The Fed is expected to raise interest rates in December. It has lifted borrowing costs twice this year and has projected three rate increases in 2018.

Last month, the cost of rental accommodation rose 0.3 percent, matching the increase in September. Owners' quivalent rent of primary residence climbed 0.3 percent after advancing 0.2 percent in September.

The cost of hospital services increased 0.5 percent and prices for doctor visits rose 0.2 percent. There were also increases in prices for wireless phone services, airline fares, education and motor vehicle insurance.Prices for used cars and trucks rose 0.7 percent, ending nine straight months of declines. New motor vehicle prices, however, fell for a second consecutive month as manufacturers resorted to deep discounting to eliminate an inventory overhang.

And within the data, one key measure of annual inflation posted its first increase since January, giving a flicker of hope to US central bankers who have long awaited the return of price pressures.

The Federal Reserve is widely expected to raise the benchmark interest rate next month even though monetary policymakers have acknowledged the mystifying weakness of inflation despite falling unemployment and steady job growth. Meanwhile, the US retail sector eked out a token increase in October as sales of gasoline and building supplies retreated even while auto sales remained strong, according to a separate government report. The continued gains in consumer spending could support GDP growth in the final quarter of 2017, which has remained robust despite massive disruption from back-to-back hurricanes. —Agencies



In this Oct 12, 2017 photo, prices appear on shoes in a window display at a Fabco Shoes store in Jersey City, N.J. – AP

KFH and MasterCard launch new Banking Cards usage campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), in collaboration with MasterCard, a leading technology company in the global payments industry, has launched a new card-usage campaign, under the theme: "Enjoy your Italian tour with Ferrari", encouraging customers to use KFH MasterCard Credit and Prepaid cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The campaign, which kicked off November 1 2017, will run for three months - allowing KFH MasterCard cardholders chances every month to win an exciting



becomes much more rewardingly exciting and gives the customer an excellent shopping experience." He also added "KFH is committed to constantly launch-5-day tour in Italy in a Ferrari sports car along with ing new campaigns and offers that meet the aspiraa companion. In addition to driving a Ferrari car in tions of its customers. KFH is keen on rewarding its customers with unprecedented promotions and innovative products and services. This reflects the pioneering position of KFH, the world's leading Islamic financial institution that aims at enhancing the bank's presence in the field of banking cards.' Pankaj Kathuria, Area Business Head, Northern Gulf, MasterCard said: "At MasterCard, the experiences we create for our cardholders go beyond the payment journey. We understand the aspirations of cardholders and are always looking for opportunities that will drive the adoption of payment cards while adding value to their lifestyles - whether it is for travel, shopping or dining. Our collaboration with KFH allows our cardholders in Kuwait the once-ina-lifetime opportunity to discover and explore Italy and its rich cultural offerings in true Italian style." It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards, which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership position in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled the bank to increase its cards market share and to grow the customer base.

Burgan Bank announces winner of Al-Thuraya salary account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, announced yesterday Mohammed Ashfaq Malik Nawaz as the lucky winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw. The winner was presented with a Nissan Patrol SUV by Burgan discounts and offers throughout the year.

Bank's Head of marketing management - AGM, Haneen Al-Rumaihi.

The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. With every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti Dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the



Italy, the three winners (one for each month) and their companions will also enjoy round-trip business class tickets from Kuwait to Italy, hotel stay in Italy as well as a visit to the Ferrari Factory Museum.

All customers need to do is spend a minimum of KD 100 on purchases each month using their KFH MasterCard Credit or Prepaid card, which will automatically enter them in the monthly draws. Every KD 1 spent locally will result in 1 chance and every KD 1 spent internationally will earn customers 3 chances in the monthly draw.

Group General Manager Retail Banking at KFH, Fadi Chalouhi, said: "This campaign is part of KFH's continuous effort to offer the most rewarding and attractive promotions to its customers by presenting additional value and providing customers with enriching experiences. KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to launch this unique and exciting campaign that offers enormous value to KFH customers and have an extraordinary experience of travelling to Italy and driving a top sports car like Ferrari through the stunning landscape of Italy. With such delightful privileges added to card usage, the KFH card



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Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas



Japan exports drive expansion, offset frail consumer spending

TOKYO: Japan's economy expanded at a 1.4 percent annualized rate in July-September in the seventh straight quarter of growth for the world's third-largest economy. The economy is in its longest period of expansion since 2001. But it slowed from a 2.6 percent annualized rate of growth in April-June, the Cabinet Office reported yesterday. In quarterly terms the economy grew 0.3 percent, slowing from a 0.6 percent quarter-on-quarter increase in April-June.

Strong exports and corporate investment helped offset relatively weak household demand, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of business activity but remains fragile thanks to sluggish growth in wages.

Private consumption fell 0.5 percent in July-September from the previous quarter, the first such decline in seven quarters, the report said. In annualized terms, it fell 1.8 percent.

While the revival in exports thanks to recovering demand in China, the US and other major markets has breathed fresh life into the economy, Japan's long-term outlook remains uncertain. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office nearly five years ago vowing to "take back Japan" by spurring inflation that he and his advisers said would lead companies to invest and raise wages in a "virtuous cycle" that would break Japan out of a deflationary rut. Inflation remains flat, however, and companies have balked at raising base wages despite reaping record profits in recent years, anticipating that future demand will shrink as Japan's population ages and declines. Instead, they have focused on expanding into faster growing overseas markets.

"The bigger picture is that wages are not rising any faster this year than they did last year even though the labor market has continued to tighten," Capital Economics said in a recent report. -AP

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Oil price decline weighs on markets ahead of US vote

European and Asian shares tumble

LONDON: Global share prices fell sharply yesterday as sinking oil prices weighed on oil producers and other energy stocks. Investors are also monitoring developments surrounding President Donald Trump's attempt to get sweeping legislation to revamp the US tax system through Congress.

In Europe, Germany's DAX fell 1 percent to 12,903 while the CAC 40 in France fell 0.6 percent to 5,285. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was 0.5 percent lower at 7,375. US stocks were poised for a lower opening, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.5 percent.

A report from the International Energy Agency pointing to strong production growth in the years ahead, particularly in the US, has weighed on oil prices and that's had a knock-on effect on energy stocks, such as BP, which was down 1.3 percent and Total, which was trading 1.2 percent lower. In early afternoon London trading, a barrel of Brent crude was down another 58 cents at \$55.12 a barrel while the New York benchmark fell 66 cents to \$61.55 a barrel. The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, fell 0.2 percent and was set for its fifth straight day of declines, its longest run in the red since March.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index fell 1 percent and at its lowest level since Sept. 13. The index is still up nearly 6 percent so far this year. The UK's top share index, the FTSE 100, declined half a percent while Germany's exportoriented DAX fell 1 percent, weighed down by a stronger euro, which had risen nearly half a percent in European trading hours.

Traders were also a tad nervous about the upcoming vote in Congress on President Donald Trump's tax-cutting package, which would be his first major legislative achievement after nearly 10 months in office.

"The deterioration in global stocks clearly has a footing in last week's Senate announcement that we may not see a US corporate tax cut until 2019," said Joshua Mahony, market analyst at IG. "However, the worst may not be



TOKYO: A pedestrian looks at an electronics stock indicator of the world in Tokyo yesterday.—AFP

over yet. With Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell hoping to add a repeal of the 'individual mandate' into the bill as a way to undermine Obamacare, the pathway to tax reform just got more complicated."

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index tumbled 1.6 percent to 22,028.32, as manufacturers' shares were stung by a stronger yen. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.0 percent to 28,851.69 and the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.8 percent to 3,402.52. Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 0.6 percent to 5,934.20 and the Kospi of South Korea declined 0.3 percent to 2,518.25

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan had earlier fallen 0.6 percent.

China's Shanghai index was down 0.55 percent, Australian stocks dropped 0.6 percent and South Korea's KOSPI shed 0.4 percent. Japan's Nikkei lost 1.5 percent. "It was nearly a week ago when we had that sharp and unexpected selloff in the Nikkei and given that we've lost over a percent in Japan yet again overnight, it appears this negative move has yet again spread to this part of the world," said David Madden, analyst at CMC Markets in London.

"I think it's a combination of people just viewing it (last week's selloff) as a wake up call that even though the political and economic outlook haven't changed a whole lot, equity markets just don't go up forever." Lifted by steady economic growth, supportive monetary policies and solid corporate earnings, global equities have rallied hard, with those in the United States, Germany and South Korea scaling record heights recently, while Japan's Nikkei climbed to a 26-year peak. —Agencies

Fringe benefits: Home demand in outer Australian cities prolongs building boom

EU summit in **Sweden seeks** fairer post-Brexit economy

Juncker. Most of the EU's 28 national leaders are expected to attend, including British Prime Minister Theresa May, even though her country, which is due to leave the bloc in 2019, has long resisted greater government involvement in the job market.

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May could take the chance to have meetings on the sidelines with other leaders about the deadlocked Brexit negotiations, with a December deadline looming for a deal to move on to trade talks. But Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, the bloc's economic and political dynamo, will skip the summit to lead talks for a new governing coalition, though her aides said she fully supports the meeting's goals. These points will be enshrined in a European Pillar of Social Rights which Juncker, European Parliament chief Antonio Tajani and Estonian Prime Minister Juri Ratas-whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency-are due to sign tomorrow.

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	Glo	bal Stock Ir	ndices		200 0.0	
index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	ge	Daily Performance 3	Tearly Pertornence
Dow Jones	23,439.70	23,409,47	+30.23		-0.13	18.45
MASDAQ	6,757.60	6,737.87	+19,73	۲	-0.29	25.17
5&P 500	2,584.84	2,578.87	-5.97		-0.23	15.19
Financial Times	7,414,42	7,386.26	-28.16	•	-0.38	3.41
DAX	13,033.48	12,907.52	-125.96	٠	-0.97	12.42
CAC 40	5,315.58	5,288.02	-27.56	٠	-0.52	8.76
Swiss	9,130.48	9,067.23	-63.25	•	-0.69	10.31
Mikkel 225	22,380.01	22,028.32	-351.69		-1.57	15.24
Topix	1,778.87	1,744.01	-34.86	•	-1.96	14,84
Hang Seng	29,152.12	28,851.69	-300.43	٠	-1.03	31.14
Straits Times	3,399.09	3,368.70	-30.39	۲	-0.89	16,94
intex	ME Previous Close	NA Stock In	dices	82	Daily Performance 1	Tealy Performance
Kowait	6,250.06	6,285.56	35.50	×.	0.57	8.03
Seudi Arabia	6,979.28	6,946.75	-12.53	٠	-0.47	-3.21
Oubel	3,488.99	3,468.41	-20.58	٠	-0.59	-1,19
Abu Dhabi	4,366.41	4,345.00	-21.41		-0.49	-3.96
6ahrain	1,259.87	1,265.09	5.22	٠	0.41	3.23
Qatar	7,873.84	7,856.03	-17,81		-0,23	-24,56
Oman	5,114.67	5,111,41	-3.26		-0.06	+11.55
Lebanon	1,128.94	1,112.65	-16.29	۲	+1.44	-6.91

6,161.86 6,163.91 -2,05 ٠ -0.03 Global Currencies Exchange Rate

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SYDNEY: On the edges of Sydney, where Australia's biggest city is sprawling across paddocks and market gardens, demand for new homes is running harder than tradesmen can lay bricks.

As home prices have soared in established suburbs values have doubled in Sydney since 2008 and nearly so in Melbourne - buyers seeking the "Australian dream" of a free-standing home and yard have flocked to the fringes where land is cheaper. "It's where we could afford," said Sandeep Hehar, 28, who queued overnight with her husband to secure a plot of land in Oran Park, a new outer-Sydney suburb rising on the site of an old motor racing circuit where she hopes to build a 4-bedroom home and start a family.

The construction rush driven by more people moving to the outer suburbs has helped reverse a downward trend in building approvals. House approvals touched an 18-month high of 9,929 in September, unexpectedly prolonging a boom many thought was winding down.

This frenetic activity has created a labor shortage in the industry. "There aren't enough bricklayers to keep up, so what builders have started doing is actually looking for other products to use rather than brick," James Logue, housing manager at Fairmont Homes, a familyowned home builder based on Sydney's southwestern fringe told Reuters.

Much larger aerated concrete panels, sold by CSR Ltd under the trade name Hebel, are a common substitute, as they can be fitted to timber frames and completed much faster than building a wall from brick, he said. "Pretty much every builder here is just flat out, crazy busy." Demand from buyers such as Hehar propelled Sydney's median residential lot land values to a record high of A\$470,000 in October. At the same time, the extra supply of new homes has tempered once red-hot price growth to the relief of policy makers worried about a housing-bubble bust.

The roaring construction of new homes, however, is putting a floor under prices and is supporting the economy by stoking demand and jobs in the building industry. "I think most people, including us, underestimated it," said Jack Hoffman, General Manager at Satterley, Australia's largest privately-owned land developer, in Victoria state, where approvals to build new private homes hit a seven-year high in September. "The population growth took people by surprise and that's a real driver...we've got strong levels of demand every time we're releasing blocks of land."

Forward-looking data promises even more life in the cycle yet. Borrowing to buy finished new homes hit a 38-year peak in September. The monthly rate of building loan creation is also cantering at 6,400 - harking back to the boom-time borrowing rates of three years ago. Private-home construction approvals rose for a seventh straight month in September, enough to turn back a downtrend in overall approvals, as some of the country's around 230,000 annual migrants built homes for themselves.

To be sure, overall construction activity is below the heights it scaled during the boom's 2016 peak, and many economists say the current building surge should stabilize over time. But small-time builders' demand for locally-made supplies like bricks, tiles and wood frames is moving the dial for material-makers such as Brickworks Ltd, Boral Ltd and James Hardie Industries, and that's drawing investors. -Reuters

BRUSSELS: EU leaders meet in Sweden this week to launch an offensive on the economic inequalities fuelling populism, the first step in a two-year reform drive to show the bloc can survive after Brexit.

Friday's summit in the port city of Gothenburg aims to restore faith in the post-war vision of a united Europe by promoting fair jobs, growth and a social safety net after years of crisis-driven economic austerity. Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said far-right gains in Austrian and German elections, which followed the shock of Britain's vote to leave, the European Union, showed action was necessary.

"Rightwing extremists gaining power? Yes of course I'm worried because I know it's a poison for society," Lofven, the summit's co-organiser, told AFP in an interview in Brussels last month.

"I'm convinced that a sustainable European Union needs a strong social dimension because this is all about people." The so-called "social summit" is the first of its kind since one in Luxembourg in 1997. It aims to show that the EU is not just a huge market of 500 million people, but a force that can meet the concerns of working people by reducing inequality, boosting welfare and improve people's work-life balance in an era of ever increasing global competition.

Ambitious reforms

The meeting is also the first in an ambitious timeline of summits proposed by EU President Donald Tusk over the next two vears to reboot the bloc after Brexit and other setbacks. Former Polish premier Tusk unveiled the schedule of talks just weeks after calls for deep EU reform by French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission head Jean-Claude

'Extremism and populism'

But there are, as ever, splits within the EU over how best to drive economic growth. Lofven, Juncker and other EU leaders have called for free trade deals with Latin America and other parts of the world despite calls by Macron to moderate their zeal. Macron argues that EU governments no longer have the popular support to negotiate trade deals as many Europeans fear they will lead only to more iob losses as well as weaker environmental and health standards.

Lofven, who has headed a fragile Social Democrat coalition since 2014, said trade deals are needed for economic growth but that wealth must be distributed in a "fairer way than we do today."

"If gaps are widening too much, especially if people at the bottom of the society feel that they are not part of this, well that breeds extremism and populism," Lofven said. Leaders are also due to discuss ways to make it easier for young Europeans to move for education and jobs, such as the Erasmus program, which has allowed five million Europeans study around the bloc since it was launched 30 years ago. "Education and culture are the source of millions of jobs and growth in our Member States and tools to reduce inequalities, Tusk wrote in an invitation letter. —AFP



CANNES: People visit the International Market for Retail Real Estate (MAPIC) yesterday in Cannes, southeastern France. The event is held until tomorrow, gathering thousands of retailers, investors, local and regional authorities, and retail property professionals from around the world. —AFP

Currency	Kovalti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Switts Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kowalt Dinar		12.2963	3.2927	2,7813	2.5023	3.2486	371.39	4.3377
Saudi Riyal	0.08132		0.2678	0.2262	0.2035	0.2642	30.20	0.3528
us pollar	0.30370	3.7344		0.8447	0.7599	0.9866	112,79	1.3173
Euro	0.35955	4.4212	1.1839		0.9000	1.1681	133.57	1.5599
Sterling Pound	0.39964	4.9141	1.3159	1.1111		1,2983	148.43	1.7335
Swiss Franc	0.30782	3.7851	1.0136	0.8561	0,7702		114,34	1.3352
Japanese Yen	0.00269	0.0331	0.0089	0.0075	0.0067	0.0087		0.0117
Australian Dollar	0.23054	2.8348	0.7591	0.6411	0.5769	0.7489	85.62	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30370	3.7344	0.3743	3.6265	0.3832	3.6571	17.5400
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2927		12,2963	1.2323	11.9411	1.2616	12.0418	57.7544
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08132		0.1002	0.9711	0.1026	0,9793	4,6969
Sahraini Dinar	2.6720	0.81149	9.9784	-	9.6900	1.0238	9,7718	45.8571
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08374	1.0298	0.1032		0.1057	1.0084	4.8366
Omani Riyal	2.6099	0.79264	9,7466	0.9768	9.4650		9.5448	45.7784
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08304	1.0211	0.1023	0.9916	0.1048		4,7961
Egyptian Pound	0.0570	0.01731	0.2129	0.0213	0.2068	0.0218	0.2085	

Global Interest Rates

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.25	1.56	1.75	2.00	2.31
us Dollar	1.20	1.26	1.41	1.62	1.89
Euro	-0.42	-0.39	-0,37	-0.31	-0.25
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.49	0.52	0.59	0.77
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.78	-0.74	-0.65	-0.52
Australian Dollar	1.55	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.67
Japanese Yen	-0.0Z	-0.02	-0.04	-0.01	0,11

Global Bond Yields												
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year								
United States	1.66	2.02	2.34	2.80								
Europe	-0.76	-0.36	0.36	1.25								
United Kingdom	0.46	0.73	1.27	1.85								

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	ęr.	Daily Performance S	Tearly Pertamence
Kuwait Ol	59.97	58.63	-1.34		-2.23	11.27
Brent	61.42	61.44	0.02		0.03	11.01
West Texas	55.72	55.62	-0,10		-0.18	3.54
Gold	1280.63	1285.31	4.68		0.37	10.06
Silver	17.01	17,12	0.11		0.64	6.30



15 Nov, 1952. A remarkable chapter in the history of Kuwait economy **NBK celebrates 65 Glorious Years of Service**

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), Celebrated - 15th of November 2017 – the 65th anniversary year of its foundation and day 1 of operations. Established in 1952 as the first indigenous bank and the first shareholding company in Kuwait and the Gulf with a capital of one million Kuwaiti Dinars.

Now, NBK reported net profits of KD 238.4 million (USD 788.9 million) for the first nine months of 2017 compared with KD 219.3 million (USD 725.7 million) for the same period in 2016. NBK's profits during the first nine months of 2017 grew by 8.7% compared to the same period last year.

A remarkable story of success The commemoration of this inspiring and monumental occasion comes as a culmination of a remarkable story of success depicting the evolution of a small bank that started operations in 1952 within a total space of three shops and a handful of employees relying on traditional and manual banking tools to one of the largest and most profitable banks in the region.

Today, NBK, which is the leading bank in Kuwait and the highest rated in the Middle East, boasts the largest presence in Kuwait with 68 branches, which together with its growing international representation adds up to 147 branches worldwide

NBK continues to enjoy collectively one of the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for twelve consecutive times and was awarded as the Best Bank in Kuwait in 2016 by the Banker, Euromoney and Global Finance.



Abdul Aziz Hamad Al-Sager



Yousif Abdul Aziz Al-Fulaij



Said Ali Said Sulaiman



Khalid Abdulatif Al-Hamad

carry a rating of Aa3 by Moodu's



Mohammed Abdul Al-Mohsin Al-Kharafi



Khalifa Khalid Al-Ghunaim



Ahmed Saud Al-Khalid



Khalid Zaid Al-Khalid

bps). The notes are expected to towards the development of the Kuwaiti society over the past



NBK opened its first stand-alone Head Office building in Al-Mubarakiya in 1963. The opening ceremony was attended by the foreign minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who later became the Amir of Kuwait, and the finance minister the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other distinguished representatives of leading merchant families in Kuwait.



NBK opens for business 15 November 1952.



NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).

Clean Fuels project

NBK confirms again its prominent position in leading banking consortiums and as a key player in financing mega transaction, NBK has a long history in arranging and leading mega financing deals in Kuwait and the region.

NBK's leading role in this consortium is yet another testament of NBK's strong reputation, professionalism and credibility in the market place.

The Clean Fuels Project represents a remarkable boost for the prospects of the Kuwaiti economy, reflecting the government's commitment to continue with the execution of its development plan despite the drop in oil prices.

NBK successfully issues USD 750 million Senior **Unsecured Notes**

NBK successfully issues USD 750 million five-year Senior Unsecured securities under Rule 144A/Regulation S. This debut issue comes under NBK's new USD 3.0 billion Global Medium-Term Note (GMTN) Program. The issued Notes came at a re-offer yield of 2.860% (mid-swap plus 100

and AA- by Fitch, in line with NBK's ratings, highlighting the underlying credit strength of the Bank

The issuance will be used to further boost liquidity, diversify funding sources and increase liability durations.

This is the first issue since 2009 from a Middle East bank to target the US market under Rule 144A of the US Securities Act as NBK targets a larger institutional investor base as part of its aim to diversify funding sources.

The transaction was very well received by both regional and international investors, with the Order Book peaking in excess of USD 2.5 billion. The Order Book closed at USD 2.2 billion after price revisions translating to around 2.9 times oversubscription for the deal. issuance followed an The extensive series of meetings with potential investors across the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

The largest contributor to the development of the society

NBK holds a firm commitment towards the society to which it belongs, which makes the bank one of the largest contributors

decades (Half billion \$), with a proven record of social initiatives across various domains and Children's NBK activities. Hospital remains an icon of the Bank's social contributions. The Bank continued with its commitments by establishing the first specialized center for marrow transplantation in Kuwait in the Children's Hospital. Moreover, the Bank continued to support various charities and humanitarian organizations such as Bayt Abdullah for Children Hospice, Red Crescent and LOYAC.

The Pioneering Founders

As a pioneering organization, NBK played a major role in the development and growth of the Kuwaiti economy since it was established by virue of the Ameri decree promulgating the incorporation of the first National Bank in Kuwait in May 19th 1952.

The occasion is just but fitting to pay tribute to those who have worked hard to make this dream a reality.. the selection of veteran Kuwaiti businessmen who were behind the creation of NBK and constituted its first board of directors.

A historic photograph of the first day the bank opened for business, 15 November 1952.



A group shot of the first NBK team, dated spring 1953.

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The decree dated 19 May 1952 announcing the establishment of the National Bank of Kuwait.



The main banking hall at Head Office in Al-Mubarakiya in 1963.



22



Thursday, November 16, 2017

Kuwait celebrates arrival of Huawei Mate 10 series

The intelligent phone that will change your life

KUWAIT: Huawei never ceases to bring truly amazing innovations to its growing fan base. On November 10th 2017, Kuwait celebrated the arrival of the HUAWEI Mate 10, the ultimate in mobile phone sophistication, boasting intelligent speed, intelligent power and an intelligent camera.

The Huawei Mate 10 series is the first mobile phone to deliver Huawei's breakthrough technology in our hands this includes artificial intelligence (AI) and machine-learning technology, which allows the phone to adapt to the user's needs.

The Huawei Mate 10 series also offers Huawei's SuperCharge and AI-powered battery management technology, which provides ultra high-speed charging and unparalleled battery retention. Tests show that after 30 minutes of charging, the battery is charged 58 percent. All this is packaged into a sleek and luxurious design.

Huawei Mate 10 is just one of three devices in the Huawei Mate 10 series. In addition to the Huawei Mate 10, the series offers HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro and the PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate 10. The latter two devices are expected to debut in Kuwait at the end of the year, with the additional features of being water-resistant and dustproof - ideal for the Kuwaiti climate!

Huawei's technological advances, together with its long-standing collaboration with German optics legend

Leica, the HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro cameras have built-in features that allow the phones to identify subjects such as food, people or pets. Just like the human eye, the phone can swiftly adapt to different environments such as snow or low light, allowing the user to better capture photographs in a range of situations. The camera in the Mate 10 series also zooms up to six to ten times, bringing far-off text into focus and capturing greater detail.

In addition, the Huawei Mate 10 series provides glo-

Apple leads way in tracing cobalt from Congo, Microsoft lags: Amnesty

LONDON: Apple is leading the way in tracing cobalt



betrotters not only with Dual 4G SIM support, allowing each SIM to make calls and browse simultaneously, but

Huawei brings a

new gen mobile

technology

to Kuwait

instant, real-time translation capabilities in 40 languages. The HUAWEI Mate 10 series mobile phones all take advantage of the latest advanced technology to deliver the ultimate seamless experience to its customers, backed up by a full service centre here in Kuwait. Thanks to the Huawei

Mate 10 Series, life has not just gotten smarter, it is now more intelligent and more efficient.

Apple to help India develop anti-spam app after face-off with regulator

NEW DELHI: Apple Inc has agreed to give limited help to the Indian government to develop an anti-spam mobile application for its iOS platform, after refusing to do so based on privacy concerns, according to sources and documents seen by Reuters. The US tech giant has been locked in a tussle with India's telecoms regulator for more than a year. Officials complained Apple dragged its feet on advising the government how to develop an app that would allow iPhone users to report unsolicited marketing texts or calls as spam. The government app was launched on Google's Android platform last year, but an industry source with direct knowledge of the matter said Apple pushed back on requests for an iOS version due to concerns that a government app with access to call and text logs could compromise its customers' privacy. Facing public criticism from the regulator, Apple executives flew to New Delhi last month and told officials the company would help develop the app, but only with limited capabilities, according to a government official aware of the matter. Apple's executives have told India that its current iOS platform might not allow for some of the government's requests, such as making call logs available within the app that would allow users to report them as spam, the official said. "They (Apple) will help develop an app which, to an extent, can solve the requirements," said the official. An Apple spokesman confirmed that the new iOS features to combat spam text messages would help the government build the app, but did not comment on the app's potential inability to access call logs for reporting spam, as the Android version does. The spokesman said Apple had not changed its stance on privacy. Apple's stand-off with the regulator comes at a time when it is seeking greater access in India, the world's thirdlargest smartphone market. The company has been lobbying the government for tax breaks to expand its phone assembly operations in the country, where it reported doubling its revenue versus the previous year for the quarter ending Sept. 30. Balancing growth and market share with protecting customer privacy has become a defining challenge for global tech companies such as Apple, which regularly clash with governments over allowing access to content on their devices, especially for law enforcement needs. This has now become more of an ego tussle between Apple and the regulator," said Neil Shah of Hong Kong-based technology research firm Counterpoint Research. He added that Apple was unlikely to agree to any requests specific to India because of the precedent that would set. The chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) R S







used in its electronics to ensure the metal has not been mined by children in Democratic Republic of Congo while Microsoft is lagging, Amnesty International said. Microsoft disagreed with the pressure group's conclusions published yesterday.

Congo is by far the world's biggest producer of cobalt, accounting for more than half of global supplies of the metal, a key ingredient in lithium-ion batteries.

Amnesty, however, says about a fifth of the country's cobalt production is mined by hand by informal miners including children, often in dangerous conditions.

Cobalt has shot to prominence in recent months and its price skyrocketed due to expected growth in demand for electric vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries."Companies have a responsibility to prove they are not profiting from the misery of miners working in terrible conditions in the DRC," Amnesty official Seema Joshi said in a statement. The group ranked 29 companies on how well they were tracking their sources of cobalt since Amnesty released a report in January 2016 warning about human rights abuses linked to cobalt mining in Congo.

"Apple became the first company to publish the names of its cobalt suppliers ... but other electronics brands have made alarmingly little progress," the statement said. Most cobalt is produced as a by-product of copper or nickel mining, but artisanal miners in southern Congo exploit deposits near the surface that are rich in cobalt.

The biggest buyer of ore from small-scale miners was Congo Dongfang Mining International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Chinese mineral giant Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Ltd, Amnesty found in its report last year. Since then, Huayou Cobalt "has taken a number of steps" in line with international standards but "gaps in information remain", Amnesty said.

In March this year, researchers from Amnesty and Congolese group African Resources Watch returned to informal mines and still found adults and children in unsafe conditions, the report said.

Huayou, in a letter to Amnesty, said child labour was a difficult issue caused by poverty, adding that it was working on several initiatives including building schools and providing micro-credit to boost small businesses.

"Significant progress"

Microsoft was among 26 companies that had failed to disclose details of their suppliers, Amnesty said. In a letter replying to the Amnesty report, Microsoft said its approach was "holistic" and included work within its supply chain as well as on the ground to address the socioeconomic causes of child labor. "Despite Amnesty International's assertions, Microsoft has made significant progress on this important issue," it said.

Cobalt prices have spiked 85 percent this year on forecasts that demand will double in the next decade due to surging use of the metal in electric car batteries. Amnesty said among car makers, BMW had made the most improvements, while Renault and Daimler "performed particularly badly"

Renault said it had set up a working group with its suppliers, which had already shared their systems of controls, their supply-chain policies and details of audits.

The French company had also joined the Responsible Raw Materials Initiative, which expects its first pilot audits by the end of the year, it added in a letter to Amnesty. -Reuters

BEIJING: In this file photo, shoppers check out the iPhone X at an Apple store in Beijing, China. - AP

Sharma said he was unhappy with Apple for not responding swiftly to the government's requests. "We've told them they are harming their consumers," Sharma told Reuters in an interview. "I hope good sense prevails upon them." Apple did not comment on TRAI's criticism, but said that it had taken time to develop a privacy-friendly solution.

App tussle, privacy woes

Pesky marketing calls and unsolicited commercial text messages have become a big problem in India. Despite mobile users having the option to register themselves under a so-called "do not disturb" service to block marketers, businesses have gamed the system by using multiple phone numbers for promotions.

TRAI's anti-spam mobile application, also called Do Not Disturb, has been downloaded more than 100,000 times from the Google Android app section. Before the app launches, it asks the user to allow it access to contacts and view text messages. Users can then start reporting numbers as spam. A spokesman for Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc, did not directly comment on the app, but said: "We believe in openness and in the ability of users to make purchasing and downloading choices without top-down enforcement or censorship. Users are prompted with requests for permissions that they can choose to accept or decline." Apple, however, has been worried. "The app can peep into logs, Apple had conveyed that their (privacy) policy does not allow this," said the industry source familiar with the matter. TRAI said the app does not raise any privacy concerns.

Meetings, emails

Apple has flown in several overseas-based executives to resolve the dispute with the Indian regulator, including its senior director for global privacy, and former Google executive, Jane Horvath. At least seven meetings have been held between the two sides and dozens of emails exchanged since last year, according to government officials and documents reviewed by Reuters. In August this year, months after the talks began, Apple wrote to TRAI saying that a technical meeting would help them establish "what is possible and not possible". The TRAI pushed back. "The whole exercise in organising the proposed meeting would be a waste of resources ... please share concrete solutions that have a likelihood of addressing the issues we have been discussing over the past one year," the regulator wrote in September.Later that month, Apple again approached the TRAI saying it had identified potential solutions but they would require additional discussions with the regulator's technical staff. —Reuters

Satellites and science turn tide in fight to end slavery: Expert

LONDON: Breakthroughs in science and technology are helping to turn the tide in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking, a leading antislavery expert said yesterday.

From mapping slave labor from space to exploring links between human trafficking and deforestation, academics, activists and scientists are finding new ways to tackle the

crime, said Kevin Bales, co-founder of charity Free the Slaves. Innovation is crucial with the lucrative trade - worth an estimated \$150 billion a year (114 billion pounds)- growing as the price of slaves plummets, said Bales, who is a professor of contemporary slavery at Britain's University of Nottingham.

The average modern-day slave is sold for just \$90 (68 pounds), against the equivalent of \$40,000 (30,000 pounds) some 200 years ago during the trans-Atlantic slave trade, he added.

"When we unlock the science of slavery we can use the laws of science to help crack this crime," he said at the Thomson Reuters Foundation's annual two-day Trust Conference, which focuses on women's empowerment and modern slavery.

Bales also pointed to progress in gathering global data on slavery, following the first joint effort by the United Nations (UN) International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation to count the number of victims worldwide. About 40 million people were estimated to be trapped as slaves in 2016, mostly women and girls, in forced labor, sexual exploitation and forced marriages, according to the two groups.

The University of Nottingham's Rights Lab, the world's first large-scale research platform on modern slavery, is using satellites to locate child labor camps in Bangladesh and brick kilns in India - sites infamous for using slaves, Bales said.

Its "Slavery from Space" project relies on crowdsourcing, whereby online volunteers sift through satellite images to identify possible hives of slavery, which can also help to improve artifical intelligence, according to Bales. Researchers are also striving to better understand the impact of slavery on survivors' minds, and the possible genetic transmission of trauma from generation to generation, he said.

"Through science, we can move from the simplistic, emotive and disorganized response of 20 years ago, and towards a more complex, logical, unified approach," Bales said. Improved data collection techniques are making it easier to track progress in the global drive to end slavery, and better measure the crime in rich countries where slaves are often hidden, thinly spread and harder to monitor, he said.

The United Nations has a global goal to eradicate forced labor and slavery by 2030 and end child labor by 2025. -Reuters



Health

'Super invader' tree hits US South, but flea beetle might be a hero

More a promise than a practical solution

NEW ORLEANS: The tallow tree, a "super invader" with toxic leaves and no natural enemies in North America, is conquering the South. Overtaking forests from Texas to Florida, tallows grow three times faster than most native hardwoods, and each one casts off 100,000 seeds a year. Controlled burns haven't stopped their spread, nor have herbicide sprays from helicopters. Cutting them down works only when each stump is imme-

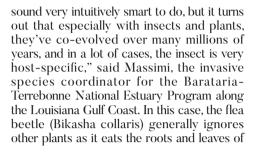
diately doused with chemicals. Harvesting them for biofuel remains more a promise than a practical solution.

Some scientists say introducing a flea beetle from the tallow's native habitat in eastern China may be the best alternative. Yes, they're aware of "nightmare scenarios" with other non-native plants and bugs, environmental scientist Michael Massimi said. But he also points to success stories, such as the aquatic weevil that munches on giant salvinia, a

floating fern from Brazil that had been clogging waterways in Florida and Texas until its insect enemy was brought in. The weevil underwent a similar line of testing through the US Department of Agriculture, and like the flea beetle, the weevil spends its entire life-cycle on one plant, he said.

Co-evolved

"Importing an organism to help control another organism right off the bat doesn't



They're aware of "nightmare scenarios"

the tallow (Triadica sebifera), a host-specific tendency tested on about 150 other plant species in a decade of laboratory work in the US and China, researchers said.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has been working on an environmental impact assessment, which will include a public comment period. If approved, the bugs could be released sometime in 2018. Meanwhile, researchers in Louisiana are studying tallows to gain a bet-

ter understanding of the beetle's effectiveness once they are let loose.

Benjamin Franklin sent tallow seeds from London to a friend in Georgia in the 1700s, but genetic testing cleared the founding father of blame for the kind of tallows growing so aggressively today - those trees were apparently introduced by federal biologists around 1905, according to research led by Evan Siemann, an evolutionary biol-

ogist at Rice University, that was published in The American Journal of Botany in 2011.

US Forest Service data show tallow now spreading across 10 states. Its growth nearly tripled in Texas in the last two decades, and increased 500 percent in Louisiana, where its higher tolerance for salinity enables it to crowd out moss-covered bald cypress in swamps and bayous. Populations also are up along the Atlantic coast, from Florida to the Carolinas. "Tallows take advantage of disturbances," said

Nancy Loewenstein, an invasive plant specialist at Auburn University. "Storms, floods, construction sites, logging sites, anything that disrupts the environment will give an invasive like tallow an opportunity to take over."

The help can't come too soon for the keepers of America's suffering forests. Tallows grow into fully mature trees in just three years, far outpacing native maples, oaks, cypress and elms. Their leaves are toxic to some animals, and they cast off litter that



FLORIDA: This undated photo provided by the United States Department of Agriculture shows a flea beetle at the USDA/ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory. — AP

changes soil chemistry and disadvantages competitors.

Widely planted

"Chinese tallows are very competitive, and they have no natural predators here like in their native China," said Karan Rawlins, an invasive species specialist at the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health. "Very few if any insects recognize it as a food source, so it has basically become a super invader." Also known as the popcorn tree and candleberry tree, tallows have been planted widely since their first seeds arrived. Coveted as ornamentals for their vibrant fall foliage, they have seeds encased in small green capsules that split when ripe, revealing a small cluster resembling a puffy kernel of popcorn. Their oils have been used in candle and soap-making, and beekeepers like their bountiful nectar. — AP

Africa's renewable energy set to soar by 2022

CAPE TOWN: Strong demand is set to give a huge boost to renewable energy growth in Sub-Sahara Africa over the next five years, driving conference. The transition to a low-carbon tracumulative capacity up more than 70 percent, a

given the right conditions. Ethiopia has an array of hydropower projects under construction, including the \$4.1 billion Grand Renaissance Dam along the Nile River that will churn out 6,000 MW upon completion. That is enough for a good-sized city for a year.

"Africa has one of the best potential resources of renewables anywhere in the world, but it depends very much on the enabling framework, on the governance and the right rules," Frankl told Reuters on the sidelines of a wind energy jectory to reduce harmful greenhouse gases is

Fossil fuel investments are 'unsustainable': **UN chief**

BONN: Continued investment in fossil fuel would deliver "an unsustainable future", UN chief Antonio Guterres warned vesterday, saying time was running out to prevent calamitous climate change caused by atmosphere-fouling emissions. Sinking more money into coal, oil and gas does not make financial sense, and markets must be "re-oriented away from the counter-productive," he told UN climate

Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels, and 1.5 C if possible. To this end, countries submitted voluntary pledges for curbing planetwarming emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. But this week, reports showed that existing pledges would deliver only a third of what is needed, and that CO2 emissions were set to increase in 2017 for the first time in three years.

"The window of opportunity to meet the two-degree target may close in 20 years or less," said Guterres. "And we may have only five years to bend the emissions curve towards 1.5 degrees. We need at least a further 25-percent cut in emissions by 2020." Part of the solution was to steer investment away from fossil fuel projects to greener, sustainable energy, he told the conference.

"The world should adopt a simple rule: If big infrastruc-

senior international energy official said yesterday. From Ethiopia to South Africa, millions of people are getting access to electricity for the first time as the continent turns to solar, wind and hydropower projects to boost generation capacity.

"A big chunk of this (growth) is hydro because of Ethiopia, but then you have solar ... in South Africa, Nigeria and Namibia and wind in South Africa and Ethiopia as well," said Paolo Frankl, head of the renewable division at the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA). He forecast installed capacity of renewable energy in the Sub-Sahara region almost doubling from around 35 gigawatts now to above 60 GW

creating opposition from the coal industry and fueling uncertainty in countries where job creation was linked to coal mining.

In Africa, this tension and its impact on new investment has been best illustrated by South Africa's state-owned Eskom and its reluctance to sign new deals with independent power producers, according to analysts. In May, the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) said the energy regulator agreed to investigate Eskom's refusal to sign agreements that delayed 2,942 MW in new solar and wind projects. "Our government does not appear to appreciate the forces of nature," said Mark Pickering, chairman of SAWEA, on Wednesday. - Reuters

envoys in Bonn.

"In 2016, an estimated \$825 billion (697 billion euros) were invested in fossil fuels and high-emissions sectors,' Guterres said. "We must stop making bets on an unsustainable future that will place savings and societies at risk." In a year marked by severe flooding in Asia, drought in Africa, and an exceptional North American hurricane season, the UN chief said climate change was already having a "catastrophic" effect on humankind.

And with atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide the highest in 800,000 years, "climate change is the defining threat of our time." Envoys are gathered in Germany to negotiate a nuts-and-bolts "rulebook" for executing the climate-rescue Paris Agreement adopted by most of the world's countries in 2015. Under the pact, nations commit to limit average global warming to under two degrees

ture projects aren't green, they shouldn't be given the green light," said Guterres. "Investing in climate-friendly development is where the smart money is headed." The UN chief also repeated his call for a price on carbon-a vital pollution-cutting measure that can be a tax or a financial incentive for polluting less. To meet the Paris goals, the world needs a price on at least 50 percent of all carbon produced, Guterres said.

He urged rich countries to make true on their promise to mobilise \$100 billion (84 billion euros) per year from 2020 to help developing nations prepare for, and deal with, the effects of climate change. US President Donald Trump, in announcing that America would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, said in June that Washington would no longer contribute to the Green Climate Fund set up exactly for this purpose. — AFP



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





Hardee's launches 52nd Kuwait branch, 350th in Middle East at Village Mall

Negotiations with Americana on huge Salmiya project soon







In a joyous atmosphere and in presence of a large crowd, Hardee's Kuwait recently celebrated lunching its 52nd branch in Kuwait and 350th in the Middle East, which opened at the Village Mall in Abu Al-Hassaniya. The opening ceremony was very eventful, and saw company officials vow to offer the highest levels of quality for Kuwait's customers who have a great taste and appreciation for food in general.

Village Mall owner Abdul Azeem Abu Albanat said that he was glad for launching the new restaurant and stressed that Hardee's, which is known for its high quality food, emphasizes the success of the mall's plans to house outstanding international brands and companies such as Americana.

Abu Albanat also said that negotiations were in progress to cooperate with Americana in a huge project in Salmiya. He added that details about the project, which would achieve best interests for both sides, would be announced soon. The Village Mall is located over a total area of 4,000 square meters and houses 16 restaurants including Americana Group brands, he added.

Meanwhile, Hardee's International Advisor Adel Fouda said that the company looks forward to increasing its branches in Kuwait to 80 within the coming five years. Fouda also stressed that the success of Hardee's was achieved thanks to the support of its customers and their reactions to various products and promotions. "Hardee's made considerable success and won a widescale public support thanks to its high-quality standards," he underlined. He also stressed that all Hardee's restaurants in Kuwait use Kuwaiti and Saudi meat slaughtered according to Islamic sharia regulations. Fouda also expressed happiness for opening the 350th branch in the Middle East, promising Hardee's customers the best quality services as usual.

In the meantime, Hardee's regional marketing manager for Kuwait, Iraq and Kurdistan Rafik Elayat mentioned that Hardee's ambitions were limitless and that it plans to open 10-15 new branches by 2020 with the target of reaching 700 branches in the Middle East within ten years. "New openings pose a challenge to us due to the fact that Hardee's customers are used to the highest quality standards, which is challenging," he added, noting that opening new branches comes after full thorough studies about the area's demography, skilled and well-qualified staff, the branch's exterior and other factors.

Elayat also stressed that Hardee's relies on achieving the hard equation of providing quick service with high quality, taking into consideration the level of Kuwaiti customers' taste which is higher than peers in other countries. "Achieving this takes a lot of effort," he added, noting that Hardee's constantly trains and qualifies its staff to provide the best services. The company also uses state-of-the-art equipment that match the latest in international markets, Elayat said, adding that those equipment are renewed every 3-5 years. "launching the 350th branch in the Middle East is a unique

event for us and for Hardee's International in the United States," he added, expressing his appreciation for the fact that this branch was opened in Kuwait.

Addressing customers, Elayat stressed that Hardee's mainly seeks their satisfaction and trust. "It is hard to offer less quality services in Kuwait because of the Kuwaiti public's high expectations from Hardee's," he underlined.

Operations Manager of Hardee's Kuwait,Hani Abd Rabbo said that Hardee's Kuwait annually wins 3-5 awards from Hardee's International, and explained that Jaber Al-Ahmad branch won the first place amongst Middle East restaurants. "Earning this award from 350 competitors is a source of pride and adds high value to us, yet it also poses further challenges," he underlined.

Abd Rabbo also stressed that Hardee's Kuwait won four international awards over the past five years and that this was an accomplishment achieved thanks to the cooperation of all staff members and observing the highest levels of quality.

Abd Rabbo added that Kuwait is considered special for Hardee's International and that a huge portion of its sales are made in Kuwait branches. "Hardee's is all over Kuwaiti areas and we have plans to open more branches in 2018 in residential areas where we already have ones or in those we do not," he reiterated. Finally, Abd Rabbo stressed that Hardee's and Americana's motto is 'high quality' and trust, which is the basic goal of all staff members.

Hilton Kuwait Resort celebrates 15th anniversary

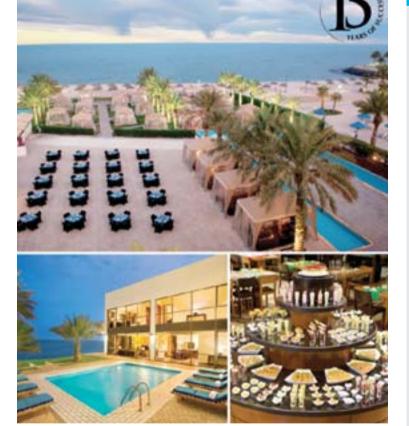
Hilton Kuwait Resort is commemorating a landmark occasion this year as it celebrates its 15th anniversary and has created a host of exciting offers to mark the milestone. To proudly mark the 15th anniversary, a variety of activities and initiatives have been planned to take place and to kick-start the celebrations. A special wedding package has been designed to provide exclusive offers for couples, including special prices for Ladies and men's weddings, plus special discounts on wedding planning services as well as Bridal Elegance and Groom Spa packages. Couples will also receive a two-night stay in a Royal Villa including complimentary breakfast on their wedding day, and as an extra special anniversary touch, will receive a one-night stay in a luxury Chalet on their first wedding anniversary.

In addition, a special 15th anniversary prize-draw available, every guest who spends KD 15.000 at the hotel's spa or restaurants during the month of November will have a chance to win. Prizes on offer include an indulgent spa treatment, a lavish dining experience at Teatro restaurant, a private Romantic Dinner at Palm Court tents, or free overnight stay at the hotel. The weekly lucky winners of the raffle draw will be announced on Hilton Kuwait social media platforms.

The resort's social media channels will host a number of dedicated competitions to mark the anniversary and guests are encouraged to follow Hilton Kuwait's Instagram to find out how to win prizes, and to use the hashtag #HiltonKuwait15.

Ziad Tantawi, General Manager of Hilton Kuwait Resort, said: "Over the past fifteen years, the resort has maintained its dedication to continuously improve each guest experience. Offering a highly personalized service, combined with an authentic and elegant environment of the highest quality, Hilton Kuwait is a home for those who are far from theirs."

"Since 2002, Hilton employees have devoted their attention and service to make the resort a unique experience in every detail. We are very fortunate to be celebrating this milestone together and I am so grateful to all our staff for their continuous hard work, dedication and passion to always deliver the best service. Our people are the heart of our brand and possess their own individuality, unique charm, personali-



ty, integrity and value," he added. The resort first opened its doors in 2002 as one of the leading resorts in the country and has been a firm favorite with locals, expats and holidaymakers ever since.

A firmly established and unique destination, Hilton Kuwait Resort has evolved to provide the finest facilities and services – including 350 modern rooms, suits, chalets and villas, a wide selection of superb food and beverage outlets to suit all tastes and a 24-hour health club. The attention to detail and service from staff has helped secure the resort's success by ensuring the best possible guest experience at all times.

Vigor Events to host Sustainable Quality Management Seminar

This year Vigor Events will organize and co-organize by Global Lead Consultants a seminar titled Sustainable Quality Management Seminar. The seminar is designed to provide leaders and organizations to take a holistic approach towards building capabilities and developing sustainable long-term Quality Management. It will provide valuable insights on Business Excellence, Quality problem solving, Six Sigma and ISO 9001 for Quality Management System standards. The 1-day seminar will comprise of the topic Quality Fables Problem Solving Rx by the international quality guru Suresh Lulla and the topic The Cardinal Quality Rules and Skills by Professor Tariq Al-Dowaisan.

by Professor Tariq Al-Dowaisan. Quality Fables by Suresh Lulla will help shed light on effective problem solving which requires two sub-skills structured thinking of a proven methodology; as well as appropriate application of quality improvement and creativity tools. Tangible and intangible results follow with diligent application of both these sub-skills.

Suresh Lulla is the founder and Managing Director, Qimpro Consultants Pvt Ltd - a focused quality management consultancy. His company - Qimpro has saved Indian corporates over 2000 billion USD in terms of cost of poor quality, using the Juran

methodologies. He is also the author of the book Quality Fables.

The session titled Cardinal Quality Rules and Skills by Dowaisan will help attendees identify their origination's quality standards. Dowaisan has over 25 years of quality practice and has been an educator and consultant. This session will allow attendees to respond to the fundamental question of standards in quality clearly, quickly, and easily. They will understand that the answer lies in answering simple questions of the like of: What is your coefficient of variation? What is your process sigma level?

Dowaisan is the founder and acting general manager of Global Lead Consultants (GLC) and has 25 years of professional consulting and training in Quality, Organizational Excellence, and Safety in the GCC region. This seminar is organized by Vigor Events and Co-Organized by Global Lead Consultants (GLC) and ALGAS Events Company.

BSK students visit Scientific Center

ear 5 students at The British School of Kuwait (BSK) recently visited The Scientific Center to further their learning of the topics Earth in space, living things in their habitats and save planet Earth. Sharks have always been a unique fascination for children and adults alike and there was a sense of excitement that this was going to be school trip with a difference. An atmosphere of wonder and awe filled the buses and the children were rewarded with an early glimpse of wild desert rats and snakes En route to the Scientific Center. By the time the students arrived excitement was at fever pitch, the students were given a

talk about sharks and learned that they only attack when they are hungry or feel threatened. They then had the opportunity to examine shark teeth and discover many interesting facts about their lives in the wild. Yehia Elsharawi said, "My favorite part was when we learned about the shark's habitats."

During the visit the students were engrossed by the Imax film about engineering projects titled 'Dream Big' which highlighted setting goals and not giving up, a quality instilled in all BSK students. Year 5 student, Yassin Nasser said, "I really liked the movie because it inspired me to dream big!"



auarium



ΤV

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08:20	Doctor Who
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Stuck In The Middle

Tangled: The Series

Descendants Wicked World

Hotel Transvlvania: The Series

Girl Meets World

Liv And Maddie

K.C. Undercover

Bizaardvark

Jessie

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How It's Made Wild Family Rescue Mythbusters Wild Family Rescue Storm Chasers How It's Made How It's Made Mythbusters Bear Grylls: Born Survivor Weather Gone Viral Megaquake: Hour That Shook How It's Made How It's Made Mythbusters Wild Family Rescue Storm Chasers Bear Grylls: Born Survivor Weather Gone Viral Megaquake: Hour That Shook Mythbusters How It's Made How It's Made Now That's Funny Weather Gone Viral Megaquake: Hour That Shook Dual Survival Storm Chasers



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Lab Rats

Lab Rats

Phineas & Ferb

Programmes Start At 6:00am



Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster Calimero Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster Calimero Henry Hugglemonster 02:50 03:05 Art Áttack 03:30 The Hive 03:40Loopdidoo 03:55 Henry Hugglemonster Art Áttack 04:10 04:35Loopdidoo 04:50 Calimero 05:05 Art Attack 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster 05:45 Henry Hugglemonster 06:00 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster Calimero Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster Sofia The First Puppy Dog Pals 09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Doc McStuffins PJ Masks PI Masks Sheriff Callie's Wild West Sheriff Callie's Wild West The Lion Guard The Lion Guard Sofia The First Sofia The First PJ Masks PJ Masks My Friends Tigger & Pooh Doc McStuffins Puppy Dog Pals Mickey And The Roadster Sofia The First Doc McStuffins PJ Masks Puppy Dog Pals 19:00Minnie's Bow-Toons Minnie's Winter Bow Show 19:05 Minnie's Bow-Toons 19:5020:00PI Masks 20:30 The Lion Guard Doc McStuffins 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Doc McStuffins Goldie & Bear 23:30 Puppy Dog Pals Discoverv

CHANNEL HD 00:20 Street Outlaws Super Hurricanes: Inside Monster Storms 01:50 Man vs Weird Breaking Magic Breaking Magic Sacred Steel Bikes Deadliest Catch

05:35 How Do They Do It?

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Monster Storms

Street Outlaws

Deadliest Catch

Auction Kings

06:00 Gold Divers: Under The Ice

How Do They Do It?

How Do They Do It?

Super Hurricanes: Inside

CHD 00:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 01:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 01:50 E! News 02:50 Celebrity Style Story 03:20 Celebrity Style Story 03:50 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian 04:40 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian 05:30 Celebrity Style Story 06:00 Just Jillian 06:55 E! News 07:10 Just Jillian E! News: Daily Pop 08:10 With The 09:10 Keeping Up Kardashians 10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 11:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 12:00 E! News 12:15 Botched 13:10 Botched Botched 14:05 15:00 E! News E! News: Daily Pop 15:15 Eric And Jessie 16:15 16:40 Eric And Jessie The Platinum Life 17:10 18:05 The Platinum Life 19:00 E! News 20:00 Botched 21:00 Botched 22:00 WAGs La 23:00 E! News 23:15 The Platinum Life food 00:00 Chopped Bakers vs. Fakers 01:00

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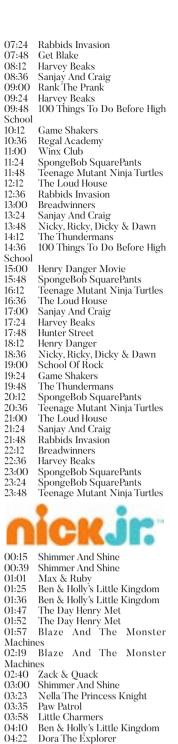
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01:10 01:40 The Sea 03:30 03:55 04:25 05:20 Australia Australia 08:30 09:00 09:25Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 09:55 10:50 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 11:15 Man Fire Food Man Fire Food 11:45 Chopped Australia Guv's Grocery Games Barefoot Contessa Australia Barefoot Contessa 12:40 Anna Olson: Fresh 13:05 The Kitchen 13:35 The Pioneer Woman 14:30 The Pioneer Woman 14:55Siba's Table 15:25 Siba's Table 15:50 Bake With Anna Olson 16:20 Bake With Anna Olson 16:45 The Kitchen 17:15 Cooking For Real Australia The Pioneer Woman The Pioneer Woman Australia Siba's Table Siba's Table 19:05 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 19:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 20:0020:30 Chopped The Kitchen Bake With Anna Olson Australia Bake With Anna Olson Chopped Australia Iron Chef America Patti Labelle's Place 22:55 Patti Labelle's Place 23:20 Private Chef 23:50Private Chef Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Chopped

04:05 Mountain Men 05:00 Swamp People Fifth Ġear 06.00 American Pickers 06:5007:40 Counting Cars 08:05 Counting Cars 08:30 Pawn Stars 08:55 Pawn Stars 09:20 Aussie Pickers 10:10 Ax Men 11:00 Fifth Gear 11:50 American Pickers 12:40 Counting Cars 13:05 Counting Cars 13.30 Time Team Swamp People 14:20Alone: Lost And Found 15:10 American Pickers 16:00 16:50Counting Cars 17:15 Counting Cars 17:40Swamp People Alone: Lost And Found 18:30 19:20 Mountain Men Pawn Stars 20:10 20:35Pawn Stars 21:00 WW2 Treasure Hunters 21:50 The Warfighters 22:40 Time Team Alone: Lost And Found 23:30 NAT GEO people 🖽

00:45 Rustic Adventures Argentina Route Awakening Charlie Luxton's Homes By 02:35 Sinful Sweets 03:00 David Rocco's Dolce India Lee Chan's World Food Tour Lee Chan's World Food Tour This Is Brazil Route Awakening 05:45 Route Awakening 06:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of 06:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of 07:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea 08:05 Sinful Sweets David Rocco's Dolce India Lee Chan's World Food Tour Lee Chan's World Food Tour This Is Brazil Route Awakening Route Awakening Lyndey Milan - Taste Of 12:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of David Rocco's Dolce India Sinful Sweets This Is Brazil Lee Chan's World Food Tour Lee Chan's World Food Tour 04:44Places We Go 05:06 Miguel's Feasts 05:10 Route Awakening 05:35 Route Awakening 05:59 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of 06:21 06:32 17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of 06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines 18:10 Restoration Man 07:00 Rusty Rivets Places We Go 07:13 Miguel's Feasts 07:37 Route Awakening 08:00 08:21 Route Awakening 21:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of 08:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines 21:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of 09:07 Paw Patrol 09:30 Shimmer And Shine 09:53 Nella The Princess Knight 22:00 Restoration Man David Rocco's Dolce India 10:15 Sinful Sweets 10:22 This Is Brazil 10:4511:05 NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC



Max & Ruby

Wallykazam!

Paw Patrol

Paw Patrol

11:28

11:52

12:15

12:39

Rusty Rivets

Wallykazam!

Bubble Guppies

Team Umizoomi

Shimmer And Shine

Shimmer And Shine

Zack & Quack

The Day Henry Met

Shimmer And Shine

The Day Henry Met

Dora The Explorer

Bubble Guppies

The Day Henry Met

Nella The Princess Knight

Nella The Princess Knight

20:20 My Super Ex-Girlfriend 22:00 Scouts Guide To The Zombie Apocalypse 23:40 Road Trip: Beer Pong **OVIN** MOVIES FESTIVAL 00:30 The Last Tycoon 02:35 Goodfellas The Quiet Hour 05:00

18:40 The Bucket List

06:35 The Shamer's Daughter 08:20 Brooklyn The Quiet Hour 10:15 11:50 The Lady In The Van The End Of The Tour 13:4015:35 Reds 18:55 The Descendants 20:55 22:40 Lost River The Danish Girl

MOVIES HD

KIDS

00:45 Rainbow Valley Heroes 02:25 Papelucho & The Martian 03:50 Free Birds Free Birds 05:20 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success 07:05 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover Ivan The Incredible 08:35 10:05 Krazzy Planet Victor And The Secret Of 11:25 Crocodile Mansion 13:10 Papelucho & The Martian 14:35 Free Birds 16:05 Outback Krazzy Planet 17:4019:00 A.R.C.H.I.E. Teo: The Intergalactic Hunter Felix The Toy Rabbit And The 20:40 22:10 Time Machine 23:45 Ivan The Incredible



- 02:40 Endless Love The Bad News Bears 04:3006:25 I Am Number Four 08:15 Everest It Takes Two 10:20 12:05 Dracula Untold 13:40 The War 15:45 Blown Away 17:50 The Blind Side The Finest Hours 20:00 There's Something About 22:00 Marv DISCOVERY SC 00:40 Mythbusters 01:30 How Do They Do It? 01:55 Food Factory 02:20 American Titans 03:10 Smash Lab Kings Of Construction 04:0004:48Mythbusters 05:36 How Do They Do It? Food Factory 06:00 American Titans 06:24 Smash Lab 07:12 How Do They Do It? 08:00 08:26 Kings Of Construction
- Mythbusters 09:14Smash Lab 10:02 10:50 How Do They Do It? Food Factory 11:14 11:38 American Titans Kings Of Construction 12:26 13:14 Mythbusters How Do They Do It? 14:02Food Factory 14:26 14:50 Smash Lab

18:30 EastEnders 19:05 The Coroner 20:00 Holby City 21:00 Bad Move 21:30 Cold Feet 22:20 Last Tango In Halifax 23:10 Doctors 23:40 EastEnders



00:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath 01:00 Escaping Polygamy 02:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories 03:00 My Haunted House 04:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath 05:00 Escaping Polygamy 06:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories 07:00 Homicide Hunter Crimes That Shook Australia 08:00 09:00 It Takes A Killer 09:30 It Takes A Killer 10:00 Homicide Hunter Killers: Behind The Myth 11:00 12:00 Killers: Behind The Myth Killers: Behind The Myth 13:00 14:00 Killers: Behind The Myth It Takes A Killer 15:00It Takes A Killer 15:30 16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 17:00The First 48 18:00 The First 48 19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 20:00 It Takes A Killer It Takes A Killer 20:30 21:00 Homicide Hunter 22:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 23:00 It Takes A Killer It Takes A Killer 23:30 COWEDI COMEDI

00:05 The Half Hour 00:30 The Half Hour 00:55 Tosh.0 01:20 Tosh.0 01:45 The Half Hour Broad City Real Husbands Of Hollywood 02:10 02:35 The Daily Show With Trevor 03:00 Noah The Half Hour 03:25 03:50 Broad City 04:15 Kroll Show Kev And Peele 04:4005:05 Tosh.0 05:30 Disaster Date Ridiculousness Arabia 05:55 06:20 Sweat Inc. 07:15 Life Or Debt Impractical Jokers UK 08:05 08:30 Disaster Date 08:55 Workaholics 09:20 Kroll Show 09:45 Key And Peele Tosh.0 10:10 The Dude Perfect Show 10:35 The Dude Perfect Show 11:00 11:25 Disaster Date Ridiculousness Arabia 11:50 12:15 Impractical Jokers 12:40 Life Or Debt 13:30 Key And Peele 13:55 Impractical Jokers UK 14:20 Disaster Date 14:45 Workaholics 15:10 Friends Kroll Show 15:35 Comedy Central Presents 16:00 Comedy 3alwagef 16:30 Impractical Jokers

I Almost Got Away With It 19:2020:15 Swamp Murders Evil Online 21:10 The Perfect Murder 22:05Six Degrees Of Murder 23:00 The Perfect Murder 23:55

I Was Murdered



00:05 Disney Mickey Mouse Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Binny And The Ghost Hank Zipzer Alex & Co. The Hive Evermoor Chronicles Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Binny And The Ghost **Binny And The Ghost** Hank Zipzer The Hive Hank Zipzer Alex & Co. Alex & Co. Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Binny And The Ghost The Hive 06:50 Rolling With The Ronks Jessie Tangled: The Series Tsum Tsum Shorts Hotel Transylvania: The Series Elena Of Avalor Bunk'd Stuck In The Middle Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir 10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir Lolirock Lolirock Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Hank Zipzer Alex & Co. Alex & Co. Lolirock Lolirock Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir The Zhuzhus K.C. Undercover Stuck In The Middle Disney Mickey Mouse Elena Of Avalor Bizaardvark Tangled: The Series Bizaardvark Bunk'd K.C. Undercover Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir Hotel Transylvania: The Series Star Wars Forces Of Destiny

Deadliest Catch 10:55 Breaking Magic 11:40 Breaking Magic How Do They Do It? 12:03 12:25 **Baggage Battles** 12:48 Alaska: The Last Frontier 13:10 (Season Specials) Deadliest Catch Ì3:55 Gold Divers: Under The Ice Sacred Steel Bikes 14:4015:2516:10 Street Outlaws How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? 17:0017:25 17:50 **Baggage Battles** 18:20 Auction Kings Deadliest Catch 18:50 How Do They Do It? 19:40 20:10 How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? 20:35 21:00 How Do They Do It? 21:25 How Do They Do It? 21:50 So You Think You'd Survive? 22:40 Supertruckers 23:30 Sacred Steel Bikes 06:00 Disney11 06:25 Supa Strikas 06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man 07:15 Right Now Kapow Disney Mickey Mouse 07:40 07:45 Mech-X4 08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 08:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 09:00 Supa Strikas Supa Strikas 09:25 Walk The Prank Walk The Prank 09:50 10:20 10:45 Gravity Falls 11:10 Gravity Falls Lab Rats Elite Force 11:35 Lab Rats Elite Force 12:00 Two More Eggs Phineas And Ferb 12:2512:30 12:55 Phineas And Ferb 13:20 Zeke And Luther Zeke And Luther 13:45 Disney Mickey Mouse 14:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty 14:15 Much Everything Gravity Falls 14:40 15:05 Lab Rats 15:30 Milo Murphy's Law Wars Freemaker 15:55 Star Adventures Walk The Prank 16:25 16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero 17:15 Mech-X4 17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man Supa Strikas 18:05 Star Wars: The Freemaker 18:30 Adventures Disney11 18:35 Penn Żero: Part Time Hero 19:00 19:25 Right Now Kapow 19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot 19:55 Mech-X4 20:20 Walk The Prank Gamer's Guide To Pretty 20:45 Much Everything 21:10 Gravity Falls Marvel's Rocket And Groot 21:35 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse



CHOICE 00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes? 01:00 Emmerdale 01:30 The Chase 02:30 The Chase 03:25 Vera Murdoch Mysteries 05:15 Who's Doing The Dishes? 06:10 07:05 The Chase 07:55Vera 09:30 Catchphrase Murdoch Mysteries 10:05 Who's Doing The Dishes? 10:55 11:50 The Chase Emmerdale 12:45 13:15 Coronation Street **Coronation Street** 13:45 14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes? 15:10 The Chase Doc Martin 16:00Tonight At The London 17:00 Palladium Murdoch Mysteries 17:50 18:45 Emmerdale 19:15 Coronation Street Coronation Street 19:45 20:10 The Chase Doc Martin 21:00 Tonight At The London 21:55Palladium 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Coronation Street Coronation Street 23:40



00:00 The Human Calculator 01:00 Ultimate Guide To The... 02:00 Engineering An Empire 03:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 03:50 Ancient Aliens 04:40 How The States Got Their Shapes 05:30 The Human Calculator 06:20 Ultimate Guide To The... 07:10 The Universe 08:00 Engineering An Empire 09:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 10:00 Ancient Aliens 11:00 How The States Got Their Shapes 12:00 The Human Calculator 13:00 Ultimate Guide To The... Engineering An Empire 14:00 15:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved Ancient Aliens 16:00 17:00 How The States Got Their Shapes 18:00 The Universe 19:00 America's Book Of Secrets 20:00 Engineering An Empire 21:00 The Universe: Ancient 01:24 Mysteries Solved 01:48 22:00 Ancient Aliens 02:12 23:00 Missing In Alaska 02:36 03:00 03:24 03:48 HD 04:12 04:36 HISTORY 05:00 Mountain Men 00:20 05:24 Ultimate Soldier Challenge 01:10 05:48Mountain Men

02:00

02:50

03:15

Counting Cars

American Pickers

CHANNEL CED Tales From The Frontline 00:10 Year Of The Storm 01:00 Desperate Hours 02:00 02:30 Desperate Hours 03:00 The Long Road Home Tales From The Frontline 04:00 05:00 Family Guns Live Free Or Die 06:00 Innovation Nation 07:00 07:30Innovation Nation 08:00 Pond Stars 09:00 Family Guns 10:00 Inside Nazi Megastructures 11:00 China's Mystery Mummies 12:00Live Free Or Die 13:00 14:00 Pond Stars Innovation Nation 15:00 16:00 Machine Impossible Planes That Changed The 17:00 World Airport Security: Colombia 18:00 S2.5 19:00 Innovation Nation 20:00Machine Impossible Planes That Changed The 20:50 World Airport Security: Colombia 21:40S2.5 22:30 Innovation Nation 23:20 Pond Stars Nat Geo Wild HD 00:20 Ultimate Rivals: Cat v. Dog 01:10 Monster Fish Monster Croc Hunt 02:00 Prehistoric Predators 02:50 Monster Frog Baby Animals In The Wild 03:4504:40 05:35 Monster Croc Hunt 06:30 Prehistoric Predators Monster Frog Baby Animals In The Wild 07:25 08:20 09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER Caught In The Act 10:10 Wild Indonesia 11:05 Lost Sharks Of Easter Island 12:00 12:55 When Crocs Ate Dinosaurs 13:50 Prehistoric Predators 14:45 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts 15:40 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations 16:35 Dr. K Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER 17:30 Caught In The Act 18:25 Wild Indonesia 19:20 World's Weirdest Extreme **Body Parts** 20:10 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations 21:00 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER 21:50 Caught In The Act Wild Indonesia 22:40 Lost Sharks Of Easter Island 23:30 **NICK HD** 00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 00:36 Rabbids Invasion 01:00 Rabbids Invasion

Sanjay And Craig

Sanjay And Craig

Winx Club

Winx Club

Harvey Beaks

Harvey Beaks

Breadwinners

Breadwinners

Get Blake

06:12

06:36

07:00

The Loud House

The Loud House

The Loud House

SpongeBob SquarePants

SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Max & Ruby 13:01 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 13:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 13:36 13:47The Day Henry Met 13:52 The Day Henry Met 13:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines Blaze And The Monster 14:19 Machines 14:40 Zack & Quack Shimmer And Shine 15:01 15:23 Nella The Princess Knight 15:35 Paw Patrol 15:58 Little Charmers Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 16:10 16:22Dora The Explorer 16:44 Max & Ruby The Day Henry Met 17:06 17:12 Nella The Princess Knight Shimmer And Shine 17:35 17:59 Wallykazam! 18:21 Zack & Ouack The Day Henry Met Blaze And The Monster 18:32 18:38 Machines Rusty Rivets 19:00 19:13 Paw Patrol 19:37 Dora The Explorer Nella The Princess Knight 20:00 20:21 Bubble Guppies 20:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines Paw Patrol 21:07 Shimmer And Shine Nella The Princess Knight 21:30 21:53 22:15 The Day Henry Met 22:22 Paw Patrol 22:45 Rusty Rivets 23:05 Wallykazam! 23:28**Bubble Guppies** 23:52 Team Umizoomi

OWN MOVIES HD

FAMILY

00:15 Lego DC Comics: Justice

04:30 Alpha Dogz: Pups United 06:05 Lego DC Comics: Justice

09:10 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The

League Cosmic Clash 01:40 Hey Arnold! The Movie

10:50 Hey Arnold! The Movie

Kung Fu Panda 3

Kung Fu Panda 3

OVA MOVIES HD

COMEDY

01:10 The Colossal Failure Of The

08:00 Big Mommas: Like Father,

11:40 Tyler Perry's Boo: A Madea

Joe Somebody Down With Love

Down With Love

Murder Of A Cat

Ghost Squad

Monte Carlo

The Good Dinosaur

03:00 Chilly Christmas

League Cosmic Clash

Minions

Minions

23:35 Ghost Squad

Modern Relationship

09:55 Joe Somebody

Fan Girl

03:00 Turbo Kid

07:30 Paulie

Dinosaurs

12:10

13:45

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17:00

18:30

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06:15

Like Son

Halloween

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W RLD HD

00:00 Cedar Cove 01:00 Cedar Cove 02:00 Cedar Cove 03:00 MAFS: The First Year 04:00 Black Box 05:00 Fashion Star 06:00 Cedar Cove 07:00 Cedar Cove 08:00 Cedar Cove MAFS: The First Year 09:00 Black Box 10:00 Fashion Star 11:00 Cedar Cove 12:0013:00 Cedar Cove 14:00 Cedar Cove 15:00MAFS: The First Year 16:00 Black Box Fashion Star 17:00 Married At First Sight 18:00Married At First Sight 19:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker 20:00 20:30Mom vs. Matchmaker 21:00 MAFS: The First Year 22:00 Black Box 23:00 Fashion Star



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00:20 Dr Christian Will See You
Now
       Botched Up Bodies
01:05
01:50
       Bizarre ER
       Oprah: Where Are They
02:35
Now?
       Kate Plus 8
03:20
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach
Wars
       Your Style In His Hands
04:50
       Say Yes To The Dress UK
05:35
06:00 Obsessive
                     Compulsive
Cleaners
06:45 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
      Say Yes To The Dress UK
Say Yes To The Dress UK
07:30
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08:15
       Kate Plus 8
       Cake Boss
09:00
      Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach
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Wars
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive
Cleaners
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       Married By Mum And Dad
11:40
       Oprah: Where Are They
Now?
12:25
       Say Yes To The Dress UK
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Say Yes To The Dress
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13:10
       Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach
13:55
Wars
       Kate Plus 8
14:40
       Married By Mum And Dad
15:25
       Love, Lust Or Run
16:10
16:35
       Cake Boss
       Oprah: Where Are They
17:00
Now?
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Stars

CROSSWORD 1763

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ACROSS

1. Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.

4. A photographic image produced on a radiosensitive surface by radiation other than visible light (especially by X-rays or gamma rays). 12. Not reflecting light.

15. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.

16. A workplace consisting of a coal mine plus all the buildings and equipment connected with it.

17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).

18. The dried fibrous part of the fruit of a plant of the genus Luffa.

20. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.

21. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.

22. French painter noted for his paintings of Parisian street scenes (1883-1955).

24. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.

26. A criminal who takes property belonging to someone else with the intention of keeping

it or selling it. 27. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.

29. The rattling noise produced when snoring. 31. (music) A short recitative that is melodic

but is not an aria. 35. The sciences concerned with gathering

and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.

37. An index of the cost of all goods and services to a typical consumer.

38. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.

40. The unit of frequency.

three allotropic forms.

41. Free from risk or danger.

by behavioral and learning disorders.

50. Of or in or relating to the nose.

57. English essayist (1775-1834).

69. A landlord who is a woman.

78. A slender double-reed instrument.

runs northeast into the Rhine.

River.

system.

brilliant light.

earth group.

central India.

no tail at all.

cooked and sweetened.

82. A Loloish language.

formed by an explosion.

of a liter.

1349).

Acre.

DOWN

1. A sloping mass of rocks at the base of a cliff. 2. Award-winning United States film actor (1928-1999).

3. A store or supply (especially of food or clothing or arms).

4. One of a series of rounded teeth formed by curves along an edge (as the edge of a leaf or piece of cloth etc.).

5. Shrubby herb cultivated for their soft velvety foliage and showy scarlet flowers. 6. Being nine more than forty.

7. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).

8. A river that rises in western New Mexico and flows westward through southern Arizona to become a tributary of the Colorado River. 9. Located in or toward the back or rear

10. A large fleet. 11. Type genus of the family Myacidae.

12. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake

Chad.

13. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey). 14. An official language of the Republic of

South Africa. 19. A man who is engaged to be married.

23. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.

25. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.

28. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.

30. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.

32. Of or pertaining to a number system having 8 as its base.

33. Spiny-finned food fishes of warm waters having well-developed teeth.

34. Relating to bone or to the skeleton.

36. A genus of Ploceidae.

39. Botswanan statesman who was the first president of Botswana (1921-1980).

42. A federal agency established to regulate

the release of new foods and health-related

products. An unforeseen obstacle

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a great time to become friends with your co-workers as you work together. A period emphasizing an enhanced sense of personal possibility has just begun. This is a time of tremendous psychological growth, which can lead to personal success if you follow through with it. You might also find that you will put on the pounds if you are not careful. Everything points to your taking the initiative. In the working world you will find yourself coming up with all sorts of productive ideas. This could mean a new advertising strategy or new sales approach. At home or in your own artistic expression it could just be the touch that gains you recognition. You could find that you are appreciated for your ability to follow through and try new ideas.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone. Those around you, or the situation you find yourself in, may not feel right to you-you could be challenged. However, this is of short duration; you are in the mood to seek the right solution for all. Your instinctive thinking at this time is toward becoming focused and completing unfinished business. You have a love affair going with the mind and you value the intelligent use of words, ideas, thoughts and such. This afternoon you may enjoy games of trivia. You love to talk and may find yourself in several good conversations all day long. These stimulating mental adventures are among the most exciting experiences for you. You may teach young people the art of generosity tonight.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This morning you may find you are at odds with others regarding matters of convention. If you do not become carried away by other people's foolish ideas you will be able to insert some positive, commonsense alternatives to projects that may need salvaging. Connecting with others through an attitude of teamwork will make for profitable results. Your enthusiasm could become popular, particularly if you point out the good points that others have created and how they will fit with the group. This makes you ideal as a teacher or group leader, especially with young people. Know when to pull back and take the back seat, so to speak. You will feel real harmony this afternoon from those around you. Music can be quite a lot of fun this evening—dance.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have blind courage and sheer guts-a self-starter. Innovations-new and possibly unconventional approaches to being productive or making money-are in order today. Independence is a very good thing. We are all connected, but we also need to be in control of our own goals and this is something you strongly work to achieve. Listen to your own inner guidance particularly if you have the sense of being pulled into investments or other projects that seem to distract you from your path of success. Your response to life is becoming more original and innovative. You look to home and family for support and encouragement. Security and having roots are important to your productivity now. Someone close to you wants to see you succeed.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a great time to be working in group or team situations. Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority now. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the areas where this takes place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Learning what makes people tick is exciting and enlightening psychological information. There is an emphasis on close relationships and a preoccupation with ideas of fairness and harmony that are part and parcel of the mental cycle you have just begun. This afternoon you may decide to shop and prepare for the winter months ahead-perhaps it is time for a new style-hair or clothes. Romance is an outlet for much of your energy this evening.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a period of increased mental activity and sensitive communication with others. Intellectualism, the exchange of ideas and the idea of being smart as a fox are the things that have a special appeal and importance at this time. You are most persuasive with others and eloquent in making yourself understood. You should be able to get your ideas across with ease. The makings for a bright and witty day are at hand. Your communication skills are at a high-water mark. New understandings of those around you bring about a special time of enjoyment. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time. Stress relief this evening may encompass the fun of being

Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find that both your personal growth and your career depend on how you can handle the very sensitive psychological material that may be coming up now. You will benefit from analytical insights, getting to the heart of things: penetrating. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. This is a time of much energy and drive, perfect for beginning a new project or taking care of businessvery physical too. You may be asked for your advice and counsel regarding some very personal and emotional issues. You will have an opportunity to either be a listener or to lend a helping hand without getting in too deep. An evening out for dinning and dance is possible tonight, perhaps even a little romance.



An announcement at work this morning may cause you to want to review parts of your education that you have not had a chance to put to good use. Consider your options and put your good sense to use. If you are very discreet, you can restore a difficult situation at work to a state of harmony. A new professional assignment appeals to vou this afternoon. You may feel that you will be able to make those important strides forward as you take on this new assignment. If you are not as technically skilled as you would like, this is a good time to invest in a class or the equipment you need. Someone you respect will be able to advise you. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Secrets, taboos and mysteries appeal now. Learning the process of finding solutions holds your interest. This may mean that some numbers did not

add up properly, and you are usually able to detect the missing link. Someone may have lost something important or a similar problem has your attention-don't lose track of your goal for today. Your instinctive orientation at this time is toward getting down to basics and eliminating any misunderstanding or mistake. You uncover answers from the most unexpected places. You could receive unexpected help today or support from others. There is a big project due at work this afternoon and you enjoy being able to concentrate on it. This evening is a good evening for music, dinner and romance.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

New forms of creativity and self-expression seem to open up new avenues for accomplishments. Increased confidence and a more outgoing manner may be the keys that open many a new door in your career. This is certainly a time during which your career or life path undergoes a certain amount of change and transformation. You find yourself firmly against sidetracks: the unessential. You can really home in on how to solve problems and get where you want to go. Your support system that consists of family and friends becomes more secure at this time. You are able to dispense with some of the unessential things in your life and develop what is most basic and true in your environment. You encourage better support. Progress is unavoidable.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a project due at work today and you enjoy being able to concentrate on it. There are no interruptions and if you wish, others are ready to lend a helping hand. A number of new goals make a lot of sense to you and you work to create greater success. Feeling successful and prosperous is the first step toward becoming those things. Picture yourself living the life you want to lead and you will be very pleased at the outcome. A family member, perhaps a child, wants to share some quality time with you this afternoon. Later this evening you may meet an old friend for dinner. If you have been overdoing it lately, this evening may be a good time to relax. Poetry, music and the arts interest you, as do psychology and the psyche.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Others will follow your lead today. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional importance for you now. You could come up with plenty of new ideas for making the work you are doing run as smoothly as possible. Your instinctive orientation now is toward getting down to business and accomplishing your goals for the day. The power of organization on a social scale-business, politics and suchseems to take on a larger-than-life energy, as you enter into a new cycle. It's as if ambition and authority are answers in themselves, rather than only a means to an ideal objective. This could be a time during which your career undergoes a certain amount of change and transformation. You are focused and attentive to your work.

43. A very poisonous metallic element that has 46. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism. 45. The type of environment in which an 47. The United Nations agency concerned organism or group normally lives or occurs. with atomic energy. 48. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized 49. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization. 51. Án Arabic speaking person who lives in 53. A river in north central Switzerland that Arabia or North Africa. 52. Of or relating to the African republic of 54. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan Somalia or its people or their language and culture. 56. Any property detected by the olfactory 55. A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode. 59. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and ther-58. A white metallic element that burns with a mal conductivity of any metal. 60. A digital display that uses liquid crystal 61. A metric unit of volume equal to one tenth cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field. 63. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali 62. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin. 65. English scholastic philosopher and 64. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285and raisins and almonds. 66. The head of a branch of an organized crime syndicate. 75. A Dravidian language spoken in south 67. Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing. 76. A port in northwestern Israel on the Bay of 68. Not open. 70. A rounded thickly curled hairdo. 71. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agricul-79. Any of various primates with short tails or ture and patron of scribes and schools. 72. A rich soil consisting of a mixture of sand 80. Long pinkish sour leafstalks usually eaten and clay and decaying organic materials. 73. The capital and chief port of Qatar. 74. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) 83. A sign of assent or salutation or command. davs. 84. Chief port of Benin on the Bight of Benin. 77. A dark-skinned member of a race of peo-85. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was ple living in Australia when Europeans arrived. 81. A trivalent metallic element of the rare

earth group. **Yesterday's Solution**

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		L	A		Α	B	A		I	L	A	М	A		
М	A		G		D	A	С	С	A		G	A	Μ	I	N
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A	R	E	A		М	A	S	H	H	A	D		N	0	x

entertained by a friend

Wordsearch Puzzle

Baseball

Find and circle all of the Baseball words that are hidden in the orid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Humphrey Bogart quotation.

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A	н	в	A	т	т	E	R	0	u	т	F	1	E	L	D	E	R	0	т
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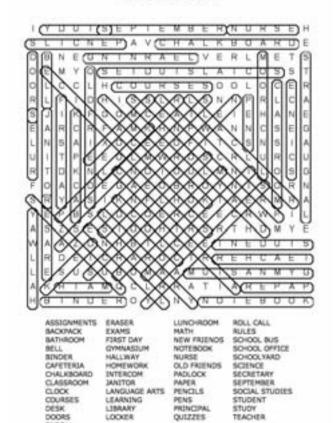
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Daily SuDoku

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Yesterday's Solution

Back to School



The hidden message is: I HAVE NEVER LET MY SCHOOLING INTERFERE WITH MY EDUCATION

ENROLL

Yesterday's Solution

8	5	9	2	4	6	3	1	7
2	3	4	7	5	1	9	6	8
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7	2	3	5	8	4	6	9	1
4	6	8	1	2	9	5	7	3
3	1	7	4	9	2	8	5	6
5	4	6	8	1	3	7	2	9
9	8	2	6	7	5	1	3	4

Class fines of the field of the Thursday, November 16, 2017

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817

Fax: (+965) 24348714

www.met.gov.kw



REQUIRED

Civil Engineers. Material Engineers (who has ACI accreditation)

Points to be noted are:

Who are currently a resident in Kuwait, not outside Whom their Residency is item (18) and can transfer immediately

Have 5 to 10 years of Experience

For Material Engineers they must have ACI accreditation

They must be good at both site and office work Must be fluent in English

Please have their respective CV's sent to tpc@larpco.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I Silveira Natividade Custodio S/o of Custodio nolder of No. /il ID No. hereby me to Natividade Silveira hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5361)

ings and documents. (C 5360) 13-11-2017 ACCOMMODATION

284052405349 has

changed my name to

Muhammed Ashiq P.V.

hereinafter in all my deal-

One room available for rent in C-AC flat airport road Khaitan for couple/ working lady/ one bachelor. Rent KD 85. Contact: 66253647, 51614467. (C 5359) 13-11-2017



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

	4 DAYS FORECAST											
			Temper	ratures								
DAY	DATE	WEATHER		MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed						
Thursday	11/16	Sunny	30 °C	12 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h						
Friday	11/17	Sunny and some scattered clouds will appear	28 °C	12 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h						
Saturday	11/18	Sunny and some scattered clouds will appear	28 °C	11 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h						
Sunday	11/19	Partly cloudy with a slight chance for drizzle later on	29 °C	14 °C	S-SE	12 - 32 km/h						

TOMORROW P	RAYER TIMES	RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT					
Fajr	04:50	MAX. Temp.	27 °C				
Sunrise	06:12	MIN. Temp.	09 °C				
Zuhr	11:33	MAX. RH	51 %				
Asr	14:32	MIN. RH	13 %				
Sunset	16:53	MAX. Wind	NW 36 km/h				
Isha	18:13	TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm				

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/
	2433141
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

Flight Schedule



BY NIGHT: Cool with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h . No Current Warnings

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	29 °C	20 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28 °C	12 °C
ABDALY	28 °C	10 °C
BUBYAN	26 °C	07 °C
JAHRA	29 °C	13 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	27 °C	14 °C
SALMIYAH	27 °C	20 °C
AHMADI	26 °C	21 °C
NUWAISIB	28 °C	13 °C
WAFRA	28 °C	12 °C
SALMY	27 °C	13 °C

STATE OF KUWAIT

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

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15-11-2017

I, Anil P. V. Perumprethu Veedu son of Varghese, holder of Indian Passport No. H4169325 & Civil ID No.

	Arrival Flig	hts on Thursday 16/11/2017	,	JZR	903	GYD	13:30		Departure F	lights on Thursday 16/11/20	17	NIA	362	Alexandria	12:35
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	WAN	835	Sarajevo	12:35
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	MEA VIZ	405 201	Beirut TQD	12:55 13:30
KAC JZR	504 267	Beirut Beirut	00:30 00:40	PAL SVA	668 500	Manila Jeddah	14:00 14:15	JZR JAI	528 573	Asyut Mumbai	00:15 00:30	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:40
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	618	Doha	14:15	WAN	341	Sohag	00:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:40
JZR	539	Cairo	00:55	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35	FDB	076	Dubai	13:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	QTR	1078	Doha	14:20	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	MSC	412	Asyut	01:00	FDK UAE	804 872	Damascus	14:00 14:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KAC	672	Dubai	14:25	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05	AXB	394	Dubai Kozhikode	14:15
SAI UAE	441 853	Lahore Dubai	01:30 01:45	JZR KAC	1333 412	Al Najaf Bangkok	14:30 14:35	JZR JZR	502 142	Luxor Doha	01:30 01:45	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:30
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	352	Kochi	14:35	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KAC KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:50	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	FDB	673 060	Dubai Dubai	15:05 15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30	KAC	691	Muscat	15:20
JZR QTR	555 1086	Alexandria Doha	02:15 02:20	KAC ETD	788 303	Jeddah Abu Dhabi	15:10 15:15	SAI DLH	442 625	Lahore Frankfurt	02:30 02:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	787	Riyadh	15:30	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:25
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	562	Amman	15:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	JZR QTR	188 1079	Dubai Doha	15:25 15:30
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	502	Beirut	15:30	KAC	351	Kochi	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:45
MSR ETD	606	Luxor Abu Dhabi	03:05	UAE QTR	857	Dubai	15:45	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
MSR	305 612	Abu Dhabi Cairo	03:10 03:15	RJD	1072 135	Doha Abu Dhabi	15:55 16:00	KLM KKK	446 1269	Amsterdam Istanbul	03:55 03:55	KAC KAC	743 563	Dammam Amman	16:05 16:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:00	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	PAL	669	Manila	16:10
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	KAC	118	New York	16:00	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	544	Cairo	04:25	JZR	535	Cairo	16:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	OMA KAC	646 615	Muscat Bahrain	16:35 16:40
KAC KAC	418 784	Manila Jeddah	04:25 04:35	KNE JZR	531 779	Jeddah Jeddah	16:05 16:15	MSR LMU	613 511	Cairo Cairo	04:15 05:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:40
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	RJD	136	Abu Dhabi	16:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45	KNE	532	Jeddah	16:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05	SAW KAC	706 675	Damascus Dubai	16:55 17:00
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	JZR	1330	Al Najaf	06:20	QTR	1073	Duba Doha	17:15
KAC KAC	358 332	Kochi Trivandrum	05:40 05:40	gfa Jzr	215 125	Bahrain Bahrain	17:30 17:35	JZR THY	560 771	Sohag Istanbul	06:25 06:50	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
КАС	302	Mumbai	06:20	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	JZR	1334	Al Najaf	07:30	KAC FDB	283 052	Dhaka Dubai	17:30 17:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	JZR	177	Dubai	18:15	KAC	167	Paris	07:35	KAC	357	Kochi	17:45
KAC WAN	284 342	Dhaka Sohag	06:30 06:35	MSR QTR	620 1080	Cairo Doha	18:30 18:50	JZR JZR	1336 902	Al Najaf GYD	07:45 07:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	KAC	744	Dammam	19:10	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:20	KAC	413	Bangkok	08:10	KAC KAC	331 343	Trivandrum Chennai	18:00 18:00
BAW	157	London	07:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	JZR	538	Cairo	18:15
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:25	KAC	791	Madinah	08:35	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
QTR FDB	8511 053	Doha Dubai	07:35 07:35	KAC GFA	662 217	Abu Dhabi Bahrain	19:25 19:30	KAC KAC	787 613	Jeddah Bahrain	08:40 08:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30	BAW	156	London	08:55	JZR WAN	184 115	Dubai Bahrain	18:30 18:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:45	NIA	361	Alexandria	19:40	KAC	117	New York	09:00	KAC	381	Delhi	18:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	QTR	8512	Doha	09:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	JZR	534	Cairo	09:10	JZR	554	Alexandria	19:20
IRA ETD	667 301	Esfahan Abu Dhabi	09:00 09:05	KAC KNE	616 381	Bahrain Taif	19:55 20:00	KAC KAC	561 671	Amman Dubai	09:40 09:45	UAE MSR	876 621	Dubai Cairo	19:30 19:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	JZR	189	Dubai	20:00	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45	QTR	1081	Doha	20:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	101	London	09:45	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:05
SVA JZR	512 1331	Riyadh Al Najaf	10:00 10:00	KAC DLH	692 624	Muscat Frankfurt	20:40 20:45	KAC KAC	515 541	Tehran Cairo	10:00 10:00	GFA FDB	218 058	Bahrain Dubai	20:15 20:35
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	20:45	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	20:35
IRA	673	Ahwaz	10:10	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:00	NIA	162	Cairo	20:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:45
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	KAC KAC	353 301	Bengaluru Mumbai	20:55 21:00
SYR JZR	341 1337	Damascus Al Najaf	11:00 11:10	KAC UAE	786 850	Jeddah Dubai	21:25	KAC	617 1071	Doha	10:15	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
JZR	1335	Al Najaf	11:10	KAC	859 676	Dubai	21:35 21:40	QTR KAC	1071 155	Doha Istanbul	10:20 10:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:30		624	Bahrain	21:30
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	DHX QTR	171 1089	Bahrain Doha	21:50 22:00
	161	Cairo	11:35	WAN	116	Bahrain	22:00	RSB	7684	Baghdad	11:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:05
MEA KAC	404 614	Beirut Bahrain	11:55 12:10	KAC QTR	564 1082	Amman Doha	22:00 22:05	SVA IAW	513 158A	Riyadh Al Najaf	11:00 11:00	KAC	203	Lahore	22:10
FEG	933	Sohag	12:40	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:05	JZR	1332	Al Najaf	11:00	ETD MEA	308 403	Abu Dhabi Beirut	22:10 22:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	IRA	672	Ahwaz	11:10	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	JZR	241	Amman	22:40	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
UAE KAC	871 742	Dubai	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai Mumbai	23:10 23:15	JZR	776 342	Jeddah	12:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:35
FDK	742 803	Dammam Damascus	12:50 13:00	JAI WAN	574 836	Mumbai Sarajevo	23:15	SYR JZR	342 786	Damascus Riyadh	12:00 12:00	KAC KLM	383 445	Delhi Bahrain	22:40 22:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:30	MSC	404	Alexandria	12:15	UAE	445 860	Dubai	22:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	792	Madinah	13:20	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	VIZ	205	IQA	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20





Lifestyle Gossip



Tamara Ecclestone has beefed up her security

he 33-year-old model - who has three-year-old daughter Sophia with her husband Jay Rutland - has made the conscious decision to add more security to her team and says it is "a small price to pay for the peace of mind" as she gets very anxious about what could happen to her little girl. She said: "Since having Sophia, it [security] is something that I think about a lot more. Since having her, I do get anxiety about situations that I never got anxious about before because she's the most important thing in my life and to think of her ever being in harms way, if there's anything I can do to stop that, then having security around all the time is a small price to pay for the peace of mind." Tamara - who is the daughter of former Formula One CEO Bernie Ecclestone - had no qualms about including her daughter in her upcoming reality show 'Tamara's World' as the little girl is very outgoing and enjoys being the centre of attention. Speaking on ITV's Loose Women, Tamara added: "She absolutely loved it. When we were on a break from filming, she was like, 'Mummy, why are we not filming today?' She loves to show what she's doing; she loves to be the centre of attention and the centre of stage. She's the biggest personality. She's three going on 13. I'm so proud of her ... "I feel like that I made the right decision for her but when she's old enough to make her own decisions, then I will 100 percent never push her to do anything she doesn't want to do. And I was very conscious that if she was shy and reclusive and didn't enjoy the experience then I would have never put her in that situation'



Momoa's wedding to Lisa Bonet was a 'celebration'

he 38-year-old actor secretly tied the knot with his 49-year-old partner last month after being together for over 12 years, and admitted it took them so long to find the time to get all their loved ones in one place for the nuptials. He told 'Extra' presenter Mario Lopez: "We've kind of been married, it's just that we had a really great celebration, been around the world working and finally had the time to get together and bring all the tribes together, so it was really just a celebration of our love, the twelve years." But Jason was disappointed his former 'Game of Thrones' costars were unable to make the wedding as they're busy shooting the show's final season. Asked about his recent reunion with Emilia Clarke, which they both documented on social media, he said: "I love my whole cast and crew over there 'cause we are very tight and they all couldn't make it to the wedding, they were getting ready for the last season. I went over there 'cause I was in London 'cause I love them and I wanted to see them." The 'Justice League' actor recently revealed he fell for Lisa, 49, when he was just eight years old and saw her play Denise Huxtable in 'The Cosby Show'. He quipped: "I was eight years old and I saw her on the TV and I was like, 'Mommy, I want that one.' I was like, 'I'm going to stalk you for the rest of my life, and I'm going to get you.' I'm a full-fledged stalker." Jason didn't tell Lisa about his secret obsession with her until they had their children, daughter Lola,10, and eightyear-old son Nakoa-Wolf, because he thinks it might have been "creepy and weird". He said: "I didn't tell her that until we had two babies otherwise it would have been creepy and weird. I've always wanted to meet her. She was the queen always.'

Kim considering having her baby delivered to her door

Elon Musk's split from Amber Heard 'hurt bad'

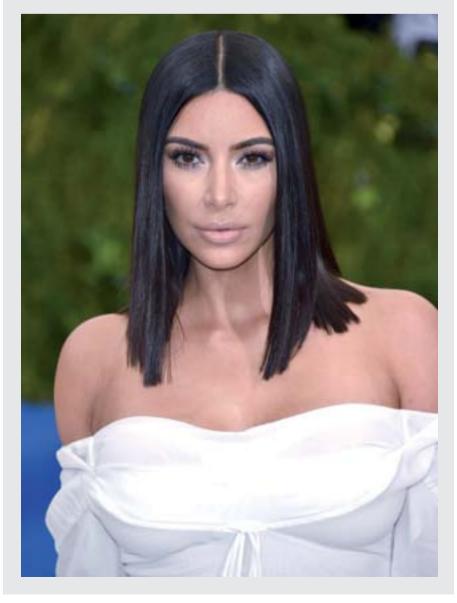
The Tesla CEO went his separate ways from the 'Magic Mike XXL' actress in August this year and he admits it hit him pretty bad. He said: "I just broke up with my girlfriend. It hurt bad. Well, she broke up with me more than I broke up with her, I think." And the 46-year-old entrepreneur is desperately looking for someone to share his life with. He added to Rolling Stone magazine: "I never want to be alone. That's what I would say [as a child], 'I don't want to be alone.' I will never be happy without having someone. Going to sleep alone kills me. It's not like I don't know what that feels like: Being in a big empty house, and the footsteps echoing through the hallway, no one there - and no one on the pillow next to you. F**k. "How do you make yourself happy in a situation like that? Is there anybody you think I should date? It's so hard for me to even meet people. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I'm not looking for a one-night stand. I'm looking for a serious companion or soulmate, that kind of thing." It comes after Elon admitted he hasn't ruled out reuniting with Amber Heard, who he has remained close to since they split. Writing under a picture Amber posted on her Instagram page, he shared: "Btw, just to clear up some of the press storm this weekend, although Amber and I did break up, we are still friends, remain close and love one another. Long distance relationship when both partners have intense work obligations are always difficult, but who knows what the future holds.'





Paloma Faith's wardrobe costs a total of £20 The 36-year-old singer has admitted she "loves clothes" but she rarely forks out fortunes on trendy pieces because she prefers more vintage garments that come with a lower price tag. Speaking to Stylist magazine, the 'Can't Rely On You' hitmaker said: "I love clothes - we all know that. But actually most of my wardrobe costs £20 because it's vintage." And the artist has revealed she "never" buys products from luxury labels because she knows she can simply "borrow" the garment she has her eyes on straight from the fashion house. She added: "And I never really buy designer clothes because I can borrow them." Paloma has hinted she has never been materialistic, even as a child. She said: "According to my mum, I was never that bothered by actual stuff. I've got a tape player at home that I used to record my voice on as a kid and in one tape my mum says, 'What do you want for Christmas?' I'm about five years old. And I say, 'Nothing.' I really meant it. "I think my mum used to feed my imagination so much, I didn't want for things." And Paloma - who gave birth to her first child in December last year with her French partner Leyman Lahcine - has admitted she prefers to "splash out" on memorable experiences or holidays instead. She explained: "I tend to splash out on experiences. I tend to splash out on experiences. I could never justify spending £600 on a pair of shoes but on the other hand I've been to the Maldives. To me that was the height of luxury, although I did get half of it subsidised for some Twitter action."

The 37-year-old reality star and her husband Kanye West are having a third child via a surrogate, but Kim's 23-month-old son Saint doesn't understand how the situation works and so the brunette beauty is weighing up a surreal way of introducing Saint to his new baby sister. During her appearance on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show', Kim, who also has a four-yearold daughter called North, explained: "I don't know if my son gets it yet, especially if I don't have the belly. "So I said to my sisters, 'Would I be really creepy if I get someone to dress up as a stork and drop the baby off at the front door and have to explain that?' Isn't that what we had when we were growing up." This surreal suggestion comes shortly after Kim claimed that having a baby via surrogate mother is "so much harder" than going through pregnancy herself. The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star - who was advised against getting pregnant again due to suffering complications with North and Saint - explained: "You know, it is really different. Anyone that says or thinks it is just the easy way out is just completely wrong. I think it is so much harder to go through it this way, because you are not really in control. "And, you know, obviously you pick someone that you completely trust and that you have a good bond and relationship with, but it is still ... knowing that I was able to carry my first two babies and not, you know, my baby now, it's hard for me. So, it's definitely a harder experience than I anticipated just in the control area."



Franco busied himself in his work as a 'defense mechanism'

The 39-year-old actor is widely considered to be one of the hardest working figures in Hollywood, but in recent times, James has made a conscious decision to slow down and take stock of his own life. The Academy Award-nominated star explained: "I have achieved all the things that I dreamed when I was younger. And realizing, 'Oh, those things are not going to fill the hole.'" James freely admits to having spent the bulk of his adult life bouncing from one ambitious project to the next. But as he nears his 40th birthday, James now realizes his behavior was designed to shield him from reality and protect himself from failure. Speaking to Variety magazine, James shared: "It was a defense mechanism. "If I do a lot of things and one of them comes out and people don't like it, I'm already on to the next thing. I'm not even listening to the criticism. But it's also an escape. "If I kept myself busy, I never had to look at myself or my life." James also discussed his public persona, admitting he's moved progressively closer towards the public's perception of him over time. The '127 Hours' star likened the situation to having a "mask" stuck on his face. James said: "Why can't I have fun with it? On the other hand, it becomes you. There was a period 10 years ago that I wasn't the James Franco that everyone suddenly knew, doing all these things. "It's almost like the mask gets fused to your face. That mask of fame sort of gets stuck on your face whether you're being facetious or being serious. It's a hard thing to talk about because you start sounding like a douche."





Lifestyle FEATURES

Taiwan's foodie cred given Michelin boost



This picture taken on October 31, 2017 shows a chei preparing a dish of fried pork liver at the Hsin Yeh restaurant in Taipei. —AFP photos

rom streetside stalls dishing out one dollar bowls of braised pork rice to upscale eateries tucked away in quiet alleyways, Michelin inspectors are scouring the Taiwanese capital selecting restaurants for its first ever guide. The island's reputation among inthe-know travelers as a foodie paradise will be further burnished when Taipei becomes the latest Asian city to have its own Michelin guide in the first quarter of 2018.

Best-known for its vibrant night markets and fresh local ingredients, Michelin says the city's street food could well make the grade alongside higher end restaurants, as it has in the Hong Kong and Singapore editions. "You don't need to be in a wonderful place to have extreme quality of ingredients and to have a real personalities of the chef," Michelin spokesman Bruno de Feraudy told AFP. "Exceptional for us is what's happening on the plate and purely on the plate."

Traditionally seen as a posh gourmet compass, budget eats are increasingly recognised by Michelin and have used the prestigious award to build big businesses. Hong Kong's Tim Ho Wan went from hole-inthe-wall to successful chain while a Singapore hawker awarded a Michelin star last year has grown his soy sauce chicken stall into a franchise.

Taiwanese foodies are speculating that Jinfeng-a p-frills corner joint serving Tw\$30 (\$1) bowls of rice

topped with braised minced fatty pork, called "lu rou fan"-could make the cut. But shop manager Wu Suyan says she is indifferent and the long queues of tourists and locals speak for themselves. "Having customers is confirmation enough. We don't need it to be written on a piece of paper to know our lu rou fan is good," she said.

Small beginnings

Shin Yeh's five branches in Taipei are packed most nights of the week and the 40vear-old institution hopes Michelin will spotlight the types of traditional dishes it serves, which have fallen out of favour with some young Taiwanese. Favorites such as pan-

roasted mullet roe go for Tw\$680 a portion, putting its prices well above street snacks but far below the highest end restaurants.

A thick golden omelette studded with preserved turnip

is so popular that Shin Yeh's kitchens have spots reserved iust for making the dish, says brand director Cybie Fang, with new chefs taking three months to master the recipe. Fang believes the new guide might help rebrand Taiwanese cuisine for young domestic consumers, some of whom see Shin Yeh's menu as "too passe".

'No matter how many

serves up bowls of

restaurants get stars, I think it is a big plus for Taiwan," she says. But The latest others worry about the burden winning the stars could bring. "I will be Asian city to quite ecstatic for a have its own moment, but there will be enormous pressure for me," says Tony Wang Michelin guide whose restaurant Niu Ba Ba, or "Beef Father"

Taiwanese staple beef fried pork liver cost Tw\$280 while dark orange slices of noodles for an eye watering Tw\$10,000. It also offers cheaper noodles starting from Tw\$500, but still manages to sell three of the expensive bowls daily on average.

Wang insists the price reflects the quality of the ingredients-he says he spent Tw\$60 million and years

researching different kinds of beef. His recipe uses four types of premium meat, broth made from four kinds of tomatoes, and noodles that cost six times the average because they are kneaded from Japanese flour.

Falling stars

The Michelin guides, first published in France more than a century ago to promote automobile travel, made their first foray into Asia with a Tokyo edition in 2007. Taiwan's most famous chef AndrÈ Chiang was awarded two Michelin stars for his Singapore restaurant AndrÉ. However, he recently announced he would close it in February and return the accolade to focus on his highend Taipei restaurant RAW, which serves up intricate artistic versions of Taiwanese classics and has a months' long waiting list for a table.

A set dinner there costs Tw\$1850. But Chiang says he does not want RAW listed in the new Michelin guide, characterizing it instead as a training ground for young chefs. Several French restaurateurs in the past have relinquished the distinction due to the high pressure of maintaining exacting standards. But Michelin's de Feraudy says the guide will not exclude a restaurant just because a chef requests it. He explains: "If there is something exceptional (consumers) could enjoy, we should tell them." —AFP





A bowl of Presidential Beef Noodles, which costs TWD 10,000 (USD 330) is seen at the Niu Ba Ba restaurant in Taipei



Just desserts as **Indian state wins** battle over sweet

row over the origins of a popular Indian dessert that embroiled one of the country's most senior politicians has ended with victory for the state of West Bengal. The sticky dispute centered around who first invented rosogulla-a ball made of milk curds soaked in syrup. In 2015 the government of another eastern Indian state, Odisha, claimed the sweet as its own. That prompted a backlash in West Bengal, which applied to have its claim recognized with an official "geographical indication" (GI) tag.

On Tuesday the Indian government awarded the GI tag to West Bengal, sparking celebrations in the capital Kolkata. "Sweet news for us all," tweeted the state's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had personally intervened in the dispute. "We are very happy and proud that #Bengal has been granted GI status for rosogolla.'

Rare Da Vinci painting auctioned in New York

painting thought by scholars to be one of only a few by Leonardo da Vinci to have survived the Ahalf-millennia since the artist's death is set to be auctioned Wednesday in New York, where it is guaranteed to sell for at least \$100 million. Art lovers have lined up by the thousands at special presale exhibitions in Hong Kong, San Francisco, London and New York to see the only work by the Renaissance master in private hands.

The 500-year-old oil painting depicting Christ holding a crystal orb, called "Salvator Mundi" or "Savior of the World," is one of fewer than 20 paintings by Leonardo da Vinci known to exist, according to Christie's, the auction house conducting the sale. "I can hardly convey how exciting it is for those of us directly involved in its sale," said Christie's specialist Alan Wintermute. "The word 'masterpiece' barely begins to convey the rarity, importance and sublime beauty of Leonardo's painting.'

Wintermute called it "the Holy Grail of old master paintings." A backer of the auction has guaranteed a bid of at least \$100 million (85 million euros). Experts have said it might be worth more, except for its generally poor state of preservation and lingering questions about its authenticity. The 26-inch painting dates from around 1500 and shows Christ dressed in Renaissance-style



An Indian man holds a bowl of rosogulla dessert on a street in New Delhi. —AFP

Kolkata is famous across India for its sweets, and Banerjee's government argued that rosogollas had been invented by local confectioner Nabin Chandra Das in 1868. Odisha had reportedly commissioned research into its own claim. But Prashanth Kumar, senior examiner for GI, said his office had not received a rival application from the state. Other Indian delicacies with the GI tag include Darjeeling tea and Naga chillis-among the hottest in the world. —AFP

robes, his right hand raised in blessing as his left hand holds a crystal sphere.

Mysterious history

The painting's history is as mysterious as Jesus' enigmatic gaze, which invites comparison to a better-known Leonardo work, the "Mona Lisa." "Salvator Mundi" was owned by King Charles I of England in the mid-1600s and was auctioned by the son of the Duke of Buckingham in 1763. It then disappeared from view until 1900, when it resurfaced and was acquired by a British collector. At the time, it was thought to be a work of a Leonardo disciple, rather than the master himself.

The painting was sold again in 1958 and then acquired in 2005, badly damaged and partly painted-over, by a consortium of art dealers who paid less than \$10,000. They restored the painting extensively and documented its authenticity as a work by Leonardo. The work's current owner is Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev, who bought it in 2013 for \$127.5 million in a private sale that became the subject of a continuing lawsuit. Christie's says a majority of scholars believe it is a work by Leonardo, though some have questioned that determination while others have said it was so extensively restored that it is probably more akin to a copy than an original.

In New York, where no museum owns a Leonardo, art lovers lined up outside Christie's Rockefeller Center headquarters on Tuesday to view "Salvator Mundi." Inside, Christ's face seemed to light up the darkened gallery. Svetla Nikolova, who is from Bulgaria but lives in New York now, called the painting "spectacular." "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," she said. "It should be seen. It's wonderful it's in New York. - AP

Butter shortage chills France's patisserie-loving soul

There can arguably be no greater threat to the French way of life than a lack of butter. For months France has been gripped by a slow burning panic that it is running out of the golden ambrosia, which is the base of croissants and pains au chocolat as well as the whole mouth-watering panoply of French patisseries.

Supermarket shelves have been emptied of butter as shoppers worry they will have nothing to put on their breakfast tartines of toasted baguette, while worried bakers fear a "croissant crisis" as prices spiral. "We always loved butter, but we never knew how much," sociologist Remy Lucas, who specializes in people's relationship with food, told AFP. "Now we realise how important it is in our daily lives. Obviously we can replace it nutritionally but the idea that we might be without it is really unbearable," he added.

French people eat more butter per capita than anyone else in the world-three times more than Americans-yet still have among the lowest obesity levels of developed countries. Faced with mounting anxiety about having to go without butter, churn makers told AFP that enquiries from city dwellers who clearly had no access to dairy cows had soared, while a spate of YouTube videos showing people how to make butter have been viewed tens of thousands of times within days of going online.

"It's been a long time since I did a video which took off so quickly," said popular recipe blogger Herve Palmieri. "The last one that went viral with a few million views was ironically about how to make a chocolate cake without butter or sugar," he added. Google said internet searches on how to make butter had rocketed 925 percent between September and October.

'World has gone mad'

Wholesale prices for butter more than tripled over the past year driven by rising demand in Asia, with Chinese consumers in particular reportedly developing a weakness for flaky, butter-rich croissants. With many French supermarkets refusing to pay higher prices because they tend to fix them annually, butter has gone abroad.

The drop in supplies has been accentuated by panic buying, with the safety net of the EU's once enormous butter mountain no longer there, having melted away to a mere one percent of its size last year. Parisian baker Dominique Eury said he had never encountered such a shortage in the 44 years he has been manning his oven in the 17th district of the capital.

"Ten days ago I could not get the butter or cream that I needed. Until now we have got by, what is really worrying me is the holidays. The world has gone mad,"



This file photo taken on October 25, 2017 shows a woman looking at an empty refrigerated supermarket shelf which normally display butter packets in Saint-Sebastien-sur-Loire, western France. — AFP

he said. Eury said he gets through twice as much butter during Christmas as he makes the traditional "buche" chocolate log dessert and the marzipan "galette of the kings" the French eat in January. With his suppliers only able to get their hands on 80 percent of the butter they want, Eury said he was putting stocks aside just in case of a crisis over the Christmas period.

'Butter makes us happy'

The idea that they could make do with margarine is not something French bakers are prepared to contemplate. "We make everything with butter," said Arnaud Delmontel, who has four bakeries in the capital. Although he believes the shortage is not real, he complained that the rise in prices has become "unreasonable", and some of the butter he has received had clearly been frozen. "People are speculating and making a lot of money," he claimed.

Global demand for butter is outstripping supply, according to the US Department of Agriculture, as consumers turn away from vegetable-oil based products in search of something "safer". Butter's image as a cholesterol-choked dietary bad guy has changed radically in recent years. Many scientists now say it is "neutral" health-wise - news that Time magazine celebrated with a 2014 cover proclaiming, "Eat butter".

All of which further reinforces the French emotional attachment to its creamy comforts, Lucas argued. Grandmothers in the buttery heartlands of Brittany and Normandy still use it as a cure-all for bumps and bruises and Lucas said this "brings us back to our childhood... to the intimate comforts and joy of butter at breakfast and in afternoon snacks. Naturally butter is something that makes us happy." "Until the shortage," he said, "butter was just something in our fridges. We had taken it for granted because we always had it, except during World War II." Having to worry about getting enough was "shocking and paradoxical" to French people, the sociologist insisted. "In the 'Land of Butter' we find it extremely difficult to imagine that we can live without it." -AFP





Film Review

No superhero can save the mess that is 'Justice League'



t's hard not to feel a little bad for the DC Comics films at this point. They have the unenviable task having to form an identity in the shadows of the films of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which are usually good and rarely unwatchable, and the continued glow of Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight trilogy, which are seeming more and more like transcendent anomalies as we get deeper into this never-ending cycle of

super humans crowding our multiplexes. DC got off to a rocky start and then Patty Jenkins went and made a very good "Wonder Woman."

And yet somehow it is no surprise that "Justice League" tips the balances back in the wrong direction. Although marginally better than "Batman v Superman" and "Suicide Squad," director Zack Snyder's

latest is still a profound mess of maudlin muscles, incoherent action and jaw-droppingly awful CGI. It is big, loud, awful to look at and oh-so-dumb.

With Superman (Henry Cavill) dead, and the world facing yet another devastating threat (yawn) this time

at the hands of some ancient creature named Steppenwolf (Ciaran Hinds) and his army of giant alien mosquitoes, which look like Saturday morning Power Rangers villains, Batman/Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck) and Wonder Woman/Diana Prince (Gal Gadot) go in search of some new recruits: Barry Allen/The Flash (Ezra Miller), a quippy "kid" who's excited to join the team; Arthur Curry/Aquaman (Jason Momoa) who

Incoherent

action and

awful CGI

jaw-droppingly

talks like a surfer bro and looks like a Nordic bodybuilder with ombre locks and fishermen's knits; And Victor Stone/Cyborg (Ray Fisher), who is still in the sulky "why me" phase of his superhero career.

Re-think this whole There are some good moments, thanks in large part to the addition of

Miller, whose quick, selfdeprecating humor (likely the result of Joss Whedon's

script and reshoot work) and general liveliness steals scenes away from his brawnier and moodier counterparts. But everything else about "Justice League" feels labored, from a preposterous underwater battle that

comes out of nowhere and the camaraderie between the superheroes that never clicks into place, to Batman's lumbering gait (does the batsuit weigh 300 pounds?) and Superman's mouth which looks a little...off. It's likely because the production had to digitally remove Cavill's "Mission: Impossible 6" mustache for re-shoots. After experiencing this unnaturally altered face on the big screen, it seems like the worst possible compromise.

And never has it been so obvious that the character of Wonder Woman is now being presented through a man's eyes. Snyder chooses on multiple occasions to let the shot linger on Gadot's figure, whether panning up her legs unnecessarily to get to a normal scene of dialogue or making sure that the camera is there to capture the moment when her skirt flies up in an action sequence. It is, quite frankly, gross and a wildly disappointing departure from what Patty Jenkins was able to accomplish with the character earlier this year.

There's even an attempt to humanize the potential destruction with a random impoverished Eastern European family struggling to defend their homestead. The story focuses in on the family's young daughter, who, in braided pigtails picks up a can of bug spray as a defense. You'd think that this might come back and provide an opportunity for her to a) see and be inspired by Wonder Woman in action or b) at least get saved by her. It would be so obvious. But they don't even meet.

It's just a tiny example of how "Justice League"



feels like a bunch of disconnected moments with no governing theory behind it other than the fact that this movie has to come at this time to introduce audiences to characters whose stand-alone movies have already been promised to shareholders. It's not too late to rethink this whole thing and start over. Just keep Gadot around, please. "Justice League," a Warner Bros. release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of sci-fi violence and action." Running time: 121 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

OSN ends 2017 with a bang: A selection of top TV this Festive Season



his December, OSN promises the biggest and most explosive line-up of television yet, with an outstanding array of exclusive films and series, perfect for the whole family in the run up to the big festive occasion. Don't miss new and existing premieres, fresh episodes, exciting mid-season finales, gripping blockbusters and seasonal hits first and exclusive on OSN.

OSN Movies First HD

OSN has the biggest and best blockbusters this month with the arrival of Fast and Furious 8 where a mysterious woman seduces Dom into the world of violence and a betrayal as the crew face trials that will test them like never before, airing December 14 (10pm KSA). While at the very start of the month on December 1 (9pm KSA), Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, starring Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne, spins its magical web about a secret community of witches and wizards in New York. Animation adventure, Smurfs: The Lost Village, airing on December 8 (9pm KSA), brings a whole new enjoyable take on the lives of our beguiling blue-colored friends.

Oscar-nominated biographical drama Hidden Figures, about a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the US space program, airs on December 15 (9pm KSA). New and exclusive on December 21 (10pm KSA) is the hit Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2. The Guardians fight to keep their newfound family together as they unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage. Not-to-be-missed is the biographical drama of the life of rap legend Tupac Shakur - All Eyez On Me - showing December 28 (10pm KSA). The star-studded Collateral Beauty, featuring Hollywood heavyweights Will Smith, Edward Norton, Kate Winslet, Helen Mirren, and Keira Knightley, sees Smith question the universe around him after suffering tragedy; from December 29 (9pm KSA).

OSN Movies Festival HD

Dubai International Film Festival comes to town from December 6 to 13, and for the entirety of this special event OSN is marking the occasion by giving subscribers a dedicated channel showcasing an abundance of incredible movies from around the world. Every night from December 6 to 13 (10pm KSA) film-enthusiasts can exclusively watch titles such as Land of Mine, Youth, The Man Who Knew Infinity, The Zero Theorem, The Lady in the Van, The Childhood of a Leader, 127 Hours and Suffragette in glorious HD making your evenings truly special.

OSN Series First HD

Season 13 of Supernatural premieres on December 16 (10pm KSA) with two brothers who follow their father's footsteps as "hunters" fighting evil supernatural beings of many kinds including monsters and demons. Don't miss the double-bill Season 5 premiere of Marvel's Agents of Shield on December 6 (9pm KSA), which tracks the team an actress and comedian while raising three daughsaving the world with the help of the famous Ghost ters and checking in on her mother.





Rider - let's see how the team fair now! Season 3 of DC's Legends of Tomorrow is a not-to-be-missed superhero series; a spin-off from the hugely popular Arrow and The Flash shows. See how The Legends cope as they find themselves pitted against familiar faces fighting evil, showing December 27 (10pm KSA).

OSN First HD Home of HBO HD

We have a bumper month of series to enjoy such as Season 2 of The Exorcist on December 19 (11pm KSA), the cult classic which follows the same name. This season shows three priests dealing with cases of a demonic presence targeting a family and a foster home. A fascinating documentary airs on December 17 (10pm KSA) Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution, with producer/director James Redford embarking on a free-wheeling journey to discover the cutting-edge developments of clean energy technology, meeting entrepreneurs who are focused on finding the fuels of the future. Catch hilarious stand-up show Michelle Wolf: Nice Lady starring in her first HBO special - an hour of standup featuring Wolf's laugh-out-loud observations on feminism, dating, and other social issues on December 7 (11pm KSA).

OSN Series Comedy HD

OSN brings plenty of laughs with the latest season of Family Guy on December 9 (10pm KSA) as the dysfunctional Griffin family try to cope with everyday life, from one crazy scenario to another. This season will also mark the final appearances of Adam West and Carrie Fisher following their deaths, as well as the show's 300th episode. Series 2 of Better Things, showing December 9 (10.30pm KSA), is a singlemum comedy - raw but refreshingly real. The series centres on a single mother who makes her living as

Roberts: 'Wonder' shows the radical power of kindness

onder" could have been designed as an antidote to the headlines. It's a thoroughly positive movie about the importance of kindness. Based on RJ Palacio's best-selling children's novel, the movie follows Auggie Pullman, a boy with a craniofacial deformity, as he takes his first anxious steps into an intimidating world.

Like Auggie walking through the gates of his new school, viewers may feel apprehension about what lies ahead. But in the hands of director Stephen Chbosky, this story about embracing difference wants to comfort rather than disturb. Julia Roberts, who plays Auggie's mother Isabel, said some viewers have even called this slice of healthy family fare revolutionary.

"I guess we have gotten to such a grim state of the world that some sweet little offering like this is kind of a handful of revolutionaries," Roberts told The Associated Press during an interview alongside her onscreen husband, Owen Wilson. "I think everybody wants to feel good," she said. "And we've really gotten into this mire and this habit and this sport of negativity. Maybe that's why the book struck such a chord in me. I feel that I am such an innately optimistic, happy person. And then the news, the world, is just like dulling spray." "Wonder" aims to be a spritz of brightener.

Auggie - played by preternaturally poised 11-year-old Jacob Tremblay, from "Room" - is a bright 10-year-old who loves science and "Star Wars," has undergone 27 surgeries for his complex condition and has grown used to the stares of strangers. Home-schooled by his mother, an artist who has put her career on hold to care for him, he lives with his loving but sometimes bemused father (Wilson) and a teenage sister (Izabela Vidovic) who feels sidelined by her parents' absorption in Auggie's needs.

Loyalty and friendship

Overcoming apprehension, Auggie's parents decide that fifth grade is the time for him to start at school. Amid the classrooms and lockers of a ritzy, private middle school he faces an obstacle course of ignorance, bullying, loyalty and friendship that will strike a chord with many children - and adults who remember that stomach-gnawing first-day-ofschool feeling. Roberts said she and her three children, aged 10 to 12, had all read and loved Palacio's 2012 novel, which sold more than 5 million copies and spawned a series of spin-off volumes. She particularly liked the way Palacio switches between Auggie's viewpoint and those of other characters, a structure the film also adopts.

"I thought was a gentle way of teaching that there's so many different ways to look at something," she said. The other message of "Wonder" is that kindness is a choice, one that takes practice. Wilson says it reminds him of a quote, attributed to Abraham Lincoln, that's emblazoned on a Los Angeles building: "Most folks are about as happy as they make their minds up to be."

"Of course, yeah, it's a decision - and same with being kind," he said. "Hopefully it starts to become more habit, but you can make that decision." He admits, though, that it doesn't work all the time. "I can sometimes see myself from above: 'I'm acting like a jerk," Wilson said. "I can see myself doing it, but sometimes it feels too good to stop. It's like eating french fries. I'm just going with it. I'll pay for it later. I'll say I'm sorry tomorrow.'

Roberts laughs - off-screen, the pair retain something of their fond-but-exasperated onscreen relationship. Roberts says she and Wilson quickly developed a rapport with their screen children. She's full of praise for Tremblay, who has to embody Auggie's vulnerability, frustration and strength. "We met Jacob once as Jacob and then he was just Auggie," Roberts said. "I felt like when he came on the set as Auggie, it was like 'Hey, there's our boy. We've been waiting for you, get over here.

'Wonder," which opens in the US on Friday and in the UK on Dec 1, is the kind of holiday-season family release you might have thought they didn't make anymore. Roberts laughs that it's unusual in having "an entire cast of humans," rather than aliens or superheroes. Some viewers may find its ingredients a tad bland. Others may welcome its positive message at a time when the ugly side of Hollywood is being revealed in a torrent of revelations and allegations of sexual harassment, and worse. Roberts said she subscribes to the belief that "it gets worse before it gets better" but finds herself wondering: "How much worse does it have to be before we have a spring effect?" "I think it has to be good, in the end," she said of the tide of revelations. "It's too ugly not to have a counterpoint moment." --- AP



Lifestyle FEATURES

Jazz it up:

Arab musicians bring their songs to Germany

rab musicians in Berlin are bringing their musical roots to Germans - with a little help from American jazz. At the monthly Arab Song Jam in the German capital, musicians use famous Arab songs as a starting point before inviting other musicians onto the stage for a jam session in a style pioneered by American jazz musicians before World War II.

"All musicians know these jazz sessions. So we use that technique on Arab songs," said Moroccan musician Alaa Zouiten, who plays the oud, a kind of lute, and who led a recent session. "It is a great idea because it brings popular Arab songs to life here in Berlin." Berlin's already large Arab community has grown since 2015 with the

arrival of tens of thousands of refugees from Syria.

That has led to an increased interest in Arab culture and music in the city, said Philippa Ebene, CEO and artistic director of "Werkstatt der Kulturen" - the "Cultural Workshop" - where the jam sessions are held. "We have all these new Berliners from the Arab world and they brought their music with them," she said. "At the same time, Berlin is a city that is always

hungry for new culture." The Arab Song Jam is part of a yearlong celebration of Arab culture at the venue, also including poetry readings and Arab film nights.

Mixed audience

The first jam session was held in March and it has become so popular that the basement venue often has to close its doors because it has reached its capacity.

Is there a

singer in the

house?

The audience is mixed elderly Arab couples mingle with young European hipsters and groups of curious, middle-aged Germans. "Is there a singer in the house?" Zouiten asks the crowd after the first song, and several people raise their hands.

Milo Kanefaty from Syria joins the musicians

on the stage and as he sings the first words of a song by famous Lebanese singer Fairuz, the crowd cheers wildly and sings along. Soon people start dancing, hugging and applauding. "This is a big event for me," says Benin Am Zakaria, a 31-year old student from Algeria who is in the audience. "I know all the songs by heart. I learned them when I was young and it is a really big thing to hear them here." At other sessions,

Singer Milo Kanefaty performs during an 'Arab Song Jam' concert in Berlin.—AP photos

Germans from the audience also join in.

While Zouiten said he does not want to turn the Arab Song Jam into a political event, he does hope the music will help break down barriers between migrants and Germans who remain concerned



Oud player Alaa Zouiten performs during the 'Arab Song Jam' concert.

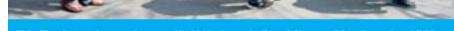
about the large influx of newcomers. "We all live in 2017 and it isn't important anymore where people come from," he said. "In the end, we are musicians and we are all the same regardless of where we come from." -AP



From Black Eyed Peas to cancer survivor: Taboo tells all

aime Luis, better known as the rapper Taboo from The black Eyed Peas, had money, fame and a multiplatinum career when a strange back pain brought his world crashing down. The six-time Grammy winner went to the doctor and got a gutwrenching diagnosis: he had testicular cancer. He had more than 100 million record sales to his name and a string of worldwide dance hits like "I Gotta Feeling" and "Where Is the Love?".





This file photo taken on January 15, 2017 shows Indian visitors walking through exhibitions at the annual 'Chitra Santhe' art fair in Bangalore.

Indian art market back in the black

India's art market has emerged from a blue period with a flourish, as prices rise and the world starts to take note of its modern treasures. Tycoons riding the country's economic boom are helping to fuel record prices for works by the late abstract painter Vasudeo Gaitonde and other artists. Two major Paris museums are showing work by Indian women artists and the Asia Society in New York has a special show next year.

"There is lots of new interest coming in, from unexpected sides, there are new buyers in America and around the world," said Hugo Weihe, chief executive of Mumbai-based auctioneers Saffronart. The 2007 financial crisis hit the global art market hard and India was no exception. But the tide is turning. The Artery India consultancy says art sales more than doubled from about \$44 million in 2011 to over \$95 million last year, and that 47 world records for Indian artists were recorded in the 19 months to August.

Experts say there is already a shortage of available work by the likes of the reclusive Gaitonde, whose 1995 untitled abstract sold in December 2015 for \$4.4 million, a world record for an Indian work. That followed a retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum in New York which Weihe called a "watershed moment". "It became abundantly clear how he holds up with the best of any abstract art in the world."

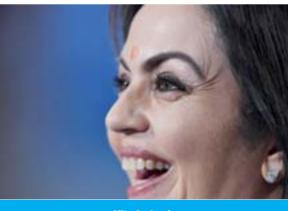
A blue canvas by Gaitonde, who died in 2001, recently sold for \$3.1 million in New Delhi, making his contemplative landscapes three of the top five most expensive Indian works. Other modern Indian artists such as M.F. Husain and Francis Newton Souza-members of the avant-garde Bombay Progressive Artists Group with Gaitonde in the 1950s-have also hit new highs in the past two years.

Paris, New York shows

Although Indian art still trails the Western greats in value, its collectors now include the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. The market has also been boosted by the likes of Nita Ambani, the philanthropist wife of Reliance tycoon Mukesh Ambani, and Kiran Nadar, wife of HCL Technologies founder Shiv Nadar, who set up her own New Delhi art museum.

Artery India chief executive Arvind Vijaymohan said in addition to established names such as Ambani, younger collectors were also entering the market. "There is a marked increase in the number of emerging collectors, all under 40, globally exposed and well travelled individuals from finance, tech and industry." He added: "This still nascent market slab comprises the future power-players of the Indian collecting universe."

Nadar, who bought Gaitonde's blue canvas, is loaning some works to the Asia Society for their show on the Progressive group next year. She has also helped the Guimet museum in Paris, where work by painter and sculptor Jayashree Chakravarty is on display until January 15, and the Pompidou Centre, which has a retrospective by leading feminist artist Nalini Malani until January 8. Weihe and Nadar believe Indian art values



This file photo taken on February 2, 2017 shows a man arranging works at the Art Konsult

Gallery at the India Art Fair in New Delhi. —AFP photos

Nita Ambani

will rise, although the market has a long way to go before it can catch up with the success enjoyed by its Chinese counterpart.

"I think the demand will grow naturally. Actually there is not that much material available in terms of the great modernist works," said Weihe. "That will create greater scarcity," he said. Nadar echoed his view, saying: "Less and less works will be available as time goes on. So even though today the price appears very high, at some point, what appeared high a few years ago, today feels very affordable." "The aim is to get works as they are available," she added. Despite the interest from India's band of billionaires, Nadar said the country does not boast a huge pool of collectors, unlike China. "The Chinese collectors are firmly behind the Chinese market," she said. "I don't know if we will catch up with China, but definitely we will go up, because prices are still much lower... Indian art will go up and appreciate." —AFP

People names Blake Shelton its Sexiest Man Alive 2017

People magazine named Blake Shelton its Sexiest Man Alive for 2017 on Tuesday, but it took some convincing by his girlfriend Gwen Stefani to get her guy on board. The country music superstar and coach on NBC's "The Voice" hates being the center of attention, the magazine said. "She goes, 'Listen to me," recalled the 6-foot-5, Oklahoma-bred Shelton. "You're going to regret this for the rest of your life if you don't take this gift and just live in the moment.' I've been ugly my whole life. If I can be sexy for a year, I'm taking it!"

Bonus for the outspoken Shelton: He can hold the accolade over the head of Adam Levine, his fellow

coach on the singing competition and 2013's Sexiest Man Alive. Only Shelton used some colorful language to describe that experience between his pal and banter partner on air.

Shelton said he was, in fact, proud and honored to have been picked, adding: "I'm not going to treat this like Hugh Jackman or one of those guys who's humble about it. People are going to hate me over this. Because it's going to be used in every conversation, whether it's at 'The Voice' or at the feed store in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, or in a conversation with a doctor. Until I have to hand the title, which is what it is to me, over to someone else, this is mine. This is like a certification." Shelton's latest album, "Texoma Shore," hit No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums this week.

The magazine's Sexiest Man Alive special double issue hits newsstands Friday. Growing up, Shelton told People, he had some awkward years. "I think to describe myself as a child, one word comes to mind. —AP



This June 7, 2016 file photo shows Blake Shelton performing at the 12th Annual Stars for Second Harvest Benefit at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. —AP

Jaime Luis Gomez

but it meant nothing in the face of cancer's cruel reality, he told AFP in an interview. At first, he was only able to piece the details together slowly.

"They didn't tell me what type of cancer I had. They didn't tell me what stage I was in. They just told me, Mr Gomez, you have cancer," said Taboo, 42. "My life flashed before my eyes. I thought about my kids, I thought about my wife. Nothing prepares you for the shock of someone telling you you have that horrible disease." That was in 2014. It was only last year that Taboo went public about his struggle with cancer — now in remission after a grueling series of chemotherapy treatments.

Today, the Los Angeles native is an ambassador for the American Cancer Society and a vocal ally and fundraiser for cancer survivors everywhere. He spoke to AFP ahead of the World Cancer Leaders' Summit in Mexico City, which gathered high-level policy makers Tuesday for an annual exchange on fighting the world's second-leading cause of death. It was not an easy journey to get there. First Taboo went through an agonizing series of chemotherapy treatments: 12 weeks of six-hour daily sessions that he describes as "war, torture and a nightmare" rolled into one. "That was the feeling," he said. "I've never been to war, but internally, when they're destroying your insides to kill everything that's good to kill that one thing that's bad, which is the tumor, it scarred me psychologically, emotionally, inside and outside."

'Warrior instinct'

The idea that dealing with cancer is a "battle" has come in for criticism lately from some who resent the violence of the analogy and the implication that those suffering from the disease just need to "fight harder." But Taboo is an unapologetic anti-cancer warrior. He is intensely defiant when he talks about the disease. "I'm living, dude. I'm alive. See this face? I can actually smile and say, Look, I beat the f—- out of cancer," he said, mouthing the end of the expletive.

He spoke to AFP decked out in black, his bald head crowned by a wide-brimmed "zoot suit" hat evocative of his Mexican roots, and sporting turquoise-and-silver jewelry in a nod to his Native American heritage on his mother's side. He cited his maternal grandmother as his biggest influence. "She's a Shoshone Native American woman who had a warrior instinct. And my warrior instinct kicked in" after he was diagnosed, he said. But you need both love and fight to deal with cancer, he added.

At the American Cancer Society, he wants to be an "ambassador of love," he said, breaking into the chorus of one of his biggest hits: "Where Is the Love?" Last year, as a fundraiser for the Cancer Society, he recorded a song called "The Fight." His message today to others is that they can defeat cancer, too. "I beat it down. And now I'm going to use this gift of life to give people hope and to say, Look, I went down that path too, I was there lying on that bed, you're not alone. I am one of you and you are one of me. Let's get charged up for life." Maybe the title of his next hit song. —AFP



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017



Scored by history, overhauled Algiers mosque to reopen

t the foot of the famed UNESCO-listed Casbah district in Algiers, the Ketchaoua Mosque has had a tumultuous past that, at one point, saw it turned into a cathedral under French rule. Now the ornate towers and arches are set for a brand new chapter as the majestic place of worship gets ready to open its doors for the first time in nearly a decade following

a lengthy renovation.

Once a symbol of Ottoman influence, it was known for more than a century as the Roman Catholic Saint Philippe Cathedral after France's conquest of Algeria, only to revert to a mosque when the country claimed independence in 1962 following a bloody struggle. In 2008 it was shut down as the ravages of time-and a powerful earthquake-

took their toll. But much to the delight of local residents it entrance at the top of a grand staircase. will soon be up and running again after more than three years of restoration work, funded by the Turkish government. "I can't wait to return there to pray," said Salim, a trader working nearby, who declined to give his second name. "My father brought me here to pray for the first time in 1978 when I was just nine years old."

Bloody assault

The date of the first mosque built on the site remains under debate but the earliest references to it can be found in 1612. In the late 18th century, the Ottoman ruler of the region Hassan Pasha completely transformed the location and turned it into one of the grandest mosques in the city. That

lasted only for around 40 years until the French seized Algeria and requisitioned the building by force. "Its conversion into a church in 1832 took place after an

assault by the colonial army" that claimed the lives of some of "the several hundred faithful who had dug in to oppose the takeover," said Aicha Hanafi, professor of archeology at

Its first women

pendence some 55 years ago, the mosque underwent cos-

metic changes to make it conform to the demands of the

Muslim faith. Now the latest renovations have seen a greater

overhaul, restoring more original features and making space

for some 1,200 faithful, including, for the first time, women.

"We did all that we could to maintain the historical monu-

ment," said Abdelouahab Zekkagh, director of the national

He said that the minarets were taken apart stone by stone

and those blocks that were too badly worn were swapped

agency that oversees the use of historical buildings.

After returning to its original function following inde-

the University of Algiers. "That same year, on December 24, they celebrated the first Christmas Mass," she said. The Christian capture of the mosque brought both a physical and spiritual change to the building. A large part was knocked down as the site was enlarged to become the city's principal cathedral. Two bell towers, designed in an Eastern style, were erected, framing a new

Workers restore a part of the roof of the Ketchaoua mosque in the famed UNESCO-listed Casbah district of Algiers as they complete the final

for new ones bought in from the west of the country. The original minbar (pulpit) built by the Ottomans in 1794 has been restored and the niche indicating the direction of prayer has been repainted in gold leaf by a Turkish craftsman. Architect Akli Amrouche is slightly disappointed that the new verses of the Koran inscribed on the walls do not match the originals. But, overall, after the long road that the mosque has travelled he is happy with the facelift. "It is an excellent job, the minarets have been saved and the prayer room renovated," he said. — AFP



stages of its renovation. — AFP photos



