



the Independent

DAILY

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NEWS DIGEST

Minister Choonee files complaint for slander

PORT LOUIS: Minister of Arts and Culture Mookhesswur Choonee lodged a complaint at the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) against a private radio station on Wednesday. He stated that his comments have been wrongly reported and this has tarnished his image. The controversy is about the speech of the minister at an event organised by the Vaish Welfare Association last Sunday. RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

Suicide blasts in Lahore kill 25, injure 180

LAHORE: Three suicide bombers targeted a Shiite mourning procession in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore on Wednesday, killing at least 25 people and wounding 180, police and rescue officials said. It was the first major attack in Pakistan since devastating floods engulfed a fifth of the volatile country over the past month in the nation's worst-ever disaster. AFP



Zakumi, the 2010 FIFA World Cup mascot (left), strolls with a Smurf as other cartoon characters parade at the launch of the five-day comedy festival at Company Garden in Port Louis on Wednesday.

Netanyahu calls Abbas 'my partner in peace'

WASHINGTON: Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday called Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas "my partner in peace" and said he was seeking a peace to end the Middle East conflict "once and for all." But the Israeli leader warned that "peace must also be defended against its enemies." Netanyahu met US President Barack Obama as Washington makes a bold bid to resume direct Israeli-Palestinian talks for the first time in 20 months. AFP

AfrAsia Bank goes 'fruity' on Fridays for health

PORT LOUIS: Showing concern for employee health, AfrAsia Bank has introduced 'Fruity Fridays' when seasonal fruits are distributed to all its employees. Maureen Treanor, human resources and change management head, initiated the idea to boost employees' immunity to viral attacks. IANS

COUNTRY	UNITS	BUYING	SELLING
Australia	Dollar	1 26.84	28.85
Canada	Dollar	1 28.03	30.02
EU	Euro	1 37.89	40.28
South Africa	Rand	1 4.03	4.36
UK	Pound	1 46.22	48.79
USA	Dollar	1 30.07	32.05

France teams up with island on key issues

TO JOIN FORCES WITH MAURITIUS ON TOURISM, CULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, EDUCATION



Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam lighting the flame of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in Champs-Élysées, Paris on August 31.

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

After his Tuesday's meeting with the French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris, Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam had a similar working session of 50 minutes with the French Prime Minister François Fillon at Matignon, his official residence, on Wednesday.

During both meetings discussions included several issues ranging from bilateral cooperation to the political crisis in Madagascar.

Wednesday's meeting also showed excellent promise for Mauritius. Now the two countries will join forces to implement a joint promotion for tourism.

In the field of health, higher education and sustainable development, further cooperation with France is expected too.

Also in the offing is increased collaboration on some huge infrastructure projects.

France will also provide assistance and expertise to Mauritius for the establishment of a centre for disaster management.

Raising cultural cooperation hopes, France expressed its intention to extend more help through the Institut Français de Maurice, help in instituting a philharmonic orchestra, a national painting gallery among other plans.

On Wednesday afternoon, the PM met France's former finance minister Alain Madelin and professor Benhamou of the Interministerial Delegation for Digital Education in Africa.

President Sarkozy on Tuesday described Mauritians living in France as exemplary citizens.

Regarding the thorny Tromelin issue, claimed by both Mauritius and France, Sarkozy was happy with the signing of a framework agreement on economic, environmental and scientific co-management of the Indian Ocean Island.

Ramgoolam also broached the subject of piracy in the Indian

Ocean. He reiterated the government's intention to create a tribunal to try pirates. A regional conference on the issue will be held in October in Mauritius. Jack Lang, the advisor to UN secretary general Ban Ki-Moon on piracy, is also expected to participate.

France has promised help in prison services and on security matters.

On Madagascar, Ramgoolam spoke of the need to establish an ombudsman's office within the Southern African Development

“I want my country to once again become the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, as it was in the 18th century.”

More photos on page 2

ADSU tightens airport arrival checks

Independent News Service
Plaisance, September 1

Officers of the Anti Drug Smuggling Unit (ADSU) based at the Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam International Airport at Plaisance are under strict orders to maintain a rigid control over the movement of any suspicious passengers, especially those arriving from Madagascar, Tanzania and Uganda.

There are growing fears that the country is increasingly becoming a hub for drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean.

Hence, the ADSU officers are determined to be sterner than ever and would no longer focus their efforts only on the European network. They are now looking at Subutex and heroin drug traffickers from other parts of the world too. According to social services, heroin is slowly making its way back to the nation.

The arrest of Rakotoarisa Ndrénato, a Malagasy national, in August led to the disbanding of a drug network at Vallée des Prêtres. The drug trafficker had swallowed 37 pellets of heroin.

Police also managed to nab his other local accomplices.

Since the arrest of Ndrénato, police has been on alert. After brown sugar and Subutex, the police are working hard to prevent heroin from hitting the market too.

The ADSU has been working closely with the anti drug unit of Madagascar, Tanzania and Uganda and the Sub Regional Bureau of Interpol as well as the Mauritius Revenue Authority and the customs.

In line with this, police are scanning the luggage of all passengers arriving at the SSR airport. They are not only looking out for illegal drugs but also products such as alcohol, tobacco and trademark clothes. The aim of the monitoring is to prevent smuggling.

In 2009, the government amended the Dangerous Drugs Act as Subutex was previously defined as a psychotropic medicine and not as a drug. Moreover, the sentences were less severe for drug traffickers involved in the sale of other drugs such as heroin and brown sugar. feedback@theindependent.mu

10 skeletons unearthed at Le Morne heritage site

Independent News Service
Le Morne, September 1

Archaeologists have found 10 human skeletons at Le Morne archaeological site. Experts want to trace their origin and it is assumed that they date back to the colonial period.

Samples will have to be sent abroad to find out more.

It is believed that the remains belonged to Malagasy slaves or settlers who had been buried in an abandoned cemetery.

Security at the site has been tightened following the discovery and more research will be carried out in this zone.

The excavation was led by Mauritian-born Dr Kris Seetah, who was assisted by Dr Diego Calao, Dr Sasa Caval and Dr Aleks Pluskowski.

In a statement in July, Seetah said excavations began in December and explained that his team was primarily looking for remains belonging to Malagasy slaves.

He said that the bones would be analysed through DNA testing and Carbon-14 dating to determine their age.

A report will be submitted following excavation works and will help the Truth and Justice Commission (TJC) better understand movements of slaves.

Historian Vijaya Teelock said that the TJC had ordered excavations at Le Morne archaeological site.

"We have the right to carry excavations here even though it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site," said Teelock.

The remains were kept at the Museum Council as the Le Morne National Heritage Trust Fund does not possess facilities to preserve them.

"We decided to preserve the bones at the Museum Council as it was raining during the excavations," said Teelock.

An anthropologist believes that forensic archaeologist and bio-anthropologist should analyse the links between the skeletons instead of excavating nine tombs.

The TJC carries investigations to establish the truth on slavery and indentured labourers. It also listens to grievances of people who claim to be victims of dispossession and land prescription during the colonial period. feedback@theindependent.mu

'Animal' Blair opens up on sex and politics

London, September 1

Tony Blair's memoirs out on Wednesday concern more than just affairs of state — Britain's ex-premier also gives intimate details about his wife and describes the sexual shenanigans of politicians.

In 'A Journey', Blair writes candidly of his "animal" feelings for his wife Cherie one night when he was on the brink of going for the leadership of the Labour party after the death of the party leader John Smith in 1994.

"That night she cradled me in her arms and soothed me; told me what I needed to be told; strengthened me; made me feel that what I was about to do was right," Blair writes of Cherie, with whom he now has four children.

He also pays tribute to his wife for her composure when she gave birth to their fourth child in 2001 — the first to be born to a sitting

British prime minister in 150 years — adding: "There are times when I am in awe of that woman."

Later in the book Blair waxes lyrical on his thoughts about the relationship between politics and sex, saying that, while wrong, affairs seem to represent a "desert island of pleasure" for stressed lawmakers.

"It's a strange thing, politics and sex," Blair writes in a section dealing with an affair that then-deputy prime minister John Prescott had with his diary secretary, a relationship which emerged in 2006.

"Politicians live with pressure. They have to be immensely controlled to get anywhere, watch what they say and do, and behave. And your free-bird instincts want to spring you from that prison of self-control," he writes. AFP

Memoir lifts lid on Iraq, alcohol, royals page 5

ADDING A MORTAL TOUCH: MARKING JANMASHTAMI



Young Indians dressed as the Hindu god Lord Krishna and his consort Radha pose as they take part in a procession on the eve of Janmashtami, which marks Krishna's birth, in Amritsar on Wednesday. According to Indian mythology and the Hinduism holy book Puranas, Krishna is the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, who took birth to kill his maternal uncle the evil king Kansa and free the kingdom from his cruel rule.

Trapped miners won't get wages

London, September 1

The 33 Chilean miners who are trapped inside a gold and copper mine since August 5 may not receive wages while they are underground, a report said on Wednesday.

The San Esteban company that operates the mine has said it has no money to pay their wages and absorb lawsuits, and is not even participating in the rescue, Daily Mail reported.

Workers' union leader Evelyn Olmos called on the government to pay the workers' wages starting in September, and giving help to roughly 100 other people at the mine who are now out of work and 170 more who work elsewhere for the company.

Meanwhile, workers began drilling at the mine where 33 workers are trapped underground. The machine made a preliminary test hole on Wednesday, the first step in the week-long digging of a 'pilot hole' that will guide the rescue which could take up to four months.

Chilean Health minister Jaime Manalich said the trapped miners' condition had been stabilised. IANS



NEWS DIGEST

NGO organises competition for young

PORT LOUIS: Junior Achievement Worldwide is organising a competition which will be a one day event entitled "You can B-B Inspired Camp" on Saturday, September 18 from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm on the premises of Barclays Bank Club at Osman Avenue in Quatre Bornes. The competition which is being sponsored by the Barclays Bank is open to students aged between 15 to 18 years. A total of hundred students will participate in this competition and they will have team building exercises to enable them to work as a team on a common project. Established in 1919, Junior Achievement Worldwide is the largest nongovernmental organisation dedicated to educating the young people.

Cehl Meeah in court for theft case

PORT LOUIS: Member of the National Assembly Cehl Meeah appeared before the magistrate Prany Sewpaul under a provisional charge of 'conspiracy and knowingly and wilfully receiving abstract of a crime' at the correctional court of Port Louis for plotting a theft at the Bijoulux jewellery shop. His lawyer Raouf Gulbul presented a motion for the charge to be removed, as the case has taken a long time causing prejudice to his client. However the prosecution opposed the motion and the case has been postponed to September 15. Meeah has presented a motion requesting to lift the variation order against him so that he can travel on religious grounds. He also has another variation order in another case which will be heard on September 9. **INS**

Hindu Common Front supports Choonee

THE FRONT REGROUPS VOH, HINDU ARYA SABHA, KRANTI AMONGST OTHERS

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

The Hindu Common Front which groups the Voice of Hindu, the Hindu House, the Arya Sabha, the Kranti and other Hindu religious and cultural associations organised a press conference on Wednesday at the Hindu House, Cassis. The conference focused on the statement made by the minister of Arts and Culture, Mookhesswar Choonee at the fifth anniversary of the Vaish Welfare Association at d'Epinau on Sunday. The minister had said in Hindi that Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam was their Prime Minister first then for the nation.

The common front expressed their support to Choonee who has come under attack for his statement which has been described as sectarian by a private radio. While on an official mission in France, Ramgoolam said that if the statement as widely reported by the press is true, then he dissociated himself from the minister.

The president of the Hindu House, Virendra Ramdhun said he had heard the recording of the speech and if some

journalists did not understand Hindi he was ready to translate it for them.

According to him the statement of the minister was clear and at no time did he use communal or sectarian statements. He added that the minister's statements had been misinterpreted by the radio.

It is true, while addressing the members of the Vaish Welfare Association, the minister had said that they had elected the government but Ramdhun challenged anyone who qualifies the minister as communal. Condemning the radio in strong terms, he said that those commenting on the issue, should know what they are talking about." He requested Choonee to sue the radio for defamation and to claim damages worth Rs 100 million.

"He is playing with the future of a minister and that of the government," said Ramdhun.

He also criticised a politician who, live on air, had asked for the resignation of Choonee. According to him it is the licence of the radio which has to be revoked. He also severely condemned a daily which had written about different Hindu associations and said it was

not the media's duty to explain them their duties.

"We are 100 per cent behind Choonee," said the president and added, "Journalists who deviate, should resign, not Choonee. If the media attacks the Hindu community we should defend our people," said Ramdhun.

He said they would distribute copies of the speech made by the minister so that the population can judge by themselves. It was revolting that the inaccurate interpretations by some journalists can lead to disturbances in the country.

The president of the Vaish Welfare Association, Sanjeev Sookur, said although the minister did not mention any caste, the radio branded him as racist. The spokesperson of the VOH, Krit Manowar said that the Hindu common front was united and was supporting each other.

According to him a section of the press was humiliating the Hindi language and the community in general. There is nothing wrong when Choonee in what Choonee has said. He believes that the private radio does not like it that Choonee gave his speech in Hindi.

feedback@theindependent.mu

RAMGOOLAM ATTENDS CEREMONY AT L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE

Franck Thibaut



Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam attends the torch lighting ceremony at L'Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France, on August 31.



Ramgoolam signs the visitor's book at L'Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France.

Kofi Annan to visit in November

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation will hold its next annual prize ceremony and discussion forum in Mauritius in November. It will be an opportunity for major players in the governance arena to discuss key challenges facing Africa.

Prominent dignitaries, including the former secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, and the president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, are expected to attend the forum.

About 300 to 400 participants comprising representatives of governments, civil societies, multilateral organisations, business leaders, the private sector and the media will also participate in the event.

Mo Ibrahim Foundation is an African initiative that has been established to stimulate debate on good governance across sub-Saharan Africa and the world.

It provides criteria by which citizens can hold their governments to account. It also recognises achievement in

African leadership, outlines a practical way in which African leaders can build positive legacies on the continent when they have left office and supports aspiring leaders for the African continent.

Mo Ibrahim Foundation ranked Mauritius first for two consecutive years, namely the 2008 and 2009 indices of African governance.

The Ibrahim Index measures the delivery of public goods and services to citizens by government and non-state actors across 84 indicators of governance. **feedback@theindependent.mu**

Committee to relocate casinos

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

A committee is presently conducting a study to find a solution to relocate casinos. It is also responsible for studying the consequences of the increase in the number of gaming houses in the country.

Several measures have been put in place to monitor their activities and to ensure that they are in consistency with the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act 2009. However, a date has not yet been fixed for the relocation as legal, social and financial aspects must be taken into consideration before taking any action.

In addition, authorities will no longer issue operation permits. Permits that are going to expire will be renewed on a case to case basis only.

With the rapid proliferation of casinos in the recent years, gambling has become a source of problems for Mauritians and is now considered as a so-

Police raid Ti-Vegas

PORT LOUIS: Although the license of Ti Vegas casino at Quatre Bornes was terminated by the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA), the police believe that suspicious activities are taking place in the casino. The activities of the bouncers guarding the entry of the casino have added to the doubts of the officers of the CID of Quatre Bornes. The officers raided the casino on Tuesday and they found people inside the casino, upon verifying the identities of the people present, it was found that they were only casino employees who

had come to collect their wages. The casino has caused much controversy since its opening. The first murder this year was committed by a bouncer working at Ti Vegas. Even the police commissioner objected to the presence of the casino in the city of Quatre Bornes. A total of 5000 signatures had been collected during a petition for the non-renewal of the casino's operating permit. Furthermore, a committee presided by the Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam is examining the situation of gambling in the country. **INS**

cietal scourge. In some cases, gamblers have even committed suicide due to significant debts.

Several awareness programs have begun, namely the "National Responsible Gam-

bling Programme". Its aims to inform the public on dangers associated with games of chance. A sum of Rs 2 million has already been allocated for its implementation. **feedback@theindependent.mu**

Reinstate Ameer, says union

Independent News Service
Port Louis, August 31

The Congress of Independent Trade Union (CITU), being the second largest trade union confederation in the island, condemns the disciplinary actions taken against Rehana Ameer, secretary general of the FPBOU. She was recently suspended from her post by the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC).

In a letter dated August 27, 2010 addressed to the director general of MBC, Dan Callikan, the members of the CITU have requested for her immediate reinstatement. CITU considers her suspension as a violation of the Convention 87 of the 'Freedom of Association' as well as the 'Convention 98 of Collective Bargaining.' **feedback@theindependent.mu**

Flacq market to be set up soon

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

Construction works for the Flacq market are accelerating so that it can be made operational by early December.

"This market will soon become a reality," said minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping Anil Bachoo. The minister was speaking during a visit made at the construction site on Wednesday.

This project, estimated at Rs 111 million, will consist of 1,200 stalls and a food court. The market will span over an area of 7,500 square metres and a parking space of approximately 3,500 square metres will be constructed. Bachoo thanked Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam for the implementation of this project and recalled that the PM has always said that "one must provide all the necessary equipment for everyone in the rural and urban areas".

He explained that the market will be open four times a week to accommodate the increasing number of merchants.

Bachoo said that this project is being carried out in record time. He also added that the possibility of having a mini waterfront is being considered. **feedback@theindependent.mu**

Natural fibre clothing next best option

Independent News Service
Port Louis, August 30

Wearing clothes made of woven fibres from banana trees or pineapple leaves may seem farfetched but it is not. In the next few years, people will be wearing 'green' using natural fibres to make clothes.

Molecular biologist and researcher at the Mauritius Research Council (MRC), Dr Vickram Bissonauth who has conducted researches on the use of natural fibres, confirms that the project is feasible.

"Fibres form part of our lives since the birth of civilization. At the MRC, we are ready to contribute to the Maurice Ile Durable project of the government," said the researcher.

India and Philippines are already using the new technology to extract fibres from the trunks of banana and pineapple plants to mix them with cotton or wool to create new tissues. Bissonauth is confident to revive the old technology which Mauritians used in the 1700s to produce bags from aloe fibres.

Moreover, farmers will earn more by selling organic garbage. "For me, the suitable theme for this project would be 'From Waste to Wealth'," he said.


The project will also promote ecotourism which is gathering momentum around the world.

"Tourists will be able to buy a product with the original trade mark of Mauritius. In 2008, Mauritius produced some 6 400 tonnes of pineapples and 10 000 tons of bananas. Mauritius is a tropical country, fabrics made of fibres from banana and pineapple mixed with other fibres will give more elasticity and would adapt well here," said the researcher.

Besides the manufacture of fabrics, fibre can also be used in the artisanal sector, or to promote interior design. "If we start a small craft business, it will be profitable," said Bissonauth.

"Very soon machines that thread fibres from trunks of banana and pineapple leaves will be imported from India."

Bissonauth said that the MRC has always been in quest for new technologies to improve the lives of the local inhabitants. **feedback@theindependent.mu**



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NEWS DIGEST

Five day humour fest kicks off

PORT LOUIS: The starting of the humour festival 'Festival du rire' was held on Wednesday at Jardin de la Compagnie, Port Louis. The five-day festival started with a carnival, the 'Carnaval du rire' (laughter carnival), led by Miselaine Duval. Several people dressed as cartoon characters took part in the parade along with clowns and artists who will perform during the festival, namely Mammie Kloune and Sanjeev Moheepun. **INS**

IT equipment stolen at St Esprit College

PORT LOUIS: A theft took place at St Esprit College, Quatre Bornes during the weekend. The thieves stole IT materials which were recently renewed. According to a source, the police arrested them and recovered some of the stolen materials. According to Jacques Malié, rector of the college, such cases are common in private schools of the region. As the college has modern and expensive educational facilities, it is essential to have an effective surveillance system. The management of the college intends to have appropriate security arrangements for the institution. **INS**

1,670 gastroenteritis cases registered

PORT LOUIS: Since the beginning of the year until August, 1670 gastroenteritis cases have been registered. This infectious disease can be transmitted through a virus or bacteria. It is necessary to keep a clean environment and to avoid touching the mouth without washing hands. It is advisable to wash fruits and vegetables before eating and to hydrate regularly. Gastroenteritis is a contagious disease. A person can pass on the disease to others from the time the symptoms begin to show and last for about 48 hours. Those in a closed space are more at risk. **INS**

Joint taskforce meeting on e-governance held

INDO-MAURITIAN SUMMIT TALKS OF ISSUES SUCH AS E-PARLIAMENT, E-HEALTH

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

The first India-Mauritius joint task force meeting on e-governance was held in Mauritius from August 23 - 26. This followed the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on IT cooperation between the local Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and the National Informatics Centre Services Inc (NICS), a government of India enterprise.

A seven-member delegation headed by the NICS managing director visited the island. The joint task force meeting was inaugurated by ICT minister Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum on August 23.

The meeting was co-chaired by NICS managing director J R D Kailay and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, S K Pather.

The objective of the meeting was to seek areas of cooperation regarding e-governance, in particular for projects in e-parliament, e-health and e-prison. The task force also reviewed progress achieved in the field of e-government in both Mauritius and India. While addressing the issues of e-governance cooperation, it has been agreed to move forward with respect to the three identified projects.

Hence, the task force visited the Parliament and had working sessions with the representatives of the secretariat of the National Assembly. The e-parliament system from India was demonstrated to the users of the National Assembly.

The task force also visited the Victoria Hospital at Candos. A presentation was made to the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. A demonstration of the NIC's e-hospital system will be organised through internet based e-learning sessions so that feedback can be obtained and queries answered interactively.

The task force also visited the headquarters of Prisons Department at Beau Bassin. NIC's prison system was demonstrated to the commissioner of prisons and representatives of Prisons Department.

The project specific teams with members identified from both countries may proceed with defined activities in respective project under the overall supervision of task force. An appropriate mechanism will be worked out by the joint task force for moving the projects forward.

Regarding other e-government systems, the task force agreed to consider other e-government systems at its next meeting, particularly in the field of smart card based systems, networking and capacity building. NICS managing director has invited the Mauritian delegation to India for the next meeting in 2011. **feedback@theindependent.mu**

Slashed rates worry small tour operators

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

The Association of Tourist Operators (ATO), led by Ajay Jhurry, is facing difficulties.

Jhurry wants the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) to help small operators obtain their share of the market. He wants MTPA to consult small traders for decisions relating to the tourism industry.

Jhurry expressed his satisfaction with MTPA's recent to India but is worried that several hotels will offer services at lower rates.

"Four-star hotels are offering their services between USD 50 and USD 70 in the Indian market. It is high time to categorise hotels and regulate prices," he said.

Jhurry believes that the pricing strategy adopted by big hotels will be harmful for small and medium operators

Another issue raised by Jhurry

concerns ground handling which is now offered at USD 25.

Jhurry deplored the fact that the minister of Tourism and Leisure, Nando Bodha, did not specify if local operators will benefit from measures that will be taken by the ministry.

He did not hide his apprehension concerning the job done by the MTPA.

"The MTPA issues the list of tour operators participating in foreign events three days before the departure. How is it possible for us to get organised in three days only? We cannot work in such conditions," said the ATO president.

"The MTPA is aware of problems that exist in this sector but keeps making the same mistakes," he said, adding, "Nobody listens to our grievances and the MTPA is not using a transparent approach," he said.

feedback@theindependent.mu

Promotional campaign in 3 Indian cities a success

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) has doubled its efforts to tap a wider segment of the Indian tourist market through a promotional campaign targeting three Indian cities, namely Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi. The campaign was held from August 23 to 25.

This initiative is part of the measures announced by the minister of Tourism and Leisure, Nando Bodha, as he attempts to move the island to a dollar market following the Euro crisis. During the first semester of 2010, a total of 24,764 Indian tourists visited the island, representing a 26.4 per cent growth compared to 2009 which recorded 19,598 tourists from India.

A delegation led by MTPA deputy director Vijaye Haulder and comprising representatives of local luxury resorts, boutique hotels, service providers and tour operators, participated in the campaign.

The aim of the mission was to highlight the quality products and special service offerings to the Indian travel trade and reach out to the discerning Indian consumers.

The mission also served as a platform to interact with Indian nationals and media.

With the recent spurt in the arrivals in June and July, there was a renewed interest in Mauritius as a destination to host important celebrations to the Indian traveller.

The concept of destination weddings is something that has gained huge popularity among Indians. Various Indian planners are already on the island to meet local operators. They have met stakeholders such as the customs and Air Mauritius to facilitate all processes. Earlier Bodha pointed out that these tourists spend about Rs 30 million per wedding.

Over 600 travel trade professionals attended the workshops in the three Indian cities. According to Haulder it generated all round enquiries for the participating Mauritian suppliers in large numbers and also explored opportunities for unique and tailor-made itineraries and services.

The MTPA hopes that the campaign will be a stepping stone to future growth in tourist arrivals from India.

There has also been a tremendous interest from the Indian Travel trade fraternity. **feedback@theindependent.mu**

Bappoo, Ritoo to meet youth leaders on Sat

Pravind Rughoo
Floréal, September 1

As part of its ongoing campaign to fight the scourges affecting young people, the minister of Youth and Sports, Devenand Ritoo, and the minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Sheila Bappoo, will meet youngsters from Vacoas and Floréal at Floréal Youth Centre on Saturday.

The event, which is part of the Youth Leader Programme, will serve as a platform for the young participants to voice out their opinion about key issues affecting them such as HIV / AIDS, drugs, National

Youth Achievement Award, leadership skills, the youth entrepreneurship programme and the 'Special Vacances' programme. The idea is to encourage youth leaders to become self-independent and to act as role models for other youngsters.

The youth leaders have previously taken part in similar activities and have acquired the necessary skills to coach others about how to face challenges in life.

The participants can also benefit from counselling on teenage pregnancy, suicide and suicidal tendencies, substance abuse, communication, decision-making skills.

MP Stéphanie Anquetil, Youth Affairs director Vel Putchay and principal youth

officer Poubarlanaden Appavoo will also be present.

According to Appavoo, the programme started in 2005 and hopes it will continue.

The Youth Leader Programme is a structure set up for the future which will allow authorities to monitor and evaluate the situation and provide adequate solutions where needed.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Youth and Sports has planned 11 meetings with youth leaders in September, including the presentation of certificates in leadership and life skill programmes which will cover various regions such as Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Flacq. **feedback@theindependent.mu**

MEXA to organise week-long logistics event

Independent News Service
Port Louis, September 1

Mauritius Export Association (MEXA) will hold a week long event dedicated to logistics at Freeport Operations Mauritius, Mer Rouge, from September 3 to 8.

The theme chosen is 'La chaîne logistique durable : défis et opportunités', (Sustainable Supply Chain: Challenges and Opportunities).

"Logistics implies the sea, earth and air and areas as diverse as retail, supply chain, management and information technology support," said MEXA president Danielle Wong. "We hope



to increase awareness and add value to the Mauritian logistics industry, making it more competitive," she added.

Logistics now includes domestic transportation, banking, insurance and even recycling activities.

Green logistics, the new

trend, aims at reducing environmental impact, waste, and CO2 emission resulting from transportation of goods.

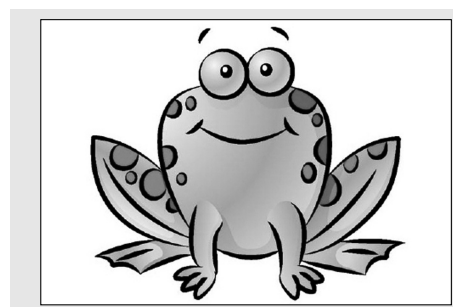
Exhibition and conference debates will be organised and will regroup governmental institutions and logistics operators of the public and private sector. **feedback@theindependent.mu**



WANT TO BUY FOR SALE FOR RENT HOUSES APARTMENTS EDUCATION CARS TRUCKS VANS BEAUTY CARE MEETINGS

<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>CAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isuzu KB250 Nov.07. Contact: 985-8585 Peugeot 106 an.93 bon état Rs 105,000. Tel: 728-6636 Toyota EE80 Sport moteur 2A Rs 55,000. Tel: 912-7900 Vw Polo 949cc bon état An 97 Rs 115,000 négociable. Tel: 768-6865 AK12 an.03 local très bon état vitesse manuel Rs 300,000 à débattre. Tel: 798-0561 Toyota an.92 Rs 75,000 à débattre. Tel: 760-9155 Renault 19 Elf Energy 1390cc Dec.93 Rs 65,000 négociable. 927-8215 Suzuki Samurai an.95 Rs 95,000. Tel: 266-2393 Autovan Touring Wagon état d'origine 2L99 Rs 225,000 à débattre. Tel: 751-2137 Reconditioned cars, Axio, Beta, Tiida, B/bird, Honda Hybrid. Tel: 759-2948 Hyundai Matrix turbo diesel tout option an.04. Prix négociable. Tel: 784-6871 BMW E46 Jan.01 t/options noire, essence Rs 425,000. Tel: 796-7424 Alpha Romeo 166 an.02 1900cc Rs 360,000. Tel: 799-9763 Peugeot 307 an.01 1400cc t/options bon état Rs 150,000. Tel: 257-7554 Occasion! Rover 414 an.99 Rs 75,000 bon état. Tel: 425-5396 Toyota Corolla CK 2E 5 vitesses. Tel: 763-0633 	<p>VAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4x2 Isuzu K280 an.99. Tel: 780-7128 Mitsubishi 2x4 6455 Dec 92. Tel: 748-5492 Toyota année 90-09, Nissan, Mercedes. Tel: 636-7484, 776-5556 <p>MOTORCYCLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honda 150cc. Tel: 248-4150 Occasion Honda CBX 750cc état neuf, Japon. Tel: 781-0729 Haojue model HJ125 7A série T 5618T. Tel: 758-2852 Honda 150cc. Tel: 248-4150 Hero Puch série R très bon état Rs 11,000. Tel: 911-0648 <p>LAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 1/2 P à Beau Manguier Pereybere, 11 P à Petit Raffray. Tel: 760-2879 5 1/2 P terrain commercial Rue Jumma Mosque. Tel: 290-7115 Terrain plusieurs Arpents à Soreze Pailles. Tel: 939-6532 Terrain 250ts 30m de Rte Royale Vallée des Pretres. Tel: 927-4501 Terrain 72ts, 79ts près Collège Doha Eau Coulée. Tel: 780-5969 Plusieurs lots de terrain à Allée Brillant. Tel: 773-3647 Terrain résidentiel 22P Ex-Railway Road, Riv du Rempart. Tel: 785-4991 Bonne occasion 8P et réserves de 10 pieds de large sur la longueur, Impasse Lois Terre Rouge Rs 650,000. Tel: 945-4049 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrain résidentiel 153ts Ave Moineaux Albion. Tel: 427-1884, 753-5822 Terrain 1A50P Goodlands idéal pour morcellement. Tel: 938-6382 Terrain 1A9P à Goodlands. Tel: 938-6382 Terrain 1A8P à Pamplemousses pour filling, park, etc. Tel: 938-6382 St Julien D'Hotman 25P Rs 18,000/P. Tel: 757-8442 Terrain Chemin Restaurant Le Calypus Petit Raffray. Tel: 789-0723 4 1/2 P à Roche Noire Rs 200,000 à débattre. Tel: 799-9411 Terrain 10P à Morcellent Fuel St Julien Village. Tel: 796-3927 Terrain 24P St Julien d'Hotman Ave Edwin Candasamy vis-à-vis électricien auto. Prix à débattre. Tel: 714-5841, 454-8793 Terrain résidentiel 75ts Morc Bungsraz Pte aux Piments. Tel: 780-4226 (après midi) Plusieurs lots à La Flora. Tel: 771-4928, 626-6662 Achat / vente terrains, maison, appartements. Contactez Good Luck Agency Arcades Bahemia Sir Virgil Naz St P-Louis. Tel: 783-5687, 211-5565. Email: businessmu55@yahoo.com Terrain et Maison Curepipe, L'Escalier, R-Belle, C-Diable. Tel: 636-7484, 776-5556 Terrain 40 Arpents à Poste La Fayette. Tel: 424-0332 <p>HOUSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maison NHDC Montagne 	<p>Longue Rs 650,000. Tel: 266-2393</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maison rez-de-chaussée 4càc, salon, s.à.m, 2 toilettes, cuisine, s.d.b, garage, 1er étage cuisine, salon/ s.à.m, 3càc, balcon. Cour clôturée sur terrain 15P à Roche Noire 10mins de la mer. Tel: 785-4991 <p>APARTEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat B-Bassin 3càc, région résidentielle Rs 1.9M. Tel: 777-9963 <p>FOR RENT</p> <p>HOUSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maison à Pte aux Sables. Tel: 265-8471 (avant midi) Studio semi meublé à Coromandel Rs 3,800/p.m. Tel: 258-2176 Maison tout confort à Grand Baie sécurité 24hrs, tout option + bonnes, alarmes. Tel: 938-6382 Belle maison meublée avec grand jardin A-Brillant, Vacoas. Tel: 778-6553 Maison à Tranquebar Port Louis Rs 5,000. Tel: 797-0409 <p>ROOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chambre/ appartement meublé à Rose Hill. Tel: 464-6495, 798-3606 Chambres meublées R-Hill pour senior citizens. Tel: 464-6495, 798-3606 <p>OFFICE SPACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emplacement vis-à-vis Medi Clinic La Rue Nyon Plaine Verte. Tel: 731-5489 Bâtiment commercial de 9000p.c à Route Royale 	<p>Pointe aux Canoniers (Centre) Grand Baie. Tel: 768-8121, 253-6111 email: somarchand@hotmail.co.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store & garage à Rte Granum, Vacoas. Tel: 739-9323 Emplacements pour bureaux etc. 1er étage Q-Bornes. Tel: 425-5396, 429-4769 Ou a vendre emplacement commercial ou bureau à P-Louis. Tel: 424-0332 Godown + Bureau 3600p.c 12, Rue Edgar Aubert P-Louis, Les Salines. Facilité d'embarquement et de débarquement. Tel: 242-1785, 762-0009 Bâtiment commercial à Route Royale, Chemin Grenier. Tel: 715-1945 <p>BUNGALOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campement ou bungalow à prix négociable. Tel: 770-7445 9 Bungalows à Trou d'eau Douce Rte Côtière. Tel: 913-4716 Campement + piscine à Péreybere et Flic-en-Flac. Tel: 753-9772, 292-9151 <p>WANTING TO BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrains et maison à travers l'île. Tel: Vertitech Properties 464-8087, 935-1320 <p>VACANCY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sparrow (K M Mannikum) requires two operators for printing packaging machines. Tel: 233-5034 Mammon Foodstuff needs two operators for foodstuffs machines. Tel: 233-5034 	<p>233-5034</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aliage Garment Wear Ltd requires two pattern makers and master cutters. Tel: 233-5034 Cherche bonne habitant Chebel. Tel: 490-9647 Air Fragrance cherche vendeur(se). Salaire Rs 2,500 par semaine. Tel: 292-1300 Graduate for French, Clerk/ Typist (Certificate Typing). Apply Byron College Flacq Restaurant cherche cuisinier et serveuses dans les régions de Curepipe et Vacoas. Tel: 799-7552 Looking for full-time Islamic Teacher. Requirements: qualified Hafiz with knowledge of Fiqh. Working experience will be an advantage. Apply Adm. Officer Dawat-E-Islami, 21 Mawlana Ebrahim Khustar St (ex all Dore) Port-Louis. Cherche vendeur (se), cleaner, helper. Tel: 698-5713, 292-1300 Gokhool Engineering & Constructions Co. Ltd requires for immediate employment 5 pole electricians, 2 heavy vehicle drivers, 2 breaker men minimum 5yrs experience. Call in person for interview on 258-5586 Cherche bonne libre avec expérience en cuisine. Dépendance disponible. Tel: 736-0230, 464-0953 Magasin à Port Louis cherche helpers, vendeuses, chauffeurs. Tel: 217-9988 Cherche chauffeur minibus full/ part time. Région P-Wilhelms. Tel: 751-6061 Cherche Secrétaire, Accounts Clerk avec expérience. Région P-Wilhelms. Tel: 751-6061 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wanted Security Guards (age: 20-55yrs) from all over the island. Interesting salary. Tel: 454-7272, 254-9698 (87 Royal Road, Beau-Bassin) Sukpak Ltd recrute ouvriers/ ouvrières. Contacter l'usine Sukpak Ltd dans le Complexe Industrielle de Rogers vis-à-vis de Jumbo Riche Terre Cherche helper pour compagnie de boisson gazeuse habitant P-Wilhelms. Tel: 756-1792, 291-4212 Importer of LPG gas hose is looking for distributors in Mauritius. Tel: 778-4375 Demande vendeuse niveau forme 4/5, région P-Louis. Tel: 981-4074 Demande machiniste Rs 200-Rs 250/ jour. Région Vacoas. Tel: 789-5939 Cherche ouvrier aluminium avec permis de conduire. Tel: 294-7516, 238-4305, 940-2157 Cherche machiniste/ personnel pour des paniers en rotin, région Nord. Tel: 797-2062 Required for immediate employment 5 metal sorters, 3 gas metal cutter. Minimum experience: two years. Qualified and interested persons please contact Harsham Exports Contact +230-977-4199 <p>EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition FI-VI English, French, Maths, Accounts, Business Studies, GP, French & English Literature, Sociology. Tel: 464-6495, 798-3606 Apprenez Anglais, Français tout âge, leçon primaire, secondaire. Tel: 464-6495, 798-3606 	<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for a co-renter (ladies only between 25-38yrs) without kids to live in a luxury apartment with Internet and parking facilities etc. Region: Curepipe. Call or sms on 931-1058 A vendre aquarium 31 x 45". Tel Shaukat 294-7917 Roller shutters Reparation, fixation, servicing aluminium roller shutter, electric option, motors & gate. Quality service at an affordable price. Tel: 985-3047 Chiot Teckel 8 semaines. Tel: 947-9677 A vendre car gas kit 25LT Rs 12,000. Tel: 792-5078 A vendre baffles. Tel: 758-6481 Caisse électronique keuf Casio SE-C300MG Rs 10,000. Tel: Restaurant Ravinale 208-4251 Clearance sales door rubber, windscreens rubber, glass channel rubber for Maruti 800 Alto Zen cars. Tel: 782-5042 A vendre machine popcorn et mixer grinder wholesale. Tel: 778-4375 For sale new radial tyres 825R16/16 Ply yellowsea brand, useful for bus & heavy duty vehicles. Tel: 768-2586, 722-8483 AEIS Design & Consulting special prices for your house Architectural plans: Rs 2,500; Structural plans: Rs 2,500; Building permit: Free; Advisory services: Free. Tel: 781-8315 Reparation machine à laver à domicile. Tel: Fadi 774-5663, 797-5948 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roller Shutters manufacturing, reparation, servicing, motorize shutters, gate. Tel: 732-3046, 771-8543 A louer terrain agricole à Beau climat, Nouvelle France. Tel: 761-4433 A vendre des livres Christian à Rte Royale B-Bassin. Tel: 736-2323 Spare parts and repairs washing machine, aircon & refrigerators. Tel: 779-1660 Computer complet état neuf printer, Internet etc. Rs 6,000. Tel: 233-2006 Be part of a business growing network. For more information call 791-6634 Entreprend l'escalier en bois, meuble de cuisine, flush doors, rénovation, partition et meubles. Contactez Brij: 914-6679, 466-0313 Roller shutter manufacturing/ servicing. Option electric/ motor. Competitive price. Tel: 252 - 1091 <p>BEAUTY AND CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yoga for health & health problems. Phone: 254-0164 <p>TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A vendre project Eco Tourist 25 Chalet restaurant 2A75 + 100A. Tel: 938-6382 <p>REPARATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reparation, re-vernissage: chaises balotées, meubles, portes, lits (domicile). Tel: Ashvin 789-7961
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JUST IN JEST BY HI LAMA



A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patricia Whack. "Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday." Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager. Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral. The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed. Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office. She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?" The bank manager looks back at her and says... "It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Police999 from fixed line
112 from mobile
- Fire services995 from fixed line
115 from mobile
- SAMU Ambulance 114
- Airlines Enquiry603 3030
- ADSU203 1509, 203 1242
- Central Electricity Board130
- Central Water Authority170
- Child Development Unit113
- Domestic Violence213 0001, 213 0002
- International Directory Assistance10090
- National Directory Assistance150
- SIDA / AIDS Secretariat212 3224
- SOS Femmes433 3391
- Telephone fault reporting92
- Weather Information96 (During Cyclone)
- Tourist Info / Yellowtel152
- Befrienders800 9393, 467 0160
- HOSPITALS**
- Brown-Séguard, Beau-Bassin454 2071
- Dr.A.G Jeetoo, Port-Louis212 3201 – 06
- ENT Vacoas686 2061 – 64
- Flacq Hospital, Flacq413 2532
- J. Nehru Hospital, Rose- Belle603 7000
- Long Mountain Hospital245 2532
- Mahebourg Hospital, Mahebourg631 9556
- Moka Eye Hospital, Moka433 3429
- Poudre d'Or Hospital, Poudre d'Or282 1181
- Souillac Hospital, Souillac625 5589
- SSRNH Hospital, Pamplémousses243 4670
- Victoria Hospital, Candos402 0800

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday September 2:
This year, you plunge ahead and experience new ideas. Often, you find others to be abrupt or unpredictable. Make that OK, as you won't be able to change others, and you have never really been able to. You can choose your reaction. Often, you are so much in your head that others need to nearly break in. Curb a tendency to spend and/or be indulgent. If you are single, you meet people with ease, but proceed with care.

ARIES: You come from a solid place, with good intentions. Those around you sense your integrity. You discover alternatives in a discussion with a friend. Be happy that you are not the only person with good ideas. Two minds work better than one. **Tonight:** Return calls. Clear your desk. Catch up on a friend's news.

TAURUS: Realize what is going on behind the scenes. Dealing with a boss can be challenging because he or she is vague or spacey. Right now, you have a tendency to do a Vulcan mind meld with those you find on another plane. **Tonight:** Treat yourself and a special friend.

GEMINI: You are all smiles, and others respond to your energy. In fact, where you had difficulty before seems easy. Follow through on what up till now has been a dream. Your mind works overtime, but you are right-on. **Tonight:** Get into weekend mode.

CANCER: A partner or associate relates on a one-on-one level. You are centered and direct in a conversation. Someone shares a confidential matter. Honor this person's trust. Resist letting another person know that you see his or her true motives. **Tonight:** Get some extra R and R when you can.

LEO: Don't delay a decision. Once it's made, zero in on what you want. Someone close, perhaps an associate or neighbor, realizes where you are coming from. Success comes from a meeting with a group of supporters. **Tonight:** Going for what you want.

VIRGO: You might be reticent to take a stand. Curb a tendency to make decisions or judgments without others' feedback and/or acknowledgment. Inspiration comes from a new element in your daily life. **Tonight:** Burning the candle at both ends.

LIBRA: To many people, you seem mentally impulsive and direct. Others don't understand how well thought out your actions are. Sometimes sharing more of the process eliminates some of the flak. You cannot expect others to go from 1 to 5. **Tonight:** The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO: Your instincts will guide you with a partner. This person is lighter and more spontaneous. However, he or she also needs. The timing might be such that a discussion finally brings agreement. **Tonight:** Go with a quirky idea.

SAGITTARIUS: Obviously, you cannot control others, but you can let go of trying. Relationships will flourish in both the professional and personal realms of your life if you do. Everyone feels better with this give-and-take. Honor your feelings. **Tonight:** Be light and easy.

CAPRICORN: Emphasize completion rather than working on several different projects. A boss or superior lets you know how much he or she appreciates your efforts. You wonder if you have enough get-up-and-go to accomplish your goals. **Tonight:** Finally, relax.

AQUARIUS: Your sense of direction comes from an inner knowing that is difficult to explain. Creativity mixes with intellect, taking away the word "impossible." Don't delay acting on what is important. The time is now. **Tonight:** Get into the spirit of fun.

PISCES: You are coming from a secure place and know what your priorities are. Communicating them to someone is another issue. A partner might be more receptive than in the past. **Tonight:** Happy at home.

BORN TODAY
Boxer Lennox Lewis (1965), composer Horace Silver (1928), tennis player Jimmy Connors (1952)

WEATHER

NORTH
Minimum temperature: 20
Maximum temperature: 26

EAST
Minimum temperature: 19
Maximum temperature: 25

SOUTH
Minimum temperature: 19
Maximum temperature: 25

WEST
Minimum temperature: 20
Maximum temperature: 26

GENERAL SITUATION:
The anticyclone almost south of the mascarenes is causing a moderate airstreams to flow over our area. Except for few light showers over the high grounds, weather will remain fine over the whole island. Sea moderate to rough beyond the reefs.

WORLD WEATHER								
CITY	MIN	MAX	CITY	MIN	MAX	CITY	MIN	MAX
Beijing	19	32	Melbourne	8	14	Zurich	17	26
Jakarta	23	32	Sydney	7	15	Atlanta	23	34
Karachi	27	34	Amsterdam	17	22	Chicago	18	27
Kuala Lumpur	24	33	Athens	23	33	Las Vegas	28	39
Mumbai	25	28	Berlin	18	25	Los Angeles	18	33
New Delhi	26	32	Copenhagen	12	21	Miami	25	33
Seoul	25	28	Dublin	9	18	Montreal	15	24
Shanghai	28	35	Frankfurt	19	24	New York	20	25
Singapore	24	32	London	12	21	Quebec City	15	24
Taipei	27	35	Madrid	22	34	San Francisco	15	29
Tokyo	27	33	Nice	22	26	Seattle	10	22
Cairo	25	36	Paris	21	24	Toronto	18	22
Cape Town	9	15	Roma	19	30	Vancouver	12	22
Johannesburg	4	19	Vienna	17	31	Washington	21	28

MUST SEE MUST DO

ENTERTAINMENT:

- Opera 2010** - Presented by La Fondation Spectacles et Culture
Date : September 4-14
Venue : Phoenix
- UB40's big concert in Mauritius** Spectacles et Culture
Venue : Swami Vivekananda Conference Centre, Pailles
Date : September 12
Time : 6 pm
For more information please contact on: www.otayo.com
- Magma4**, musical group is organising a musical night for its fans.
Venue : Club Med, Albion
Date : August 28
Time : 7 30 pm

EXHIBITION:

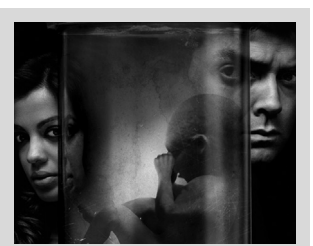
- Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund of the Ministry of Arts and Culture** in collaboration with the Mauritius Museums

Council and the Minicipal Council of Port Louis is launching a booklet and is opening an exhibition both on Liberated Africans.
Venue : Ehibition Hall of Mauritius Museum Council, La Chaussee, Port Louis
Date : August 30 to September 3
Time : 9 00 am to 4 00 pm

The Université Populaire de l'île Maurice (UPIIM) is organising a debate on "Should we choose between security or Liberty"
Venue : Bar Le Petit Journal, Forest Side
Date : September 5
Time : 1000 to 1200
For more information contact on: upmaurice@gmail.com, <http://www.upim.info>, Annick 701 3587

If you wish to add your event or have information about an event, please mail with all details (what, when, where, person to contact with phone number) to lifeatures@gmail.com

CINEMA



HELP
STARRING: BOBBY DEOL, MUGDHA GODSE, SOPHIA HANDA, SALIM FATEHI, JYOTI DOGRA

CINEMA NOVELTY
1000, 2015
CINE CLASSIC
1015, 1330, 2030

PEEPLI (LIVE)
CINE KINGS
1000, 1300
CINEMA NOVELTY
2015

LAFANGEY PARINDEY
CINE KINGS
1000, 1300
CINE CLASSIC
1015, 1330, 2030

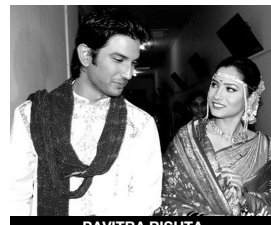
CINEMA NOVELTY
1000, 1315, 2015
PREDATORS
CINEMA STAR (CAUDAN)
1130, 1330, 1530, 1800, 2100

INCEPTION
CINEMA STAR (CAUDAN)
1100, 1400, 1800, 2100
CINEMA STAR (CUREPIPE)
1100, 1400, 2030

EXPENDABLES
CINEMA STAR (CUREPIPE)
1100, 1400, 2030

OUR PICK

SERIAL



PAVITRA RISHTA
AT 2100 ON ZEE TV
It is a story of a girl, Archana, who though is not highly educated but handles the whole house work impeccably. So it's the journey of Archana to find life partner for herself. But she is divorced even after getting married to her desired life partner. She struggles with life just to get out of all difficulties she is facing in life.

CINEMA



KASH MERE HOTE
AT 2017 ON MBC 1
Krish and Radhika are in love. For a work assignment, Krish has to go to Mauritius where he becomes a tenant at retired Col. Patra's villa. While Col. Patra is blind, his daughter Piya falls in love at first sight with Krish. While Krish doesn't seem interested as he is committed to Radhika, Piya's love for Krish starts turning obsessive ala Darr. Things change for the worse when Radhika starts using her superpowers.

SPORTS



MIWAY MOUNTAIN BIKING
A 1700 ON SUPERSPORT 7
The Leverage Corporation Van Galens MTB Corporate Challenge. The best athletes take part in this MiWay MTB event in which both mental and physical strength are tested.

TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Time	Channel	Program
0900	1	New programme highlights
0905	1	Culture et compagnie
0931	1	Caravan
0957	1	Arts 21
1023	1	Euromaxx
1049	1	Ncis
1131	1	Collection thalassa
1158	1	New programme highlights
1200	1	Le journal de la mi journée
1215	1	Le roman de la vie
1301	1	Gustave courbet
1353	1	Angkor l'aventure du baphuon
1445	1	Châteaux de france
1459	1	New programme highlights
1500	1	Matt et les monstres
1512	1	Will et mathis
1534	1	Kid paddle
1546	1	Kid paddle
1557	1	Yugiho
1618	1	La famille pirate
1642	1	Code lyoko
1705	1	New programme highlights
1708	1	C'est pas sorcier
1734	1	Half & half
1754	1	Campaign aids
1755	1	New programme highlights
1800	1	Samachar
1825	1	New programme highlights
1830	1	Kyun ki saas bhi kabhi bahu thi
1852	1	Sarabhai vs sarabhai
1914	1	Local artists
1921	1	New programme highlights
1928	1	Clip
1930	1	Le journal televise
2010	1	La meteo
2015	1	New programme highlights
2017	1	Kash mere hote
2116	1	Rangoli
2300	1	Campaign aids
2300	1	Le journal televise
0635	2	Haa jag fashioncha
0825	2	Making of chance pe dance
0905	2	Les sentiers de la perdition
1100	2	Bollywood top ten
1155	2	Rangoli
1245	2	Cool hand luke
1515	2	A place called home
1505	2	The common people
1840	2	Rangoli
1930	2	Hollywood highlights usa
2015	2	Les prédateurs
2210	2	Phat griz
2345	2	Dongasachinollu
0700	3	Keeping up appearances
0730	3	Top gear
0825	3	The weakest link
0915	3	Top gear
1005	3	Holby city
1100	3	Eastenders
1130	3	Monty pythons' flying circus
1200	3	Keeping up appearances
1230	3	Who wants to be a millionaire
1315	3	Top gear
1410	3	Holby city
1505	3	The weakest link
1555	3	Monty pythons' flying circus
1630	3	Keeping up appearances
1700	3	Eastenders
1730	3	The weakest link
1825	3	Top gear
1820	3	My family
1955	3	The green green grass
2030	3	Outnumbered
2105	3	Harry and paul
2140	3	Two pints of lager
2245	3	Skins
2335	3	Top gear
0700	4	Aawaz de kahan
0800	4	Full on
0900	4	Movie
1200	4	First cut
1230	4	A crew story
1300	4	Movie
1630	4	Trailor junction
1700	4	Movie
2030	4	Maha bees
2100	4	Movie
0655	5	The flintstones
0720	5	The jetsons
0745	5	Tom & jerry kids
0810	5	The garfield show
0835	5	Duck dodgers
0900	5	The scooby doo show
0930	5	Wacky races
1000	5	Dastardly and muttley
1025	5	King arthur's disasters
1050	5	Help
1115	5	A pup named scooby doo
1140	5	Popeye
1205	5	Scooby doo where are you
1230	5	Top gear
1255	5	Hong kong phooey
1320	5	Duck dodgers
1345	5	The jetsons
1410	5	The flintstones
1435	5	Looney tunes
1500	5	Tom & jerry kids
1520	5	Top cat
1545	5	Wacky races
1600	5	Dastardly and muttley
1630	5	The scooby doo show
1700	5	Johnny bravo
1730	5	Dexter's laboratory
1800	5	Looney tunes
1820	5	Duck dodgers
1910	5	The flintstones
1935	5	The jetsons
2000	5	Looney tunes
2025	5	Tom & jerry kids
2050	5	The scooby doo show
2115	5	Hong kong phooey
2140	5	Top cat
2200	5	The garfield show
2225	5	The scooby doo show
2250	5	Wacky races
2315	5	Dastardly and muttley
0715	6	Chop socky chooks
0740	6	Ben 10 alien force
0805	6	Bakugan battle brawlers
0830	6	Fantastic four
0855	6	Eliot kid
0920	6	My gym partner's a monkey
0930	6	Squirrel boy
0955	6	Robotboy
1020	6	Camp lazlo
1045	6	The powerpuff girls
1110	6	Class of 3000
1135	6	Ed edd 'n' eddy
1200	6	Foster's home for imaginary friends
1225	6	Codename
1250	6	Ben 10
1315	6	My gym partner's a monkey
1340	6	Squirrel boy
1405	6	Eliot kid
1435	6	Casper's scare school
1500	6	Skunk fu
1525	6	Fantastic four
1550	6	Bakugan battle brawlers
1615	6	The secretaturdays
1625	6	Sonny with a chance
1645	6	Jonas
1710	6	Wizards of waverly place
1800	6	The suite life on deck
1825	6	Hannah montana
1845	6	Hannah montana
1910	6	Jonas
1935	6	Wizards of waverly place
2000	6	Sonny with a chance
2050	6	The suite life on deck
2115	6	Phineas and ferb
2135	6	Fairly odd parents
2200	6	The replacements
2225	6	Hannah montana
2250	6	Sonny with a chance
2315	6	Wizards of waverly place
0700	7	Sportscenter usa
0900	7	Nfl films
0930	7	Nfl films
1000	7	Nba playoffs
1200	7	2010 national collegiate odeo finals
1300	7	Nhra lucas oil sportsman
1400	7	Motor racing nascar
1500	7	Sportscenter usa
1600	7	Mlb baseball
1830	7	Mobil 1 the grid
1900	7	Espn soccerent press pass
1930	7	Nfl films
2000	7	Kia x games asia
2100	7	Dtm german tour racing
2200	7	2010 little league world series
0600	8	The eye

“ IF WE SEE EVIDENCE THAT NORTH KOREA IS PREPARED TO MOVE, THEN WE ARE OPEN TO FURTHER ENGAGEMENT — CROWLEY



World



“ I’LL SET CLEARLY THE SECURITY NEEDS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO ADDRESS THESE KIND OF TERROR — NETANYAHU

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WORLD DIGEST



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (right) holds a camera in a photo laboratory as he visits the presidential cadet school in the city of Orenburg on Wednesday.

Arab League cynical about Mideast talks

CAIRO: Arab League chief Amr Mussa said on Wednesday that there was widespread pessimism in the region about new peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, Egypt's state MENA news agency reported. He said that an Arab League committee, which in July gave its backing to Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's decision to resume direct negotiations with Israel, may soon have to meet to review the progress of the talks. "The role of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee is ongoing, and there are many who are pessimistic about the outcome of these negotiations," MENA quoted Mussa as saying. "So we may soon have to convene a meeting to assess the situation." AFP (RELATED STORY ON P6)

Japan endures hottest summer on record

TOKYO: Japan has endured its hottest summer since records began in 1898, the meteorological agency said on Wednesday, during a heatwave that saw thousands of people taken to hospital suffering heatstroke. The average temperature nationwide between June and August was 1.64 degrees Celsius above average for the period, forecasters said. The previous record margin was 1.36 degrees C set in 1994. The agency did not say what the average temperature was, but Tokyo's summertime temperatures averaged 27.1 degrees C. In August, the mercury often soared above 35 degrees C in many areas of the country, the agency said. AFP

Boy killed in Thai school gang shooting

BANGKOK: A nine-year-old boy was shot and killed in the Thai capital on his way to school on Wednesday when a teenage gang opened fire on his bus, police said. Jatupon Ponpaka was about to get off the bus with his elder brother at a stop in eastern Bangkok when about 10 students from a local high school started chasing the vehicle, opening fire as it sped away. "The boy was shot in the face and neck and died later in hospital," said Police Lieutenant Pradit Taprasitjitt, in charge of the investigation. The same group of students went on to throw beer bottles at the next bus, which had four students from a rival school on board, he told. AFP

Building crumbles in Russia, one injured

SAINT PETERSBURG: An eight-storey building under renovation crumbled on Wednesday in Russia's second city of Saint Petersburg, leaving a woman injured, officials said. One of three women working in shops on the ground floor of the former police headquarters was taken to hospital, prosecution investigators said, adding that the collapse could have been sparked by the removal of safes inside the building. "The building was under renovation since July 31," a statement said. "Two days ago the work was suspended because cracks had appeared while safes were being dismantled." AFP

Time to turn page on Iraq: Obama

Washington, September 1

President Barack Obama has declared an end to US combat in Iraq, calling on its people to chart their own destiny as Americans turn to combating Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and rebuilding their own battered nation.

In a major address on Tuesday, Obama called on his country to steel itself for more bloodshed in Afghanistan, billing the fight there as "essential" to protecting the US homeland from the festering threat from Al-Qaeda.

Obama's 18-minute primetime address was meant to mark a symbolic moment in US disengagement from Iraq, but avoided talk of victory or defeat as political uncertainty and violence cloud a nation the United States invaded in 2003.

Speaking from the Oval Office, a man who anchored his presidential campaign on opposing the war spoke of his "awe" at the sacrifices of US troops, and used statesmanlike appeal to heal domestic divides opened by the conflict.

"Operation Iraqi Freedom is over, and the Iraqi people now have lead responsibility for the security of their country," Obama said, seated in the same spot where former president George W. Bush unleashed the US war machine more than seven years ago.

Amid political tumult at home, Obama attempted to refocus Americans on the need to repair the rav-



US President Barack Obama reads his speech to photographers after delivering an address to the nation on the end of combat operations in Iraq from the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on August 31.

aged US economy, as a slowing recovery sours his popularity and augurs heavy losses for Democrats in November's congressional polls. He argued that Americans had met their "responsibility" in Iraq and now needed to "turn the page" and "rebuild our nation here at home."

"At this moment, as we wind

down the war in Iraq, we must tackle those challenges at home with as much energy, and grit and sense of common purpose as our men and women in uniform who have served abroad," he added.

Republican critics acutely noted Obama had opposed the "surge" strategy that helped him meet his

pledge of bringing US combat troops home.

House Republican Minority Leader John Boehner charged that Obama and other senior Democrats who opposed the 2007 military escalation sought to "claim credit" for the results.

Obama has pulled nearly

100,000 soldiers out, even as he escalated the war in Afghanistan.

But with 50,000 American troops remaining in Iraq on a training and counter-terrorism mission until the end of the next year, Obama warned that though US combat was ending, violence in Iraq would not.

"Extremists will continue to set off bombs, attack Iraqi civilians and try to spark sectarian strife," he said, but asserted that Iraqis would not allow "terrorists" to thwart their destiny.

In an email to supporters clearly aimed at his anti-war base, Obama pointed to the heavy US toll — more than 4,400 troops killed and over 34,260 wounded — and "vast resources" spent on the war amid a battering recession.

"Ending this war is not only in Iraq's interest — it is in our own," he wrote. "We have met our responsibility." In his address, Obama called on Iraq's factions to "move forward with a sense of urgency" to end the long deadlock over forming a government after March's inconclusive elections.

Turning to Afghanistan, Obama admitted that many Americans were asking "tough questions" about the Afghan war as it grinds into a 10th year with bloodshed rising and no end in sight.

"As we speak, Al-Qaeda continues to plot against us, and its leadership remains anchored in the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan," he warned. AFP

India, Afghanistan putting heads together in bid to fight terrorism

Nilova Roy Chaudhury
New Delhi, September 1

India and Afghanistan are closely conferring to fight terrorism together, with Kabul seeking New Delhi's assistance in helping to remove the menace of terror from the region.

Combating terror infrastructure with origins in Pakistan has been the focus of two visits in quick succession to New Delhi by top Afghan advisors to President Hamid Karzai, sources said, after Afghanistan's National Security Advisor Rangin Dadfar Spanta met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday.

Spanta, whose visit comes barely a week after Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul visited New Delhi, has informed the Indian leadership that Kabul has clear evidence of cross border (read Pakistani) involvement in the attacks on the Indian Embassy both in July 2008 and October 2009.

According to official sources Spanta, who recently wrote a commentary in *The Washington Post* directly blaming and denouncing the Pakistani establishment's linkages with groups fomenting terrorism, called for shutting down of terrorist sanctuaries in the neighbourhood.

He briefed Prime Minister Singh about Pakistan's complicity in aiding and abetting violence and instability in Afghanistan through its proxies and warned that the recent flooding in Pakistan is likely to further embolden terrorist groups in that country be-

cause of the sympathy they have gained for providing flood relief where the Pakistan administration failed.

Spanta also met with his Indian counterpart Shivshankar Menon and External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, and discussed ways to ensure enhanced security for over 3,000 Indians currently working in Afghanistan. He urged India to further enhance its overall cooperation with Afghanistan, and assist Afghan efforts to combat terrorists and extremists groups targeting Afghanistan and other countries in the region.

"They agreed that terrorism is the main threat undermining peace and stability in the region and reiterated their resolve to effectively combating and defeating it," a joint Indo-Afghan statement issued after Rassoul's visit last week said adding, "They also emphasised the need to ensure that terrorist and extremist groups targeting Afghanistan and other countries in the region are denied safe havens and sanctuaries."

With parliamentary elections (for 249 seats) due in Afghanistan on September 18, the need to rein in militants opposed to restoring a modicum of democratic governance in that country is all the more urgent, sources said.

During Spanta's visit, he also briefed the Indian leadership about his government's efforts to reach out to "militant elements and elements in the Taliban" in that country who adhere to and function within the "red lines" of abjuring violence and abid-

ing by the Afghan National Constitution. India, which is not thrilled at the prospect of inducting former members of the Taliban into the Afghan government says it supports any Afghan-led peace process.

India, the sixth largest donor in Afghanistan with over 1.3 billion dollars in aid routed into development infrastructure and capacity building, does not have a military presence in that country and has steadfastly refused to have "boots on the ground."

It is not averse, however, to assisting in the training of Afghan security forces but will do so only if asked by the Afghan authorities, officials said. India has resumed its medical mission in Kabul, suspended after an attack in February targeted Indian medical personnel and teachers there. It is also building the Afghan Parliament.

"Our presence is entirely benign and we will continue to remain engaged with Afghanistan," a senior official said. "Like other neighbouring countries, we have a legitimate stake in peace in Afghanistan," the official said, declining to take issue with Pakistan's efforts to keep India out of Afghanistan.

Both India and Afghanistan have troubled relations with Islamabad because of Pakistani funding and support for terrorist acts within their borders. New Delhi has reiterated that it supports an Afghan-led process of restoring peace in the war-ravaged country, and has pledged continued support to Karzai's government.

Hungry flood-hit Pak protest lack of help

Thatta, September 1

Hundreds of hungry families blocked a highway in Pakistan's flood-hit south on Wednesday, demanding the government provide more food as the UN warned of a "triple threat" to desperate survivors.

The protest came as under-fire Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said the country faced inflation of up to 20 percent and slower economic growth because of the devastating floods, warning of job losses and social unrest.

Up to 500 people from a government-run relief camp in Thatta city, in the worst-affected province of Sindh, blocked the main road between Karachi city and Thatta for three hours calling for the state to provide food and shelter.

"No food or water has been provided to us for the past two days," Mohammad Qasim, a 60-year-old resident of the flooded town of Sujawal, told AFP. The World Food Programme issued a stark warning of the threat to food supplies after a month of catastrophic flooding that has affected 18 million people, as the deluge flows south on its way to the Arabian Sea.

While the international community has now donated 700 million dollars, domestic anger has been mounting at

the civilian government, which has staggered from crisis to crisis in the 30 months since its election.

Gilani said an inflation target of 9.5 percent for 2011 would now likely be in the range of 15-20 percent.

"Inflation is likely to spike significantly in the face of short supply of food due to crops destruction," he told his cabinet in televised remarks.

He said that GDP growth would also lower to 2.5 percent from the predicted 4.5 percent.

"This economic loss will translate into massive job losses and loss of incomes for thousands of families. Consequently, it may have serious social implications," he said.

World Food Programme chief Josette Sheeran has warned that Pakistan faces a triple threat to food supplies — with seeds, crops and incomes hit — fanning frustration among the masses already struggling to make ends meet.

The floods have engulfed a fifth of the volatile country of 167 million, with 3.4 million hectares of rich farmland ruined, according to latest UN figures.

Meanwhile, floodwaters flowing south in Sindh province entered the town of Jati and threatened Choochar Jamoli town on the east bank of the swollen Indus. AFP

Belgian cardinal defamed by abuse cover-up

Brussels, September 1

The former head of the Belgian Catholic church was defamed by a newspaper report accusing him of trying to cover up the sexual abuse of a minor by the former bishop of Bruges, his lawyer said.

The Flemish daily *De Standaard* published on Saturday the transcripts of a conversation taped on April 8 between Cardinal Godfried Danneels, the victim and Roger Vangheluwe, who was still bishop at the time.

In the tape, Danneels, who headed the church between 1979-2009, asks the victim to accept an apology from Vangheluwe, or at least not make his allegations public until the bishop retired a year later.

The cardinal's attorney, Ferdinand Keuleneer, said on Tuesday that *De Standaard* "voluntarily and deliberately defamed" Danneels by selecting certain extracts and underlining passages of the transcript in red.

Danneels had not been able to prepare for the confrontation and his reactions had been "instantaneous," the attorney said in a statement published on the website of the Catholic daily *Tertio*.

"Like any person in that situation, he then wanted to continue to think more at length about these issues in view of a second meeting that never took place," Keuleneer said.

"This has nothing to do with a plot or a cover-up. Cardinal Danneels listened and thought about it, without a result," he said. "Two weeks later, Monsignor Vangheluwe resigned. Cardinal Danneels had also come to the conclusion that that was the only adequate way of proceeding."

Tertio reported that *De Standaard* refused to publish the attorney's response.

Vangheluwe resigned on April 23, admitting he had sexually abused "a boy in my entourage" about 20 years earlier. According to *De Standaard*, he did this after a relative of the victim emailed all Belgian bishops demanding he quit by late May.

Danneels has rejected accusations that he had known about the abuse for a long time and denied trying to keep them quiet.

Last month Danneels was questioned by police for more than 10 hours as part of a probe into sexual abuse by priests.

Belgium is one of the countries worst hit by a rising tide of revelations of paedophilia by Roman Catholic priests in Europe and North America. AFP

Tony Blair's A Journey lifts lid on Iraq, alcohol and royals

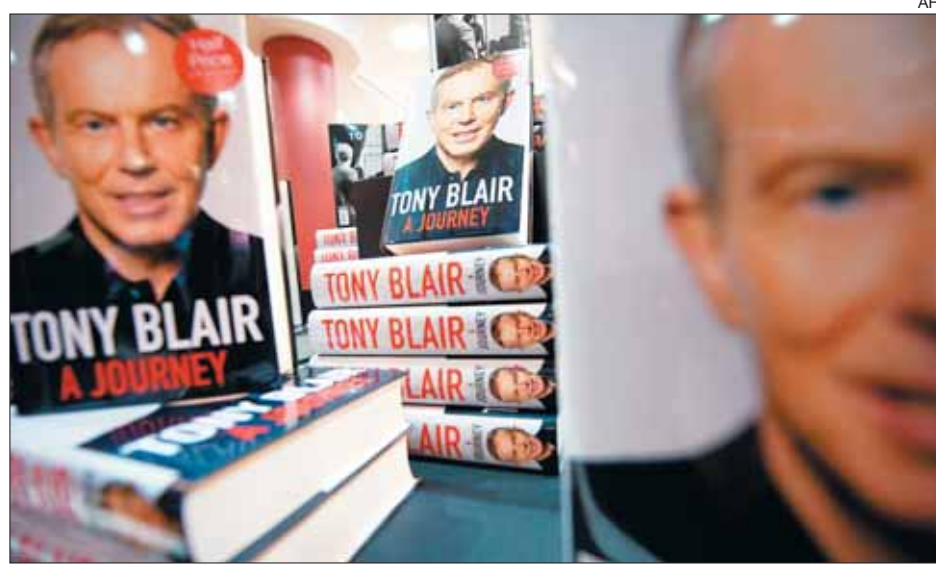
London, September 1

Britain's former prime minister Tony Blair published his memoirs on Wednesday, saying he had no regrets over the 2003 Iraq war but stressing he was "desperately sorry" for those who died.

Entitled *A Journey*, the book is Blair's account of his decade in Downing Street from 1997 to 2007 and also features an unprecedented attack on his "strange" successor Gordon Brown, whose premiership he brands a disaster. It details the personal toll the job took on him — including his use of alcohol as a "prop" — as well as his role in the aftermath of princess Diana's death in a car crash in 1997.

However, it is Iraq — arguably the defining event of Blair's decade in power — which is at the book's heart.

Speaking of his feelings for all those who died in Iraq, he suggested he had wept over the death toll of British and international soldiers, ordi-



Copies of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's memoirs, *A Journey* are displayed as the book goes on sale for the first time in book stores in London, on Wednesday.

nary Iraqis and other casualties such as hostages.

"I feel desperately sorry for them, sorry for the lives cut short... to be indifferent to that would be inhuman, emotionally warped."

But he insisted that he

"can't regret the decision to go to war" as he again outlined the case for the conflict.

"All I know is that I did what I thought was right," he added.

Blair did, though, acknowledge that the period af-

ter the invasion was far worse than anticipated.

"The aftermath was more bloody, more awful, more terrifying than anyone could have imagined," he said.

"I can say that never did I guess the nightmare that un-

folded, and that too is part of the responsibility."

He praised the "genuine integrity" and "political courage" of the then US president George W. Bush, with whom he stood shoulder-to-shoulder over Iraq.

And in a BBC interview being broadcast on Wednesday to publicise the book, Blair adds that the international community should be prepared to consider taking military action against Iran if it develops a nuclear weapon.

"I am saying that I think it is wholly unacceptable for Iran to have a nuclear weapons capability and I think we have got to be prepared to confront them, if necessary militarily," he said, according to pre-released extracts.

Blair also gave a series of candid insights on the "huge strain" life in Downing Street put on him, his wife Cherie and their four children, the youngest of whom was born while he was in office.

He used alcohol as a

"prop" to relax and was "at the outer limit" of the regular intake limit advised by doctors. "Stiff whisky or G & T (gin and tonic) before dinner, couple of glasses of wine or even half a bottle with it," Blair wrote, detailing his drinking.

"So not excessively excessive. I had a limit. But I was aware it had become a prop."

There is also a string of revelations about high-profile figures in Britain. Blair said he was a "sucker" for princess Diana but there was an emotional "wildness" to her which made him wary of her.

He also tells of "trying" visits to the royal family's Scottish retreat, Balmoral, and how Queen Elizabeth II would don rubber gloves to do the washing up after the royals' traditional barbecue there.

Elsewhere, he makes public as never before the private tensions which simmered between him and the "maddening" but "brilliant" Brown,

who served as his finance minister, throughout his premiership.

Brown had long craved the top job and he and those close to him exerted increasing pressure on Blair to quit, particularly in his final years.

Blair said Brown was a "strange guy" with "zero" emotional intelligence. He said he knew that Brown's premiership would be "terminal" for the government.

"It is easy to say now, in the light of his tenure as prime minister, that I should have stopped it; at the time that would have been well nigh impossible," Blair wrote.

The former premier will donate all book proceeds to the Royal British Legion, a charity which helps severely injured war veterans.

According to reports, he has already received a 4.6-million-pound advance.

Within hours of its release, online seller Amazon said *A Journey* was already ranked first on its British bestseller list. AFP

WORLD DIGEST



Edgar Valdez Villarreal aka 'La Barbie' of the Beltran Leyva drug cartel, is presented to the press at the Federal Police headquarters in Mexico City, on August 31. Mexican authorities on Monday announced the capture of one of the country's most sought after drug kingpins, US-born Valdez Villarreal, known as 'the Barbie' for his fair complexion. Valdez was detained in a police operation in central Mexico, following intelligence work which began in June 2009.

Libya releases 37 militant Islamists

TRIPOLI: An ex-Guantanamo detainee and 36 other militant Islamists were released from prison in Libya, according to a charity organisation on Tuesday. The release was announced in the capital by the charity foundation of Seif al-Islam al-Gaddafi, one of the sons of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. The foundation said the prisoners had corrected their ways through dialogue, and had all sworn off violence. The ex-US detainee Abu Sufian bin Qumu, a Libyan, was released from Guantanamo in 2007 to Libya. According to the US charges, he was connected to a terrorist organisation in Afghanistan, and then Pakistan, where he was captured in 2001. **DPA**

Russian general found dead in Turkey

ISTANBUL: The former deputy chief of a Russian military intelligence service was found dead on the shore of the Mediterranean by Turkish villagers in Hatay province, the Turkish newspaper Vatan reported Wednesday citing Russian sources. Experts identified the body as that of Yuri Ivanov, the former deputy head of Russian military intelligence service GRU, the report said. The general had last been deployed to review Russian military installations in Syria. Moscow had confirmed the death of the general last week but only released further details this week, the report said. Ivanov's body had been swept ashore on August 16 but was not identified immediately. **DPA**

8 people killed in bombing: Mexico

CANCUN: Eight people including six women died Tuesday after assailants hurled molotov cocktails at a bar here, an official said. Preliminary accounts indicate that at least six gunmen arrived at the Castillo del Mar tavern and began the attack. Quintana Roo state attorney general Francisco Alor Quezada said. Six people were killed on the spot and two others died later at hospitals in Cancun. Several powerful drug cartels are battling for control of the illicit trade in Greater Cancun, a year-round tourist destination that has higher median incomes than most of Mexico's metropolitan areas. Since May 1, 15 bodies have been found in caves near Cancun used by gangs as clandestine cemeteries. **IANSE/EFCE**

Greece smoking ban goes into effect

ATHENS: Greek smokers came under renewed pressure to curb their habit on Wednesday as a new law banning smoking in enclosed public places went into effect in Europe's most nicotine-addicted nation. Under the slogan "Stub out your cigarettes, add to your life," the legislation bans smoking in all enclosed public spaces except casinos and large music halls, which have a nine-month extension to June. Those who persist in flouting the law face fines from 50 to 500 euros. **AFP**

NASA team aids Chilean miners

Copiapo, September 1

NASA experts on Tuesday advised Chilean officials to be frank with 33 miners trapped deep underground about how long their rescue will take, as a giant drill slowly burrowed toward the desperate men.

Meanwhile, the owners of the Chilean mine begged for "forgiveness for the anguish" caused by the collapse of the San Jose gold and copper mine August 5, which sealed in the miners 700 meters under the earth.

"This is a terrible situation, and we hope that it will soon come to a happy end," Alejandro Bohn, co-chief of San Esteban mining group, told a parliamentary committee looking into the 26-day-old drama.

They denied any negligence on their part in implementing safety regulations at the San Jose mine, near Copiapo, and said all the mine's inspection documents were in order prior to the August 5 cave-in.

Rescuers say it will take three to four months for a 30-ton hydraulic drill to chew through the rock to where the miners were holding out.

They have been told they are in for a long wait before they can be pulled out, but have not been given any date by Chilean officials concerned about



Chilean soldiers deployed to help the trapped miners, arrive at the San Jose mine in Copiapo, 800 km north of Santiago, on August 31.

their mental state.

The NASA experts, experienced in getting astronauts through extended periods of isolation, told Chilean Health Minister Jaime Manalich and Mining Minister Laurence Golborne and other officials to avoid conveying "false hopes" to the trapped men.

Honesty was key, NASA's deputy chief medical officer James Duncan, explained to reporters in Santiago.

The miners' experience and expectation that rescue would take a

long time had to be taken into account, he said, drawing parallels with the training and professionalism of astronauts.

The NASA team was to travel to the scene of the mine drama on Wednesday.

One of the engineers overseeing the rescue at the mine, Jorge Sanhueza, told AFP late Tuesday that the drill had burrowed down just five meters so far, because the initial phase required "high precision" to get the

trajectory right.

The machine, an Australian-made Strata 950, had a maximum excavation rate of 15-20 meters a day. After first boring a 33-centimeter pilot hole, it was to double the width of the shaft so the men can be pulled up through it, one by one.

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said the operation was well underway and his government "has done and will continue to do everything humanly possible to rescue them alive."

He added that another bore was on its way to expand one of three first-sized holes already drilled to drop supplies the men, in case the Strata 950 encountered problems.

Authorities have started vaccinating the miners against tetanus, diphtheria, flu and pneumonia to prevent outbreaks of disease.

A medical report on Tuesday said five miners were still having difficulties digesting after the 17-day period before rescuers made contact with them, during which food supplies severely rationed.

The men have also moved to a drier spot about 300 meters deeper inside the mine because some were developing fungal infections and body sores in the hot, dank area. **AFP**

Obama readies bold Mideast peace bid

Washington, September 1

President Barack Obama steps into Middle East peace efforts on Wednesday in a bid to relaunch direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations after four Jewish settlers were gunned down in the West Bank.

The fresh violence blamed on the Islamist movement Hamas and continued deadlock over Israeli settlements threatened to curtail the latest efforts by Obama, who made Middle East peace a priority early in his presidency.

Obama, who is hoping to succeed where so many of his predecessors have failed, made his first presidential call to Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas and appointed a Middle East envoy, peacemaker George Mitchell, two days after his inauguration.

In a clear and bloody message from Hamas, a staunch opponent of the talks, its militants gunned down four Israelis near a Jewish settlement in the Palestinian West Bank on Tuesday in an attack strongly condemned by Abbas and the White House.

But Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to keep the talks on track after a 20-month hiatus while stressing Israel's security demands.

"I will set clearly the security needs that are required precisely to address these kind of terror," Netanyahu said. "We will not let the blood of Israeli civilians go unpunished."

And the host of the talks, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, offered fresh security assurances to the Israelis as she met with Netanyahu late Tuesday. "It is one of the reasons why the prime minister is here today, to engage in direct negotiations with those Palesti-

BARAK: DIVIDE JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM: Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak suggested parts of Jerusalem could be handed over to the Palestinians, in an interview published on Wednesday on the eve of new Middle East peace talks.

West Jerusalem and 12 Jewish "neighbourhoods" -- settlements in Arab east Jerusalem -- would remain in Israel's hands. "The Arab neighbourhoods in which close to a quarter million Palestinians live will be theirs," he told *Haaretz*.

But the suggestion by the Labour party leader does not reflect the views of hawkish PM Netanyahu, who has insisted Jerusalem will remain Israel's undivided capital "forever." **AFP**

tinians who themselves have rejected a path of violence in favor of a path of peace."

Netanyahu's spokesman Mark Reggev said Israel was "committed to peace" and the attack would not prevent the talks from going ahead.

Obama is hosting separate meetings not only with Abbas and Netanyahu, but also with key regional powerbrokers King Abdullah II of Jordan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the White House before dining with the five leaders and diplomatic Quartet representative Tony Blair.

The meetings are designed to help launch direct talks between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders at the State Department on Thursday. **AFP**

Air India bomber faces fresh trial

Vancouver, September 1

Air India Kanishka bombing convict Inderjit Singh Reyat, who was released last year after spending 15 years in jail, faces a fresh perjury trial from September 9. If convicted, he faces another 14 years in jail.

Reyat was the only one jailed in the 1985 Air India bombing by Khalistani extremists to avenge the Indian Army operation at the Golden Temple against Sikh militants in 1984.

The Kanishka flight 182 from Montreal to Delhi was blown off mid-air near the Irish coast June 23, 1985. All 329 passengers, mostly Indian Canadians, were killed, making it the worst aviation attack in history till 9/11 happened. Another bomb, meant for another Air India flight, also went off at Tokyo airport the same day, killing two baggage handlers.

Militants had planted both the bombs at Vancouver

airport in two unaccompanied suitcases which were transferred to the connecting Air India flight and Tokyo-bound flight at Toronto airport.

After his arrest, Reyat, an electrical mechanic, admitted to testing the bomb that blew off at Tokyo airport for which he got 10 years in jail in 1991. After five years, he was given another five years in jail for his role in the Kanishka bombing.

While in jail that he had agreed to testify during the trial of Air India suspects - Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri - in 2003. But during his testimony, Reyat is said to have lied 27 times, leading to acquittal of Malik and Bagri.

Wearing a dark suit, Reyat appeared the British Columbia Supreme Court here on Tuesday when a new jury was selected for the case. Addressing the jury, judge Mark McEwan urged jurors to resist researching this case on the internet. **IANSE**

Gene driven obesity is a myth: Study

London, September 1

Obesity researchers have rubbished the excuse that we are "slaves" to our genes. They found that by exercising people could slough off 40 percent of extra weight that "fat genes" laid on them.

Although some have a tendency to be overweight, scientists at a Medical Research Council unit in Cambridge discovered that an active lifestyle could counter a person's genetic inheritance, reports *The Telegraph*.

The researchers based their conclusions after analysing the genes of over 20,000 men and women aged 39 to 79 years, looking for 12 genetic markers that set body mass index.

They then asked them to fill out questionnaires about their physical activity levels at work and elsewhere, according to the journal *Public Library of Science-Medicine*.

They concluded: "The findings challenge the popular myth that obesity is unavoidable if it runs in the

family and could guide future treatments to combat the obesity crisis."

Ruth Loos from the Medical Research Council, who led the study, said: "Our research proves that even those who have the highest risk of obesity from their genes can improve their health by taking some form of daily physical activity."

She added: "People don't have to run marathons to make a difference either - walking the dog or working in the garden all counts. **IANSE**

Is Australian politics a man's, man's world?

Sydney, September 1

Feminists rejoiced when Julia Gillard became Australia's first female leader, but her failure to win national polls has raised questions about whether the country is ready to have a woman in charge.

Australians delivered a hung parliament in August 21 polls, with neither centre-left Labor PM Gillard nor her conservative opponent Tony Ab-

bott galvanising enough support to form a government.

Leading feminist Eva Cox believes that while some voters have supported 48-year-old Gillard simply because she was a woman, others probably voted against her for the same reason.

"We are still not comfortable when we have a woman in a top position — even if it's not a big issue," she said.

During a campaign littered with references to Gillard's

hairstyles and childlessness, the former lawyer played down her sex, presenting herself as a leader who just happened to be a woman.

"All the stuff around the hair and the boyfriend... I just think there was a level of discomfort," Cox said in reference to Gillard's ever-changing red hair and her live-in partner, hairdresser Tim Mathieson.

"The fact that it was discussed so much suggests that

we are not very good at dealing with the fact that we've got powerful women around."

Melbourne University's Lauren Rosewarne said the country's worst political crisis in decades could not be blamed on Gillard's gender because "voters had other things to worry about".

"Her whole coming-to-power was very much driven by a gendered narrative," said public policy expert Rosewarne.

Rosewarne said Gillard had carefully managed her campaign to soften her image, at times being seen kissing babies, at others cutting a lone figure on a stage.

"I think she had a concerted effort not to bring her partner on stage because if she did that, that's just setting the agenda to remind journalists and to remind the public, 'Oh, she's not married to him, and he doesn't have kids with him,'" Rosewarne said. **AFP**

A ROMANTIC CARRIAGE RIDE



Philippe Delon (left), owner of Paris Carriages, Horse Walking Service, next to a groom, drives a pumpkin-shaped carriage drawn by Balthazar, an 11-year-old shire horse from Sweden, the world's biggest workhorse, past the Eiffel tower on August 31 in Paris. The wrought iron made carriage, weighing 500 kilos, and decorated with little hearts, offers rides to tourists and newlyweds.

WikiLeaks founder rape probe reopened: Sweden

Stockholm, September 1

Sweden's director of public prosecutions said on Wednesday she would reopen a rape investigation against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, overturning a previous ruling to quash the probe.

"There is reason to believe that a crime has been com-

mitted. Considering information available at present, my judgement is that the classification of the crime is rape," the prosecutions official Marianne Ny said in a statement.

A Swedish duty prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for Julian Assange on August 20 over rape allegations. But chief prosecutor Eva Finne

abruptly withdrew it the next day, saying new information had come to light.

Then last week Finne said there was no reason to believe a crime had been committed, adding however that she had enough evidence to keep looking into a molestation allegation from another woman against Assange. Ny overturned Finne's decision

concerning the rape claim, and also said the investigation into the molestation claim would be extended.

Ny said she could give no further details concerning the investigation.

Assange, a 39-year-old Australian, has called the allegations part of a smear campaign aimed at discrediting his website WikiLeaks. **AFP**

Landlocked Serbia plays nature card to woo tourists

Cerevic, September 1

A little over two years ago Ljuba Simic packed in his job driving trucks for a local cement factory for a new life — as a pioneer of rural tourism in Serbia's lush Fruska Gora region.

"I told myself it would be good to profit from what we have: the Danube river, the Fruska Gora hills and their pristine nature," the dynamic 51-year old told AFP.

Together with a business partner he turned a traditional Vojvodina farmhouse into a rural inn in the picturesque village of Cerevic, on the north side of Fruska Gora where the hills meet the banks.

With tourism heavyweights Croatia and Montenegro and their sun-kissed Adriatic coast just next door, landlocked Serbia is bidding to turn its vast, unspoiled countryside into an asset for green tourism.

The industry is still a fledgling: last year revenues from tourism made up barely 2.5 percent of Serbia's gross domestic product, according to the economy ministry.

But spurred on by the success of countries like Hungary, Bulgaria or Romania, Serbia has hopes for the sector, and its trade and tourism ministry aims to establish a viable market for nature tourism by 2015.

Guests staying at Simic's inn, which opened in 2008 with 40 beds, can go hiking, visit the area's famous Orthodox monasteries, take a boat trip on the river or relax with a drink in farmhouse gardens.

Octogenarian Ratko Tatolovic came to Cerevic to beat

the summer heat in Serbia's capital Belgrade.

"The beauty of our country deserves to be highlighted, and this kind of tourism is an excellent way to do it," he said.

Jagoda Jovicevic, of the government's tourism organisation TOS, says "the state is actively supporting the development of rural tourism and has been giving subsidies and loans with favourable conditions for four years now."

She says the country is managing to transform its lack of industrial development into an economic advantage.

"We are turning something around that used to be considered a failing,"

Simic is now one of around 4,000 people working in the growing sector, which so far counts 5,000 tourist beds.

The economic downturn gave rural tourism an added boost, since many young people were forced to move back from the big cities to their native villages — where tourism suddenly seemed a way out, Jovicevic said.

"They used what they had at their disposal. The houses — which do often have to be refurbished — and the untouched natural beauty that surrounds them," she said.

In Indjija, a town some 40 kilometres outside Belgrade, the transformation kicked off almost a decade ago, after many people got laid off in the big cities in the 1990s and returned home.

A handful of the returnees saw the potential of the town, close to the capital and the Fruska Gora park, and turned a dozen of old farms known as

Salasi into restaurants and guest housing, making the town and its surroundings a popular weekend outing from Belgrade.

Serbia also has something of an image problem. Despite the fact most of it was untouched by the 1990s wars, many foreigners still have images of the 1999 NATO bombing campaign against Serbia in mind when they think of the country.

In addition, economic development was stunted by years of sanctions over Belgrade's key role in backing Serb fighters in the bloody wars in Bosnia and Croatia — sanctions that were only lifted after the fall of strongman Slobodan Milosevic in 2000.

But Serbia is determined to market itself as a hub for southeastern Europe, boasting untamed nature and famed Balkans hospitality. Its latest tourism slogan is "Life in the rhythm of the heartbeat".

While Serbia's neighbours across the Western Balkans share the same natural beauty, few have yet tapped their potential for rural tourism, with the sector only just emerging in Bosnia or Macedonia.

In Croatia, despite the highly developed tourism industry on the Adriatic coast, tourist nights spent in rural hotels and bed and breakfasts make up only one percent of the total in the country.

Montenegro's tourist industry has also sprung up on its coast, with rural activities such as rafting, hiking or fishing in the mountainous north making up only three percent of all tourism revenues. **AFP**

WORLD DIGEST



Elementary school children wear fire proof hoods before they being evacuate from their classroom as part of a nationwide earthquake drill at a Tokyo elementary school on Wednesday. People across Japan took part in the disaster drill to prepare for a major earthquake, on the anniversary of the massive 1923 earthquake which killed 140,000 people in Tokyo.

India: President visits flood-affected Leh

JAMMU: President Pratibha Patil on Wednesday arrived in the flood-ravaged Leh town of Jammu and Kashmir to review and assess the rescue and relief operations there. Patil, who was received at the Leh airport by Governor N.N. Vohra and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was briefed by the Indian Army and Air Force officers on the operations under way. She lauded the efforts of the security forces and told the locals that the whole nation was with them. PM Manmohan Singh had earlier announced a grant of Rs.125 crore during his visit to Leh on August 17. He had also announced Rs.100,000 ex-gratia relief for the next of kin of those who died in the calamity and Rs.50,000 each to those injured. At least 183 people, including 35 army men, were killed and 200 people are still missing. IANS

South Korea's prez to visit Russia

SEOUL: South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak will visit Russia next week to meet his counterpart Dmitry Medvedev and discuss economic and energy cooperation, the presidential office said on Wednesday. Lee will visit the country from September 9 to 10 to attend a policy forum in Yaroslavl, 250 km northeast of Moscow, and hold a summit with Medvedev, his office said in a statement. The summit in Yaroslavl on September 10 will be the fourth meeting between the two leaders, who will also mark the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between their countries. They will discuss strengthening cooperation in areas including the development of Siberia and its energy resources, Russia's economic modernisation and the G20 summit to be held in Seoul in November. AFP

Hindus in B'desh observe Janmashtami

DHAKA: Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, is being celebrated on Wednesday across Muslim-majority Bangladesh. The day's programmes include worship of Lord Krishna, puja, Gita Jagna, kirtan and peace processions, Star Online, the website of *The Daily Star* reported on Wednesday. The day is a public holiday in the country. President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have greeted the minority Hindu community on the occasion. Home Minister Sahara Khatun had earlier requested the Hindus to complete their festivities peacefully by 5 p.m., in time for the breaking of fast by the Muslims, a statement that had been criticised by the media as "discriminatory". IANS

Indonesian police kill five people in riot

PALU: Indonesian police opened fire and killed five people when an angry mob attacked their station with fire-bombs in a protest over the death of a man in custody, police said on Wednesday. More than 20 including several police were injured during the violent clash late Tuesday in the town of Buol, Central Sulawesi province, local deputy police chief Dewa Parsana said. "A big number of residents encircled the police station and threw Molotov bombs," he said. AFP

China intensifies military build-up against Taiwan

Taipei, September 1
China is ramping-up its military presence facing Taiwan despite the easing of hostilities across the Strait, a defence ministry report cited by local media warned on Wednesday.

"Although the cross-Strait ties have improved significantly in recent years, the Chinese communists' military have not slowed at all their pace of build-up aimed at Taiwan," the *United Daily News* said, citing the ministry report.

In a report to the United States Congress last month, the Pentagon also warned that China's military build-up against the island has "continued unabated" despite improving political relations across the Taiwan Strait.

China's military spending for 2010 rose 7.5 percent on last year, in spite of the global economic downturn, said the Taiwan report which was sent to parliament last week.

Looking ahead, the defence report said Beijing may offer concessions to Taipei on minor issues but will not budge on the decades-old dispute over the island's sovereignty.

Ties between Taiwan and the mainland have improved markedly since 2008 when Ma Ying-jeou of the Beijing-friendly Kuomintang party

The People's Liberation Army may attack the island 'should the military tip the balance seriously towards Beijing.'

came to power. But despite the fast warming ties, Beijing still refuses to renounce the use of force against the island, saying it was aimed at preventing the independence movement gathering ground on the island.

The People's Liberation Army may also attack the island "should the military tip the balance seriously towards Beijing," the defence report was quoted as saying.

It also cautioned of the likelihood of Chinese military action should Taipei push for a referendum on independence, or if it amends the constitution in favour of independence.

Last month's Pentagon report said China is investing in nuclear weapons, long-range missiles, submarines, aircraft carriers and cyber warfare.

"The balance of cross-Strait military forces continues to shift in the mainland's favor,"

the report said. Beijing still considers Taiwan part of its territory awaiting reunification — by force if necessary — even though the island has ruled itself since 1949 at the end of a civil war.

The relations between mainland China and Taiwan have been characterised by limited contact, tensions, and instability. In the early years, military conflicts continued, while diplomatically both governments competed to be the legitimate government of all China.

More recently, the legal and political status of Taiwan have become more controversial, with the expression of Taiwan independence sentiments in Taiwan which were formerly outlawed.

At the same time, there has been increasing non-governmental and semi-governmental exchanges between the two sides.

From 2008, negotiations began to restore the "three links" (transportation, commerce, and communications) between the two sides, cut off since 1949.

Party-to-party talks between the CPC and the KMT have resumed and semi-official negotiations through organizations representing the interests of their respective governments are being scheduled. AFP

Hebron sealed off after deadly attack

Hebron, September 1

Israeli forces on Wednesday sealed off parts of the West Bank while Palestinian security officials said they arrested about 50 people after four settlers were gunned down just ahead of Middle East peace talks.

And furious settlers vowed to flout a moratorium on settlement construction in protest against the attack as tensions rose ahead of a Washington summit hosted by US President Barack Obama to relaunch talks last suspended in 2008.

Israeli soldiers carried out house-to-house searches in villages in the Hebron area, near the Kiryat Arba settlement where the two couples, including a pregnant woman, were killed on Tuesday. Access routes to the city of Hebron were closed by military roadblocks.

Military Chief of Staff Lt General Gabi Ashkenazi and other generals were at the scene where they conducted "operational and intelligence situation assessments," the military said.

Palestinian forces for their part arrested about 50 people during the night, a security official said. He said the suspects were supporters of Hamas, the Islamist movement that claimed responsibility for



Jewish settlers stop at an Israeli army roadblock that leads to the West Bank village of Bani Naim, near Hebron on August 31 after four Israelis were shot dead.

the attack.

The victims of the shooting were identified as Yizhak and Talia Aimes, aged 45 and 47 respectively, Avishai Shindler, 24, and Kochba Even-Chaim, 37, and were to be settlers from the area.

The attack was claimed by the Ezzedine al-Qassam

Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas which is vehemently opposed to the talks that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas are to relaunch in Washington on Thursday.

Netanyahu expressed outrage at the attack. AFP

US lays ground for N Korea talks

Washington, September 1

After months of rising tension, the US is gingerly exploring how to launch talks with North Korea without loosening the screws on the isolated state, experts say.

President Barack Obama has made dialogue a hallmark of his foreign policy, extending a hand to regimes no matter how odious in US eyes. A major exception was North Korea, which since Obama took office has tested a nuclear bomb and allegedly torpedoed a ship in the deadliest inter-Korean incident in decades.

The United States has kept up the pressure, on Monday slapping sanctions against North Korean entities including its military

intelligence bureau. But a growing number of US officials and analysts, even hawks, say talks have been moribund for too long.

"If you're whacking one end of the donkey with a stick, it's good periodically to check on the other end to see if the donkey has changed its behavior," said Bruce Klingner of the Heritage Foundation.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday conferred with former president Carter, who visited North Korea last week to secure the release of an American teacher.

Top negotiators from China and South Korea are also visiting Washington this week to meet with senior US officials. North Korea's Kim Jong-Il just paid a five-day visit to China, his regime's main supporter. AFP

Indian wins US science journalism award

Washington, September 1

India's Pallava Bagla has won the American Geophysical Union (AGU) David Perlmutter Award for Excellence in Science Journalism for his articles on the impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers.

The Perlmutter Award of AGU, the largest organisation of earth and space scientists with more than 58,000 members worldwide, recognises work published with deadline pressure of one week or less.

Announcing the award for Bagla, NDTV's science editor, AGU's Perlmutter Award selection committee applauded "Bagla's articles for addressing 'a very serious issue in the earth sciences'".

"His articles serve as a reminder to journalists to question sources, to think harder about the agendas and ideas of those people about whom they are reporting, and to stop the steamroller of opinions or ideas when the facts just don't back them up."

"Although Bagla's articles reveal embarrassing foibles of scientists, ultimately they also illustrate science's ability to self-correct," it said.

The first of his two articles "No Sign of Himalayan Melt Down, Indian Report Finds", published in the journal *Science*, explores dissent among glaciologists regarding the claim by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

that Himalayan glaciers would imminently disappear.

The second article, "Himalayan Glacier Deadline 'Wrong'", published by BBC News, reports on an apparent typographical error in the IPCC claim which appears to explain the panel's controversial, 300-year acceleration of when Himalayan glaciers are expected to vanish.

Bagla is also an author. His latest book is *Destination Moon: India's Quest for Moon, Mars and Beyond*. He also freelances stories to BBC and other media outlets, and contributes photographs to Corbis images. IANS

Bhopal victims 'delighted' over apex court sentence review

New Delhi, September 1

Campaign groups working for survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster on Wednesday welcomed a decision by India's Supreme Court to look into handing harsher sentences to seven men convicted for the tragedy.

"We are delighted and the possibility of the Indian accused going to

jail for 10 years is much more real now," said Satinath Sarangi from the Bhopal Group for Information and Action, an umbrella group for five organisations.

"It's a great step in righting many of the wrongs that have been committed by the Supreme Court," he told AFP.

In June a court in Bhopal, central India, convicted seven executives

from the company that operated the pesticide plant at the centre of the disaster, handing them modest, two-year jail terms that caused national outrage.

In 1996, the Supreme Court reduced the charges against the men to negligence, rather than the more serious crime of culpable homicide which carries a maximum 10-year jail term.

This ruling is now to be reviewed after a request from the central government to reopen the case following anger that managers accused of ignoring safety warnings escaped more serious punishment.

The Bhopal accident, blamed on Union Carbide, a US chemical group that ran the plant, was the world's worst industrial accident. Thousands were killed instantly

when gas escaped into a nearby residential area and tens of thousands more died from the lingering effects over the following years.

Abdul Jabbar, from the campaign group Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan (Organisation for the Uplift of Bhopal Gas Women Victims), said he feared that the wheels of justice would still turn slowly. AFP

Kan fails to stop Japan leadership battle

Tokyo, September 1

Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan and his rival, powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa, kicked off a leadership battle on Wednesday that threatens to divide the ruling party only a year after it took power.

Their contest to run the governing centre-left Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) comes as its economic recovery is slowing, Japan's debt is growing and exports are threatened by the yen trading near a 15-year high.

The rivals, who both formally declared their candidacy for the September 14 party election, represent the two different wings of the party which a year ago ousted the conservatives after more than half a century in power.

Ozawa, 68, is a veteran powerbroker who years ago defected from the conservative Liberal Democrats and has earned nicknames like "Shadow Shogun" and the "Destroyer" for his record of creating and splitting minor

parties. If Ozawa wins, he will become the nation's sixth premier in four years.

Kan, 63, started his political life as a left-wing grassroots activist and shot to fame when, during a brief stint as health minister, he uncovered official culpability in a HIV-tainted blood scandal.

Both were key figures in the DPJ when it took power in a landmark election on August 30 last year, but they split following the resignation of the DPJ's first premier Yukio Hatoyama in June, when Kan took over the post.

Kan, on assuming power, snubbed and sidelined Ozawa, who in turn attacked Kan for presiding over a major defeat in upper house elections in July, blaming him because he had mentioned the prospect of tax hikes.

Although Ozawa is unpopular with voters because of funding scandals, in which he denies any wrongdoing, he controls the biggest faction within the DPJ, with about 150 out of 412 lawmakers. AFP

KEEPING AN EYE ON FUTURE ERUPTIONS



A geologist prepares his instruments to monitor the eruption of Mount Sinabung at their base in Surbakti village, Tanah Karo in North Sumatra on Wednesday. Thousands of Indonesians will spend their fourth day in evacuation centers as the volcano threatened a devastating eruption on Sumatra island, officials said. The mountain erupted for the first time in 400 years on August 29.

Myanmar's cyber generation boots up for first-time vote

Yangon, September 1

One of Myanmar's self-described "pioneer bloggers" proudly opens his popular website — officially banned by the military rulers — and scrolls to his updates on the approaching election.

Tin San has been carefully researching the candidates running in Myanmar's first polls in two decades, and for his next post he is busy reading up on the electoral regulations.

"Most people in Myanmar are not familiar with voting. We need to have resources and information to vote how we like," says the 30-year-old. Like all those in the country aged under 38, he has never voted before. The November 7 election has been widely criticised

by activists and the West as a sham orchestrated by the ruling generals to shore up their rule. Some favour a boycott by voters, many of whom are disillusioned with the process.

But Tin San, whose name AFP has changed for his protection, is among a group of optimists who advocate participation and online debate of the polls, despite some of the world's most repressive Internet controls. "I have quite a lot of influence on my readers so I want them just to think about the information," he says.

"As far as I know, most young people are not interested in the election, even though they want change. But this is the beginning of change — it's a stepping stone."

Judging by the busy cyber cafes across the main city Yangon, the

web offers a way to tap the city's youth, despite slow connections, frequent power cuts and huge risks over online activity that the regime deems subversive.

Google users look up South Korean celebrities — in line with current Asia-wide craze — while other cafe-goers read world news stories on the BBC website. Several are chattering on Google or Facebook.

Staff are quick to help clients find proxy servers to bypass blocks on certain websites, even though they are forbidden to do so on threat of closure, according to media watchdog Reporters Without Borders. The rights group describes Myanmar's legislation on Internet use, the Electronic Act, as "one of the most liberticidal laws in the world", with dissident netizens

facing lengthy prison terms.

Tin San, who has about 2,000 Facebook friends and thousands more blog followers, says he holds informal gatherings across Yangon to discuss the Internet's uses — and how to dodge the junta's restrictions.

During the "Saffron Revolution" monk-led protests in 2007, Myanmar's citizens used the web to leak extensive accounts and video to the outside world, sparking a total Internet ban by the regime.

Connections have also been slowed down on politically significant dates such as August 8, the anniversary of a mass political uprising in 1988. "I think the government is quite afraid of blogs and bloggers," says Tin San, one of nearly 1,500 members of the online

Myanmar Blogger Society.

Controls are expected to be tightened again during the election, but for now many are fearlessly talking politics online while they still can.

"I receive 10 to 20 emails from my friends each day about the things the government does in Myanmar," says 28-year-old Win Oo, who lives in Yangon and whose name has also been changed.

He says a friend recently sent him a cartoon of the junta chief Than Shwe looking like a clown. Prominent blogger Nay Phone Latt was jailed in 2008 for 20 years, later reduced to 12, for allegedly storing such an image on email, among other offences.

Yet few political parties have taken their campaign online. Two

that have attempted it — the Myanmar Democracy Congress party and the Peace and Diversity Party — have had their websites banned. Even if their sites were allowed, the web's reach outside the major cities of Yangon and Mandalay is severely limited.

Just one in every 455 of Myanmar's inhabitants were Internet users in 2009, based on statistics from the International Telecommunication Union, a UN agency in Geneva. About two thirds of the population, estimated at about 50 million, live in the countryside and have limited access to information about the election.

Web-savvy city dwellers still hope their online activity, however restricted, will help to spread political awareness in the country. AFP



BIZDIGEST



A private condominium under construction near the bay in Singapore on Tuesday.

Burger King in talks for possible sale

NEW YORK: Burger King, the second-largest US hamburger chain, is in talks with private-equity firms for a potential sale, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday. Among the interested firms is Britain's 3i Group PLC, the Journal said, noting that the talks had already lasted several weeks and that their status was unclear. Citing sources familiar with the matter, it noted that it was uncertain that the discussions would result in a sale. Although it has been a public company since 2006, Burger King has already been through several buyout firms. Faring worse than its bigger rival McDonald's in the wake of the financial crisis, Burger King last week reported a drop of 2.3 per cent in its global sales for its 2010 fiscal year, compared to a 1.2 per cent gain during the same period last year. It also posted a 3.9 per cent decrease in US and Canada sales, compared to an 0.4 per cent increase in the same period last year. "In fiscal year 2010, we faced sustained levels of high unemployment and a fragile global economy that combined made this one of the toughest operating environments in recent history. AFP

BP sells Malaysian assets to Petronas

LONDON: British oil giant BP has agreed to sell some of its Malaysian assets to local state energy firm Petronas for \$363 million, the group announced on Wednesday. "BP today announced that it has agreed to sell its interests in ethylene and polyethylene production in Malaysia to Petronas," the London-listed company said in a statement. "The agreement concerns BP's 15 per cent interest in Ethylene Malaysia and 60 per cent interest in Polyethylene Malaysia." Both production facilities are operated by Petronas, and are located at Kertih on the eastern coast of Malaysia. The deal is expected to be completed by the end of the year, subject to certain conditions, and does not affect BP's other businesses in the Asian nation. BP is seeking to sell off up to \$30 billion of assets over the next 18 months as it faces spiralling costs from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster. AFP

Vivendi reports 6.6 per cent rise in profits

PARIS: French media and telecom group Vivendi reported a 6.6 per cent rise in net profits to 1.26 billion euros for the first half of the year. The firm, which has interests in television, telecommunications and music, said its sales were up by 6.1 per cent to 13.9 billion euros. It also raised its revenue outlook for the year. "Vivendi is back to growth in the first half and improves its full year outlook," Vivendi chief executive Jean-Bernard Levy said. It saw its net earnings slide 68.1 per cent last year. Ex-Vivendi boss Jean-Marie Messier is currently on trial in Paris for fraud. Messier is accused of misleading the stock market, manipulating share prices and misusing corporate funds in the 2000-2002 period when Vivendi, previously a sleepy French water utility, went on a massive takeover spree. AFP

Sub-Saharan Africa second in poverty

Independent News Service Kathmandu, September 1

Among the 104 countries whose data has been analysed, the five nations of South Asia is the home of half the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) poor people at 51 per cent, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Whereas Arab States and Central and Eastern Europe compose only two per cent and one per cent of MPI poor population, respectively," the new index to gauge poverty developed by Oxford University shows.

According to MPI mea-

surement, 1.7 billion people are living under multidimensional poverty which is greater than World Bank's measure of extreme income poverty that states that 1.3 billion people of the world are living below the daily income of \$1.25.

"MPI is supposed to give a vivid multidimensional picture of people living in poverty as this delves deep into other factors besides income and consumption pattern to measure poverty," said Dr Sabina Alkire, director of Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, Oxford University.

MPI is supposed to give a vivid multidimensional picture of people living in poverty as this delves deep into other factors besides income and consumption pattern to measure poverty

"It measures the condition of people with respect to a range of deprivations that afflict a person's life at the same time," she said adding that the measure assesses the nature and intensity of poverty at the individual level in education, health outcomes, and standard of living. "Since this method stud-

ies acute poverty, this is more applicable to find the nature of poverty of least developed countries (LDCs).

MPI assesses the nature and intensity of poverty at the individual level. According to this measure, poor people are those who are multiply deprived and extent of their poverty depends on

the extent of deprivations. MPI can be used to identify the most vulnerable people and they can be helped by the national policies.

Thus, this will help policy makers to target resources and design policies more effectively. The MPI measures poverty using 10 key indicators based on three dimensions — health, education and standard of living.

The ten indicators directly measures deprivations in health and educational outcomes as well as key services such as water, sanitation, and electricity reveal not only how many people are

poor but also the composition of their poverty. Among these indicators eight are related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), thus MPI also demonstrates the direction the countries are taking in the matter of attaining MDGs.

MPI is a new international measure of poverty developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) to mark United Nations Development Programme's 20th Anniversary edition of Human Development Report. The report's full version will be released on November this year.

Russia partially lifts grain export ban

Moscow, September 1

Russia has partially lifted the temporary embargo on grain exports introduced last month, allowing the resumption of exports in special cases like humanitarian aid, the government said on Wednesday.

The ban will not affect exports needed to fulfil a number of Russia's international agreements, including grain products for humanitarian aid, according to a government decree published on Wednesday.

A record drought has destroyed a quarter of Russia's harvest this summer and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin signed a decree in early August introducing a ban on grain exports from August 15 to December 31. Putin later indicated the government may even extend the embargo beyond that date.

Last year, Russia exported 21.4 million tonnes of grain and observers had already warned that could be sharply lower this year owing to the drought.

Putin had signed a decree imposing the ban which also stated that Russia would ask fellow members of a regional customs union — Belarus and Kazakhstan — to make a similar move. Kazakhstan is also a major world grain exporter.

The severity of the drought has seen states of emergency declared in 27 regions and dealt a major blow to Russia's ambitions of ramping up its global market share over next years. It had been aiming to more than double exports to 40-50 million tonnes a year by increasing supplies to grain-hungry consumers like Egypt. AFP

ADB to issue first clean energy bond

Independent News Service Port Louis, September 1

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to issue its inaugural Clean Energy Bond to support its clean energy projects in Asia and the Pacific. The Clean Energy Bond is expected to have four tranches, one each denominated in Australian dollars and Turkish lira and two tranches in Brazilian real. It will carry tenors of between four and seven years and will be issued in September.

ADB will provide assistance to clean energy projects in an amount at least equal to the amount raised by the Clean Energy Bond. The issuance, targeted at Japanese retail investors, will be arranged through HSBC Securities (Japan) Ltd and will be distributed nationwide by more than 20 securities firms.

The planned bond issue follows the successful sale in April of ADB's inaugural WaterBond, which is supporting the ADB's work in the water sector in Asia and the Pacific. Rapid economic expansion in the region has put immense pressure on resources and the environment.

The use of coal and oil and other carbon-based fossil resources to meet the region's growing energy needs has added to the release of greenhouse gases that contribute to the global climate change.

At the same time, insufficient energy investment is preventing many developing countries and individuals from reaching their full potential.

A quarter of the population

of Asia and the Pacific — or more than 800 million people — still have no access to basic electricity services, while some 1.8 billion people continue to rely on traditional biomass fuels for cooking and heating.

"Clean energy is a crucial element in the fight against poverty in Asia and the Pacific. To put the region on a path to sustainable and inclusive economic growth, we are committed to supporting clean energy projects in the region that avoid harming people or the environment," ADB President

Haruhiko Kuroda said.

Between 2005 and 2009, ADB's total clean energy investments exceeded \$5 billion. Additionally, the ADB is targeting \$2 billion a year in clean

energy investments by 2013 focusing on renewable energy projects such as biomass, wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal as well as on energy efficiency projects in industrial, commercial and residential sectors.

Through its clean energy programme, ADB intends to help the region meet its energy security needs, facilitate a shift to a low-carbon economy, and ensure everyone in the region has access to energy.

ADB is dedicated for reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

In 2009, ADB approved \$16.1 billion in financing operations through loans, grants, guarantees, equity investments, and technical assistance projects.

The use of coal and oil and other carbon-based fossil resources to meet the region's growing energy needs has added to the release of greenhouse gases

KABUL BANK DENIES CHARGES



Pedestrians walk past the Kabul Bank in Kabul on Wednesday. Afghanistan's central bank governor said that the country's biggest bank, Kabul Bank was in no danger of collapse.

Chinese manufacturing strongly rebounds in August

Beijing, September 1

Manufacturing in China rebounded in August, surveys showed on Wednesday, easing concerns the economy was heading for a sharp slowdown in the second half of 2010.

The turnaround was underpinned by domestic orders, but analysts warned that demand in the United States and Europe — major buyers of Chinese-made shoes, electronic gadgets and clothes — would weaken in the coming months.

The HSBC China Manufacturing PMI, or purchasing managers index, rose to a three-month high of 51.9 last month from 49.4 in July.

A separate survey published by a government agency — the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) — showed manufactur-

ing activity reached 51.7 last month compared with 51.2 in July.

A reading above 50 means the sector is expanding, while below 50 indicates a decline.

"This (data) reconfirmed our long-held view that China is moderating rather than melting down," said Qu Hongbin, chief economist at HSBC in Hong Kong.

"Domestic demand will be resilient to uphold around nine per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the second half and 2011, while export demand is more likely to turn worse in the coming months." The Shanghai Composite Index, which covers A and B shares, rose 0.74 pct to 2,658.36 on the back of the data, dealers said.

Government analyst Zhang Liqun said the moderate rebound in manu-

facturing suggested there would not be a "big correction in the Chinese economy". China's economy slowed in the second quarter, growing by 10.3 per cent compared with a blistering 11.9 per cent in the first three months as efforts to rein in soaring property prices started to bite.

Strong domestic orders saw the level of new business taken on by Chinese manufacturers rise moderately in August, following two successive months of contraction, Qu said. "The overall rise in new work centred on the domestic market, with new export business falling slightly for a third month in succession," Qu said.

"Those respondents that reported a drop in foreign order levels generally attributed this to softer demand from external markets."

Analysts warned the manufacturing sector would face weaker demand in major export markets in the second half as the US struggles to recover from the global recession and Europe deals with its debt crisis.

"It is not time to open the champagne just yet," said Brian Jackson, a Hong Kong-based senior emerging markets strategist at Royal Bank of Canada, referring to the rebound in manufacturing activity.

"We expect China will have a relatively moderate slowdown over the second half, but weaker external demand from the US and Europe still represent a significant downside risk in coming months." HSBC's results are based on interviews with purchasing managers at more than 400 companies, while the CFLP survey covers more than 700 firms. AFP

Zimbabwe firm for diamond cutting centre

Mount Hampden, September 1

A diamond firm operating from Zimbabwe's Marange diamond fields has begun constructing a multi-million dollar cutting and polishing centre in the country, officials said on Wednesday.

The Zimbabwe Diamond Technology Centre, which is being constructed by Canadile miners, one of the three firms operating in Marange, is set to become operational within six months.

Faber Chidarikire, governor for Mashonaland West province said the diamond industry was set to revive the country's economic woes.

"The ailing country's economy shall be revived through the pro-

ceeds, marketing rates, making life easy for the minister of finance (Tendai Biti)," Chidarikire said.

Early this month, Zimbabwe resumed trading of Marange diamond sales since international regulators partially lifted a ban imposed after the military seized control of the mines. The sale generated about \$30 million, according to government figures.

Upon completion, the centre is expected to create 7,000 jobs.

Cougan Matanhire, chairman of Canadile miners said the centre would funnel all the rough diamond streams of Zimbabwe into one professional and high security area.

"This is the centre where we will transform rough diamonds into pol-

ished diamonds," Matanhire told delegates who attended the launch.

A Belgian, diamond expert, Filip Van Laere said Marange fields could produce 40 million carats annually.

Once fully completed, the \$20 million centre will have among other things banks, a diamond college and insurance firms.

In January, diamond watchdog Kimberley Process halted the sale of stones from Zimbabwe's eastern Marange diamond fields after documenting military abuses against civilians.

The Zimbabwean government reacted by imposing a blanket ban on the export of diamonds until the Kimberley Process gave its Marange diamonds a clean bill of health. AFP

Online learning website to fly high on wings of 'angels'

San Francisco, September 1

A startup intent on making it simple for anyone to teach online has received a million dollars in funding from "angels," technology industry successes backing peers with good ideas. Udey.com will use the cash to hire workers and ramp-up operations, co-founder Gagan Biyani said in making the announcement.

"We want to essentially democratise education so that anyone can teach over the Internet," Biyani said. "We make it really easy for anyone to develop an online course."

Biyani and the two other co-founders have been the entire workforce since Udey was launched in May in the northern California city of Palo Alto.

Most courses listed at Udey on Tuesday were free to students. Topics ranged from how to start a business or use computer software tools to winning at poker or picking up women.

The course list included an online class by high-level Google executive Marissa Mayer titled "Ideas come from everywhere."

The financing won by Udey is an example of how angel investors in the form of technology successes are stepping in to back people with cool new ideas

More than a thousand instructors have created courses at Udey, with a host of offerings coming from prestigious US universities including Stanford, Yale, and MIT. Biyani said that he and fellow founders Eren Bali and Oktay Caglar began working on Udey about two years ago after meeting at Founder Institute, a training camp for entrepreneurs run by thefunded.com.

The financing won by Udey is a prime example of how angel investors in the form of technology successes are stepping in to back people with cool new ideas, according to Adeo Ressi of thefunded.com. He said that the amount of

money being invested by venture capital firms (VCs) has sunk while folks reaping rewards at hot companies such as Google, Facebook, or Zynga are putting newfound wealth into startups that they like.

"You have a decline in venture capital with a really aggressive surge in angel investing," Ressi said. "These angels are essentially coming to the rescue of new startups."

Venture capital dried up as the global economy melted down and the market made it daunting for young companies to go public with stock offerings when early investors are counting on big returns. "The VC industry is really hurting," said VentureBeat editor Matt Marshall, executive producer of a DEMO event considered a premier showcase for technology startups. "Angels are big."

Ressi declared 2010 the year of the angel investor, saying he hasn't seen this type of situation before in his more than 15 years as an entrepreneur. "Professionals who made money in technology are investing in new companies at an unprecedented pace," Ressi said. AFP



Two-speed eurozone a new test for the ECB

Frankfurt, September 1

The European Central Bank (ECB), which has become used to handling crises, must now draft a monetary policy for what is becoming a two-speed economic zone, economists say. "The good news is — the eurozone economy is still on a growth path. The bad news is — there is still a deep division between eurozone countries," Commerzbank analyst Christoph Weil said.

After ECB governors make their decision on interest rates on Thursday, president Jean-Claude Trichet is to unveil the latest forecasts by bank staff for eurozone growth and inflation.

"The ECB is universally expected to leave rates on hold," Bank of America Merrill Lynch analyst Silvia Ardagna noted. The 2010 growth rate will

surely be raised from an estimate in June of one per cent, however, while the outlook for 2011 is more uncertain.

Countries like Germany have rebounded from a deep recession last year but other countries on the 16-nation eurozone's periphery will struggle for months and possibly much longer to get growth back on track.

Commercial bank reliance on central bank funds meanwhile means the ECB's interest rate of one per cent will remain at its record low and that Trichet could announce an extension of offering unlimited loans for up to three months.

The ECB's headline rate compares with just 0.1 per cent at the Bank of Japan, while the Bank of England's benchmark rate is 0.50 per cent and the US Federal Reserve has kept its Fed

fund rate at virtually zero.

Fed chief Ben Bernanke said on Friday it will take even more aggressive steps to boost growth if the economic outlook "deteriorated significantly," but added that prospects for a US growth pick up in 2011 appeared to "remain in place."

The eurozone economic backdrop is pretty good in contrast, with overall growth of 1.0 per cent in the second quarter and inflation at a tame 1.7 per cent in July, although unemployment remains stuck at 10 per cent.

Business activity varies widely across the zone however, expanding by a quarterly record of 2.2 per cent in Germany but contracting by 1.5 per cent in Greece, according to the EU statistics office Eurostat.

Major European economies like France, Italy and Spain

MANUFACTURING RECOVERY DROPS

BRUSSELS: The recovery in private sector manufacturing across the 16-nation eurozone hit a six-month low in August with a deepened downturn in Greece, according to final data from research group Markit on Wednesday. The manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) for the 16 countries that share the single currency slowed to 55.1, with "moderated" growth both in output and new orders. Germany and France again posted "strong growth," but while job creation also kept pace, the im-

provements were "still centred on Germany, the Netherlands and Austria," survey results showed on Wednesday. The index was down from 56.7 in July, although above an earlier estimate of 55. The report added, however, that the "rate of expansion remained robust and faster than the survey average." Recovery was "comparatively modest" in Italy, Spain and the Netherlands, and "Greece remained firmly in the grips of a deep downturn," said Rob Dobson, senior Markit economist. **AFP**

posted modest growth rates that ranged from 0.6 to 0.2 per cent, and the region could face stronger headwinds later

this year. "Calibrating the core monetary policy won't be easy if core eurozone enjoys robust

growth while the periphery suffers from continued economic weakness and from periodic bouts of tensions in the financial sector and sovereign bond markets," UniCredit chief economist Marco Annunziata said.

ECB governing council member Axel Weber, a leading candidate to replace Trichet as president next year, has said that while it was crucial to normalise monetary policy, which would mean withdrawing exceptional credit support measures, that discussion would probably take place only early next year.

Commercial banks in eurozone, especially those who now rely on the European Central Bank for access to wholesale funding, will face a crunch time in late December when they close out their books for 2010.

Meanwhile, renewed tension on sovereign debt markets is a reminder that a weaker global economic climate could raise pressure on the eurozone countries with excessive deficits.

Ireland, which many including Trichet praised for tough austerity measures aimed at getting to grips with shaky finances, had its sovereign debt rating downgraded last month by Standard and Poor's.

Standard and Poor warned it could cut the rating further should the fiscal costs of supporting the debt-laden country's banking sector rise further.

"While inflation should not be a worry for the ECB at the current juncture, the still fragile state of the financial system apparently is," ING senior economist Carsten Brzeski commented. **AFP**

US economy adds fewer jobs than expected

Washington, September 1

The United States private sector employment dropped in August for the first time in seven months, signalling a weakening US economic recovery, payrolls firm ADP said on Wednesday.

Some 10,000 private-sector jobs were added last month following a revised July increase of 37,000 jobs, ADP said in a report. The August figure was less than the 13,000 expected by most economists.

"The decline in private employment in August confirms a pause in the recovery already evident in other economic data," ADP said.

"The deceleration in employment was evident in the major sectors and by size of business." The August employment decline followed six monthly increases from February through July.

In addition, over those six months, the average monthly gain in employment was 37,000 with no evidence of acceleration, ADP said.

Meanwhile, the US economy lost 131,000 jobs in July, considerably more than most economists had predicted. Companies added 71,000 positions, but the government laid off 143,000 census workers, contributing to the net loss.

Manufacturers added 36,000 jobs in July, but much of the gain was due to fewer than normal seasonal layoffs in the auto industry.

Professional and business services lost 13,000 jobs; financial services cut 17,000 employees; and the number of jobs in construction fell by 11,000 (on top of a 21,000 job loss in June). The unemployment rate for black workers stood at 15.6 per cent in July, and 12.1 per cent for Latinos. **AFP**

Iraq pullout unlikely to push down war spending

Washington, September 1

Battered by a savage economic recession, many Americans — not just supporters of President Barack Obama — hope his decision to end combat operations in Iraq will also end the vast economic cost of the war.

The world's superpower could do with the respite: thanks in part to Operation Iraqi Freedom, US debt stands at an all-time high of \$13 trillion. But affixing a firm price tag has become notoriously difficult and partisan.

For much of the last seven years the actual cost of the Iraq conflict has been as fiercely contested as the ethics of going to war in the first place.

At the outset of the war Donald Rumsfeld said the operation would cost in the region of \$50 billion, with the then defense secretary dismissing higher estimates as "baloney."

Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz later estimated the true cost would be more like \$3 trillion, including the costs of everything from caring for casualties to rising oil prices. The Congressional Research Service has identified \$747.3 billion that have already been allocated to pay for the war. Whatever the actual number, Obama's statement on Tuesday is unlikely to herald an end to US spending in Iraq.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, rapidly reducing troop numbers in Iraq to 50,000 would save just \$67 billion in the next two years, less than a third of the estimated cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. After nearly a decade, US military spending to upgrade and replace "stressed" equipment, provide force protection and fund defense health programmes, have all rapidly outpaced the cost of increased troop deployments.

And as war in Afghanistan rages on, US treasure could well be redirected from one theater to another.

The Congressional Research Office (CRO) has estimated that war costs could reach anywhere between \$274 billion and \$588 billion over the next 10 years, pushing the total cost of both wars to \$1.56 trillion to \$1.88 trillion. **AFP**

Australia clocks fastest growth

Sydney, September 1

Australia's economy surged by 1.2 per cent in the three months to June, the biggest jump in three years, official figures showed on Wednesday, sending share prices and the local dollar sharply higher.

Annual growth clocked 3.3 per cent, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said, smashing analyst forecasts of a 2.8 per cent rise over the year and 0.9 per cent from the March quarter.

"Without a doubt, Australia currently has one of the strongest economies in the advanced world," Commonwealth Securities chief economist Craig James said.

The fastest increase since 2007 came mainly from construction and scientific and technical services, as well as mining, easing concerns over a "two-speed" economy where the roaring resources industry leaves other sectors behind.

"This was a very strong fig-

The fastest increase came from construction and scientific and technical services, as well as mining, easing concerns over a 'two-speed' economy

ure in just about all aspects. Economy is looking less two-speedish by the day — more one speed, and that speed is fast," said Stephen Roberts, chief economist at Nomura.

The benchmark S&P/ASX 200 rose by 1.67 per cent to 4,477.9 points on the news, after hitting a 10-day high of 4,479.9, while the Australian dollar was at 89.69 US cents, up three-quarters of a US cent.

Analysts said the figures also raised the prospect of renewed interest rate rises after the Re-

serve Bank put an aggressive series of hikes on hold in June, with the official cash rate at 4.50 per cent. "On the back of this gross domestic product (GDP) number, it certainly increases the likelihood" of a rise, said BNP economist Dominic Bryant, predicting an upward move by November.

Consumer spending rose by 1.6 per cent, surprising analysts who expected a smaller rise with households affected by the interest rate rises, while exports were 5.6 per cent higher.

"These are an outstanding set of figures that all Australians can be proud of," said Treasurer Wayne Swan. "Prime ministers elsewhere would kill for a set of outcomes such as these," he added.

Australia's economy has been dubbed the "wonder from Down Under" after avoiding recession during the financial crisis and recovering strongly since, helped by booming resources exports to Asian countries such as China. **AFP**

N Korea forges trade documents to dodge against imposed sanctions

Seoul, September 1

North Korea is forging trade documents and changing names of its trading firms to try to dodge international sanctions, a Seoul intelligence official and a media report said on Wednesday.

Pyongyang changed the name of the Korea Mining and Development Corp to Kapmun Tosong Trade after the UN Security Council blacklisted the firm following the North's missile test in April 2009, *Dong-A Ilbo* newspaper reported.

The communist state also renamed weapons trader Tangu Trade as Chasong-dang Trade when the company was put on the sanctions list after the North's second nuclear test in May 2009.

The tests prompted the Security Council to impose tougher sanctions targeting Pyongyang's weapons exports and blacklisting companies suspected of such dealings.

The sanctions also called on UN member states to inspect ships and planes suspected of carrying banned cargo to or from the North.

Since then, the North has mostly used China to transport its arms exports, *Dong-A* said. It had forged trade invoices on military products, for instance by labelling torpedoes as fish processing equipment and anti-tank rockets as oil boring machinery, the paper added.

A spokesman for Seoul's National Intelligence Service confirmed the report but de-

clined to give details.

"Intelligence authorities in South Korea and the United States are trying to crack down on the North's forging of company names and export invoices, but it is becoming increasingly difficult since the North keeps coming up with new schemes," the paper quoted one South Korean official as saying.

The impoverished North faces multiple sanctions imposed by the UN and the United States and targeting its illegal trade in arms, drugs and luxury goods.

The US Treasury Department announced on Monday it was imposing sanctions on four people and eight organisations accused of aiding the communist government through illicit trade. **AFP**



A woman holding an umbrella walks past a new building in Shanghai on Wednesday. Key Asian economies fearing a US-style housing market bubble are taking fresh measures to curb runaway property prices as the region leads the global rebound from recession. **AFP**

Spain needs pain for better future: Zapatero

Tokyo, September 1

Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said on Wednesday his nation needed to accept temporary pain for a better economic future, but said Spanish workers were unwilling to be flexible.

"All countries make sacrifices today for a better tomorrow," he told a press conference in Tokyo when asked how he will sell unpopular reform policies to his country, which is mired in soaring unemployment. A general strike has been called for September 29 after his government said it would press ahead with labour market reforms that would make it easier to hire and fire workers.

"Even if a general strike takes place on September 29, I will continue dialogue with the labour union the following day," Zapatero said through an interpreter. The general strike will be Spain's first since 2002.

Zapatero, who became prime minister six years ago, noted work hours had been slashed in both Germany and Spain in the past but German unions had agreed to pay cuts.

"Spain was unable to achieve the flexible reform and change that were possible in Germany," he said. The International Monetary

Fund (IMF) and the government argue the reform would help reduce Spain's unemployment rate, which sits at around 20 per cent. They also point out that it would reduce government spending on jobless benefits. But unions object to seeing workers' rights weakened.

They are also unhappy with government plans to raise the retirement age to 67 from 65 and austerity measures that will cut civil servants' wages.

Zapatero, who is in Japan until Thursday to promote economic ties, said the Spanish economy was recovering from a severe recession faster than other European Union (EU) countries.

"We do not need assistance from the EU or IMF and we have never thought it will be necessary," he said. Given confidence in the Spanish banking system, he said there was no need to inject more public funds into banks.

All eight major Spanish banks, including Santander, the eurozone's biggest bank by market capitalisation, passed recent eurozone stress tests, as did 14 other regional savings banks, known as "cajas," that were analysed.

However, five regional banks failed the tests on weak core capital levels. **AFP**

German cabinet approves controversial 80 billion euro spending cuts

Berlin, September 1

Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet signed off Wednesday on a hefty austerity package that critics say will hit the poorest hardest and could endanger Germany and therefore Europe's economic recovery.

The 80 billion euros (\$102 billion) package of spending cuts over the period 2011 to 2014 include big cuts in unemployment and parental leave benefits, while ministers were told to tighten their belts across the board. In a poll by the television channel ARD when the plans were first unveiled in June, 79 per cent of Germans said the austerity plan was not socially balanced, while tens of thousands of people took part

in demonstrations.

Much of Merkel's plans are also reliant on measures that are still in the works, slowed down by squabbling among ministers in her fractious centre-right coalition, in office since October. Most controversially, finance minister Wolfgang Schaueble's sums foresee tapping German energy firms for billions of euros in return for extending the lifetime of nuclear plants beyond a planned shutdown in 2020.

The utility companies are putting all their considerable lobbying powers into resisting such a levy, while postponing the date on which Germany goes nuclear-free is likely to go down very badly with many voters, surveys show. The nu-

GERMAN RETAIL SALES SLIP FURTHER IN JULY: DESTATIS

FRANKFURT: German retail sales slipped again in July on a monthly basis, official data showed on Wednesday, suggesting that consumers in Europe's biggest economy have not given up their thrifty ways. Retail sales edged 0.3 per cent lower, according to provisional figures released by the national statistics office, the same as a revised loss in June. The Destatis office had initially estimated the June decrease as a larger 0.9 per cent however.

But analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires had forecast a July increase of 0.5 per cent. Barclays Capital economist Thorsten Polleit called the July data "disappointing - given the latest improvements in the GfK consumer sentiment index and, perhaps more importantly, the overall labour market situation." On an annual basis meanwhile, retail sales in the biggest European economy gained by 0.8 per cent, the Destatis data showed.

German shoppers were thus still reticent to spend as the economy pursues its economic rebound thanks to strong performances by exporters and business investment. Consumer sentiment has also improved and unemployment is now close to a two-year low point, but the stores have not seen many major benefits so far. "Today's numbers are a painful reminder that the German route towards a self-sustained recovery will not be an

easy one," ING senior economist Carsten Brzeski said. In the first seven months however, retail sales did gain 0.9 per cent from their level in the same period of 2009. The medium-term measure is considered more reliable further than monthly data, which are often revised later on. In the second quarter of the year, domestic consumption gained a healthy 0.6 per cent as the economy posted record quarterly growth of 2.2 per cent. **AFP**

clear tax was not part of what the cabinet approved.

In military spending, Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu

Guttenberg's proposals for doing away with conscription are provoking strong resistance even within government ranks.

Also on the income side, Berlin wants to raise funds from new taxes on financial transactions and a levy on

flights, earning her the ire of banks and airlines. Since June, however, Germany has posted a surprisingly strong recovery,

with gross domestic product (GDP) expanding a record 2.2 per cent in the second quarter, the fastest expansion since reunification in 1990.

Schaueble said on Wednesday that this has proved the government right.

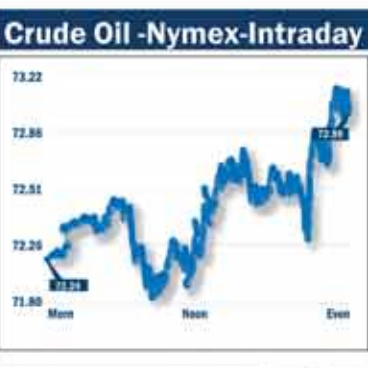
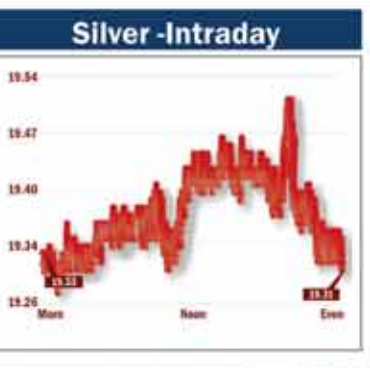
"Internationally, there was a strong debate about our reductions to our public deficit supposedly being too early, too big and too quick, and that we were not doing enough for growth in Europe and in the globalised world. "This debate has since quietened down and I have repeatedly told my colleagues from other countries that one of the biggest barriers to growth and to domestic demand is growing insecurity among the population about high

deficits," he told mediapersons.

He warned that the high growth rate of the second quarter would not be repeated in the coming year, but that Germany was "on the right path" and was the "growth engine of Europe." "In the view of the German government a growth-friendly deficit reduction is an essential and the most important to ensure a sustainable and favourable economic development," he said.

"I remind you that in 2009, GDP contracted by 4.7 per cent, a drop that in the history of the Federal Republic had seemed unimaginable, we have to implement an internationally coordinated exit strategy step by step in order to reduce excessive deficits. **AFP**

African Indices
JSE -Top 40 24860.28 ▲733.23 Semdex 17133.34 ▼-6.33 Semtri 4934.51 ▼-18.22 Sem 7 333.89 ▼-2.32 Cairo EGX30 6493.28 ▲85.35 Casablanca 11701 ▼-35.15 Nairobi-All 95.78 ▼-0.15



India
Sensex rallies 234.75 points on across the board buying funds

The BSE Sensex gained 131% or 234.75 points at 18,205.87, with 27 of its components closing in the green, whereas the S&P CNX Nifty gained 1.31% to 5,471.85 points. Overall nearly three shares rallied for every one that declined in a low volume of 361 million shares. Kingfisher Airlines rose 5.1% to Rs62.40 after the carrier's board approved raising up to \$1 billion through various means including rights issue, preferential issue or global depositary receipts.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for India. Major Gainers include Kesar Enterprise, Vindhya Telecom, Rich Capital, Kanpur Plastic, and Birla Ericon. Major Losers include Punjab Community, Tuticorin Alkal, CCL International, Manjeera Constr, and Kay Power.

South Africa
South African stocks end Friday despite ongoing strikes

South African stocks shrugged off the biggest daily gain in three months. Stocks dragged off a public service strike that threatened to drag on for longer as one major union rejected an improved state wage offer with similar industrial action in mining and the automotive sectors. Also supporting the local market was PMI data that showed a mild expansion in the manufacturing sector after two months of contraction. The JSE Top-40 index of blue chips rallied 3.04% to 24,860.28, touching the biggest gain since May 26.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for South Africa. Major Gainers include Caxton and CTP, Anglo Plat, Ciplamed, Massmart Hds, and Lonmin. Major Losers include Argent, Simmers, Super Group, DRDGold, and Harmony Gold Mng.

Australia
Australia shares climb on China relief, Australia GDP

Australian stocks rallied to close up 2.1% on Wednesday, the second big gain this week, as miners jumped on a pick-up in Chinese manufacturing activity and the broader market latched onto rosy Australian growth data. The market bucked a weak offshore lead as data showed manufacturing in China rebounded modestly in August after slowing for several months, which buoyed miners like BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto whose biggest customer is China.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Australia. Major Gainers include JetSet Travel, Pelorus Property, Liqueud Nat Gas, Virgin Blue, and St Barbara. Major Losers include Riverycity Motor, Viridis Clean, Nu Farmery, and UXC Ltd.

Hong Kong
Hong Kong stocks edge higher as technical support holds

Shares in Hong Kong staged a slight technical rebound on Wednesday after regional markets received a boost from data that showed China's manufacturing sector picking up after slowing for several months. The benchmark Hang Seng Index ended up 0.43% at 20,423.83, bouncing off a technical support level around 20,500, which has held firm in recent sessions. Foreign Institutional shares held 4.6%, extending their yearly losses to about 45%, as investors dumped shares on growing worries about its prospects.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Hong Kong. Major Gainers include Imagi, Core Holdings, World Tai Holdings, King Fook Holdings, and High. Major Losers include Haitian Antenna, Hiroshige Technology, Ming Hua Science, and Vision Values.

France
European shares gain most in three months; miners up

European shares rose at their fastest pace in three months on Wednesday, on strong manufacturing data from the United States and the two biggest economies in the world. The FTSEurofirst 300 index of leading European shares rose 2.7% to a provisional close of 10,541.00, its biggest one-day percentage rise since late May. The index lost 1.7% last month. Miners were the standout gainers. Kazakhmys, Rio Tinto and Xstrata rose between 5.8 and 6.8%.

Table of Major Gainers -CAC 40 and Major Losers -CAC 40 for France. Major Gainers include Bnp Paribas, Bxa, Snc Generale-A, Carrefour, and Lafarge. Major Losers include Bouygues, France Telecom, Edf, Suzor Env. Cpy, and Pernod Ricard.

China
China stocks end down 0.6%, shrugs off PMI

China's key stock index closed down 0.6% on Wednesday, reversing slight gains earlier in the day, with investors selling off small caps, which had outperformed the broad market in a recent rally. The Shanghai Composite Index finished at 2,622.29, ending the day with a 0.6% decline. The index had gained 1.2% on Tuesday. Analysts expect the index to continue to fluctuate as investors digest the latest PMI data.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for China. Major Gainers include Kidan Dep Store, Anyuan Ind, Lianhua Pharm, Altabet, and Chengshang Group. Major Losers include Dingsheng Eng, Dynamic Power, Qilianshan, Nanjing Panda, and Huafang.

Japan
Nikkei climbs after 16-mth low, China PMI a boost

Japan's Nikkei average rose 1.2% after hitting a 16-month low on Wednesday, drawing support from a hike in the rapid advance in the yen on a manufacturing rebound in China and stronger-than-expected growth in Australia. Market players also get help from a slight slip in dollar/yen after news that Japanese political powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa, challenging Prime Minister Naoto Kan in a party leadership vote, said in a policy statement he would implement steps including currency intervention if the yen rises rapidly.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Japan. Major Gainers include Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda. Major Losers include Toyota Teasho, Fuji Yahu Inds, Koyoda Hako K, Mazda Motor, and Toshiba.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for India (continued). Major Gainers include Kesar Enterprise, Vindhya Telecom, Rich Capital, Kanpur Plastic, and Birla Ericon. Major Losers include Punjab Community, Tuticorin Alkal, CCL International, Manjeera Constr, and Kay Power.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for South Africa (continued). Major Gainers include Caxton and CTP, Anglo Plat, Ciplamed, Massmart Hds, and Lonmin. Major Losers include Argent, Simmers, Super Group, DRDGold, and Harmony Gold Mng.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Australia (continued). Major Gainers include JetSet Travel, Pelorus Property, Liqueud Nat Gas, Virgin Blue, and St Barbara. Major Losers include Riverycity Motor, Viridis Clean, Nu Farmery, and UXC Ltd.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Hong Kong (continued). Major Gainers include Imagi, Core Holdings, World Tai Holdings, King Fook Holdings, and High. Major Losers include Haitian Antenna, Hiroshige Technology, Ming Hua Science, and Vision Values.

Table of Major Gainers -CAC 40 and Major Losers -CAC 40 for France (continued). Major Gainers include Bnp Paribas, Bxa, Snc Generale-A, Carrefour, and Lafarge. Major Losers include Bouygues, France Telecom, Edf, Suzor Env. Cpy, and Pernod Ricard.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for China (continued). Major Gainers include Kidan Dep Store, Anyuan Ind, Lianhua Pharm, Altabet, and Chengshang Group. Major Losers include Dingsheng Eng, Dynamic Power, Qilianshan, Nanjing Panda, and Huafang.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Japan (continued). Major Gainers include Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda. Major Losers include Toyota Teasho, Fuji Yahu Inds, Koyoda Hako K, Mazda Motor, and Toshiba.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for India (continued). Major Gainers include Kesar Enterprise, Vindhya Telecom, Rich Capital, Kanpur Plastic, and Birla Ericon. Major Losers include Punjab Community, Tuticorin Alkal, CCL International, Manjeera Constr, and Kay Power.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for South Africa (continued). Major Gainers include Caxton and CTP, Anglo Plat, Ciplamed, Massmart Hds, and Lonmin. Major Losers include Argent, Simmers, Super Group, DRDGold, and Harmony Gold Mng.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Australia (continued). Major Gainers include JetSet Travel, Pelorus Property, Liqueud Nat Gas, Virgin Blue, and St Barbara. Major Losers include Riverycity Motor, Viridis Clean, Nu Farmery, and UXC Ltd.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Hong Kong (continued). Major Gainers include Imagi, Core Holdings, World Tai Holdings, King Fook Holdings, and High. Major Losers include Haitian Antenna, Hiroshige Technology, Ming Hua Science, and Vision Values.

Table of Major Gainers -CAC 40 and Major Losers -CAC 40 for France (continued). Major Gainers include Bnp Paribas, Bxa, Snc Generale-A, Carrefour, and Lafarge. Major Losers include Bouygues, France Telecom, Edf, Suzor Env. Cpy, and Pernod Ricard.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for China (continued). Major Gainers include Kidan Dep Store, Anyuan Ind, Lianhua Pharm, Altabet, and Chengshang Group. Major Losers include Dingsheng Eng, Dynamic Power, Qilianshan, Nanjing Panda, and Huafang.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Japan (continued). Major Gainers include Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda, Chiyoda. Major Losers include Toyota Teasho, Fuji Yahu Inds, Koyoda Hako K, Mazda Motor, and Toshiba.

UK
Britain's FTSE jumps 2.6% on strong US and Chinese manufacturing data

Britain's FTSE 100 index rose 2.6% to 5,471.85 points on Wednesday, the second big gain in three months, as investors reacted to strong US and Chinese manufacturing data. The index had gained 1.2% on Tuesday. Analysts expect the index to continue to fluctuate as investors digest the latest PMI data.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for UK. Major Gainers include Cable & Wire, Tui Travel Pk, Kazakhmys Pl, Intercontinental, and Woleysky Pl. Major Losers include Randgold Res Ltd, Wm Morrison Sup, Smith & Nephew, Vodafone Group, and Burberry Group.

India Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for India (continued). Major Gainers include Kesar Enterprise, Vindhya Telecom, Rich Capital, Kanpur Plastic, and Birla Ericon. Major Losers include Punjab Community, Tuticorin Alkal, CCL International, Manjeera Constr, and Kay Power.

UK Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for UK (continued). Major Gainers include Cable & Wire, Tui Travel Pk, Kazakhmys Pl, Intercontinental, and Woleysky Pl. Major Losers include Randgold Res Ltd, Wm Morrison Sup, Smith & Nephew, Vodafone Group, and Burberry Group.

Dubai
Dubai stocks edge up tracking gains in Asia

Dubai stocks edged up on Wednesday, tracking gains in Asia. The Dubai Stock Index rose 0.5% to 1,234.56 points. The index had gained 0.3% on Tuesday. Analysts expect the index to continue to fluctuate as investors digest the latest PMI data.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Dubai. Major Gainers include Gulf Arab Inv Co, Islamic Arab Inv, Df Inv S&Reins, and Gulf Nav&G. Major Losers include Gulf Arab Inv Co, Islamic Arab Inv, Df Inv S&Reins, and Gulf Nav&G.

Mauritius
Semdex maintains down ward trend on persistent profit selling

Mauritius' benchmark Semdex maintained its downward trend falling 6.33 points or 0.37% to 17,133.34 points as holders of shares in hotels continued to focus on European economy. Shares in Naade Resorts fell by 2% to reach a 17-month low of 24 pence as investors bet its upcoming earnings results would be weak. New Mauritian Hotels shed 1% to 53 pence. However Air Mauritius was the top gainer, rising 4.44% to 141 pence.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Mauritius. Major Gainers include Air Mauritius, Semdex, Semdex, Semdex, Semdex. Major Losers include Air Mauritius, Semdex, Semdex, Semdex, Semdex.

Abu Dhabi
Abu Dhabi stocks edge up tracking gains in Asia

Abu Dhabi stocks edged up on Wednesday, tracking gains in Asia. The Abu Dhabi Stock Index rose 0.5% to 1,234.56 points. The index had gained 0.3% on Tuesday. Analysts expect the index to continue to fluctuate as investors digest the latest PMI data.

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Abu Dhabi. Major Gainers include Gulf Arab Inv Co, Islamic Arab Inv, Df Inv S&Reins, and Gulf Nav&G. Major Losers include Gulf Arab Inv Co, Islamic Arab Inv, Df Inv S&Reins, and Gulf Nav&G.

China Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for China (continued). Major Gainers include Kidan Dep Store, Anyuan Ind, Lianhua Pharm, Altabet, and Chengshang Group. Major Losers include Dingsheng Eng, Dynamic Power, Qilianshan, Nanjing Panda, and Huafang.

Kenya
Nairobi - All Stocks

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Kenya. Major Gainers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi. Major Losers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi.

Kenya Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Kenya (continued). Major Gainers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi. Major Losers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi.

Kenya Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Kenya (continued). Major Gainers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi. Major Losers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi.

Kenya Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Kenya (continued). Major Gainers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi. Major Losers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi.

Kenya Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Kenya (continued). Major Gainers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi. Major Losers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi.

Kenya Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Kenya (continued). Major Gainers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi. Major Losers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi.

Kenya Contd...

Table of Major Gainers and Major Losers for Kenya (continued). Major Gainers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi. Major Losers include Accessories, Air River Mtr, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi, Bamburi.

“ I AM NOT JUST SCORING GOALS, MY INVOLVEMENT IN PLAY IS GETTING MUCH BETTER. — THEO WALCOTT



sports



“ I REALLY WANT TO GET MY TENNIS TO ANOTHER LEVEL. — SERB JELENA JANKOVIC

PORT LOUIS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

the independent daily > 11

SPORTSDIGEST

CRICKET: FIXING SCANDAL

Pak stars depart for scam probe

Taunton, September 1

Three Pakistan players embroiled in betting scam allegations headed to London on Wednesday to face questioning which is almost certain to sideline them from the team's tour of England.

Test captain Salman Butt plus bowlers Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif look set to miss Pakistan's match with county side Somerset in Taunton on Thursday, a warm-up match before their limited overs internationals against England. The trio, all casually dressed, left the team hotel in Taunton accompanied by team security officer Major Khawaja Najam, flanked by private security guards and police officers. Butt shook his head when asked by a reporter if he was "guilty".

The trio were due to face questions from Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt and Wajid Shamsul Hasan, Pakistan's high commissioner (ambassador) to Britain, in London on Thursday.

"The boys are leaving today (Wednesday). They will have a meeting at the High Commission (Embassy) tomorrow (Thursday)," Pakistan team manager Yawar Saeed had earlier told reporters. It appears increasingly likely the trio will play no further part in the tour amid mounting calls for the trio to be barred from appear-

ing while the probe into the allegations is ongoing.

Following the Somerset warm-up, Pakistan play two Twenty20 matches against England in Cardiff on Sunday and Tuesday, then five one-day internationals.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has promised "prompt and decisive action" if the "spot-fixing" allegations linked to betting rings made by Britain's biggest-selling newspaper are proven.

Its chief executive Haroon Lorgat hopes there will be "some sort of conclusion" to the probe within the next few days. England's players meanwhile are reportedly reluctant to line up against a Pakistan team containing the tainted trio, according to Professional Cricketers' Association chief executive Angus Porter.

"The England players understand it is important the games go ahead and they will be professional but they would or will find it really difficult to play against the guys directly implicated," Porter told the Daily Telegraph.

The furore erupted on Sunday when The News of the World alleged Mazhar Majeed, a 35-year-old agent for several Pakistan players, took \$150,000 pounds to arrange for deliberate no-balls to be bowled at precise points in last week's Test match against England. The information would be of

enormous value to the spot-betting industry, where money is wagered on specific incidents in matches.

Majeed was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud bookmakers in the wake of the allegations, but was released on bail without charge on Sunday, to return at a later date.

Detectives interviewed Butt, Asif and 18-year-old prodigy Aamer, who delivered the no-balls — normally an accidental and unpredictable occurrence — and police seized their mobile phones.

The world of cricket has reacted with shock and dismay to claims that huge sums of money had changed hands in alleged fixing schemes at international level, linked to shadowy betting rings. Investigators from the ICC's anti-corruption and security unit are in Britain looking into the allegations.

Meanwhile in Australia, it has emerged that four cricket stars were targeted by a suspected illegal bookmaker. Brett Lee and Mitchell Johnson were targeted by the unnamed figure who approached two teammates in England last year, reports said on Wednesday.

The Sydney Morning Herald and Daily Telegraph said Lee and Johnson were confronted in the team hotel's bar during the tour of England, fuelling fears over illegal betting after a newspaper sting snared an alleged match-fixer. AFP



Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar takes part in a training session at Somerset County Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Puyol pulls out

MADRID: Barcelona's talismanic defender Carles Puyol has pulled out of the Spain squad which will open its defence of its European title against Liechtenstein later this week due to a calf muscle injury, the Spanish football federation said on Tuesday. He will be replaced by Osasuna defender Nacho Monreal, it said in a statement posted on its web site. Monreal has just two international caps. "The player felt discomfort in his left leg during a warm-up before the first training session of the national team at Las Rozas. He immediately reported it to doctors and left from the practice field," the statement said, adding tests showed he had damaged a calf muscle. Spain play Liechtenstein on Friday in Vaduz in their first Euro 2012 qualifier. They will travel to face Argentina in a friendly four days later. AFP

Vuvuzela banned

GENEVA: Vuvuzelas have been banned from UEFA matches, European football's governing body said on Wednesday. UEFA told its 53 member associations that it had adopted the ban "for reasons related to Europe's football culture and tradition", adding that "the atmosphere at matches would be changed by the sound of the vuvuzela". It said: "UEFA has decided that vuvuzelas — the trumpet that came to prominence at games during this FIFA World Cup in South Africa — may not be brought into stadiums at matches in UEFA competitions." Europe's footballing chiefs took exception to the introduction of "a continuous loud background noise," while acknowledging that in South Africa, "the vuvuzela adds a touch of local flavour and folklore". AFP

Ferdinand set to return in reserves

LONDON: Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand is set to return from the knee injury that wrecked his World Cup in a reserve team game against Oldham. Ferdinand has been out of action since damaging knee ligaments in a collision with Emile Heskey while training with England in the build-up to the World Cup in June. The 31-year-old was due to captain England at the finals in South Africa, but instead had to fly home to start his rehabilitation. United manager Sir Alex Ferguson recently suggested Ferdinand would be sidelined until the end of September, but the former West Ham and Leeds star has made a quicker than expected recovery and should feature in a Manchester Senior Cup at Stalybridge. AFP

Russian star jailed

SCOTTSDALE: Russian goaltender Nikolai Khabibulin has been sentenced to 30 days in jail in connection with an Arizona drink-driving conviction. The four-time all-star, who now plays for the Edmonton Oilers of the National Hockey League, received the sentence on Tuesday. He also was fined \$5,100 and must take part in an alcohol-treatment programme. He was pulled over in his Ferrari six months ago for speeding. AFP

I'm not Harry Potter: Mourinho



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho gestures during a team training session in Madrid on Tuesday.

Madrid, September 1

Jose Mourinho shrugged off the club's draw in his opening game in charge of Real Madrid and warned fans they need to be patient, saying he is not Harry Potter.

But the Spanish giants' new star coach said he still believes he's the "ideal person" to give Real the "stability" it badly needs. "I'm not Harry Potter," he told the Spanish sports newspaper AS published on Wednesday. "He is a magician, but in fact there is no magic... Magic is fiction and I live in football which is real life."

Real signed Mourinho to a lucrative four-year contract this summer to try to stop Barcelona from winning a third successive league crown and help the club improve in Europe, with Madrid having failed to get past the quarter-final stage of the Champions League since 2004.

The 47-year-old arrived in a blaze of glory after leading Inter Milan last season to the treble of domestic

league and cup in Italy as well as the Champions League. That was after successful terms in charge of Porto, in his native Portugal, and at Chelsea.

But his Real Madrid career began on a low note with a 0-0 draw at Real Mallorca at the weekend, while Barca beat Santander 3-0. Mourinho appealed for patience from fans, saying the team was still in a "construction phase."

"Do you know how many training sessions we have had together, including with new signings? Not even 10," he told AS. But he said that, unlike previous Real coaches, his past success means he is not afraid of taking risks. "My profile as a coach is different from those Madrid have had in recent years. If things go badly here and I have to go, I will have (another) club the next day... That personal stability that I have allows me to say I'm the ideal person to be in Madrid, because I don't fear anything. Real needs stability and I'm here to give it." AFP

CRICKET: ENGLAND-PAKISTAN SERIES

Miller turns on Pietersen after Twitter tirade

Taunton, September 1

England national selector Geoff Miller was decidedly unimpressed by Kevin Pietersen's foul-mouthed Twitter rant following his omission from the limited overs squads to play Pakistan.

Pietersen pre-empted Tuesday's official announcement by the England and Wales Cricket (ECB) that he'd been left out of the squads for the upcoming limited overs matches against Pakistan by several hours, with a post on Twitter. "That would not have endeared the South Africa born batsman to the England management in any event. But Pietersen, man of the tournament during England's victorious World Twenty20 campaign, told his followers: "Done for rest of summer! Man of the World Cup T20 and dropped from the T20 side too. It's a fxxx up."

Miller, speaking after Tuesday's squad announcement, said: "I don't like that kind of language and I



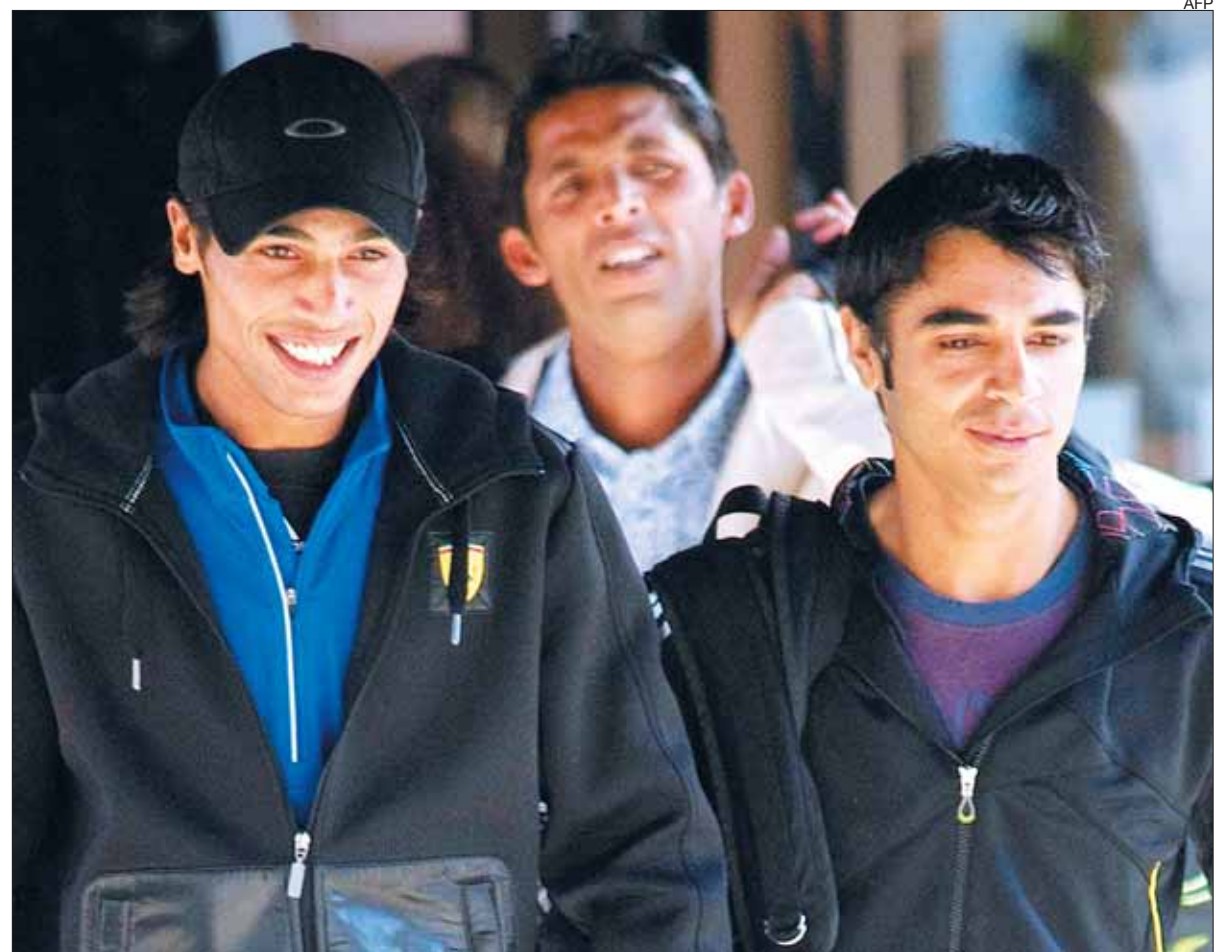
Pietersen

don't use that language at all. I don't think it is necessary," the former England off-spinner added.

"I'm still the national selector and what I do is select sides with my co-selectors that we think is right for England. My priority is the England side and it is not about individuals."

Pietersen, who has gone 26 Test

innings without a hundred, could now face disciplinary action with an ECB spokesman telling AFP: "We are considering the circumstances surrounding it (the Twitter post)." Meanwhile Miller added: "I'll talk to KP. Whether there is an apology or not I'm sure Andy Flower (the England coach) will have a word with him."



Pakistan cricketers Mohammad Aamer (left), Mohammad Asif and captain Salman Butt (right) leave the team hotel in Taunton, in south-west England, on Wednesday.

CRICKET: MATCH FIXING

Cricketers on target of fixers: Reports

Sydney, September 1

Australian cricketers Brett Lee and Mitchell Johnson were targeted by the same suspected illegal bookmaker who approached two team-mates in England last year, reports said on Wednesday.

The Sydney Morning Herald and Daily Telegraph said Lee and Johnson were confronted in the team hotel's bar during the tour of England, fuelling fears over illegal betting after a newspaper sting snared an alleged match-fixer.

On Tuesday, batsman Shane Watson and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin revealed how they were approached by the same man, who is believed to be Indian and is suspected of links to illicit bookmakers in his home country. The Herald said all four players reported the encounters to Australian team manager Steve Bernard, who submitted

their names to the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit.

"The trouble in this case was that the gentleman was staying in the same hotel," Bernard told the paper. "The guys weren't approached about spot-fixing or anything like that, he was asking if he could buy them drinks. The players used their judgement and decided to report it to me."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's cricket board also said on Wednesday that several senior players had been approached by bookmakers ahead of a Test series with India earlier this year. Vice-captain Shakib Al Hasan and opening batsman Tamim Iqbal were approached ahead of the two Test series against India in January, which the home side lost 2-0, an official said.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) spokesman Jalal Yunus said the incidents were immediately reported to

the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit, in line with procedures. The BCB is now organising an "orientation course" for national players to educate them about the dangers of match-fixing and how to avoid bookmakers and shady agents, Yunus said.

The move came after global cricket was plunged into a crisis at the weekend as British detectives said they were investigating seven Pakistani players on charges of spot-fixing.

Apart from the orientation course, the BCB will impose more curbs on cricketers in all future tours, Yunus said, adding the players would be told to avoid strangers and report every phone call they receive from unknown persons.

Former Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful told a local daily that he had also been approached by bookmakers during a foreign tour. AFP

FOOTBALL: EURO 2012

Zidane boosts Blanc's squad

Paris, September 1

World Cup winner Zinedine Zidane joined in with 1998 teammate Laurent Blanc's new look France side on Wednesday ahead of Friday's opening Euro 2012 qualifier at home to Belarus.

On paper, the French should be favoured in their group — though they will have to look out for Romania and Bosnia-Herzegovina, their main Group D rivals.

However, such was the humiliation heaped upon the French during a nightmare World Cup this summer that new coach Blanc must start by erasing some of the lingering psychological scars after a first-round exit compounded by a training strike to protest the sending home of Nicolas Anelka.

Banned for 18 matches after his foul-mouthed outburst aimed at former coach Raymond Domenech at half-time during the loss to Mexico, Anelka is unlikely to ap-

pear again in the national shirt while skipper Patrice Evra, Jeremy Toulalan and Franck Ribery are suspended owing to their role as strike ringleaders.

But the mood lightened with Zidane's appearance as he, Blanc and assistants Alain Boggio and Fabien Barthez attempted to infuse training with a flavour of France's glorious past, when they combined to humble Brazil at Stade de France 12 years ago.

French fans were generally appalled at the events of the summer — but they were cheering loudly when a shorts-clad Zidane made his appearance to cries of "Zizou!" while some called out "a kiss for Fabien!" — during the 1998 finals in France Blanc would kiss his bald pate for luck.

"It's great to get into the swing of things once again," said Zidane as he left the field, pausing to sign autographs and shake hands with Aldo Platini, father of UEFA president Michel Platini. AFP

CRICKET

Kieswetter to play only in T20s

Taunton, September 1

England World Twenty20 winning wicketkeeper Craig Kieswetter is set to play as a batsman only in the upcoming two T20s against Pakistan, it was announced on Tuesday.

Kieswetter was one of the stars in England's World Twenty20 winning campaign in the Caribbean earlier this year where he both opened the innings and kept wicket. But the South Africa born Kieswetter struggled for runs when asked to open the innings during England's ODIs against Australia and Bangladesh.

Now, Surrey's Steven Davies is set to keep wicket in both the two Twenty20s in Cardiff on Sunday and Tuesday and the subsequent five one-dayers while Kieswetter has been dropped from the one-day squad entirely. Kieswetter had replaced Test gloveman Matt Prior in both limited overs formats this season.

But England national selector Geoff Miller said: "Steven Davies has had an excellent year for Surrey this season and has earned his chance to take on the role as wicketkeeper in England's limited-overs set-up.

"As ever, the wicketkeeper's role is a fiercely-contested position in the England team, and we've no doubt Craig Kieswetter will continue to press for the chance to reclaim his place in the England ODI squad."

Kieswetter will get an early chance to show his worth in the 50-over format after being selected for county side Somerset in their one-day tour match against Pakistan at Taunton on Thursday. However, the match itself has been overshadowed by 'spot-fixing' allegations levelled against Pakistan. AFP

GOUGH BLASTS KP'S AXING

LONDON: Darren Gough has blasted the decision to axe out-of-sorts Kevin Pietersen from England's squad for their upcoming limited overs matches as "absolutely pathetic". The 39-year-old former international told TalkSport that Pietersen — the star of England's World Twenty20 winning team earlier this year — deserved a chance to rediscover his form against Pakistan. Gough rallied to the defence of Pietersen, who now faces an official investi-

gation into his angry reaction on micro-blogging site Twitter. "He's England's best one-day player and what better way for him to get back into form than to go out against Pakistan and belt it," Gough said. "It's absolutely pathetic that you can drop the man who was player of the tournament at the World Twenty20 earlier this year." Gough insisted Pietersen should continue to be a part of England's plans for their defence of the Ashes in Australia. AFP

Pietersen, never before dropped by England when fit, is now set to spend the rest of the season on loan at Surrey from Hampshire in a bid to get some morale-boosting match practice. Hampshire made it clear they would not select Pietersen this season after he announced he'd be leaving at the end of the current campaign.

Pietersen was in more restrained mood when quoted in an ECB statement announcing the one-day parties, saying: "I have no issue with the selectors omitting me from the limited overs squads." England's limited overs matches against Pakistan will take place under the cloud of 'the spot-fixing' row engulfing the tourists. AFP

SPORTSDIGEST

PLAYERS TRANSFER

Robinho ends City purgatory, Gyan sees light



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is awarded a trophy during a ceremony to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Corinthians football club in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Tuesday.

Malesani named Bologna's new coach

ROME: Bologna on Wednesday named Alberto Malesani as their new coach having fired Franco Colomba before their first match of the season. Just a day before tackling reigning champions Inter in their Serie A opener, Bologna president Sergio Porcedda announced he had dismissed Colomba and youth team coach Paolo Magnani took charge of the impressive 0-0 draw with the nerazzurri on Monday. Malesani made his name from 1998-2001 when he coached Parma to Italian Cup and UEFA Cup titles. The 56-year-old also coached Fiorentina, and Panathinaikos in Greece. Most recently he coached Siena for a large part of last season but was released after they suffered relegation to Serie B. **AFP**

Wolfsburg sell Misimovic to Turkey

BERLIN: Wolfsburg have sold playmaker Zvezdan Misimovic to Turkish side Galatasaray Istanbul, the Bundesliga club have announced. The 28-year-old attacking midfielder has been sold for around 8.5 million euros and has signed a four-year contract, it was reported on the German league side's website, and he will be coached by Dutchman Frank Rijkaard in Turkey. After Wolfsburg signed Brazilian midfielder Diego from Juventus last week, Misimovic is now surplus to requirements and Wolves team manager Dieter Hoeness had said they would not sell him to another Bundesliga club. "We would like to thank 'Zwetschge' for his achievements and wish him every success," said Hoeness. **AFP**

Lille sign Czech Rozenhal on loan

LILLE: French Ligue 1 club Lille signed experienced Czech international defender David Rozenhal on a one season loan from Bundesliga side Hamburg on Tuesday. The 30-year-old — capped 63 times and a member of the Czech Republic side that won the European Under-21 championship in 2002 — replaces Nicolas Plestan, who moved to Hamburg's rivals Schalke 04 on Tuesday. Lille said in a statement that they had signed Rozenhal — who has previous experience in France with Paris Saint Germain from 2005-07 — by his physical qualities and especially his vast experience across the European leagues. **AFP**

Juventus snap up 10th new signing

ROME: Serie A giants Juventus made their 10th signing since the end of a disappointing campaign last term on Tuesday taking central defender Leandro Rinaudo on loan from Napoli for 600,000 euros. The 27-year-old — who signed for Napoli from Palermo in 2008 for 4.5 million euros — will cost Juventus five million euros if they take up the option at the end of the loan to buy him. Juventus finished seventh in Serie A last season only just making the Europa League but have made wholesale recruits since then. **AFP**

Paris, September 1

Brazilian star Robinho's nightmare two year stay at Manchester City came to an agreeable conclusion for both parties on Tuesday as he signed for Serie A giants AC Milan on a frenetic final day of trading as the transfer deadline comes into force on Wednesday.

Robinho may have gone for a relative song — 18 million euros as opposed to the club record 42 million City paid out two years ago — but his recruitment only added to the sense of urgency at the Milan club as they seek to end bitter city rivals Inter's dominance.

Robinho — who signed a four year contract — joins Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic as a recent signing by Milan where they will join Brazilian duo Ronaldinho and Pato as they bid to end Inter's resurgence which climaxed with the domestic double — taking their fifth successive league crown — and the Champions League title last season.

The two signings will have the red and black striped half of Milan salivating in a strikeforce that Ibrahimovic, never one for understatement, had commented prior



Gyan

to Robinho's signing as 'the best strikeforce in the world'.

One player who won't be part of the dream team will be Italy international striker Marco Borriello as the 28-year-old already unhappy at Ibrahimovic's arrival agreed to move to AS Roma. Robinho, though, said he was really looking forward to being able to show his full range of skills once again as he had done when he helped Real

Madrid win two league titles and in several impressive performances for Brazil at the World Cup finals.

"I am delighted to have been given this opportunity and I want to prove my worth," Robinho said. "My ambition is to play well and to help Milan regain the scudetto (the title)," added Robinho, who was a much sought after target of Milan president Silvio Berlusconi.

Sunderland welcome to their



Robinho

Stadium of Light a record signing in the form of Ghanaian star striker Asamoah Gyan, who earned a 16 million euros move from French side Rennes on the back of outstanding performances for his country at the World Cup finals. "The Sunderland coach (Steve Bruce) has faith in me because he has been following me for two years now. I am pleased I have the opportunity to come to England,"

said the 24-year-old.

"I follow English football and I know Sunderland have incredible fans. I especially know about the derby when they play against Newcastle. That is something incredible. I have witnessed that myself."

Stoke finished a highly creditable 11th on their maiden season in the Premier League last term but manager Tony Pulis showed he means to reach higher with four

signings, including persuading veteran Senegalese midfielder Salif Diao to re-sign after he had originally left the club at the end of last season. Birmingham manager Alex McLeish signed three players former Arsenal star Alexander Hleb, on a year's loan from Barcelona, Spartak Moscow defender Martin Jiranek and Chilean winger Jean Beausejour, who was outstanding at the World Cup.

German giants such as Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen kept their powder dry but Schalke 04 reacted to their haul of no points from their first two matches by signing three players. They signed Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, Spanish attacking midfielder Jose Manuel Jurado and French defender Nicolas Plestan. Jurado, who will play alongside idol and former Real Madrid legend Raul, for one was not in the least put off at the recent accusation by a former Schalke player Rafinha that playing under coach Felix Magath was like being in a boot camp. "It's a train that passes once in a lifetime and I couldn't let it pass," said Jurado. "It will be an honour to play with Raul." **AFP**

GERMANY

Ballack to stay captain, confirms coach Loew

Berlin, September 1

Germany coach Joachim Loew confirmed on Wednesday that veteran Michael Ballack will remain his first-choice captain despite being left out of their opening Euro 2012 qualifying games.

Ballack, 33, has been dropped for the first two games against Belgium in Brussels on Friday and Azerbaijan at home four days later as he continues his recovery from the ankle injury that kept him out of the World Cup. With Germany now bidding for a place at Euro 2012, to be held in the Ukraine and Poland, Philipp Lahm will be the temporary national captain until Ballack returns from injury.

In Ballack's absence, Bayern Munich defender Lahm, 26, captained Germany to third in South Africa at the World Cup, sweeping aside England 4-1 and Argentina 4-0 before losing to eventual winners Spain in the semi-finals. Ballack is expected to return for Euro 2012 qualifiers against Turkey and Kazakhstan in October, but needs to prove his fitness with Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga.

"In the last few days, I have had an open and honest discussion with Michael

Ballack, which lasted two hours, and I have decided that he will remain captain," said Loew in a press conference in Frankfurt. "He has had a long injury break, but I feel he still as plenty to offer this team. When he is not available, Philipp Lahm, who did very well at the World Cup, will be captain with Bastian Schweinsteiger as his deputy."

Ballack, who is now back in Germany playing for Leverkusen after his contract at Chelsea expired at the end of last season, has something of a history of clashing with other players, as well as with Loew.

Things have not got off to a flying start for Ballack's return to the Bundesliga as Leverkusen were beaten 6-3 by Muenchengladbach on Sunday — and Ballack was booted off when he was replaced in the second-half.

Meanwhile, Loew also confirmed Schalke 04 goalkeeper Manuel Neuer will remain between the posts for the national side with Rene Adler and Tim Wiese battling to be the reserve goalkeeper. "Manuel will remain in goal, but we are in a luxury position with three goalkeepers who all have international experience and in this area, we are very strong," said Loew. **AFP**



Joachim Loew, head coach of the German national football team, gestures during a press meet in Frankfurt on Wednesday.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS

All change for Italy as coach Prandelli focuses on class

Rome, September 1

When Italy were humiliated by a dramatic effect," he said the day after the Slovakia defeat.

"It's not about being pessimistic for the future, but being realistic and reactionary. We have legitimate worries, which is not pessimism. We have a problem that many players are not getting international experience."

Prandelli was not at that press conference in Irene, near Pretoria, but he will surely have had a similar speech direct from the horse's mouth. And his initial squad selections as the new coach showed he'd got the message, loud and clear.

His first squad, for a friendly against Ivory Coast in London last month that Italy lost 1-0, featured just nine of Lippi's 23-man World Cup squad. Now that they are getting down to the real business, he called up 11 for the qualifiers against Estonia on Friday and the Faroe Islands next Tuesday, al-

though he lost Claudio Marchisio before the training camp had even begun.

Instead of the old guard, Prandelli has been fearless in bringing in new faces, particularly in defence. While the most notable newcomer against Ivory Coast was Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli, in his latest squad four of Prandelli's eight defenders were uncapped.

Of the eight, only Giorgio Chiellini has more than three caps and one of those capped, Cristian Molinaro, made his debut against Ivory Coast. It is all part of the new-look Italy under Prandelli, who wants his players to grow into their roles as regular internationals.

"We have new players who I hope will have a long future (with Italy)," he said earlier this week. His other move has been to bring some genuine quality into his team, and sacrifice the old work-horses his predecessor preferred.

Lippi steadfastly refused to pick Antonio Cassano during his second stint at the helm, but Prandelli has already promoted the errant Samp-



though he lost Claudio Marchisio before the training camp had even begun.

EURO 2012

Walcott plans to come of age for England

London, September 1

Four years after Theo Walcott was thrust into the limelight as the shock name in England's 2006 World Cup squad, Arsenal's boy-wonder believes he is finally ready to become a man on the international stage.

Walcott was barely 17 when Sven-Goran Eriksson baffled the English public by including him in his squad for the World Cup, even though the former Southampton winger had yet to make his debut in the Premier League. That selection story has hung like a cloud over him ever since, raising expectation to a level that was only surpassed when, three years later, he scored a hat-trick during a World Cup qualifier in Croatia.

The fact that Walcott has struggled at times to deal with such huge expectation is hardly surprising when you consider he has also been beset by injuries and seen his first team chances at Arsenal limited by strong competition in Arsene Wenger's star-studded squad.

But, having been left out of Fabio Capello's 23 for this year's World Cup finals in South Africa, Walcott sees the start of



England's Euro 2012 campaign, which begins with a home match against Bulgaria on Friday, as the right time to underline his credentials.

"It's an important time for me," he admitted. "Back in 2006 I didn't deserve to go to the World Cup — I hadn't even played in the Premier League and I hadn't justified being there at all. But it was a great experience for me, no doubt, and being with the team now is second-nature."

"This year I wanted to go but the form wasn't there. I didn't have the best season last season. Obviously having so many injuries stuttered the whole season and I think now I'm a bit more mature. I'm looking after myself a bit better."

That maturity has been reflected in his performances for Arsenal this season, being named regularly in Wenger's starting eleven and scoring four

goals, including his first ever Premier League hat-trick. But, such is the nature of Walcott's profile, even that has not been enough for some people.

BBC pundit Alan Hansen was highly critical of Walcott recently, suggesting although he scored a hat-trick against Blackpool he was still under-achieving and lacked the 'football brain' needed to become a top player. "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion," said Walcott, "It's one of the things I have to live with. But the people I listen to are Arsene Wenger, Capello, players and my family. As long as I can continue to listen to them, hopefully, it will be fine and I can do the talking on the pitch."

"Don't forget I'm still 21 and at 21, playing for Arsenal and England is not a bad achievement so far," he said. "But I do feel that I'm maturing. When I scored my hat-trick against Croatia, I wasn't really involved that much. I just scored a hat-trick. A lot of people don't remember that. I am a lot more involved in every game now; I am not just scoring goals, my involvement in general play is getting much better." **AFP**

PLAYER TRANSFER

Spurs seal Van der Vaart deal

London, September 1

English Premier League club Tottenham were allowed to sign Rafael van der Vaart from Real Madrid today after their last-ditch move for the Dutch playmaker on deadline day.

Spurs boss Harry Redknapp moved for van der Vaart just two hours before the transfer window closed late on Tuesday, causing a frantic scramble to file the paperwork in time, and the north London outfit were left to wait overnight to discover if the Premier League would ratify the deal.

Redknapp was finally able to

plan a team that includes van der Vaart after the Premier League rubber-stamped the most impressive deadline day coup by an English club. "We are delighted to announce that we have reached agreement with Real Madrid for the transfer of Rafael van der Vaart," a statement on Tottenham's website confirmed.

Real confirmed the deal. "Real Madrid and Tottenham Hotspurs have reached a deal to transfer the player Rafael Van der Vaart to the English club," said a club statement. Van der Vaart has won 83 caps for Holland, scoring 16 goals, and has

played in two European Championships and two World Cups, including this year's tournament in South Africa.

Redknapp believes he has landed a bargain and, speaking before the move was completed, he said: "He is available now for about eight million. He is a quality player. He is a great footballer. For that sort of money, he is a top player and he will improve us for sure. It's a last minute job."

Real signed van der Vaart from Bundesliga side Hamburg on a five-year contract in 2008 in a deal reportedly worth 13 million euros. **AFP**

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Real signed van der Vaart from Bundesliga side Hamburg on a five-year contract in 2008 in a deal reportedly worth 13 million euros. **AFP**

SPANISH LA LIGA

Too soon to compare, says Ramos

Madrid, September 1

Real Madrid's World Cup winning right back Sergio Ramos said on Tuesday it was too soon to compare his side to their arch-rivals Barcelona with the Catalan team holding a two-point advantage after just one match.

Real were held to a goalless draw at Real Mallorca on Sunday in their first La Liga match with Jose Mourinho as coach while defending Spanish champions Barcelona beat Racing Santander 3-0. "Of course we would have liked to have started the season collecting three points," Ramos told reporters as the Spain squad gathered in Madrid to begin preparing for their Euro 2012 qualifier on Friday against Liechtenstein.

"We must continue improving. It is too soon to compare us to anyone and to debate who is ahead and who is behind," the 24-year-old added. The arrival of Mourinho, one of the world's most successful and expensive coaches, at the Spanish giants in May has fueled the already intense interest in the annual La Liga horse race between Real and Barcelona.

The Portuguese coach admitted he was disappointed to begin his Real career with a 0-0 draw and blamed poor finishing as the reason for his team's failure. "It is important to defend well and score when you are not at your best and we are far from our best. We didn't play well but we did enough to win," he said after the match. **AFP**

SPORTSDIGEST

US OPEN

Nadal, Wozniacki capture openers



Spain's Igor Anton of the Euskaltel-Euskadi team celebrates after winning the Tour of Spain fourth stage in Valdepenas de Jaen on Tuesday.

Boxing promoter's son goes missing

LOS ANGELES: The son of Bob Arum has been reported missing in the mountains near Seattle forcing the international boxing promoter to abandon a three-city promotional tour to help in the search. Bob Arum was in Los Angeles on Tuesday for the first of three stops on the tour to promote the November 13 Manny Pacquiao and Antonio Margarito junior middleweight title fight. But Arum left the news conference at the Beverly Hills Hotel early when he learned his son was missing, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday night. John Arum, 49, was apparently hiking in the mountains near Seattle when he went missing. Arum told the Los Angeles Times before leaving for Washington State, "They've got search parties looking for him right now." AFP

Asian Tour adds Thailand event

BANGKOK: The Asian Tour added another event to its 2010 schedule Wednesday with the Black Mountain Masters returning as its season finale. Big-hitting Swedish star Johan Edfors has confirmed his title defence at the Black Mountain Golf Club in Hua Hin, south of Bangkok, from December 16-19. "I'm certainly excited about coming back to Black Mountain to defend my title from last year," said Edfors, a two-time winner on the Asian Tour. Asian Tour Executive Chairman Kyi Hla Han said the tournament's prize fund would also increase by \$100,000 to \$600,000. "The Asian Tour continues to receive strong support from corporate Asia, especially in Thailand, and I'm confident the Black Mountain Masters will bring an exciting climax to our 2010 season," he said. AFP

PGA C'ship heading to Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE: The PGA of America announced on Tuesday it would stage the 2017 PGA Championship at the Quail Hollow golf course in North Carolina. It will mark the third time the PGA will be in North Carolina, and the first for the largest city in the state. Organisers expect the tournament to draw about 50,000 a people per day and tens of millions of dollars in economic revenue to the city and surrounding areas. Quail Hollow has hosted a PGA Tour event for the past seven years. AFP

Mickelson signs on for Singapore

SINGAPORE: US Masters champion Phil Mickelson will headline the Singapore Open this year which has boosted its prize money by one million US dollars. The American World No 2 joins Australian Adam Scott, Ireland's Padraig Harrington and Yang Yong-Eun from Korea as marquee players confirmed so far. The tournament will be played for the sixth successive time at Sentosa Golf Club from November 11-14 with a total purse of six million dollars, coming a week after the equally lucrative HSBC Champions in Shanghai. For the second year in a row it will be joint-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour. European Ryder Cup star Ian Poulter won the event last year by a shot from China's Liang Wenchong. AFP

New York, September 1

US Open top seeds Rafael Nadal and Caroline Wozniacki moved into the second round on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts while Serbian stars Novak Djokovic and Jelena Jankovic struggled to advance on Tuesday.

Reigning Wimbledon and French Open champion Nadal, trying to become the seventh man to complete a career Grand Slam, beat Russian Teymuraz Gabashvili 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, his only service breaks coming in the last set.

"My serve worked well and I hope to continue like this," Nadal said. "It's not my best shot, but I always work hard at improving it. If I am to have chances to win here one day, I need to serve well."

The 24-year-old Spaniard, who would be the youngest career Slam holder and only the fourth man to win three Slams in a row if he wins this year's US Open, will next face Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan.

Denmark's Wozniacki, seeking her first Grand Slam title after losing to Kim Clijsters in last year's US Open final, romped in her first Grand Slam match as a top seed, eliminating US wild card Chelsey Gullickson 6-1, 6-1 in 61 minutes.

"I'm really happy," Wozniacki said. "The first match is always tough. I'm happy to be through and into the second round." Wozniacki will face Taiwan's Chang Kai-Chen after winning the matchup of 20-year-olds, which did not start until 10 minutes before midnight due to the length of previous Arthur Ashe

Stadium matches. "I didn't feel too nervous. I was just happy to get out there and play. We had waited for a long time," Wozniacki said.

Third seed Djokovic ousted friend and countryman Viktor Troicki 6-3, 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 after three hours and 40 minutes in the heat to book a place against Germany's Philipp Petzschner. "Give credit to Viktor. He was playing well and serving incredibly well," he said. "Even if I would lose today it would have been deserved on his side. A couple of points changed the match and I was just fortunate to get through."

Fourth-seeded Jankovic, seeking her first Grand Slam title, edged 96th-rated Romanian teen Simona Halep 6-4, 4-6, 7-5. The 2008 US Open runner-up nearly suffered her first opening-match Slam exit since the 2005 French Open.

"I had to work for every point," Jankovic said. "I wasn't playing my best tennis. I was able to find a way to get through."

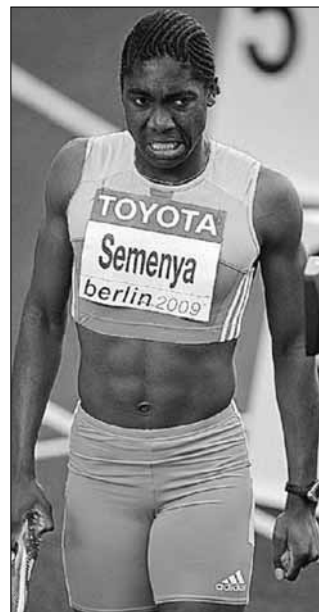
Jankovic, who will next play 150th-ranked Croatian qualifier Mirjana Lucic, has faith she has what it takes to win a Grand Slam crown. Eighth seed Li Na, the highest Chinese seed in Grand Slam history, lost 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 to Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko. The Australian Open semi-finalist had not lost a Grand Slam opener since the 2006 Australian Open.

On the men's side, Cypriot 16th seed Marcos Baghdatis went down 6-3, 2-6, 1-6, 6-4, 7-5 to French veteran Arnaud Clement and France's Jeremy Chardy beat Latvian 24th seed Ernests Gulbis 6-2, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4. AFP



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns a shot against Chelsey Gullickson of the United States during their first round match of the US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York on Tuesday.

ATHLETICS



Semenya flops in Italy

Rovereto, September 1

South Africa's controversial women's 800 metres world champion Caster Semenya flopped here on Tuesday as she could only finish seventh in a below par field.

The 19-year-old only recently returned to action after being cleared following a controversial enquiry into her gender that saw her side-lined for almost 11 months. Semenya, who handled the furore surrounding her gender tests with great dignity, won her first three races back but failed to sparkle at the Diamond meet last Friday in Brussels and was significantly off the pace here.

Italian athlete Elisa Cusma Piccione won the race in a time of 2min 00.37sec, with Semenya — who is hoping to add Commonwealth gold in Delhi in October to her world title — over seven seconds adrift, a long way off her targeted time this season of 1min 57sec. America's disgraced 2004 Olympic 100 metres champion Justin Gatlin came in to the meeting with three successive wins behind him on his comeback after serving a four year suspension for doping. However, the 28-year-old just failed to win, finishing second in 10.09sec behind up and coming 20-year-old Jamaican Yohan Blake who won in a time of 10.06sec, though he would probably have gone under 10sec had he not struggled with a right thigh problem in the last 10 metres.

South African Oscar Pistorius, known as "Blade Runner" because of the artificial legs he runs on, finished third in the 400 metres B race in a time of 47.14 seconds. AFP

FIELD HOCKEY: WORLD CUP

England, South Africa produce upsets to win

Rosario, September 1

England upset China 1-0 and South Africa pulled off a shock 2-1 victory over Spain in the women's field hockey World Cup on Tuesday while host Argentina edged South Korea 1-0.

Hannah MacLeod's goal in the second minute, pushing in a rebound of Crista Cullen's penalty corner flick, was all England's women needed to take full points from their first two matches in Pool B.

China starved England of possession in the second half by controlling the midfield and had more than 15 shots on goal, but England's hero goalkeeper Beth Storry made 10 saves, three in a single flurry, to keep China scoreless.

South Africa won their first World Cup match in eight years, having last won in 2002 at Perth against Ukraine. South Africa scored first through Pietie Coetzee, who drew a penalty corner when she was stick-checked in the circle, then converted with a rocket flick low to the left, deflected into goal off the stick of goalie Maria Lopez de Eguilaz.

Spain survived three more penalty corners to South Africa as Coetzee sent her rockets wide twice and one high flick saved by Lopez de Eguilaz. Nuria Camon scored Spain's equaliser just before the break, converting Spain's second penalty corner chance. South Africa shaded Spain in the second half and Sulette Damons put the game away for South Africa, deflecting Kelly Madson's high backstick pass into goal. Spain appealed to the video umpire that Damons' stick was above her shoulder but the appeal was disallowed.

South Korea held Argentina scoreless in the first half despite four penalty corner chances for the hosts. Luciana Aymar created Argentina's only goal by beating two defenders, shooting into the pads of Moon Yough Hui and Carla Rebecchi batting the rebound into goal. Korea pressed Argentina's defence high in the last five minutes but could not force a penalty corner. AFP



Spain's Silvia Munoz falls on top of Lisa-Marie Deetlefs of South Africa during their World Cup field hockey match in Rosario on Tuesday.

BOXING

Margarito intentionally used illegal wraps: Pacquiao

Los Angeles, September 1

Manny Pacquiao says he believes Antonio Margarito tried to use illegal hand wraps in his last US fight which resulted in the Mexican boxer being banned from the sport for one year.

Pacquiao scoffed on Tuesday at Margarito's explanation that he didn't know his trainer was putting a plaster-like substance in his gloves prior to a 2009 fight against Shane Mosley. "He is just making some alibi," Pacquiao said. The 31-year-old Filipino superstar Pacquiao is expected to face Margarito for the vacant World Boxing Council super welterweight title on November 13 in Dallas, Texas. "He is the one who wraps his hands and he doesn't know what is in there?" Pacquiao asked. "Of course he knows. What do you think? My belief is he knows that."

Margarito was granted a license last week to fight in Texas. He hasn't fought in America since the Los An-

geles Mosley incident after his license — along with that of former trainer Javier Capetillo — was revoked by the California State Athletic Commission. The ban was upheld by other state boxing commissions.

The two fighters held a joint news conference on Tuesday at The Beverly Hills Hotel. Margarito, who upset Miguel Cotto six months before the Mosley fight, has always insisted he had no knowledge of what his trainer was doing. "Everything that happened is now in the past," said Margarito, who has 38 wins, six losses and 27 KOs.

He refused to comment on Pacquiao's latest claims. But his new trainer Robert Garcia and fight promoter Bob Arum both defended Margarito. Pacquiao (51-3-2, 38KOs) has asked officials to allow them to send an extra person from his camp into Margarito's dressing room prior to the Dallas fight to observe the taping.

"I am requesting that two people

BASKETBALL: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Never say die Lithuanians topple Spain

Izmir, September 1

While most eyes were on Greece's match with bitter historical rivals Turkey on Tuesday, the real excitement was taking place in Group D with Lithuania rallying from an 18 point deficit to beat Spain 76-73.

Down 64-55 at the beginning of the final quarter, Jonas Maciulis (13 points) turned the tempo with two steals leading to two massive dunks. The momentum continued to build with Lithuania tying the score twice (66-66, 71-71) before Linas Kleiza (17 points 8 rebounds) finally claimed the lead for the Lithuanians with 21.2 seconds remaining, leading to scenes of jubilation in Halkapinar Arena.

They would not let the lead slip, pulling off the unlikely of victories. "I am really proud to win this game. It was a heck of a game and I am so happy for our boys to be able to come back," said an exhausted Martynas Pocius (13 points). The game against Greece was the game all Turkish fans had been waiting for, with their team able to deliver upsetting the Greeks 76-65 on the back of an inspired performance from Ersan Ilyasova who top-scored for the Turks with 26 points.

Earlier in the day Russia were made to fight hard for their victory over the Ivory Coast, winning by just 6 points, 72-66. Evgeny Voronov was top scorer for the Russians with 19.

After the game Russian coach, David Blatt who yesterday announced this will be his last tournament in charge admitted his team is under strength here in Turkey. "We don't have the kind of team that can win a medal but we have the kind of team that can fight hard and make the people at home proud," he said.

In the only other Group C match, a poor rebounding effort from China

grabbing just 29 compared to Puerto Rico's 44, would again prove costly as the Puerto Ricans pulled out to a 84-76 victory. Jianlian Yi again carried China with 24 points, while Vassallo top-scored with 22 for Puerto Rico.

Earlier in the day New Zealand started Group D action, needing to beat Lebanon to have any realistic chance of moving through to the round of 16. The game held extra significance with former New Zealand coach Tab Baldwin coming up against his former side for the first time.

It was not to be a happy night for Baldwin with New Zealand running riot over his Lebanese side 108-76. The tournament's top point scorer to date, Kirk Penney again led all point scoring with 26. Baldwin was gracious in defeat, complimenting the opposition.

The second game of the day in

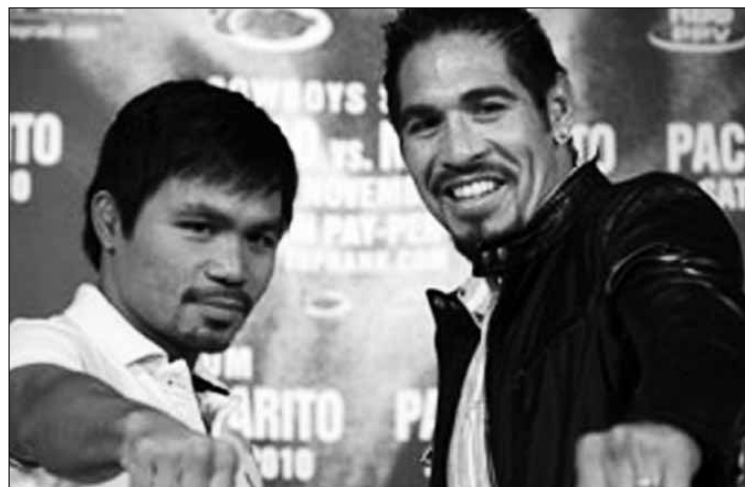
Group D could not have been a bigger contrast to the first as the French struggled against a determined Canada, only claiming the lead late to win 68-63. Nicolas Batum was the only Frenchman to break double figures, finishing with 24 points.

It is the second close game to go against the Canadians and they need to find something special in their remaining two games to avoid going home early. One shining light for the Canadians was the performance of 19-year-old Kelly Olynyk who claimed 13 points, after playing for just 8 seconds in Canada's opening two games.

Olynyk's team mate Levon Kendall was full of praise for the youngster after the game. "He (Olynyk) was great. He shows a lot of courage for his guy his age. Hopefully he can now do it on a consistent basis," said Kendall. AFP



Turkey's Omer Asik slams a dunk against Greece during their Basketball World Championship preliminary round match in Ankara on Tuesday.



be allowed to watch them bandage his hands," Pacquiao said. Garcia said he has nothing to hide. He said Pacquiao can visit Margarito's dressing room before the fight. He would also let Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach do the wrapping.

"Manny can come watch him-

self if he needs to," Garcia said. "I do not have a problem with that. I could have Freddie Roach do the wrapping. I don't do anything illegal. I know very few people give us a chance."

It is unlike Pacquiao to fire the first verbal salvo in a pre-fight news

conference but the Filipino did just that Tuesday. Pacquiao was all smiles and joking with Margarito during a photo-op on the podium at the Beverly Hills Hotel but then told reporters afterwards that he doesn't believe Margarito's version of the events at Staples Center arena 19 months ago.

His comments also contradicted Arum who spent a good portion of his time at the podium Tuesday defending his decision to put the Filipino in the ring with the disgraced boxer. Margarito still does not have a license to fight in California or Nevada. His most recent California application was denied.

"Antonio Margarito did not know that those hand wraps were illegal, and there was something bad in those wraps," Arum said. "(There's) not one shred of proof. He served his time, and thank God, the people in the Texas boxing commission, who reviewed all the testimony, agreed with that conclusion." AFP

BEATLE BAILEY **GREG AND MORT WALKER**

WHAT'S THAT LIGHT FOR? WHEN IT'S ON IT MEANS THE GENERAL'S IN.

IT JUST WENT OFF THAT MEANS YOU'RE HERE!

BLONDIE **DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL**

I PUT GAS IN YOUR CAR, DAD. DID YOU FILL IT UP? WELL, ENOUGH TO GET ME BACK HOME.

BEAU PEEP **ROGER KETTLE AND ANDREW CHRISTINE**

COLONEL, COME OUT FROM UNDER YOUR DESK. NO. YOU'RE BEING VERY CHILDISH. AM NOT. YES, YOU ARE. AM NOT WITH BELLS ON.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE **CHRIS BROWNE**

HAMLET, DO YOU THINK I'M BEAUTIFUL? GOSH, HERNIA, I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER... HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE KNOCKED RIGHT OFF THAT LOG?! HOWEVER I MUST ADMIT YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY!

ARCHIE **FERNANDO RUIZ AND CRAIG BOLDMAN**

COME ON! COME ON! COME ON! INTO THE HOLE! RIGHT THERE! DO IT! DO IT! I NEED A BALL THAT LISTENS BETTER!

PEANUT **CHARLES M. SCHULZ**

NOW, PRETEND WERE OUT IN THE WOODS... YOU'RE FOLLOWING A TRAIL, SEE... SUDDENLY, YOU SPY A RABBIT! WHAT DO YOU DO?

SUDOKU

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



VOCABULARY BUILDER

- Give the meaning of the following words.
- Grades:
5 correct excellent,
3 or 4 correct = Good
Less than 3 = Improvement needed.
- Meretricious**
Valuable
Overbearing
Studied
Looks good but isn't
 - Metier**
Dispenser
Profession
Value
Disgust
 - Miasma**
Cesspool
Foul air
Mud bog
blood component
 - Contretemps**
An inopportune occurrence
Medicine for cramps
A fierce argument
Counter measure to temptations
 - Touchstone**
A quality standard
A talisman which brings luck
A clever tactic which is used to destroy an opponent's position
A work of art or sculpture

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

1		2		3	4		5		6		7
				8							
9							10				
11							12				
											13
			14		15			16			
		17		18		19				20	
21											
22						23					
24										25	

QUICK CLUES

Across: 1 Bamboozle, beguile or gyp (4) - 3 Baker's dozen may be unlucky for some! (8) - 9 A support for the foot of a horseman (7) - 10 "Taper" anagram for father? (5) - 11 They have to be followed! (6,6) - 14 Of the remains of an organ or part that had a function in an earlier age? (9) - 17 Deteriorates completely? (4,2,6) - 22 Grenoble river (5) - 23 Blimp or dirigible (7) - 24 Steady, or decided (8) - 25 ___ in : confines or restricts the movements of? (4).

Down: 1 "Star side" anagram for terrible trouble! (8) - 2 Earlier, coming before in time or importance (5) - 4 Large African mammal inhabiting rivers etc. (5) - 5 Molested or sexually harassed a woman (5) - 6 Portuguese seaside resort (7) - 7 Undercover cop, in short (4) - 8 One of those things that never come down in these days of inflation? (6) - 12 Arrangement of masts, spars, sails, etc., on a vessel (3) - 13 Business day endings (8) - 14 Mauve flowers (7) - 15 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet (3) - 16 A frozen taper (6) - 18 Dutch mathematician famous for his law on refraction of light? (5) - 19 The course of a man-made satellite, perhaps (5) - 20 Dried bulb of tropical myrtle, used as spice (5) - 21 Movable stand on which coffin or corpse rests (4).

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across: 1 Fisherman's hook? That's nonsense! (4) - 3 Competitors managed to hide in tents, trembling (8) - 9 The French wedding partner needs space to stretch! (3-4) - 10 Around the North this might be seen to be legally intervening (5) - 11 Where submariners enjoy tricking the tug boat (7,5) - 14 Reynard in excursion is surpassing in guile (9) - 17 Being opposed to the building of seats for spectators? (12) - 22 Blame half of Bangui before lawsuit ends (5) - 23 The night before a deception in Worcestershire (7) - 24 Cases in point somehow please nine-ninety! (8) - 25 Computer image in Pimlico, normally (4).

Down: 1 Related to a lot of stars (8) - 2 Dickensian scoundrel with cigarette burning (5) - 4 Faceless performer of skill (2,3) - 5 Macho man with a whiff of the sheep? (5) - 6 Urge to make a home first and keep this for later on (4-3) - 7 Dogs, cats, etc climb the foot support (4) - 8 Is veto out of place for this country now? (6) - 12 Apparently moves, to avoid a levee (3) - 13 Convenient character to do odd jobs (8) - 14 Duck vehicle in a wind instrument, that's egg-shaped! (7) - 15 Enjoyable, could be refund when in the red (3) - 16 Gave forth, but is taken to court (6) - 18 Point out it's geared for road-cruising (2,3) - 19 It's great when it's crested (5) - 20 A practitioner goes round hospital for this special purpose (2,3) - 21 Fearful man, non-progressive at heart (4).

DENNIS THE MENACE **HANK KETCHAM**

"MUD IS MORE FUN WHEN IT'S NOT FROZEN!"

HOCUS FOCUS **HERNRY BOLTIHOFF**

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Glove is removed. 2. Label on bag is different. 3. Window is different. 4. Stake is larger. 5. Leaf is missing. 6. Hat is different.

ALPHAGRAMS

Solve the anagrams. Each solution is a one-word anagram of the letters above. The five solutions are alphabetically sequential. For example if the five letters solution start with J, the sixth letter solution starts with K. and so on.

ADZES:

LEGATE:

ANY FAST:

SOAR GRIN:

RICH SUITE:

Solution: Dazes, Eagles, Fantasy, Garrison, Heuristic

Previous Solutions

QUICK

A	L	G	Y	D	I	P	L	O	M	A	T
N	R	B	A	U	C	H	U				
C	R	A	N	I	O	S	E	S			
E	V	I	T	B	C	T	K				
S	P	E	C	I	F	I	C	H	E	A	T
T											
O	R	E	G	A	R	D	I	N	G		
R	E	S	N	C							
S	T	R	I	K	E	I	T	R	I	C	H
A	A	N	G	E	D	E					
C	L	I	M	B	G	E	N	E	R	A	L
E	N	E	O	T	I	O					
R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	U	S	S	R

CRYPTIC

E	T	T	U	A	N	I	M	A	T	E	S
N	I	P	O	I	A	E					
D	E	T	A	I	L	S	C	H	I	L	L
O	A	N	E	R	N	F					
W	I	N	T	E	R	S	P	O	R	T	S
I	R	A	E	D							
A	N	S	T	O	N	E	D	A	D	O	
G	U	O	N	S							
S	P	E	N	D	T	H	R	I	F	T	S
A	P	O	U	O	L	L					
Q	U	O	T	A	B	A	L	L	A	D	E
U	R	I	E	S	P	R					
A	S	T	E	R	I	S	K	U	S	E	S

BC **HART**

TELL ME A SCARY STORY, DAD. I DON'T KNOW ANY. TELL HIM WHY WE GOT MARRIED.

SCRAMBLE

Solve the 4 anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words...

HMSEO:

NSWIT:

EEKLNN:

LIGHTS:

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated

One doesn't become famous by being good at many things, but being great at ___ (3,5)

Solution: Words: Homes, Twins, Kennel, Slight. Answer: One doesn't become famous by being good at many things, but being great at one thing.

IDIOM - A - DAY

Hold a torch

To hold a torch for someone (British) or to carry a torch for someone (American) is to be in love with someone without them knowing it or to be in love with someone who is no longer in love with you.

As this passage from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet shows, the torch has long been associated with passion and love. But even before the great English bard of Avon, the ancient Greeks and Romans used the torch in marriage ceremonies. Brides customarily carried a torch to light the hearth in their new home. Hymen, the god of marriage ceremony, is often represented in paintings as a youth holding a torch. And let's not forget Venus, the goddess of love, who is frequently depicted with a torch.

Apart from its reference to matters of the heart, the torch has taken on other meanings. The Olympic torch for instance, which was first used to light the Olympic flame at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, symbolises the transmission of Olympic ideals from ancient Greece to the modern world. And one of the most recognisable torches in the world can be found soaring above New York harbour, raised with one hand by the Statue of Liberty.

TODAY'S TEASER

A ship is battling against the stream to the safety of an island. It travels at a shuddering speed of 5 miles per hour, and is 15 miles away from safety. The flow of the water is 2 1/2 miles per hour against the boat which uses 2 1/2 gallons of fuel every hour and has a tank capacity of 15 gallons. Will it reach safely, and if so how much fuel will it have left?

The boat makes it with no fuel left



SEASON'S SPIRIT

HOLLYWOOD GETS READY FOR HALLOWEEN WITH FIGHTING OWLS, FEUDING FOUNDERS, SUPERNATURAL DRAMAS. – Page 16

PORT LOUIS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

magazine

KATHERINE HEIGL WILL BE SEEN IN THE NEW ROMANTIC COMEDY *LIFE AS WE KNOW IT*. – PAGE 16



The home is a giant adventure playground for children, especially the bathroom and kitchen. And in these rooms more dangers lurk than may be readily apparent.

Sizzling, bubbling and gurgling on the stove exert a magical attraction on children. "Mom and Dad should never leave their little ones alone in the kitchen," said Susanne Woelk, managing director of the non-profit initiative Das Sichere Haus ("Home Safe") in Hamburg.

Some simple precautions help prevent accidents. "A stove guard in front of the burners keeps children from pulling pots down onto themselves," Woelk pointed out. And stove-knob covers block them from turning on the burners.

To prevent children from opening the oven door, Woelk recommended an oven lock. "There are also safety latches and locks for drawers that make it impossible for children to take out knives and other dangerous objects," she said.

Kitchen appliances, such as water boilers and toasters, should not stand too close to the edge of the counter. "Children in the crawling stage are especially fond of pulling on dangling cords," Woelk warned.



THERE ARE DANGERS LURKING EVEN AT HOME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN. HERE ARE SOME PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY.

CHILD SAFE

Which brings us to another hazard: electricity. "You're playing it safe if you always unplug the water boiler, etc.," noted Anja Becker, from the Berlin-based initiative Electro+. Clipping electrical cords to the wall keeps them out of children's hands. Cables within the reach of children should be checked regularly and replaced if the insulation is worn.

Electrical outlets arouse children's curiosity, too. "Can I stick my finger in the holes?" they wonder. "What happens if I stuff toys into them?"

"To make potentially life-threatening experiments like these impossible, I recommend child safety sockets whose holes are covered when no appliance is plugged in," Becker said.

It is also essential that a residual-current circuit breaker

(RCCB) be installed in the home's power distributor. The device "can be a lifesaver," Becker said. "When electric current leaks, such as by passing through a person's body, RCCB immediately cuts it off."

If a hair dryer falls into the bath water, for instance, an RCCB can safeguard against electrocution, she said.

But children's baths remain risky even with an RCCB present. "Safe bathing is ensured by non-slip bath mats and a temperature regulator for the hot water so that children do not scald themselves by turning the tap," Woelk said.

She added that parents especially needed to be alert when bathing children under three years of age. "Small children can drown in just a little water," so they should never be left unsupervised.

Dangers also lurk outside the bathtub. "Children between the ages of one and four years are at risk of poisoning by household chemicals," said Bernd Glassl, a director at the German Cosmetic, Toiletry, Perfumery and Detergent Association (IKW).

Hazardous substances such as decalcifiers and all-purpose cleaners are particularly common in the bathroom, and in the kitchen as well.

"The best place to keep such items is in a high cabinet or shelf out of children's reach," said Glassl.

He said that chemical products should never be decanted or transferred into food packaging familiar to children, such as empty juice bottles.

"Strongly corrosive liquids like drain cleaners and decalcifiers are especially dangerous

and should never be left around open," Glassl warned.

Although containers with child safety caps are fairly reliable, he said, "elderly people, in particular, tend to leave containers with child safety caps open so that they don't have to struggle with the lock cap again. This can end badly when their grandchildren come to visit."

"If a child has swallowed a poisonous substance, rinse out the child's oesophagus and mouth with tap water or tea and notify a poison control centre," advises Glassl.

Under no circumstances should you induce vomiting or give the child milk or saline solution to drink, he said. Rinse chemically burned skin or eyes with running water and then immediately take the child to a doctor. **DPA**

LIFESTYLE TRENDS



CAR'S FRONT SEATS SAFER

Front seats are safer than rear seats in a car, thanks to the addition of new safety features over the years.

"We could save more lives and prevent more injuries if we paid the same attention to the rear seat of cars as we have to the front seat," says University of New South Wales associate professor Lynne Bilston, who led the study.

Previous studies in older cars have shown that occupants sitting in the back seat were at lower risk of serious injury and death in crashes, says Bilston.

"However, since the mid-1990s, front seats have improved enormously with airbags and better seatbelt designs in the front driver and passenger positions," she says, according to a New South Wales release.

These safety features are often overlooked in case of the rear seat, even in newer cars, meaning the front seat is now relatively safer than the rear seat for adult passengers.

While all adults in newer cars are relatively safer in the front seat, the effect is greater for older adults.

Bilston and colleagues compared the risk of injury to front and rear seat occupants in cars made between 1990 and 1996 with those travelling in newer cars.

They found that while newer cars are safer than older cars, significant reductions in head, thoracic and abdominal injuries were only seen in front seat occupants.

There are currently no regulations on how cars should be designed to protect rear seat occupants, Bilston says. **IANIS**



END OF THE COUCH POTATO

More and more viewers are now watching TV shows online, heralding the death of the couch potato, reveals a new UK research.

Actually more than a third of users (34 per cent) now watch preferred programmes online compared to only 29 per cent who watch them mostly on TV.

And more than half the students said they watched TV programmes on the net.

Viewers want to see more drama and documentaries rather than reality and celebrity shows, researchers found, according to the Daily Mail.

The survey shows viewers want to avoid programmes like the 'Big Brother.'

The figures from a joint survey by SeeSaw.com and Radio Times show that the viewership patterns are changing fast.

John Keeling, a representative of online TV service SeeSaw, said, "The nation's hunger for great TV is insatiable."

"Viewing across the board is in robust health, but scratch the surface and a quiet revolution is taking place," he said.

"Whilst the nation continues to watch fantastic shows like Doctor Who and Top Gear, a whole new generation of TV fans are enjoying these shows online."

Ben Preston, Radio Times editor, said, "The couch potato is dead, the age of the hunter-gatherer is nigh. Technology means television isn't a passive activity any more. We hunt down what we want to watch..."

The survey of 2,000 adults finds nearly a third of viewers (31 per cent) want more drama, while 30 per cent would prefer to see more documentaries.

Just two per cent of those polled said they wanted more celebrity content, and three percent wanted further reality TV.

A total of 44 per cent said Big Brother was the show they were most likely to avoid. **IANIS**



PRIZED PETS

A pet's status in a family may be influenced by where the owners live, new research suggests.

People who regard pets as children tend to have a city background, for example, while those in rural areas have a more practical attitude, said study author David Blouin, of Indiana University.

"To think of pets as just another animal is not uncommon in rural areas, which makes sense given the utilitarian relationships people in rural areas are more likely to have with a range of different animals - from farm to wild animals," Blouin, an assistant professor in the sociology and anthropology department at Indiana University South Bend, said in an American Sociological Association news release.

He also found that pets often lose their status as "children" when owners start having children.

"If you have kids, you have less time to spend with your pets. That's part of it, but not the whole story. People who think of their pets as their children often re-evaluate this thought when they have human children of their own," Blouin said.

Among the other findings:

Many people have very intense attachments to their pets, who are often an integral part of the owner's daily routine.

Ninety-three per cent of dog owners and 77 per cent of cat owners take their pets to the veterinarian at least once a year.

Eighty-one per cent of dog owners and 67.5 per cent of cat owners spend two or more hours daily with their pets.

Many owners said their pet's health was a major concern and some admitted spending substantial amounts of money on their pet's health for routine care (including vaccinations) and more serious conditions such as skin allergies, diabetes and Crohn's disease.

The study was presented Sunday at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in Atlanta. **IANIS**



WHY MOTHERS BOND SO WELL WITH THEIR KIDS

Children share a special lifelong bond with their mothers which may be rooted in how the brain reacts when we see our mothers' face.

When adults look upon their mothers' face, it triggers a stronger response in the brain than when they look at pictures of strangers and that of their father, according to scientists.

Using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines, researchers measured the brain activity of volunteers, with an average age of 35 years, as they were shown pictures of their parents, strangers and celebrities, reports the Telegraph.

When they viewed images of their mother, the scientists found that it

"lit up" key areas, associated with recognition and emotion, according to the journal Brain and Cognition.

The findings suggest that mothers produce a complex and lasting emotional and cognitive response in their children's brain, as a result of the bonding experience that takes place between them and their children,

as babies.

Marie Arsalidou from the University of Toronto in Canada, who led the study with academics from the University of Winchester, Britain, said, "Differential activity to mothers' faces may be attributable to greater exposure to one's mother's face during critical childhood years." **IANIS**



GreenNote

A cup of vinegar will clean a washing machine. Run it through a regular cycle - but not with clothes.

Spirit of the season

HOLLYWOOD GETS READY FOR A HIGH-POWERED RIDE THIS HALLOWEEN WITH FIGHTING OWLS, FEUDING FOUNDERS AND SUPERNATURAL DRAMAS

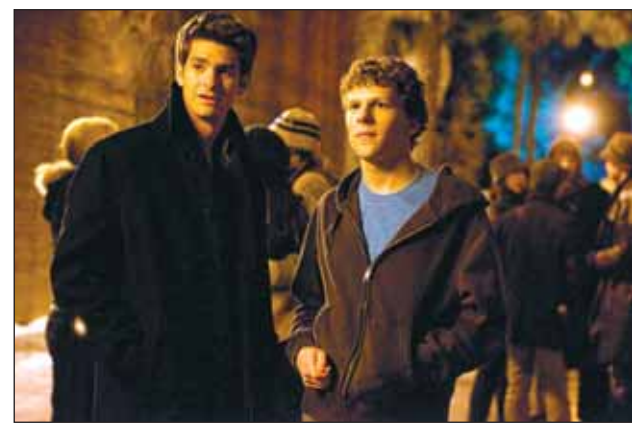


Michael Douglas has his money on his mind again, this time with Shia LaBeouf, in Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps.

WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS

September 24

Greedy is still good, though director Oliver Stone's follow-up to his iconic 1987 drama surprisingly aims for the heart instead of the pocket-book. Michael Douglas returns as the disgraced financial wizard, Gordon Gekko, which won him a best-actor Oscar last time around. Shia LaBeouf co-stars as an idealistic young broker engaged to Gekko's estranged daughter (Carey Mulligan) in a love story tangled up in corporate intrigue, fatherly redemption, and, of course, quite a few betrayals. "I said (to Stone), 'Who would've known you were such a romantic?'" says Frank Langella, who plays LaBeouf's mentor, brought low by a fictional version of the current financial calamity. "The film has about it a genuine, old-fashioned, yet modern romance. It's going to surprise people who expect it to be fast, slick and heartless. It is those things when it needs to be, but it's full of great heart."



THE SOCIAL NETWORK

October 1

In the jargon of Facebook, the more this film updates its status, the more it also pokes Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Directed by David Fincher (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button) and scripted by The West Wing's Aaron Sorkin, this drama chronicles the early days of the now omnipresent digital hangout site, going way back to the historic era of 2003, when it was created in a Harvard dormitory. The explosive popularity of Facebook united old pals from across the country but tore the founding group apart, resulting in the film's sublime tagline "You don't get to 500 million friends without making a few enemies." Jesse Eisenberg (Adventureland) stars as Zuckerberg, who hasn't been involved in the film, according to the actor. "The character doesn't care as much about pleasing other people," Eisenberg says. "And he isn't concerned with his own happiness. He feels much more directed, and concerned with creating this website and maintaining it than striving for his own personal success, to the point where he had so much money, but still slept on a mattress on the floor, and still wore the same flip-flops every day."



LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

October 8

A married couple try and fail to set up their two very different best friends (Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel) in a romantic relationship but still choose them to be godparents to their new baby. When tragedy strikes the parents, the friends find themselves bound together as shared guardians of the little one. The problem is, they hate each other. Or maybe they just have a lot of growing up to do, too. "The child in their lives forces them to not be about themselves and not be selfish," says director Greg Berlanti, creator of the TV shows Everwood and Eli Stone. "Romantic comedy is the category most people want to put it in, but hopefully it's a little more than that. I want you to laugh and cry in equal measure."

THE TOWN

September 17

There's something off about those nuns rushing into the bank — and it's not just their ghastly rubber faces. Oh, yeah — it's the machine guns. Ben Affleck stars in his own directorial follow-up to 2007's *Gone Baby Gone*, playing a Boston armed robber who is just managing to get by while a determined lawman (Mad Men's Jon Hamm) closes in on him. "These are sort of brown-bag robbers and there's a real lunch-pail quality to what they're doing. It's not slicked up," Affleck says. "How does somebody become this? And what do they go home to? And do they have a checking account?" Probably not at the same places they're robbing, he jokes. Affleck's character is sympathetic — but so is Hamm's investigator. Affleck hopes the audience roots for both. "When you have a criminal as a protagonist, there's this tendency to make the law enforcement characters really unlikeable, or artificially position the audience against them. I wanted to make Jon seem like the hero of the movie," he says. "There's basic righteousness to what he's doing. He's trying to arrest people who are doing illegal things, and dangerous things."



NEVER LET ME GO

September 15

A melancholy tale of doomed young souls, starring Carey Mulligan, Keira Knightley and Andrew Garfield (cast as the next Spider-Man). It's based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro (*The Remains of the Day*), and takes place in an alternate reality, where many diseases have been cured, but at a sorrowful price — at least for some. The three main characters are raised as organ donors, taught to feel privileged about their lifesaving role, and groomed to welcome their inevitable (and early) demise as a noble sacrifice. What they don't count on, and no one else seems to care about, is their own passions — for freedom, adventure and each other. "It's a cautionary tale about how we're here for a very limited time, and we don't always make the best use of it, and push that knowledge into the background," says director Mark Romanek (*One Hour Photo*). "The film is about: How do we not come to the end of our lives and regret how we lived it?"



SECRETARIAT

October 8

It's a horse-racing story about the legendary Triple Crown-winning stallion, but this heartwarmer set in the early 1970s is also a drama about a woman venturing into one of the oldest of the old boys' clubs. Diane Lane plays Penny Chenerly, a Denver housewife and mother who inherits the horse from her late father and recognizes a champion in him when the more experienced men in the racing business initially overlook it. "What a ground-shaking thing it was to see a woman venturing forth out of the kitchen, out of the hearth of home and into what has always been the male role of bread-winning and getting things done," Lane says. Instead of being a hindrance, Chenerly's experience as a nurturer and homemaker became an advantage, says the actress. "You call forth the spirit of greatness in your offspring as best you can. There's finesse to knowing how to do that with each different person — or in this case a horse."

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE

September 24

Zack Snyder is known for creating savage, otherworldly realms in 2006's *300* and last year's *Watchmen*, but here he takes an abrupt turn into not just a family-friendly adventure but one in which the characters all have feathers. It's still a fantasy-adventure picture, but the young hero is an owl who dreams of finding the legendary armored brethren who can help him fight the predatory rivals terrorizing his home. "I wanted to do something that transcended animation, that was not a cartoon, but more like *Avatar* with owls," Snyder says. He cautions against doubting the fearsomeness of owls. "They're pretty awesome soldiers. Owls are hunters anyway, with natural gifts of talons, and the ability to fly silently and acrobatically, and really rule the night," he says. "You can see the potential once you put these metal battle claws and helmets on them."

HEREAFTER

October 22

Clint Eastwood has dispatched a lot of people to the afterlife in his other films. With this one, the 80-year-old director takes a more soulful approach. "It's about searching for the answer to the question: Is there life after death?" says Robert Lorenz, Eastwood's longtime producer. "I think it has universal appeal, because everybody thinks about that question. Matt Damon plays a psychic haunted by what may be his genuine connection to the other side, just one of a trio of others that intertwine. "The others are about people who lost someone and another who had a near-death experience," Lorenz says. The script is by Peter Morgan (*The Queen*, *Frost/Nixon*) and Eastwood's decision to direct was a surprise even to his collaborators, since he has seldom dealt with such ethereal ideas. "It's very unexpected for him," Lorenz says. USA TODAY

A still from Life As We Know It.

