

GCC nations to blacklist absconding housemaids



Dozens of corpses lie in streets of Burundi



Courtroom cage too small; judge postpones trial of 739 suspects



Barcelona held by Deportivo after blowing two-goal lead



SAUDI WOMEN VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LANDMARK POLL

'I VOTED FOR A MAN, BUT I HOPE A WOMAN WILL WIN'

150 FILS
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JEDDAH: Saudi women cast their ballots at a polling station in the coastal city of Jeddah yesterday. Saudi women were allowed to vote in elections for the first time ever, in a tentative step towards easing widespread sex discrimination in the ultra-conservative Islamic kingdom. — AFP



RIYADH: Covered from head to toe and driven by male guardians, Saudi women voted yesterday for the first time, in a tentative step towards easing sex discrimination in the ultra-conservative Islamic kingdom. In another first, women were allowed to stand as candidates in the polls for municipal councils, the country's only elected public chambers. "Now women have a voice," Awatef Marzooq said after casting her ballot for the first time at a school in the capital. "I cried. This is something that we only used to see on television taking place in other countries."

Despite the presence of female contenders for the first time, Marzooq said she picked a male candidate because of his ideas including more nurseries. "I voted for a man, but I hope a woman will win," she said. Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy with some of the world's tightest restrictions on women, including a ban on driving. It was the last country to allow only men to vote. In a reminder of the continued gap between the two sexes, polling stations were segregated. Outside one centre for women in Riyadh, cars driven by men arrived every few minutes with female voters dressed in black robes. Some of the women asked the media not to take their photograph before they were whisked away.

Mohammed Al-Shammari, who had just dropped off his daughter, a teacher, said he had encouraged her to vote. "We want to break this barrier," he said. "As long as she has her own place and there is no mixing with men, what prevents her from voting? We support anything that does not violate sharia (Islamic law)," he said. More than 900 women are running, competing with nearly 6,000 men for seats.

Continued on Page 13

AMERICANS TOLD TO AVOID LEBANON

WASHINGTON: The US State Department has urged US citizens to avoid all travel to Lebanon "because of ongoing safety and security concerns." It also advised US citizens living and working in Lebanon that they should "understand that they accept the risks of remaining in the country and should carefully consider those risks." "Sudden outbreaks of violence can occur

at any time in Lebanon, and armed clashes have occurred in major cities," the State Department said in a statement, adding that the Lebanese government could not guarantee the safety of US citizens there. It cited cross-border conflicts with Syria and Israel, anti-Western violence, suicide bombers and kidnapping, among other risks. — AFP



File photo shows Tashfeen Malik (left) and Syed Farook, as they passed through O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. — AP

WIFE'S ROLE IN US ATTACK RAISES FEAR

JIHAD BRIDES?

LOS ANGELES: A Pakistani woman's role as a shooter in the San Bernardino massacre is raising fears that foreign-born brides who support the Islamic State group could marry Americans to come to the US to carry out extremist missions. Experts in jihad, immigration lawyers and former US diplomats say there's no sign other foreign brides have sought Western marriages to launch attacks, and it's still not clear if 29-year-old Tashfeen Malik did so. But, they warn, that could change, especially if IS militants begin actively encouraging women to join men in attacks in the West.

While the group currently bars women from taking up arms for combat or other attacks, its commanders are pragmatic and adaptable and could drop their ban at any time, security experts say. "When they see an opportunity to do damage, and the best man for the job is a woman, they will use the woman," said Sasha Havlicek, a

founder of the British-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue, whose work includes monitoring the flow of female extremist recruits. "We will see women more active in terror plots," Havlicek predicted. "We already know they are radicalizing in unprecedented numbers."

The flow of IS supporters can also go the other way. Up to 30 women have left America to try to join the Islamic State group since it rose to prominence, according to a recent estimate from the Department of Homeland Security. The numbers are higher in Europe, where more than 600 women have left to join extremists over that same period, Havlicek said. A religious conservative who lived previously in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, Malik joined her American-born husband of less than two years, Syed Farook, on Dec 2 in donning tactical gear, grabbing assault

Continued on Page 13

CHEERS AS FRANCE PRESENTS UN CLIMATE-RESCUE ACCORD



Republican presidential candidate, businessman Donald Trump

TRUMP 'A DISGRACE': SAUDI BILLIONAIRE

RIYADH: Donald Trump is a disgrace and should pull out of the United States presidential race, Saudi Arabian billionaire Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal tweeted late on Friday. "@realDonaldTrump You are a disgrace not only to the GOP but to all America," Alwaleed said on his official Twitter account, @Alwaleed_Talal. "Withdraw from the US presidential race as you will never win." Alwaleed is an unusually outspoken member of the Saudi royal family, who chairs Kingdom Holding Co.

The diversified firm's interests include US-banking giant Citigroup. A statement early yesterday from Alwaleed's office said his tweet was in response to Trump's "anti-Islam statement". Alwaleed is a devout but moderate Muslim. Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination, has been lambasted both in the US and abroad for his proposal made on Monday to temporarily bar Muslims from entering the US.

Trump's comments followed a shooting rampage by a Muslim couple in San Bernardino, California, which left 14 dead.

A Dubai real estate firm building a \$6 billion golf complex with Donald Trump has stripped the property of his name and image amid a backlash over the US presidential candidate's proposal to ban all Muslims from entering the United States. Trump triggered an international uproar when he made his comments in response to last week's deadly shootings in California by two Muslims who authorities said were radicalized. DAMAC Properties had initially said it would stand by Trump, even as another of the billionaire's Middle East partners, the Lifestyle chain of department stores, halted sales of his "Trump Home" line on Wednesday in protest at his comments.

Continued on Page 13

LE BOURGET: French hosts of UN talks submitted to cheers and applause yesterday a proposed 195-nation accord to defeat global warming, which threatens mankind but needs an energy revolution to resolve. Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, on the brink of tears after presiding over nearly a fortnight of talks in Paris, delivered the proposal to ministers who must now decide whether to approve it, possibly within hours.

"It is my conviction that we have come up with an ambitious... agreement," Fabius said, telling the ministers they would achieve a "historic turning point" for the world if they endorsed it. The hoped-for deal seeks to end decades-long rows between rich and poor nations over how to fund the multi-trillion-dollar campaign. With 2015 forecast to be the hottest year on record, world leaders and scientists have warned the accord is vital for curbing rising temperatures and averting the most catastrophic consequences of climate change. If climate change goes unabated, scientists warn of increasingly severe droughts, floods and storms, as well as rising seas that would engulf islands and coastal areas populated by hundreds of millions of people.

Fabius said that, if approved, the deal would set a "floor" in funding, in which at

least \$100 billion (92 billion euros) a year from 2020 would be channeled to help the developing world fight global warming. It would also aim at limiting warming of the planet since the Industrial Revolution to "well below" 2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) and strive for an even more ambitious goal of 1.5C, he said. French President Francois Hollande and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sat on stage alongside Fabius as he made a lengthy speech imploring ministers to approve the blueprint yesterday.

Raising hopes of a successful conclusion, negotiators stood up and cheered before Fabius spoke, and rose in another standing ovation at the end. "You have a chance to change the world," Hollande told delegates. "You have to take the final step, the decisive step which allows us to reach the goal." US Secretary of State John Kerry added to the optimism, saying afterwards the United States was pleased with the planned accord. "It should be good, but we'll see. Little things can happen, but we think it's teed up," Kerry said. The proposed agreement came after negotiators missed an initial deadline of Friday to sign an accord, as feuding ministers refused to budge on entrenched positions.

Continued on Page 13



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande (left), French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius (center) and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon arrive for a statement at the COP21 Climate Conference in Le Bourget, north of Paris yesterday. (Inset) A copy of 'The adoption of the Paris agreement' is pictured after the announcement of the final draft by French Foreign Affairs minister Laurent Fabius at the COP21 Climate Conference in Le Bourget, north of Paris yesterday. — AFP



Ooredoo Kuwait CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani receives the award from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Ooredoo's team in a group picture with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

OOREDOO KUWAIT WINS INFORMATICS INNOVATION AWARD

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of Ooredoo international group, received the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Innovation award, which was presented by His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during an awards ceremony a Bayan Palace last Monday.

Ooredoo Kuwait achieved the third ranking position in the private sector category,

and was awarded for its commendable efforts in social media engagement. The award was received by Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani, Ooredoo Kuwait CEO and General Manager of Ooredoo Kuwait. The event was also attended by Chief Operating Officer Hani El Kukhn and Corporate Communication Director Mijbil Alayoub.

The prestigious event was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Bill Gates, Co-Founder of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Commenting on this achievement, Ooredoo Kuwait CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani expressed his deep gratitude towards HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

Sabah, and all the organizes of the award and the ceremony.

He noted: "We are proud of this achievement, and we dedicate it to all our esteemed customers for their trust in us. The award sheds light on our successful social media strategy and proficient engagement with our current and potential customers, through our social media channels, which are vital tools to stay in touch with our customers and to keep

them up to date with all that is new and exciting in terms of our latest products and services and in the world of technology."

He added: "I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our social media team for their tremendous efforts and hard work to continuously remain on top of the latest in this field, to ensure an effective and differentiated communication experience with our customers."



KUWAIT: Bashayer Al-Awwad (third from left) attends an International Association of Engineers' meeting related to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21). — KUNA

ENGINEERS CALL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE 'THAT CAN WITHSTAND WEATHER'

PARIS: The International Association of Engineers has concluded a meeting, held as part of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), with the adoption of a document containing a series of recommendations to tackle the global climatic change issue, such as working out new construction methods to cope with climatic changes.

Bashayer Al-Awwad, the Kuwaiti Deputy Chairperson of the international association, told KUNA that the recommendations aim at limiting "greenhouse gases" according to regulations agreed upon at the regional level, as well as local rules. Conferees advised that diverse infrastructures should be installed; capable of withstanding harmful effects the climatic changes, she said, indicating

that engineering is at core of the issue for building installations capable of withstanding harmful climatic effects.

She also indicated that women's role in rural regions was also examined, noting their prime role against hunger and poverty, as well as limiting effects of the climate and realizing sustainable development.

The 85-state International Association of Engineers had named the Kuwaiti female engineer Awwad as the head of the affiliate women engineers committee. The UN conference (COP 21), aimed at establishing closer cooperation among nations of the globe to minimize contamination and harm inflicted on man's environment, concluded yesterday. — KUNA

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY ENDS 3RD PHASE OF AWARENESS WORKSHOP

KUWAIT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) has finalized third phase of its awareness workshop designed to promote its executive by-laws, in effect since November 10th. The CMA in a statement issued yesterday, shedding extensive light on the activity, said the first phase addressed allowed proportions of sales and purchase by the "party in control at the listed companies," defining the "control theme" as "any concord, placing stock ownership, individual or of affiliate or aligned parties, exceeding 40 percent."

It also tackled rules governing the proportion, mechanisms related to ceiling of sell-offs or purchases, durations, revelations' terms for traded shares through affiliate companies or the aligned parties as well as the percentage left for the "controller entitled to sell or buy within six months." The first phase deliberations also delved into other trades' mechanisms in details.

As to the second workshop, it tackled general regulations regarding revelations, transparency terms for the listed companies, rules for the board meetings during trading and mechanisms of posting information on the internet.

The third one dealt with interests' disclosure, voting with respect of the shares in investment portfolios or e-accounts, regulations of securities' transactions and times for banning operations, subscription floatation and other terms governing securities, conditions for enlisting and various forms of investment in the bourse. The Authority has affirmed that enactment of its bylaws constitutes a major event at the local finance market.

It had reported that the campaign included a workshop that tackled clients' funds and assets, matching records with accounts, defining meas-



KUWAIT: A general view from the workshop. — KUNA

ures in defaulting cases, with emphasis that only permitted persons are allowed to manage investment portfolios.

The awareness workshop also addressed terms of contracts and accords between the client and the licensed individual, type and objective of the portfolio and limits of jurisdictions granted to the permitted agent. Other issues that were examined were fees and commissions, work ethics, types of clients-regular or professional-measures to trim conflicts of interest, recording phone contacts, deals, electronic messages, among the employees, agents and clients. The workshop also dealt with provisions governing compulsory acquisitions, duration for

assembling stocks and rules for voluntary acquisitions. The CMA campaign will proceed till December 22nd. The campaign for promoting the new laws is carried out through SMSs and other communication means. It promotes legal and regulatory rules for supervision, reporting and investigating irregularities, adjudication, complaints' examination, forms of protests and investigation mechanisms.

The regulations, as promoted in the campaign, deal with licensing, assets' evaluation and capital requirements in some activities. They also cover subjects such as definition of the 'market maker', and role of the authority and the market in this regard. — KUNA

HOUSING WELFARE PART OF WAQF PROJECTS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Public Awqaf Foundation (KPAF) yesterday said that housing welfare is part of the Waqf projects system that KPAF established in cooperation with other authorities. The system aims to help Kuwaiti families with limited-income that do not have houses, and provide them with environment for dignified living, director of the Waqf Projects Department at KPAF Kawakeb

Al-Mulham said in a press statement.

Over the coming few days, the project will start receiving applications, Mulham said, adding that it targets the Kuwaiti families that cannot afford having a house. Details and the required documents will be announced soon, she said, noting that beneficiaries will be identified according to social and economic status. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Veteran actors honored during the festival. - Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAITI, TUNISIAN DIPLOMATS DISCUSS DRAFT AGREEMENTS: AMBASSADOR

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti and Tunisian diplomats held talks on Friday on a number of draft agreements and Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs), while sharing common views over regional and international issues, a senior diplomat said.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Aziz Al-Daihani said the draft agreements and MoUs would further deepen bilateral relations to thus honor aspirations of the leaderships and people of Kuwait and Tunisia.

Speaking to KUNA on sidelines of a meeting of Kuwait-Tunisia Joint Committee at the directors' level, Daihani hoped the agreements would be signed during the committee ministerial-level meeting today. First Deputy Prime Minister and



Aziz Al-Daihani

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Tunisian Foreign Minister Taieb Baccouche would co-chair the committee meeting. — KUNA

KUWAIT THEATER FESTIVAL CLOSES

KUWAIT: The 16th Kuwait Theater Festival came to an end Friday with the selection of 'Al-Irs' (Wedding) as the winning play. The festival, which began on December 11, included a host of plays and seminars, in addition to honoring a group of actors and actresses for their contributions to theater in Kuwait.

Ali Al-Yoha, Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL), said the plays had great impact on the audience. Yoha hoped the festival would return next year with further plays that would contribute to the cultural movement in Kuwait. He was addressing the concluding ceremony on behalf of Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and President of NCCAL.

Yoha said: "theater is an active mean to exchange ideas and dialogue in a democratic way which is distant from extremism and rejection of the other." Theater, he added, "is one of the most important constructive tools to enrich thinking and soul."

Meanwhile, the judging panel of the festival complained of weak scripts of some plays, and that every play should be viewed by specialists

before being played before audience. The panel called for preserving the Arabic language as the language of dialogue among actors, while rec-

ommending the rational use of smoke on stage because it affected interaction among actors and audience. — KUNA



A scene from the 'Al-Irs' (Wedding) play.

In my view

TRUMP VS ISLAM!



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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United States presidential candidate and billionaire Donald Trump has urged the US to prevent Muslims from entering the United States. This remark has sparked a controversy - with a huge angry response and few supporters. Here is the most important question - Are American policy makers really able or ready to stay away from the Middle East? Trump can say anything he wants about his country but, when it comes to Islam as a religion and Muslims in general, he needs to watch his mouth.

We are not part of his TV shows. It is known that the Trump's organizations are linked to trade relations with several Muslim countries - why cannot he begin with his business empire in the region? Arab Media comedian Bassem Youssef told CNN that there are many dupes in all religions - adding that Trump hates Muslims except the rich Muslims. Well, he certainly summed it all.

Because of the sensitivity of this subject, the White House has been forced to comment on the subject - stating that it was contrary to American values and the security of America. The statement did not clarify whether American Muslims are also targeted, or if such a claim is inconsistent with the US constitution or not. The Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton made a smart move, saying that Donald Trump's plan to block Muslims from entering the United States is "not only shameful but dangerous."

Saudi Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal, in his Twitter account commented on Trump's remarks, saying that he is a disgrace to all Americans. Let us consider Trump's proposal seriously. First, I see it as racist and shameful opinion for several reasons. What about the Americans who live here in our countries - and in the Arab world? Are we going to treat them like that - putting a ban due to their religion? Maybe you think this is unacceptable - why not?

Arabs and Muslim world have survived for over 1,400 years and we can live without a golf course built by Trump Foundation! The second point here is that 'the hostile view' of Islam and Muslims will increase the tensions in America where Muslims accounts for nearly 8 million people - with over 4,500 US Muslims as soldiers. I wonder what their status will be under Trump's regime and the Republican Party plan.

I know that in the Gulf region, there are lots of appreciation and love for the US Republicans due to their political and trade links but, the reality is that many of them don't have a strategy to the new reality in the Middle East. Some believe the only way to return to the White House is just a bet on Trump. If he is desperate to win, he needs to be aware of the reality in the Arab world.

Right now the media is giving Trump all the power he needs to win. So far, he has not offered anything significant other than sowing fears. But the fear of being a victim of terror is a mutual and common sentiment all over the world including here in Kuwait and the rest of GCC. I believe that while many Americans laugh at Donald Trump, those in the Middle East see the media coverage only. It seems that news channels are in favor of him. I wonder if Trump will cancel all his business transactions in the Middle East if he wins the election.

Donald Trump's remark that "Muslims hate the Americans - so they pose a threat to America" is pure nonsense. As a Muslim, I don't need to apologize for the actions of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda or Islamic State. Just for the record, we did not create them and we also see them risks that must be removed. We as Muslims have to stand up against those who use Islam to advance their own personal agenda. Trump should not be welcomed in our countries anymore. He is not the one to make America great again.



KUWAIT: Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a three-day official visit, where he will have official talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Kyrgyz President's accompanying delegation includes Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev and several other senior officials. He was received at the airport by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

GCC TO BLACKLIST ABSCONDING MAIDS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Ministries of labor in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries intend to issue a blacklist including names of absconding domestic laborers and those in violation of labor laws in the GCC member states so that they could be banned from entering any of them.

The ministries are currently working on electronically linking those lists to show how committed the workers are to the contracts they sign with employers. The ministries also agreed to issue a similar blacklist for employers abusing domestic laborers.

Security cameras

The Ministry of Interior will start installing security cameras around Kuwait by the first quarter of 2016, well-informed sources said. The sources added that, through Central Tenders Committee and the State Audit Bureau, special security and technical teams would start assessing the imported cameras in order to make sure they were of high quality and match those used in advanced countries. Further, the source noted that the ministry had finished selecting the locations where the cameras would be installed, hoping that they would cover all Kuwait by the end of 2016.

Family council

The parliamentary women and family affairs' committee is due to meet this morning to discuss a bill on establishing the 'Family Supreme Council'. The meeting will be attended by Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaaqoub Al-Sane.

Extremist ideology

MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran stressed that the Islamic State (IS), Al-Qaeda and those following the same ideologies were either 'enemies of Islam' disguised as Muslims or ignorant misled Muslims.

Football Association

Chairman of the parliamentary sports and youth committee MP Abdullah Maayouf stressed that the committee would summon Kuwait Football Association (KFA) officials once the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS) contacted the association. He also promised to refer any corruption case to the public prosecution. Maayouf added that the committee plans to make a recommendation to withdraw the KFA's building and have the chairman resign because he 'does not deserve to run the KFA'. Further, Maayouf slammed FIFA's warning against holding a friendly match between Kuwait's National Team and the World

IBN SINA HOSPITAL PERFORMS SIX EPILEPSY OPERATIONS

KUWAIT: Ibn Sina Hospital announced yesterday it had performed six intricate neurological operations on patients suffering from acute epilepsy. The operations were performed with the assistance of a foreign visiting specialist and were all deemed successful, said chief of the neurological unit at the hospital Dr Faisal Sayer in a press statement.

The six cases treated had to do with mesial temporal sclerosis, right temporal cystic lesion, right temporal cavernoma, and cortical dysplasia, he said, noting that patients suffering from epilepsy are treated in stages.

First they are examined to see if they respond to oral medicine and this is known as the refractory epilepsy stage, followed by a second stage where MRI is used as well as Ictal spect or EEG -video monitoring of the patient's brain, said Dr Sayer. The third stage is the epileptogenic focus where the patient is operated on by a team of specialist surgeons, he said. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Doctors at Ibn Sina Hospital perform an intricate neurological operation on a patient suffering from acute epilepsy. — KUNA

Crime

Report

TODDLER KILLED IN JAHRA ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 3-year-old Kuwaiti boy died when he was run over by a speeding vehicle driven by a 17-year-old Bedoon (stateless) man in Jahra, said security sources. The child was rushed to Jahra Hospital in a critical condition but died on admission, the sources added. Initial reports said that the child was playing outside his family's house when he was hit accidentally. The driver was taken in police's custody to face charges.

Convicted fraudster caught

An Egyptian man who had been wanted for a seven-year imprisonment sentence over several fraud charges was recently arrested in Jahra. He was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Camp thieves arrested

Ahmadi detectives recently arrested a Saudi man and two bedoons for multiple camp robberies, said security sources, noting that the suspects had committed 9 robberies stealing all-terrain vehicles (ATV), motorbikes and generators.

Muggers in police's net

A citizen and a bedoon with a history of drug-related crimes were recently arrested in Farwaniya on charges of committing 10 robberies against expatriates, were recently arrested in Farwaniya.

Liquor factory busted

Four expatriates were recently arrested in Mahboula when narcotic detectives stormed a liquor factory, said security sources. Detectives also found 100 liquor barrels, tools used in brewing liquor, 418 bottles of liquor, nine sacks of yeast and two cooking gas cylinders.

Fugitive nabbed

A bedoon (stateless) man was recently arrested in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and taken to the relevant authorities to serve time in jail on previous charges. The man was caught at a checkpoint where police checked his ID and discovered that he is wanted to serve one year for robbery and two years for drug possession. Police also found a bag containing methamphetamine with the suspect's possession.

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FIGHTING E-CRIMES



By Labeed Abdal

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The White House's praise of the first ministerial Chinese-American dialogue on fighting e-crimes and describing it as a 'major step' that would further enhance bilateral relations after both presidents' meeting is an intelligent and significant step in the age of information technology.

To clearly communicate with Chinese officials, be they national security officials or those responsible for law-enforcement, can positively boost bilateral relations between the two UN Security Council member states, and is of great importance for both countries. It can also contribute in fighting crimes that might be committed online and may include terrorist threats.

Both sides' initiative calls for transparency and joint efforts to fight organized crime, especially those committed online such as commercial secrets' theft to help certain companies gain more privileges in terms of commercial competition with others or forgery. There is also a necessity to openly cooperate to prevent jeopardizing national electronic security in a way that would undermine basic important combatting efforts and support the police and e-security.

Dialogue between major powers is undoubtedly built on shouldering international responsibilities that usually take place whenever any major or growing economic power is developing, which increases other nations' responsibilities towards electronic cooperation and integration.

Using IT as a tool or a weapon has become an undeniable real life fact now that calls for complete alertness and readiness from all countries are made, especially when those technology owners, manufacturers, and even inventors gain endless profits from providing some companies with statistical information they use for promotional purposes. This information can also be accessed for security reasons. Finally, there is some crime-related information that requires a court order to be accessed and used to investigate a particular crime.

In terms of mutual commitments, international pacts and treaties, especially those related to bilateral cooperation, are becoming urgently needed, especially in this age when technical design and engineering is being sold at the highest prices because of its fast analytical capabilities and its endless limits. They are mere frequencies that can be very friendly or very devastating.

ZAIN RECEIVES FOUR TITLES AS PART OF ADVERTISING CREATIVITY AWARD 2015

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, proudly received four titles as part of the Advertising Creativity Award 2015. The award, organized by the Arab Media Forum, came for the third year under the patronage of Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs' representative, the Information Ministry Undersecretary Tareq Al Mizrim, presented Zain Kuwait's Marketing Director Fahad Al Jassim with the awards during the ceremony, where Zain was awarded with four titles as part of the Creativity, Effect, Voluntary, charitable, and humanity, as well as the top brands of 2015 categories.

This awarding comes in light of Zain's distinguished advertising and media involvement, and it further showcases the company's role as a leading private sector

company launching several advertising campaigns all year round. Zain will continue supporting this very important field which carries significant and informative messaging to the public at large and the communications world as a whole, whether through traditional or modern media tools.

Zain Kuwait was awarded with the Creativity category for its Ramadan 2015 ad, the Effect category for its Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign ad, as well as the Voluntary, charitable, and humanity category for Zain Group's Ramadan campaign ad.

The Advertising Creativity Award 2015 was organized for the third year by the Arab Media Forum, which has proven itself to be one of the region's most prominent events that attend to Arab Media. The event brought together many ministers, media executives, journalists, academics, authors, actors, businessmen, and social figures from all around the Arab world.



Zain's team receives an award during the Advertising Creativity Award 2015.

EQUATE RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD FROM DOW

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, received the Innovation Technology Award, an international recognition from the Dow Chemical Company (Dow), for executing a project to clean the Ethylene Unit (EU) process equipment in less than 3 days.

The award-winning project, which was finalized in less than 65 hours, is the first of its kind achievement at plants evaluated by the Dow Tech Center. The EU cleaning attained savings of over \$14 million while adhering to world-class industrial practices, especially in the Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S).

EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "This innovation-based project supports sustainability within the industrial sector to ensure overall progress. To EQUATE, this recognition is a source of encouragement for us to continue our journey towards excellence as 'Partners in Success'. As the first Kuwaiti organization to adopt Six Sigma methodology and Highly Reliable Organization (HRO) principles, EQUATE's human capital have proven their innovative capabilities, admirable dedication and global achievements. Since launching our own Six Sigma program, we have certified over 180 project leaders who have executed more than 300 projects with savings exceeding \$300 million."

The successful EU process cleaning was executed during EQUATE's world-record setting Turnaround (TA) in 2014. The TA was completed in 30 days for the units of EU, Polyethylene (PE),

Ethylene Glycol (EG and Utilities, as well as the first stage of the PE debottlenecking project with the participation of over 12,000 employees and contractors. The EU has a production capacity of over 900,000 metric tons annually and it is one of two units operated by EQUATE.

The EU cleaning was based on a Six Sigma methodology, which is a set of techniques and tools for process improvement to deliver the best possible results while minimizing cost, time and effort. HRO is about overcoming all risks and challenges through the integrated reliability of the human capital, equipment and process to ensure overall success.

EQUATE is Kuwait's first Responsible Care (RC) accredited and certified organization, which reflects its belief that safety and the environment are main priorities. EQUATE, by all standards, operates one of the safest manufacturing complexes in the world.

The first of their kind in Kuwait seawater-cooling towers were established by EQUATE to protect the marine life and water recycling on-site. In addition, EQUATE has launched many major initiatives, such as the Middle East's first plant water recycle project and Kuwait's first CO2 recovery project, as well as Energy Conservation and EQUATE Green programs. In accordance with the requirements of RC, as well as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, EQUATE upholds the highest standards of environmental, health, and safety practices in its operations. Safety for employees, suppliers, customers, and the community always comes first.



BURGAN BANK OFFERS PREMIER CUSTOMERS FREE TICKETS TO 'STAR WARS - THE FORCE AWAKENS'

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, in collaboration with Grand Cinemas, announced yesterday that Premier Banking customers will be offered the exclusivity to watch the first screening of "Star Wars - The Force Awakens" movie for free at the most luxurious VIP movie theatre - Grand Class VIP in Al Hamra Tower, on December 17th, 2015.

Accordingly, Burgan Bank allocated a special number to receive calls from Premiere customers to reserve their free VIP seats in any of the three shows that will be available that day, to enjoy this unique experience for the first time in Kuwait.

This offer comes as part of the bank's wide and exclusive range of valuable privileges and benefits that are specially designated for its Premier Banking customers. These matchless benefits include the full attention of a highly professional Personal Banking Executive (PBE) who is assigned as a financial advisor for each premier banking customer. Other benefits include free access to more than 70 international airport lounges across the world, a variety of concierge services such as courier service, airport transfers, limousines for occasions, efficient car registration, and the payment of their children's school installments.

Additional benefits include a free travel insurance policy, which is provided upon completing a purchase transaction of airline tickets using any of Burgan Bank's Platinum (debit/credit cards) for customers and their immediate family members, in addition to free valet parking service at select venues and shopping malls across Kuwait and merchant discounts at selected retail outlets throughout the country.

To find more about this offer and to book the free seats, Premier Banking customers are required to call 22988405 (from 9 am to 5 pm). For more information about Premier Banking, customers are to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch or contact the call center on 1804080, or visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.

KUWAIT BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION HOLDS PROMOTIONAL FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Boy Scouts Association (KBSA) is holding a festival in downtown Kuwait to keep the public informed of its activities, said member of the association's board Abdullah Al-Bloushi yesterday.

He told KUNA that the festival affirms the values and traditions and culture of the Kuwaiti society and seeks to establish bridges of communication with the nation's institutions and agencies as well as boost the principles of boy scouting. Further, the festival on this occasion has organized some contests and community activities for those attending it in the downtown area known as Al-Mubarakiya.

Scouting in Kuwait started in 1935, the KBSA was founded in 1952 and became a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1955. Kuwait Scouting features out-of-school education in character development, skills and traditions and clean living.

Community service projects include participation in environmental services, World Health Day and conducting youth work camps. Scouts also assist several charitable organizations in co-operative activities. The Scouts have also offered considerable aid and assistance to other Scout organizations in the Arabian Gulf area.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Boy scouts are pictured during the festival. — KUNA



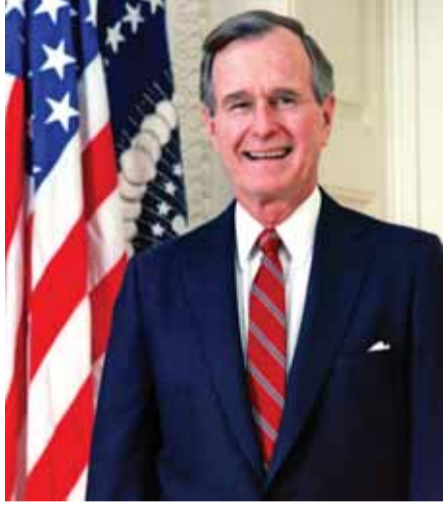
KUWAIT: The first International Kuwait Dog Show was organized yesterday, and supervised by Alianz Canine Worldwide. Teams from Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Germany participated in the event. — KUNA

BUSH'S BIOGRAPHY DETAILS 1991 LIBERATION OF KUWAIT

WASHINGTON: In the Jon Meacham biography of the 41st US president, 'Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush,' the book focused on detailed accounts and actions of the former President that led to the liberation of Kuwait in 1991.

According to the book, after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the administration of President George H W Bush was trying to decide how to react.

When Bush arrived at the White House from the presidential retreat at Camp David on a Sunday afternoon, Bush announced to reporters, "This will not stand. This will not stand, this aggression against Kuwait."



George H W Bush

Such a strong statement surprised his closest advisers. "Where did you get that 'This will not stand'?" his national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft asked.

"That is mine," Bush replied. "That is what I feel." This exchange is revealed in the Jon Meacham biography of the 41st US president, "Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush."

Congressional authorization

As Bush sought congressional authorization for the first Gulf war, Bush mentioned five times in his diaries his concern that he would be impeached if he went forward without it, and his determination to move ahead even if the US Congress did not so, the book reveals.

"If I do not get the votes" in Congress for war, Bush remarked to then-Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates one day in the Oval Office, "I am going to do it anyway. And if I get impeached, so be it," the book says.

In late November 1990, as he pondered a scenario in which he lacked an explicit congressional resolution of approval for the inva-

sion, Bush dictated: "It is only the United States that can do what needs to be done. I still hope against hope that Saddam will get the message; but if he does not, we have got to take this action; and if it works in a few days, and he gives up, or is killed, or gets out, Congress will say, 'We did it, wonderful job'... If it drags out and there are high casualties, I will be history; but no problem-sometimes in life you've got to do what you've got to do."

Then-Secretary of State James Baker fought for UN Security Council Resolution 678, which set a deadline of January 15, 1991, for Saddam to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. The measure passed by a 12 to 2 vote-the first such authorization of force since the Korean War 40 years earlier.

The book says that Bush suffered from depression after the war, which aide Marlin Fitzwater said he suspected was due to a thyroid disorder.

Meacham concluded the depression was sparked by disappointment that Saddam remained in power, and by his feeling that US domestic issues were a sort of "trivial pursuit" after the emotional highs of leading a global coalition. Bush could not hide that feeling from American voters, and it gave Democrat Bill Clinton the opening to defeat Bush's bid for a second term in 1992, the book indicates.

Invasion of Iraq

Regarding the decision by Bush's son, President George W Bush, to invade Iraq in 2003, Meacham's book implies that the son consulted his father more than he admitted, and that, contrary to some reports, the elder Bush supported the decision of his son to invade Iraq and oust Saddam militarily.

However, the senior Bush thought the rhetoric of his son-including his son's characterization in 2002 of Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil"-was needlessly harsh, the book says. For that tone, the senior Bush largely blames then-Vice President Dick Cheney, who was defense secretary during the administration of Bush senior.

Cheney "had his own empire there and marched to his own drummer," the senior Bush says of Cheney's role during the George W. Bush administration of 2001-2009. "The big mistake that was made was letting Cheney bring in kind of his own state department. I think they overdid that."

"But it is not Cheney's fault, it is the president's fault," he added, referring to his son, the 43rd US president.

The senior Bush, who is now 91, confided that he thought Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "served the president" - his son George W Bush - "badly."

Ideological purists

In an entry that foreshadows the political struggles of today, the senior Bush wrote about his Republican Party's ideological purists. In a 1988 diary entry-the year he was elected to the presidency-then-Vice President Bush wrote, "They don't care about anything. They will destroy this party if they are permitted to take over."

The book paints a portrait of Bush as more ambitious, anxious and emotional than commonly seen.

"My motivation has always been goal ... you know, to be captain," Bush told Meacham. "Whatever you are in, be number one." Bush allowed Meacham, an executive editor at Random House and former editor of Newsweek, access to his diaries and family members, and sat for a series of interviews from 2006 to 2015, resulting in the 800-plus page biography. — KUNA

NBK FIRST IN KUWAIT TO OFFER SECURE ONLINE SHOPPING USING DEBIT CARDS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) enhances its NBK Secure Shopping Service by offering its customers a safe international online shopping experience when using their NBK Debit Cards, for the first time in Kuwait.

NBK Secure Shopping Service includes Credit and Prepaid Cards. This advanced service provides the highest level of protection for cardholders against unauthorized usage when shopping on international websites.

NBK customers can register for this service through NBK.com or during shopping prior to using their Debit Cards, Credit Cards and Prepaid Cards at participating 3D secure merchants. The passcode that customers create works as their unique online identifier, to protect them from unauthorized usage when making online transactions. NBK customers can visit their closest branch in Kuwait to update their information and benefit from this

service when using their debit cards.

"With the growing number of online payments globally, NBK is committed to delivering superior value to its customers through providing a secure banking environment," said Mohammad Al-Othman, NBK's Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking Group. "NBK enhanced its Secure Shopping Service by including NBK Debit Cards."

"At NBK, we want to make sure that our customers' internet purchases are as secure as possible. NBK customers can enjoy now both comfort and protection while using their cards when shopping on international websites," Othman added.

NBK Secure Shopping is a free, quick, simple and secure payment process that works by using a passcode. The NBK Secure service adds an additional level of authentication by confirming customer identity with a dedicat-

ed passcode that makes internet shopping safer. For more information, contact NBK call center at 1801801, or visit nbk.com or your nearest NBK branch.



Mohammed Al-Othman

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3	Crane Tower MAX 6 TON, TIP LOAD 1.6 TON, XCMG MODEL NO. QTZ 63	1
4	Crane 50 TON HYDRAULIC TRUCK MOUNTED QY50B-XCMG	2
5	Crane 100 TON HYDRAULIC TRUCK MOUNTED QY 100K XCMG	1
6	Skid Steer Loader 635 Kgs, Bob Cat - YOM-2002	1
7	Roller Vibrator Double Drum with 650mm 810 kg RD	1
8	Roller Vibratory 1 TON MIKASA MDR-9D	1
9	Roller Vibratory 1 TON MIKASA MRH-700DS	2
10	Jeep 4000 CC Ford Explorer YOM 2007	1

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- Copy of company registration is required if the buyer is an organisation
- Copy of Id. card is required if the buyer is not an organisation
- Sealed Tender should be submitted to our Doha Office within bid closing dates.
- Equipment are in "working condition & sold on as is where is basis".
- Quote expected for individual line items & Lumpsum quote will not be accepted.

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Contact person: T.S. Balaji, Lead Supply Chain, Telephone No +974 4405 4709

Zaman Hassan, Buying Specialist, Telephone No +974 4405 4746

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Bid Closing Date would be: 05.00 PM on 24/Dec/2015



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Crime

Report

PORT MAN KILLED IN WORK MISHAP

KUWAIT: An Asian man was recently killed when he fell off a ship-loading wench at Shuaiba Port, said security sources, noting that the man was killed instantly after he lost his balance while unloading material from a ship and fell to the ground.

Drunk men arrested

A group of young citizens were recently arrested in Riggae for public drunkenness. The arrest came after a number of residents called police complaining about noises they were making. They were taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Old disputes

A citizen reported that three of his friends had assaulted and robbed him due to old financial disputes. The man explained that while going to the diwaniya of a friend to sort the problem out, the three argued with him and then assaulted him and took KD 1,300 he carried before they threw him out. The man provided police with a medical report of his injuries. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Missing girl found

An Arab girl who had been reported missing was recently arrested while enjoying some moments of 'intimacy' inside a vehicle in Sharq with a citizen, who was also arrested, said security sources. Case papers indicate that police patrol officers suspected a vehicle and on approaching, the couple were found in a compromising situation. Checking their IDs, policemen found out that the girl had been reported missing by her family at Abu Halifa police station.

Fugitive caught

A citizen, who had been wanted for kidnapping a minor, was recently arrested in Ardhya, said security sources.

Joke leads to prison

A practical joke recently led a citizen to jail when his victim and friend could not take what he did, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the suspect made an ad on social media about providing hair removal services to men by 'Kuwaitis hands' at the convenience of customers' homes, using his friend's mobile number as the contact number for the service's provider. Tracking the ad, detectives had a secret agent call the number and make an appointment. However, the person who received the call got angry and denied providing such services or knowing anything about the ad. The man further went to police, noting that he had been receiving lots of insults because of this ad. Investigations led to the man's own friend who said he only wanted to 'joke around' with him, and that never knew things would go that far.

Fraudster arrested

A Syrian man was recently arrested in Salmiya for fraud, said security sources, noting that the suspect also resisted arrest. Case papers indicate that an Egyptian man reported that the suspect had taken KD 8,000 from him to invest them in a joint project. The man added that the suspect then vanished and that on going to his house, he denied everything and threw him out.

Maid kidnapped

A female citizen reported that an unidentified man broke into her house in Agaila and kidnapped her Filipina maid right before her eyes, said security sources. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

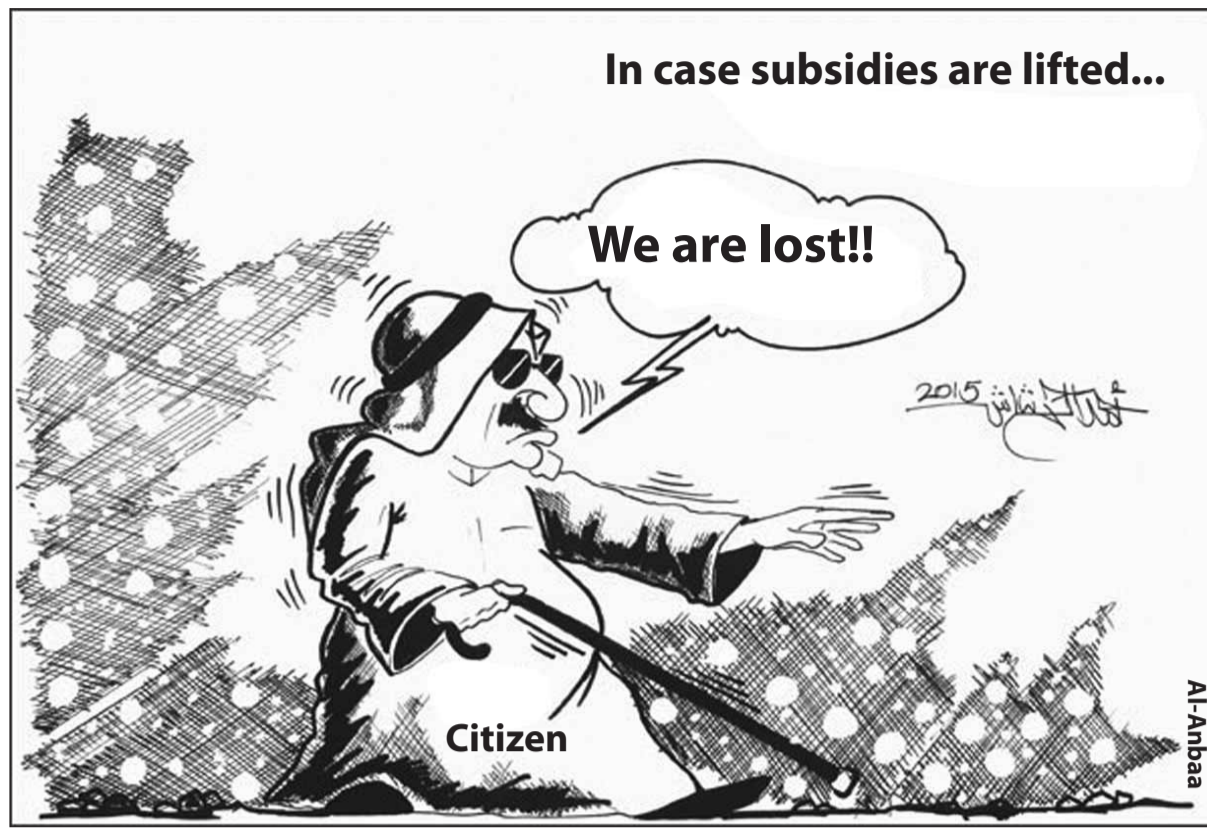
SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR FAKING KUWAITI CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTS

KUWAIT: A citizen was recently arrested for attempting to include a Saudi national in his citizenship file instead of his son who had just passed away, a local daily reported yesterday quoting well-informed high-ranking security sources. However, with further investigations, citizenship detectives found out that the suspect had done the same with three others in return for money.

The sources added that, similarly, another citizen added two bedoons (stateless) in his and a friend's citizenship files in return for KD 10,000. Case papers indicate that on applying to the citizenship department to issue a citizenship certificate, a citizen who was officially registered to be born in 1997 suspiciously seemed a lot older. However, on interrogating him, the man failed to provide simple information to show that he knows anything about Kuwait, and was referred to criminal investigators who found out that he was 29-years-old and that he was a Saudi national.

The suspect told detectives that he was offered the chance to get a Kuwaiti citizenship four years ago when the other suspect offered adding him to his citizenship file instead of his dead son, and he asked for photographs and issued him a civil ID and a Kuwaiti passport. He then had him fake a marriage contract to get a KD 6,000 marriage loan from the government and split it between them. The suspect also applied for housing, but he was caught when he used his Saudi ID to enter Kuwait and apply for the Kuwaiti citizenship certificate.

On raiding the forger's house in Ali Sabah Al-Salem area, he was arrested and confessed of his actions. He told police that three other people, who were later on arrested, had been added to his file in return for KD 2,000 each. —Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

BALCONIES

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

Its names are varied and shapes are different in our Arab world, until we reached the shortened definition of balcony - being "the way out from a closed to a place with open doors." The majority in the past used the balcony as a way out to cleanse the soul from worries and concerns through meditation through the balcony that overlooks the vast skies, or a way out to a colorful garden of flowers or plants or connected to the street, or whatever beautiful image that rids the body of the worries in the heart or brain.

The balcony was a vent and a psychological factor that was being resorted to when doors were closed. Yet today, balconies have become a negative factor for the individual, and this is not a pessimistic result, rather it is a scientific result out of our living reality. Today's skies are only clouds that carry many diseases and one is

afraid from inhaling from them. The sea waves became a source of collecting various types of garbage. Gardens became something of the past, so only the public street remains, which became a circuit of illness due to what it carries in many hours of worries and apprehension of tomorrow by human beings. Those are the images that balconies are overlooking today.

Balconies became a negative factor and not positive for the human being as they used to in the past. The human being in the past used to look out of the balcony to throw his worries outside, and carry out self-cleansing. But today, the balcony is a source from which the human being receives many negatives when looking through it, and so our societies have balconies, but without pure air and no way out to cleanse the human soul.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

The balcony was a vent and a psychological factor that was being resorted to when doors were closed.



ABK HOSTS LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR 175 RETAIL BANKING DIVISION STAFF

KUWAIT: The Retail Banking Division of Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently honored employees who had completed between 5 and 15 years of service with the Bank.

Commenting on the long-standing commitment and value of their contribution to the development of the Bank, Stewart Lockie, GM, Retail Banking

Division took the opportunity to thank all staff receiving awards for their loyalty and dedication to ABK.

Each department in the Bank hosts regular Long Service Awards for members of staff who have been with the bank for 5 years and longer. ABK has long enjoyed a reputation of strong staff retention and an event honoring

staff that have spent 20 years and above was recently held at the Symphony Hotel where 77 staff members were recognized. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahli.com, contact an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 18998999.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR VISIT VISAS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health intends to impose health insurance on visitors coming to Kuwait using tourist or commercial visit visas, well-informed ministry sources said. The sources added that a team consisting of members from the health minister's office and the ministry's legal affairs department was currently preparing a draft bill to submit it to the cabinet soon.

Further, the sources explained that the team discussed various options to put this project into practice with various insurance companies, and also discussed its benefits, especially since it is already used in Europe. Meanwhile, the sources denied any intention to cancel expats' health insurance or increase its fees. —Al-Jarida



KUWAIT: As part of its comprehensive awareness project 'Wa'ee' (aware), Kuwait National Guards' moral guidance department recently organized a lecture titled 'Security Prohibitions.' The lecture was held in collaboration with the legal affairs and military police departments.

الجريدة Al-Jarida

DOMESTIC CONSOLIDATION...HOW?

By Dr Bader Al-Daihani

It does not seem that, so far, there is serious interest in achieving domestic consolidation, which is the cornerstone in protecting the nation against any foreign threats, challenges or negative reflections of the fierce regional political conflicts, absurd wars and unstable regional and international situations, especially when our sensitivity to foreign development is very high due to many factors including the small size of our country.

In this regard, one cannot talk seriously about domestic consolidation and stability while we are still suffering the consequences of the government's unilateral decision to adjust the electoral system, which minimized the number of voters who elected lawmakers instead of maximizing it. In addition, there is political exclusion of certain basic social sects, which means the weakness of political participation in decision-making and setting general policies that led to imbalances in the state's constitutional institutions and drove basic effective sociopolitical powers to boycott the parliamentary elections twice and flock to the street in demonstrations demanding political and democratic reforms. As a result, many have been prosecuted for merely posting some tweets that drove some opposition icons and political activists to jail, which complicated the whole scene.

On the other hand, one cannot speak about domestic consolidation in view of reducing liberties, which pushed the political conflict into its natural course, or in view of severe unprecedented sectarian and racial polarization that started to be reflected in some public decisions and policies, which will inevitably lead to fragmenting the national social coherence and promoting secondary tribal, sectarian, regional and family identities at the expense of a unified national one that grants all citizens equal rights and mandates them to equal duties, if it had not already done so.

We are facing many challenges related to our existence, consolidation and the strength of our domestic front in facing foreign dangers, which calls for a brave initiative on the authorities' side carrying comprehensive political and democratic solutions that unite the entire nation, with all its sects and social components, on building a modern democratic secular state where there is room for everybody; one that would put an end to the constant sociopolitical congestion that has been going on for years; one that would take the political conflict back to normal constitutional channels so that domestic political conflicts do not consume the society's powers and efforts with the result of forgetting all about foreign challenges and threats to our existence as a state, a regime and people at this very critical moment of our history.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

CONSPIRACY PHOBIA

By Salah Al-Sayer

"New Horizon" is a new spaceship that is currently orbiting the solar system at a speed of 50,000 kph on a nine-year journey taking it five billion kilometers away from earth so that it can take clear shots of a mountain range on Pluto that NASA named 'Al-Ildrisi' after the famous Arab geography scientist Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Ildrisi Al-Hashimi Al-Qorashi, the author of 'Nuzhat Al-Moshtaq fi Ekhtiraq Al-Afaq'.

Naming a mountain range in outer space after an Arab scientist is a well-respected scientific gesture from the West that blows away all what we had heard and said about Western envy and malice towards us Arabs and Muslims. It also blows away all talks about conspiracies plotted by Zionists and Europeans who always try to slander and degrade our civilization and keep forgetting that they had been living their Dark Ages and would not have developed and prospered if it were not for the sciences they took from us. Ever since, we have been living more like two wives of the same man living in the same house!

We have been too busy with illusions and got

We have been too busy with illusions and got the world to join us in our skepticism, narcissism, jealousy and conspiracy phobias.

the world to join us in our skepticism, narcissism, jealousy and conspiracy phobias. Those people have been thinking, renovating and producing new ideas while we are still captive to the conspiracy theory. We are overwhelmed by skepticism and each step we take forward is usually followed by skeptical looks over our shoulders. Our minds are full of illusions that mankind fears our Arab unity and that the followers of other religions are afraid of the establishment of our religious state. In an unprecedented attitude towards other cultures and nations, we are hysterically delusional with ideas that everybody is conspiring against the Arab 'giant!' —Translated by Kuwait Times



10 years on, tensions simmer as Australia marks race riots

HORROR OF 9/11 DOMINATES GUANTANAMO MILITARY COURT

DOZENS OF CORPSES LIE IN STREETS OF BURUNDI

NAIROBI: Horrified residents awoke yesterday to at least 39 dead bodies scattered in the streets of the Burundi capital, Bujumbura, a day after coordinated armed assaults on three military installations. Witnesses and journalists in Nyakabiga, a hotspot neighborhood for anti-government protests in recent months, reported seeing at least 20 corpses, some apparently shot dead at close range.

One witness described some of the victims as "kids" and said they had been shot execution-style "through the top of the skull". "It is an absolute horror, those who committed this are war criminals," the witness said. In the neighboring Rohero II, at least five dead bodies—again young people—were found on the main road, residents said. In Musaga, close to a military college that was attacked by armed men early on Friday, a local official said there were more than a dozen corpses in the streets. "I have counted 14 dead bodies with my own eyes," he said, blaming "soldiers and police" for the killings. Several residents contacted by AFP accused the police of rounding up young men after Friday's attacks and executing them. "Most of those killed are young heads of households who were at home... it's carnage, there is no other word for it," said an outraged resident of Nyakabiga. Burundian officials and police could not be reached for comment early yesterday. The killings appear to have taken place late Friday, hours after the early-morning assaults on the Ngagara base and a military training college, both in the capital, as well as on a base in Mujejuru, 40 kilometers away. Burundi's army said 12 gunmen were killed and another 21 captured after the attacks.

Worst violence

It was the worst outbreak of violence since a failed coup in May, sparked by

President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term in office, which he later won in disputed elections in July. Alarmed by the violence, the United Nations Security Council met Friday following a request from France, with UN chief Ban Ki-moon saying the attacks risked triggering "a further destabilisation of the situation", according to his spokesman.

US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power said, following the closed-door talks, that the Council was ready "to consider additional measures" against powerbrokers in the country who continue to block a political solution to the crisis. The Council said that sending UN peacekeepers to the violence-gripped nation remained an option, and stressed the need for urgent political dialogue. The UN chief urged all sides, including the government, "to refrain from any further escalation of violence or retaliation", his spokesman said, warning that anyone "responsible for ordering or committing human rights violations will be held individually accountable".

Also yesterday, government supporters held marches in Bujumbura and other towns to celebrate victory over the insurgents, following a call by the interior ministry. Participants marching in the capital with police protection said they were, "celebrating the victory of our valiant army over the enemy." Months of street protests have devolved into regular armed attacks with gunfire disrupting the nights and dead bodies appearing on city streets almost every day. Attacks targeting the security forces have escalated, with rebels armed with assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars attacking police convoys and targeting government installations. Since May, at least 240 people have been killed and more than 200,000 have fled for neighboring countries, UN figures show.—AFP



BUJUMBURA: A man crouches down after recognizing one of the victims, amongst five dead bodies found in a street in the Cibitoke neighborhood of the capital Bujumbura, Burundi. — AP

GADDAFI SON FREED AFTER KIDNAPPING



Hannibal Gaddafi

BEIRUT: Hannibal Gaddafi, the high-living businessman son of the late Libyan dictator, was freed late Friday, several hours after he was kidnapped in Lebanon by an unknown armed group, security sources said. Lebanese police freed Gaddafi and were set to question him, one source said, without specifying where the businessman had been released. A second security source said Gaddafi had been "kidnapped by an armed group in the region of Bekaa while he was travelling from Syria, before being released on Friday night in the same region". Bekaa is an eastern stronghold of Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah. Lebanon's National News Agency said Hannibal Gaddafi's kidnappers had demanded "information on Mussa Sadr", a Lebanese Shiite leader who went missing in 1978.

Beirut blamed the disappearance on the longtime Libyan strongman, and the Gaddafi family was branded persona non grata by Lebanon, especially among members of the Shiite Muslim community. A former Libyan envoy to the Arab League, Abdel Moneim Al-Honi, told the pan-Arab newspaper Al-Hayat in 2011 that Sadr had

been ordered killed during a visit to Libya and was buried in the southern region of Sabha. Late Friday, the Lebanese private television channel Al-Jadid broadcast a video purportedly showing Gaddafi. In the video he appears to have been beaten up and has two black eyes, but he says that he is "well" and calls on "all those who have evidence about Sadr to present it without delay". It was not clear when or where the video was filmed.

Playboy lifestyle

The lavish lifestyles of Gaddafi's family and entourage helped fuel the anger in Libya that sparked the protests that led eventually to the strongman's ouster and killing in 2011. Hannibal, born in 1975, was among a group of family members—including Gaddafi's wife Safiya, son Mohammed and daughter Aisha—who escaped to neighboring Algeria after the fall of Tripoli. In 2008, Hannibal and his wife, the Lebanese model Aline Skaf, sparked a diplomatic incident with Switzerland when they were arrested in a luxury Geneva hotel for assaulting two former servants.—AFP

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SR.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.
1	Bus 61 Seater Non-AC TATA-1316	15
2	Bus 66 Seater Non-AC TATA	6
3	Bus 81 Seater Non-AC TATA	3
4	Prime Mover without Trailer, VALVO - YOM-1997	1
5	Prime Mover without Trailer, Mercedes, YOM-1991	1
6	Prime Mover with Trailer 40' Flat Bed, Mercedes, YOM-1991	1
7	Trailer Flat Bed 40' without Prime Mover	3
8	Truck Prime Mover MERCEDES ACSOOR -YOM-1999	1

Note: Complete List can be obtained from below mentioned office address.

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1. Copy of company registration is required if the buyer is an organisation
2. Copy of Id. card is required if the buyer is not an organisation
3. Sealed Tender should be submitted to our Doha Office within bid closing dates.
4. Equipment are in "working condition & sold on as is where is basis".
5. Quote expected for individual line items & Lumpsum quote will not be accepted.

TENDER CAN BE ACQUIRED FROM: Supply Chain Department

Contact person: T.S. Balaji, Lead Supply Chain, Telephone No +974 4405 4709
Zaman Hassan, Buying Specialist, Telephone No +974 4405 4746

Tender form shall be provided by Zaman Hassan (zaman.hassan@descon.com) through email after discussion with the potential buyer with effect from 09/Dec/2015 till 24/DEC/2015 during working hours (8.30 AM till 06.00 PM) excluding lunch hours (1 PM to 2 PM). All the above mentioned equipments are kept in our store located at Alkhore - Qatar.

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Bid Closing Date would be: 05.00 PM on 24/DEC/2015



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FIGHTING FOR FREE SPEECH AT US UNIVERSITIES

PRINCETON: Josh Freeman is an athlete and engineering student at one of America's most elite universities. But between track and studying he's campaigning for the right to say what he thinks. When the 20-year-old sophomore criticized protesters demanding that Princeton strip the name of former US president Woodrow Wilson from campus because of his racist views, he was slandered.

"If you're a white person, they'd be like you're white, you're racist... and if you're African American and disagree with them like I did, you're hinted at being a traitor for not standing with them, which should not be the case at all," he said. Across the United States, university campuses have been roiled by protests from minority students accusing college authorities of disrespect, demanding boycotts, resignations and

name changes. At Princeton, 50 miles southwest of New York, there is a campaign to strip the name of Wilson from its prestigious school of public and international affairs, a residential complex and a mural.

Wilson is best known abroad as the man who brought the United States into World War I, tipping the balance in favor of the Allies and for sponsoring the precursor of the United Nations. But at home, many remember his virulent racism against African Americans. Last month, students from the Black Justice League held a 32-hour sit-in to demand Wilson's name be removed from campus—a call backed by an editorial in the New York Times. The university has asked its Board of Trustees to address the matter, with a special committee formed this week to review Wilson's legacy.

'Open discussion'

"Princeton must do better. We must commit ourselves to make this University a place where students from all backgrounds feel respected and valued," said university president Christopher Eisgruber. But Freeman does not believe censoring Wilson's name is the right answer. He is part of the Princeton Open Campus Coalition, set up last month by students from a mix of ethnic backgrounds to protect diversity of thought.

Freeman argues that by enrolling at Princeton, students are acknowledging its past-good and bad. "The leaders that we look up to and admire, they all had their flaws, so are we just going to stop naming everything after these great leaders?" Freeman asked. "Or do we name things after them and have an open discussion about their flaws, how we can move forward and

learn from them and become better?"

The US campus protests about race are rooted in the nationwide "Black Lives Matter" movement sparked by police shootings of unarmed black suspects. But academics say they also reflect a wider tussle over free speech in American universities, where many say the constant fear of causing offense has fueled a creeping form of censorship. Last month, Yale University advised students not to don Halloween costumes such as turbans or feathered headdresses—that could be deemed hurtful to minorities. A couple of academics who questioned the advice are now facing a hate campaign on campus.

Safe space

Faculty members across the country are being asked to ascribe so-called "trigger warnings" to elements of the syllabus that

might prove upsetting to their students. At Brown University, another of America's elite Ivy League schools, students set up a temporary "safe space" with coloring books, Play-Doh and blankets to help students cope with a debate about sexual assault.

Law professors complain that students take offense at being taught about rape and abortion, sparking accusations of discrimination and sexual harassment. The issue has reached such proportions that some criminal law professors no longer cover the topic of rape at all, according to Jeannie Suk, law professor at Harvard University. Decades after bra-burning feminists fought for equality and activists for civil rights, anything seen as undermining a rigorous equality of treatment between students has become a new taboo, in a trend being mimicked in Britain too. — AFP



CAIRO: Egyptian journalists hold posters calling for the release from prison detention of Mahmoud Abou-Zeid, known as Shawkan, in front of the Syndicate of Journalists building in Cairo. Shawkan was arrested in August 2013 while taking photographs of the government's violent dispersal of a sit-in by supporters of ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi and has spent over 800 days locked up without charges. — AP

EGYPT JUDGE POSTPONES TRIAL OF 739; COURTROOM CAGE TOO SMALL

POLICEMEN JAILED FOR TORTURING LAWYER TO DEATH

CAIRO: An Egyptian judge yesterday postponed the trial of 739 people accused of murder and staging an armed sit-in because they would not fit inside the courtroom cage. Judge Hassan Farid said he received a letter from the Cairo security directorate stating police would be unable to move the defendants from prison to the courthouse after cage expansion works had stalled. The trial was adjourned until Feb 6.

The defendants are among thousands rounded up at a protest site in August 2013. Supporters of former President Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood staged two Cairo sit-ins in June that year just before the military ousted him. They are charged with planning and participating in an armed gathering, the murder of police forces tasked with breaking up the gathering and the possession of weapons without a licence, among other charges. The seven-week standoff turned into a bloodbath when security forces killed hundreds of Brotherhood supporters as they cleared the two protest camps in one of the bloodiest days in Egypt's modern history. Eight policemen were also killed.

Dozens of policemen and civilians were killed in violence after the protests were cleared. The authorities went on to arrest thousands of Brotherhood members and banned the group in a fierce crackdown on the world's oldest Islamist movement.

Egypt's mass trials of Brotherhood members and people accused of links to the group, as well as its tough crackdown on Islamist and liberal opposition alike, have drawn international criticism of its judicial system and human rights record. Defendants attend trials inside a courtroom cage in most Egyptian trials.

Two policemen jailed

In another development, two police officers were sentenced yesterday to five years in jail by an Egyptian court for torturing a lawyer to death in a police station in February, a rare penalty against members of the security forces. Lawyer Karim Hamdy, 27, was arrested in February on charges of taking part in anti-government protests organised by the Muslim Brotherhood, the movement that the military removed from power in mid-2013. He died two days after his arrest after sustaining fractures to the ribs, bruises and bleeding in the chest and head, the initial forensic report showed.

The lieutenant colonel and major with the national security agency were found guilty of torturing Hamdy to death. More than 200 lawyers are behind bars in Egypt for defending the government's Islamist opponents, according to attorneys and human rights groups. Egyptian police, notorious for human rights abuses during the rule of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, melted away during an uprising

which toppled him in 2011. They have since made a strong comeback, with rights groups saying police brutality is widespread in Egypt.

The sentence, which can be appealed, comes a day after nine other policemen were referred to a criminal court and charged with beating to death a father of four. He was one of at least three men who died in police custody in the space of a week in November, prompting riots in his home town and rare media scrutiny of police methods. Despite the growing outcry over such allegations of abuse of suspects, critics blame a culture of impunity for police still only rarely being held to account and have called for an independent body to investigate abuse cases.

The Interior Ministry has said it would investigate all abuse allegations. An end to police brutality was one of the key demands of the 2011 uprising that ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule. Unlike in the past, the families of those who have died in custody have been vocal in their demands for transparent investigations. "The verdict is a condemnation of the torture policy in police station and confirms that the victim was tortured and killed by the two officers," lawyer Mohamed Othman, representing Hamdy's family, told Reuters. "The verdict is a message to all those in power who make light of people's dignity." — Agencies

HORROR OF 9/11 DOMINATES GUANTANAMO MILITARY COURT

GUANTANAMO: The horror of September 11, 2001 dominated proceedings in a Guantanamo Bay military court Friday, a stark contrast from earlier days of often-abstract testimony that rambled far from the events of 14 years ago. The so-called "9/11 Five"—the men accused of plotting the terror attacks that killed about 3,000 people—were in court this week for pre-trial hearings ahead of an eventual capital trial that likely is still several years away.

Their prosecution, which dates back to 2008, is already one of the longest in American history, and allegations of government misconduct stemming from the men's capture and torture in the early 2000s have hampered efforts to nudge the case to trial. The so-called 9/11 Five are: alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Walid bin Attash and Ramzi Binalshibh of Yemen, Ali Abd Al-Aziz Al-Mohammed's nephew and Mustapha al-Hawsawi of Saudi Arabia. All five face the death penalty if convicted. Defense attorney Walter Ruiz estimated the case would reach trial in 2020 at the earliest.

Even prosecutors, who are more optimistic about the pace, said they wouldn't even have all discovery documents ready until the end of September 2016 - Ruiz predicted these would be subject to "endless" litigation lasting up to 10 years, because questions over what the government can and can't classify are likely to come up. Eight immediate family members from victims of 9/11 were among a select handful of people allowed to attend proceedings on this surreal US naval base wedged onto the southeastern end of Cuba. They watched through triple-paned soundproof windows and heard testimony through a time-delayed relay that prosecutors could mute to prevent classified information being released.

'Faces of evil'

Catherine Eklund, whose brother John Henwood, a bond trader, died on the 105th floor of Tower One in New York, expressed frustration at the pace of proceedings. The defendants "are using us again and again and again,"

she told reporters at a testy news conference. "Because we stand on this moral authority and we have a Constitution and a Bill of Rights, and because we are the United States of America, we might have to suck it up until we finish this process. But it's very hard to do looking into the faces of evil."

Because American politicians have blocked efforts by President Barack Obama's administration to try the case in New York federal court, proceedings must take place at the Guantanamo military court. Lead prosecutor General Mark Martins said he took a "different view" about how long case's duration, but he declined to speculate on a timeline. "The rule of law requires that a process has to be taken seriously, you can't set it up with all the right principles and protections in place and then just decide you are going to dispense with it," he told reporters.

Earlier, in response to a motion to have the case dismissed claiming Obama and other officials apparently have already deemed the defendants guilty, prosecutor Bob Swann sought to remind military judge Colonel James Pohl what is at stake. "One might expect that the leader of this nation... might have something to say when 19 men hijack aircraft and fly them into buildings," Swann said. "No one can and should think that the presidents of these United States would remain silent when 2,976 of its treasures are stolen."

He went on to describe the "unprecedented shock and suffering" of 9/11 and described the deaths of hundreds of first responders and other victims. Defense attorneys want the case dropped because they say any prospective jury pool is tainted. "This process is undermined by the putrid stench of all the influence that has been visited upon it," said Ruiz, Hawsawi's attorney. Defense attorneys also have a litany of complaints about government conduct, starting with the torture of their clients in the years following their capture. They also say the government used bugs to listen in on attorney-client meetings and seized privileged notes. — AFP



GUANTANAMO BAY: The US flag is seen at half staff near the military courtroom in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. — AFP

US MILITARY COLLEGE SUSPENDS CADETS OVER 'KKK UNIFORMS'

WASHINGTON: A prestigious military college in the United States suspended eight students and launched an investigation after photos emerged of cadets posing in all-white outfits reminiscent of the Ku Klux Klan, an official said Friday. Hillary Clinton also weighed in on The Citadel college, where the Confederate battle flag flies, tweeting: "Symbols of hate create more hate. It's time for the Confederate flag to come down at The Citadel."

The flag was the focus of renewed impassioned debate in June after a suspected white supremacist shot dead nine black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina—the same city where The Citadel is based. The cadets were pictured dressed in white and with white pillow cases over their heads with two holes for the eyes, in haunting similarities to the infamous Ku Klux Klan, a white hate group. "Eight cadets have been suspended and went home this morning," Citadel spokeswoman Kim Keelor said.

Retired Lieutenant General John Rosa, the academy's president, said the cadets had been singing Christmas carols as part of a "Ghosts of Christmas Past" skit. The photos—which were splashed across social media—were

"offensive and disturbing," he said in a statement, ordering an investigation. "These images are not consistent with our core values of honor, duty and respect." The furor drew attention to the Confederate flag flown on campus—seen as a racist symbol by many Americans. Keelor said that the Citadel was not immediately able to remove the flag due to a state law known as the Heritage Act that "prevents its removal as it is part of a memorial collection of antique flags."

She said the college's board of visitors voted nine to three in June to remove the flag and subsequently made a formal request to the relevant legislators asking that it be permitted to remove the flag. Only South Carolina's legislature has the authority, by a vote, to decide that the flag be taken down, according to Keelor. The Heritage Act itself may be reconsidered by legislators when they convene in the New Year. In a website attributed to him, accused Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof espoused racist views toward African-Americans and, in photos, posed with firearms and the Confederate flag. There are currently between 5,000 and 8,000 Ku Klux Klan members, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. — AFP

LIMELIGHT-HUNGRY IS UPS THE ANTE WITH VIOLENCE

BEIRUT: As the Islamic State jihadist group comes under growing military pressure, its prodigious propaganda output has slowed somewhat but turned increasingly gruesome in a bid to keep in the headlines. Since it announced a self-styled caliphate across Iraq and Syria last year, IS has become notorious for broadcasting its macabre tactics. The group's online network has taken advantage of social media's instant publishing power to circulate footage of mass killings and beheadings. IS shot to global infamy in particular last year following the release of a series of English-language videos depicting the grisly executions of several Western hostages.

In November, US President Barack Obama referred to the group not as "masterminds" but rather "a bunch of killers with good social media." But to maintain the media frenzy, IS has resorted to increasingly morbid and elaborate methods of killing. "The reason IS ups the ante is because they think people will be bored and they need or want to stay relevant," said Mia Bloom, a professor at Georgia State University. Some of IS's more grisly ways of killing captives include firing rockets at them or tying them to ancient artefacts that the jihadists then blew up—as happened in the historic Syrian town of Palmyra.

In a recent video from Iraq, it eschewed its usual before-and-after images of beheadings in favor of grisly footage showing the entire execution process. The group has also claimed spectacular attacks abroad, including the coordinated assault in Paris that left 130 dead and the downing of a Russian airliner that killed all 224 people on board. "The graphic videos are attracting a personality type, people who want

the real life 'Call of Duty,' people who have violent pasts and want to reinvent themselves," Bloom said, referring to a popular video game.

Unparalleled brutality

Indeed, in one recent video, IS child soldiers weave their way through a crumbling fortress to find and kill captives, in a scenario eerily similar to a video game. The use of children in the

propaganda is also a way of upping the stakes in terms of shock value. "Children went from being observers of violence on the periphery, to actively involved and fully committed in the videos," Bloom said.

"This is unparalleled."

IS uses this "ultra-violence" to impress its supporters, terrify its opponents and, importantly, to "project IS's message across the world," said analyst Charlie Winter. Winter, who monitors jihadist activity online, said the group's propaganda juggles images of violence and portrayals of the "caliphate" as an Islamic utopia. Among IS's online cheerleaders, broadcasts that feature new methods of killing are particularly "high-impact," he said. But the threshold to excite supporters and intimidate enemies keeps rising, Winter said. Whereas mass beheadings or shootings were "a rarity" last year, new incidents no longer spark the same global outcry. "In the last few months, IS has continued to explore new depths of depravity-killing people by dragging them to death behind SUVs, drowning them, burning them and so on," Winter said. "It has mainstreamed mass beheadings such that people are no longer shocked," he added. — AFP



BEIRUT: Fireworks light the sky as a Christmas tree designed by Lebanese fashion designer Elie Saab is lit in front of the Al-Amin mosque in the capital Beirut. — AFP

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SINGING, DANCING FOR VOTES

'POP POLITICS' BURST INTO SPAIN ELECTIONS

MADRID: The arrival of new parties with young, connected leaders has thrown Spain's election campaign into rock 'n' roll mode as voters better used to staid politics discover their candidates singing on TV, posing in glossies or commenting live football.

Anti-austerity party Podemos and centrist grouping Ciudadanos burst onto the scene on the back of a devastating crisis that left many citizens fed up with mainstream politics, and polls indicate they will attract a huge number of votes in December 20 general elections.

At home both on chat shows and social networks, their 30-something leaders are a constant presence in Spanish households, forcing even the country's stern, distant prime minister to turn a new leaf and embrace US-style pop politics. "It's exhibitionism," complains Iker Merodio, founder of political communication firm Soluciones Comunicativas.

"This campaign is more televised (than previous ones), but not necessarily for the best, because what we see doesn't necessarily mean a valuable political point will be announced."

Posing naked

And so it was that Pablo Iglesias, the pony-tailed, 37-year-old Podemos leader, took out his guitar and strung a tune dedicated to "all those women who are with idiots and should leave them" on a popular talk show.

Or that Albert Rivera, the telegenic, 36-year-old head of Ciudadanos, posed for Glamour magazine in a black leather jacket, his motorcycle helmet in hand. But that was nothing compared to how Rivera brought his party to the fore in 2006, by posing naked on an election poster—"a marketing campaign plain and simple to enter a political system that... was impenetrable," he later wrote in a book.

"These are leaders... who are way more accustomed to pop politics, or appearing in the media, particularly television," says Xavier Peytibi, a political communication consultant. None of it "really has much to do with politics but it is useful to get close to a large majority of the population, which became very depoliticized after the economic crisis."

And this "exhibitionism"—as well as the parties' promise of change—have had their effect, with polls predicting that Ciudadanos will

give the long-established ruling Popular party (PP) and PSOE (Socialists) a run for their money at the elections, with Podemos not far behind. Even the conservative PP has had to adapt. Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saez de Santamaria, for instance, was seen emulating Michelle Obama on a chat show, performing a choreographed dance to Mark Ronson's "Uptown Funk." But perhaps most surprising of all, Mariano Rajoy himself, the 60-year-old prime minister who is running for re-election, has suddenly embraced television.

The man who once conducted press briefings via a plasma screen has sat down on the couch of TV host Bertin Osborne for a heart-to-heart-divulging such tidbits as the time he bumped into Barack Obama in a South African gym—and provided football commentary live on radio. According to the conservative ABC daily, which is close to the PP, Rajoy only gave two television interviews in the two years after he came to power in 2011.

Now, he is accumulating them, although he was heavily criticized for refusing to appear in a debate with Iglesias, Rivera and Pedro Sanchez, the 43-year-old PSOE leader nicknamed "El Guapo"—or "Handsome." — AFP



SEVILLA: President of the regional government of Andalusia Susana Diaz (R) and Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) leader and candidate in the December 20 general elections, Pedro Sanchez wave as they arrive for campaign meeting under the party's electoral program titled "A future for the majority" in Sevilla yesterday. — AFP



BERLIN: (L to R) German social democratic party SPD Secretary General Katarina Barley, European Parliament President Martin Schulz, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann, French Prime minister Manuel Valls, SPD leader, German Vice Chancellor, Economy and Energy Minister Sigmar Gabriel and Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven pose at the SPD annual federal congress in Berlin yesterday. — AFP

US ASKS GERMANY FOR MORE MILITARY HELP TO FIGHT IS

MERKEL DEFENDS CONTESTED REFUGEE STANCE

BERLIN: The United States has asked Germany for more military help in the fight against Islamic State, a German magazine reported yesterday, a week after parliament approved a plan to join the campaign in Syria. Der Spiegel said US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter had sent a letter asking for a bigger military contribution from Berlin.

Its mission currently includes six Tornado reconnaissance jets, a frigate to protect the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, refuelling aircraft and up to 1,200 troops. The deployment is a direct response to a French appeal for solidarity after militant attacks in Paris killed 130 people. Germany does not plan to carry out air strikes in Syria.

A German Defence Ministry spokesman confirmed a letter had been received from the United States and its content was under consideration, giving no further details. Germany has over the last two years shown a growing readiness to commit troops to foreign missions.

Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen said last week Germany might need bigger armed forces to cope with the more assertive role. She said an analysis into staffing and the organization of combat forces would report in a couple of months on whether personnel levels were appropriate.

More than 3,000 personnel are currently deployed overseas and the Syria mission will raise that by up to 1,200. Von der Leyen also wants to send 650 troops to Mali to help the French campaign against Islamist militants there. Germany last year started arming Iraqi Kurds fighting Islamic State.

Refugee stance

German Chancellor Angela Merkel defended her open-door policy on refugees in an interview published yesterday ahead of a key party congress and an EU summit likely to see her stance come under fire. Merkel said she was working on reducing the number of migrants coming to Europe's biggest economy,

which is bracing for the expected arrival this year of one million people fleeing war and poverty.

However she added that "it's illusory to believe that the problem of refugees can be resolved at the German-Austrian border." The large movements of refugees can only be resolved through international cooperation," Merkel told the Augsburg Allgemeine newspaper.

And she urged improved protection of the EU's external borders, as well as increased cooperation with Turkey from where most of the Syrians fleeing their country's four-year conflict set off across the Mediterranean. Merkel also reiterated the need to preserve Europe's passport-free Schengen zone. "We all value the free movement of people, goods and services. And no country in Europe needs that like Germany."

"But it can only function long-term if the external borders of the EU are protected," she said, ahead of an EU summit Thursday and Friday. — Agencies

SPAIN'S 'LOST' GENERATION STRUGGLES TO FIND ITS PLACE

CADIZ, Spain: Sleeping in, hanging out in the park and slouching in front of the TV is how 18-year-old Carlos Cabilla, a member of Spain's so-called "lost" generation, fills his days.

Like nearly three in ten Spanish youths, the tattooed and pierced 18-year-old is unemployed, not studying and not seeking work, the product of an education system that experts say fails to adequately prepare students for the job market. Their plight is a key concern for Spanish voters in a December 20 general election in which conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy faces a hard-fought battle to retain power.

Cabilla lives in Segunda Aguada, a working class neighborhood in the southwestern port of Cadiz, where the unemployment rate stands at a whopping 37 percent, compared to 21 percent at the national level. For those under the age of 25, the jobless rate surpasses 60 percent.

Cabilla started studying hairdressing when he was 15 but dropped out after just one term. He has only had a few odd jobs since then. "I wake up at around noon, I spend the afternoon with friends in a park, we talk, we smoke, until 10 or 11 pm," he said.

He then returns to the flat he shares with his father Ramon and his partner, as well as his 22-year-old brother and 13-year-old half-brother.

He also spends hours watching TV or playing video games. When asked how he sees his son, Ramon, who works for the local government, says: "Unmotivated." "I am worried, but he is my son and the only thing I can do is try to motivate him and wait until things get better in his life," he says. His son is not alone.

During Spain's decade-long building boom

many young people dropped out of school to get well-paid work on building sites or in the services sector. But when the property bubble collapsed in 2008, sending the Spanish economy into a tailspin, these jobs dried up, leaving thousands of youth out of work and without education.

Just over 27 percent of Spaniards aged 15-29 were neither in school nor working in 2013, according to the OECD, compared to 15 percent for the entire 34 nations that make up the club of mostly rich nations.

The situation has become so common in Spain there is even a new word for it: "NINI", a colloquial Spanish contraction combining "neither" and "nor" referring to youth who are not studying and who don't even try to find a job.

'No useful training'

Part of the problem is that Spain does not offer high-quality apprenticeship schemes and short-term vocational training like those that exist in other European nations like Germany, said Anna Laborda from the ESADE business school in Barcelona. "There is no practically training that is really useful," she said. Vitor Rebola of Spain's Youth Council, which groups 76 youth organizations from across the country, said "there is a lack of ambition on the part of institutions" to help these youngsters.

The body calls for more professional training schemes to fight Spain's school drop-out rate of 22 percent, the highest in the European Union. "Before it was really easy to dream, today no," said Ramon. Today young people "are bitter and they don't talk about their future because they don't have one," he adds. — AFP



Refugees from Afghanistan make their way out of the sea, as their boat, on which they crossed a part of the Aegean sea from Turkey, hit on rocks on the Greek island of Lesbos, yesterday. — AP

SOUTH AFRICA'S ZUMA DENIES AFFAIR WITH AIRLINE BOSS

JOHANNESBURG: South African President Jacob Zuma yesterday denied rumors he had an affair with the chairwoman of state-owned airline amid media speculation the relationship had led to the sacking of the finance minister. Zuma dismissed Finance Minister Nhlanelo Nene on Wednesday. The minister had earlier rebuked Dudu Myeni, chairwoman of state-owned South African Airways and a close ally of Zuma, for mismanaging a 1 billion rand (\$62.98 million) deal with Airbus. Myeni is also executive chairwoman of Zuma's charitable trust, the Jacob Zuma Foundation. "Her relationship with the President is purely professional, and is based on the running of the Foundation," the Presidency said in statement. "Rumors about a romance and a child are baseless and are designed to cast aspersions on the President."

Zuma replaced Nene with a relatively unknown parliamentarian, David van Rooyen, unnerving investors in an ailing economy whose investment grade status is already at risk.

Citing an unnamed government official, Business Report newspaper reported this week that Nene's dismissal could be linked directly to his fall-out with the SAA board.

Many other local media had also speculated Nene might be moved out after he rebuked Myeni.

Rumours of a romantic relationship between Zuma and Myeni have circulated since 2009 when the she was appointed to the board of the ailing national flag carrier.

Zuma's office also criticised as a "malicious fabrication" reports that Nene was removed because Myeni was not happy with instructions from the respected former finance minister.

"No member of the SAA Board is above the Minister of Finance or can operate outside of the mandate and direction provided by the Minister of Finance and the National Treasury," the Presidency said. Zuma, South Africa's leader since 2009, is a polygamist married six times and father of more than 20 children. The axing of Nene, a veteran civil servant who was keen to rein in government spending in Africa's most industrialized economy, has sent the rand to record lows and caused a sell-off in banking stocks.

Nene was also opposed to plans to spend possibly as much as \$100 billion building a fleet of nuclear power stations, an investment most analysts said the country could not afford. Former South African health minister and leading anti-apartheid activist Barbara Hogan called on Friday for Zuma to quit.

The highest-profile member of the African National Congress (ANC) to come out against the sacking of Nene, Hogan said Zuma had crossed a line and needed to be held to account for the dismissal of a respected long-term finance ministry official. — Reuters

TRAPPED BY EU REFUGEE RULES, MIGRANTS DESPERATE TO GET OUT

ATHENS: Guylo is a musician, looking for a place of peace to play his guitar. Fares wants to study. Mohammed is waiting for news of his wife and child after becoming separated from them en route.

All are migrants trapped in Greece after being barred from continuing their odyssey through Europe—and are desperate to get out. "We are looking for (smuggler) networks, do you know someone?" asks Guylo, 37, who fled fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I will do anything to get somewhere where I can be at peace, do my business, play my music," he says, adding that Paris would be his first choice.

In recent weeks, thousands of migrants have been blocked in Greece following a decision by several European nations to only allow transit through their borders to refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Earlier this week, over 2,000 mainly African migrants were taken to Athens from the Greek border with Macedonia to the

north, and lodged in a former Olympic taekwondo hall in the south of the capital. Conditions are poor in the facility that authorities say can nominally accommodate 300 people in an emergency.

"We sleep on the floor, there are no mattresses, there is no hot water," says Mohammad, a 36-year-old Palestinian who became separated from his wife and child on the Macedonia border.

The migrants receive three meals a day from humanitarian agencies, but they sleep on a concrete floor, sanitation is basic and brawls are common. Used pasta and soup cartons lay strewn about.

'We can't take any more'

"We are scared here, we can't take any more," says Guylo. "The Moroccans go out and buy beer and once they have drunk it, they start provoking people or fight among each other," he adds.

The previous night, three people were injured in a fight that apparently broke out over an attempted cellphone theft. "There are Moroccans, Algerians, Yemenis, Eritreans, it's easy for a brawl to break out," says local mayor Dionysis Hatzidakis.

"Right now there is order but this can't go on...they need to be contained here and eventually deported," he says. Greece, in economic crisis for the past five years, says it plans to repatriate what it calls economic migrants as it lacks the capacity to accommodate them.

"Those without papers, the so-called illegal migrants, have the right to request asylum (or) the right to voluntary repatriation," junior interior minister for migration Yiannis Mouzalas said this week.

"If they do not request either within 30 days, they will be returned to their countries of origin," he said. — AFP



WARSAW: A man wears a wig in the Polish national colors as he takes part in an anti-government demonstration in central Warsaw yesterday. Some 50,000 people rallied in central Warsaw to "defend democracy", denouncing the new conservative government which took office a month ago. — AFP

SPANIARDS AMONG SIX KILLED IN TALEBAN SIEGE AT EMBASSY

KABUL: At least four Afghan policemen and two Spaniards were killed in an hours-long Taliban siege near the Spanish embassy in Kabul's diplomatic quarter, the latest high-profile insurgent attack that ended early yesterday.

Multiple blasts and gunfire rocked the high-security zone after the brazen raid began Friday evening, just hours after President Ashraf Ghani voiced optimism that a peace process with the Taliban would resume within weeks. "Four Afghan policemen, two foreign nationals and four attackers were killed in the terrorist attack in Kabul," Faidoon Obaidi, the head of Kabul's Criminal Investigation Department, said.

The government in Madrid confirmed that the two foreigners were Spanish policemen killed during the assault, which began when a huge car bomb struck during rush hour on Friday evening. The powerful blast, which sent a thick plume of smoke into the sky, was followed by multiple explosions

through the night along with sporadic bursts of gunfire. Security men near the embassy ducked from gunshots as they hauled away a limp body and two wounded men through the dark to a waiting ambulance—one bleeding from the head, the other a policeman with a gunshot wound to his leg an AFP photographer saw.

Afghan officials said the last of the four assailants was killed in the early hours of yesterday. The attack follows a deadly 27-hour Taliban siege of Kandahar airport this week as the militants ramp up attacks despite the onset of the harsh winter season, when the fighting usually calms down. The Taliban also claimed responsibility for Friday's attack, saying the target was a foreign guest house.

The Spanish embassy was earlier reported to be the target of the attack, but Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy clarified that the assault was nearby and not on the compound. "It was an attack against some guest-houses very near the embassy," Rajoy said,

adding that all embassy staff had been evacuated as Afghan special forces cordoned off the area in the Sherpur district in central Kabul.

The wealthy enclave of Sherpur is home to several foreign NGOs and the residences of senior government officials, including controversial former warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, Afghanistan's first vice-president.

'Expecting talks is foolishness'

The attack comes just days after president Ghani's high-profile visit to Pakistan, where he shored up international support to restart peace talks with the Taliban.

As Ghani held talks in Islamabad on Wednesday, at least 50 people were killed in a long Taliban siege of Kandahar airport, the largest military installation in southern Afghanistan. Eleven suicide attackers breached the high-security complex, which also houses a joint NATO-Afghan base, taking families hostage and triggering firefights with soldiers. — AFP



KABUL: An Afghan security official stands guard at the gate of Spanish Embassy after an attack in Kabul yesterday. Explosions and gunfire rocked a diplomatic area of central Kabul overnight as security forces tried to flush out Taliban attackers who claimed responsibility for a deadly car bomb Friday. — AP



NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) shakes hand with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe after signing of agreements in New Delhi yesterday. — AP

MODI, ABE BOLSTER TIES WITH BULLET TRAIN DEAL

INDIA DEEPENS DEFENSE AND NUKE TIES WITH JAPAN

NEW DELHI: Japan will provide \$12 billion of soft loans to build India's first bullet train, the two nations announced during a visit by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that also yielded deeper defense ties and a plan for civil nuclear cooperation.

Relations have strengthened between Asia's second and third largest economies as Abe and Indian counterpart Narendra Modi seek to balance China's rise as the dominant Asian power. Both men are nationalists who enjoy a personal friendship. The deal to build a high-speed train line between the financial hub of Mumbai and the city of Ahmedabad

gives Japan an early lead over China, which is conducting feasibility studies for high speed trains on other parts of India's dilapidated rail network.

"This enterprise will launch a revolution in Indian railways and speed up India's journey into the future. It will become an engine of economic transformation in India," Modi said in a speech. Japan has offered a "highly concessional loan" at an interest rate of 0.1 percent rate with repayment over 50 years and a moratorium for 15 years, Indian Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar told a news conference.

India will be buying a Japanese high-speed train system, effectively

with an export credit of \$12 billion. Under defense deals announced yesterday, the two sides will share technology, equipment and military information, but the long-awaited sale of Japanese aircraft in a deal worth about \$1.1 billion was not concluded.

Similarly, while they agreed to work towards cooperation in civil-nuclear technology, they stopped short of signing an agreement, citing outstanding technical and legal differences.

Nuke energy talks

Jaishankar did not cite a timeline for signing the final agreement with Japan. Japan, the only country to have suffered a nuclear attack, has been demanding additional non-proliferation guarantees from India before it exports nuclear reactors. India and Japan have been negotiating a nuclear energy deal since Japan's ally, the United States, opened the way for nuclear commerce with India despite its atomic bomb program and shunning of the global Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). A final deal with Japan would also benefit US firms. India has already given land for nuclear plants to GE-Hitachi which is an alliance between the US and Japanese firms - and to Toshiba's Westinghouse Electric Company.

"The memorandum we signed on civil nuclear energy cooperation is more than just an agreement for commerce and clean energy, it is a shining

symbol of a new level of mutual confidence and strategic partnership in the cause of peaceful and secure world," Modi said.

"I know the significance of this decision for Japan and I assure you that India deeply respects that decision and will honor our shared commitment," Modi added. In a joint statement the two prime ministers mentioned the South China Sea and "called upon all states to avoid unilateral actions that could lead to tensions in the region".

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims. New Delhi and Tokyo, both of which have territorial disputes with Beijing, have no claims in the waterway but worry about China's growing military reach into sea lanes through which much of Japan's shipborne trade passes. Abe and Modi called for freedom of navigation in international waters.

India and Japan have been holding talks for two years on the purchase by India of US-2 amphibious aircraft made by ShinMaywa Industries, which would be one of Japan's first arms sales since Abe lifted a 50-year ban on weapon exports. Jaishankar said a purchase of US-2 was discussed in yesterday's meeting and the "matter remains under consideration". — Reuters



VARANASI: Indian commandos walk among pedestrians as they prepare to take position ahead of the visit of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the evening 'Aarti' on the banks of the River Ganges at Varanasi yesterday during Abe's three-day visit to India. — AFP

SOLDIER KILLED, 4 HURT IN SW PAKISTAN BLAST

QUETTA, Pakistan: At least one soldier was killed and four others wounded including a passerby when a bomb exploded at a paramilitary checkpoint in southwest Pakistan, police said. The bomb, planted close to the Frontier Corps (FC) checkpoint went off early yesterday when soldiers reached the site for daily duty in Quetta, the main town of oil and gas rich Baluchistan province, senior police official Abdul Waheed Khattak told AFP.

"It was an IED (improvised explosive device) which exploded the moment soldiers reached the checkpoint," Khattak said. He added the blast killed one soldier and wounded four others including a teenager

passing the site at the time of the explosion.

"(The) condition of another soldier is also critical," Khattak said. Sajjad Ahmad, a senior official from FC, confirmed the attack and casualties.

Thousands of paramilitary troops are deployed in troubled areas of the country to carry out security checks and to help police in maintaining law and order.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the latest attack but Baluch separatists demanding greater autonomy have been waging an insurgency for years and the province is also riven by sectarian strife and Islamist violence. — AFP

AT LEAST 848 AFGHAN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN KUNDUZ: UN

KABUL: At least 848 Afghan civilians were killed or wounded following a Taliban attack on the northern city of Kunduz in September, according to a UN report that detailed the grim conditions endured by residents during two weeks of fighting. The 289 dead and 559 injured included at least 30 killed and 37 injured in a US air strike on a hospital run by Medecins Sans Frontieres, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a report.

It said the figures were likely to rise as further information became available, noting that unstable security meant its officials had been unable to conduct detailed investigations in Kunduz.

Medecins Sans Frontieres said yesterday that its own count of the death toll from the Kunduz hospital attack had risen to 42, a figure UNAMA said it was verifying.

Apart from the losses in the air strike on Oct 3, it said most casualties had been caused from small arms fire or explosives during heavy fighting in residential areas.

"In most of these cases, UNAMA could not attribute the casualties to a specific party to the conflict," it said, although it also detailed reports of deliberate killings by the Taliban of civilians including people associated with the government. It also joined calls for an independent investigation into the attack on the hospital, which it said may amount to a war crime if it were

proved to be deliberate.

An estimated 150,000 people were trapped in the city by the most prolonged period of urban fighting in Afghanistan since the US-led campaign against the Taliban in 2001.

Some 13,000 families fled, adding to the hundreds of thousands already displaced by violence and lack of security, UNAMA said. The report detailed food shortages, lack of electricity, looting and allegations of human rights abuses by fighters on both sides as well as by other armed men who took advantage of the chaos.

"The insecurity, absence of governance and the breakdown of rule of law during this period resulted in a loss of protection of the most basic human rights, including the rights to life and security of person," it said. "This chaos enabled an environment in which arbitrary killings, and other forms of violence against civilians and civilian objects, criminality and destruction of civilian property took place."

It said the Taliban had created a "climate of fear" with systematic searches for women's rights activists and civilians working for human rights organizations which prompted many to flee the city. However, it did not find evidence of any large scale or systematic violence against women and girls by the hardline Islamist movement, which has strongly denied harming women deliberately. — Reuters

MSF SAYS DEATH TOLL RISES TO 42 IN AFGHAN HOSPITAL STRIKE

KABUL: The death toll from a devastating US air strike on an Afghan hospital in the city of Kunduz in October has risen to 42, medical charity MSF said yesterday, citing an internal investigation.

"Previously MSF had reported a death toll of at least 30 people, but the organization confirms the toll has risen to 42, after methodical review of MSF records and family claims, as well as patient, staff and family testimonies," MSF said in a statement.

"The revised figures include 14 MSF staff members confirmed to have been killed, as well as 24 patients and four caretakers." The October 3 air raid on the charity's hospital during a Taliban offensive on the northern city forced the facility to close and sparked an

avalanche of global condemnation.

The strike was "caused primarily by human error," General John Campbell, the US commander in Afghanistan, said last month, prompting a strong rebuke from the charity who slammed American forces for "gross negligence".

In the aftermath of the strike MSF branded the incident a war crime.

The charity has called for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) — an independent body created under international law but which has never been used to investigate the attack. However, it would need permission from the US and Afghanistan to proceed, and neither country has so far agreed. — AFP

NEPAL QUAKE VICTIMS FACE DEADLY WINTER

PHILIM, Nepal: Thousands of Nepalis still living in tents months after a massive earthquake are facing a desperate winter, because of a fuel crisis and bickering politicians' failure to spend a \$4.1 billion reconstruction fund.

Eight months after a 7.8-magnitude quake killed almost 8,900 people and destroyed some half a million homes, thousands of survivors are bracing for the Himalayan winter without proper clothes, bedding or shelter.

In the remote village of Philim, close to the quake's epicentre in western Nepal, the disaster reduced the school's dormitory to rubble, forcing some 200 children to take refuge in tents.

The flimsy structures offer little protection against bone-chilling winds that whip through the village where overnight temperatures currently hover around two degrees Celsius (35.6 Fahrenheit) and are set to fall further.

"It gets so cold at night, I wish we had thicker blankets," 12-year-old Dawa

Phunchok Lama told AFP.

Many of the children live hours from Philim but are staying in the tents because they can no longer commute from their homes after quake-triggered landslides blocked hillside trails. "We have limited food stocks—no vegetables, enough lentils to last a week, cooking oil for 10 days perhaps. But most of all, I worry about the cold and its impact on my kids," school headmaster Mukti Adhikari said. "It's too difficult for them to go home, so we keep them here... but now I am worried they will freeze to death since no one has adequate clothing or proper bedding," he said.

Scramble to deliver supplies

After the April 25 quake struck the impoverished country, Nepal's shell-shocked government implored foreign donors to fund recovery efforts and vowed swift reconstruction. But its failure to establish the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has

delayed the start of rebuilding, meaning thousands are still homeless.

Aid workers are now scrambling to deliver emergency supplies before snowfall shuts access altogether to villages like Philim. "We are closing in on a deadline—we are aware that a day will come soon when we won't be able to go up those trails," said World Food Programme country director Pippa Bradford. But severe fuel shortages have hamstrung their race against time, with hundreds of trucks carrying petrol and other vital supplies stuck at the border between Nepal and India, the country's main supplier.

Ethnic minority protesters have blocked a major checkpoint for over 10 weeks to demand changes to the nation's new constitution. Movement of cargo through other checkpoints has also slowed to a crawl, prompting Nepal to accuse India, which has criticised the charter, of enforcing an "unofficial blockade"—a charge New Delhi

denies. "Currently, our fuel supplies amount to less than a quarter of our needs and we are facing a backlog on deliveries," Bradford said. "It's a tragedy—our winter supplies are sitting in warehouses, they are going to be of no use if we don't get them up the mountains in time."

'We simply cannot wait'

Damaged households have so far received just \$150 in compensation, while the government has promised an additional \$2,000 once the NRA is set up and able to disburse funds. According to experts, a major reason for the delay is jostling by the ruling UML party and opposition Nepali Congress to see their preferred candidate head the new body. "The political parties seem more interested in horse-trading on influential positions than in getting on with rebuilding," a frustrated Rensje Teerink, head of the European Union delegation to Nepal, told AFP. — AFP



KATHMANDU: Nepalese villagers wait for the arrival of food and relief materials at Sirdibas village in Gorkha District, some 250 km north-west of Kathmandu. — AFP

PROTESTERS CLASH AS AUSTRALIA MARKS RACE RIOTS

SYDNEY: Minor scuffles broke out between anti-Islam and anti-racism protesters as hundreds of people and police congregated at a Sydney beach yesterday to mark the 10th anniversary of modern Australia's worst race riots. Riot police and mounted units descended on Cronulla beach, a scenic spot in southern Sydney, as anti-Islam groups blocked by courts from organising a "memorial" rally in support of the December 11, 2005 incident held a "halal-free" barbecue.

The riot a decade ago which saw a drunken white mob of thousands attack Arab-Australians after two lifeguards at the beach were beaten up led to retaliatory attacks.

It shocked Australians and ignited a debate over whether the nation built on migrants was racist.

The anniversary has taken on fresh resonance amid growing concerns

about homegrown extremism and Australians travelling to Iraq and Syria to support jihadist groups.

It also came just days before Sydney marks one year since two hostages were killed along with an Iranian gunman in a 17-hour cafe siege.

But authorities' fears about an outbreak of violence appeared to be largely quelled by the heavy presence of police, who outnumbered the 200 or so protesters.

The two groups were mostly kept apart, although there were several run-ins that were quickly broken up. Two men were arrested, New South Wales state police told AFP.

The president of far-right group Rise Up Australia, Daniel Nalliah, led the barbecue with chants of "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, oi, oi, oi", a refrain usually heard at sporting events.

"If you come here, integrate in



SYDNEY: A woman (center) is held back by police after she tried to confront demonstrators taking part in an anti-racism protest, to mark the 10th anniversary of modern Australia's worst race riots, at Cronulla beach in southern Sydney yesterday. — AFP

Australian life and culture... (or) shut up, pack up and get out," the Sri Lankan Christian migrant said to cheers from the crowd, some of whom had draped the national flag over their shoulders.

Holding banners such as "stand with Muslims against racism", the rival rally consisting of socialists, anarchists and other groups chanted "say it loud, say it clear, Muslims are welcome here". "I lived here during the riot and for years I was ashamed to tell people I was from here," one protester-Cronulla local Andrew, who did not want to give his last name-told AFP.

"(Cronulla's) become a nice place, I don't want it to go back to what it was."

Another, Margaret, who did not give her last name, told AFP the anti-Islam rhetoric was "spreading hatred in our community when we should be spreading tolerance". — AFP



This undated picture released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency yesterday shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (C) inspecting the newly renovated May 9 catfish farm at an undisclosed location in North Korea. — AFP

NORTH, SOUTH KOREA END TALKS WITHOUT ISSUING STATEMENT

MEETING LEAVES MIXED SIGNAL ON RECONCILIATION MOVES

SEOUL: North and South Korea ended two days of extensive high-level talks at a North Korean border town yesterday without issuing a statement or scheduling another meeting, leaving a mixed signal about reconciliation efforts they've made since stepping away from a military stand-off in August.

No major breakthrough had been expected from the meeting of vice-ministerial officials in the town of Kaesong, but analysts had considered the talks a sign that the rivals were working to keep alive an atmosphere of dialogue - something they have often failed to do in the wake of conflict.

After the talks stretched in the evening yesterday, as they had done on Friday, they ended without any statement from either

side. The countries were also unable to fix a date for a further meeting, South Korean officials said. South Korea was hoping to discuss at the meeting more reunions between aging family members separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. Analysts had said cash-strapped North Korea might seek the South's commitment to restart joint tours to its scenic Diamond Mountain resort that were suspended by Seoul in 2008 following the shooting death of a South Korean tourist there by a North Korean soldier.

Expectations for the meeting dropped last month when both sides in preparatory negotiations settled for a meeting at the vice-ministerial level. This likely ruled out discussions on more important issues.

Still, any negotiations

between the rivals, who are separated by the world's most heavily armed border, were considered an improvement upon the situation in August, when they threatened each other with war over land mine explosions that maimed two South Korean soldiers.

The standoff eased after marathon talks and an agreement on efforts to reduce animosity. Those included a resumption of talks between senior officials and a new round of reunions for war-separated families, which were held in October.

Analysts say quick improvements in ties are unlikely because the rivals remain far apart on major issues, such as Pyongyang's nuclear weapons ambitions and the broad economic sanctions the South has

imposed on the North since 2010, when Seoul blamed a North Korean torpedo for a warship sinking that killed 46 South Koreans.

Improving relations with Seoul is a priority for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who likely wants tangible diplomatic and economic achievements before a convention of the ruling Workers' Party in May, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University.

It is widely expected that Kim will use the congress, the party's first since 1980, to announce major state policies and shake up the country's political elite to further consolidate his power. The Korean Peninsula remains technically at war, because the Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. — AP

THAI JUNTA HOLDING CRITIC OVER FACEBOOK 'LIKE'

BANGKOK: A Thai man who "liked" a doctored photo of the country's king on Facebook is being held incommunicado at a military base, the ruling junta said yesterday, as rights groups warned he risked becoming another victim of "enforced disappearance."

Thanakorn Siripaiboon, 27, was arrested earlier this week and charged with sedition, lese majeste and computer crimes for clicking "like" on a photo of the king and sharing it, plus an infographic on a corruption scandal, with around 600 friends. "He is under military custody," Colonel Burin Thongprapai, junta legal officer, told AFP Saturday, adding that he would be remanded at a military court Monday.

"He is well and in good condition," he added. Under Thai law anyone convicted of insulting the revered but ailing 88-year-old Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and the queen, heir or regent can face up to 15 years in jail on each count.

Prosecutions have soared since the army, which tags itself as the champion of the monarchy, grabbed power last year. In the last two months, at least two people-including the celebrity fortune teller of the crown prince-have died in custody after being charged with lese majeste following secrecy-

shrouded investigations.

Rights groups say the use of secret military detention-long employed in Thailand's insurgency-hit south-has "now become a new standard nationwide," under the junta, Human Rights Watch's Sunai Phasuk said.

"There is nothing at all to guarantee the safety of those held incommunicado in military detention... without access to their families and lawyers, and interrogated by soldiers without safeguards against mistreatment," he added.

Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, who are providing legal assistance to Tanakorn and his family, said in a statement that they had "no idea" where Thanakorn was being held and assumed he "has become a victim of enforced disappearance."

Ultraroyalist junta chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha seized power last year in a coup that toppled the democratically elected government of Yingluck Shinawatra after months of political chaos and street protests. Prayut says his coup was needed to restore order to the politically turbulent nation, while critics say it was another move orchestrated by the country's elite to grab power as fears mount over the kingdom's future as the king's reign enters its twilight years. — AFP

POLICE ARREST EX-PING AN SECURITIES EXEC

BEIJING: Chinese police have arrested a former chief of one of China's top investment banks, according to reports, the latest move against leading businessmen in the world's second largest economy following a market crash earlier this year.

Authorities held Xue Rongnian, who headed Ping An Securities from 2008 to 2011, on suspicion of insider trading in connection to two cement businesses, respected business magazine Caixin reported Friday. Police in Anhui province took him into custody around Nov. 20, the magazine said.

In 2013, China's securities regulator disciplined Xue, following allegations that a company Ping An helped take public during his tenure had falsified its earnings, Caixin said.

The news comes as China tightens the screws on officials and businessmen in the financial sector after a market rout earlier this year

wiped out trillions of dollars in market capitalisation, sending shockwaves across the globe. The probes are part of a broader anti-corruption campaign that some have called a political purge.

Last April, reports said Chinese authorities were investigating the former head of China's central bank, Dai Xianglong, whose family members amassed billions of dollars through the purchase of shares in Ping An Securities' parent company.

The deal was detailed in a New York Times expose that also revealed that a company controlled in part by relatives of former prime minister Wen Jiabao benefited from buying Ping An shares.

This week Guo Guangchang, chairman of Fosun-owner of Club Med and of China's biggest private-sector conglomerates-disappeared from public view before the group announced he was assisting authorities with a reported corruption investigation. — AFP



TOKYO: A woman enjoys autumn colors at Zojoji Buddhist temple in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

ANGRY TAIWAN RALLY AGAINST FOOD SCANDAL ACQUITTAL

TAIPEI: Hundreds of Taiwanese took to the streets to protest the acquittal of a tycoon accused of selling tainted cooking oil, in a string of food scandals that has sparked widespread anger. Wei Ying-chung, ex-chairman of Ting Hsin Oil and Fat Industrial Co, was found not guilty last month along with five others by a district court in central Taiwan. He could have faced a 30-year jail term if convicted.

Prosecutors have appealed the ruling, as a fresh wave of public outcry against the company surfaced with consumers boycotting its products. "It is unacceptable that Wei was acquitted. We want Ting Hsin to close business and the government to know people's anger at its failure to ensure food safety," said Monico Lo, an organizer of the protest.

Holding placards reading "destroy Ting Hsin" and "punish black-hearted toxic business", protesters marched in downtown Taipei before rallying in a square near the presidential office.

"They didn't get the punishment they deserved and they will continue to

sell tainted food," said a 23-year-old protester who gave her family name as Liu.

Ting Hsin Oil is a unit of food giant Ting Hsin International Group-founded by Wei and his three brothers-which owns the Master Kong instant noodle brand popular in Taiwan and China.

Wei was indicted in October 2014 on charges that his company made and sold cooking oil adulterated with imported animal fat extracted from unhealthy animals.

However, the court said prosecutors failed to prove that Ting Hsin imported raw materials from Vietnam that were not suitable for human consumption or that the company's products were manufactured under unsanitary conditions. Wei was also chairman of Wei Chuan Foods Corp-also under the Ting Hsin group-which was involved in two other scandals including selling "gutter oil"-reclaimed from used cooking oil.

The head of another Taiwan firm was given a 20-year-sentence in July for his role in a "gutter oil" scandal in which hundreds of tons of cakes, bread, instant noodles and dumplings had to

be removed from shelves in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Taiwan's government passed a tougher food safety law in

2013 but the public has demanded an amendment to raise jail terms and fines further. — AFP



TAIPEI: Local residents display banners and placards reading "no food safe food, ignore human lives" during a demonstration in Taipei yesterday. Hundreds of Taiwanese took to the streets to protest the acquittal of a tycoon accused of selling tainted cooking oil, in a string of food scandals that sparked widespread anger. — AFP



RIYADH: Saudi women prepare to vote at a polling center during the country's municipal elections in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia yesterday. — AP

SAUDI WOMEN VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN...

Continued from Page 1

They overcame a number of obstacles to participate in the landmark poll. Female candidates could not directly meet any male voters during their campaigns. "This is really silly," said Sahar Hassan Nasief, a women's rights activist in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

She said men and women were already mixing to a degree in the workplace, supermarkets and other locations, although restaurants, banks and other public places include separate sections for "families" and single men. Nasief said the election campaign was "not really" fair because of the segregation and a rule against any candidates publishing their own picture, but it "felt really good" to vote. Female voters said registration was hindered by bureaucratic obstacles, a lack of awareness of the process and its significance, and the fact that women could not drive themselves to sign up.

As a result, women account for less than 10 percent of registered voters and few, if any, female candidates are expected to be elected. "Even if men take all the seats, I feel we still won," said Munifa, a nurse who lives outside Hafir Al-Batin city in the kingdom's northeast. "I have a voice and it matters. It doesn't matter if I vote for a man or a woman," said another northeastern resident, who gave her name only as Noura, 24. One-third of seats on

Saudi Arabia's 284 councils are appointed by the municipal affairs ministry, leaving women optimistic that they will at least be assigned some of them.

'Lack of information'

At a male polling centre in central Riyadh, Ahmad Soulaybi, 78, said he did not know enough about female candidates in his region to support any. "I voted for a man because I lack information about the women," he said. According to election commission data, nearly 1.5 million people aged 18 and over are registered to vote. This includes about 119,000 women, out of a total native Saudi population of almost 21 million.

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia boasts modern infrastructure of highways, skyscrapers and ever-more shopping malls. But women still face many restrictions, and must get permission from male family members to travel, work or marry. Ruled by the al-Saud family of King Salman, Saudi Arabia has no elected legislature and faces intense Western scrutiny of its rights record. The kingdom's first municipal ballot was in 2005, for men only. A slow expansion of women's rights began under Salmaan's predecessor Abdullah who announced four years ago that women would join the elections this year. "It's only a start, and it's a very good start," Nasief said. "Nothing comes easily." — AFP

CHEERS AS FRANCE PRESENTS UN CLIMATE-RESCUE...

Continued from Page 1

Developed and developing nations have failed for decades to sign an effective universal pact to tame global warming and shore up defenses against its impacts. They have been badly divided over how much responsibility each side must shoulder. At the heart of the deal is cutting back or eliminating the use of coal, oil and gas for energy, which has largely powered nations' paths towards prosperity since the Industrial Revolution began in the 1700s. The burning of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases, which cause the planet to warm and change Earth's delicate climate system. Ending the vicious circles requires a revolution in energy efficiency and a switch to cleaner sources, such as solar and wind.

"Climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet," the draft warned. Developing nations have insisted rich countries must shoulder the lion's share of responsibility for tackling climate change as they have emitted most of the greenhouse gases since the Industrial Revolution. But the United States and other rich nations have stood firm that emerging giants must also do more. They have argued that developing countries now account for most of current emissions, and thus will be largely responsible for future warming.

Legal obligations

Rich countries promised six years ago in Copenhagen to muster the \$100 billion a year referred to in the new agreement, which is meant to help developing nations transition to renewable energies and cope with the impacts of global warming. But how the funds will be raised remained

unclear going into the Paris talks, and developing nations had demanded clarity in the new accord. Developing countries also demanded a commitment to increase the amount after 2020. The United States had insisted it could not accept proposals that the accord made the financing obligations legally binding. Despite being formally submitted, the proposed agreement was not available immediately after Fabius's speech.

Ahead of the talks, most nations submitted voluntary plans to curb greenhouse gas emissions from 2020, a process widely hailed as an important platform for success. But scientists say that, even if the pledges were fully honored, Earth would be on track for warming far above safe limits. They also warn against failures to spell out how much to cut greenhouse gases and by when, thus providing key markers on the path towards the targets. Nations most vulnerable to climate change lobbied hard for wording in the Paris pact to limit warming to 1.5C. Big polluters, such as China, India and oil producing-giant Saudi Arabia, preferred a ceiling of 2C, enabling them to burn fossil fuels for longer.

The proposed agreement's references to both a target of "well below 2C", while also aiming for 1.5C, indicated the vulnerable nations had won the battle. As Fabius put forward the proposed deal, green demonstrators lobbied anew, using the geolocation feature on their mobile phones to spell out the words "Climate", "Justice" and "Peace" on an interactive map of the city. But the talks could yet take another twist with opposition to points of the planned agreement when ministers gather again. A closely watched part of the new text will be details on the framework for reviewing and improving national pledges. — AFP

'THREE PERCENTERS' TARGET US MUSLIMS

DALLAS: They are known as "Three Percenters," followers of a movement that has rallied against gun control efforts nationwide, patrolled the US border with Mexico and recently begun confronting Muslim Americans. Followers describe themselves as armed "patriots." But some of their leaders have been blamed for threats and vandalism against lawmakers, police and Muslims. One prominent member from Phoenix prompted an FBI alert in November after posting an expletive-filled Facebook video saying he was headed to upstate New York with guns to challenge a Muslim group.

A Three Percenter in suburban Dallas led a mosque protest by armed, masked men that same month. Texas has been the scene of several other incidents this year that have raised anti-Muslim unease. Two Muslim gunmen in May were shot outside a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Garland. Police in Irving arrested a 14-year-old Muslim whose teachers thought his homemade clock was a bomb in September. All this comes at a time when Texas has led a number of states trying to block the resettlement of Syrian refugees and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump called for a "complete shutdown" of Muslims entering the US.

(I don't think we need this anymore, given the rewrite of the Trump reference. I wrote this so that people wouldn't get confused and think Trump was overly influential in the anti-Muslim efforts: The Three Percenters have expressed concerns about national security in waging anti-Muslim activities this year.) "We will interfere with every move they (Muslims) make towards taking over our country," Dallas protest organizer David Wright said in response to questions the Associated Press sent to his personal Facebook page. "We are ready to fight back if they come at us violently."

Wright, who plans to protest at a different mosque, hasn't advertised the "Three Percenters" name in his activities. But he claimed membership in comments on Facebook and said he

was a leader in a Texas chapter. A second Facebook profile appends the Roman numeral "III" to his name, as do other Three Percenters, and features a black "III%" patch as a background photograph. The Three Percenters movement began in 2008, galvanized by President Barack Obama's election, followers and researchers say. The name comes from the disputed percentage of colonials who armed themselves and fought the British during the American Revolution.

The number of Three Percenters is unclear partly because anyone can ascribe to the movement. The man credited as the founder has claimed 3 million on his blog. One national Three Percenters' Facebook group has about 12,000 members, including people from all 50 states. Followers appear to consist mainly of white, male, conservative gun owners who believe the nation has been pushed to a tipping point by socialists in government aiming to disarm them, strip their constitutional rights and take their property, according to groups that track anti-government movements.

The Three Percenters lack a formal command structure, but have ideological similarities with other groups such as minutemen or militias. Their founder, a former militia member named Michael B. "Mike" Vanderboegh, stresses what he calls "armed civil disobedience." Vanderboegh, 63, a one-time nurse's aide who lives in Pinson, Alabama, looks the part of an elderly professor. With the cadence of a Baptist preacher, he blends references to God and fist-banging disdain for "predatory government." "What they are selling is a lie told by pathological collectivist liars ... to satisfy their insatiable appetites for your liberty and your property, even at the cost of your life," he told a crowd this year in Canon City, Colorado.

A 2009 Anti-Defamation League report called Rage Grows in America featured Vanderboegh and the Three Percenters as a growing "anti-government" movement. The Southern Poverty Law Center has labeled him an extremist. — AP

TRUMP 'A DISGRACE': SAUDI BILLIONAIRE

Continued from Page 1

A spokesman for DAMAC Properties, Niall McLoughlin, declined to comment on why Trump's image had been removed from a billboard outside the project construction site, along with that of his daughter, Ivanka Trump. The AKOYA by DAMAC project will include a Trump-branded golf course, gated island community and spa. Trump is also building a second golf course, the Tiger Woods-designed Trump World Golf Club, at another DAMAC property in Dubai, AKOYA Oxygen. An advertising billboard outside the AKOYA by DAMAC development had shown Trump in a red hat swinging a golf club

against a backdrop of a lush green golf course.

By Thursday, the image had gone, a Reuters photographer said. An adjacent photo of Trump's daughter Ivanka, an executive vice president for his Trump Organization firm, was also removed from the billboard. Gold letters spelling out "Trump International Golf Club," affixed to a landscaped stone wall at the entrance to the project site, were also removed later in the day, according to the Reuters photographer. Trump on Thursday postponed a planned trip to Israel amid the global backlash over his proposal. Israeli politicians and more than 370,000 Britons urged their governments on Wednesday to bar Donald Trump from their countries. — Agencies

WIFE'S ROLE IN US ATTACK RAISES FEAR

Continued from Page 1

weapons and slaughtering 14 people at his office holiday party in Southern California.

While women previously have served as suicide bombers for violent Islamist groups, experts describe Malik's role as a breach of current IS limits on the role of women, and the group has been muted in its public responses to the killings. Farook and his family, like many traditional families in South Asia and elsewhere, used regional matchmaking websites to search for a suitable bride, although it's not clear if that's how he met Malik.

An Associated Press review of matrimonial websites showed many families in Pakistan seeking grooms with passports to more prosperous countries, including the United States and Canada, but also in the Middle East.

There were no obvious extremist views on the profiles of would-be brides and grooms. Some Pakistan families, however, told The Associated Press they avoided online matchmaking for just that fear. "After the incident in California, we should be extremely careful," said Munir Anwar, a poet in the deeply conservative town of Liaquatpur, in Malik's home region of Punjab, Pakistan. People meeting friends or matches online "play with fire," declared Azim Khalid, a university teacher in the Punjab town of Vehari.

Unlike Malik, who was a university graduate, most of the Pakistan brides being sought by Pakistani-origin families in the West tend to be less educated and thus presumed to be better housewives, said Eric T Dean Jr, a Connecticut-based immigration lawyer who specializes in fiance visas for brides and grooms from abroad, like the visa on which Malik arrived. Dean said he's noticed one particularity on fiance visas: The United States appears to give almost all would-be grooms from Pakistan seeking fiance visas an extra layer of security

checks known as "administrative processing."

But he couldn't recall a would-be Pakistani bride getting that extra scrutiny. The State Department, which last year denied no more than 618 out of more than 36,500 fiance visas sought globally, declined to say how many of those denials were for security concerns. The Islamic State group, meanwhile, has avidly sought female recruits to serve as brides for fighters in its territory in Syria.

While lawmakers including Sen Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, voiced worry, after the San Bernardino shootings, of foreign brides marrying American citizens specifically to launch attacks here, there's no evidence to date that's ever happened, security experts and others said. The prohibition on women taking the offense in jihad is one key reason. Only if imams issue a fatwa, or ruling, that women are needed for the fight can they join it, the Islamic State group declared earlier this year in an online manifesto. If Malik's marriage to Farook were arranged by an extremist organization or operative, Graham described that as a "game changer" during a hearing this week in Washington.

In response to a question from Graham, FBI Director James Comey testified that any involvement in the marriage by extremist groups would be "a very, very important thing to know." So far, IS has noted the husband-and-wife team publicly only as "supporters." Malik went on Facebook at the time of the attack to swear the couple's allegiance to the group. Perhaps because of Malik's role, female IS recruits who've been quick to crow online about other beheadings, bombings and shootings have been hushed about this attack, said Melanie Smith, another researcher at Havlicek's Center for Strategic Dialogue. "I think they want to be kind of celebratory about it," Smith said. "But it kind of goes against what they are told is necessary and authorized for them." — AP

Kuwait Times

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Focus

DATA ENCRYPTION IN SHARP FOCUS AFTER US DEADLY ATTACKS

By Rob Lever

With renewed focus on how encrypted messages can be used to plot terrorist attacks, President Barack Obama's administration is stepping up pressure on the tech sector to help in the battle. Although issues around encryption have been ongoing for decades, the prickly topic has sprung to the fore in recent weeks following killing sprees in Paris and California.

Over the past two years, more sophisticated encryption—notably by smartphones—has become widely available following revelations by former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden about vast US surveillance programs. But US administration officials as well as local law enforcement are making the case for better access to encrypted data, saying new smartphone and encryption technologies have made it more difficult to thwart “malicious actors.” “We want to strike the right balance. We want to make sure encryption is not used in a way that does allow for dark space for terrorist groups,” a White House statement said.

Privacy remains a major counter-argument. Underlining those concerns, an online petition calling on the administration to avoid weakening encryption got more than 100,000 signatures, requiring a White House reply. White House chief technology officer Ed Felton and cybersecurity chief Michael Daniel said in response that “American technologists have a unique perspective... and we need them to bring their expertise, innovation and creativity to bear against the threat of terrorism.” Some analysts say the public is though ready to accept improved access for legitimate investigative purposes.

‘Back doors’

“This is part of a larger debate since the dawn of the Internet about how much anonymity people should have,” said James Lewis, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who as a former administration official worked on encryption issues. Lewis said the debate has been skewed by the use of the term “back door” for law enforcement or intelligence when in fact most tech firms have the ability to decrypt data under certain circumstances. “Companies like Google mine this data for advertising purposes,” Lewis said. Darren Hayes, a professor of computer science forensics at Pace University in New York, said one helpful move would be for Apple and Google to roll back their encryption to the level of a year ago to enable access to smartphones with a warrant or court order.

“It worked very well, but Apple somewhere along the line decided it didn't make business sense,” he said, adding that tech firms are conscious of their public image and don't want to be seen as tools of law enforcement or the National Security Agency. At the same time, he said, in New York “there are more than 100 investigations stopped in their tracks because there are phones that can't be analyzed. These are murderers, rapists, pedophiles who are not being prosecuted.” Hayes said that in the current environment, tech firms are not likely to voluntarily make changes to help law enforcement. “The only way they would be persuaded is through legislation,” he said.

FBI Director James Comey told lawmakers the administration “has decided not to seek a legislative remedy at this time,” but repeated his warning about “going dark”—losing the ability to track communications over new encrypted messaging systems. “We believe it must be addressed since the resulting risks are grave in both traditional criminal matters as well as in national security matters,” he said. He added that the government “is actively engaged with private companies to ensure they understand the public safety and national security risks that result from malicious actors' use of their encrypted products and services.”

Right to privacy

But privacy activists and encryption specialists in the private sector remain firm in resisting efforts to provide special access to investigators. “Weakening encryption makes us all less secure,” says Rainey Reitman of the Electronic Frontier Foundation in a blog post. “We cannot create a back door, a front door, or any other kind of door for the United States government that cannot be exploited by malicious hackers and other foreign governments.” Activists say encryption offers numerous benefits, such as securing personal or business data and financial transactions, and can help deter smartphone thefts.

Robyn Greene, policy counsel for the Open Technology Institute at New America Foundation, said that “prohibiting companies from selling encrypted devices would not prevent criminals or terrorists from being able to access unbreakable encryption.” Green added that smartphones should have the same privacy protection as other means of communication. “Police can enter homes with warrants, but there is no requirement that people record their conversations and interactions just in case they someday become useful in an investigation,” she said on the Just Security blog. “The conversations that we once had through disposable letters and in-person conversations now happen over the Internet and on phones. Just because the medium has changed does not mean our right to privacy has.” —AFP

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Washington Watch

LISTENING TO VOICES ACROSS THE MIDEAST

By Dr James J Zogby

For the past five years, I've had the opportunity to conduct public opinion polls across the Middle East in order to provide content for policy discussions at the UAE's annual Sir BaniYas Forum. And so during the month of September, we surveyed over 7,400 adults in six Arab countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE), Turkey, and Iran. Polling is like opening a window. It allows us to hear the voices of people and to understand their beliefs, concerns, and priorities. I call it “the respectful science” because the views of every individual counts. When you listen, you learn. Sometimes assumptions are validated. Other times, there are surprises. This year's results had both. Some of the key findings were:

Iraq

As expected, Iraqis are divided on the level of confidence they have in important institutions and the roles of regional players in their country. Sunni Arabs, for example, have no confidence in the Iraqi military, Iran's involvement, or the Popular Mobilization Units that are fighting Daesh. Shia Arabs, on the other hand, are supportive of the roles being played by all of these. There is, however, remarkable consensus on two important issues: that the cause of the conflict in Iraq is that “the government in Baghdad does not represent all Iraqis”; and that “the best way to ultimately resolve the conflict...is forming a more inclusive representative government”—and not partition. Even the Kurds agreed that such a representative central government is a better option than partition.

Iran and P5+1:

Majorities in every country surveyed, except Lebanon and Turkey, were not supportive of the P5+1 Agreement

largely because they lacked confidence that it would stop Iran's nuclear program. In addition, Egyptians and Saudis, in particular, believed that Iran would now use sanctions relief to support its “interference in the region”. For their part, Iranians were conflicted about the Agreement. Most were supportive, but two-thirds were upset that their country had to accept limits on their nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief—with a substantial percentage of Iranians still saying that their country should have a nuclear weapon “as long as other countries have” such weapons.

When asked what they now wanted their government's priorities to be in the wake of the Agreement, far and away, the top choices were “improving the economy” and “advancing democracy and protecting personal and civil rights”. In last place was increasing involvement in the region. Iranians still support their government's support for Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, but at lower levels than in previous years.

Palestine

The issue of Palestine may have been eclipsed in the news, but it remains a critically important concern for almost all Arabs surveyed. When asked to rank the region's many conflicts in order of importance, the situation in Palestine was at the top of the list (or one point shy of the top) in every Arab country. And overwhelming majorities in every country, except Iraq, wanted their governments to provide more aid to support the Palestinians and to assist Palestinian efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

In polls we conducted in 2005, 2007, and 2009, at least three-quarters of all Arabs said that they supported the terms of the Arab Peace Initiative, indicating that if Israel were to leave the occupied lands and solve the refugee issue, they were prepared to live in peace with Israel. The behavior of the Netanyahu government, however, has taken a toll on Arab opinion. It is still the case that two-thirds

in Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are ready to make peace, but almost one-half in all these countries now believe that Israel doesn't want peace, and the percentage of those who say that they are no longer interested in peace with Israel has doubled since 2009. In Egypt and Iraq, a strong majority now reject peace with Israel.

Extremism

Daesh is identified as the most serious extremist problem facing the region in every country except Jordan, where al Qaeda is ranked first. And when asked to identify the most important causes of religious extremism, at the top of the list in most countries are “corrupt, repressive, and unrepresentative governments” and “religious figures and groups promoting extremist ideas”. Interestingly, “anger at the US” is now ranked at the very bottom of the list in every country, most likely due to the US's lighter regional footprint. How best to defeat extremism? Respondents in every country say “changing the political and social realities that cause young people to be attracted to extremist ideas”, followed by “countering the messages and ideas” of extremist groups.

Joint Arab action

Because the US role in combating the regional challenge of extremism receives extremely low scores in every country surveyed, Arabs have been discussing the formation of a Joint Arab Force (JAF). We found that in every Arab country surveyed substantial majorities supporting the development of such a JAF. And majorities favor their governments funding and providing troops to make up this force. In addition, there is strong support, across the board, for deploying a JAF in peace-keeping or, in some cases, in a combat role in Syria, Iraq, and Palestine. There is less support for engagement in Libya or Yemen.

PACIFIC'S A-BOMB REFUGEES NOW FACE CLIMATE THREAT

By Giff Johnson

Almost 70 years ago, the people of Bikini Atoll left their homes to allow US nuclear testing, now the Pacific islanders' descendants say they must move again—because climate change has rendered their new home uninhabitable. Many of those Bikinians moved to Kili Island, which is 800 kilometers away but still part of the Marshall Islands archipelago. The tiny stretch of land, less than one square kilometer in size, now home to almost 1,000 people, is around two meters above sea level, making it vulnerable to rising seas blamed on man-made global warming.

Residents say it is becoming increasingly uninhabitable; crops fail due to seawater creeping up into the soil and drinking water, while flooding and storms are increasing in frequency, regularly battering homes and villages. When waves inundated Kili earlier this year, residents “felt as though they would all be taken out to the sea,” local councilor Lani Kramer said. She said: “(People) noticed the water coming inland and thought it was strange. Within one hour, the water was up to their waists. People were terrified. Some ran to the church as it's on higher ground and camped there until the water slowly went down.” “It's destroyed the little crops they had. The people on Kili depend on those little crops,” she added.

‘Knee-deep in water’

Local government liaison Jack Niedenthal, like many Bikinians, feel the US owe a moral commitment to protect the islanders because their ancestors gave up their homes enabling America to conduct nuclear tests in the mid-20th century. Some hope to move to the US permanently, warning the situation is so dire they face a future

as climate change refugees. He added: “We're knee deep in water twice a year now,” “It was the United States solution to put us on Kili Island. We shouldn't have to use our own resources to pay for relocation.”

Residents of the Marshall Islands are able to live, work, and study in the US visa-free but Niedenthal says the administration

less, we can't do anything on our own. All we can do is just ask bigger countries to take action.”

The woes of Kili are being experienced across Marshall Islands, where extreme weather has caused such problems that President Christopher Loeak warned life there would “soon become like living in a

close, to be replaced by a clean, green energy future, free of the carbon pollution that is harming our health, stunting our growth, and suffocating our planet.”

Extreme weather

The Marshall Islands has experienced an increased number of storms per year, and in 2014 recorded the highest king tides for three decades, which forced 1,000 to flee their homes and more than \$2 billion worth of damage. Climate change has also exacerbated the impact of an El Nino weather pattern currently gripping the western Pacific, with meteorologists predicting it will cause a nine-month drought extending from Palau to the Marshalls.

“We experience extreme weather, have floods on some of our islands and drought on others, and have severe erosion, coral bleaching and salt-inundation in our food crops and ground water,” Foreign Minister Tony de Brum said last month. Ocean inundation is now so common that Hawaii-based scientists have created a forecasting body-Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) — to give weekly projections on when they can be expected.

The normally placid lagoon on the Marshall's capital Majuro was recently turned into a cauldron by storm surges and PacIOOS's deputy director Melissa Iwamoto said islanders now had to cope with such conditions as part of everyday life. “If the ocean swell is too high, the safety of fishermen transiting out of the lagoon to open waters is threatened,” she said. “Homes and businesses may be flooded with seawater, roadways may become impassable and even the runway at the airport may be rendered useless for large commercial aircraft. “This is the reality of islanders living on Majuro Atoll.” —AFP



MAJURO: Photo shows a damaged building after a storm in Majuro as a tropical depression moved through the Marshall Islands. —AFP

should pay for flights and a resettlement package. The US State Department was not immediately able to comment on the issue. As world leaders meet in Paris tasked with signing the first-ever truly universal pact to curb global warming, Niedenthal said he also hoped major players would consider the plight of Pacific communities on the front line of the crisis. He said: “We're help-

ing the Paris COP21 summit last week, he called for strict curbs to limit global warming and five year assessments to see if targets could be improved. “We are already limping from climate disaster to climate disaster, and we know there is worse to come,” he added. “If we're to win the battle against climate change, the fossil fuel era must draw to a

DONAIRE REGAINS WORLD TITLE WITH DECISION OVER JUAREZ

MIAMI: Filipino star Nonito Donaire reclaimed the World Boxing Organization super bantamweight world title on Friday with a gutsy unanimous decision over Mexico's Cesar Juarez in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Donaire was in control early, knocking Juarez down twice with left hooks in the fourth round. But an aggressive Juarez turned the tide in the middle rounds, battering the 33-year-old Donaire who was clearly slowing by the seventh round under an onslaught that left him with one eye cut and swelling. Juarez, 24, should have been credited with a knockdown in the 10th, when his left hook sent Donaire down. But Donaire had enough left to land effectively in the final rounds and won the thriller by scores of 116-110, 116-110 and 117-109. "Tremendous fight!" Donaire said. "We give him so much respect. We gave it all. "I will definitely give him a rematch," he added. Juarez, who fell to 17-4 with 13 knockouts, thought the scores should have been closer-but he didn't dispute Donaire's win.—AFP



DALY, ALESHIN SECURE 2016 INDYCAR DEALS

CHICAGO: Conor Daly, the son of Irish 1980s Formula One and IndyCar racer Derek Daly, and Russian Mikhail Aleshin each secured IndyCar rides for the 2016 campaign, the series announced Friday. Daly, a 23-year-old American, signed a full-season deal with Dale Coyne Racing while Aleshin, 28, rejoins Schmidt Peterson Motorsports, for whom he drove 17 races in 2014 and this year's season finale. Daly has sought a full-time ride since finishing 22nd at the 2013 Indianapolis 500 in his IndyCar debut. He drove in five races last season in part-time deals. "It's an amazing thing to think that I actually get to prepare for races before the weekend," Daly said. "It's incredible to finally be able to get this break. Excited to finally be able to put away the sponsorship books and cold calls and just be able to work." The elder Daly's lone F1 or IndyCar podium was a third place US oval effort in 1987 at Milwaukee. His son's best result to date was sixth at Detroit last season as a replacement for injured Canadian racer James Hinchcliffe. Aleshin has need time to adjust to car changes since a practice crash caused him to miss the last race of the 2014 campaign and part of last season.—AFP

BENITEZ 100 PERCENT BEHIND BENZEMA

MADRID: Real Madrid boss Rafael Benitez has reiterated his support for troubled French striker Karim Benzema after he was indefinitely suspended from representing his country. Benzema faces criminal charges in his homeland after allegedly becoming embroiled in a sex-tape blackmail attempt against international teammate Mathieu Valbuena. The 27-year-old now looks set to miss next summer's European Championships on home soil unless the case is resolved before June, French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet said on Thursday. However, in contrast to the reaction in France, Benzema has received full support from Madrid with both Benitez and club president Florentino Perez insisting they have faith that his name will eventually be cleared. "I have shown personally and we are all in agreement that we 100 percent support Karim," Benitez said yesterday. "In the contact we have with him he is an excellent person." —AFP



TEENAGER PITCHING TO BREAK MEXICO GENDER WALL

MADRIDA: With her 78-mile-per-hour fastball, teenager Rosa Maria del Castillo became the first female pitcher in a Mexican semi-pro men's baseball league, breaking the gender barrier in a notoriously macho society.

The right-hander's pitch repertoire includes a fastball, a curveball and a change-up—not bad for an 18-year-old who stands barely 1.72 meters (5.6 feet) tall. "I want to believe that more doors will begin to open for women in baseball, although it won't happen quickly," she told AFP, her dark curly hair flowing behind her blue baseball cap.

"Rosy," as she is better known, plays for the Azulejos of Tamanche, a team in the Liga Meridana in the Caribbean coast state of Yucatan, where professionals play during the winter break.

While her pitch velocity is slower than the male average of 92 miles (150 kilometers) per hour, she was good enough to strike out two batters in her second game a week ago, when her team ravaged the Constructores de Morelos 13-3. "She had an excellent outing," said team manager Oswaldo Morejon. She was less nervous and more poised than in her November 29 debut, when the team lost 6-4 to the Senators and she gave up three hits while getting one out.

'CRUDE MALE WORLD'

Rosy was discovered last year during practice in Yucatan's capital Merida with other women from lower leagues across the country. "She was the most advanced. The level that she showed stood out so we followed her the whole year," Morejon said.

Her teammates were initially taken aback when they learned that a woman would join the bullpen. "But they quickly accepted the idea. Some had already heard about her pitch speed," Morejon said.

"They also understood that they would have to watch their manners in front of her, although Rosy is used to

playing with men. She knows the crude male world."

Morejon sees her as a pioneer who can "open doors to Mexican baseball to other women." A National Baseball Federation official confirmed to AFP that Rosy is the country's first woman to play in a semi-professional men's league. There is nothing written against women playing in men's baseball. But for decades those with skills were encouraged to play softball instead. "I played softball, but it's not the same thing. I don't like it.

Baseball's the thing for me," she said. While she dreams of playing in the Mexican big leagues, Rosy also wants to get a scholarship to study sports marketing in the United States or land a contract to play baseball in Japan, the only country with a professional women's league.

NO TIME TO PARTY

Rosy first touched a baseball at the age of three when her brother put one in her hand. At six, she was part of a children's team and spent most of her teenage years in the diamonds.

"I only had time for practice and games. I wasn't interested in parties or wild nights," she said.

She had to battle sexism and discouragement that even came from female friends, who told her that baseball was "a man's sport." But she would not take "no" for an answer.

"At the age of 14 or 15 I was already thinking about playing professionally," Rosy recalled. She was invited to an international women's baseball showcase tournament in the United States that will take place in June next year.

Another pioneer will be at the same event: Melissa Mayeux, a 17-year-old French shortstop who became this year the first female player placed on US Major League Baseball's international registration list, making her eligible to be signed by clubs.—AFP



DUBAI: Shanshan Feng of China receives the trophy from Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, the wife of the Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and daughter of the late King of Jordan, after winning the Dubai Ladies Masters golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, yesterday.—AP

FENG ELATED WITH DUBAI TRIPLE WIN

DUBAI: China's Feng Shanshan became the most successful player in the 10-year history of the Dubai Ladies Masters yesterday when she won the tournament for the third time with a record margin of 12 shots.

The Chinese world number six, who was the highest ranked player in the field, closed with a bogey-free six-under par 66 to complete the double of winning the season-ending championship and the Order of Merit on the Ladies European Tour.

Feng finished on 21-under par 267, while Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura (73) was runner-up at nine-under par 279. In the process, Feng overtook ladies golf legend Annika Sorenstam's tally of two Dubai Ladies Masters wins, as well as her record of the biggest winning margin, which was six shots in the inaugural event in 2006.

England's Melissa Reid, who started the tournament with a 75, closed with a 69 to finish

alone in third place at 280, while Thailand's Pornanong Phatlum (69), Germany's Caroline Masson (70) and France's Jade Schaeffer (71) were tied fourth at 281.

Feng started the day five ahead of Suwannapura, but that gap quickly became seven after just two holes when the Thai began her final round with a bogey, while Feng made a birdie on the second. She then made another two birdies on the front nine, and added three on the back nine, including one on the par-5 18th where she almost holed her third shot for an eagle. "Actually, before I came this year, I didn't really think that I could win again," Feng said. "I didn't really aim that as a goal. I was like just get a top five, just enjoy the week and just try my best on every shot.

"But of course I performed really well, I would say really consistent. Even though yesterday there were two bogeys, but today was bogey-free again. "I think that winning the Order of

Merit is maybe like a bonus for this year, because I won twice on the Ladies European Tour and also I finished third at Evian. Overall, I think I did well this year on the European Tour."

Denmark's Emily Kristine Pedersen won the Rookie of the Year honour after finishing ahead of compatriot Nanna Koerstz Madsen, the only other player in the field who had a chance of beating her to the title.

Pedersen closed with a three-under par 69 to finish on 286, while Madsen could do no better than an even-par 72 round to finish tied 37th at two-over par. Madsen needed to finish inside the top-two to go ahead of Pedersen.

There was also an emotional moment for South African star Ashleigh Simon, who got a proposal of marriage from her boyfriend of nine years and caddie for six, David Buhai, on the 18th green after finishing the tournament. Simon, who had just double bogeyed her final hole, said yes.—AFP



MERIDA: Picture of Rosa Maria del Castillo, the first woman pitcher playing in a local professional league for the Tamanche Bluejays in Merida, Mexico.—AFP

FRENCH ROOKIE SOARS TO THE TOP IN THAILAND

CHONBURI: Unheralded young Frenchman Clement Sordet fired a cracking nine-under 63 to seize the lead in the third round of the Thailand Golf Championship at the Amata Spring Country Club yesterday.

Sordet, who ironically was the very last golfer to be invited to compete in the tournament, played superbly to leave overnight leader Jamie Donaldson two shots adrift after the Welshman shot a 71. Lee Westwood, a two-time champion of the tournament, gave himself a chance to make it a hat-trick with an excellent eight-under 64, to move up the leaderboard into third place, one shot behind Donaldson.

Korea's An Byeong-hun took over fourth spot following a 68, with Ryder Cup stars Sergio Garcia (70) and Martin Kaymer (72) a further stroke behind in joint fifth place.

The unassuming Sordet, who is just 23 and only turned professional in July, was delighted with his faultless round which included seven birdies and an eagle.

"I just took it shot by shot and had no idea I was nine-under," he said. "Of course I was really happy with that score." He said that while the eagle of the 15th was the highlight of the round, he particularly enjoyed sinking a birdie on the 17th. "In the last round I suffered a triple bogey at that hole so today I got my revenge," he said.

Sordet, ranked 481 in the world, said he felt good about the prospect of playing with the likes of such stars as Westwood and Donaldson in the final round.

"It's always been my dream to play with top players and now I am going to do that. Hopefully I will enjoy it and just play my own game."

Donaldson, who had led for the first two rounds, said he was playing quite happily on the first nine, but then things changed dramatically with a double-bogey at the 12th.

"I was cruising, not playing great, but doing enough until the 12th, which was a killer. Suddenly I went from feeling great to wondering what on earth was going on."

Donaldson is experienced enough to know he is still in with a very good chance. "Tomorrow is another day. I just need a good start and I will be okay. I'm still in it."

Westwood with eyes on prize

Westwood, who won this tournament in 2011 and again last year, has his eyes on the title once

again after an impressive round in which he sunk nine birdies and suffered just the one bogey.

"It certainly gives me confidence knowing I'm playing a course on which I have won twice before," said the Englishman.

Westwood said he played very well and thought a lot of it was down to his improved putting. "I played with a new putter. It feels a lot more stable and the putts were rolling in."

However, he knows he still has some work to do if he is to win his third title at the Amata course. "The guys playing are very good. I need a

really low score to win the title," he said. A determined-looking Kaymer admitted he was disappointed with his even-par round.

"I had a good front nine, but was a bit unlucky on the back nine. If I hit more fairways and am lucky on the greens I still have a good chance."

Bubba Watson once again struggled to find his touch and had to settle for a 72 to put him well down the field. "I felt good, but just didn't make the putts," he said. "Every year I've been here it's the same thing—my short game. I just can't get the right speed on the greens." —AFP



CHONBURI: This handout taken and released by the Asian Tour yesterday shows Clement Sordet of France hitting a shot during round three of the Thailand Golf Championship at the Amata Spring Country Club in Chonburi.—AFP

HIRSCHER WINS GIANT SLALOM IN VAL D'ISERE

VAL D'ISERE: Marcel Hirscher earned a record fifth win in Val d'Isere yesterday with a dominating performance in a World Cup giant slalom on the treacherous Face de Bellevarde.

The Austrian technical specialist, who also won last week's giant slalom in Beaver Creek after posting a surprise super-G victory in Colorado, won by a massive margin of 1.29 seconds ahead of Felix Neureuther in the French Alps. Frenchman Victor Muffat-Jeandet completed the podium on his home

snow, 1.58 seconds off the pace.

After building a small lead of 0.14 seconds over Henrik Kristoffersen in the first run, Hirscher destroyed his rivals in the afternoon by taking risks while always looking in total control on the bumpy course where he claimed his first World Cup win back in 2009.

"I was on the edge," said Hirscher, after claiming a 16th giant slalom victory in the combined time of 2 minutes, 8.49 seconds. "For me this is the most difficult slope." Seeking a second World Cup giant

win, Kristoffersen also went all out but went out of the race after straddling a gate on a tricky turn on the top section of the course. It was Hirscher's third World Cup win this season and Neureuther's first podium, while Muffat-Jeandet again showed he is an emerging contender after earning a second straight top-three finish. Winner of four straight overall titles, Hirscher has now won four giant slaloms and one slalom in Val d'Isere.

"It's pretty cool to race here, the

French are ski fanatics," Hirscher said. Sitting in fourth place after the first run, Thomas Fanara straddled the same gate as Kristoffersen after losing his balance on a small bump and ended up in the security net after a spectacular fall. He was quickly back on his feet and appeared to be uninjured.

American Ted Ligety had another disappointing performance in his favorite discipline after crashing in the Beaver Creek giant slalom. He skied too conservatively and made a big mistake in the

first run, ending up 2.83 seconds behind Hirscher and failing to qualify for the afternoon run.

Ligety has achieved just one podium finish in his last six GS races. "Ted was upset about the start time - 9.30 start time - with the top part in the sun and the bottom part in the shade," said U.S. coach Sasha Rearick. "He was very dramatic about how he was upset about it. I think he never got his mind off of that." The World Cup continues in Val d'Isere on Sunday with a men's slalom. —AP

ULSTER HAND TOULOUSE 38-0 EUROPEAN CUP ROUT

PARIS: Ulster handed four-time champions Toulouse a 38-0, five-try rout on Friday to kickstart their European Cup campaign and leave the French giants facing elimination in the pool stages for a second successive season.

After losing their opening Pool 1 fixture at home to Saracens, Ulster were a transformed side at Ravenhill with South African scrum-half Ruan Pienaar playing a crucial, match-winning role. It was Ulster's fourth win in their last five home matches against Toulouse in Belfast.

Defeat also meant Toulouse have lost two of their opening three games in the tournament. "We just had to make sure we sucked the life out of their play," Ulster director of rugby Les Kiss told the BBC.

"We had a few more guys out because of injury but the boys didn't allow that to hijack themselves and say: 'Poor me.'" Ulster were boosted at the start by the return of hooker Rory Best to captain the side while Toulouse lost winger Maxime Medard in the warm-up and influential No8 Louis Picamoles with a shoulder injury early in the first half.

The Irish side were on the scoreboard after 23 minutes when giant Kiwi No8 Nick Williams barrelled over despite the presence of two defenders after Franco van der Merwe had created the opening.

Paddy Jackson added the extras just

before Toulouse had their first player sin-binned, Sebastien Bezy getting the yellow-card for an infringement at the ruck.

Jackson popped over the resulting penalty for 10-0. At the other end, Toby Flood missed a second penalty of the half but at least had the consolation of seeing Ulster reduced to 14 men when Williams was yellow carded.

Two minutes from the interval, Ulster were 17-0 ahead when Pienaar recovered from a crude trip by Yacouba Camara to feed Andrew Trimble before the winger chipped ahead to catch his own kick for the score. Jackson was dead accurate with another conversion.

Pienaar was the inspiration again when Ulster grabbed a third try. His smart cross-field punt left a stretched Toulouse defence flat-footed, allowing centre Luke Marshall to score. Despite being tight to the touchline, Jackson slotted over the conversion for 24-0.

Toulouse were shellshocked and Stuart McCloskey slalomed over for the bonus-point fourth try with a more comfortable conversion following for Jackson with still more than 20 minutes to play.

Van der Merwe added the fifth try from a driving maul with replacement kicker Ian Humphreys hitting the extras from a difficult angle for 38-0. The two sides meet again in France next weekend. — AFP

STOLBOVA, KLIMOV WIN GRAND PRIX PAIRS TITLE

BARCELONA: Russia's Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov finally came out of the shadows to claim pairs gold with a flawless display in the ISU Grand Prix Final of figure skating on Friday. Stolbova, 23, and Klimov, 25, have often settled for second with silver medals at the last two European championships, the Sochi Olympics and world championships in 2014.

The Russian pair also finished second last season in the Grand Prix Final in Barcelona behind Canadians Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford. But skating to Danny Elfman's 'Man and Shadow' they pulled out the biggest free skate of their careers, scoring a new personal best 154.60 points for an overall total of 229.44 to take their first major title ahead of the Canadian world champions.

"We are very happy that we finally managed to skate clean this season and did all the elements for the first time in competition and we are very happy with this medal," said Klimov.

The Moscow-based pair did not include a quadruple throw in their routine like their rivals but a triple toe-triple toe-double toe combination, triple twist, throw triple Salchow and flip were enough.

"In this competition it was enough to do a clean programme with good jumps but in future I think we need to do more high level elements like a quad throw," Klimov said.

Stolbova and Klimov's score was the second best ever and just 0.06 lower than the record 154.66 achieved by compatriots Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov in Skate America in 2013. Duhamel and Radford's routine to Adele's 'Hometown Glory' was technically challenging with a side-by-side triple lutz and a throw quadruple Salchow, but Duhamel stumbled on the throw triple lutz.

The 2015 world champions scored 143.93 points, their season's best to move up from third after the short programme with 216.67

points. "Eric and I are really proud about our performance today," said Duhamel. "We felt more comfortable with this programme and we executed it much better than the short programme and we are proud to have this medal."

Russia's Yuko Kavaguti and Alexander Smirnov rallied after she fell twice early in their routine to Tchaikovsky's 'Manfred Symphony'. The European champions came back strong with a throw quadruple Salchow, throw triple loop and difficult lifts, scoring 132.95 points, but slipping from second to third with 206.59.

RUSSIAN TEENS

In the women's competition, Russian 16-year-olds Evgenia Medvedeva and Elena Radionova took the top two places after the short programme.

Medvedeva scored her season's best 74.58 points with Radionova on 69.43 and Japan's Mao Asada third with 69.13 going into Saturday's free skating final. In ice dancing, Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje got their title defence off to a strong start in the short dance. The Skate Canada and Cup of Russia winners posted their season's best 72.75 for their waltz and polka selection to the music of Johann Strauss.

"We felt great with all parts of our work. There's something very pleasant and familiar about being back in Barcelona, the crowd feel to be behind us all the way," said Weaver.

"It's good to be in this position and we're looking forward to tomorrow." World silver medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates of the United States are close behind on 71.64, with 2014 world champions Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte of Italy third (70.14).

Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu will bid for a third consecutive men's title on Saturday as he leads Spain's Javier Fernandez going into the free programme on the final day of competition. — AFP



ARE: From left, second placed Austria's Eva-Maria Brem, first placed Lindsey Vonn of the United States and third placed Italy's Federica Brignone, celebrate with a man dressed as Santa Claus on the podium of a women's World Cup giant slalom in Are, Sweden, yesterday. — AP

VONN WINS AS SHIFFRIN MISSES GIANT SLALOM

ARE: Lindsey Vonn won a World Cup giant slalom in Are, Sweden, yesterday for her fourth consecutive victory while American teammate Mikaela Shiffrin missed the race following a warmup crash.

While she specializes in the speed events of downhill and super-G, Vonn has now won four giant slaloms in her career - with two of them coming in Are. Charging down a shortened course due to strong winds in the opening run, Vonn held on to her lead in the second run amid snowfall and clocked a two-run combined time of 2 minutes, 4.70 seconds. "I love racing here in Are under the lights," Vonn said, having explained earlier that it reminds her of training after school while growing up in Minnesota.

Eva-Maria Brem of Austria finished second, 0.07 seconds behind, and discipline leader Federica Brignone of Italy was third, 0.35 back. Vonn swept three speed races in Lake Louise, Alberta, last weekend.

"I feel really good on my skis and balanced. I have a lot of confidence, especially after Lake Louise," she said. "I said last week if I finish Lake Louise strong that always means good things for the rest of the season." Shiffrin, the 20-year-old Olympic slalom champion, was taken to a local hospital for exams on her right knee.

"She basically flipped over into the net," Shiffrin's manager Kilian Albrecht told the Associated Press. "She's in the hospital waiting for the MRI which will probably take a while." Vonn increased her lead over Shiffrin in the overall standings to 104 points. Lara Gut of Switzerland, who finished 13th, is third overall, 122 points back. Vonn took gold in downhill at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and has four overall World Cup titles - with the last coming in 2011-12. In the second run, Vonn's lead over Brem was down to just three hundredths at the final interval but her gliding skills paid off over the final gates.

BIG CELEBRATION

"I tried to be smart on the bottom where it was turny and some of the girls had some trouble," she said. "I think I may have given away too much time there, but still I was attacking the whole time trying to arc and I was fast."

Vonn let out a big celebration, pumping her poles and screaming before kissing her skis. "The old woman still has some tricks up her sleeve," the 31-year-old Vonn added. "I'm not maybe as agile as I used to be. I'm not maybe as explosive. But at the same time I know my ability and I know what I can do and I know in different situations what is required of me."

"And so I knew today it was going to take two really good, aggressive runs and my experience paid off and I was able to win." It was the 71st World Cup win of Vonn's career. She broke the previous women's record of 62 wins set by Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell last season and now is taking aim at Ingemar Stenmark's overall mark of 86 victories.

"It's just been a great season so far," said Vonn, who missed the season-opening giant slalom in Soelden, Austria, in October while recovering from a broken left ankle.

Brignone, who won in Soelden, holds a 28-point lead ahead of Brem in the GS standings. The surprise of the day belonged to Simone Wild, an 18-year-old from Switzerland, who finished eighth with the No. 45 bib.

Vonn's previous GS win came in Maribor, Slovenia, three seasons ago. She also won in Are

at the end of the 2011-12 season. "I was watching some video from that win last night," Vonn said between runs. "I was hoping to be in the top three but at the same time I knew that if I could arc and ski aggressively that I could win."

Because I've done it here before." Sara Hector of Sweden, the first starter, pulled up midway

through her run with an apparent knee injury and was taken down the course on a sled.

While Shiffrin's status was uncertain, Vonn is not planning to enter Sunday's slalom race. "I'm young enough to ski well in GS but not young enough to still be good in slalom," Vonn said with a laugh. — AP

WORLD CHAMPS CHEN, MARIN OUSTED IN DAY OF SHOCKS

DUBAI: Both world singles champions, Chen Long and Carolina Marin, were beaten in straight games yesterday on a day when the 2015 form-book was torn up in the Super Series finals in Dubai.

Chen, who has won seven Super Series tournaments this year, was beaten for the first time by Viktor Axelsen, the improving world number six from Denmark, only briefly showing his best form when he reached 17-15 in the second game before losing 21-12, 21-17.

Marin, who has won five major titles in her finest ever year, was beaten 21-11, 21-12, by Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, a result which was perhaps a little less surprising because it was the second time in 24 hours that it happened.

The conditions in Dubai are slow and Marin's attacking game was unable to make much impact against a superbly mobile opponent who consistently got the shuttle back.

It suited Okuhara so much she may start Sunday's women's singles final with an even chance of taking her first major title. Chen however was by his standards sluggish and error-prone. He also allowed himself to be tied up at the net quite a lot by the canny Axelsen, who knew this was the best way of frustrating his tall opponent's long reach in defence and steep counter-attacks.

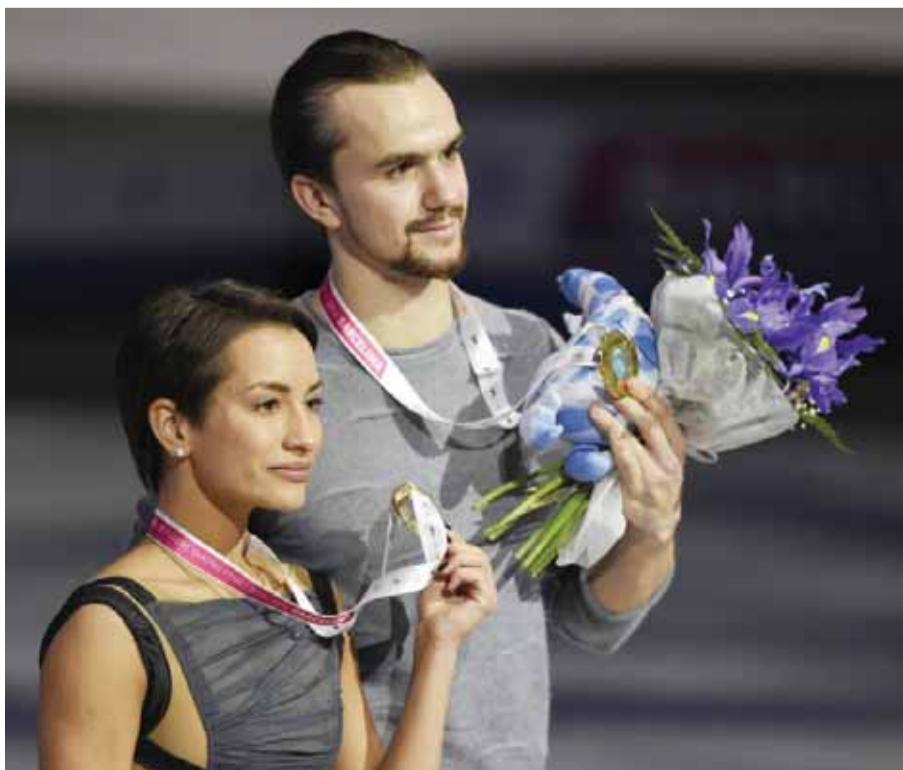
"I didn't play so well today," Chen admitted. "I didn't have good fortune and my opponent played better than I did. But I am very happy about my performance for most of the year." He already had an eye on his preparation for the Olympics, he half-admitted.

FINEST PERFORMANCE

He may not have been quite as happy at any time as Axelsen appeared to be after this,



DUBAI: Carolina Marin of Spain returns a shot to Nozomi Okuhara of Japan during their women's single semi-final match in the Dubai World Superseries Finals badminton tournament in Dubai yesterday. — AFP



BARCELONA: Russia's Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov pose on the podium during the awarding ceremony after winning the Pairs Free Skating program at the ISU Grand Prix of figure skating Final 2015 on Friday in Barcelona. — AFP



HOBART: Australia's James Pattinson, center, celebrates with teammates after dismissing West Indies' Jermaine Blackwood during their cricket test match in Hobart, Australia, yesterday. — AP

AUSTRALIA THRASH WINDIES BY INNINGS AND 121 RUNS

HOBART: Paceman James Pattinson took five for 27 to fire Australia to a thumping innings and 121-run victory with more than two days to spare in the first test against West Indies in Hobart yesterday.

Australia enforced the follow-on after dismissing West Indies for 223 inside the first five overs of the third day at Bellerive Oval, and completed the rout before tea by skittling the tourists for 148 in their second innings.

It was Australia's second biggest victory in 114 tests against the Caribbean islanders and gave the hosts a 1-0 lead in a three-match series, which concludes with tests in Melbourne and Sydney. Australia, who could return to the top of the test rankings with a 3-0 series sweep, made 583 for four declared in their first innings on the back of a world record fourth wicket stand of 449 between Adam Voges and Shaun Marsh.

Voges was named man of the match for his unbeaten 269 in the match-turning partnership with fellow Western Australian thirtysomething Marsh. "It was a good win, the partnership between Voges and Shaun Marsh really set up the match for us and the bowlers did a terrific job again," skipper Steve Smith

said in a pitchside interview.

"I thought Josh Hazlewood led the attack beautifully. It was nice to see James Pattinson back bowling the way he did and to get a five-for was an outstanding effort."

Darren Bravo scored a fine 108 in the first innings and Kraigg Brathwaite notched a defiant 94 in the second but questions will continue to be asked about the long-term future of West Indies test cricket after an otherwise hapless display. "Tough three days for us, we didn't really start very well," captain Jason Holder said.

"We were pretty indisciplined in the first session of the test match and that carried on for the rest of the first day. That really set us back and then we were always catching up."

Hazlewood (4-45) took the lead as the hosts wrapped up West Indies' innings with only 16 runs added to their overnight tally of 207-6 on a chilly morning in Tasmania.

It was Pattinson, playing his first test in 18 months in place of the injured Mitchell Starc, who provided the spearhead after Smith had become the first Australia skipper in six years to enforce the follow-on on home soil.

Opener Rajendra Chandrika lasted just

three balls before departing with his third duck in four test innings before Bravo (4) earned the questionable distinction of being dismissed twice in the same session.

Two overs later and Pattinson sent back Marlon Samuels (3) and Jermaine Blackwood (0) in successive balls, giving Australia a hat-trick chance for the second time in one day.

Pattinson was unable to convert and it was all-rounder Mitchell Marsh who next took advantage of the feeble batting, having Denesh Ramdin caught for four off his first delivery.

Holder put on 30 with Brathwaite before Pattinson returned to claim his fourth five-wicket haul in tests, the West Indies skipper flicking his 32nd delivery down the leg side and into the gloves of Peter Nevill for 17. Nevill was again in action to dismiss Kumar Roach (3) off Hazlewood and the right-arm paceman got his sixth wicket of the match when Jerome Taylor holed out in the deep for 12. Brathwaite was the final wicket to fall, bowled by Hazlewood (3-33), as West Indies pace bowler Shannon Gabriel did not bat in either innings after injuring his ankle on day one. —Reuters

SCOREBOARD

HOBART, Australia: Scores on the third day of the first Test between Australia and the West Indies at Bellerive Oval in Hobart yesterday:

Australia 1st innings 583 for 4 declared (A. Voges 269 not out, S. Marsh 182; J. Warrican 3-158)		West Indies 2nd innings	
K. Brathwaite lbw b Hazlewood	2	K. Brathwaite b Hazlewood	94
R. Chandrika c Smith b Pattinson	25	R. Chandrika c Smith b Pattinson	0
D. Bravo c Lyon b Siddle	108	D. Bravo b Pattinson	4
M. Samuels c and b Lyon	9	M. Samuels c Warner b Pattinson	3
J. Blackwood c Burns b Lyon	0	J. Blackwood b Pattinson	0
D. Ramdin b Hazlewood	8	D. Ramdin c Warner b M. Marsh	4
J. Holder lbw b Siddle	15	J. Holder c Nevill b Pattinson	17
K. Roach c Nevill b Hazlewood	31	K. Roach c Nevill b Hazlewood	3
J. Taylor b Hazlewood	0	J. Taylor c Pattinson b Hazlewood	12
J. Warrican not out	2	J. Warrican not out	6
S. Gabriel did not bat (injured)	-	S. Gabriel did not bat (injured)	0
Extras (lb1, w1, nb3)	5	Extras (lb1, w1, nb3)	5
Total (9 wickets; 36.3 overs)	148	Total (9 wickets; 36.3 overs)	148
Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Chandrika), 2-20 (Bravo), 3-24 (Samuels), 4-24 (Blackwood), 5-30 (Ramdin), 6-60 (Holder), 7-91 (Roach), 8-117 (Taylor), 9-148 (Brathwaite)		Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Chandrika), 2-20 (Bravo), 3-24 (Samuels), 4-24 (Blackwood), 5-30 (Ramdin), 6-60 (Holder), 7-91 (Roach), 8-117 (Taylor), 9-148 (Brathwaite)	
Bowling: Hazlewood 10.3-3-33-3, Pattinson 8-2-27-5 (2nb 1w), Siddle 7-1-34-0, M. Marsh 7-0-36-1 (1nb), Lyon 4-0-17-0		Bowling: Hazlewood 10.3-3-33-3, Pattinson 8-2-27-5 (2nb 1w), Siddle 7-1-34-0, M. Marsh 7-0-36-1 (1nb), Lyon 4-0-17-0	
Result: Australia won by an innings and 212 runs.		Result: Australia won by an innings and 212 runs.	

SCOREBOARD

DUNEDIN, New Zealand: Scoreboard yesterday on the third day of the first cricket test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the University Oval:

New Zealand, 1st Innings 431		Sri Lanka, 1st Innings (Overnight: 197-4)	
Dimuth Karunaratne c Watling b Santner	84	71-3, Doug Bracewell 21-6-42-0 (4nb), Neil Wagner 25-5-87-3, Mitchell Santner 21.1-7-37-2, Kane Williamson 1-1-0-0.	
Kusal Mendis c Watling b Boult	8	New Zealand, 2nd Innings	
Udara Jayasundera c Watling b Wagner	1	Tom Latham not out	72
Dinesh Chandimal c Guptill b Southee	83	Martin Guptill b Herath	46
Angelo Mathews c Watling b Southee	2	Kane Williamson not out	48
Kithuruwan Vithanage c Watling b Southee	22	Extras (1b,4nb)	5
Milinda Siriwardana c Taylor b Wagner	35	Total (for one wicket)	171
Rangana Herath c Boult b Wagner	15	Overs: 48. Batting time: 212 minutes.	
Dushmantha Chameera c Taylor b Southee	14	Fall of wicket: 1-79.	
Suranga Lakmal not out	18	Still to bat: Ross Taylor, Brendon McCullum, Mitchell Santner, B.J. Watling, Doug Bracewell, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Trent Boult.	
Nuwan Pradeep c Watling b Santner	3	Bowling: Suranga Lakmal 9-0-26-0, Angelo Mathews 4-1-4-0, Dushmantha Chameera 10-0-40-0 (3nb), Nuwan Pradeep 9-1-29-0 (1nb), Rangana Herath 8-1-39-1, Milinda Siriwardana 7-0-28-0, Udara Jayawundera 1-0-4-0.	
Extras (1b,4lb,4nb)	9		
Total (all out)	294		
Overs: 117.1. Batting time: 506 minutes.			
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-29, 3-151, 4-156, 5-198, 6-209, 7-252, 8-273, 9-287, 10-294.			
Bowling: Trent Boult 22-7-52-2, Tim Southee 27-4-			

TOUGHER MEASURES DEMANDED AFTER BOWLER'S PAKISTAN RACE BLAST

LONDON: An anti-racism campaigner has called on the England and Wales Cricket Board to get tougher on abuse after Somerset bowler Craig Overton was only given a two-match ban for allegedly telling a Pakistan-born opponent to "go back to your own f***ing country".

Overton was found guilty of a level-one breach, the lowest of four ECB directives, for comments he was heard making to Sussex spinner Ashar Zaidi in an English County Championship match at Hove in September. Both umpire Alex Wharf and Sussex's non-striking batsman Michael Yardy said they heard Overton's abuse of the 34-year-old.

It was reported that Wharf included this in his report, with Yardy giving a written statement in support. Zaidi, who was playing for Sussex on his British passport before being released by the club at the end of the season, told the match officials he had not heard anything beyond the "usual" comments that did not upset him.

Overton denied saying the words, but Kick It Out chairman Lord Herman Ouseley believes the punishment by the Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC), an independent arm of the ECB, does not fit the offence.

"My personal view would be that it

seems quite outrageous; that the punishment does not fit the offence. It's not only serious abuse and misconduct, it is clearly racially offensive," he told the Guardian.

"I would expect that if it was in football, that person would be getting a very heavy sanction. If cricket wants to maintain a reputation of credibility it should nip something like this in the bud and make it clear that it is not going to tolerate it. "If a decision seems quite outrageously wrong, then the ECB could appeal and that goes to another panel. "In appealing, and voicing its displeasure at the verdict, it can send the message that there should be zero tolerance of such discriminatory conduct."

An ECB spokesman earlier insisted that it remains content with the CDC's handling of the case, and Overton was subsequently selected for this winter's England Performance Programme.

"The Cricket Discipline Commission is an independent body which operates at arm's length from the ECB," the ECB spokesman said. "Craig Overton's selection for the EPP squad would have played no part whatsoever in the CDC's ruling in this matter. "The ECB refutes any suggestion of interference or bias in the proper disciplinary process." —AFP



DUNEDIN: Sri Lanka's Milinda Siriwardana bowls past New Zealand's Kane Williamson on day three of their first international cricket test at University Cricket Oval in Dunedin, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

WILLIAMSON IN ELITE SET AS NEW ZEALAND TAKE CONTROL

DUNEDIN: Kane Williamson joined the elite 1,000 runs-a-year club yesterday as New Zealand built a commanding 308-run lead over Sri Lanka with two days remaining in the first Test in Dunedin. Only the threat of rain and a flattening pitch loomed as possible barricades for New Zealand, who closed day three on 171 for one with nine wickets in hand.

Tom Latham was on 72 with master batsman Williamson on 48. Williamson, who started his innings with 992 runs for the year, reached 1,000 driving Rangana Herath elegantly over mid-off to the boundary. He joins England's Alastair Cook and Joe Root and Australians David Warner and Steve Smith as the only players to achieve the milestone in 2015 but his batting average of 94.54 is considerably superior to the other four. Brendon McCullum, with 1,164 runs in 2014, is the only other New Zealander to score 1,000 runs in a calendar year.

Williamson's class shone as New Zealand ramped up their dominance over Sri Lanka, removing their last six wickets on Saturday to have the tourists all out for 294, 137 runs in arrears.

Guptill and Latham set about building on New Zealand's advantage, moving swiftly to 79 before Guptill's luck ran out when he was bowled by a shooter from Rangana Herath for 46. The first-innings century-maker had earlier survived caught and bowled chances to Nuwan Pradeep and Suranga Lakmal and being dropped on 19 by Kusal Mendis at cover.

Latham, who posted his seventh Test 50 with a single off Milinda Siriwardana, has been content to build partnerships first with Guptill then an unbroken 92-run stand with Williamson.

Sri Lanka suffered a setback at the start of the day when they resumed their first innings at 197-4 and lost batting general Dinesh Chandimal with the first ball he faced.

STUBBORN PARTNERSHIP

The Sri Lankans had expected Chandimal to lead them within close range of New Zealand's 431, instead he was unable to add to his overnight 83 as he fell to Tim Southee.

Southee struck again in his next over when he had Kithuruwan Vithanage caught behind for 22. Milinda Siriwardana and Herath emerged

from the setback to produce a stubborn 43-run stand for the seventh wicket.

The 30-year-old Siriwardana, who only made his Test debut two months ago, had a reprieve on 29 when he was caught by a leaping Doug Bracewell on the long-leg boundary.

The apparent dismissal turned into a six when Bracewell fell backwards over the boundary rope.

However, Siriwardana was not to score again as four balls later he edged Neil Wagner to Ross Taylor at first slip.

Herath, who weathered a sustained short-ball barrage and took a cruel blow to the head, faced 74 deliveries before he was gone for 15. The innings ended when leg-spinner Mitchell Santner had Pradeep caught behind to give wicketkeeper BJ Watling his sixth catch of the innings. It is the second time the South African-born Watling has taken six catches in an innings, one short of the Test record of seven jointly held by Pakistan's Wasim Bari, New Zealander Ian Smith and England's Bob Taylor. For New Zealand, Southee took three for 71 and Wagner three for 87. — AP



BOSTON: Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors and Shaun Livingston #34 defend Kelly Olynyk #41 of the Boston Celtics during the fourth quarter at TD Garden on Friday in Boston, Massachusetts. The Warriors defeat the Celtics 124-119.— AFP

NBA Results/Standings

Indiana 96, Miami 83; Cleveland 111, Orlando 76; Detroit 107, Philadelphia 95; Golden State 124, Boston 119 (OT); Toronto 90, Milwaukee 83; Charlotte 123, Memphis 99; New Orleans 107, Washington 105; Denver 111, Minnesota 108 (OT); Oklahoma City 94, Utah 90; San Antonio 109, LA Lakers 87; Portland 106, Phoenix 96.

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	15	9	.625	-
Boston	13	10	.565	1.5
NY Knicks	10	14	.417	5
Brooklyn	7	15	.318	7
Philadelphia	1	23	.042	14
Central Division				
Cleveland	15	7	.682	-
Indiana	13	8	.619	1.5
Chicago	12	8	.600	2
Detroit	13	11	.542	3
Milwaukee	9	15	.375	7
Southeast Division				
Charlotte	14	8	.636	-
Atlanta	14	10	.583	1
Miami	12	9	.571	1.5
Orlando	12	11	.522	2.5
Washington	9	12	.429	4.5
Western Conference				
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	15	8	.652	-
Utah	10	11	.476	4
Portland	10	14	.417	5.5
Minnesota	9	13	.409	5.5
Denver	9	14	.391	6
Pacific Division				
Golden State	24	0	1.000	-
LA Clippers	13	10	.565	10.5
Phoenix	10	14	.417	14
Sacramento	9	15	.375	15
LA Lakers	3	20	.130	20.5
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	19	5	.792	-
Dallas	13	10	.565	5.5
Memphis	13	11	.542	6
Houston	11	12	.478	7.5
New Orleans	6	16	.273	12

CURRY, WARRIORS BEAT BOSTON 124-119 IN 2OT

BOSTON: Stephen Curry scored 38 points and the Golden State Warriors improved to 24-0 this season by outlasting the Boston Celtics 124-119 in double overtime Friday night. Counting the wins in their final four games last season, the defending NBA champions have taken 28 in a row. They broke a tie with the 2012-13 Miami Heat for the second-longest winning streak in league history, and now trail only the 33 straight by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1971-72. Curry made only 9 of 27 shots from the field. But he was 6 for 13 from 3-point range and a perfect 14 of 14 from the free throw line, sinking a pair of foul shots with 13.4 seconds left to give the Warriors a three-point lead. The Warriors next play on Saturday night at Milwaukee.

CAVALIERS 111, MAGIC 76

LeBron James had 25 points and eight assists as Cleveland rolled past Orlando. Timofey Mozgov added 17 points as the Cavaliers beat the Magic for the 12th straight time. Cavaliers guard Iman Shumpert made his

season debut. Out since injuring his right wrist before training camp, he played 25 minutes and made 5 of 7 shots while scoring 14 points.

PACERS 96, HEAT 83

Monta Ellis had 24 points, six assists and six steals to help Indiana beat Miami and end a three-game losing streak. Paul George, the NBA's third-leading scorer, had 23 for the Pacers. Chris Bosh had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Dwyane Wade had 20 points, five rebounds and five assists in Miami's third straight loss.

PISTONS 107, 76ERS 95

Andre Drummond had 18 points and 16 rebounds, and Marcus Morris scored 21 points as Detroit downed Philadelphia. The Pistons opened the game on an 11-0 run and built a 24-point lead in the first half. The Sixers dropped to 1-23. Before the game, the team announced that coach Brett Brown had signed a multiyear contract extension.

PELICANS 107, WIZARDS 105

Tyreke Evans scored 27 points and New Orleans rallied to end a seven-game losing streak against Washington. The Wizards led 97-90 in the fourth quarter before the Pelicans came back to win. New Orleans hadn't beaten Washington since Feb. 1, 2011. John Wall led Washington with 26 points.

RAPTORS 90, BUCKS 83

DeMar DeRozan had 27 points as Toronto held off late-charging Milwaukee. The Raptors led by as many as 19 points in the latter stages of the third quarter before the Bucks cut it to four when Giannis Antetokounmpo hit a jumper with 5:11 to go. Khris Middleton had 26 points for the Bucks.

HORNETS 123, GRIZZLIES 99

Kemba Walker had 33 points and six assists, and Nicolas Batum added 20 points as Charlotte beat Memphis for its fourth straight win. The Hornets hit 18 of 37 shots from 3-point range, with Walker and Batum each

shooting 5 of 8 from beyond the arc. Marc Gasol led the Grizzlies with 17 points and nine rebounds.

THUNDER 94, JAZZ 90

Kevin Durant scored 21 points, including the last 11 for Oklahoma City to beat Utah. The Thunder matched a season high with their fourth straight win. Durant hit a tiebreaking 3 with 1:06 left, then made two free throws with two seconds left to seal it. He also got eight rebounds. Russell Westbrook had 24 points for the Thunder. Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 19 points and eight rebounds.

NUGGETS 111, TIMBERWOLVES 108, OT

Danilo Gallinari hit a 3-pointer to put Denver ahead late in overtime as the Nuggets rallied from an 18-point deficit in the second half to beat Minnesota. Gallinari finished with a game-high 23 points, including nine in overtime. The Nuggets ended a five-game home losing streak. Andrew Wiggins and Kevin Martin led Minnesota with 22 points apiece.

SPURS 109, LAKERS 87

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points, Kawhi Leonard had 16 points and they each had 11 rebounds to lift San Antonio over the Los Angeles Lakers. Rookie D'Angelo Russell had a career-high 24 points in the fifth straight loss for Los Angeles. Kobe Bryant had 12 points on 5-for-12 shooting in 29 minutes. As time expired, Bryant ran over to give Spurs coach Gregg Popovich a long hug, and the longtime competitors spoke for a couple of minutes. Bryant tapped his chest and pointed to the crowd, acknowledging the cheers and chants of "Kobe" as he walked off the court.

TRAIL BLAZERS 106, SUNS 96

C.J. McCollum scored 26 points and made five 3-pointers, and Damian Lillard added 18 points as Portland held Phoenix to 14 fourth-quarter points. Portland went on a 13-0 run in the fourth to take control after trailing by four to start the quarter. McCollum and Lillard, one of highest-scoring guard duos in the NBA, hit 3-pointers during the stretch. Eric Blodsoe led the Suns with 31 points. — AP

PALMIERI SCORES IN OT AS DEVILS EDGE RED WINGS 3-2

NEWARK: Kyle Palmieri scored in overtime to give the New Jersey Devils a 3-2 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night. Palmieri took a lead pass from Lee Stempniak and streaked into the Detroit zone ahead of defenseman Tomas Tatar, skated in on the goal and put a backhand past a sprawled out Jimmy Howard with 39.3 seconds remaining. It extending Palmieri's goal-scoring streak to four games. Damon Severson and Sergey Kalinin also scored for the Devils who rallied after trailing 2-0 in the third period. Cory Schneider finished with 27 saves. Gustav Nyquist and Tatar scored power-play goals in the second period for Detroit and Howard made 35 saves. The Red Wings extended their point streak to 13 games (8-0-5) since their losing in regulation on Nov 14.

KINGS 3, PENGUINS 2, SO

Marion Gaborik's shootout goal lifted Los Angeles to its sixth straight win. Pittsburgh's David Perron and the Kings' Anze Kopitar also scored in the shootout. Jake Muzzin and Tanner Pearson had Los Angeles' goals in regulation, and Jonathan Quick stopped 40 shots through overtime. The Pacific

Division-leading Kings have a point in eight straight games (6-0-2). Eric Fehr and Evgeni Malkin scored for the Penguins, who were 5-2-1 in their last eight home games. Marc-Andre Fleury had 38 saves.

BLACKHAWKS 2, JETS 0

Patrick Kane extended his franchise-record points streak to 25 games with a power-play goal and Corey Crawford stopped 25 shots for his third shutout of the season to lead Chicago. Jonathan Toews also scored during a man advantage, ending a seven-game goal-scoring drought, as the Blackhawks won for the third time in four contests and beat the Jets in Chicago for the second time this week. Kane, who entered the NHL's leading scorer, got his 19th goal midway through the second period to match Sidney Crosby's 25-game streak, set in 2010-11, for the longest in the league since 1992-93. Kane has 16 goals and 23 assists during his run. Winnipeg rookie Connor Hellebuyck, making his fifth NHL start since No. 1 goalie Ondrej Pavelec suffered a knee sprain, had 29 saves.

OILERS 7, RANGERS 5

Lauri Korpikoski scored three goals for his first career hat trick, Taylor Hall added two goals and two assists, as Edmonton scored twice in the final 1:34 to pull out its fifth straight win. Teddy Purcell and Darnell Nurse also scored for the Oilers, who have won their last six at home dating back to Nov. 20. Derick Brassard scored twice and Mats Zuccarello, Rick Nash and Chris Kreider also had goals for the Rangers. New York has lost two in a row and four of the last five. After Nash tied the score 5-5 on a power-play goal with 1:46 remaining in regulation, Hall put the Oilers back ahead for good 12 seconds later with his second of the night. Korpikoski completed his hat trick into an empty net with 38 seconds to go.

COYOTES 2, WILD 1, OT

Mikkel Boedker scored his second goal of the night 34 seconds into overtime and Anders Lindback stopped 27 shots to help Arizona end a five-game losing streak. The Wild dominated most of the first two periods, going up on Jared Spurgeon's goal in the second period. Lindback kept the injury-depleted Coyotes in it with some big saves

and Boedker scored on a breakaway goal late in the second period to tie it. Lindback continued to make tough saves in the third period, assuring Arizona its first point in six games (1-5). Zach Parise was called for a high-sticking penalty 16 seconds into overtime, giving the Coyotes a 4-on-3. Boedker scored 18 seconds later, backhanding a rebound past Darcy Kuemper. Kuemper stopped 18 shots for the Wild, who are 1 for their last 20 on the power play after going 0 for 4 against Arizona.

HURRICANES 5, DUCKS 1

Jeff Skinner scored into an empty net to complete his hat trick and Elias Lindholm connected on a power play, leading Carolina past Anaheim. Jordan Staal also scored and Eddie Lack made 31 saves, losing his shutout bid with 5:51 left in the third period when Jakob Silfverberg converted a pass from behind the net by Sami Vatanen. Lack got a break with 7:46 left in the second period when Vatanen's 50-foot slap shot hit the post with the Hurricanes leading 2-0. John Gibson stopped 14 of 17 shots in his seventh straight start for the Ducks - a stretch that included shutouts against Vancouver and San Jose. Frederik Andersen, who missed the previous seven games because of the flu, replaced Gibson at the start of the third. It was his first appearance since Nov. 21.

STARS 3, FLYERS 1

Antoine Roussel scored the tiebreaking goal late in the second period and Dallas went on to beat Philadelphia. Roussel, whose five goals all have come at home, pulled the puck out of a pileup in front and sent a wrist shot past Flyers goalie Michal Neuvirth with 2:32 to go in the second. Mattias Janmark had tied the score at 1-1 for Dallas with 5:54 remaining in the second. Jamie Benn added his NHL-leading 20th goal into an empty net with 53 seconds remaining, and Antti Niemi finished with 19 saves. Shayne Gostisbehere scored his fourth power-play goal in 16 career games for Philadelphia at 9:23 of the second. Neuvirth had 41 saves. The Stars have won six of seven at home and improved to 5-0-2 in their last seven games overall. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

New Jersey 3, Detroit 2 (OT); Los Angeles 3, Pittsburgh 2 (SO); Chicago 2, Winnipeg 0; Dallas 3, Philadelphia 1; Arizona 2, Minnesota 1 (OT).

Western Conference					
Central Division					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA
Dallas	22	5	2	102	76
St. Louis	16	9	4	74	72
Chicago	16	10	4	81	75
Nashville	15	9	5	78	76
Minnesota	14	7	6	71	66
Winnipeg	14	14	2	82	91
Colorado	12	16	1	79	85
Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	19	8	1	74	59
Vancouver	11	11	8	79	82
San Jose	14	13	1	75	76
Arizona	14	14	1	77	90
Edmonton	13	15	2	82	90
Anaheim	11	13	5	56	73
Calgary	12	14	2	73	99
Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
Montreal	19	8	3	97	69
Detroit	16	8	6	78	77
Ottawa	15	9	5	91	87
Boston	15	9	3	88	76
Florida	14	11	4	75	71
Tampa Bay	14	12	3	70	66
Toronto	10	13	5	64	76
Buffalo	11	15	3	70	82
Metropolitan Division					
Washington	19	6	2	83	61
NY Rangers	18	9	3	86	67
NY Islanders	16	8	5	82	70
New Jersey	15	10	4	74	71
Pittsburgh	15	10	3	67	67
Philadelphia	12	12	6	62	83
Carolina	11	14	4	69	88
Columbus	11	17	2	72	90

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

NIGERIA GETS AFRICA'S FIRST FOOTBALL PITCH LIT BY PLAYERS

LAGOS: Africa's first football pitch lit solely by the players' movements has been inaugurated in Lagos, the economic hub of power-starved Nigeria, at a ceremony attended by US-Senegalese rapper Akon.

The technology, invented by a young British engineer, consists of placing electronic tiles under the artificial turf, which is converted into power by kinetic energy. Each time a player steps on a tile, seven watts of electricity are generated and sent to a battery.

The stored power helps to feed six powerful but low consumption LED floodlights that shine on the pitch. Solar panels around the pitch complement the technology, stocking electricity throughout the day. The system has already been installed at a football pitch in a favela in Rio de Janeiro, in football-mad Brazil, which hosted the 2014 World Cup.

"It's brilliant," said Kusagba Oluwadamilola, an 18-year-old sports student, who plays for the football team at the Federal College of Education (Technical), where the pitch has been set up.

"It's going to be really useful. Until now we couldn't play at night," he told AFP. The man behind the technology, Laurence Kemball-Cook, 30, launched his own company, Pavegen, four years ago.

Since then, the invention has been installed in 150 locations across the globe from parks and airports to shops and even dance floors. Inspiring new generations with new technology is essential, he said, particularly in Nigeria where residents often have just a few hours of power a day because of an erratic electricity supply.

As a result, households and companies are forced to rely on heavily polluting generators. Kemball-Cook said the pitch would not only help "create a community" but also showed the need to diversify Africa's energy mix.

"We need solar, we need other solutions as well... we need it right now, we don't want to be using these fossil fuel generators. We need to be using more renewable sources of power," he said.

With the initial cost of solar energy high, Kemball-Cook said he hoped to bring down the cost of the tiles by mass production to as little as \$50 (45 euros) per square metre through economies of scale.

'NO BRAINER'

Rap superstar Akon made a surprise appearance at the launch of the newly built pitch on Thursday to the delight of the students.

He has been involved in renewable energy projects with his Akon Lighting Africa, created in 2004, whose objective is to electrify Africa with solar energy. The project is already running in 15 countries and he is aiming for 34 by 2020.

"I am proud to be here," said the singer and producer, who was born in the United States but spent his childhood in Senegal. "Climate change makes things different today," he said, as delegates to a UN conference in Paris thrashed out a historic agreement to cut global warming. The Pavegen tiles are "an extraordinary concept for Africans who play football every day," he added.

Football is the king of sports in Nigeria, whose national team the Super Eagles has won the African Cup of Nations three times, as well as gold at the 1996 Olympic Games. —AFP

PERFECT 10 FOR IGHALO AS WATFORD CLIMB GOES ON



SUNDERLAND: Odion Ighalo's 10th goal of the campaign earned Watford a 1-0 victory at Sunderland yesterday that saw the promoted side rise to seventh place in the Premier League. The Nigerian striker converted a fourth-minute cross from Allan Nyom at the Stadium of Light and Quique Sanchez Flores's men withheld late pressure to register a third consecutive Premier League win for the first time. While Watford climb three places to seventh, within touching distance of the European places, Sam Allardyce's Sunderland remain a point from safety in the relegation zone. Both teams will now brace themselves for daunting festive fixtures, with Watford and Sunderland scheduled to face Chelsea, Manchester City and Liverpool, while Watford must also contend with Tottenham Hotspur.

Ighalo has been a key figure in Watford's fine adaptation to life in the top flight and he took less than four minutes to make his mark on a soggy afternoon in northeast England. Watford right-back Nyom sent a ball into the box from the right and Ighalo threw himself in front of Sebastian Coates at the near post to toe the ball past goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon.

He came close to claiming a second shortly after, skinning John O'Shea but seeing his shot blocked on the line by a sliding defender, with Jose Manuel Jurado firing the rebound against the post.

With Sunderland toiling, Allardyce made an early tactical adjustment, introducing Jack Rodwell for DeAndre Yedlin and switching from a back three to a back four. Pantilimon was called upon to repel a curler from Etienne Capoue, but Sunderland finished the half strongly.

Fabio Borini shot wide and Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes was obliged to tip the ball over the bar after Miguel Britos headed a Yann M'Vila free-kick towards his own goal. Sunderland continued to push in the second half, but Watford initially succeeded in keeping them at arm's length, with Gomes equal to a long-range effort from Rodwell.

Allardyce added Adam Johnson and Jermain Defoe to the mix, the pair replacing Borini and Steven Fletcher, but although Johnson teed up Defoe to score in the 76th minute, it was ruled out for offside.

The hosts finally put Watford under serious pressure in the closing stages, but Duncan Watmore's shot swerved narrowly wide and Gomes produced a brilliant low save to thwart Defoe. —AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

- Aston Villa v Arsenal 16:30 beIN SPORTS
- Liverpool v West Bromwich 19:00 beIN SPORTS
- Tottenham v Newcastle 19:00 beIN SPORTS

SPANISH LEAGUE

- Rayo Vallecano v Malaga 14:00 beIN SPORTS
- SD Eibar v Valencia 18:00 beIN SPORTS
- Atletico v Bilbao 20:15 beIN SPORTS
- Villarreal v Real Madrid 22:30 beIN SPORTS

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

- AC Milan v Hellas Verona 17:00 beIN SPORTS
- Chievo Verona v Atalanta 17:00 beIN SPORTS
- Empoli v Carpi 17:00 beIN SPORTS
- SSC Napoli v AS Roma 20:00 beIN SPORTS
- Juventus v Fiorentina 22:45 beIN SPORTS

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

- FC Augsburg v Schalke 04 17:30 beIN SPORTS
- Borussia Dortmund v Eintracht 19:30 beIN SPORTS

FRENCH LEAGUE

- AS Monaco v Saint Etienne 16:00 beIN SPORTS
- Angers v Girondins 19:00 beIN SPORTS
- Marseille v Ajaccio 19:00 beIN SPORTS
- PSG v Lyonnais 23:00 beIN SPORTS

INJURY-HIT HAMMERS DRAW BLANK IN STOKE STALEMATE



LONDON: West Ham were forced to settle for a 0-0 draw against Stoke as the injury-hit hosts failed to turn their pressure into goals at Upton Park yesterday.

Slaven Bilic's side dominated for long periods and hit the woodwork through Mauro Zarate, but they have now gone six Premier League matches without a win. Stoke remain in mid-table after producing another obdurate display that underlined why they have kept seven clean sheets in their last nine league games.

Bilic was forced to make two changes from the line-up that drew at Manchester United last weekend with Winston Reid and Victor Moses sidelined with injuries that further weakened a team already missing Dimitri Payet, Diafra Sakho and Manuel Lanzini.

Stoke had also suffered an injury blow late in the week when Switzerland winger Xherdan Shaqiri was ruled out with an illness. Shaqiri's replacement, Marco van Ginkel,

almost put Stoke ahead when he stretched to reach Ibrahim Afellay's cross, but instead of making contact with the ball the Dutch midfielder caught West Ham goalkeeper Adrian with an eye-watering blow in the groin area.

Van Ginkel wasted an even better chance moments later, scuffing wide from close-range from another dangerous Afellay delivery. Marko Arnautovic netted twice in Stoke's surprise 2-0 win over Manchester City last weekend and the Austria striker threatened to break the deadlock when he narrowly failed to turn in Glen Johnson's cross. Stoke defender Ryan Shawcross was involved in a bruising battle with Andy Carroll, at one point pole-axing the Hammers striker with a block that left him needing treatment on his face.

Carroll was undeterred and came close to opening the scoring in the 49th minute with a powerful header that forced a good stop from Jack Butland. Butland did well to deny Carroll again midway through the half, while Stoke mounted a rare attack that saw Arnautovic hit the bar with a deflected free-kick. Zarate almost won it for West Ham in the closing stages when he cleverly worked space for a 20-yard strike that cannoned back off a post with Butland beaten.

Stoke substitute Mame Diouf was sent clear by Arnautovic in the closing moments, but Adrian made the save to ensure a share of the spoils. —AFP



LONDON: Stoke City's Marko Arnautovic, front, and West Ham United's Alex Song battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Upton Park, London, yesterday. — AP



PARIS: All the groups are displayed behind the trophy of the UEFA Euro 2016 football tournament after the final draw in Paris yesterday. — AFP

LEWANDOWSKI, LAHM NET AS BAYERN LABOUR TO VICTORY

BERLIN: Robert Lewandowski and Philipp Lahm netted yesterday as Bayern Munich laboured to a 2-0 win against Ingolstadt to get back on track after last week's shock Bundesliga defeat. After losing in the league for the first time this season with a 3-1 humbling in Moenchengladbach last Saturday, Bayern produced a subdued performance at Munich's Allianz Arena before pulling away with two second-half goals.

"It was a great performance from Ingolstadt, they really put us under pressure," said Lahm, who admitted his side lacked energy after their 2-0 win over Dinamo Zagreb on Wednesday in the Champions League.

"It was the first time in ages that we didn't come out and play with lots of energy right from the start. "We need to learn from that and remember that we also need to have that energy. "Otherwise it becomes difficult, particularly when the opponent plays very well, as with today."

Bayern could have been 2-0 down at the break as Ingolstadt, who are in their first season in Germany's top flight, wasted clear chances. Australia forward Mathew Leckie set up Stefan

Lex early in the second-half, but the latter fired straight at Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Lewandowski claimed his 15th league goal of the season when he pounced on Jerome Boateng's long pass, rounded Ingolstadt's goalkeeper Ramazan Ozcan and slotted home from a tight angle on 65 minutes.

FIRST GOAL

Lahm doubled Bayern's lead with 15 minutes left when he claimed his first goal in the famous red shirt since October 2014 as he hit the far left-hand corner. With second-placed Borussia Dortmund playing at Eintracht Frankfurt today, Bayern took their chance to go eight points clear for at least 24 hours. With Moenchengladbach at Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday night, Hertha Berlin took the chance to leap-frog Gladbach into third when they romped to a 4-0 win at Darmstadt.

Bosnia striker Vedad Ibisevic scored on 12 minutes, after Salomon Kalou played a part in the build up, before defender Marvin Plattenhardt curled in a free-kick midway through the first-half to make it 2-0 at the break.

Ibisevic netted his second on 50 minutes before Kalou picked up his eighth goal of the season in the final quarter of an hour as Hertha enjoyed their biggest win of the season.

Fresh from Tuesday's Champions League win over Manchester United, which confirmed their place in the last 16 as group winners, Wolfsburg stayed fifth as they laboured to a 1-1 draw at home to Hamburg. Germany squad member Nicolai Mueller gave the visitors the lead on 21 minutes when he tapped home the rebound after Pierre-Michel Lasogga went one-on-one with Wolfsburg's goalkeeper Diego Benaglio. Wolves equalised when Maximilian Arnold spared their blushes with a late strike.

Werder Bremen stayed within three points of the relegation places after a 1-1 draw at home to Cologne as Nigeria striker Anthony Ujah had a first-half penalty saved for the hosts.

Hoffenheim enjoyed their first win since September when Jonathan Schmid's first-half goal sealed their 1-0 win at home to Hanover 96 which lifted them to 17th. Stuttgart dropped to bottom again after their goalless draw at home to Mainz on Friday. — AFP

CABAYE HELPS PALACE END SAINTS HOODOO



LONDON: Yohan Cabaye scored the only goal of the game as Crystal Palace earned a first ever Premier League victory over Southampton yesterday.

DR Congo international Yannick Bolasie produced some vintage wing-play before crossing for Cabaye to tap home from close range seven minutes from half-time at a blustery Selhurst Park in South London. In 12 previous Premier League meetings between the teams, Palace had failed to win even once and had scored just a single goal in their last seven meetings with the Saints.

But a first top flight success against Southampton for 24 years pushed Alan Pardew's Eagles up to sixth in the table.

Pardew made one change to his starting line-up from Monday night's 1-1 draw at Everton with winger Wilfried Zaha back from suspension to take the place of Australia international Mile Jedinak.

Ronald Koeman made four personnel changes and switched to a 3-5-2 formation that seemed to unsettle his charges. Cabaye caused panic in the Saints box with a low free-kick that fizzed past everyone, needing just a slight touch to turn it in. Saints goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga then made a stunning triple-save keeping out Bolasie's looping, curling shot, springing to his feet to block Cabaye's finger-stinger and then parrying a close-range prod from Connor Wickham. Shane Long bent a shot just wide for the visitors before home goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey showed stunning reflexes to acrobatically push Steven Davis's header over the bar.

Cabaye slotted in from close range on 38 minutes after Bolasie just managed to stay onside before crossing from the right. In the second half, Jason Puncheon failed to turn in Bolasie's cross against his former employers before Long blazed wildly over at the other end. Another player lining up against his former club, Saints captain Jose Fonte blocked Zaha's shot as Palace threatened to run away with it. Koeman brought on top scorer Graziano Pelle from the bench but it failed to spark a revival.

Zaha should have finished it but after Bolasie cut in from the left, the former Manchester United winger sliced the French-born Congolese international's cut-back high over the bar from 10 yards. Gazzaniga almost sealed the victory when he let a backpass run under his foot before scrambling back to save his own blushes. Moments later he turned Wickham's shot around the post before blocking one-handed Bolasie's volley from the resulting corner.

Even so, Saints could have snatched a point in injury time but Hennessey saved well to deny Long's half-volley. —AFP



NORWICH: Everton's Romelu Lukaku, center, scores his side's first goal of the game during their English Premier League soccer match against Norwich City at Carrow Road, Norwich, England, yesterday. — AP

HOOLAHAN PUNISHES PROFLIGATE EVERTON



NORWICH: Wes Hoolahan's scruffy equaliser prevented Everton from gaining on the Premier League's leading sides as Roberto Martinez's men were held to a 1-1 draw at Carrow Road yesterday.

Victory would have taken Everton to within a point of fifth-place Tottenham Hotspur, but after Romelu Lukaku gave them a 15th-minute lead, they squandered a glut of opportunities to extend their advantage. Hoolahan duly levelled the scores early in the second half, scuffing in from close range to consign Everton to a third consecutive draw and inch Norwich a point clear of the relegation places.

Alex Neil's side might have emerged with all three points, only for Cameron Jerome to produce a glaring miss with 20 minutes remaining, hoisting the ball over the bar from Hoolahan's flick.

Gerard Deulofeu signalled Everton's ambition with an early driving run into the Norwich box and after Lukaku had dragged a shot wide, the Belgium striker put the visitors ahead. Norwich left-back Martin Olsson's panicky clearance went straight to Deulofeu and

the former Barcelona winger arced a beautiful cross to the back post, where Lukaku charged in to head home.

It was Lukaku's 15th goal of the season, in all competitions, and made him the first Everton player since Bob Latchford in 1975 to score in seven consecutive games. With Norwich's defence all at sea, a second Everton goal seemed a matter of time. Declan Rudd rushed out to save from Arouna Kone, before Lukaku somehow failed to turn the ball into an open goal from Tom Cleverley's right-wing cross. Lukaku also shot narrowly wide twice, while England left-back Leighton Baines, making his first start of the season after a long-term ankle injury, slammed a right-foot shot against the post.

But Martinez's side—who eliminated Norwich from the League Cup in October—failed to make their dominance count and within seconds of the kick-off in the second half, they were punished.

Ryan Bennett, sent on for Andre Wisdom at half-time, met Robbie Brady's corner with a header and although Tim Howard parried, Hoolahan was on hand to bundle the ball over the line from close range.

The chances dried up momentarily, Ramiro Funes Mori blocking from Brady at one end, Olsson from Kone at the other, before Jerome wasted a gilt-edged chance to give Norwich victory. Hoolahan's clever backheel presented him with a clear sight of goal, but with the net at his mercy, the former Stoke City striker shanked the ball into the stands from six yards out. — AP

Sports

Vonn wins as Shiffrin misses giant slalom

16

Australia thrash Windies by 121 runs

17



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

CURRY, WARRIORS BEAT BOSTON 124-119 IN 2OT Page 18



BOURNEMOUTH: Manchester United's Belgian midfielder Marouane Fellaini (3R) attempts a shot on goal during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Manchester United at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England yesterday. — AFP

KING SHARPENS MAN UNITED PAIN



BOURNEMOUTH: Manchester United conceded directly from a second-minute corner on its way to a humbling 2-1 loss at Bournemouth in the Premier League yesterday, capping a humiliating week for England's biggest club that began with a Champions League group-stage exit.

In front of 11,500 fans in its cramped and atmospheric Vitality Stadium, Bournemouth - a tiny coastal club that almost dropped out of England's professional leagues six years ago - completed a remarkable double following a 1-0 win at reigning Premier League champion Chelsea last week.

Josh King was the match-winner for Bournemouth in the 54th minute, finding himself in lots of space to turn in a finish from a pre-planned corner routine. There had been more embarrassment earlier for United, when Junior Stanislas' corner kick sailed directly into the far corner to give the hosts the lead.

Marouane Fellaini equalized for United in the 24th. The defeat adds to the concerns of United manager Louis van Gaal, who has come under increasing pressure this season - firstly because of the team's dull style of play and

then after United was eliminated from the Champions League on Tuesday after a loss to Wolfsburg. Saying Friday that United will have to get used to losing its status as a European heavyweight will hardly have endeared Van Gaal to the club's increasingly disillusioned fans.

So, the last thing the Dutchman needed was for his injury-hit team to fall behind at Bournemouth - but that's what happened inside two minutes from one of the most bizarre goals of the season.

AWKWARD FINISH

Stanislas whipped in a corner kick from the left wing and the swirling wind helped to take the ball beyond David de Gea, who could only touch the ball with his fingertips as it struck

the post and nestled in the net.

It was a tough break for a United side that started with an average age of 24 because of a mountain of injuries - including Wayne Rooney. And another befell Van Gaal when winger Jesse Lingard was forced off the pitch in the 31st, to be replaced by 19-year-old Andreas Pereira. By then, United had equalized when Fellaini bundled the ball into the back of the net after Memphis Depay had been denied by Bournemouth goalkeeper Artur Boruc. It was an awkward finish from the tall Belgian, who poked the ball beyond the diving Boruc, slid on his knees then stabbed it into the net while on the ground.

Bournemouth showed how dangerous it is to underestimate the team by beating Chelsea last weekend, and posed a barely recognizable

United defense - comprising Guillermo Varela, Paddy McNair, Daley Blind and Cameron Borthwick-Jackson - plenty of problems on the counterattack.

But it was another set piece that undid United for the second time. In what appeared a training-ground move, King peeled off Blind in the center of the area and found himself in lots of space to meet Matt Ritchie's low corner with a first-time shot into the net from eight meters.

Bournemouth had chances to extend its lead, with substitute Glenn Murray blazing over from 10 meters. The club from the seaside town faced financial ruin twice in the last 20 years and was on the brink of relegation to the fifth tier six years ago. Now, it has just completed back-to-back wins over two of European football's biggest teams. — AP

BARCA LET TWO-GOAL LEAD SLIP IN DEPORTIVO DRAW

BARCELONA: Barcelona threw away a two-goal lead set up by Lionel Messi and Ivan Rakitic in the final 13 minutes as Deportivo la Coruna struck a blow to their title hopes with a 2-2 yesterday.

Despite missing the injured Neymar, the European champions looked on course to bounce back from last weekend's 1-1 draw at Valencia thanks to stunning strikes from Messi and Rakitic.

However, Lucas Perez scored for the sixth consecutive game to bring Deportivo back into the game at the Nou Camp before he set up Alex Bergantinos to fire home an equaliser four minutes from time.

Barca now lead Atletico Madrid by three points at the top of the table, but Diego Simeone's men can move joint top with victory over Athletic Bilbao today.

Real Madrid, who are two points further adrift of Atletico, travel to Villarreal today.

With Barcelona not in La Liga action next weekend due to their participation in the Club World Cup, they could fall to third before the end of the month.

"It is little inexplicable. We lost control when we had to have it and we made it easier for them when it was 2-0," Barca captain Andres Iniesta told Canal Plus.

"They are things that happen. We have to analyse it so it doesn't happen again. In two weeks we have lost four points which has closed everything up."

Barca were without La Liga's top scorer, Neymar, due to a groin injury he picked up in midweek ahead of their Champions League

clash with Bayer Leverkusen, and missed the Brazilian's inventiveness against a well-organised Deportivo.

Luis Suarez was looking to score for the ninth consecutive game, but the Uruguayan was unusually wayward when he fired wide a glorious chance from Sandro Ramirez's knockdown early on.

Messi looked back to his best after a few rusty performances on his return from a two-month knee ligament injury and he nearly teed up Andres Iniesta with a sensational through ball that the Spanish international just couldn't stretch to turn home.

The visitors frustrated Barca by denying space in behind and had a great chance to take the lead themselves when Jonathan Rodriguez was played clean through, but Claudio Bravo rushed from his line to make a fine save.

German Lux turned a Messi drive from distance behind, but there was nothing he could do to prevent the four-time World Player of the Year recording his fifth goal in as many games with a stunning free-kick that dipped into the top corner.

Suarez was off target again with a piledriver just before the break, but it was Deportivo who made the better start to the second-half and Bravo had to be alert to claim Faycal Fajr's attempted chip.

At the other end, Suarez's search for a goal continued as he was flagged offside as he tapped in from Jordi Alba's unselfish



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Luis Suarez fights for the ball against Deportivo Coruna's Alejandro Arribas, right, during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Deportivo Coruna at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. — AP

cross. Barca looked to have made the game safe with another stunning strike as Rakitic rifled the ball into the bottom corner from 25 yards for his first league goal of the season.

Deportivo thought they were back in the game when Perez headed home after Cardoso's initial effort had come off the bar,

but he was also ruled offside. However, Perez was not to be denied his 11th goal of the season moments later as he outmuscled Jeremy Mathieu to slot home.

Perez was also key in teeing up the equaliser as his measured pass was blasted into the far corner by Bergantinos to stun the Camp Nou. — AFP

MAN CITY BACK ON TOP AFTER FRANTIC FINISH



MANCHESTER: Teenage substitute Kelechi Iheanacho was attributed a freak stoppage-time winner as Manchester City beat managerless Swansea City 2-1 yesterday to recapture the Premier League summit.

Yaya Toure's shot deflected off Iheanacho's back, barely two minutes after Bafetimbi Gomis's first goal since August looked to have earned the visitors a draw at a sodden Etihad Stadium.

Wilfried Bony had headed City in front against his former club in the first half and Manuel Pellegrini's side came perilously close to throwing two points away before claiming victory amid a remarkable finish. Swansea, who sacked Garry Monk on Wednesday, continue to slide towards trouble, having won just once in 12 league matches.

But they can take great heart from a display that troubled their opponents, and so nearly brought reward. Caretaker manager Alan Curtis attempted to halt Swansea's slide by picking a side without a recognised centre-forward, as Stoke City had when they beat City 2-0 seven days earlier.

Gylfi Sigurdsson played as a false nine, with Gomis dropped to the bench, and it was a ploy that created two good chances in the first 15 minutes. Wayne Routledge was able to run onto Jack Cork's through-ball inside the first five minutes and goalkeeper Joe Hart needed to position himself well as he advanced to block the shot with his legs.

GOAL DISALLOWED

Hart then demonstrated his alertness

again, tipping over Sigurdsson's shot after Routledge had got away down the right to cut the ball back.

City, though, soon asserted themselves, taking the lead as Bony escaped the attentions of his marker Ashley Williams to plant a free header into the net from Jesus Nava's corner.

Pellegrini's team were less than convincing with their own defending at set plays, almost conceding an immediate equaliser as Andre Ayew got in front of his marker to head over from Sigurdsson's whipped free-kick.

Pellegrini brought on Fabian Delph for the ineffective Raheem Sterling at half-time in an attempt to push Swansea back. As City looked to take control of the match, Toure went close twice in the opening minutes of the second half, first with a free-kick that Fabianski pushed aside and then with a surging run that ended with a shot flying over.

Not that the home side could afford to relax, with Sigurdsson almost working space for an equaliser after the ball broke back to him off a defender, Hart racing off his line quickly to block at the near post.

The England goalkeeper was in action once more on the hour mark, adjusting his footing to beat away a swerving Sigurdsson free kick, conceded after Bacary Sagna caught Routledge with a dangerous head-high challenge.

City survived a scare in the final few minutes when Sigurdsson lashed home after Gomis had collided with Hart, only for the goal to be ruled out for a foul on the home goalkeeper that was far from evident.

It looked as though the visitors had secured a point when Gomis burst into the penalty area beyond Eliaquim Mangala and belted in a shot that beat Hart at his near post.

City, though, kept their heads, and found time for a winner as Toure found the net with a shot that looped in off 19-year-old Nigerian starlet Iheanacho. — AFP



The story of Prius Cool

SAUDI ECONOMY BEGINS TO FEEL THE PINCH



SHANGHAI: An elderly woman rests on a pedestrian overpass between bed linen hanging up to dry on a handrail in downtown Shanghai yesterday.—AFP

CHINA ECONOMY SHOWS SIGNS OF STEADYING

RETAIL SALES BETTER BUT PROPERTY SECTOR GROWTH SLOWS

BEIJING: China's activity data was stronger than expected in November, with factory output growth picking up to a five-month high, signaling that a flurry of stimulus measures from Beijing may have put a floor under a fragile economy. Still, analysts believe more policy steps are needed to weather nagging headwinds from a cooling property market, risks from high domestic debt levels, and weak global demand as financial markets brace for interest rate rises by the US Federal Reserve.

"Real interest rates are still high due to falling producer prices," Wang Jun, senior economist at the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), a Beijing-based think-tank. "It's still necessary to cut interest rates to support economic growth and combat deflation." Factory output grew an annual 6.2 percent in November, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed, quickening from October's 5.6 percent and beating expectations of 5.6 percent.

Growth in China's fixed-asset investment, one of the main drivers of the economy, rose 10.2 percent in the first 11 months, unchanged from the gain in January-October, and higher than an expected 10.1

percent rise. Retail sales grew an annual 11.2 percent in November - the strongest expansion this year - compared with 11.0 percent in October. Analysts had forecast 11.1 percent growth in November.

"While low base could be the factor driving the headline growth, we still have to acknowledge that China's data are illustrating signs of stabilization, albeit at a low level," said Zhao Hao, senior economist at Commerzbank in Singapore. The data came after weak trade and inflation readings earlier this week, which underscored the persistent slack in the economy.

Weak demand, overcapacity

The world's second-biggest economy has been hit by weak demand at home and abroad, factory overcapacity and challenges posed by its transition to a consumption-led growth model from one reliant on investments.

With the Fed poised to raise interest rates for the first time in almost a decade at next week's review, the risk of intensifying capital outflows has added to Beijing's policy challenge.

Premier Li Keqiang has recently pledged to step up "supply-side" reform to generate new growth engines in the economy while

tackling factory overcapacity and so-called zombie firms. With its trade sector ailing, there are also signs China is ramping up efforts to send more excess production abroad with tax cuts for the export sector.

China's output of key industrial commodities including coal and steel remained weak in November amid chronic oversupply as slowing construction demand took its toll. "Supply-side management should be supported by loose fiscal and monetary policy," Li Huiyong, an economist at Shenyin & Wanguo Securities said.

Li said the economy faced "increased uncertainties" from a cooling property market, excess factory capacity, high debt levels and Beijing's anti-corruption drive. He expects the central bank to cut interest rates by 50 basis points in the next 12 months, on top of more cuts in bank reserve ratios.

Over the past year Chinese authorities have launched the most aggressive policy stimulus since the 2008/09 global financial crisis, including cutting interest rates six times since late 2014 and lowering bank reserve requirements. They have also taken other steps, including an announcement on Friday to lock-in more investments as Beijing tries to put a floor under the econo-

my. But the government has been struggling to reach its economic growth target of around 7 percent this year, which would be the weakest pace in a quarter of a century. Many analysts suspect actual growth is lower than official figures suggest.

Weaker property investment

A cooling property market has weighed heavily on China's economy over the past year. Home sales and prices have increased in bigger cities over recent months, helped by a barrage of government measures. Data issued by the statistics bureau on Saturday showed property investment grew 1.3 percent in the first 11 months of 2015 from a year earlier, slowing from 2.0 percent rise in January-October and hitting the weakest pace since early 2009.

While noting the risk posed by large inventories of unsold homes, China's President Xi Jinping said last month that China needed to reduce housing overhang to ensure sustainable development of its property market. Xi has said that China must keep annual average growth of no less than 6.5 percent over the next five years to hit the country's goal of doubling gross domestic product and per capita income by 2020 from 2010.—Reuters

S&P: BRITAIN'S AAA RATING THREATENED BY EU EXIT RISK

LONDON: Ratings agency Standard & Poor's warned Friday that the risk of Britain leaving the European Union could affect its triple-A ranking. S&P, the only major ratings agency to rate Britain as AAA, maintained the ranking with a negative outlook due to uncertainties over a coming referendum on Britain's EU membership.

It came shortly after the International Monetary Fund warned that uncertainty over a so-called "Brexit" could hurt its economy. "In our opinion, the possibility that the UK could leave the European Union (EU) as a consequence of a planned 'leave or remain' referendum... represents a risk to the UK economy," S&P said in a statement.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has promised to hold a referendum before the end of 2017, while renegotiating the terms of Britain's membership in the meantime.

Most opinion polls show greater support for remaining within the 28-member bloc among the British public, though the pro-EU lead has been narrowing. If Britain were to leave the EU, S&P warned that London would lose its ability to influence EU policies on financial services, put at risk financing services for its public deficit, and in a worst case scenario "harm sterling's role as a global reserve currency".

Nevertheless, the ratings agency noted that it believed the most likely outcome would be that Britain would vote to remain within the EU. Ratings agency Fitch also said on Friday that it believed it was most likely Britain would remain in the EU, saying its outlook was "stable". It said a vote to leave the EU would be a "moderately negative credit development" and risk "triggering a second referendum on Scottish independence" following a plebiscite held in 2014.

The International Monetary Fund has offered Britain a glowing report on its economy, but warned that the potential for the country's exit from the European Union weighed on its outlook. The conclusion revealed Friday in the IMF's annual assessment of the UK economy also warned about the rise of housing prices because of the possibility of "leaving some households vulnerable to income and interest rate shocks." The IMF says Britain's economy looks to be running to "near capacity," with strong growth likely to continue over the next five years. Inflation, now at minus 0.1 percent annually, should gradually return to its 2 percent target. But the report says the planned referendum on EU membership injects an element of uncertainty into the picture.—Agencies

US RETAIL SALES JUMP AS SHOPPING PICKS UP

WASHINGTON: Holiday shoppers are off to a solid but unspectacular start as retail sales registered a modest gain in November. The Commerce Department said Friday that retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 0.2 percent to \$448 billion last month. This marks an improvement after months of lackluster spending as cheaper gasoline depressed overall sales volumes. Retail spending improved a mere 0.1 percent in October after a 0.1 percent drop in September.

But in November, shoppers upped their spending at clothiers, sporting goods stores and electronics outlets. Spending at online retailers such as Amazon advanced a healthy 0.6 percent. General merchandise stores also improved, but in a bleak sign for chains such as Macy's sales at department stores were flat. "Despite a weak-ish headline, retail spending in November suggests a firm pace of consumption," said Bricklin Dwyer, a senior economist at the bank BNP Paribas.

The report should provide some relief after evidence of tepid shopping during Black Friday - the day after Thanksgiving when consumers often splurge - and provide a better sense about their confidence in the broader economy. Initial figures indicated that many consumers stayed at

home, potentially choosing to browse for holiday gifts online instead of wading through crowds at stores.

The National Retail Federation estimated that spending averaged \$299.60 per person over Thanksgiving weekend. That was down from \$381 last year. But the trade association says the figures are not comparable due to methodology changes.

But the retail sales report confirms that consumers are shifting away from malls and shopping plazas. Online sales advanced 7.3 percent from a year ago. People are also more eager to eat out, with expenditures at restaurants increasing 0.7 percent in November and 6.5 percent over the past 12 months. Americans have stepped up their purchases of cars this year, although sales at auto dealers slipped 0.6 percent last month.

Strong growth

Tom McGee, president and CEO of International Council of Shopping Centers, the mall trade group, said that he's sticking to a 3.3 percent sales growth for the November and December period.

"I think this is a strong holiday season," he said. "But clearly changes are taking place that are beginning to take hold." He noted that Black Friday weekend is

no longer as key a barometer because the season starts earlier and earlier. Mother Nature is also hurting business. Unseasonably warm weather that has continued into December has squelched appetites for cold weather items. That has forced clothing stores like Macy's to step up more discounts than planned to get rid of coats and heavy sweaters. Macy's was offering online "web buster" deals like cashmere

sweaters for \$49.99, down from \$139.

Some shoppers are waiting until the last minute because of tight family budgets. Mildred Vasquez, 38, of East Harlem, was shopping last weekend for clothes with her two boys, ages 4 and 11 at a Target store. She said that it's hard to keep up with the higher costs of basics like rent. So she is waiting until the week before Christmas to buy gifts.—AP



SPRINGDALE: Shoppers check out at a Wal-Mart Supercenter store in Springdale, Arkansas. Economists forecast that retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 0.3 percent last November, according to a survey by FactSet on Friday. This would be a modest acceleration from a gain of 0.1 percent in October and flat sales in September.—AP

HOW TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY AT WORK

Diversity is an attribute of all great organizations, and companies that are able to overcome diversity issues often achieve greater productivity, revenue and employee morale. It is the responsibility of every company to include impartiality, fairness and unbiased treatment in their day-to-day activities.

In this article, the experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give advice to help managers instill a culture of diversity in their company:

1. Encourage a free flow of ideas

According to a Bayt.com poll on diversity of thought in the Middle East and North Africa workplace from October 2015, 88% of professionals in

the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are comfortable sharing their views at work even if it goes against the majority. It's important for you to let your employees learn from each other and communicate freely and openly and not restrict their thought process and ideas, within acceptable boundaries, of course. Perhaps you could try out a 'Communication Day' or 'Town hall' as a platform to encourage your employees to voice their opinions and give you feedback.

2. Make innovation a natural part of the culture

78 percent of MENA professionals agree that their organization is good at connecting multiple tasks and ideas in a

BAYT.COM WEEKLY REPORT

novel way. If your company is diverse and encourages a variety of thoughts, innovation will automatically make its way into your culture. People from different cultures often have different yet great ideas; promoting a culture with regular brainstorming sessions and healthy debates can oftentimes increase innovation and productivity in your company in leaps and bounds.

3. Encourage teamwork

In a multicultural organization it can become difficult to manage people from different cultural backgrounds. This is why it's extremely important to encour-

age teamwork and provide business ethics and diversity-related training to your employees. You must add clear guidelines and provide standardized ways to deal with issues related to managing and practicing diversity in your company. This way, multicultural teamwork can flourish without a hitch.

4. Give the same rights to all employees

All employees have the right to be treated equally. According to the Bayt.com "Diversity of Thought in the Middle East and North Africa Workplace" poll, 27 percent of professionals say that diversity is the best aspect of any organization. When there is equality in terms of compensation, career growth prospects,

and so forth, you are setting the foundation for a happy, loyal and productive workforce.

5. Inspire your staff to join online networking sites

Bayt.com has found that 31 percent of professionals in the MENA connect with specialists in their field to learn from diversity of thought and innovations above all else. Bayt.com Specialties, for example, provides the perfect platform to do this. Specialists from all over the world can connect and talk about an abundance of topics freely and openly. This is a great way for your staff to keep an open eye and mind and widen their perspective in their fields of specialization and interest.



SHANGHAI: Workers ride on their tricycle along a road in downtown Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

CHINA WEIGHS LAW EASING SOCIAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

CURBS ON MOVEMENT OF WORKERS MAY GO

BEIJING: China will loosen some restrictions on the free movement of workers within the country, long stymied by registration papers that limit access to critical social services, state media reported yesterday, although the new rules may leave many out in the cold.

The labor of hundreds of millions of migrants has helped achieve China's transformation from an overwhelmingly agrarian society under orthodox Communism to the world's second-largest economy.

But the country's "hukou" system of residency permits, established decades ago, continues to deny those who move, and their children, equal access to services like education and healthcare.

The rules have created a generation of 61 million "left behind children" often raised by their grandparents or other family members, with more than three percent simply left on their own, according to state media. Another

estimated 13 million Chinese citizens live without any documents at all, cursing them to a shadowy existence, with no access to basic public services or legal route to employment.

Premier Li Keqiang "recently" signed the cabinet order that promises to "improve basic public services in urban areas", according to a report by the Xinhua state news service, which added the rules would take effect on January 1 of next year. Those who have obtained steady, legal work for more than six months will, in some cases, be eligible for better access to services, according to a copy of the rules posted on the cabinet's web site.

While that may make things easier for workers moving between the country's smaller cities, the provisions suggest they may be of little help to those seeking employment in so-called "mega cities" like Beijing or Shanghai, not to mention illegal

living in the country's shadows. Obtaining services requires getting a residence certificate, the new rules say, but acquiring the document requires legal proof of residence and employment, a Catch-22 that likely means the rules do not apply to many migrant workers.

The rules become increasingly strict in proportion to a city's size. Getting a residence permit in Beijing, for example, requires proof of legal residence and employment, as well as proof of social insurance, continuous residence and a "perfect" score on a government point system. The country tightly controls the number of people allowed to live in the capital and has made moves to check the growth of its population. Although Beijing has repeatedly promised it will change the "hukou" system as part of structural reforms aimed at improving economic performance, changes have been incremental. — AFP

SOUTH AFRICAN TROUBLES MOUNT AS RAND COLLAPSES

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's rand slumped to record lows for a second day on Friday as the country's economic prospects darkened over President Jacob Zuma's firing of the respected finance minister. The rand breached 16 to the US dollar for the first time, government bond yields rose and bank stocks dived further in reaction to Nhlhlanhla Nene being dismissed late Wednesday.

Nene was replaced by David van Rooyen, a little-known figure from the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party, in a move greeted with dismay by many investors and financial analysts.

But late Friday Zuma explained the shock ouster for the first time. He said Nene had been nominated as South Africa's candidate to head the African Regional Centre of the newly formed BRICS bank.

"We are fully backing his candidature, knowing full well that he will excel and make the nation proud in his next assignment," said a statement. Zuma said Nene's departure "does not signal a change in the government's fiscal stance."

"Government will not abandon the fiscal path that we have chosen in the last few years. Maintaining a prudent fiscal position remains one of government's top priorities," it said.

But economists were not so convinced. "Nene was not prepared to be used as Mr Zuma's own petty cashbox," Ian Cruickshanks, chief economist with the South African Institute of Race Relations, told AFP.

"Foreigners are getting assets out. There are lots of uncertainty, the only solution to protect the exchange rate of the rand is an intervention by the Reserve Bank (raising interest rates)," he said.

South Africa, the continent's second

largest economy, is struggling with unemployment stubbornly high at over 25 percent, low growth and the threat of a credit rating downgrade to "junk" status.

The rand has lost about 30 percent of its value against the dollar this year-falling 8.0 percent alone since Nene was removed.

His fate and the market reaction unleashed a bout of deep pessimism in South Africa over ANC rule which has dominated politics since Nelson Mandela won the first post-apartheid elections in 1994. Van Rooyen is seen as likely to back huge outlays on a nuclear station building program and the troubled state airline as well as public spending ahead of local elections next year.

Nene's ouster will now go down in history as one of the costliest blunders ever made by the current administration," said Ellis Mnyandu, editor of Business Report newspaper. "The shock announcement... was devoid of any logic and justification, especially when (Zuma's) government is meant to be doing everything possible to restore confidence and growth. "His successor, David Douglas Des van Rooyen, is a big unknown."

Van Rooyen, 47, was a member of the ANC's armed wing in the last years of its struggle against apartheid, and has recently been a low-key member of parliament's finance committee.

His time as a small-town mayor of Merafong is primarily remembered for when his house was burnt down by a mob over provincial boundary changes that local people thought would disadvantage them. He resigned the post in 2009, according to local media.

Zuma, who led the ANC to an easy general election victory last year, holds the presidency until 2019. — AFP

GREECE REACHES DEAL TO UNLOCK BAILOUT FUNDS

ATHENS: Greece announced yesterday it had reached a deal with its international creditors on the latest set of reforms needed to receive another tranche of one billion euros in much-needed bailout loans.

"We have reached an agreement for this cycle," the finance minister George Stathakis told reporters after a meeting with the country's quartet of creditors—the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the EU's bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism. This round of funding was contingent on reaching an agreement on the terms of a privatization fund and the sale of elec-

tricity distributor Admie.

The state will take a 51 percent stake in Admie, while the rest will be sold to private investors and a portion floated on the Athens stock exchange.

The Greek parliament will vote on the bill next Tuesday, as required by law. Greece in July accepted a three-year, 86-billion-euro (\$93-billion) EU bailout that saved it from crashing out of the euro-zone, but the deal came with strict conditions.

The beleaguered nation received its first payout in August and second in November, each time pushing through a number of the unpopular reforms under the terms of the release. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.515
Indian Rupees	4.554
Pakistani Rupees	2.930
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.128
Nepali Rupees	2.847
Singapore Dollar	216.720
Hongkong Dollar	39.217
Bangladesh Taka	3.845
Philippine Peso	6.440
Thai Baht	8.472

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.097
Qatari Riyal	83.537
Omani Riyal	789.890
Bahraini Dinar	807.630
UAE Dirham	82.798

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	37.600
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.885
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.419
Tunisian Dinar	152.050
Jordanian Dinar	428.250
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.026
Syrian Lira	2.167
Morocco Dirham	31.335

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.950
Euro	337.080
Sterling Pound	465.650
Canadian dollar	222.590
Turkish lira	104.240
Swiss Franc	312.380
Australian Dollar	223.250
US Dollar Buying	302.750

20 Gram	218.970
10 Gram	112.180
5 Gram	56.77

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	204.08
Canadian Dollar	231.95
Swiss Franc	300.84
Euro	326.66
US Dollar	305.45
Sterling Pound	461.91
Japanese Yen	2.52
Bangladesh Taka	3.874
Indian Rupee	4.578
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.139
Nepali Rupee	2.859
Pakistani Rupee	2.893
UAE Dirhams	0.08312
Bahraini Dinar	0.8118
Egyptian Pound	0.03892
Jordanian Dinar	0.4344
Omani Riyal	0.7932
Qatari Riyal	0.08422
Saudi Riyal	0.08142

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.500
Canadian Dollar	230.865
Sterling Pound	461.645
Euro	324.265
Swiss Frank	314.635
Bahraini Dinar	810.840
UAE Dirhams	83.470
Qatari Riyals	91.520

Saudi Riyals	82.190
Jordanian Dinar	430.480
Egyptian Pound	38.904
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.139
Indian Rupees	4.591
Pakistani Rupees	2.893
Bangladesh Taka	3.861
Philippines Peso	6.480
Cyprus pound	581.885
Japanese Yen	3.480
Syrian Pound	2.615
Nepalese Rupees	3.865
Malaysian Ringgit	72.820
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.080
Thai Bhat	9.505
Turkish Lira	105.140

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.456607	0.465607
Czech Korune	0.004385	0.016385
Danish Krone	0.040821	0.045821
Euro	0.329071	0.337071
Norwegian Krone	0.031170	0.036370
Romanian Leu	0.087162	0.087162
Slovakia	0.009074	0.019074
Swedish Krona	0.031861	0.036861
Swiss Franc	0.303201	0.313221
Turkish Lira	0.099460	0.109760
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.210723	0.222223
New Zealand Dollar	0.198323	0.207823
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.216116	0.224616
US Dollars	0.299750	0.304250

US Dollars Mint	0.300250	0.304250
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Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003456	0.004056
Chinese Yuan	0.045867	0.049367
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037104	0.039854
Indian Rupee	0.004323	0.004713
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002434	0.002614
Kenyan Shilling	0.003158	0.003158
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067329	0.073329
Nepalese Rupee	0.002881	0.003051
Pakistan Rupee	0.002695	0.002975
Philippine Peso	0.006424	0.006704
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.212765	0.218765
South African Rand	0.013433	0.021933
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001762	0.002342
Taiwan	0.009114	0.009284
Thai Baht	0.008111	0.008661

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799079	0.807079
Egyptian Pound	0.036157	0.039283
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000260
Jordanian Dinar	0.424564	0.432064
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022062	0.046062
Nigerian Naira	0.001255	0.001890
Omani Riyal	0.782800	0.788480
Qatar Riyal	0.082749	0.083962
Saudi Riyal	0.080390	0.081090
Syrian Pound	0.001288	0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.147720	0.155720
Turkish Lira	0.099460	0.109760
UAE Dirhams	0.081746	0.082895
Yemeni Riyal	0.001373	0.001453



Toyota Prius 2nd & 3rd generation image



THE STORY OF PRIUS COOL

The Prius debuted in Japan in 1997 and then launched overseas in the year 2000. Like any revolutionary new product, it took a little while to catch on. But catch on it did. By 2003, the Prius was becoming generally recognized for what it was—the wave of the future—a “smart car” for a smarter generation. It was a turning point. The Prius had become cool!

The car that Americans would never buy?

In the early days, marketers said the Prius could never sell in the US. The critics insisted that the American consumer would never buy a fuel efficient vehicle with a 1.5 liter gasoline engine, even if actual power output took advantage of a second power source, an electric motor. Gas was cheap. And “Big” was big too—large SUVs and pickups were the hot sellers in Middle America. In terms of oil prices and consumer prices, the American market in 1997 was similar to that in the Middle East today.

So Toyota shelved the idea of exporting the Prius right away. But sales in Japan exceeded expectations. In fact, initial orders were three times higher than expected in just the first month. Maybe, Toyota thought, the marketing gurus were wrong. When a new market change model appeared in the year 2000, Toyota tested the waters in North America and Europe—selling 6,500 Prius vehicles abroad the first year—about half of those sold in Japan. It

was a slow start—but Toyota had faith in the potential of the Prius.

How The Prius became a star

Movie stars and other celebrities have often led the way in identifying both progressive issues—such as climate change or the environment—and also progressive products like the Prius which had a strong emotional reso-



nance since it contributed to creating a more environmentally friendly world. Some celebrities wanted to make a statement about making environmentally sound decisions in their role as a responsible citizen and inspire others and the Prius was a perfect solution to their aspirations.

At the 2003 Academy Awards ceremony, all eyes were

on celebrities such as Harrison Ford, Calista Flockhart, Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz—each of them arriving at the famous Red Carpet in...a Prius! Suddenly, the Prius was in the spotlight. And everybody wanted to know more about it. Since “cool” people used this unique vehicle, and were not shy about explaining why, the Prius quickly became an icon of Cool.

Prius in the fast lane

America is a nation in the Fast Lane. But in California where almost everyone relies on cars to get from A to B, freeway congestion and air pollution issues led to carpool lanes. These priority lanes were restricted to vehicles with two or more persons. Imagine that you are stuck in traffic: it's a hot day and nothing is moving. Then, a Prius whizzes by—with just one person in it! The government of California had decided that low emissions vehicles should get preferential treatment. Suddenly, Californians wanted the Prius. Even a used Prius could command a premium price.

The Second Generation: “Cool” becomes hot

At the same time, Prius development was not standing still. When the second generation Prius appeared in September 2003, it was a huge step forward. Its Hybrid Synergy Drive not only benefitted the environment to a

greater extent, but also offered substantial improvements in power and overall performance. This new Prius was also more stylish, inside and out—a trendy five-door hatchback with a stunning interior and Toyota's legendary attention to details, including a joystick-like shift knob and push button start. The Prius had now become a really Cool car and also “Hot”.

A winner worldwide

The second generation Prius was clearly a winner. It became “Car of the Year” in North America in 2004 and “Car of the Year” in Europe in 2005. As it caught the eye of the public globally, other manufacturers belatedly tried to get into the market. The Prius however continued to be acknowledged as the only credible “Green Car”.

In 2008, global sales of the Prius soared to 1 million units. But Toyota did not rest on its laurels, and introduced a third generation Prius in 2009. As the company likes to say, “Proof is in the Prius”—sales doubled, exceeding 2 million units in 2010. The Prius is known for its smooth acceleration. And sales have also accelerated—worldwide. It is now sold in more than a hundred countries and, with the advent of the new fourth generation model will be introduced in another thirty, including the Middle East. You can be sure that future generations of the Prius will be ever better. After all, the future belongs to the Prius.

ADB URGES BANGLADESH TO DEVELOP CAPITAL MARKET

DHAKA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) encouraged Bangladesh yesterday to use the more than \$553 million it has provided in loans to develop a capital market and attract private investors.

Bangladesh aims to become a middle income country (MIC) by 2021. “A well-functioning capital market can catalyze private sector investment in infrastructure and other sectors creating employment and economic growth,” Kazuhiko Higuchi, the ADB's country director in Bangladesh, told Reuters in an interview.

The ADB has been supporting government efforts to develop the capital market in Bangladesh for more than two decades and has recently signed agreements with the government for the third such program, he said.

This will support policy actions to strengthen the capital market regulator, boost institutional investor demand, broaden the supply of financial instruments, and promote a more liquid government bond market, Higuchi said, supporting the drive for middle-income status. Last month 28 representatives of Bangladesh's development partners, meeting in Dhaka, said the government should raise spending on infrastructure to \$12 billion annually, particularly for energy, transport and ports, and aim to attract private sector investors rather than depending on aid.

During this meeting the ADB promised \$5 billion in loans to Bangladesh from 2016 to 2018, mainly to improve infrastructure. “A strong and well-functioning capital market can help to boost the funds dedicated for the infrastructure development sector,” Higuchi said.

The government has outlined measures to improve the transparency and efficiency of the capital market and encourage private sector financing in a five-year plan to June 2020.

Higuchi said Bangladesh has made some progress in developing its capital market but needs to do more to strengthen its regulation. “The market participants need to adopt information and communication technology for enhanced effectiveness, efficiency and transparency,” he said.

He suggested ways to broaden and deepen the capital market, including bringing in international strategic investors as shareholders, which would help to improve governance and technology, and more institutional investors, such as insurance companies. It could also tap into demand for Islamic financial instruments. “The capital market lacks the desired depth and breadth because of an absence of alternative financial instruments, such as derivatives and sukuk, a Sharia-compliant bond,” Higuchi said.

He said demand for securities is also hampered by unreliable accounting and auditing of listed companies, and the ADB has been working closely with the government to raise reporting standards. —Reuters



NAJAF: Iraqis shop for second-hand clothes at a market in the holy city of Najaf, 160 km south of Baghdad, yesterday. —AFP

UN: WORLD ECONOMY STUMBLER IN 2015

UNITED NATIONS: The world economy stumbled in 2015, with growth estimated at just 2.4 percent this year following a nearly 60 percent drop in oil prices and an over 20 percent fall in commodity prices in the last 18 months, according to a UN report released.

The report on the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016 said many developing and former Soviet bloc countries suffered a broad slowdown to the weakest pace since the global financial crisis in 2008.

The growth rate compares to 2.6 percent in 2014. “Weak global growth continues to hurt labor markets,” UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development Lenni Montiel said at a news conference. “Unemployment is on the rise in some regions, or remains stubbornly high in some countries. At the same time, job insecurity is becoming more entrenched amid

the shift from salaried work to self-employment.”

One of the striking features is a sharp decline in investment across a large set of countries, said Hamid Rashid, chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Unit at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

All but five of the 20 largest developing countries observed a decline in investment over the last 18 months, he said. There was one positive statistic with implications for efforts to combat climate change: There was no growth in energy-related carbon emissions in 2014. It was only the second time that has happened in the past 20 years.

The first was in 2009 when the global economy contracted.

“This suggests that the world may start to see some de-linking between economic growth and carbon emission growth,” Montiel said.

Looking ahead, Montiel said “we expect only modest improvement in the global economy during the next two years.” The report forecasts that global growth will reach 2.9 percent in 2016 and 3.2 percent in 2017.

Rashid said oil prices have dropped significantly because there is “huge oversupply in the market.” The UN expects this excess supply to dissipate and oil prices to go up from around \$45 a barrel now to about \$63 a barrel by 2017.

He cautioned that it is very difficult to forecast commodity prices, but “we are reasonably optimistic that this has bottomed out.” Rashid said demand for commodities including iron ore and metals should increase as excess supplies are used up. He said demand has picked up in India and other countries that are doing well. “But we don't expect a major rebound by any means,” Rashid said. —AP

Bayt.com weekly report

7 TIPS TO HELP YOU HAND OVER WORK BEFORE YOUR VACATION

As you prepare to unwind and rest after a long, laborious year, it is perfectly normal to panic about the work you have to hand over before your vacation. But no matter how you do it, try to avoid leaving your colleagues with all the chaos. Try these tips from the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, to help you get organized before your leave:

1. Provide sufficient notice

Inform your colleagues about your leave period well in advance of your date of absence so they can organize a timeline that allows them to schedule their work and your work as well, and make sure everyone has the resources they need to do a good job.

2. Organize yourself

Failing to plan is the equivalent to planning to fail. Have a goal in mind and organize a game-plan to get there. Create a daily schedule before your leave and stick to it. Be punctual and don't postpone. Determine what projects and tasks are critical and need your attention and allocate your immediate efforts to those. Select what you can easily postpone and what you can delegate without hurting results. A lion's chunk of prioritizing involves simply learning to plan and stay organized. And the best way to organize yourself is to package all your work in an arranged fashion and create a logical routine that your colleagues can easily follow.

3. Train your sub

If your boss decides to appoint a temporary substitute in your place, make sure you have ample time to train him or her.

4. Set up your email

Be sure to set up your email account so that it sends automated responses stating that you're away on leave. Add any relevant details as well.

5. Don't procrastinate

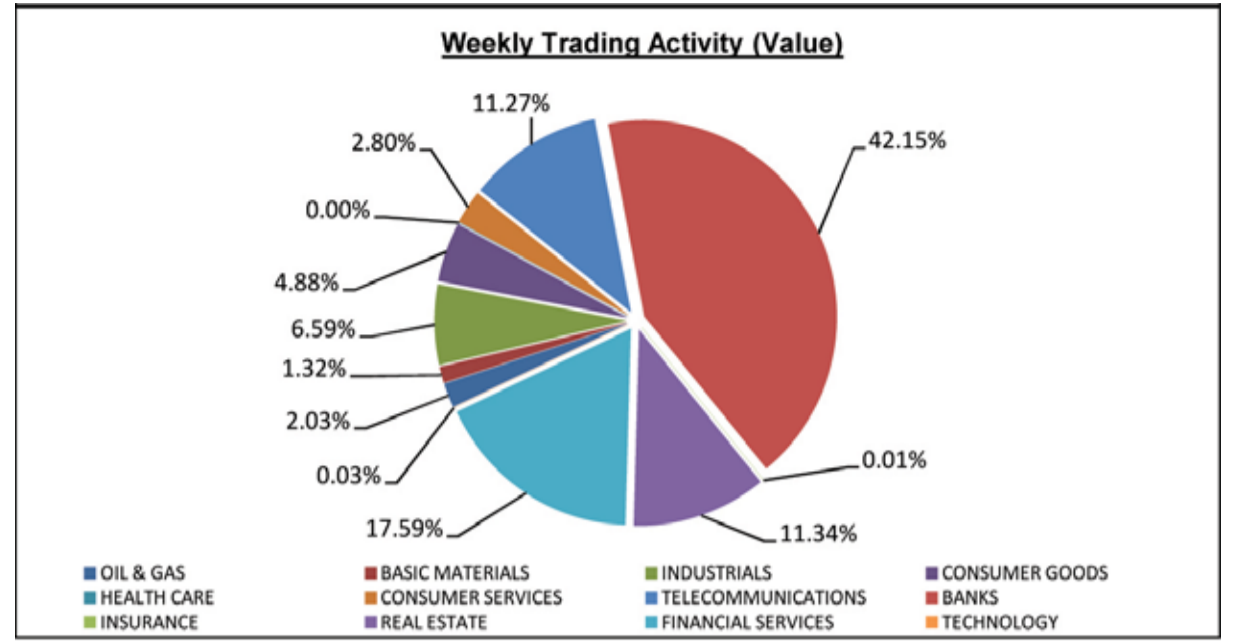
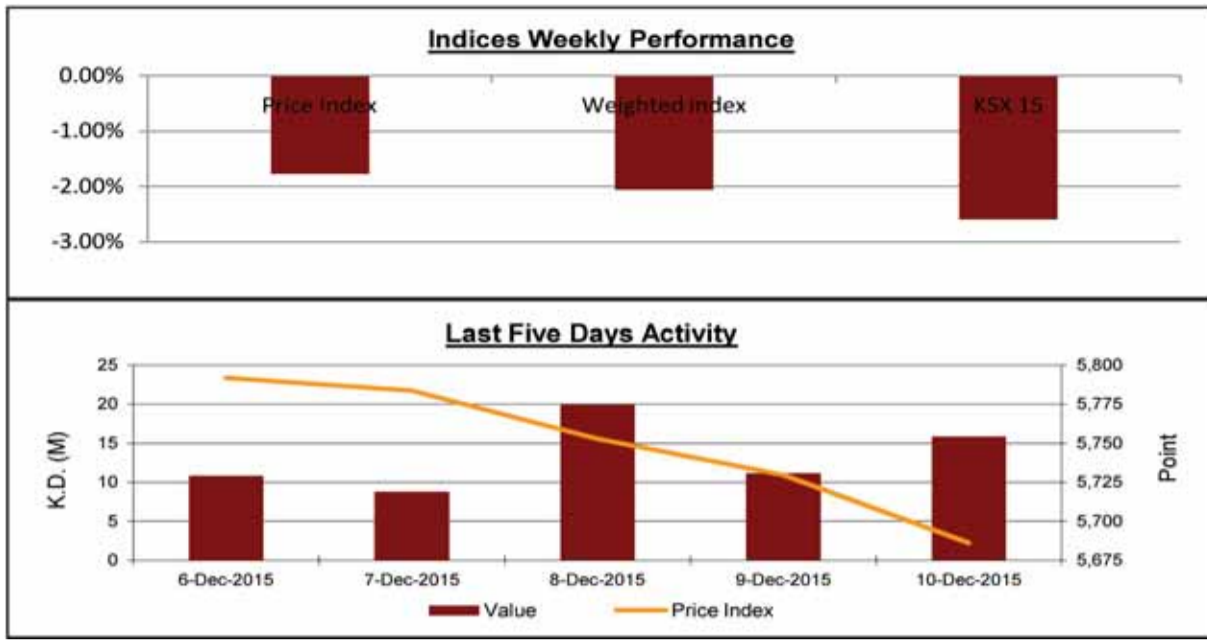
Make it a point to get all your obligations out of the way before you leave so things don't pile up when you get back. You don't want to work when you are on your holiday like the 87% of professionals who said they do work while on leave, as revealed in our poll on holiday seasons and work (December 2014).

6. Limit distractions

Distraction from social media specifically was mentioned as the top distraction at work by 25% of professionals in the Bayt.com poll on distractions at work in the MENA (December 2013). Make sure to determine the appropriate amount of time you should spend online each day. Spending too much time on social media during working hours will not only negatively affect your ability to focus and the limited time you have to organize your tasks before your vacation, but will also reduce your productivity.

7. Delegate work efficiently

While 93% of professionals say that their employer expects them to be contactable all the time, it is best to split up the work you want to hand over in a controlled manner in order to avoid any confusion while you're gone. If things get chaotic at the office it could ruin your entire vacation.



KUWAIT STOCKS END WEEK ON BEARISH NOTE

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,686.15 points, down by 1.77 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 2.06 percent after closing at 386 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 914.80 points down by 2.59 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 36.89 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 13.31 million, whereas trading volume average was 111.68 million shares, recording a growth of 2.67 percent.

The three stock market indicators closed in the red zone for the second consecutive week, as it ended last week's trading with different losses in light of the selling pressures that included a wide range of large-cap and small-cap stocks. Such performance came as a result of the continuous existence of some negative factors such as the continued steep decline in the oil prices, in addition to the absence of new motivators that could contribute to the return of the purchasing activity.

As far as the daily performance of the market last week; KSE witnessed a mixed closing to the three indicators in the first session of last week, however in a downward direction in general, whereas the Weighted and KSX-15 indices recorded different losses affected by the selling operations that concentrated on the leading and heavy stocks, while the Price Index was able to end the session in green zone, supported by the speculative operations witnessed by some small-cap stocks, in addition to the constructive trading and the collection operations witnessed in the last moments of the session. On the next session, the stock market indicators met to close in the red zone, under the influence of the selling pressures witnessed in the session, and included many listed stocks and concentrated on the large-cap ones, in addition to the quick profit collection operations witnessed by the small-cap stocks.

However in the mid-week session, the stock market continued its negative performance and the losses increased for the three indicators, among an growth in the value by around 127 percent, as the session was characterized by the steep drop since its beginning until it closed, which came as a result to the selling pressures that increased noticeably on many stocks, especially the small-cap ones.

Also, the market continued its losses in the remaining two sessions of the week, among an increased selling operations executed on many listed stocks of both leading

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted Index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,686.15	386.00	914.80
	Previous week	5,788.74	394.11	939.12
	Change (Point)	-102.59	-8.11	-24.32
	Change (%)	-1.77%	-2.06%	-2.59%
Annual	Last year	6,535.72	438.88	1,059.95
	Change (Point)	-849.57	-52.88	-145.15
	Change (%)	-13.00%	-12.05%	-13.69%

and small-cap, which negatively affected the three market indicators to add up to its losses and reach its lowest level in two months. The market capitalization of KSE reached by the end of last week KD 25.86 billion declining by 1.11 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, which was KD 26.15 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE dropped by 7.57 percent from its value at end of 2014, where it reached then KD 27.98 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 13 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2014, while the Weighted Index decreased by 12.05 percent, and the KSX-15 contracted by 13.69 percent.

Sectors' Indices

Ten of KSE's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other two recorded increases. The Financial Services sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.88 percent to end the week's activity at 610.64 points. The Basic Materials sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.83 percent, closing at 992.43 points, followed by the Consumer Services

sector, as its index closed at 1,022.37 points at a loss of 2.78 percent. The Insurance sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,093.24 points with a 0.08 percent decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Oil & Gas sector, achieving 0.66 percent growth rate as its index closed at 796.22 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Health Care sector's index closed at 945.16 points recording 0.60 percent increase.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 228.55 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 40.93 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 27.91 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 155.88 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 28.05 million or 42.15 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	558,418,510	543,908,079	2.67%
Value (K.D)	66,544,436	48,610,920	36.89%
Deals	13,709	14,166	-3.23%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %
	25,861,791,523	26,152,501,303	-1.11%
			Annual Ch. %
			-7.57%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
SALBOOKH	84.00	79.00	5.0	6.33%
ARGAN	182.00	174.00	8.0	4.60%
MEZZAN	1,140.00	1,100.00	40.0	3.64%
LOGISTICS	58.00	56.00	2.0	3.57%
IKARUS	91.00	90.00	1.0	1.11%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ALMADINA	38.50	45.00	-6.5	-14.44%
INVESTORS	25.50	29.00	-3.5	-12.07%
RKWC	104.00	118.00	-14.0	-11.86%
GIH	28.50	32.00	-3.5	-10.94%
GFH	32.50	36.00	-3.5	-9.72%

sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 11.70 million representing 17.59 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	29,473,423	5.28%	1,352,797	2.03%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,782,442	0.50%	876,253	1.32%
INDUSTRIALS	38,451,268	6.89%	4,384,954	6.59%
CONSUMER GOODS	3,618,657	0.65%	3,248,315	4.88%
HEALTH CARE	13,425	0.00%	1,951	0.00%
CONSUMER SERVICES	11,396,869	2.04%	1,860,041	2.80%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	29,728,416	5.32%	7,500,247	11.27%
BANKS	58,053,427	10.40%	28,045,174	42.15%
INSURANCE	21,386	0.00%	3,563	0.01%
REAL ESTATE	155,876,437	27.91%	7,545,478	11.34%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	228,550,946	40.93%	11,704,401	17.59%
TECHNOLOGY	451,814	0.08%	21,261	0.03%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	796.22	791.01	0.66%	-25.09%
BASIC MATERIALS	992.43	1,021.31	-2.83%	-12.28%
INDUSTRIALS	1,061.43	1,074.35	-1.20%	-0.84%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,087.85	1,107.73	-1.79%	-11.26%
HEALTH CARE	945.16	939.52	0.60%	0.52%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,022.37	1,051.59	-2.78%	-5.47%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	628.94	635.41	-1.02%	10.26%
BANKS	914.00	930.03	-1.72%	-9.06%
INSURANCE	1,093.24	1,094.11	-0.08%	-7.15%
REAL ESTATE	952.50	971.43	-1.95%	-15.71%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	610.64	628.78	-2.88%	-26.62%
TECHNOLOGY	870.57	873.03	-0.28%	-4.99%

THE FED AWAKENS, RATES TO GO UP EVENTUALLY

GLOBAL MARKET WEEK AHEAD

LONDON: After years of waiting, it's finally here. No, not the new "Star Wars" movie: Fed week. Barring a shock, the Federal Reserve will raise US interest rates on Wednesday for the first time since June 2006, a full year before the global financial crisis began.

Data releases will meanwhile give clues to the robustness of other economies, some of which are seen as vulnerable to investment outflows as higher interest rates make US assets more attractive. Especially in emerging markets, where currencies and other assets have plunged in value this year,

that process has already started. Forecast-beating numbers yesterday showing Chinese industrial output growth picked up to a five-month high of 6.2 percent in November signalled that stimulus measures from Beijing may be steadying the world's second-largest economy.

China's wobble has been a major uncertainty for the global economy, meaning better fixed-asset investment and retail sales growth last month should also offer investors and policymakers some reassurance. Markets will also be watching the second round today of French regional elections, in which tactical voting may defeat far-right first round victor Marine le Pen's National Front.

The Bank of Japan's tankan survey tomorrow is expected to show business sentiment among big manufacturers receding for the second consecutive quarter, reflecting China's slowdown and lacklustre domestic demand. After unexpectedly strong readings in November, the monthly Ifo and ZEW surveys are expected to show German business and economic morale remain relatively robust although they may fall short of last month.

The Ifo jumped to 109 in November, its highest since June 2014, shrugging off China's woes, the Volkswagen emissions scandal and the Islamist attacks in Paris, while the ZEW rose for the first time in seven months. "Weaker growth in the emerging markets and easing tailwinds from the FX market will weigh on business sentiment. Thus, the Ifo business climate and the Purchasing Managers' Indices for the euro zone probably fell in December," Commerzbank analysts said in a note.

BUSINESS SENTIMENT

Flash PMIs for France, Germany and the euro zone are due on Wednesday, hours before the Fed announces its decision. Thursday's survey of French business sentiment will be the first taken in the euro zone's second-largest economy since the attacks that killed 130 people in its capital on Nov. 13.

Wednesday also brings the final reading of November euro zone inflation, after an initial release on Dec. 3 showed annual price growth at a lower than expected 0.1 percent and core inflation-

excluding volatile energy-unexpectedly slowing.

That helped prompt further stimulus measures from the European Central Bank last week, one of 43 central banks which in contrast to the Fed have loosened monetary policy this year to help spur inflation and growth.

The coming week sees rate decisions from the central banks of Japan, Uganda, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, Mexico, Indonesia, the Philippines, Egypt and Chile, some of which are already battling to support currencies hit by expectations of a US hike.

Franklin Templeton's star bond investor Michael Hasenstab said recently that higher US rates would magnify differences between emerging market economies in 2016, although he said concerns about a "systemic crisis" were exaggerated. Hasenstab said stronger economic fundamentals should make countries like South Korea, Mexico and Malaysia resilient but that weaker Turkey and South Africa, both of which have hefty current account deficits, could be more negatively affected.

South Africa's rand slumped to an all-time low on Friday following the finance minister's sacking, prompting speculation the Reserve Bank might call an emergency meeting to increase interest rates for the second time in two months. The Fed remains the week's star attraction, however, even if after 2-1/2 years of speculation about policy tightening and several false starts, most recently in September, its first, modest hike is unlikely to cause any major ripples.

Ninety percent of economists in a recent Reuters poll predicted the federal funds rate would be raised by quarter of a percent point on Dec 16, taking it to 0.25-0.5 percent. The same poll saw a very gradual pace of subsequent increases, with the rate rising to between 1 and 1.25 percent by the end of next year and to 2.25 percent by end-2017. — Reuters



NEW YORK: Trader Thomas Kay, center, works with colleagues at their booth on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday. — AP

SAUDI ECONOMY BEGINS TO FEEL THE PINCH

NBK OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK

KUWAIT: Saudi Arabia's economy has begun to feel the effects of the decline in oil prices: non-oil activity has moderated, the fiscal account has fallen into deficit and the flow of deposits into the banking system, especially government-sourced, has slowed. Faced with a sizeable fiscal deficit, a consequence of lower oil revenues and record high spending, and the prospect of increased drawdowns of the kingdom's foreign reserves, the authorities in 2015 started issuing sovereign bonds for the first time since 2007. Concerns over fiscal sustainability, tightening banking sector liquidity in the context of bond issuance, and slowing deposit growth all weighed heavily on the markets during the latter half of 2015. The result was: interbank rates spiked, CDS spreads widened and the performance of the benchmark TASI stock index swung into double-digit negative territory on the year. The subsequent downgrade of Saudi Arabia's credit rating, from AA- to A+, by S&P added to markets' anxieties. Nevertheless, consumer activity remains buoyant, supported by government spending, and oil output has expanded. Moreover, with substantial government deposits at SAMA and foreign reserve assets, the kingdom has ample resources to help it negotiate the economic downturn, at least over the medium term. Clearly, however, prudent fiscal policies will need to be the way forward for Saudi Arabia.

Fiscal balance
percent of GDP
-2.3
-22.9
-16.4
-12.6
Public debt
percent of GDP
1.6
6.0
12.3
16.3

Sources: Official sources and NBK estimates

Oil output has surprised to the upside in 2015 as Saudi Arabia stuck to its 'market share over price' strategy.

Real oil output is expected to expand by 3.3 percent in 2015 after a year in which oil production surged to a record high of over 10.0 million barrels per day (mb/d) on average. Elevated oil production has come about as Saudi Arabia's looks to retain and increase export market share amid plunging oil prices, and as it attempts to move up the hydrocarbon value-chain by increasing production of refined products. The latter has been boosted by increases in refinery capacity. Crude for direct burn ie power generation has also been a factor, especially over the energy-intensive hot summer months. Moving into 2016 and 2017, we forecast real oil GDP growth to slow to 0.8 percent and 0.2 percent y/y, respectively.

Non-oil activity buoyant

Non-oil activity is likely to remain

Headline GDP growth is, therefore, forecast to expand by 3.5 percent in 2015 before slowing to 2.5 percent and 2.3 percent in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

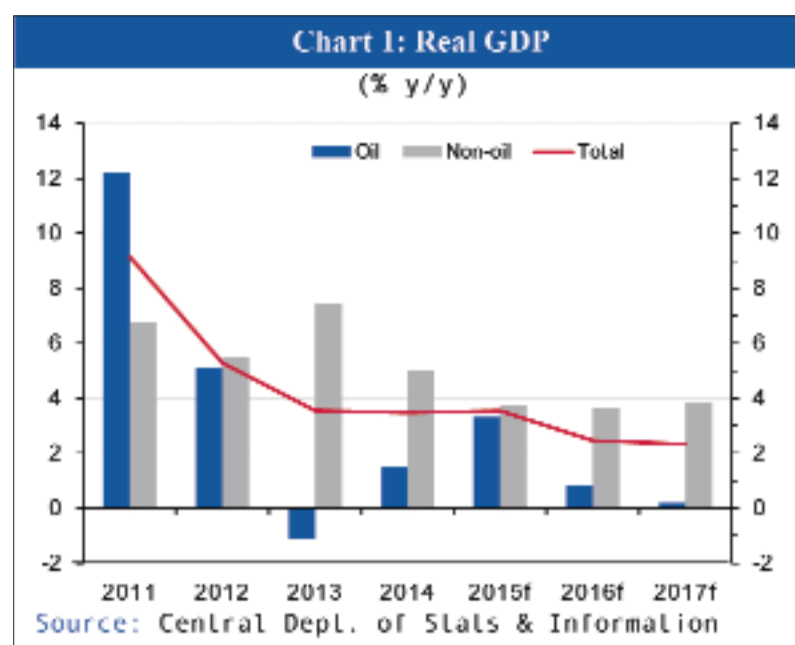
Solid but slowing employment growth

Looking at Saudi employment trends, the recent PMI survey chimed with employment data provided by the central statistical office that showed the number of Saudis taking up employment, for example, increasing by 56,000, or 1.1 percent, to 4.9 million over the last year (1H14-1H15). Again, though, this is a notable slowdown from the 5.6 percent and 8.9 percent growth rates witnessed in 1H14 and 1H13, respectively. Also, this is slower than both the 4.5 percent y/y increase in the rate of expatriate employment growth recorded in 1H15 and the 4.0 percent y/y increase in the pace of overall economic growth over the same period; up until June 2015, Saudi job creation had been proceeding at a faster rate than overall GDP growth.

Nevertheless, the proportion of Saudis employed in the private sector, the Saudization ratio, which is a key metric of the government's Nitaqat program, has steadily improved. The ratio increased from 9.9 percent in 2009 to 15.2 percent in 2013 (the last year for which data is available). Moreover, the Saudi unemployment rate has also fallen steadily and gradually since 2011, from 12.4 percent to 11.6 percent as of mid-2015.

Inflation remains subdued

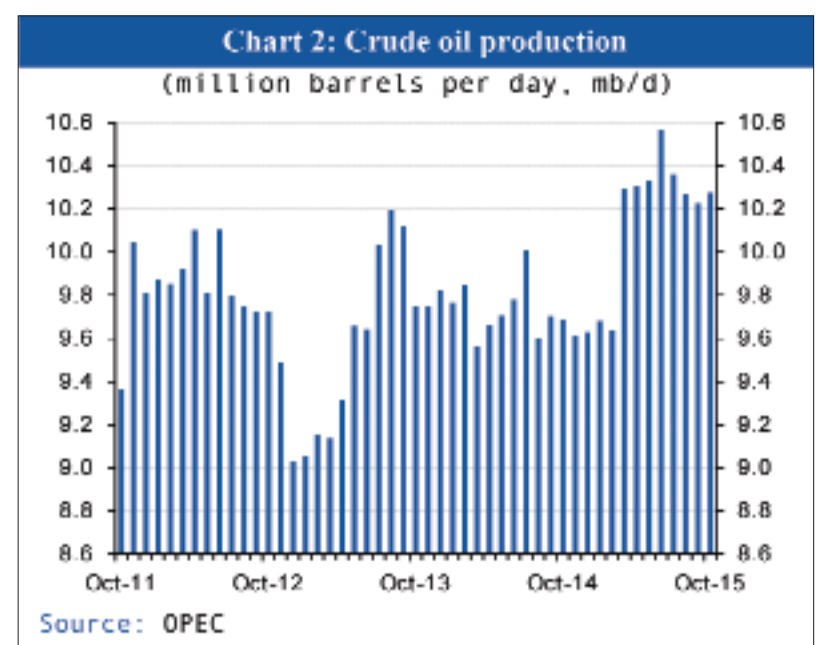
Consumer price inflation in Saudi Arabia remained muted at 2.3 percent last September. This largely reflected depressed international food and commodity prices as well as a stronger dollar, to which the riyal is pegged. The dollar's rise against a basket of currencies over the last year has rendered the king-



Source: Central Depl. of Stats & Information

spending on non-essential infrastructure, such as new stadia, for example. They have also, according to the IMF, lowered the threshold for approval for new projects from SAR

August, their first local currency bond issuance program since 2007. SAR 20 billion (\$5.3 billion) worth of bonds was sold to public institutions and local banks across three tranch-



Source: OPEC

Issuing debt of up to \$45 billion over the course of a year or two, or even several years, would nevertheless have implications for the domestic banking system. On the positive

program could crowd out the private sector, with obvious negative effects for non-oil economic growth.

Dollar peg worries

In August, financial markets grew concerned over the prospect of Saudi Arabia recording large fiscal deficits, the increasing rate of its international reserve drawdown in 2015 and its decision to tap the bond markets. Attention focused on the sustainability of the kingdom's fixed exchange rate to the US dollar. With echoes of previous oil price crashes that put pressure on its fixed exchange rate, the Saudi riyal one-year dollar forward rate spiked to SAR 3.792 per US dollar on 24 August, and the 5-year credit default swap spread (CDS) widened significantly, almost doubling to 110 bps on the same day. Both have remained elevated, but the forward rate broke new ground in November with a rise above SAR 3.801 per US dollar. The authorities are unlikely, however, to shift away from an exchange rate regime that has

Key economic indicators

		2014	2015e	2016f	2017f
Real GDP growth	% y/y	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.3
Oil	% y/y	1.5	3.3	0.8	0.2
Non-oil	% y/y	5.0	3.7	3.7	3.9
Inflation	% y/y	2.7	2.1	2.6	2.9
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	-2.3	-22.9	-16.4	-12.6
Public debt	% of GDP	1.6	6.0	12.3	16.3

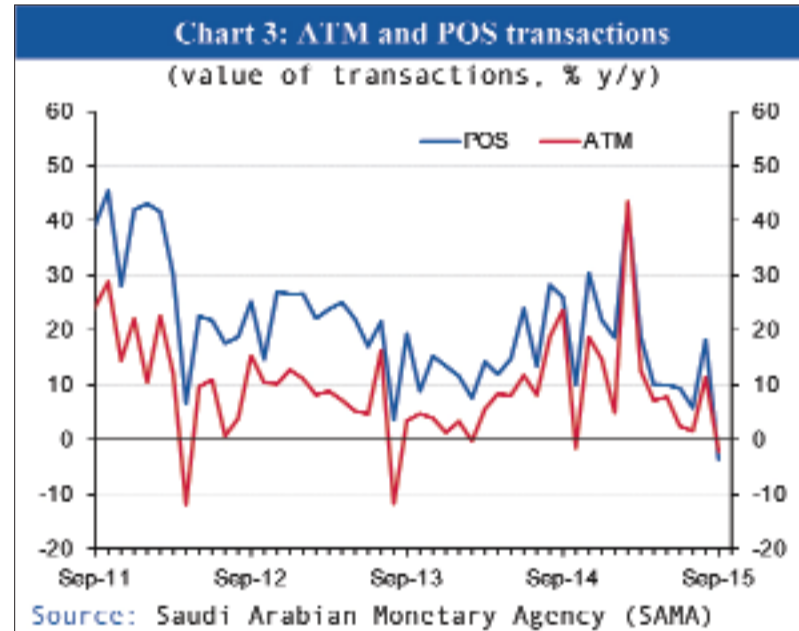
Sources: Official sources and NBK estimates

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Source: Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA)

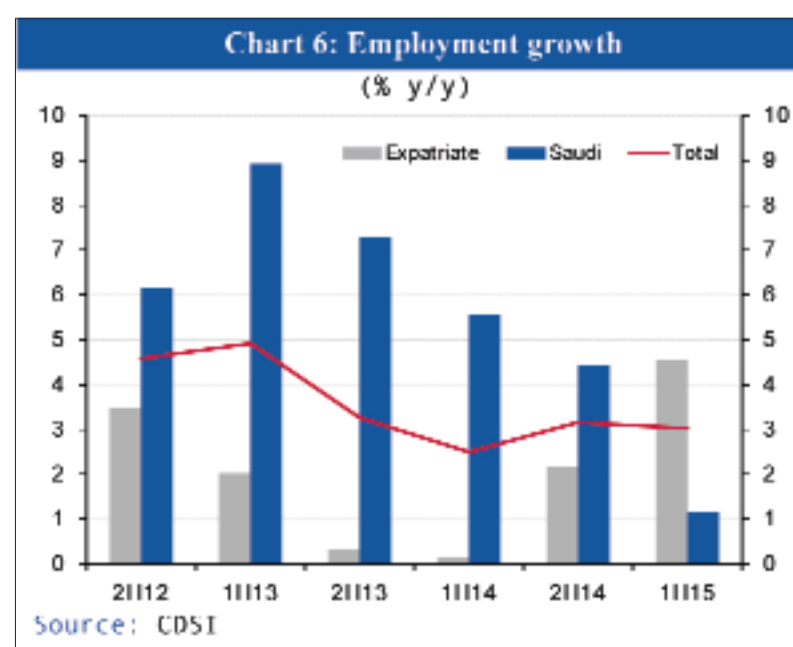
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Deposits at SAMA drawn down

By September 2015, the funds in the central government's deposit accounts at SAMA had fallen by -28.0 percent y/y, or \$112 billion. The kingdom's foreign reserve assets, meanwhile, had dropped by -12.1 percent y/y, or \$90 billion, over the same period. While reserves still provide close to a healthy 30 months of import cover, the quickening pace of reserve depletion in 2015, equating to \$6.5 billion per month, has unsettled markets and encouraged speculation that Saudi Arabia could be forced to abandon its peg to the dollar.

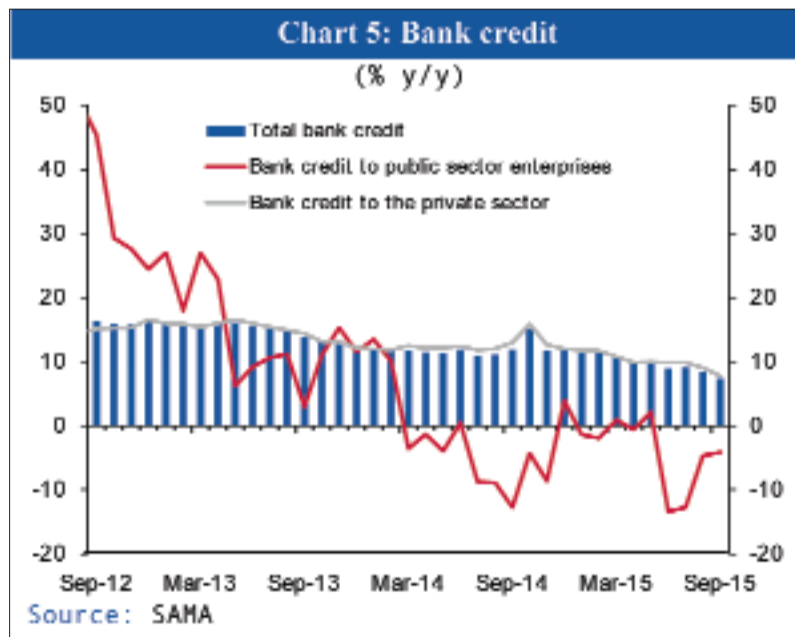
Falling reserves also prompted the authorities to announce, in



Source: Emirates NBK/Markit

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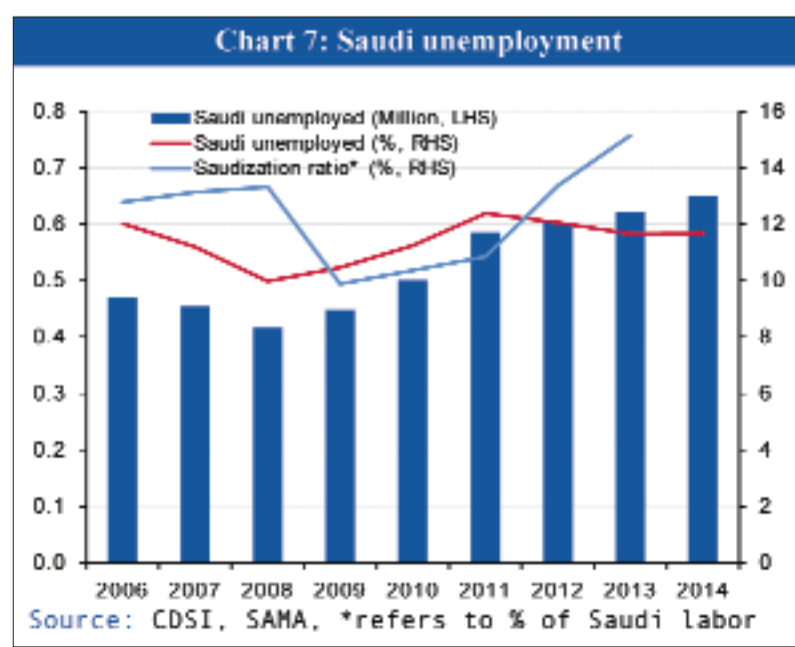
Source: SAMA

relatively buoyant, supported by government spending. However, there are signs that the economy is cooling: GDP growth in 2Q15 slowed for the third successive quarter and key metrics of consumer and business activity such as point of sale (POS) and ATM transactions, business confidence and private sector credit growth, have all been slipping. October's reading of the Saudi Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which tracks business conditions in the non-oil sector, fell for the second consecutive month, to 55.7 on slower output and new orders. This is the lowest figure in the survey's 6-year history. The pace of job creation also seemed to be slowing. Having said that, both business activity and employment growth remained healthy—indeed payroll numbers increased for 19 months in a row. Taking this into consideration, annual non-oil growth is projected to slow, from 5.0 percent in 2014 to an average of 3.7 percent during 2015-2017.

largest constituents of Saudi Arabia's CPI-housing, food and transport—is beginning to pick up. Housing and utility costs increased by 3.8 percent y/y in September, while prices in the food and transport categories increased by 1.9 percent y/y and 2.5 percent y/y, respectively. Inflation is expected to rise gradually over the next year or so, bringing the average annual rate to 2.6 percent in 2016 and 2.9 percent in 2017, respectively.

Fiscal deficits

The kingdom's fiscal account, having swung into deficit of -2.3 percent of GDP in 2014—for the first time since the financial crisis—looks likely to widen markedly by end-2015, to an estimated -22.9 percent of GDP. This is due to a combination of burgeoning expenditures, including King Salman's \$32.0 billion accession bonus, and lower oil revenues. Recognizing the need for fiscal consolidation, the authorities have scaled back some of their capital



Source: CDSI, SAMA, *refers to % of Saudi labor

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Monetary policy

Monetary policy has remained accommodative in the context of the currency peg to the US dollar. Mirroring the path of the US federal funds rate, currently at 0.0 percent-0.25 percent, SAMA's key interest rates, the reverse repo and repo, have remained unchanged at 0.25 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively, since late 2009. SAMA is expected to follow the Federal Reserve's lead and raise its policy rates sometime in early 2016.

Meanwhile, the local equity market continued to be roiled by low oil prices and weaker sentiment. As of 23 November, the Saudi Tadawul All-Share Index (TASI) was down by -14.2 percent ytd at 7,149. Up until mid-August 2015, TASI had largely been in positive territory, boosted by the opening of the stock market to foreign investors in June. But a spate of 'negative outlook' assessments and a one notch downgrade (AA- to A+) by the ratings agency Standard & Poor's (S&P), compounded the market's anxieties, weighing heavily on the index.

Worth watching in 2016 will be whether foreign portfolio inflows pick up, following a lackluster performance in 2015 and the market's reaction to the announcement that the kingdom will ease restrictions on foreign ownership in retail and wholesale business, from the current maximum of up to 75 percent to 100 percent. While domestic firms would be expected to come under pressure with the added competition, overall, the effect should be positive for the economy, with foreign direct investment (FDI), private sector employment of Saudi nationals and, ultimately, Saudi consumers benefiting.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SWISS-AS

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, yesterday announced the signing of a strategic relationship agreement with Swiss AviationSoftware (Swiss-AS), which will enable the airline and its equity partners to move to a common maintenance platform, and provide them with the required commercial and operating flexibility throughout their fleet.

Swiss-AS will also provide the software solution to Etihad Airways Partners including airberlin, Alitalia and Jet Airways, enabling each airline to now share technology more easily across the group.

Swiss-AS' AMOS software is a leading maintenance solution on the global aviation market. It is a management information system which provides a fully-integrated approach across key business areas including maintenance control, engineering, financial management, quality assurance and human resources. More than 140 airlines around the world use AMOS, including Etihad Airways Partners airberlin, Alitalia, Air Serbia, Jet Airways and Etihad Regional, operated by Darwin Airline.

Etihad Airways chose the AMOS solution as it enables the airline to operate its

e-enabled Airbus A380 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft in accordance with regulatory requirements. Etihad Airways has five Airbus A380s and five Boeing 787 Dreamliners in its fleet of 120 aircraft. More than 200 additional aircraft are currently on order including 66 B787s and five A380s.

Richard Hill, Etihad Airways' Chief Operations Officer, said: "This strategic agreement means that we can benefit from significant business synergies across equity partners through a seamless, transparent, and fully-aligned system. Aircraft transfers and parts sharing

processes will operate under a common platform and become more flexible and efficient as a direct result - a key element of our group-wide maintenance strategy."

Robert Webb, Etihad Airways' Chief Information and Technology Officer, said: "This agreement showcases our technology strategy of sharing common platforms and sustainable solutions to increase information sharing and promote better cooperation across Etihad Airways and our equity partners. Etihad Airways and Etihad Airways Engineering will benefit from these best practice initiatives, which are supported by an

expert team that combines in-depth engineering knowledge with the latest technology skills."

Ronald Schaeuffele, CEO of Swiss-AS, said: "Partnering with one of the most renowned and game-changing aviation groups is another big step forward in our long-term story of success."

In addition, Etihad Airways plans to join forces with its equity partners to establish an AMOS Centre of Excellence which will optimise processes and platforms to boost efficiency, drive economies of skill and scale, and share best practices amongst the group.

BRITISH AIRWAYS' LITTLE HELPERS REVEAL FUN, FESTIVE ATTRACTIONS

SERVING YOU AN ENGLISH FESTIVE HOLIDAY

KUWAIT: Christmas is the perfect time to treat your loved ones and for those who are travelling throughout the festive season, Heathrow's Terminal 5 - the home of British Airways - is full of popular stores. To help festive shoppers narrow down what to choose, British Airways recently conducted a survey amongst Kuwaiti residents to find out their ideal gift from the airport.

Of those asked, 41 per cent of women revealed their perfect present would be a perfume and nearly one in three men (31 per cent) revealed their perfect present would be a watch.

This was followed by female participants choos-

activities for all of the family to enjoy, from a wizardly winter experience on the set of Harry Potter to ice skating fun beside the River Thames.

Below, the little helpers at British Airways have pulled together a list of the best things to see and do in London this December...

Go ice skating at The Coca-Cola London Eye

Combine a visit to one of London's most famous attractions with a few laps of its breath taking outdoor ice rink called 'Eyskate'. The attraction has been installed especially for the festive period and guests can book a 45 minute session. Open

country. In London, you could head to the Hackney Empire to catch their production of Jack and the Bean Stalk which is running until January 3 2016.

Enjoy your Christmas dinner...on the Thames

Tuck into a traditional British Christmas turkey dinner while floating down the famous River Thames on a luxury cruise, taking in the sights as you go. Over the course of a leisurely three hours and fifteen minutes you can enjoy drinks and fine dining all the way to Greenwich and back.

Watch the Serpentine swim!

Every Christmas Day since 1864 - no matter the weather - members of the Serpentine Swimming Club take to the icy waters of the Serpentine lake in Hyde Park for their traditional 100-yard swim. It's called the Peter Pan Cup and it's probably just as fun - and certainly a lot warmer - just to watch.

Marvel at the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree

The tree in Trafalgar Square has been an annual gift from the people of Oslo, Norway, to the British people since 1947 as a thank you for their support during the Second World War. The tree is decorated with 500 white lights in traditional Norwegian style and forms the spot where carol singers perform throughout December and early January to raise money for charities.

See the Nutcracker at the Royal Opera House

The Nutcracker is a classic Christmas ballet telling the story of how a young girl's enchanted present leads her on a wonderful adventure. Danced to Tchaikovsky's glittering score, this story of Edwardian London is sure to have everybody in the Christmas spirit. Book in advance at <http://www.roh.org.uk/>. Visitors can even enjoy a Nutcracker themed afternoon tea at The Langham - you can take advantage of special dining options during the festive season here: <http://www.langhamhotels.com>. Take to the skies along with Santa this year and fly direct to London with British Airways to experience the magic of the English capital during the festive season.

Passengers can save extra money to spend on gifts this year by booking flights, hotel and car hire together through British Airways, or opt for a fly-drive trip to visit more than one location during their visit to the UK. British Airways flies to London once a day from Kuwait with return flights available from KWD 180 into Heathrow T5. The airport is just a short train ride from the centre of the city and its world-famous shops and attractions - many of which offer exclusive discounts for British Airways passengers.



ing a classic gift of jewellery in second place (receiving 17 per cent of the votes) and a luxury handbag or cosmetics, skin care and make-up (receiving 12 per cent of the votes) in joint third place. In second and third place after a watch, male participants would prefer an electronic gift (receiving 19 per cent of the votes) and cologne (receiving 18 per cent of the votes).

T5 has a wealth of stores to browse before a flight including Harrods, Tiffany & Co, Fortnum & Mason, Mulberry, Rolex, Dixons and World Duty Free, making it the ideal spot to pick up a special present for yourself or a loved one on your way home. This year there are special Gift Angels on hand at all the terminals at London Heathrow to help with all aspects of shopping - from gift choosing to wrapping and carrying.

If you are lucky enough to spend the festive season in the UK, it really is the most wonderful time of the year to visit London with countless

until January 3 2016 from 10am until 9pm. Book in advance at <https://www.londononey.com>.

Have a magical time at Hogwarts in the Snow

With a wave of their wand, the folk at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter have transformed the wizarding world into a winter wonderland. Go behind the scenes and see real props and sets from the movies including the Great Hall decked out with a Christmas feast complete with flaming puddings. The detailed castle model has also been covered in snow too. Book via britishairways.com or here.

Catch a traditional Christmas pantomime

'Panto' has been a British Christmas and New Year tradition for centuries and if you can grab tickets to a show during your visit then do! Pantomimes are comedy musicals which often feature celebrity guests and take place across the



(Head table, from left to right): Yulia Mokhova, Acting Director for Visit Russia; Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) at flydubai; Gocha Buachidze, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Dubai and Northern Emirates; Sergei Korneev, Vice Head of the Russian Federal Agency for Tourism (Rosturism).

FLYDUBAI AND VISIT RUSSIA INK ACCORD TO PROMOTE RUSSIA IN MIDDLE EAST

KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai yesterday signed an agreement with the Russian Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Visit Russia" to promote Russian destinations in the Middle East. This highlights the airline's commitment to the Russian market.

The agreement was signed by the Acting Director of Visit Russia, Yulia Mokhova, and Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) at flydubai, Jeyhun Efendi. This was part of the ceremony to open the Visit Russia Office in Dubai which was set up to increase tourist traf-

fic from the Middle East to Russian destinations. The launch ceremony was attended by Consul General of the Russian Federation in Dubai and Northern Emirates, Gocha Buachidze, and the Vice Head of the Russian Federal Agency for Tourism (Rosturism), Sergei Korneev and Mohamed Al Noori, Dubai Municipality.

Jeyhun Efendi said: "flydubai is committed to creating free flows of trade and tourism between Dubai and the destinations across our network. Since we launched our first flight to Russia in 2010 we saw the opportunity to con-

nect Russia to the UAE with a focus on regional cities with populations of more than a million people. We are pleased to work with the Russian Federal Agency for Tourism and Visit Russia to develop further opportunities for tourism."

The airline's comprehensive network in the country includes daily flights to Moscow's Vnukovo International Airport and flights to a number of Russian regional destinations including Kazan, Mineralnye Vody, Samara and Yekaterinburg.



SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION CENTRE OPENS NEW HQ

SHARJAH: Under the patronage and presence of His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al-Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of the Executive Council of the emirate, the Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre held a ceremony in Sharjah Expo Centre, opening its new headquarters and launching its new corporate identity.

The ceremony was attended by Sheikh Salem bin Abdul Rahman bin Salem Al-Qasimi, Chairman of the Ruler's Office; Abdullah bin Sultan Al-Owais, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI); Eng Mohammed Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy for Economic Affairs; HE Abdullah Deaifis, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre; and members of the Executive Committee, officials of government departments and managers of large companies, as well as VIP guests of customers and businessmen in the UAE.

The ceremony began with the national anthem and recitation of verses from the Glorious Quran. A short film was then displayed to review the role and services of Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre, and its most prominent historical milestones and achievements.

"We see today a new phase of the role of the Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre in strengthening the business sector environment, in implementation of the vision of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, to make Sharjah the model destination attracting viable and successful investments," said HE Abdullah bin Sultan Al Owais in the welcoming speech.

Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre has been keen since its inception under the Amiri decree in March, 2009 to fulfill its powers, provide services and achieve many of his milestones in light of the Chamber's support of the business and investment sector. In line with the new Chamber's directive pertaining to its future work, it was decided that work be done on the development and modernisation of the centre under a clear vision that enables it to achieve its objectives.

During the ceremony, the new corporate identity was reviewed through a short film about the design of the new logo for the centre and its inspiration, along with the launch of the new website and its major services.

Abdullah bin Sultan Al-Owais, Chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI); Abdullah Deaifis, Chairman of the Executive Committee in Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre; and Ahmed Al-Ajalal, Centre Director, presented the Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre's shield to Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al-Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of the Executive Council, in recognition of his support for the centre's programs and activities during the ceremony, as well as to Eng Mohammed Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy for Economic Affairs and Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Owais, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Information in Sharjah.

After the ceremony, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al-Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of the Executive Council, accompanied by senior invitees, the chairman and members of the Executive Committee of Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre, opened the centre's new headquarters and reviewed all the facilities and modern services in accordance with the highest global standards based on strict confidentiality, transparency, impartiality, separation speed, flexibility and high professionalism.

"We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of the Executive Council for honouring us today to open the new headquarters and launch the new corporate identity, in line with the directives of Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Myhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the centre's work," said Abdullah Deaifis, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre.

"The opening of the new headquarters and the launch of the new corporate identity secured a safe and stable investment environment, and provided all the requirements that will support our efforts to disseminate arbitration culture in the community, and consolidate the status of the Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre as the first destination to settle trade disputes and prepare a generation of specialists in the field of commercial arbitration in the state," added Deaifis.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 6 December 2015 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 29 November - 3 December 2015. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.

The winners are: (Sunday 29/11): Fahad Al-Dulaimi, Manju Nath Qadafah Nandafar

(Monday 30/11): Souad Fahad Saleh Al-Tararwa, Nour Ahmad Mohsen Al-Fadhli

(Tuesday 1/12): Husah Hamad Al-Azimi, Fawziah Abdullah Ibrahim Buteeban

(Wednesday 2/12): Eman Abdullah Ghulam Mohammed, Suhailah Asad Abdulkareem Mohammad

(Thursday 3/12): Abdulkarim Majeed Abduljaleel Al-Enezi, Iman Mouhiuddin Mohammed Al-Hussaini

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2015 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1,000). The final Al-Danah draw for One million dinars will be held on 7 January 2016. The Al-Danah millionaire will be announced alongside winners of KD250,000 and KD50,000 cash prizes.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million

2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000

3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day

4) The most opportunities to win (64 draws a year, and up to 532 winners)

5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Open an account and deposit now to win big, live big, with Al-Danah 2015.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah deposit only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaitis and all residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2015 upcoming yearly draw, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200. To be part of the Al-Danah draws, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.



INTERNET OF THINGS WORLD FORUM SHOWCASES SMART CITY TECHNOLOGIES

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS THREE THEMES • VISIONARY KEYNOTES BY LEADERS HELD

By Islam Al-Sharaa

DUBAI: Dramatic transformations are now gaining momentum across every industry, city and creating a new world of opportunities made possible by the Internet of Things (IoT), a top Cisco official said. IoT is defined as the network of devices that are connected to the internet and can be controlled remotely.

"What we are seeing now is the second generation of internet. It will transform every person's life around the world. In the first generation, we had often to be in the right country, right city and what we participate with it," John Chambers, executive chairman and former CEO of Cisco, said at the media roundtable on the sidelines of the third annual Internet of Things World Forum (IoTWF) that took place in Dubai from Dec 6-8. The event showcased more than 20 digital city and connected industry solution deployments made possible in IoT.

Chambers became the executive chairman in July and the company has named Chuck Robbins as the new CEO. In the past 20 years, the outgoing chief executive, Chambers, has elevated the small-router maker to a leading telecom and technology equipment manufacturer. He said that companies fail because they keep doing the same thing for too long. "If companies don't change, they are going to get taken over by others companies. They need to disrupt or be disrupted," he said.

For example, he said that any CEO will understand what Amazon did in terms of challenging Wal-Mart and how Wal-Mart has to respond to it and what Uber and Airbnb is doing. "A multi-billion dollar company will have a CEO and COO in future as technology will transform every business and if companies don't reinvent themselves, they will be left behind," he said.

As we move into this new digital era, he said that organizations across both the private and public sectors are already beginning to rethink how they will approach

the shift in infrastructures, processes and outcomes on a grand scale. With this generation, it really "explodes". It will not only generate \$19 trillion of economic benefits in the next decade but also transform every single business, every single city and every single country.

Right Moves

Out of the \$19 trillion, \$14 trillion is to come from the private sector and \$5 trillion from governments and public sectors (initiatives like smart cities and infrastructure). In 2015, he said that it has reached the inflection point and there is no a major government leader or a major industry player that does not understand this [IoT] is going to give them opportunities but also disrupt them. Chambers cited India, France and the UK as those that have recognized this and are making the right moves.

He praised Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, for planning to digitize India. "We made a huge bet on India 10 years ago. Modi understands what digitization means to his country and has the courage to take risks. We grew 40 per cent in India in last quarter and the country will be a leader in emerging markets," he said. "We will transform the world at a pace of 10-15 times the internet today. We believe we can change the world, and are looking for which countries can change the world the fastest," he said.

Revenues of most US companies operating in China have fallen dramatically, but he said that Cisco has grown 40 per cent in the last quarter. "We are not a hardware, software, services or Silicon Valley company. We are a company transitioning on the outcomes. On every transition, our earnings per share have increased 14 of the last 15 times," he said.

IoT Revenues

The global revenues from IoT will increase more than 18 percent from \$655.8 billion in 2014 to \$779.9 billion this year, said another top Cisco official. "We have passed the incubation phase, now IoT/smart city solutions are ready to be scaled. Cities who scale first will be the winners in an increasingly competitive environment. Dubai is rapidly transforming into becoming one of the smartest digital cities in the world connecting the unconnected through the power of intelligent networks," Anil Menon, president of Smart+Connected Communities at Cisco, said at forum.

Menon said that in 2013, things that are still not connected to the internet stood at 99.25 per cent, but the figure fell to 99.07 per cent in 2014 and this year, it will be 98.85 percent. The IoT industry is growing two-fold year-on-year while the number of IoT connections in manufacturing have grown 204 per cent year-on-year.

According to research firm International Data Corporation, IoT spending in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) is projected to grow 22 per cent between 2013



John Chambers, Chairman of Cisco, interacts with the media at a press meet in DWTC on 7th December, 2015.

and 2018, compared to the 18 per cent globally. The IoT investment in the MEA region is expected to grow 20.7 per cent to \$7 billion in 2016, compared to \$5.8 billion this year.

'Smart Future'

Ahmad Julfar, CEO of the etisalat Group, said that the "smart future" of the UAE is inherently built on IoT and a well-connected infrastructure. Having invested billions of dirhams in fixed and mobile infrastructures, he said that etisalat is contributing to the enablement of IoT and smart cities in the UAE by investing further in IoT and Big Data platforms and enhancing the ecosystem for a number of solutions. He stressed that 90 per cent of the data available with us today has been created during the last 24 months. Out of this, etisalat is effectively using only 1 percent of the data.

Etisalat pointed out that by 2020, energy meters world over will be replaced by Smart Meters. Hundreds of data points per person will be transferred to preferred health care providers. Julfar said that telcos play a vital role that cannot be replicated as connectivity is vital and critical. Within the Mena region, the cellular connections for IoT will increase by 500 per cent in the next five years. He stressed that the IoT industry is fragmented and a standard should be set, otherwise it will not be economical. It will not become "efficient and economical" for people to use it.

Menon said that it is happening fast (standard). The governments are involved and the protocol discussions are happening within the industry. No two cities are managed the same way. "In the next four years, I expect a standard to be available for the industry," he said.

Huge Success

Cisco later announced that the third annual Internet of Things World Forum (IoTWF) 2015 in Dubai was a huge success with over 2000 attendees from across the world getting awakened to the Internet of Things (IoT) possibilities. The event featured visionary keynotes by leaders and experts from top companies such as Etisalat, Emirates, Visa, Intel, Siemens AG, Rockwell Automation, GE, Schneider Electric to name some.

The 2015 World Forums highlighted three key themes:

Awaken — which highlighted the opportunities across all industries, identified multiple business cases, and helped customers discover the competitive advantages that IoT can bring

Activate — which covered laying out roadmaps to IoT deployments, best practices and learnings from customer IoT case studies

Accelerate — focused on moving the industry forward quickly, and highlighted the roles that service providers and application developers must play in enabling this speed.



Rabih Dabboussi, GM UAE, Cisco



Connected Law Enforcement, police cars with IOT-based information access.



Inbar Lasser-Raab VP Product and Solutions Marketing Enterprise and IoT and Anil Menon at IoTWF 2015



VERMONT: This Feb 19, 2013 file photo shows OxyContin pills are arranged for a photo at a pharmacy. —AP

PAINKILLERS DRIVE RAISES OVERDOSE DEATHS IN US

NEW YORK: Drug overdoses rose again last year, driven by surges in deaths from heroin and powerful prescription painkillers, according to new federal statistics. Overdose deaths in the US surpassed 47,000 - up 7 percent from the previous year.

Many of the deaths were due to a group of powerful opioid painkillers, long the leading cause of fatal overdoses. But the number had been stable recently while heroin deaths grew. Experts have speculated that addicts migrated from painkillers to cheaper and easier-to-get heroin. But last year, the opioid toll rose to nearly 19,000 deaths, an increase of 16 percent. Heroin deaths continued to climb,

by 28 percent to about 10,500. The new government statistics also indicate upticks in deaths from sedatives and cocaine, but those numbers are less than the deaths from the opioids and heroin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week posted the tally, which is based on death certificates.

The federal agency is analyzing the drug numbers to determine what's behind last year's increases, said CDC Director Dr Tom Frieden. But clearly, he added, the nation's drug overdose problem "is not getting better."

Opioid pain relievers, including methadone, OxyContin and Vicodin,

have been the focus of a government campaign. The CDC has urged doctors to limit their use to the most serious forms of pain, such as cancer patients and end-of-life care. But the vast majority of prescriptions written in the U.S. are for more common ailments like arthritis and back pain. The CDC is working on new guidelines for doctors for prescribing such drugs.

CDC officials believe at least some of the increase in painkiller deaths last year may be due to illegally-made fentanyl, which is a synthetic form of morphine. Fentanyl may also be contributing to the heroin numbers, in cases in which heroin is laced with fentanyl, Frieden added. —AP

BLANKETS COVER SWISS GLACIER IN VAIN EFFORT TO HALT ICE MELT

RHONE GLACIER: From afar, the Rhone glacier looks pristine, but on closer inspection the surface is covered with white blankets to slow the melting of the rapidly retreating ice. The dusty, white fleece covers stretch out over a huge area near the glacier's edge, some in rumpled piles alongside sand, rocks, a few wooden planks and a ladder on its side.

With a red and white Swiss flag providing the only dash of color, they look like tents in a vast deserted refugee camp, out of place in the Alpine setting. But hiding underneath the blankets is a Swiss tourist attraction: a long and winding ice grotto with glistening blue walls and a leaky ceiling that has been carved into the ice here each year since 1870.

"For the past eight years, they have had to cover the ice cave with these blankets to reduce the ice melt," said David Volken, a glaciologist working with the Swiss environment ministry, poking at a piece of cloth lying near the path that leads

to the cave's opening.

The blankets, he told AFP during interviews in August, reduce the ice melt by as much as 70 percent, explaining why the covered cave towers far above the nearby centre of the glacier tongue, which slopes lazily into a pine-green lake. But while the blankets help slow the melting and allow the ice grotto to remain open through the hot summer, they are a very temporary fix.

'Dying mountain'

"It will slow things down for a year or two, but one day they will have to take away the blankets because the ice underneath will be gone," said Jean-Pierre Guignard, a 76-year-old tourist from the Swiss town of Lausanne.

He recalled seeing the glacier for the first time in 1955. The tongue then reached far down the steep mountainside, which today is hampered by a roaring waterfall pouring from the glacier lake and marking the starting point of Europe's mighty Rhone river. "It has been

heartbreaking to see the glacier shrink, and today it is really painful to see it covered in blankets, to see this vain battle to save a dying mountain," he told AFP.

A full 1,400 meters down the mountain side, near the small village of Gletsch, a wooden post signals where the glacier once ended back in 1856. Since then, the Rhone glacier has lost around 350 meters in ice thickness around 40 meters in the past decade alone.

It is not the only Alpine glacier feeling the heat. Studies show that around two-thirds of the ice volume in the Alps has vanished since 1850. "The Rhone glacier is quite typical of what is happening in the Alps," said Matthias Huss, a glaciologist at Fribourg University. "We are seeing less new ice created in higher altitudes even as the lower parts of the glaciers are melting at an accelerated pace."

World leaders will gather in Paris later this year to try to agree to a plan to restrict the global warming blamed for the mass glacial melt

and other dangerous shifts in the environment. The overarching goal is to limit average warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels. But for the Alpine glaciers, it is likely already too late since the Alps, like the Arctic and the Antarctic Peninsula, are considered hotspots that are warming at least twice as quickly as the global average.

Wearing a t-shirt under the glare of the sun, Volken said the Rhone glacier loses between 10 and 12 centimetres (up to eight inches) of ice thickness on a hot day. And the new lake that has formed at the edge of the glacier, as well as the darkening of the ice-a result of impurities mixing in as it melts and freezes again-only speed up the process since they help the glacier absorb more of the sun's radiation.

Blankets not enough

"In the last three weeks, the glacier has melted back six meters," said Volken, pointing to the rocky surface recently covered in ice. Each year, the glacier loses between five and seven meters in ice thickness, and within the next decade it is expected to lose half of its current volume.

"By the end of the century, only about 10 percent of the current ice volume will remain," Volken said. Unlike the melting in the Antarctic and the Greenland ice caps that of the Alpine glaciers will have little impact on global sea-level rise. If all of the region's glaciers melted, this would add only about 0.3 millimetres to ocean levels, Huss said. But he quickly added that the local impact will be dramatic.

The Alps function as a water tower that stores water, releasing it when it is most needed-in the hot and dry summer months. As the ice melt accelerates, Alpine glacier-fed rivers that stretch across Europe, like the Rhone, will initially see higher water levels and more flooding, though by the middle of the century water levels will decline dramatically, Volken said.

Standing near the edge of the Rhone glacier with its odd blankets Christine Ouedraogo, a 37-year-old tourist from Burkina Faso, listened to the rapid dripping of the dissolving ice. "It's beautiful, but it is such a shame that it is melting away," she said sadly. "I don't think those blankets will be enough." —AFP



This file photo taken on July 14, 2015 near Gletsch shows tourists walking to visit an ice cave next to insulating foams wrapping up the Rhone Glacier which has been shrinking under the summer sun. —AFP



ELVA, Italy: A photographer looks at the sky at night to see the annual Geminid meteor shower on the Elva Hill, in Maira Valley, near Cuneo, northern Italy. — AFP

MEXICO ISSUES FIRST PERMIT TO CULTIVATE AND USE MARIJUANA

MEXICO CITY: Mexican health authorities issued Friday the first permit allowing four individuals to grow and smoke their own marijuana, but none actually plans to consume the drug. While the permit opens a crack in Mexico's prohibitionist policies, the government health watchdog Cofepris stressed that the authorization is limited to those four people only.

The foursome, who secured the authorization in a historic Supreme Court ruling last month, hope that their victory will force Mexico to legalize marijuana. The group, part of the Mexican Society for Responsible and Tolerant Personal Use (SMART), says decriminalizing pot will help reduce the country's relentless drug cartel violence. "We didn't do this to get the right (to consume) for ourselves but to change a public policy that has been extremely costly for the country," said Armando Santacruz, an accountant and one of the four who won the case.

Their legal victory has prompted others to seek similar permits while forcing President Enrique Pena Nieto and Congress to debate whether to change the country's marijuana laws. "The goal is to change the policy, not to promote consumption," Juan Francisco Torres Landu, an attorney and member of the foursome, told reporters outside Cofepris's office. "We will set an example and we will not consume (marijuana) because we have enough information to take a responsible decision. But it will be based on our own conviction, not on threats from the state."

Cofepris underlined in a statement that under the current laws, marijuana "is still an illegal substance" and its cultivation and sale remain forbidden. But the four SMART members are allowed to "sow, grow, har-

vest, prepare, possess, transport and consume marijuana for recreational uses," Cofepris said.

National debate

They are not permitted, however, to sell it to other people or use marijuana in front of children, pregnant women "or people who do not give their consent." Since the court ruling, Cofepris has been flooded by 155 requests for permits to grow marijuana for personal use, said the agency's advisor Patricio Caso, who expects all those requests to be rejected under the current laws. The goal for many applicants is to challenge the rejections at the Supreme Court because four more victories like SMART's will set a legal precedent.

While Pena Nieto has repeatedly voiced his opposition to legalization, he has convened experts to a national debate in several states between January and March to decide potential new regulations. Congress, meanwhile, is discussing a bill that would legalize imports and consumption of medical marijuana. But most Mexicans are opposed to legalization. A poll by El Universal newspaper following the court ruling found that two thirds oppose it.

Legalization has caught on elsewhere in the region. Uruguay has created a regulated market for pot. In Chile, Congress is debating a law to legalize its recreational while President Michelle Bachelet authorized the sale of cannabis-based medication. Colombia is also in the process of legalizing and regulating medical marijuana. In the United States-the biggest consumer of drugs from Mexico — 23 states have legalized medical marijuana use, while four states plus the capital city have legalized its recreational use. —AFP

OFFICIAL: PLANNED PARENTHOOD AT ODDS OVER FETUS REMAINS

COLUMBUS: Planned Parenthood of Ohio did not make money from the sale of aborted fetuses, state Attorney General Mike DeWine concluded Friday in an investigation that instead criticized the agency for disposing of fetal remains in landfills.

Planned Parenthood said DeWine, a Republican, was making another politically motivated attack on abortion and called the report "inflammatory and false." The agency didn't deny that remains went to landfills, but said it followed Ohio law and uses the same practices as hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities, which generally contract with outside companies to dispose of all medical waste.

"We handle all fetal tissue respectfully," said Stephanie Kight, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio. "That's our commitment to our patients." DeWine said the disposal practice is callous and violates state rules requiring that fetuses be disposed of in a humane manner. "It is important the public be aware that these practices are taking place at these Ohio facilities," DeWine said. He referred his investigation to the Ohio Department of Health, which licenses abortion facilities in Ohio.

Undercover videos

DeWine announced an investigation in mid-July after anti-abortion activists began releasing undercover videos they said showed Planned Parenthood personnel negotiating the sale of fetal organs. Planned Parenthood said some fetal tissue is donated for medical research, but such donations are illegal in Ohio. A Planned Parenthood state leader has said no donation program exists here.

During DeWine's investigation of the tissue sale issue, he said his office found that Marietta, Ohio-based Accu Medical Waste Service Inc., a waste disposal company used by Planned Parenthood affiliates in Cincinnati and Columbus, sent the remains to a Kentucky landfill. An Accu Medical official told DeWine's office that his company uses a standard treatment for biological waste called "autoclave" involving a high-pressure steam treatment to kill infectious material.

The investigation determined that fetal remains taken by Lake Forest, Illinois-based Stericycle from a third Planned Parenthood affiliate, in Bedford Heights in suburban Cleveland, ended up in a different landfill. DeWine's office didn't identify that landfill.

Kight referred questions on disposal to the

companies. A man who answered the phone at Accu Medical Waste Service who wouldn't give his name said all employees had been instructed not to comment. Stericycle said in a statement it has a long-standing policy against accepting fetal remains. DeWine's office said Planned Parenthood uses the company to dispose of its biological waste including aborted fetuses. Kight said the agency believes its Stericycle contract allows for the removal of fetal tissue.

DeWine said he plans to seek an injunction next week to prevent Planned Parenthood from disposing of fetal remains in landfills. Ohio Right to Life, which opposes abortion, called on lawmakers to pass a bill ensuring the aborted remains of babies are treated humanely.

"We are disturbed and heartsick over the attorney general's findings," said Mike Gonidakis, president of Ohio Right to Life. Republican lawmakers in the GOP-controlled Ohio House announced a Monday news conference to announce legislation. Republican Gov John Kasich also called the findings disturbing and ordered the Health Department to work with DeWine to take appropriate legal action. —AP

FASHION MOGUL RAISES MILLIONS FOR AIDS RESEARCH WITH LIBRARY

PARIS: Fashion mogul Pierre Berge raised millions for AIDS research Friday as the first part of his renowned library went under the hammer in Paris. The French philanthropist told AFP he had raised nearly 11.7 million Euros (\$12.8 million) from the first of six sales of his collection of manuscripts and rare books, one of the most valuable in private hands. A small drawing by the French novelist Victor Hugo of a ruined gothic tower at dusk was sold for more than 400,000 Euros, five times its estimated worth. Berge, the lover and business partner of the late Yves Saint Laurent is putting almost his entire library up for auction in sales that could raise 40 million Euros (\$42 million) for the charitable foundation he founded with the designer. Berge sold the couple's art collection for 342 million Euros (\$361 million) in 2009 in what was dubbed "the sale of the century," then a record for a private sale. Most of the proceeds of the sales are going to HIV research, including to the Sidaction charity founded by Berge. The manuscript of Gustave Flaubert's "Sentimental Education"-one of the most influential novels of the 19th century-also went for a record price of 470,000 Euros. "I am very happy. It's marvelous," said Berge after the three-hour sale, organized by Sotheby's.

Lost erotic romp

One of the biggest surprises was a first edition of Charles Baudelaire's "Fleurs du mal" (The Flowers of Evil) which sold for 225,000 Euros, four times its valuation. However, one of the books closest to Berge's heart, a copy of Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" dedicated by the writer to "the master" Victor Hugo,

went for "only 368,000 euros", when experts thought it might make nearly double that.

But almost all of the treasures of the library including the only pages of a lost erotic work by the notorious Marquis de Sade, "The Days of Florbelle", to have escaped the censor's flames, reached their estimates. The most valuable item on sale, the original manuscript of Andre Breton's surrealist masterpiece "Nadja"-worth an estimated 3.5 million Euros-had already been snapped up by France's national library.

Berge told AFP that when he bought the book in London "I felt that I had got hold of a fragment of the True Cross". The businessman began collecting rare books after arriving in Paris as a teenager, "buying a book on the banks of the Seine in the morning and with a bit of luck selling it to a book dealer in the afternoon." He later befriended members of the city's literati, including Breton and Jean Cocteau. Berge-who is the godfather of Cocteau's son-held back one of the writer's books dedicated to him from the sale. Another book by Jean Giono, who was something of a father figure to him, and who is best known outside France for the film of his novel "The Horsemen on the Roof", was also withheld. Berge said that he intended to "replace all the books in the library" with identical cheaper copies. "A lot will probably be more fun to read in paperback." "I came to love these books through reading, the collector part only came later," he said. "You have to know how to get rid of things," Berge, 85, had earlier told AFP in his library on Paris' Left Bank, saying he had been planning the clear-out for years and had even stipulated it in his will. —AFP

FDA APPROVES GENENTECH FOR ADVANCED LUNG CANCER

NEW YORK: The Food and Drug Administration on Friday conditionally approved an experimental Genentech drug for patients with a certain type of lung cancer who have few other options. Alecensa won accelerated approval for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer with a mutation in a gene called ALK who have relapsed after treatment with Pfizer Inc.'s Xalkori or who could not tolerate that drug. The mutation in ALK, or anaplastic lymphoma kinase, indirectly drives growth of tumors.

Accelerated approval is granted to medicines for serious or life-threatening conditions that show an effect likely to benefit patients. To maintain that conditional approval, the drugmaker must then do further testing to confirm that the medicine improves patients' condition. Genentech has already begun a larger, head-to-head study of how long Alecensa extends survival compared to New York-based Pfizer's Xalkori, in patients not previously treated with either pill.

In one of two midstage patient studies that led to Alecensa's approval, the twice-a-day pill shrank the lung tumors of 38 percent of the 87 participants, and that benefit lasted an average of 7 1/2 months. In a second study, also funded by Genentech, tumors shrank in 44 percent of the 138 participants, and that benefit lasted an average of about 11 months. All those participants had previously taken Xalkori, but it had stopped working.

Both studies also tested the effects of Alecensa, known chemically as alectinib, on tumors that had spread to the brain, which often occurs in such patients. According to the FDA, 61 percent of patients in the two studies had their brain tumors shrink or disappear, with the effect lasting about nine months on average.

'Important effect'

"In addition to the primary effect on tumors in the lung, Alecensa clinical trials provide evidence of an effect on tumors that had spread to the brain, which is an important effect," Dr Richard Pazdur, director of the FDA's Office of Hematology and Oncology, said in a statement.

Alecensa is the only drug shown to do that, according to a Genentech spokesman. Genentech, the biotech unit of Swiss drugmaker Roche Group, will have a list price of about \$12,500 per month before discounts negotiated with insurers. The company is offering patients financial assistance, including copay cards that enable patients with commercial insurance to get the drug for a \$25 monthly copayment.

Lung cancer is the top cause of cancer deaths in the US. The National Cancer Institute estimates it will kill about 158,000 people this year. About 85 percent of lung cancers are non-small cell lung cancer, which is usually diagnosed at an advanced stage, and about 5 percent of that group has the ALK mutation. —AP



BEAVER CREEK, Colorado: A racer descends the course during the second run of the giant slalom at the 2015 Audi FIS Ski World Cup. —AFP

SLALOM COURSE FOR SKI AREAS FACING FUTURE WITHOUT SNOW

GRENOBLE: As temperatures rise there is less of it or sometimes even none at all—global warming is forcing ski areas to think about the once unthinkable, a future without snow. Some in the French Alps have gone beyond thinking and begun diversifying the activities they offer visitors, particularly those at around 1,300 meters altitude. It's this level—where ski lifts sprouted like mushrooms in the 1960s and 1970s in what "democratized" winter sports in France—that scientists say will face "highly variable annual" fluctuations in snowfall.

According to the regional authority measuring the impact of climate change, the Alps have seen a 30 percent drop in the amount of snowfall in the past 30 years and the average temperature has climbed 1.6 degrees Celsius (nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1960. "The rain-snow line could climb by 450 to 600 meters," said Thierry Lebel, head of the Hydrology Transfer and Environment Research Laboratory in Grenoble, thus making the season a wash out for ski areas at lower elevations.

Downhill for downhill

At Drouzin-le-Mont, a small family-oriented ski area in the Haute-Savoie at an elevation of 1,250 metres, the municipality took control in 2013 and launched a conversion project. Out went the fixation with downhill, or alpine skiing. In came a "mountain lite" project. Out went the ski lifts and snow cannons. In will come sledding and skijoring (where dogs or horses pull skiers), snowshoeing and dogsledding.

"It has now been three seasons we haven't been open. It was no longer profitable," said Franck Vernay, first deputy mayor of the village of Biot. The village, which counts 600 residents, has an equal number of hotel beds. "We haven't given up on skiing but we've got to try to lure people in other ways. Otherwise its certain death," he said.

Property prices have plunged, but the village is still hoping to avoid the fate of Saint-Honore. Launched in the 1980s, the ski area at 1,500 metres altitude in the Isere region had 1,400 hotel beds, but shut in 1993 due to a lack of snow and an abundance of financial difficulties. For two decades it looked like a ghost town and only now is being rehabilitated.

Shorter seasons

The Alps are not alone in being affected by global warming. Swedish ski areas face seeing their season cut down to two months by 2050, according to their national association. In Dalarna County northwest of Stockholm, seven out of its 30 small ski areas have had to close since 2008 as they couldn't afford snow cannons.

The association of Swedish ski areas looks at the glass as more than half full: snow-making equipment had allowed 80 percent to open for the past 30 years despite their low elevation. The most frequented resort, Are at 1,300 meters, even hosted the alpine world ski championship in 2007.

In France, the ski season risks being cut by a month by 2040 and by two-and-a-half months by 2080, according to Educ'Alpes, an association ski instructors. Ski areas are doing more than just install snow cannons. Removing stones, replanting grasses and better grooming methods have also helped them considerably reduce the amount of snowmaking they need, thus reducing the impact of weather.

Even Val Thorens in Savoie, with a base elevation of 2,300 meters making it the highest ski area in Europe, is adapting its practices. "We take sun exposure much more into account, we groom other slopes that are sheltered from the prevailing winds and we use artificial snow to make better use of natural snow," said Benjamin Blanc, who is in charge of grooming Val Thorens' trails. This year it will use a GPS program to help determine which areas have received less snow to better focus their grooming efforts, which should result in fuel savings of 20 percent.

Shrinking glaciers

Even if high elevation ski areas still have plenty of the white stuff at the height of winter, it's the summer that's worrying professional skiers, the season when Alpine glaciers have been receding. According to Educ'Alpes, the glaciers have lost 26 percent of their surface and a third of their volume over the past 40 years, leading ski areas like Val Thorens to close its glacier to skiers a decade ago to ensure its protection.

"Before we trained at a very low elevation, around 2,400 meters, even in July," recalled Fabienne Serrat, who won two golds at the 1974 World Championships for France. "Today many youths who compete go to South America" to train. The situation has saddled Val Thorens with a dilemma. It closed its glacier to protect it, yet triggers avalanches to supply slopes below.

"But in doing so we are taking away snow" that feeds the glacier, said Blanc. For climate scientist Lebel, the outlook for the glaciers isn't good. "With temperatures 2 or 3 degrees higher, those below 3,000 metres altitude will disappear," he said, although the rate at which they recede will vary depending on topography and exposition to the sun.

French Olympic gold skicross champion Jean-Frederic Chapuis, who regularly trains on glaciers, believes that a increasing the practice of covering of glaciers with plastic sheeting to slow their melting—as is already done in a few places in Switzerland and Italy—may be an answer. But for Lebel that "is a desperate, local response that will only delay things. We need to act on our carbon emissions." —AFP



ZHEZKAZGAN, Kazakhstan: In this photo provided by NASA, members of NASA and the Russian support teams who were unable to fly to the Soyuz TMA-17M landing site due to weather, watch a live video stream of the US space agency's Kjell Lindgren, Russia's Oleg Kononenko and Kimiya Yui of Japan returning to Earth, outside. —AP

SPACE STATION ASTRONAUTS SAFELY RETURN TO EARTH

MOSCOW: A three-person crew from the International Space Station landed safely Friday in the snowy steppes of Kazakhstan. The US space agency's Kjell Lindgren, Russia's Oleg Kononenko and Kimiya Yui of Japan returned to Earth in their Soyuz TMA-17M capsule after 141 days in space. They touched down on schedule at 7:12 pm local time (1312 GMT) about 120 kilometers northeast of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan.

Kononenko reported to the Russian Mission Control that the crew was feeling fine as the capsule was descending by parachute in thick clouds before landing softly in darkness on the wind-swept steppes. Russian rescue teams in four helicopters arrived quickly at the landing site to help the

crew get out of the capsule, which rested on its side in the snow. Because of the cold temperatures and strong winds, the crew was quickly flown to Dzhezkazgan after a brief inspection by doctors. In better weather, the crew undergoes a post-flight medical check-up in a tent at the landing site.

Expedition 46 Commander Scott Kelly of NASA and crewmates Mikhail Kornienko and Sergey Volkov of Russia remain on the station. They will be joined by three new crew members next Tuesday: NASA's Tim Kopra, Russia's Yuri Malenchenko and the European Space Agency's Tim Peake. Kelly and Kornienko are on the first joint US-Russian one-year mission at the space station.

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Kuwait Times

248 33 199





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EMBASSY HOSTS RECEPTION FOR RICE EXPORTER ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in collaboration with association of Pakistan businessmen in Kuwait hosted a reception for visiting delegation of the Rice Exporter Association of Pakistan at symphony style hotel. Local businessmen, media persons and community members attended the event. A 18-Member high profile trade delegation of Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) visited in Kuwait starting from

5th of December, 2015 on a 4-day business tour.

The Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan is the second largest export body registered under Ministry of commerce, Government of Pakistan. The Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan has more than 1500 members throughout Pakistan, contributing \$2.2 Billion exports annually in the shape of foreign exchange towards the growth of our beloved

country Pakistan.

Rice is the biggest export commodity from Pakistan. Pakistan, being 13th largest Rice Producer is the 4th largest Rice Exporting Nation in the world. Pakistan's share in the Global Rice trade is 15 percent. Almost 4.2 Million Tons of rice is exported to hundred plus countries in the world.

It is pertinent to understand that in terms of consistency of Rice Supplies, Pakistan is the

only free market where there is long term and consistent export policy in Rice which is beyond Governmental influence. Further, Pakistan's staple food is wheat and the Rice Surplus Crop (Almost 70 percent) has to be exported abroad to cater to the global needs. Basmati Rice - A highly Fragrant and Extra Long Kernel Grain with pearl like texture and softer, fluffy and non-sticky cooking is famous across the world. The Basmati Rice is considered as

brand image of Pakistan throughout the world.

The Trade between Pakistan and Kuwait is far less than the potential and goodwill that both countries possess. With the visit of REAP, it is strongly expected that the lost share Pakistani rice market in Kuwait would be reclaimed and consumers of Kuwait will once again be able to get a chance to get that special aroma, softness, fluffiness and originality back inside their homes.

X-CITE ANNOUNCES NEW WINNERS IN 'WIN MORE THAN \$500,000 CASH' PROMOTION

X-cite by Alghanim Electronics is pleased to announce the names of the second week's winners of the biggest shopping festival in Kuwait, which offers customers the opportunity to win more than \$500,000 Cash in 5 weekly draws with a weekly grand prize of KD 25,000. This one-of-a-kind promotion was launched on November 19th and will last until December 26th.

The second week's winners are:

1st place winner of KD 25,000: Tajaldeen Hussain
2nd place winner of KD 5,000: Talal Maani Al Rasheed,
3rd place winner of KD 2,500: Mohamed Ali, 4th place winner of KD 1,000: Abdullah Mohammad Al Sumait, 5th place winner of KD 1,000: Hlaim Baqqan Al Shammari, 6th place winner of KD 500: Magesh Ranganathan, 7th place winner of KD 500: Hajar Mohammad Alashiah.

First Place winner Tajaldeen Hussain was full of appreciation with the prize saying, "Thank you to X-cite for this amazing prize. It is the first time that I have won and I am very pleased, it's truly a dream come true!"

You too can be a lucky winner with X-cite! In order to participate and get the chance to win any of the remaining cash prizes, all you need to do is visit any of X-cite's



18 showrooms spread across the country, www.xcite.com, or X-cite's smartphone app, and for every KD 25 you will get one chance to win great cash prizes. The earlier you make a purchase, the greater your



chances of winning! The weekly draws are open to the public and take place at Al-Rai showroom in Safat Alghanim at 11:00 am supervised by a representative from the Ministry of Commerce. The name of the winners



are announced on www.xcite.com/whatsyourexcuse, their social media channels: (Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat @xcitealghanim) (Facebook: xcitebyalghanim) or via the hashtag, #WhatsYourExcuse.



KAIC HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Kuwait African International Congregation (KAIC) held its annual Christmas celebration which culminated with a five-day conference. This year's event featured Pastor Ovie Emmanuel (DEEC, Leeds, UK) as guest speaker. The host pastor Millicent Rerri delivered an inspirational message on the last day of the conference. The conference which ended on Friday, 11 December 2015, had various activities to mark, "A Day with the King." Pastor Ovie amazingly delivered a powerful message urging Christians to be good ambassadors of Christ. Jacque Zandstra of the Lighthouse Church, Kuwait gave exaltation on the Christmas story - inspiring the congregation. The event attracted lots of Christians from other denominations. Choir teams led by KAIC winners praise ministered through songs as never before. The children and youth ministries performed overwhelmingly - rejoicing on the Day with

the King to mark the annual Christmas program of the Kuwait African International Congregation.



Greetings

Huraaa! Marvelous is One today. Happy birthday to our dear son! May the Almighty God bless and guide you and you continue to be a blessing to our family. Greetings from daddy and mummy, LAIF Church, friends and well-wishers.



'AIP MERITORIOUS AWARDS NITE 2015'

Association of Indian Professionals (AIP), Kuwait is pleased to announce that the AIP would organize a mega event to honor meritorious Indian students on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the auditorium of the Indian Community School (Senior), Salmiya. Awardees have been selected based on CBSE examinations results of class XII declared for the academic year 2014 - 2015 from all Indian Schools in Kuwait which are affiliated to CBSE system of education of India. This may be noted that AIP awards have become synonym of excellence and parents of meritorious students eagerly look forward to this event. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain will be the chief guest. As you are aware, AIP is a non-profit, non-political and non-governmental organization in Kuwait engaged in service of the Indian community through many ways. Program of the event is divided into two segments. First segment,

from 6 pm to 7 pm, comprises an interactive program designated as 'Meet Your Seniors' program whereas the second program, AIP Awards distribution, will commence after 7 pm.

'Meet Your Seniors' program is specially designed for the students who are presently studying in classes from IX to XII. Seniors are the students who completed their class XII from Indian Schools in Kuwait and are pursuing higher studies in Kuwait or outside Kuwait. This program is an interactive program and provides valuable first-hand information about various institutions and disciplines to the aspiring students and enables them to take decision with respect to their higher studies in a pragmatic and scientific manner. We take this opportunity to call upon the 'Seniors' and / or their parents and friends who will be available on this day to participate in 'Meet Your Seniors' program to share their

experience with the students of class IX to XII. Students of class IX to XII and their parents are also invited to attend this program and benefit from this opportunity. AIP awardees are presented with Gold, Silver and Bronze medallion each one with a certificate of merit. List of awardees is given below at the end of this press release. AIP started Running trophy for the Best Performing School in 2010 for class X & XII in order to recognize the efforts and contributions of the teaching staff of the School. Best Performing School is calculated on the basis of Weighted Average System. Details are given in the souvenir. However, we had to discontinue this award for class X due to introduction of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system by CBSE which made class X Board examination optional. In lieu of that we started runners up trophy to the Best Performing School of class XII.

MAKE MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT YOUR DESTINATION FOR ALL WEDDINGS

The magnificent Shaikha Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Theater and Hall of Marina Hotel Kuwait, nestled in the heart of Salmiya with a spectacular seaside location, is your one-stop-destination for all weddings. No matter what size wedding you are planning, Marina Hotel offers couples a truly memorable wedding to suit any type of wedding festivity.

Having a great layout and capacity of up to 500 persons, the Shaikha Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Theater and Hall is an ideal place for your special event. The hall unravels beauty and flexibility with its expert wedding planning team who devote their attention to every detail ensuring that your wedding will surpass all expectations. The package is further complemented with an award winning culinary team comprising of dedicated chefs who constantly explore delivering tailor made menus and

bringing to the hotel's guests a wide range of exciting experiences to each event. Wedding guests can enjoy the wide variety of scrumptious delicacies from the elaborate buffet at Shaikha Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Theater and Hall.

The memories of your wedding day will last a lifetime and Marina Hotel Kuwait will ensure that your special day is perfect. The hotel is delighted to offer guests exclusive wedding packages across the year, which include accommodation for one night in a beautiful superior room and a romantic candle-lit dinner and breakfast in the room for the bride and groom. For the wedding celebrations, a custom-made, three-tier wedding cake is offered.

Such a momentous occasion that unites husband and wife must be conducted in a venue that can provide only the finest setting. This

includes the most delightful cuisine and a magnificently decorated ballroom. With a venue that can also bring back treasured memories of lavish wedding celebrations from previous generations, today's weddings at the Shaikha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Theater and Hall are among the most extravagant and memorable weddings imaginable.

Combining unparalleled excellence in service and hospitality with outstanding presentation and personal service, the hotel holds a reputation as an expert in turning your wedding celebration into a truly magnificent event. If you are looking for a beautiful wedding ceremony venue, the wedding package at Marina Hotel is available all through the year. For more information, please visit our website: www.marinahotel.com



TALABAT.COM WINS ADVERTISING CREATIVITY AWARD 2015 - 3RD YEAR IN 'IDEA CATEGORY'

Talabat.com, a pioneer in the online food ordering industry and giant in the GCC has achieved another remarkable milestone. Talabat.com (Kuwait) was presented the prestigious Advertising Creativity Award 2015 - 3rd Year in the "Idea Category" by the Arab Media Forum under the patronage of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Accepting this significant award on behalf of the conglomerate Talabat.com, was Head of Commercial and Offline Marketing, Rabih El Asmar. Standing beside him to share this noteworthy moment were members of the marketing and social media team, reflecting the rich culture of teamwork and support at Talabat.com.

Rabih El Asmar, thanked the audience for their presence and stressed this award was a result of team work and commitment to a unified vision of making Talabat.com number one in



providing the best online food ordering services to their valued customers. Rabih El Asmar also extended his appreciation to the Kuwaiti society for

their continuous support to Talabat.com.

Since its establishment in 2004, Talabat.com has become an internationally renowned and globally recognized online food ordering e-commerce platform in the GCC. Winning numerous international awards and surpassing industry standards Talabat.com has become the benchmark for online ordering in the GCC area.

Talabat.com, mobile application and website, offers customers a vast selection of delectable cuisines from prime restaurants in Kuwait and all over the GCC area, simplifying meal decisions. Remembering to give back to the community, Talabat.com contributes a portion of its profit to feed the needy, making it easier for customers to do a good deed every day.

Talabat.com with its solid frame of leaders have expanded to include: Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Sultanate of Oman and kingdom of Bahrain.

AOU LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT ORGANIZES WORKSHOP ON SPRINGERLINK TECHNIQUES

The Department of Libraries at the Arab Open University (AOU), based in Kuwait, in cooperation with Learning Center in the AOU Bahrain Branch organized a workshop titled "SpringerLink Using Techniques", which was conducted by Arwa Falazi, Licensing Manger in SpringerLink.

The workshop targeted faculty members and students of the Student Council and Peer Education as these targeted audience has an effective role and constant connection with other students. They would contribute to

opening new channels that can be dependable to spread the ways of e-library use among students. The workshop addressed several themes, including introduction of new technologies used in SpringerLink to the trainees and develop their capabilities in using techniques and methods of using e-library. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed their pleasure on attending in such workshops, which are specialized in contributing to improving their skills and abilities of using learning resources.



VKS HONORS VENUGOPAL, GEETHA



Vasudhaiva Kudumba Samithi (VKS) Kuwait, in association with Sevadarshan, Samadarshana, NAFO and BPP honored Venugopal C Panicker, affectionately called Venuchettan and his spouse Geetha V Panicker at a farewell ceremony held on December 4 at the Indian Community School (Amman Branch), Salmiya.

Panicker and Geetha are leaving Kuwait for good after living in the country for more than 38 years. Venugopal, a financial expert, since arriving in Kuwait has been actively involved in various social, welfare and humanitarian activities among the local Indian community. Venuchettan is an excellent role model of simplicity and honesty as well as a respected personality, hailing from Changaram family of Aroor, Cherthala and now settled at Ernakulam. Before coming to Kuwait, Venugopal had held several positions in Calcutta. Aravind V Panicker and Niveditha A Panicker, son and daughter-in-law of Venuchettan, were also present at the farewell meeting.

The function commenced with the welcome address by A R Subbaraman followed by introduction of Venugopal by Mohan T who read a brief profile of Panicker's professional and social contributions.

The main speaker of the evening was the Secretary of Indian Community School Board of Trustees, Vijay Karayil, who greatly



applauded Venugopal's tireless and generous humanitarian services.

Mahadevan and Sanju (Sevadarshan), Rajashekharan Nair and Hari Balaramapuram (BPP), Venkitakrishnan (Samadarshana), Murali S. Nair (Nafo), Mohanakrishnan, Krishnan K Pillai, Aravindaksha Panicker, Sudhakaran, Mohandas Edappal, Shreekumari Vijayan Nair, Rajeswari Subbaraman and several others felicitated Venuchettan by acknowledging him as an honest and sincere community worker whose valuable services will be remembered and appreciated forever.

Venugopal was honored with memento by Sevadarshan and with a ponnada by BPP. Through his

passionate address to the gathering Venuchettan expressed his deep love and affection for his friends and fellow associates. Geetha emotionally invited everyone to visit their residence in Ernakulam and spend some time with them while in Kerala.

Vijayan Nair proposed vote of thanks and fervently greeted Venugopal and Geetha wishing them a happy and peaceful life back in India. A wonderful instrumental music concert led by Harikumar Perunna (mridumgam), Ullaskumar Thiruvizha (violin), Raghesh (ganjira) and Sharma (ghatom) was presented. The program was anchored by Anilkumar Attuva. The function ended with a delicious dinner.



JABER AL-ALI HOSTS ENGLISH WORKSHOP

The Jaber Al-Ali Secondary School for boys, of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone, recently hosted a workshop on 'How to teach vocabulary, grammar and language functions', which was prepared and presented by the head of the English Department Mohammed Yazbek. The event was held under auspices and with the attendance of the school director Khaled Abdul Rahman Al-Sager, and was also attended by ELT supervisor Jawad Amrani, the school's English language department staff, English teachers and heads of departments from surrounding schools and a number of the school's other subjects' teachers.



ICAI SEMINAR TOMORROW

The Kuwait Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) invites all its members to a CPE seminar on "IFRS 15 - Revenue from Contracts with Customers" by prominent speaker "CA S Chandra

Sekaran", Partner, Assurance at "RSM Al Bazie and Company, Kuwait". The seminar is on December 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm (registration starts at 5:30 pm) at Holiday Inn Downtown, Kuwait City. The presentation will discuss about

the new International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 15 on "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" and a comparison with the existing accounting standards and interpretations relating to revenue recognition.

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Shocking Survival Videos
00:45 Cuban Chrome
01:35 Cuban Chrome
02:25 Cuban Chrome
03:15 Cuban Chrome
04:05 Cuban Chrome
05:00 Cuban Chrome
06:50 Desert Car Kings
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Auction Hunters
08:55 Property Wars
09:20 Storage Hunters UK
09:45 Americana
10:10 How It's Made
10:35 Alaskan Bush People
11:25 Alaska: The Last Frontier
12:15 Flying Wild Alaska
13:30 Property Wars
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Ice Lake Rebels
15:10 Kindig Customs
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 Americana
17:15 How It's Made
17:40 Misfit Garage
18:30 Wheeler Dealers
19:20 Outback Truckers
20:10 Property Wars
20:35 Storage Wars Canada
21:00 Blood Lions - Bred For The Bullet
21:50 Hell Road Russia
22:40 Wheeler Dealers
23:30 Kindig Customs

- 12:30 Frozen Fever
12:45 Mako Mermaids
13:10 Mako Mermaids
13:35 Mako Mermaids
14:00 Mako Mermaids
14:30 I Didn't Do It
14:55 Lotirock
15:20 The Naughty List
16:10 Best Friends Whenever
16:35 Austin & Ally
17:00 Gravity Falls
17:25 Frozen Fever
17:35 Descendants
18:00 Descendants
19:55 Dog With A Blog
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood
23:15 Wolfblood

Disney Junior

- 00:00 Nina Needs To Go
00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
00:20 Calimero
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopidoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calimero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopidoo
02:30 Art Attack
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06:00 Loopidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
14:20 Derren Brown - The Great Art Robbery
15:45 The Syndicate
16:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:35 Seven Days With Afi
18:30 Come Date With Me Australia
19:00 The Syndicate
19:55 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:15 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:20 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
21:05 Sofia The First
21:35 Sofia The First
22:00 Cinderella III: A Twist In Time
23:00 Lilo & Stitch

- 01:00 Chopped
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Finds Food
03:30 Man Finds Food
04:00 Food Court Wars
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
06:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
16:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
16:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Siba's Table
19:30 Siba's Table
19:30 Siba's Table
20:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
20:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
21:00 Chopped South Africa
22:00 Follow Donald... To Vietnam
22:30 Follow Donald... To Vietnam
23:00 Girl Eat World
23:30 Girl Eat World

itv CHOICE

- 00:15 Coronation Street
00:40 Coronation Street
01:05 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
08:35 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:35 Sofia The First
22:00 Cinderella III: A Twist In Time
23:00 Lilo & Stitch

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Man V. Viral
01:00 Breakthrough
02:00 Hubble's Cosmic Journey
02:55 The Border
03:50 Locked Up Abroad
04:45 Breakthrough
05:40 Yukon Gold
06:35 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
07:30 Ultimate Airport Dubai
08:25 Megastructures
09:20 Man V. Viral
10:15 Breakthrough
11:10 Hubble's Cosmic Journey
12:05 Do Or Die
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Yukon Gold
16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
17:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai
18:00 Megastructures
19:00 Yukon Gold
20:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
20:50 Ultimate Airport Dubai
21:40 Megastructures
22:30 Yukon Gold
23:20 Monster Fish

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
00:35 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
01:00 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
01:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
02:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

- 02:40 Food School
03:05 Food School
03:30 Dream Cruises
04:20 The Food Files
04:45 The Food Files
05:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
06:00 Chefs Run Wild
06:25 The Best Job In The World
06:50 Bangkok Airport
07:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
08:30 Dog Whisperer
09:20 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
10:10 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
10:35 Chasing Time
11:00 Hook It, Cook It
11:25 Street Food Around The World
11:50 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
12:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
13:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
14:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
14:30 This Is Brazil
15:25 Exploring The Vine
15:50 Exploring The Vine
16:20 The Food Files
16:45 The Food Files
17:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
17:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
18:10 Chefs Run Wild
18:35 The Best Job In The World
19:05 Food School
19:30 Exploring The Vine
20:00 Exploring The Vine
20:25 The Food Files
20:50 The Food Files
21:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
21:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
22:05 Chefs Run Wild
22:30 The Best Job In The World
22:55 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
23:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Africa's Blood River
01:10 World's Deadliest Killer Three Of Dogs
02:00 Monster Fish
02:50 Cameramen Who Dare
03:45 World's Wildest Encounters
04:40 Animal Superpowers
05:35 Bearhood
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 The Kill Zone
08:20 Wild Australia
09:15 Wild Case Files
10:10 Freaks & Creeps
11:05 The Lion Whisperer
12:00 Bearhood
12:55 Monster Fish
13:50 Dangerous Encounters
14:45 Outback Wrangler
15:10 Outback Wrangler
15:40 The Living Edens
16:35 Elephant Queen
17:30 Vacations Gone Wild
18:25 Caught In The Act
19:20 Outback Wrangler
19:45 Outback Wrangler
20:10 The Living Edens
21:00 Elephant Queen
21:50 Vacations Gone Wild
22:40 Caught In The Act
23:30 Bearhood

OWN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 Hot In Cleveland
01:30 Saturday Night Live
02:30 You're The Worst
03:30 2 Broke Girls
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Last Man Standing
06:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
07:00 My Name Is Earl
07:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:30 Last Man Standing
10:30 My Name Is Earl
11:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
12:50 S#t My Dad Says
13:00 Last Man Standing
13:30 My Name Is Earl
14:00 2 Broke Girls
15:30 Hot In Cleveland
16:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Marry Me
18:30 2 Broke Girls
19:00 About A Boy
19:30 Last Man On Earth
20:00 Mulaney
21:00 Hot In Cleveland
22:00 Married
22:30 Silicon Valley
23:00 You're The Worst
23:30 Mulaney

OWN FIRST HD

- 00:00 Bates Motel
01:00 Heroes Reborn
02:00 The Blacklist
03:00 Minority Report
04:00 The Whispers
05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
06:00 Unforgettable



FALCON RISING ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 07:00 Franklin & Bash
08:00 Graceland
09:00 The Whispers
10:00 Unforgettable
11:00 Franklin & Bash
12:00 Emmerdale
13:00 Coronation Street
14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
15:00 Graceland
16:00 Unforgettable
17:00 Coronation Street
18:00 Graceland
19:00 Heroes Reborn
20:00 The Blacklist
21:00 Scandal
22:00 How To Get Away With Murder
23:00 The Knick

OWN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Pawn Shop Chronicles-18
02:00 Dying Of The Light-PG15
04:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga-PG15
06:00 Bloodsport-PG15
08:00 Batman: Assault On Arkham-PG15
10:00 Christmas Twister-PG15
12:00 Toxin-PG15
13:45 The Core-PG15
16:00 Bloodsport-PG15
18:00 Falcon Rising-PG15
20:00 Getaway-PG15
22:00 Max Payne-PG15

OWN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Welcome To The Jungle
02:00 Stand Up Guys
04:00 Shanghai Calling
06:00 A Simple Twist Of Fate
08:00 Big Fat Lie
10:00 Shanghai Calling
12:00 All About Christmas Eve
14:00 Mousehunt
16:00 Big Fat Lie
18:00 When In Rome
20:00 She Wants Me
22:00 Behaving Badly

OWN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:00 I'll Follow You Down-PG15
02:45 Deadfall-PG15
04:30 For Greater Glory-PG15
07:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike-PG15
09:00 My Last Day Without You-PG15
10:30 For Greater Glory-PG15
13:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun-PG15
15:00 Stone Markers-PG15
17:00 My Last Day Without You-PG15
19:00 Blood-PG15
21:00 Two Men In Town-PG15
23:00 August: Osage County-PG15

OWN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Mercury Rising
02:00 Pawn Shop Chronicles
04:00 Dying Of The Light
06:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga
08:00 Bloodsport
10:00 Batman: Assault On Arkham
12:00 Christmas Twister
14:00 Toxin
15:45 The Core
18:00 Bloodsport
20:00 Falcon Rising
22:00 Getaway

OWN MOVIES HD

- 01:15 The Purge: Anarchy-PG15
03:00 Bad Parents-PG15
05:00 Earth To Echo-PG15
07:00 The Theory Of Everything-PG15
09:00 Barefoot-PG15
10:30 The Expendables 3-PG15
12:15 X-Men: Days Of Future Past-PG15
15:00 Romeo & Juliet-PG15
17:15 Barefoot-PG15
19:00 Kill The Messenger-PG15
21:00 Kelly & Cal-PG15
23:00 Fury-PG15

OWN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Marvel's Planet Hulk
02:45 Vampire Dog
04:30 Columbus In The Last Journey
06:00 Delhi Safari
07:45 Memory Loss
09:15 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
11:00 Ernest & Celestine
12:30 Vampire Dog
14:15 The Three Dogateers
16:00 Top Cat: The Movie
18:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
20:00 Pororo: The Racing Adventure
22:00 The Three Dogateers
23:45 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgard

OWN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For-18
02:00 Maleficent-PG

OWN NEWS

- 04:00 A Christmas Wish-PG15
06:00 Diana-PG15
08:00 Imogene-PG15
10:00 Fatal Instinct-PG15
12:00 Admission-PG15
14:00 Heaven Is For Real-PG15
16:00 Imogene-PG15
18:00 Recoil-PG15
20:00 Good People-PG15
22:00 Neighbors-18

OWN NEWS

- 00:00 Live MSNBC Caught On Camera
01:00 Live MSNBC Caught On Camera
02:00 Live ABC World News
02:30 Live NBC Nightly News
03:00 MSNBC Caught On Camera
04:00 NBC Saturday Today Show
06:00 ABC 20/20
07:00 Live MSNBC Special
08:00 Live MSNBC Investigates
09:00 Live MSNBC Investigates
10:00 MSNBC Caught On Camera
11:00 MSNBC All In With Chris Hayes
12:00 MSNBC Hardball W/ Chris Matthews
13:00 MSNBC Special
14:00 ABC 20/20
15:00 MSNBC Your Business
15:30 Live MSNBC Your Business
16:00 Live NBC Sunday Today Show
17:00 Live NBC Meet The Press
18:00 ABC This Week With G Stephanopoulos
19:00 Live MSNBC Melissa Harris-Perry
20:00 NBC Meet The Press
21:00 ABC This Week With G Stephanopoulos
22:00 MSNBC Weekends With Alex Witt Sunday

OWN NEWS

- 00:00 Live MSNBC Caught On Camera
01:00 Live MSNBC Caught On Camera
02:00 Live ABC World News
02:30 Live NBC Nightly News
03:00 MSNBC Caught On Camera
04:00 NBC Saturday Today Show
06:00 ABC 20/20
07:00 Live MSNBC Special
08:00 Live MSNBC Investigates
09:00 Live MSNBC Investigates
10:00 MSNBC Caught On Camera
11:00 MSNBC All In With Chris Hayes
12:00 MSNBC Hardball W/ Chris Matthews
13:00 MSNBC Special
14:00 ABC 20/20
15:00 MSNBC Your Business
15:30 Live MSNBC Your Business
16:00 Live NBC Sunday Today Show
17:00 Live NBC Meet The Press
18:00 ABC This Week With G Stephanopoulos
19:00 Live MSNBC Melissa Harris-Perry
20:00 NBC Meet The Press
21:00 ABC This Week With G Stephanopoulos
22:00 MSNBC Weekends With Alex Witt Sunday

amc

- 04:00 Hi, Mom!
05:30 Rich Kids
07:05 Big Screen
07:20 One Summer Love
09:00 Nobody's Fool
10:45 Movers And Shakers
12:05 Eight Men Out
14:05 One More Kiss
15:45 Kid Coter
17:25 Nobody's Fool
19:10 Rich Kids
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 True Confessions
22:45 Dracula 2005
00:25 True Confessions
02:10 The Faculty

ANIMAL PLANET HD

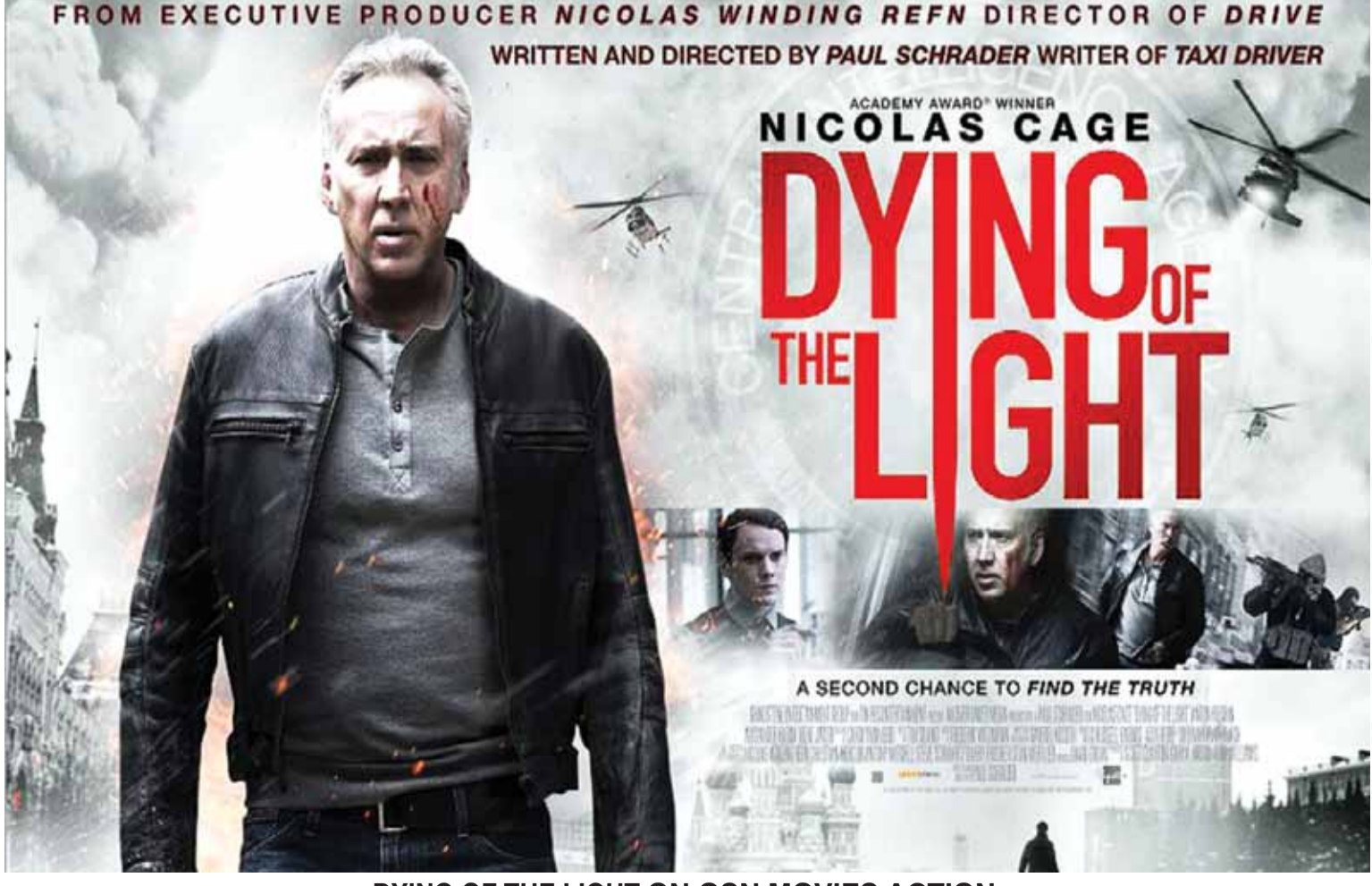
- 03:35 Rogue Nature With Dave Saltoni
04:25 Bull Shark: World's Deadliest Shark...
05:15 The Lion Queen
06:02 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
06:49 Biggest And Baddest
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Treehouse Masters
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Treehouse Masters
12:00 Treehouse Masters
12:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes
13:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
14:45 Biggest And Baddest
15:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
16:35 Almost Human With Jane Goodall
17:30 Deadly Islands
18:25 The Lion Queen
19:20 Rogue Nature With Dave Saltoni
20:15 Rogue Nature With Dave Saltoni
21:10 Bull Shark: World's Deadliest Shark...
22:05 The Lion Queen
23:00 River Monsters
23:55 Biggest And Baddest
00:50 Ten Deadliest Snakes
01:45 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
02:40 Biggest And Baddest

BBC lifestyle

- 03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
08:35 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Sofia The First
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:35 Sofia The First
22:00 Cinderella III: A Twist In Time
23:00 Lilo & Stitch

BBC entertainment

- 03:00 Doctor Who



DYING OF THE LIGHT ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For-18
02:00 Maleficent-PG

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/12/2015 TO 16/12/2015)

Program	Time	Channel	Program	Time	Channel
SHARQIA-1 V8-2 THE GOOD DINOSAUR IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	11:30 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:15 PM 11:45 PM		FANAR-3 ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) NO FRI+SAT+MON V8-2 FRI+SAT+MON BUS 657 ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film)	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM	
SHARQIA-2 THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR CREED	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM		FANAR-4 THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D BUS 657	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM	
SHARQIA-3 CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE BUS 657 CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM		FANAR-5 CREED TAMASHA - Hindi BENGAL TIGER - Telugu BENGAL TIGER - Telugu BENGAL TIGER - Telugu CREED CREED	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM	
MUHALAB-1 BUS 657 IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA CREED IN THE HEART OF THE SEA CREED	1:45 AM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM		MARINA-1 HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	
MUHALAB-2 ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) BENGAL TIGER - Telugu BENGAL TIGER - Telugu TAMASHA - Hindi BENGAL TIGER - Telugu ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film)	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM		MARINA-2 THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR CREED	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	
MUHALAB-3 THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM		MARINA-3 THE GOOD DINOSAUR IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA BRIDGE OF SPIES IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	
FANAR-1 STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM		AVENUES-1 BRIDGE OF SPIES BRIDGE OF SPIES BRIDGE OF SPIES BRIDGE OF SPIES BUS 657 BENGAL TIGER - Telugu BENGAL TIGER - Telugu BENGAL TIGER - Telugu BUS 657	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:15 AM	
FANAR-2 V8-2 IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:45 PM 9:15 PM		AVENUES-2 HOWL BUS 657	11:30 AM 1:30 PM	
			AL-KOUT.1 THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM	
			AL-KOUT.2 HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM	
			AL-KOUT.3 STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE STRIKE ONE	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 12:45 AM	
			AL-KOUT.4 IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA CREED	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM	
			BAIRAQ-1 THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	
			BAIRAQ-2 CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM	
			BAIRAQ-3 ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) CLOSE RANGE ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) ZINZANA (Emirati Film) CLOSE RANGE	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM	
			PLAZA THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR SALT MANGO TREE -Malayalam CREED	3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:30 PM	
			LAILA THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:45 PM	
			AJIAL.1 SALT MANGO TREE -Malayalam SALT MANGO TREE -Malayalam SALT MANGO TREE -Malayalam	4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM	
			AJIAL.2 BUS 657 PATHEMARI - Malayalam PATHEMARI - Malayalam	4:15 PM 6:00 PM 8:30 PM	

Career Opportunity

Danah Universal School of Kuwait requires energetic and highly qualified candidates, preferably native or near native speakers for the following positions :

- Head of Departments, Kindergarten Teachers, Elementary Teachers, Subject Teachers for Middle and High School.

Applications will be considered only from the candidates – Male or Female, having Bachelors and / or Master's degree or any other higher qualifications in their related field. Candidates should also have 2- 5 years of teaching experience in their related subject, in any reputed school in Kuwait.

- For Elementary Teachers: Only female candidates with B.Ed or M.Ed can apply.
- Interested Candidates are invited to submit their updated CV's along with their recent Photograph through email at : hr@aldanahbsk.net or fax at 25662549 or contact at 25662547 Ext. 123 , 115

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted via Email . Please make sure the email address and contact no. in the application are correct.

CHANGE OF NAME

My daughter, Magishaa Madhan Kumar, born on 05th June 2014 (native district: Coimbatore), residing at No. 54, Jothi Theatre Road, Chinnasamy Kadu, Ammapet, Salem - 636003. Shall henceforth be known as Darssha Madhan Kumar. (C 5096) 12-12-2015

I, Potturi Harsavardhana Naidu, holder of Indian Passport No: M7062597, R/o Diguvanallaguttapalli Village, Guttapalli Post, Sambepalli Mandal, Kadapa Dist., AP, changed my name as Muhammad Arshad. (C 5095) 10-12-2015



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CONDITION

1. Ads must be on the original coupon.
2. Ads of personal nature. will be accepted for **KD 2 for 3 days.**
3. Semi-commercial ads i.e. Baby-Sitting, Matrimonial, Tuition & Transport available will be accepted for **KD 5 for 3 days.**
4. Ads must not exceed 25 words.



Flight Schedule

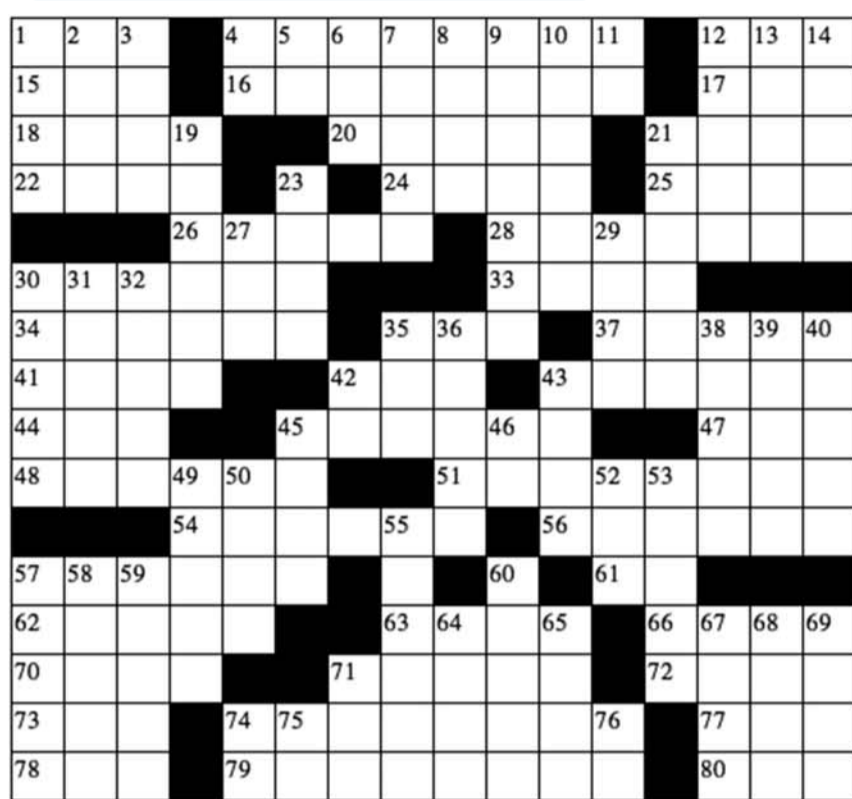
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Arrival Flights on Sunday 13/12/2015				Departure Flights on Sunday 13/12/2015				
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	
JZR	239	Amman	00:25	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	
DHX	172	Bahrain	00:40	00:15	KAC	791	Madinah	13:25
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	00:40	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	00:55	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	01:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	01:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
MSR	614	Cairo	01:20	02:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
ETH	3402	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:30	02:10	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	02:20	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	02:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	02:35	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:25	02:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	03:05	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	03:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	03:45	KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	03:55	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	03:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	04:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	04:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	04:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	04:20	JZR	238	Amman	17:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:35	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
LMU	510	Cairo	04:05	05:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	05:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	05:20	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
QTR	8511	Doha	06:10	06:10	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	06:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	06:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	07:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:25	07:05	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	07:10	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	07:15	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
KAC	512	Riyadh	07:50	07:40	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	1382	Delhi	08:00	08:10	UAL	982	Bahrain	19:30
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	08:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	08:45	KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	08:50	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	08:55	KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	09:25	FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	09:40	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	09:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	09:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	10:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	10:05	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	10:25	JZR	502	Luxor	22:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	10:30	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00	10:35	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	10:35	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	10:35	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	10:40	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
AGY	682	Asyut	11:40	11:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	11:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
SAW	701	Damascus	12:20	11:25	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	12:20	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	12:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	12:30	FDB	060	Dubai	23:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	12:40	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35
KAC	382	Delhi	13:50	12:55	KAC	415	Kuala Lumpur/Jakarta	23:40
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10					

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1108



ACROSS

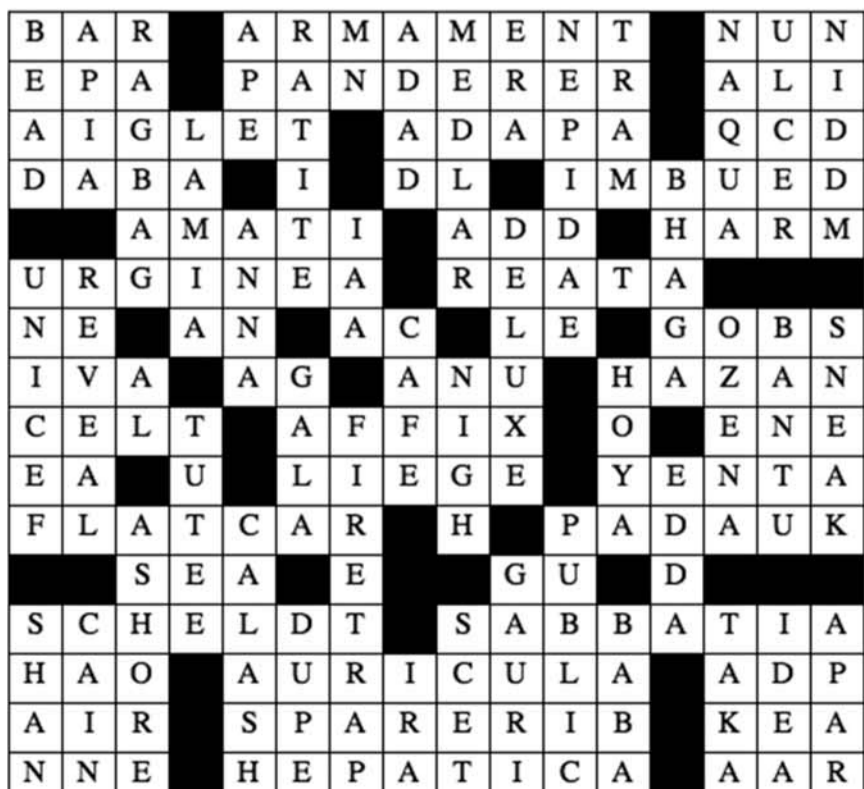
- 1. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
4. Any of several plants of the genus Hepatica having 3-lobed leaves and white or pinkish flowers in early spring.
12. The unit of frequency.
15. (of roads) Made of logs laid down crosswise.
16. Very generous.
17. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
18. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
20. Small wildcat of the mountains of Siberia, Tibet and Mongolia.
22. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
24. Partially carbonized vegetable matter saturated with water.
25. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
26. A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge).
28. Graded markings that indicate light or shaded areas in a drawing or painting.
30. The cardinal number that is the sum of seven and one.
33. The language of the nomadic Lapp people in northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula.
34. In a slim or slender manner.
37. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
41. Wrap us in a cerecloth, as of a corpse.
44. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
47. Water soaked soil.
48. The process of remembering (especially the process of recovering information by mental effort).
51. A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
54. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
56. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
57. Spread or daub over.
61. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.
62. A doctor's degree in musical arts.
63. A choice that is made by voting.
66. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
70. Same in identity.
72. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
73. A dissolute man in fashionable society.
77. A master's degree in business.
78. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
79. Biennial or perennial herbs of north temperate regions.
80. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.

DOWN

- 1. Beat severely with a whip or rod.
2. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
3. American novelist (1909-1955).
4. A unit of power equal to 746 watts.
5. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
6. (Australian and New Zealand) A disparaging term for English immigrants to Australia.

- 7. Make fit for, or change to suit a new purpose.
8. Prong on a fork or pitchfork.
9. A large waterfall on the border between Argentina and Brazil.
10. A genus of Caltha.
11. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
12. (Mexican) Ground beef and chili peppers or chili powder often with tomatoes and kidney beans.
13. Wood of a pecan tree.
14. Informal language consisting of words and expressions that are not considered appropriate for formal occasions.
19. Any of various often strong-smelling plants of the genus Cleome having showy spider-shaped flowers.
21. Aristocratic Italian family of powerful merchants and bankers who ruled Florence in the 15th century.
23. Marked by good order and cleanliness in appearance or habits.
27. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
29. (Roman mythology) God of love.
31. Plot of land belonging to an English parish church or an ecclesiastical office.
32. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
35. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
36. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
38. (astronomy) A relatively small extraterrestrial body consisting of a frozen mass that travels around the sun in a highly elliptical orbit.
39. Earlier a god.
40. (from a combination of Modulate and DEModulate) Electronic equipment consisting of a device used to connect computers by a telephone line.
42. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
43. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
45. A coarse obnoxious person.
46. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
49. Lower in esteem.
50. Praise, glorify, or honor.
52. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
53. Type genus of the Percidae.
55. The word class that qualifies verbs or clauses.
58. (computer science) A system of worldwide electronic communication in which a computer user can compose a message at one terminal that is generated at the recipient's terminal when he logs in.
59. (informal) "in the dumps".
60. Rock star and drummer for the Beatles (born in 1940).
64. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
65. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
67. Projectiles to be fired from a gun.
68. A small cake leavened with yeast.
69. Stairway in India leading down to a landing on the water.
71. A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
74. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
75. An informal term for a father.
76. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Being calm, cool and collected may take some effort. You might take a step back to see a particular situation from a different perspective. Perhaps you will see an opportunity to step back and relax in a different environment for a short while. After a break, sensitivities are eased and life returns to some sort of sanity. Perhaps more rest, perhaps clearer conversation, a pause in time is certainly a wise idea. Serious conversations might be better served another day. Being on the go and keeping an ear to the ground help you to feel that you are keeping in touch. Learning and communicating with others delights you. This is a time you may decide to express your creative side. You might share a joke, a puzzle or a poetry book.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A greater regard for things of value and even the idea of value itself is the order of this day. You may find yourself really getting into the spirit of the season. You shop, lunch with friends and shop some more-do you have a list you may find an interest in antiques or some type of artwork. This is a very enjoyable time-one of high energy and high hopes. Perhaps the mall you are visiting has gained more customers than usual because they have figured out performances by local talent gain the attention of the community. Whatever the case, you and your friends enjoy the local talent as you weave in and out of the stores. Make sure to make periodic trips to your car so that you can store your packages in the trunk of your car. Dinner out is fun tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You realize now, it is time to make some long-needed changes in old habit patterns that you have kept for way too long. Variety can be the spice of life. Keeping busy with new and positive activities is essential to making positive changes in your life. Becoming complacent is conducive to staying in one place too long and requires that your position be rethought. Acquiring new information and expanding your way of doing things will be like a breath of fresh air, once you become acclimated to the changes you make. Now is a good time to get in touch with your inner self and understand how you feel about who you are. All those times you held back comments become less and less of a problem-you are learning about a new positive you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There may be someone around you who does not appreciate or possibly understand your rather eccentric behavior; a close friend or relative will be supportive. Young people learn from your actions today. Anything uncommon or extraordinary will be what captures your interest. Allowing your creative and intuitive nature to come forth will pay you back in big rewards and dividends. New solutions to long-held problems may be among the benefits. Something very inventive may surface. Allowing variety into your life will help to keep you from feeling bored with your everyday life. Change is inevitable. In your case, change is necessary for self-preservation. Do not allow yourself to become out of touch.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You might like to socialize today-fun will come soon enough. For this morning, responsibilities that you set for yourself are knocking at your door. You will see things through and then be free to enjoy the fun stuff! You may find that you can accomplish quite a lot if you take one project at a time. Understanding your friends and understanding people in general brings about an understanding of yourself. You enjoy the new friends as well as the old ones and you seem to favor the most positive thinking people that come into your awareness. You are comfortable in being a friendly person. This evening you allow yourself to enjoy a fun social opportunity that is available to you. Among your friends, you find opportunities to let your light shine!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find that there is some important personal business that requires your attention this morning and then you will have the day to do with as you please. An ethnic poet, storyteller or educator that you have been curious about is performing in town. You and perhaps a friend or two should be able to enjoy this endeavor. You may decide to take a neighbor's child with you. Perhaps this is a way you have of enjoying and sharing with the people around you but sometimes your generosity is just simply enjoying the simple, uncomplicated happiness that comes with youth. A brother or sister, or perhaps your own children, all combine to make a merry little band. This evening you change hats, so to speak, to be with your friends, creating good camaraderie.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You should find this a good day for just about anything that your heart desires. Those around you should find you very natural and vital. Communicating with others and getting your message across is at a high. This is a great time to be in the company of other people both personally and in a work situation. Your ability to manage and direct other people puts you in a good position to assume the responsibility for a special job. Perhaps today is more of a volunteer day to help at the local hospital, nursing home, etc. A truly earnest effort, along with your hand and eye coordination, makes just about any task run well. This is a great day for getting things accomplished and for doing good deeds. Emotions are well within your control.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

We all behave in rather eccentric ways, from time to time. As strange as you may appear to some around you today-someone understands perfectly and will be more than supportive of your rather eccentric ideas. Your unique and unusual talents could bring you some awesome results in the form of new conclusions or something very inventive. Don't you know that the great inventors of our time were considered a bit bizarre they dared to pursue their dreams and hunches and all of humankind benefited because of their dedication. You too, should allow yourself to be creative, when the mood strikes. This evening, a social event will give you ample opportunity to network as well as absorb some of the good energies. A star is shining.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The realization of your successes must be credited in part to the influences of your past. The efforts made by others in your youth to set an example or expand your cultural awareness made you wise beyond your years. Idealists, politicians and business executives influence you. You reaffirm your personal morals, ethics and ideals. You begin to work to educate or support people and projects that create that feeling of pride in yourself, your family and your community. Love, money and charitable causes get your adrenaline flowing. You are proud of your independence and the influential position that you establish. You may seem too impulsive, too forgiving or too cold. You are passionate in your aspirations. Nurture your friendships.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

"Happy days are here again," may be the words to a song, but they are the words that present the feelings of today. This may be because you are feeling all the love and affection that surrounds you today. There is a big chance for you to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love. This is a happy time. You place value on that which is principled and forthright and you have a particular dislike of what is secret, intense or private. People are listening when you talk because of your persuasiveness and eloquent way with words. Self-expression works well for you just now, lending itself to your ideas and thoughts. Today you look for gifts that fit the needs of the special people in your life. Tonight is a time for visiting.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may feel that you are caught up in a situation where you must choose a path without knowing any details or circumstances. If you are in a vehicle, you can have a bit of comfort in knowing that one is never really lost-just perhaps on an adventure. Though you would love to be out and among friends socially, your timing could be off just enough to cause you some problems. Why not stop and consider a change of plans-it could be a very positive thing. Let others know what you have decided and then enjoy the rest of the afternoon-perhaps a movie or a bit of shopping. Laugh a little! You have done well this year where finances are involved. This year you did not necessarily make more money, but you were wise with financial decisions.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your independence will be showing today. You may find yourself drooling over anything new, unusual or different. Your routine may be wearing a bit thin and you look for ways to change some things in your life. You want anything that is different. Although you are a bit restless, you seem to have enough commonsense to create for yourself a timetable within which you can complete all the changes you are wanting: a new apartment or home, perhaps new furniture or somewhere you can have a fireplace or a time-share place in which to vacation. You are tempted to charge your purchases, but instead will hold fast to the reality that anything is possible in time-perhaps not overnight with the flash of a card. You set a good example as you remain in control.

WORD SEARCH

Happy New Year

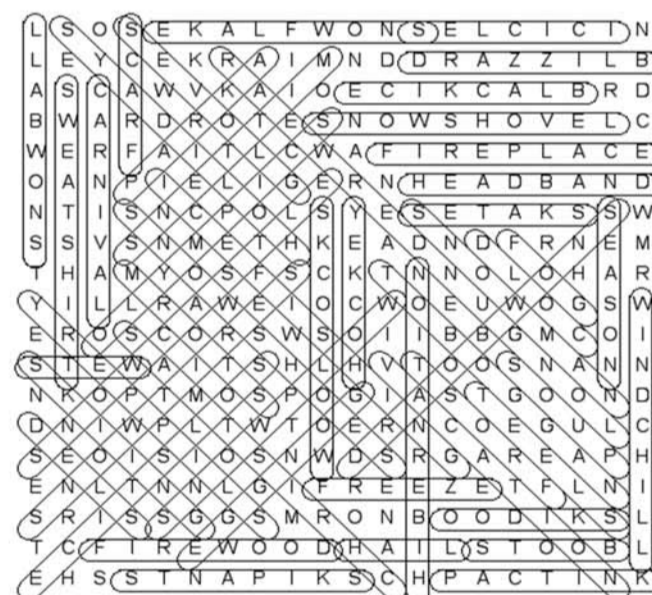
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.



- APPETIZERS BABIES BALLOONS BANNERS BUFFET CELEBRATE CHAMPAGNE CONFETTI DANCE DAY ONE
DECORATIONS END OF DECEMBER EVENTS FAMILY MIDNIGHT FEAST FESTIVITIES FIREWORKS FIRST OF JANUARY FRIENDS
HATS HOLIDAY HORNS KISS MIDNIGHT MUSIC NEW YEARS DAY NEW YEARS EVE TIARAS WINE OCCASION
PARADES PARTY PUNCH RESOLUTIONS SINGING STREAMERS OLYMPICS SNOW SHOVEL THIRTY FIRST WINE YEAR IN REVIEW
SEASON SKATES SKI DOO SKI PANTS SKIING SLED SLEET SLIPPERY SNOW CASTLE SNOW PLOW SNOW SHOVEL SNOW TIRES SNOWBALL
SNOWBOARD SNOWFLAKE SNOWMAN SNOWSHOES SOLSTICE SOUP STEW STORM SWEATSHIRT TOBOGGAN VACATION WIND CHILL WOOL SOCKS

Yesterday Solution

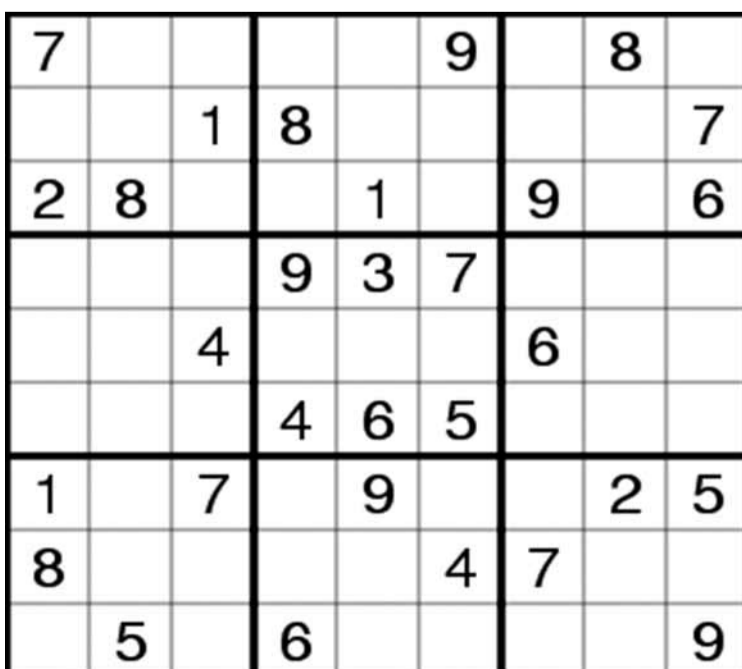
Winter



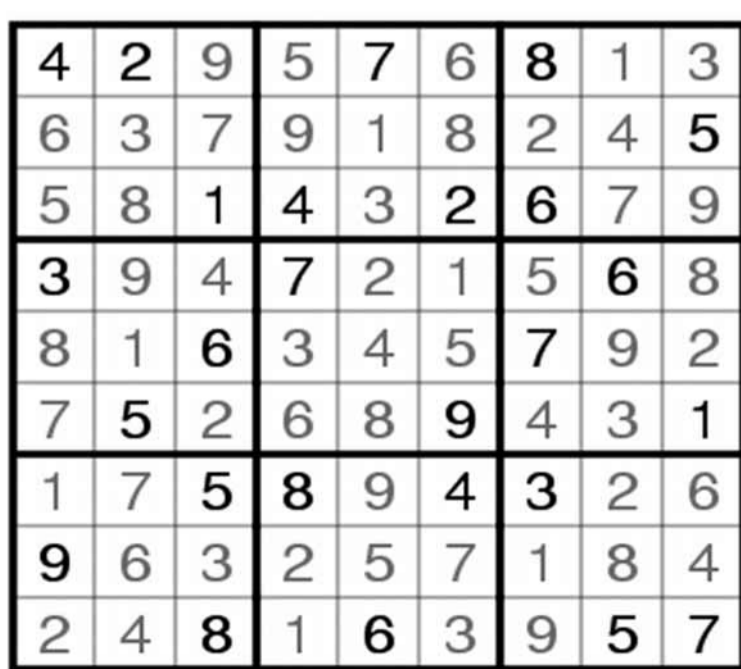
- BLACK ICE HAIL HEADBAND SEASON SKATES SNOWBOARD
BLIZZARD HIBERNATION SKI DOO SNOWFLAKE
BOOTS HOCKEY SKI PANTS SNOWMAN
CARNIVAL HOLIDAYS SKIING SNOWSHOES
CHRISTMAS ICE FISHING SLED SOLSTICE
EGG NOG ICICLES SLEET STEW
FIREPLACE KNIT CAP SLIPPERY STORM
FIREWOOD LONG UNDERWEAR SNOW CASTLE SWEATSHIRT
FOG MITTENS SNOW PLOW TOBOGGAN
FREEZE OLYMPICS SNOW SHOVEL VACATION
FROST PARKA SNOW TIRES WIND CHILL
GLOVES SCARF SNOWBALL WOOL SOCKS

The hidden sentence is: ONE KIND WORD CAN WARM THREE WINTER MONTHS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



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

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Lesotho	00266
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Bahamas	001242	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahrain	00973	Martinique	00596
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritania	00222
Barbados	001246	Mauritius	00230
Belarus	00375	Mayotte	00269
Belgium	0032	Mexico	0052
Belize	00501	Micronesia	00691
Benin	00229	Moldova	00373
Bermuda	001441	Monaco	00377
Bhutan	00975	Mongolia	00976
Bolivia	00591	Montserrat	001664
Bosnia	00387	Morocco	00212
Botswana	00267	Mozambique	00258
Brazil	0055	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brunei	00673	Namibia	00264
Bulgaria	00359	Nepal	00977
Burkina	00226	Netherlands	0031
Burundi	00257	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Cambodia	00855	New Caledonia	00687
Cameroon	00237	New Zealand	0064
Canada	001	Nicaragua	00505
Cape Verde	00238	Niger	00227
Cayman Islands	001345	Nigeria	00234
Central African	00236	Niue	00683
Chad	00235	Norfolk Island	00672
Chile	0056	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
China	0086	North Korea	00850
Colombia	0057	Norway	0047
Comoros	00269	Oman	00968
Congo	00242	Pakistan	0092
Cook Islands	00682	Palau	00680
Costa Rica	00506	Panama	00507
Croatia	00385	Papua New Guinea	00675
Cuba	0053	Paraguay	00595
Cyprus	00357	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Philippines	0063
Czech Republic	00420	Poland	0048
Denmark	0045	Portugal	00351
Diego Garcia	00246	Puerto Rico	001787
Djibouti	00253	Qatar	00974
Dominica	001767	Romania	0040
Dominican Republic	001809	Russian Federation	007
Ecuador	00593	Rwanda	00250
Egypt	0020	Saint Helena	00290
El Salvador	00503	Saint Kitts	001869
England (UK)	0044	Saint Lucia	001758
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Pierre	00508
Eritrea	00291	Saint Vincent	001784
Estonia	00372	Samoa US	00684
Ethiopia	00251	Samoa West	00685
Falkland Islands	00500	San Marino	00378
Faroe Islands	00298	Sao Tome	00239
Fiji	00679	Saudi Arabia	00966
Finland	00358	Scotland (UK)	0044
France	0033	Senegal	00221
French Guiana	00594	Seychelles	00284
French Polynesia	00689	Sierra Leone	00232
Gabon	00241	Singapore	0065
Gambia	00220	Slovakia	00421
Georgia	00995	Slovenia	00386
Germany	0049	Solomon Islands	00677
Ghana	00233	Somalia	00252
Gibraltar	00350	South Africa	0027
Greece	0030	South Korea	0082
Greenland	00299	Spain	0034
Grenada	001473	Sri Lanka	0094
Guadeloupe	00590	Sudan	00249
Guam	001671	Suriname	00597
Guatemala	00502	Swaziland	00268
Guinea	00224	Sweden	0046
Guyana	00592	Switzerland	0041
Haiti	00509	Syria	00963
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Serbia	00381
Honduras	00504	Taiwan	00886
Hong Kong	00852	Tanzania	00255
Hungary	0036	Thailand	0066
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Toga	00228
Iceland	00354	Tonga	00676
India	0091	Tokelau	00690
Indian Ocean	00873	Trinidad	001868
Indonesia	0062	Tunisia	00216
Iran	0098	Turkey	0090
Iraq	00964	Tuvalu	00688
Ireland	00353	Uganda	00256
Italy	0039	Ukraine	00380
Ivory Coast	00225	United Arab Emirates	00976
Jamaica	001876	United Kingdom	0044
Japan	0081	Uruguay	00598
Jordan	00962	USA	001
Kazakhstan	007	Uzbekistan	00998
Kenya	00254	Vanuatu	00678
Kiribati	00686	Venezuela	00582
Kuwait	00965	Vietnam	0084
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Laos	00856	Virgin Islands US	001340
Latvia	00371	Wales (UK)	0044
Lebanon	00961	Yemen	00967
Liberia	00231	Yugoslavia	00381
Libya	00218	Zambia	00260
Lithuania	00370	Zimbabwe	00263

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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

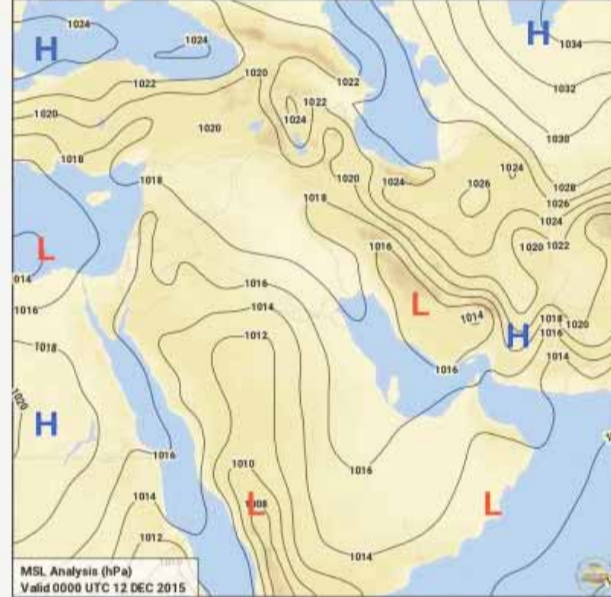
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 12/12/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 20 °C

By Day : Partly cloudy with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for scattered rain
By Night : Cold with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy	partly cloudy +rising dust+thunder rain	Mostly sunny.	sunny
Min Temp °C	08	11	06	06
Max Temp °C	24	22	20	21
Wind Direction	south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	20 - 45	15 - 35	06 - 26

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

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	11		19
KUWAIT AIRPORT	06		20
ABDULY	06		20
BUBYAN	08		17
JAHRA	09		21
FAILAKA ISLAND	10		17
SALMIYAH	14		17
AHMADI	14		18
JAL ALIYAH	07		19
QAROH ISLAND	18		20
UMM AL-MARADEM	18		20
NUWAISIB	08		21
WAFRA	06		21
MANAGISH	08		19
SALMY	08		18
MUTRIBA	07		21

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	20
Min Temp (°C)	03
Max Rel Hum (%)	87
Min Rel Hum (%)	23
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	21 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:33
Sunset	16:51

Prayer Times

Fajr	05:08
Sunrise	06:33
Zuhr	11:42
Asr	14:32
Sunset	16:51
Isha	18:13



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Family Doctor
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	Psychiatrists
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	25736920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupje	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR.Mohammes Akkad	2455050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	Dentists
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	Neurologists
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	Neurologists
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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Minaj is obsessed with crime shows

The 33-year-old rapper constantly watches detective and police programs and her boyfriend, Meek Mill, is convinced she does so in order to pick up tips on planning the perfect murder. She admitted: "I watch Investigation Discovery all day. All day. Like, I know everything about law and crime-solving." "Everybody that comes to my house, they're like: 'Do you not take it off this channel?'" Meek thinks that I'm planning on killing him. We live together now, and every time he wakes up, it's on. Every time he goes to sleep, it's on." Nicki recently moved from New York to Los Angeles and, like her friend Beyoncé - who has three-year-old daughter Blue Ivy with husband Jay-Z - she feels much happier in the sunny city. She

told Billboard magazine: "I love it [in Los Angeles]. I spoke to Beyoncé about it, because she came out here recently too. "She said exactly what I used to say when I first moved here. We just feel happier. She was saying that simple things that would normally feel like a task, they don't [feel that way] out here. "She told me it's not bothersome to get up super early and have to take Blue to school, because it looks so beautiful. "I'm a New Yorker, but there are times in New York when you wake up and it's, like, a dreary day. "I know my London fans can identify with this. When I'm in London or Paris, I think the same thing. "Part of the beauty is in the greyness-but it's an acquired taste."

Liam Payne says he'll be 'bored' during One Direction's hiatus

Whilst the 'Night Changes' hitmaker and his bandmates - Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson and Harry Styles - are set to take a break next year and whilst they are all looking forward to it, the 22-year-old singer is worried about having nothing to do. He said: "We have spent a lot of time away from our family, and I think my dad said he kind of missed the opportunity of growing up with his dad and going down the pub and those sort of moments, so I think trying to catch up with your family and just spend some time with them. For me, that is the first part of it and then having a little bit of a holiday. "I suppose we are going to get bored because

we are very busy minds. We all do the songwriting thing and that is going to be the thing that keeps us within doing the stuff that we love too. It's just the stage we have to miss." Whilst Liam is planning to spend more time at home, Niall wants to go travelling and is considering revisiting some of the places the band have toured. Speaking at 'Alan Carr: Chatty Man', he said: "We obviously go to a lot of countries but we aren't there for very long and there's a few places I've liked the culture and would probably go back. I dunno, inter-railing sounds good. A little bit of travelling I think I'd like to do."



Kardashian West's best friend disappointed to have missed son's birth

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star welcomed son Saint into the world on December 5 - almost three weeks before her due date - and Jonathan Cheban admits he was hoping she'd have delivered the one even earlier while he was still in Los Angeles. And Jonathan - who is now in Miami with girlfriend Anat Popovskiy and is planning to jet off to Israel for the New Year - is now unsure whether he'll be able to meet the baby before the end of 2015. He told DailyMail.com: "I was hoping she would give birth when I was there for three weeks filming cause the last time she gave birth I was there as well. "So I said, 'Usually I pop it out of you somehow', but now I don't even know if I'm going to be able to make it before the new year." Though he hasn't seen Kim - who also has two-year-old daughter North with husband Kanye West - since she gave birth, Jonathan revealed his 35-year-old pal is "doing great". Kim, 35, was forced to deliver her son on December 5 after she reportedly suffered from placenta accreta, a condition which means the placenta remains attached to the womb. However, despite the difficult labor, baby Saint was born weighing a healthy 8 pound 1 ounce.



Take That have secured themselves a 'Las Vegas residency'

The 'These Days' hitmakers have reportedly been offered a stint at a well known hotel on the Nevada strip for a hefty sum after impressing promoters with their tour. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Vegas promoters believe Take That put on such a great spectacle that they can deliver in Vegas. "Brits are bound to lap up seeing them on foreign soil but there's also hope the band will attract a completely new fanbase from abroad. It's a huge deal as the lads have always dreamed of cracking America." It is no surprise the band have been offered the lucrative deal as their success in the UK has never faltered. Only recently, the group were handed a

key to London's famous O2 Arena to mark the band's 21st performance at the iconic venue. Meanwhile, band member Mark Owen previously admitted the whole group - which also includes Gary Barlow and Howard Donald - are missing their former bandmate Jason Orange, who left the group in September 2014. He said: "It feels normal now but we still miss Jason. But we know he's happy and he sent us an email the other week wishing us luck. "We've settled into it now. We feel very ambitious as a band, the most we have in years."



Hathaway wants to be a 'full-time mum'

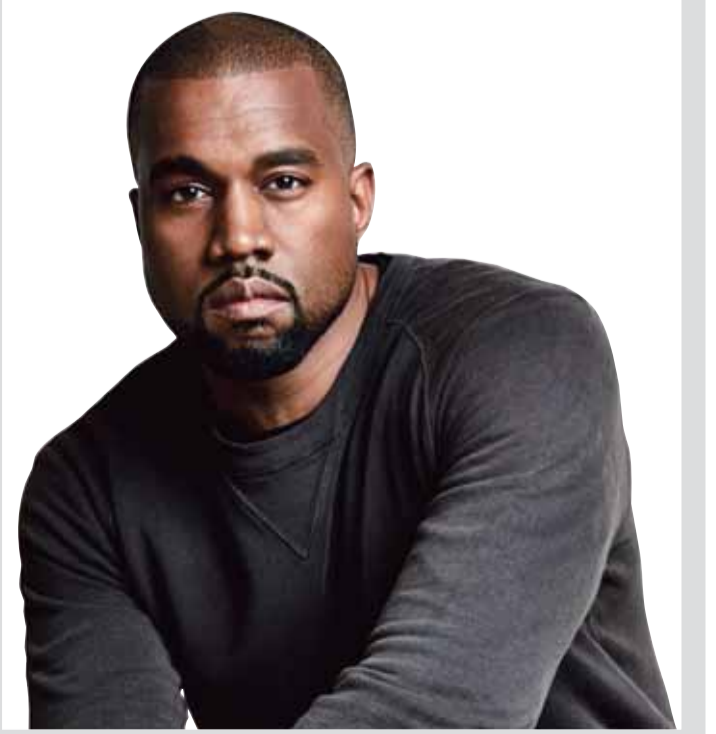
The 'Les Miserables' actress is expecting her first child with husband Adam Shulman and insiders are expecting her to take a long time out of work. A source said: "Anne can't wait to be a mum. She's been wanting it for a long time and waited until the right time to take a break from Hollywood. "She feels she's achieved so much already, it's time to take a break from acting. "She's told friends she wants to put her career on the back burner for a while and concentrate on being a full-time mum." And the 33-year-old beauty plans to take her time to get her figure back once she's given birth. The source added to Closer magazine:

"Anne wants to be healthy and because she doesn't want to rush back into a film role, she's not going to put herself under pressure to slim quickly. "She does yoga every day and eats mainly organic food, although she has been tempted by bagels and doughnuts recently to combat morning sickness." Anne previously admitted she wants a large family, but only if she can make all her kids feel "special". She said: "I'd like to have as many [children] as I can afford, not just financially but in terms of time, because you want to make sure each one feels special."



Kanye West is writing songs about his son

The 'Bound 2' hitmaker's wife Kim Kardashian West only gave birth to the couple's first son, Saint, a week ago yet Kanye is already said to be getting some musical inspiration from the birth for his highly-anticipated album, 'Swish'. A source said: "The whole of Kanye's family thought Swish was done. He's been playing it to everyone. "But Kanye is constantly coming up with new ideas and Saint's arrival has changed things once again. There's at least another two ideas for tracks to reflect his fatherly status." And the 38-year-old rapper - who also has two-year-old daughter North with the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star - is reportedly enjoying being "very hands-on" with the newborn and the couple are said to feel "blessed" to have the little one after such a tough pregnancy. The insider added to the Daily Star newspaper: "Kim and Kanye are very hands-on with the baby and want to be involved in the little things as much as possible. "They take turns waking up and tending to the baby's needs. It's a lot of work but they just feel very blessed for having a healthy baby boy."



Gomez thinks Niall Horan's 'amazing'



The 'Heart Wants What It Wants' hitmaker has been linked to the One Direction singer as of late after they were spotted supposedly kissing at a birthday party and later seen on a romantic stroll at Santa Monica Pier but Selena has spoken out to deny anything is going on. When asked to clear up the rumors, she told Entertainment Tonight: "Oh my god! No [but] I love him, I always have. He's amazing." Meanwhile, Selena has also been romantically linked to her ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber after he was seen serenading her at a bar last month. But a source claims that she is still wary of anything happening and is "terrified" of trusting him. A source said at the time: "Selena is still in love with Justin, but as exciting as it is for them to be back together, she's terrified to trust her heart again because he's hurt her so many times. "Justin has this belief that Selena's cool with him hooking up with other women and that they don't need to be exclusive. She may say it's OK, but in reality it tears her apart to know he's seeing other girls."



Jess Glynne 'rarely' gets drunk

The 26-year-old singer doesn't often indulge in alcohol because she thinks it is bad for her voice so feels the effects much worse when she does have a drink. During a recent interview, she admitted: "I'm hungover [today]. It's quite a big one because I rarely drink. I have to look after my voice." The 'Rather Be' hitmaker may not drink often now, but when she was 21, she regularly overindulged and didn't treat people well, though she has now learned from her mistakes. She said: "I had a weird year when I was 21, and did some stupid things, drank a lot and treated my friends badly. It was a big year of learning." Despite her fame and success, Jess hates being in the spotlight and feels uncomfortable when she

gets recognized. She told Grazia magazine: "I get so embarrassed if people recognize me, or if I'm in a shop and one of my songs comes on." "I go red really easily. I think it's a ginger thing." Meanwhile, one of the 'Right Here' singer's biggest regrets is the outfit she wore to the 2014 MTV Europe Music Awards (EMAs). She admitted: "[I hate] all the photos of me at the EMAs in 2014. I looked like a joke. I hate my outfit, my hair... the fact my belly button was on show makes me feel sick."

Swift spent £640,000 on her pre-birthday celebration

The 'Bad Blood' singer marked her impending 26th birthday and the end of the Australian leg of her '1989' tour by renting the private Hamilton Island and spared no expense in ensuring her 125-member crew, friends and family could be with her for the extravagant bash. A source said: "Taylor chartered private jets to fly friends from Los Angeles and New York." She invited Ed Sheeran and her family who flew out for the end of her tour. "Flying everyone across the globe set her back £330,000, on top of renting a private mansion on Hamilton Island for £17,000. "All the food and drink cost around £165,000 - she even enlisted a squad of private caterers from LA and New York - and she bought a

£13,000 birthday cake. "Taylor wanted a party to remember." And Taylor - who also spent £50,000 on a firework display - is also planning another birthday party when she returns to the US. She has asked her famous friends to keep a date free and wants to treat them with a £65,000 slumber party. The source said: "She's hired private masseuses, manicurists and facialists to pamper everyone." Yet despite her own generosity, the 'Shake It Off' hitmaker doesn't want any birthday gifts. The source told Closer magazine: "Amazingly Taylor is holding fast to a no-gifts rule. "She just wants her friends around to celebrate her birthday."

Smith only cares about what his fans think about his music

The 'Stay With Me' singer took to his Twitter page to reveal he has made a vow to no longer read professional reviews of his art. He wrote: "It's so tough to win the thumbs up from people that are paid to come to see what you do, when they could hate your music to begin with. "Sometimes you're never going to win. The reviews I care about are from YOU. And only you - my fans. The people who have put me here." The 23-year-old pop star also admitted it is difficult for him to focus on positive comments when there are negatives as well. He continued: "Why is it when you have a crowd of people saying you're great - you notice the one who says you're not? Haha the heart is complicated. I'm getting there thou (sic) lol slowly but surely. (sic)" Sam also decided to quote lyrics from two songs by Norwegian artist Maria Mena to reflect his feelings. From Maria's track 'Good And Bad', Sam tweeted: "I never claimed to be flawless, I owned up to my faults, Yours were subtle, painful betrayal, But I see what you did, Both good and bad." Sam is currently touring Australia, with his next show scheduled in Brisbane on Saturday night (12.12.15). The concert will be the final date in Sam's 'In The Lonely Hour' tour. Despite his pensive tweets, Sam reassured fans that he is having a lot of fun Down Under. He concluded: "On another note - IM HAVING THE BEST TIME xxxx (sic)" Sam is one of the world's most famous singers thanks to his debut studio album 'In The Lonely Hour', which he released in 2014. He recently recorded the 'Writing's On The Wall' - the theme tune for the latest James Bond movie 'Spectre'.



Elba is a 'workaholic'

The 43-year-old actor thinks he is very similar to his 'Luther' alter ego Detective John Luther because he gets so consumed by his career. He said: "John Luther is a workaholic and I'm a workaholic. I throw everything I've got into whatever I do. Whatever it is. And I think John does the same. "If I want to do something, I'll do it - break dancing at the end of a movie trailer, adding a verse on a rap song, racing rally cars. Why not?" However, Idris admits he "battles" with his dedication to his career and his desire to be a great father to his children, 14-year-old daughter Isan, who he has with former partner Kim Norgaard, and Winston, 17 months, with girlfriend Nalyana Garth. He told Woman magazine: "More than anything you have to make time to be with your children. "It's something I battle a lot because of my career, because as much as it's nice to be busy and working, ultimately children don't raise themselves. "You've got to be there to help them and guide them through it. "That's one thing I try my very best to do. "I love being a dad, it's an important part of my life."



Redmayne consulted his wife and mother before starring in 'The Danish Girl'

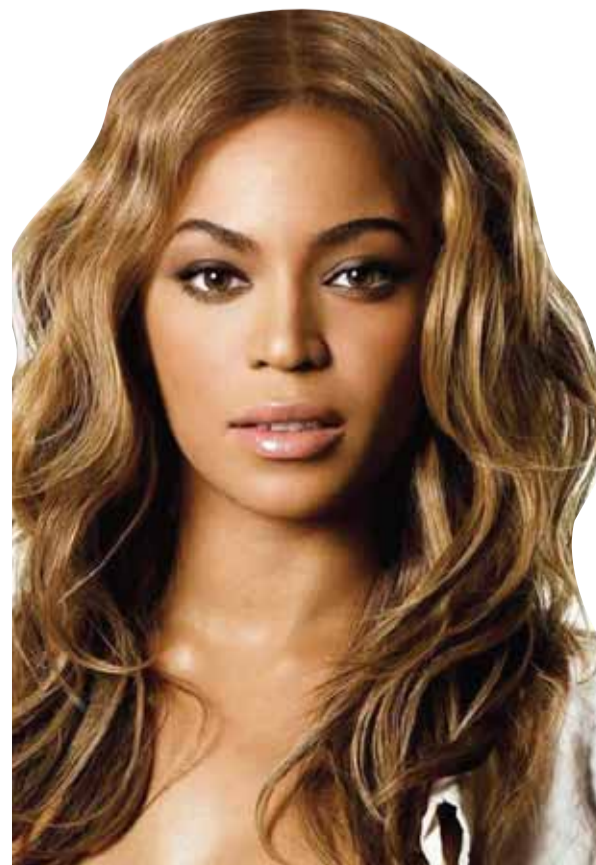
The 33-year-old actor stars opposite Alicia Vikander in the new pseudo-biographical drama movie, in which he plays Lili Elbe - one of the first known recipients of sex reassignment surgery - and has revealed he spoke to the female influences in his life, including his wife Hannah Bagshawe, before shooting the movie. He explained: "When I was preparing for the role I wasn't going. 'Ooh, where's my feminine side?' "It was just about finding out who this character was and finding that place inside me. It seems to me that the notions we've had until now of masculinity and femininity are almost antiquated these days. "It used to be that if someone is sporty then they're 'masculine' and if they like art they're 'feminine', and I feel we've got a long way beyond that now. I certainly don't see the world as being male and female in that way any more - I feel like there's a whole spectrum of shades in there." The Oscar-winning actor also revealed he talked to a number of transgender women as part of his

research for the role. He told the Daily Mail newspaper: "A lot of them said that in the early period of transitioning they had gone through a period of what they called hyper-feminisation. It's sort of like what teenage girls go through in adolescence - suddenly you have access to too much make-up and you wear clothes you think are ultra-feminine but they're just over the top. "One woman I met said that in the beginning she would walk with too much hip swaying, and she had to learn how to walk correctly. Then, once you've got over that phase, there are other questions to deal with. "One woman said that these days she wears quite androgynous clothes but she always carries a rucksack on her shoulder because it counters her posture and gives her some of the curves she doesn't naturally have. Little things like that were very interesting to me."



Ora has reportedly been the victim of burglary

The 25-year-old pop star's six-bedroom semi-detached house is said to have been raided seven days before burglars targeted Simon Cowell's family home - and police suspect it could have been an inside job. A source close to Rita said: "She is very shaken and has upped her personal protection and security at her homes. "Of course she's scared about her safety and the safety of her family. "Thankfully, Rita wasn't home at the time, but a family member was sleeping upstairs so it could have been so much worse if they had been disturbed. "They called the police who arrived after 5am after they found out that cash, jewelry and electrical goods had been stolen." Rita has reportedly been told the incident may be connected to the break-in at Simon Cowell's London home last week. The insider told The Sun newspaper: "The police have told Rita she needs to look seriously into the possibility that this was an inside job and could be connected to a number of burglaries in the area, including the one at Simon's house." Meanwhile, Simon has revealed he suspects the burglary at his mansion was an inside job. He explained: "I think he had inside knowledge, definitely. He got up to the first floor and there were two doors, one to my bedroom and one to my bathroom which leads to a dressing room where the safe was. "So he could have walked into my bedroom but chose the other door."



Beyoncé has been taking acting lessons

The 34-year-old singer - who previously starred in the movie 'Dreamgirls' - is so serious about making it as an actress that she has been working hard on her craft over the past year, fitting in classes whenever she can. A source told Us Weekly: "She wants to land leading roles in movies and has been taking classes in New York and Los Angeles for the past year." Bey is looking for an iconic dramatic role. She wants to make a film that's socially relevant to African American rights. The publication also reported that Beyoncé frequently receives scripts but is waiting for the perfect role. The insider explained: "She's always being sent scripts to read." Speaking previously about her decision to act, Beyoncé said: "I took a risk with acting. It was scary because it was different for me." However, Beyoncé is still committed to her music career and is believed to be working on a new record. The source explained: "Beyoncé's also recording a new album! She's writing and working with a bunch of producers right now."



'STAR WARS' MANIA AT FEVER PITCH

A long time ago, in movie theaters around the world, a pop culture phenomenon was born. Nearly 40 years after "Star Wars" first hit screens, excitement for next week's release of the latest installment in the blockbuster space saga is reaching fever pitch. Fans of Han Solo, Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker are counting the days, hours and minutes until they can see "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," the continuation of the epic created by George Lucas. Stars will hit the red carpet for the film's world premiere in Los Angeles on Monday. The global roll-out will begin on Wednesday in France, Belgium and more than a dozen other countries before it officially hits US theaters Friday.

"Star Wars" has attracted generations of loyal fans ever since the first film arrived in 1977, introducing the world to The Force, Jedi knights, Darth Vader, Wookiees and two clever droids, R2-D2 and C3PO. The intergalactic tale of good versus evil, friendship, loyalty and love created a defining moment in the history of popular culture and launched one of the biggest movie franchises ever. The hype around the movie is such that 70 US super-fans are paying up to \$5,000 to fly to Paris so they can see the film on Wednesday-two days before most Americans will have a chance to do so.

Some are making the 18,000-kilometer round trip from Los Angeles in one day, taking a bus from Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris to a nearby cinema to see the movie, before returning to the US the same evening. "It's so awesome to see all ages interacting with it in that enthusiastic way," Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o, who joins the franchise using motion-capture technology to play pirate Maz Kanata, told AFP.

'Holding our breath'

Anticipation for "The Force Awakens"—the first film in the franchise in 10 years—has been steadily building for months, with Disney unleashing a well-orchestrated advertising campaign of trailers and interviews with cast members that left fans wanting more.

The film features the beloved characters of the first trilogy of "Star Wars" films made between 1977 and 1983, with original cast members Harrison Ford (Solo), Carrie Fisher (Leia) and Mark Hamill (Skywalker) back



A "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" advertisement is seen in Times Square on December 11, 2015 in New York City. — AFP



In this Dec 9, 2015 file photo, "Star Wars" fan, actor Deuce Wayne, from Virginia, rests outside the TCL Chinese Theater Imax while waiting for the premiere of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in Los Angeles. — AP

for more, as well as some fresh faces. There is also no escaping The Force in grocery stores, cosmetic shops, restaurants, ice cream stands and just about anywhere else. Experts predict that products tied to the film could bring in up to \$5 billion in revenue for Walt Disney Company, which paid \$4 billion for Lucasfilm in 2012. "We have all been holding our breath ever since we heard the movie was going to production," said Lawrence Green, a Los Angeles government attorney and avid fan who is a member of the 501st Legion, a "Star Wars" costuming club where he dresses as Skywalker. "Finally, we will be able to exhale," the 40-something said.

Green said he has purchased five sets of advance tickets for "The Force Awakens" as well as seats for the "Star Wars" marathon that begins at 1:00 am on December 17 and ends nearly 18 hours later—after all six previous films — with a preview showing of the new film. He will be accompanied for the back-to-back screenings by his mother and his wife, also avid fans.

Record ticket sales

Those without advance tickets for opening night in the United States may be out of luck, with many theaters already sold out. "The Force Awakens" has notched up \$50 million in domestic pre-sales, according to US media, breaking the record set by "The Hunger Games" in 2012.

In France, a record 300,000 advance tickets have been sold while in Britain, 200,000 tickets were purchased in the first 24 hours of availability on October 20, also a record. In Turkey, fans' religious devotion to the franchise has taken a more political turn, with nearly 9,000 signing a petition demanding a Jedi temple at the Dokuz Eylul University in the western city of Izmir.

Their call has been seen as a satirical riposte to a controversial wave of mosque building on campuses across the country, but in a statement, the petition's organizers insisted Turkish Jedi knights were in dire need of training.

"Uneducated Padawans (apprentice Jedi) cannot

control their power and (are) forced to swap to the Dark Side," the petition says. The wide reach of the iconic space epic is clearly reflected in the \$4.4 billion it has generated in worldwide ticket sales since it began in 1977, according to tracker website Box Office Mojo.

And the latest chapter could well make it the undisputed champion at the box office as far as franchises go, industry experts say. Elated fans are watching the clock tick down toward the big day, with many saying they are more than ready for the wait to be over. "I am so excited about the movie that I can put up with just about anything for a week or so," said Scott Allen, 51, a software technician in Los Angeles. — AFP

Isaac discusses Poe's inspiration, inner song

Spoiler alert: Oscar Isaac's X-wing pilot Poe Dameron does not break into song in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." Isaac won awards the last time he sang onscreen, in the 2013 Coen Brothers' film "Inside Llewyn Davis," and he charmed the Twitterverse with his vocals last week when he sang a duet of "Baby, It's Cold Outside" with his "Star Wars" co-star Daisy Ridley. But Poe keeps his music on the inside.



Oscar Isaac poses during a promotion for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," in Los Angeles.

"Poe? He's got inner song happening all the time," Isaac said in a recent interview. Though Isaac didn't add music to Poe's repertoire, he did come up with a back story for the character that's now part of "Star Wars" lore. In the original 1977 film, the fictional planet Yavin was actually Guatemala's ancient Mayan city of Tikal. Isaac was born in Guatemala, so he decided that Poe must be from Yavin.

"Sure enough, Lucasfilm heard that, and when it came time to do 'Shattered Empire,' the comic book, that was part of the story," Isaac said. "So other than being a part of this cultural phenomenon, what's even wilder is to be contributing to it." The actor also worked with director JJ Abrams to develop Poe's character in "The Force Awakens," but in keeping with the hyper-secrecy shrouding the film, Isaac won't offer any specifics.

"It's like having a gift that you're going to give to somebody and they're going to open it very soon," he said. "But that's why it's also been fun keeping it secret. Because when you buy a gift, you don't want to tell them what it is before they open it." What Isaac will reveal, though, is that he prepared for the role by reading real-life accounts of WWII fighter pilots, who he describes as "the closest thing to superheroes that we have."

"They soar above all the rest of us at

incredible speeds and they have to have so many things clear in their minds," he said. "There's so many things happening. So the fact that they can do this and survive and excel gives them a sense of invincibility, a sense of immortality. And some swagger."

Isaac may need some of that swagger himself when his roles in "Star Wars" and "X-Men: Apocalypse" make him a big-screen hero. He said he's "not looking forward" to the possibility of big fame, but he is enjoying seeing his image as an action figure. "I think even more trippy is the Go-Gurt with my face on it. You can drink yogurt out of my head," he said. "I haven't done it yet. I'm not sure I'll be able to do it. It might be too meta for me." — AP



This photo provided by Disney/Lucasfilm shows Oscar Isaac as Poe Dameron in a scene from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens". — AP photos



In this March 13, 2008 file photo, director/producer George Lucas poses for portrait in Las Vegas. — AP

The original 1977 reviews of 'Star Wars'

When George Lucas' "Star Wars" first landed in 1977, some critics were swept away, while others resisted the tide. A sampling:

EXHAUSTING

"Star Wars" is like getting a box of Cracker Jacks which is all prizes. This is the writer-director George Lucas's own film, subject to no business interference, yet it's a film that's totally uninterested in anything that doesn't connect with the mass audience. There's no breather in the picture, no lyricism; the only attempt at beauty is in the double sunset. It's enjoyable on its own terms, but it's exhausting, too: like taking a pack of kids to the circus. ... It's an epic without a dream." — Pauline Kael, The New Yorker.

THUMBS UP

"Star Wars" taps the pulp fantasies buried in our memories, and because it's done so brilliantly, it reactivates old thrills, fears, and exhilarations we thought we'd abandoned when we read our last copy of Amazing Stories." — Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times.

OVERWHELMING BANALITY

"Strip 'Star Wars' of its often striking images and its high-falutin scientific jargon, and you get a story, characters, and dialogue of overwhelming banality, without even a 'future' cast to them. Human beings, anthropoids, or robots, you could probably find them all, more or less like, that, in downtown Los Angeles today... O dull new world!" — John Simon, New York magazine.

WITTY

"Star Wars" ... is the most elaborate, most expensive, most beautiful movie serial ever made. It's both an apotheosis of 'Flash Gordon' serials and a witty critique that makes associations with a variety of literature that is nothing if not eclectic: 'Quo Vadis?' 'Buck Rogers,' 'Ivanhoe,' 'Superman,' 'The Wizard of Oz,' 'The Gospel According to St. Matthew,' the legend of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table. ... One of Mr Lucas's particular achievements is the manner in which he is able to recall the tackiness of the old comic strips and serials he loves without making a movie that is, itself, tacky." — Vincent Canby, New York Times. — AP

'Star Wars' memorabilia fetches more than \$500,000

"Star Wars" super fans snapped up some of the space film saga's rarest merchandise on the planet for more than \$500,000 at auction on Friday, Sotheby's announced in New York. More than 600 items found new homes in the sale organized by Sotheby's and eBay-just days before the release of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," the seventh movie in arguably the world's biggest movie franchise.

The space epics have grossed billions of dollars at the box office worldwide since the first film came out in 1977 and spawned a pop culture phenomenon, drawing legions of hardcore fans. All items in the auction came from the private collection of Japanese designer and creative entrepreneur Nigo, who started collecting toys and figures decades ago at just six years old.

The online auction netted combined sales of \$502,202, Sotheby's said. The most expensive lot was a pristine, unopened packet of seven action figures from "The Empire Strikes Back" which fetched \$32,500 — three times the estimate. Two complete sets of "Power of the Force" coins, which were available only by special request from

the manufacturer Kenner, sold for \$27,500. A Luke Skywalker doll, which hit the market in 1978 as a children's toy, sold for \$25,000, above its upper estimate of \$18,000. Also never removed from the packaging, it is one of only 20 confirmed examples of the doll, Sotheby's said. The figurine, with a rare two-piece telescoping lightsaber, was quickly withdrawn from the market "due to the propensity for the lightsaber to snap off," Sotheby's said.

There was also a strong market in helmets. A replica of a "Star Wars: A New Hope" Stormtrooper from 2007 fetched \$8,125, the auction house said. Sotheby's consultant James Gallo says the results demonstrated the quality of Nigo's collection and the enduring appeal of the 'Star Wars' universe.

"We set a number of benchmark prices today, reflecting the strength of this market," he said. Sotheby's, set up in 18th century London and best known for selling fine art masterpieces, called in Gallo to value the collection, which he spent a week and a half sorting through. From the United States to Russia to China, the franchise has a fan base spanning generations. The films' psychology has even found its way onto university syllabuses.

"It's merchandised more than most," the Pennsylvania-based Gallo, who owns store Toy and Comics Heaven, told AFP last week. "There isn't much that can compare." He said that "Star Wars" collectors would proudly display their hard-won memorabilia like anything else—and certainly would not snap open the packets and play with the dolls. "It's up to each individual how they enjoy the items they have. It's just like anything else, whether it be fine art or sports collectibles," Gallo said. — AFP



Photo shows a rare Luke Skywalker toy from the 'Star Wars' movie series displayed during a press preview at Sotheby's.



Frank Sinatra performs during a concert on his 75th birthday at the Meadowlands Area in East Rutherford, NJ.



In this Oct 19, 1985 file photo, singer Frank Sinatra applauds next to first lady Nancy Reagan at the National Italian-American Foundation's 10th Anniversary Gala in Washington. — AP photos



In this Oct 13, 1976 file photo singer Frank Sinatra performs at the Providence Civic Center in Rhode Island to a capacity crowd.

Frank Sinatra's hometown celebrates his 100th birthday

Frank Sinatra was the Chairman of the Board, Ol' Blue Eyes and The Voice. But "Slacksy O'Brien"? That was an early nickname for Sinatra in the Hoboken neighborhood in the US state of New Jersey where he grew up because, as a youngster, he wore nice clothes. Some young-at-heart residents of Hoboken might be raising a glass to the award-winning singer and actor on Saturday on what would have been his 100th birthday. A look back at a century of Sinatra:

From here to eternity

Francis Albert Sinatra was born on Dec 12, 1915, in the Hudson River waterfront city that was home to German, Irish and Italian immigrants. His father, Anthony, was a boxer who fought in Irish gyms as "Marty O'Brien" before becoming a firefighter and tavern owner. His mother, known as "Dolly," was connected to the local political machine. Even though the family initially lived in a cold-water apartment at 415 Monroe St., they eventually had such luxuries as a radio, telephone and car while his mother made sure her son had nice clothes,

Hoboken Historical Museum director Robert Foster said.

Start spreading the news

The high school dropout delivered the Jersey Observer newspaper and worked at a shipyard. The car - and a driver's license in which his name was misspelled SINTRA - helped gain him a spot in 1935 with the singing group the Hoboken Four. They won first prize on a national radio program for amateur entertainers. He became a singing waiter at The Rustic Cabin in Englewood Cliffs, where he met songwriter Cole Porter, and forgot the words to Porter's hit, "Night And Day," the 100 Sinatra website said. Radio led Sinatra to big bands and stardom.

Strangers in the night

Sinatra offered his assistance to the FBI in 1950, according to a confidential memorandum obtained in 1998 by The Associated Press. It showed Sinatra felt there was an opportunity to "do some good for his country under the direction of

the FBI." He was "willing to do anything even if it affects his livelihood and costs him his job," the memo said. The FBI turned down the offer. The file also contained Sinatra's mug shot, taken by the Bergen County Sheriff's Office in 1938, after his arrest on a seduction charge that was later dropped.

Luck be a lady

Sinatra's Rat Pack persona is associated with Las Vegas, but he gets credit for filling Atlantic City's casino showrooms with top talent after he appeared in 1979 at the city's first casino, Resorts International. Following a show at Atlantic City's Golden Nugget in 1983, Sinatra and Dean Martin demanded a blackjack dealer break the rules, costing the casino a \$25,000 fine. A commissioner called Sinatra "an obnoxious bully" with a "bloated ego." Sinatra scrapped an engagement and his lawyer issued a statement saying, "He will not perform in a state where appointed officials feel the compulsion to use him as a punching bag." His last engagement in Atlantic City was at the Sands in 1994.

Drink up, all you people

People left flowers near the plaque where Sinatra's first home once stood when he died in 1998 at age 82 and the city held a memorial Mass at St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, where Sinatra was baptized. Whatever real or imagined slights felt by some residents were forgotten. Sinatra was inducted in the first class of New Jersey's Hall of Fame in 2008. A park and the city's main post office bear his name. The Postal Service in 2008 issued a 42-cent stamp with his image, taking the rare step of holding three ceremonies in Hoboken, New York and Las Vegas. But for a saloon singer who usually had a drink on stage, Sinatra's ultimate honor came from Jack Daniel's, which introduced Sinatra Select whiskey in 2003. To honor the 100th anniversary of Sinatra's birth, Jack Daniel's produced 100 barrels of 100-proof Sinatra Century, which retails for \$499.99 and includes an unreleased Sinatra recording. — AP



Exclusive offers for Gulf Bank Priority Banking customers at Behbehani's Luxury Boutique in Al Hamra Luxury Center

Gulf Bank invites its Priority Banking customers to enjoy exclusive discounts at Behbehani's Luxury Boutique in Al Hamra Luxury Centre in Kuwait. The exclusive offer will continue until Tuesday, 15 December 2015.

Gulf Bank and Behbehani United Company for General Trading jointly organized a special event on the eve of December 8th where priority banking customers previewed a selection of internationally renowned luxury brands of watches and jewelry at Behbehani's Luxury Boutique in Al Hamra Center and benefited from a special discount.

The Behbehani Luxury Boutique is one of the largest multi-brand luxury time pieces boutiques in Kuwait, where it presents its customers with the most prestigious brands in a refined shopping experience. The offer includes brands such as: Breguet, Cartier, HUBLOT, ROGER DUBUIS, Ulysse Nardin, ZENITH, Jaeger Le-Coultrre, IWC,

Glashutte Original, JAQUET DROZ, OMEGA, BLANCPAIN, Dunhill, Baume & Mercier, IVANKA TRUMP, ROYAL ASSCHER, Frederique Constant, PANERAI, KORLOFF, Bovet, and LOUIS MOINET.

To take advantage of this latest exclusive offer, customers should use their Gulf Bank Visa Infinite, World MasterCard, Platinum MasterCard, Platinum Visa and Priority Banking Premium Debit ATM cards when making a purchase at Behbehani's Luxury Boutique in Al Hamra Boutique.

Gulf Bank is committed to offering its Priority Banking customers with added value benefits and privileges matching their life style along with a range of financial and investment products and banking services. Gulf Bank also strives to provide the best in customer service and was recently named "Best Customer Service in Kuwait" from Banker Middle East-Industry Awards.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches its 142nd outlet globally in Oman

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the leading jewelry retailer launched its 142nd outlet globally & 9th outlet in Oman. Famous Omani Footballer Imad Al-Hosni inaugurated this beautiful showroom on 11th December 2015 in the presence of Khamis Al Mandhri, Acting Chief of West Asian Department, Oman; Shamlal Ahamed M P, Managing Director- International Operations; Abdul Salam K P, Group Executive Director - Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Najeeb K - Regional Head - Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Oman, personalities from media and other well wishers

This elegant showroom conveniently located at Gold Souq Seeb will be their 9th showroom in Oman. Like all other Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets, this showroom will also display a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary jewelry in gold, certified diamonds, platinum and precious stone jewelry from across the world that can hold you spellbound with their awe-inspiring beauty. Jewelry lovers in Oman can find beautiful jewelry in 18K, 21K and 22K at the outlet in Seeb.

To celebrate this occasion, the group introduced fabulous inaugural offer for their customers. Customers will get an assured free gift on every purchase. This offer is valid at their outlet in Gold Souq Seeb until 15th December 2015.

One of the most important factors driving the group's success are innovation in their strategies, designs, promotions and the trust Malabar Gold & Diamonds evokes. With a rich mix of traditional and trendy jewelry in gold, diamond and platinum, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is one of the most preferred destinations for quality jewelry. The combination of purest jewelry and cutting edge designs combining unmatched grace and style makes their jewelry unique.

The branded jewelry segment of Malabar Gold & Diamonds that includes Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine - Indian Heritage Jewelry, Precia - Precious Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids Jewelry are renowned globally for their flawless craftsmanship and the impeccable style.



The leap from a single store to 142 outlets globally did not happen overnight. It was achieved through consistent effort and an insistence on setting exceptionally high standards to meet the aspiration of customers over a period of 22 years. Their dedicated and highly skilled employees invest heart and soul in striving to achieve maximum perfection. Absolute customer satisfaction is the overriding promise in everything they do.

Ornaments have never been so easier to buy, sell and exchange as it is in Malabar Gold & Diamonds and with their customer friendly policies, they give their customers enough reasons to come back to their stores. The jewelry group also gives their customers the advantage of using their 0% Easy Payment Plan with selected banks through which they can pay the total

amount in 3 to 6 installments without any interest. Customers can also enroll to the unique 'Gold Purchase Scheme' from the new store as well. It gives customers a unique opportunity to save gold every month equivalent to equal monthly installments for a maximum period of 24 months.

The group is in the forefront when it comes to CSR activities as well. The group sets apart a fixed percentage of its net profit to the benefit of needy and the charity projects of Malabar Gold & Diamonds have touched the lives of thousands of people across the world. They focus primarily in five priority areas such as health, education, environment, housing and women empowerment.

Babyshop's 'Top Trending Toys' announced



Babyshop has announced the list of their 'Top Trending Toys', providing insight into "what's hot" at the popular kids' retail store - just in time for the holiday gifting season!

At the top of the list stands everyone's beloved Minion with a radio control inflatable that engages in conversation! The list caters to all - from little girls who enjoy singing songs with Elsa and Anna from Disney's Frozen, to young boys who dream of driving their own Ferrari race car one day. It also provides children with the opportunity to begin working on their Winter Wish Lists and parents to know what their children will enjoy playing with early on!

The above mentioned toys are available in Babyshop across all Centrepoint stores in Kuwait. So, start shopping now to avoid last minute rush at the stores!





Pakistani Christian children dressed as Santa Claus and as angels participate in a Christmas celebration in Lahore, Pakistan yesterday. Although Pakistani Christians are in the minority, Christmas is a national holiday and is observed across the country as an occasion to celebrate. — AP

Gourmets go to war over world's best restaurants

It has been dismissed by its many critics as "silly" nonsensical "schmozzle" that promotes chemistry-set cooking. But love it or hate it there is no getting away from the list of the World's 50 Best Restaurants. Until now that is. Exasperated by the growing power of the British-based classification which has long been accused of sticking the knife into French cuisine, Paris has decided to strike back with a list of its own.

La Liste claims to be the first authoritative ranking of the world's 1,000 most "exceptional restaurants", compiled from a rigorous mathematical analysis of hundreds of guide books and online reviews. Its organizers could not resist a swipe at their rivals much-criticized "opacity" as they trumpeted their own "fair and transparent methodology" when they revealed their top 10 restaurants Saturday, five days ahead of publishing their full list.

"La Liste is designed to be an aggregator, a 'best of the best', modeled on the world tennis rankings, the Shanghai Ranking for universities and Rotten Tomatoes film reviews website," they declared in a statement.

No French in top 10

While not a single French restaurant makes the top 10 of the 50 Best list long dominated by the kind of "molecular gastronomy" pioneered by the Catalan chef Ferran Adria of elBulli fame-La Liste has three. In fact half of its top 10 are run by French chefs, including Benoit Violier who is at the helm its top-rated Restaurant de l'Hotel de Ville at Crissier in Switzerland. It ranks 88th in the 50 Best.

The only place to make the top 10 of both classifications is

the Celler de Roca in the Spanish city of Girona. But La Liste's founder Philippe Faure, the head of the French tourist board, denied it was an exercise in culinary chauvinism. "Only 116 of the 1,000 restaurants are French, so you can't say it is a French list," he said. "Japan has 11 more than France, and the US is not far behind. It's a very diverse list."

While he admitted that the idea had come from the French foreign ministry, he claimed it had not "received a penny of public funding", relying instead on sponsors including Moët and Hennessy and Nestlé France. Jorg Zipprick, the German journalist who crunched the numbers, said La Liste was as impartial as a computer algorithm could be. "It is such a brilliantly simple idea to put together review data from all over the world—we had to do it before someone else did."

If there is any "culinary nationalism" at play, La Liste points the finger at its competitor, citing rows over its promotion of the new wave of British chefs and those from countries like Peru with which it has built commercial partnerships.

50 Best is 'fair'

Despite the controversies, 50 Best has turned the stuffy conventions of fine dining on its head since it first appeared in 2002, making previously obscure Scandinavian chefs into global stars, and lichen-once the nibble of choice for foraging reindeer-into a delicacy.

But from the start it had as many haters as fans. It even sparked a protest group, Occupy 50 Best, which railed against its "opaque, obsequious ranking, where nationalism trumps

quality, sexism trumps diversity and the spotlight is on the celebrity chef."

Worse still, the Paris-based group accused the list's perennial favorites the Danish restaurant Noma, elBulli and the Fat Duck near London-of sending "hundreds of diners home sick" when their experimental cuisine went wrong. Noma, voted the world's best restaurant four times by 50 Best, is rated only 217th by La Liste. French chef Joel Robuchon, a former 50 Best judge, said the British-based list was prone to "cronyism, 'flip a coin' voting, geopolitical influence and lobbying."

Interestingly, he has been named as the top-rated chef in the world by La Liste. William Drew, editor of the 50 Best hit back strongly at its critics, claiming it was far more transparent than in the past. "We have worked very hard to make it as fair and democratic as possible. We refute the accusations of nationalism. Ours is a genuinely global list based on the views of nearly 1,000 experts, with the vote audited by accountancy firm Deloitte."

"We are not linked to any country or government," he added in a dig at La Liste. "I don't know anything about their much-vaunted algorithm... but you have to ask the question about the number of French restaurants and French chefs in their top 10. Of course French cuisine is hugely important but it is very strange that a list rated by a council set up by the French government should be headed by so many French chefs." — AFP

The world's 10 best restaurants: La Liste

These are the world's top 10 restaurants, according to La Liste, the new French classification of "exceptional restaurants" compiled from hundreds of guide books and online review sites.

- 1 Restaurant de l'Hotel de Ville, Crissier, Switzerland
- 2 Per Se, New York
- 3 Kyo Aji, Tokyo
- 4 Guy Savoy, Paris
- 5 Schloss Schauenstein, Furstenuau, Switzerland
- 6 El Celler de Can Roca, Girona, Spain
- 7 Kyubei, Tokyo
- 8 Maison Troisgros, Roanne, France
- 9 Auberge du Vieux Puits, Fontjoncouse, France
- 10 Joel Robuchon, Tokyo — AFP



This file photo taken on March 12, 2009 shows diners arriving for lunch at the Fat Duck restaurant in Bray, Berkshire.— AFP photos



This file photo taken on April 27, 2010 shows people entering the Noma restaurant in Copenhagen.



This file photo taken on June 2, 2015 shows world renowned Spanish chefs of "El Celler de Can Roca" Joan Roca (center), Jordi Roca (right) and Josep Roca (left) posing at their restaurant in Girona.